Expert-led small group tours in nature, culture and the arts

2017/18

WorldwideQuest

EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL SINCE 1970

Burmese women

Welcome travellers,

We're often asked about the small format of our catalogues – it matches the small size of our groups, we say. It's like a little jewel box filled with possibilities. Open it, and, as one of our favourite guides tells our travellers, "Prepare to be astonished..."

In these pages you'll find a range of small group tours – most tours for no more than 16 participants and all of them for people who don't usually travel on group tours. Our travellers tell us that they choose us for our interesting destinations, our experienced and congenial tour leaders, our hands-on attention to client care, and the special signature moments we create and deliver on every one of our tours.

And if the dates of our group tours don't match your dates, please take a look at our accompanying (small format) catalogue devoted entirely to Private Journeys – a completely customized travel experience: your dates, your interests, your budget.

As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2020, we're continuing to find innovative ways of crafting big-impact experiences using the poetry and magic of small.

Please join us on your next trip,

Laurielle Penny Lewie Gonsalves

WorldwideQuest

EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL SINCE 1970

Novice monk climbing into monastery, Myanmar

What's inside

CLASSIC EXPLORATIONS

Taiwan	May '17	**6**
Mongolia	May '17	**7**
Spectacular North India	Nov. '17	**8**
Ethiopia	Feb. '18	**10**
Thailand & Laos	Feb. '18	**12**
Morocco	Mar. '18	**14**
Bolivia & Peru	Apr. '18	**15**
Essence of China	Apr. '18	**16**
Uzbekistan	May '18	**18**
South India & Sri Lanka	Nov. '18	**19**

PRESIDENT'S TOURS

Magical Himalayan Kingdoms	Oct. '17	**24**
Treasures of Persia	May. '18	**25**
Ganges River Cruise	Mar. '18	**26**

LITERARY ADVENTURES

Kraków, Poland	June '17	**28**
Jewish Montreal	Sep. '17	**30**
Mexico's Day of the Dead	Oct. '17	**32**
Belgium & France	May '18	**34**

MUSIC TOURS

Music in the Baltics	May '18	**36**

CULINARY TOURS

Culinary Vietnam	Nov. '17	**38**

WOMEN'S TRAVEL NETWORK

Peru	Jun. '17	**42**
Tuscany	Sep. '17	**43**
Kenya	Nov. '17	**44**
Myanmar	Feb. '18	**45**

EXPEDITION CRUISES

Galapagos Islands	Nov. '17	**46**
Baffin Island	July '17	**48**
Antarctica	Feb. '18	**50**
Amazon Rainforest	Feb. '18	**52**
Iceland Circumnavigation	May '18	**54**

QUEST NATURE TOURS

Learn more	**56**

Cover photo: Meenakshi Amman Temple, Madurai, India.

Preparing Ayurvedic medicine

"An Art and a Craft" – Designing Travel since 1970

We aim to create extraordinary travel experiences complemented by flawless practical proficiency. We use our insider knowledge, know-how, and imagination to craft and deliver exceptional tours for curious travellers to some of the world's most intriguing destinations.

Every trip we create features these essentials:

Discovery and Enrichment

Our goal on each tour is to add to your understanding, appreciation, and delight in some of the world's most fascinating places. Our expert leaders and hosts, both North American and local, are selected for their scholarship, specialized knowledge, and congeniality. They not only take care of all the trip details on the ground, but also provide an authentic context to our discoveries.

Small Group Size

Our groups are rarely more than 16 people and often smaller. Our travellers appreciate that the higher cost of a smaller number of participants is outweighed by the benefits of intimate experiences in accommodation and touring, access to tour leaders, and the camaraderie of like-minded travellers. The minimum and maximum group size is indicated for each tour. If there are fewer than the minimum number of participants, our travellers typically prefer to pay a small surcharge to ensure the trip still goes ahead.

Responsibility

We consider the impact of our travels on the places we visit, and aim to reduce our footprint on the environment while connecting with local communities. Every hotel we stay in has been visited by one of our staff or our local representative and selected for location, quality, and service. We constantly travel to and monitor destination developments for special opportunities. Your safety and security are paramount on all our tours, and we scrupulously monitor logistical, security, and medical aspects.

Value

We respect the investment you make in your travel arrangements. There are no hidden costs on our tours; the tour price includes internal flights, accommodation, most meals, all activities with our expert guides, and entrance fees. We pre-collect all gratuities and taxes so that those details are taken care of for you. Plus, you have the financial safety net of booking with a TICO-licensed operator to protect your investment.

Down to the Finest Detail

We design each and every small group itinerary in this catalogue, and we strive to offer an outstanding variety of experiences on every tour. We're always thinking one step ahead and considering every detail so that our tours will not only meet but exceed your expectations. Most of our clients have travelled with us before or have been referred to us by their friends. We think that this reflects well on our tours and the very personalized service we offer every traveller.

Bolivian ladies

As you turn the pages, look out for...

Emerging destinations

Laurielle and Lewie are on the road investigating, planning, and poking around in places we think you'll really enjoy. Lewie is travelling on a new Ganges cruise in March, 2018 and taking a group back to Iran in May, 2018. Laurielle scouted out Bolivia and Morocco for future tours and tested out the new Antarctic route for our full ship charter in February, 2018. Give them a call for first-hand accounts!

Expedition cruises

We charter the right-size vessel for our active expeditions. Expedition teams of the highest calibre accompany every voyage. Marine exploration, land adventures, and on board learning are features on every expedition:

Galapagos:	6 passengers
Amazon:	31 passengers
Ganges:	56 passengers
Arctic and Antarctic:	92 – 96 passengers

Adventures for the mind

See the world through the eyes of its most imaginative writers and artists by travelling to the locations in which their works were created. Our literary adventures are unique opportunities to explore the artist's vision by visiting the place and meeting the people.

You're invited!

Call us, email us, or, if you're in the neighbourhood, visit us in our Toronto office.

WorldwideQuest

EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL SINCE 1970

Taiwan

TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY ART AND CULTURE

DATES: May 13 – 20, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 14 participants **COST PER PERSON:** US$2995

Taiwan is a country relatively unknown to the West. It is an island possessing Chinese art treasures, exotic food delicacies, and breath-taking scenery waiting to be discovered by those travellers who prefer a path less frequented by tourists.

It is a place which successfully combines both traditional Chinese culture with a modern, international sensibility. Flashing neon signs are juxtaposed with Buddhist temples, and motorcycles on busy roads pass peaceful green gardens with fish ponds.

In the capital of Taipei we will find the masterpieces of Chinese culture on display at the National Palace Museum – ancient bronzes, jades, paintings and, of course, remarkable ceramic artworks, encompassing over 10,000 years of history. This is the Mecca of Chinese art. There is also a vibrant contemporary art scene to be explored through gallery visits and meeting local artists.

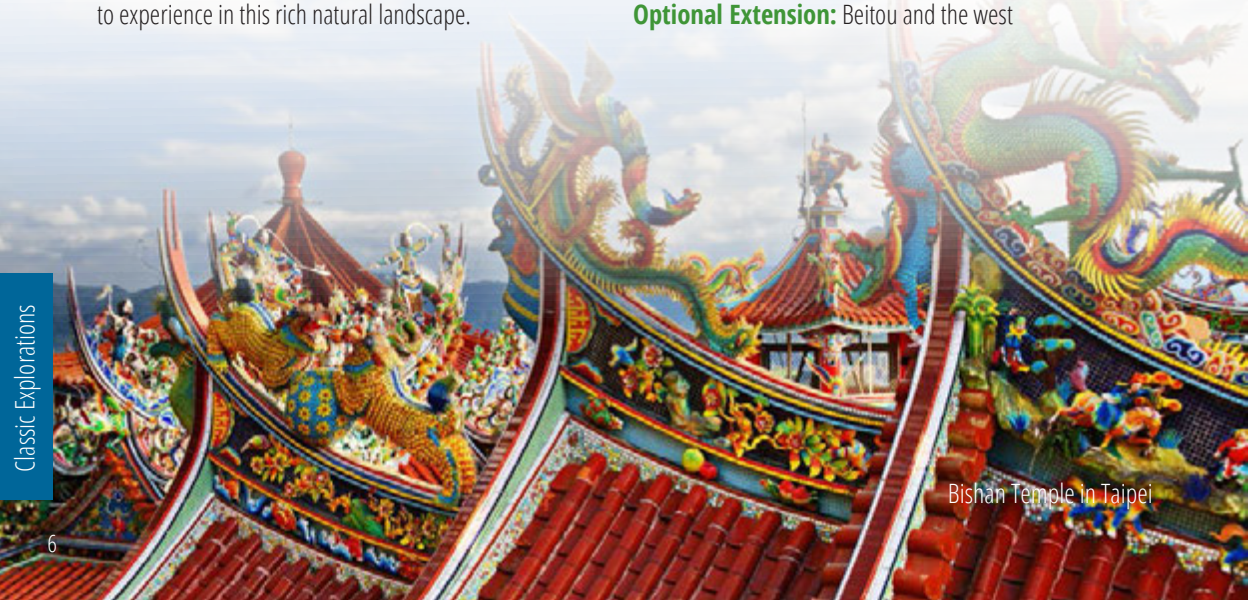
We'll visit Taiwan's stunning Sun Moon Lake and Alishan mountain, where famous sunrise views can be enjoyed. Hot springs, forests and temples are among the delights to experience in this rich natural landscape.

Your Tour Leader

Susan Lahey is President of Eastern Art Consultants Inc., providing professional appraisal services in Asian decorative and fine art. She worked at the Royal Ontario Museum and currently teaches the course, "Arts of China: From the Ancient to the Contemporary," at the University of Toronto, as well as a specialty Asian ceramics course for the International Society of Appraisers. Susan lived in Taiwan for two years, speaks Mandarin, and reads Chinese.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Taipei
Day 2: National Palace Museum's treasures; artists' studios
Day 3: Museum of Contemporary Art; folk culture at temples
Day 4: The Jade Collection; Danshui Night Market
Day 5: Along the coast to Sun Moon Lake
Day 6: Stunning sunrise at the Alishan Mountains
Day 7: Colourful temples at old Lukang; Beitou hot springs
Day 8: Depart Taipei
Optional Extension: Beitou and the west



Bishan Temple in Taipei

Mongolia

STEPPES, DESERTS, AND DINOSAURS

DATES: May 25 – June 4, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 20 participants **COST PER PERSON:** US$5595

Mongolia remains one of the world's last wild places, where Snow Leopards stalk freely over remote mountains, Przewalski's wild horses graze ancient pastures, and Nomadic people move to the rhythm of the seasons. It is also the cradle of the dinosaurs, second only to Alberta's badlands.

During Clive Coy's ten trips to Mongolia as a member of joint Mongolian research projects, he has travelled into some of the most spectacular scenery on earth, hunting for dinosaurs, and making discoveries that have helped us better understand the world as it was 80 million years ago. Clive will share this with us as we visit the incredible landscapes and significant sites of paleontological findings.

On this trip we will observe the merger of old and new, walk among the ornate Lama temples and palaces, ancient bastions of Mongolia's Buddhist roots and sleep in Gers, the comfortably wind and sand proof felt-walled transportable homes of the Nomadic people.

Much of Mongolia remains undeveloped and unspoiled. Hard surfaced roads abruptly end and give way to wheel-tracks and camel trails. Our time in the Gobi desert will be filled with inspiring vistas.

Your Tour Leader

Clive Coy is the senior technician in the Vertebrate Paleontology Department at the University of Alberta. He has collected and prepared a wide variety of vertebrate fossils for research and exhibition for over 30 years. Dubbed the University of Alberta's own Indiana Jones, Clive in an intrepid fossil hunter in the Alberta Badlands and in Mongolia, where he has travelled extensively doing fieldwork.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Ulanbaatar
Day 2: Behind the scenes at the fossil lab
Day 3: To Kharakhorum for the Erdene Zuu Monastery
Day 4: The grand monastery of Ongiin Hiid
Day 5: Looking for fossils at the Avdrant site
Day 6: The exquisite dunes of Hongoryn Els
Day 7: Remarkable landscapes of the Gobi Altai Range
Day 8: The "Fighting Dinosaurs" of Tugrugyn Shiree
Day 9: Dinosaur eggs at the Flaming Cliffs
Day 10: "The Bridge that Leads to Wisdom" at Aryabal
Day 11: Depart Ulanbaatar
Optional Extension: Lake Hovsgol to see ancient megaliths and the crystal clear alpine lake

Flaming Cliffs region of Gobi Desert

Spectacular North India

THE GOLDEN TEMPLE, RAJASTHAN, AND THE PUSHKAR CAMEL FAIR

DATES: October 23 – November 6, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 14 participants **COST PER PERSON:** US$4595

India enthralls, mystifies, and intoxicates its visitors. Through our deep connections with the country we've created what we think is an ideal introduction to some of the most compelling sights in the north of the country.

We begin with a good look at dynamic Delhi and then set off to Amritsar to see the fascinating medieval city and the spectacular Golden Temple. Then it's onward by comfortable private coach to explore the locus of the country's most glamorous past in the finest forts, palaces, gardens, and cities of Punjabi, Mughal and Rajput culture. The Shekhawati region is most famous for the extraordinary painted residences found in its remote villages. Jodhpur is a jumble of blue cubism presided over the mighty Mehrangarh Fort. Jaipur is an enthralling chaos with the fairy-tale grandeur of Amber Fort. A highlight of our trip is the two days we spend at the Pushkar Camel Fair, a spectacle on an epic scale, amidst mystics and musicians against a soundtrack of *pujas* (prayers) and devotional songs. And what better place to conclude than the Taj Mahal, an iconic site that will take your breath away.

On this trip we're staying in some of our favourite heritage properties as well as some of India's most interesting contemporary hotels.

Your Tour Leader

A keen Rajasthani horse polo player, **Shiv Pratap Singh** is involved in the preservation and curation of the region's art and architecture including his family's holdings. His extensive personal connections to people and places ensure very special insider moments for our travellers.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Delhi
Day 2: Old Delhi; Humayun's Tomb; QutabMinar
Day 3: By express train to Amritsar
Day 4: The Golden Temple; the Palki Sahib night ceremony
Day 5: Overland through the Punjab; Qila Mubarak Fort
Day 6: Into the Shekhawati region; a two-night castle stay
Day 7: Colourful painted mansions and village life
Day 8: The Pushkar Camel Fair
Day 9: Mystics, musicians, temples, and camels
Day 10: Hindu and Jain temples at Osian
Day 11: Jodhpur's Meherangarh Fort and the blue city
Day 12: The medieval labyrinth of Jaipur's historic centre
Day 13: The Amber Fort and Jantar Mantar observatory
Day 14: Drive to Agra via the ruins of Fatehpur Sikri
Day 15: The Taj Mahal at dawn; to Delhi and depart
Optional Extension: Khajuraho and sacred Varanasi

Golden Temple, Amritsar

Rajasthani women carrying water

Pushkar Camel Fair

Amber Fort, Jaipur

Ethiopia

EARLY HUMANS AND ANCIENT TRADITIONS

DATES: February 1 – 13, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 12 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$4795

Ethiopia confounds expectations. The geographic isolation of much of the country, located on a high plateau, has created a distinct culture reflected by over three thousand years of literate civilization. After a good look at modern Addis and the remains of the one of the oldest hominids, we'll fly to Mekele and begin our tour of the historical northern part of the country through some of the most striking landscapes in Africa. The dramatic scenery is a mix of jagged mountain peaks and arid plains bisected by fields of grain and riven by deep gorges.

The still little-visited sites are equally impressive: we will visit the ancient temple at Yeha, the obelisks at Axum, the spectacular rock-cut churches at Lalibela, and the more remote churches of Eastern Tigray. A detour to the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Simien Mountains to commune with the Gelada Baboons and another to the source of the Blue Nile display the country's natural wonders.

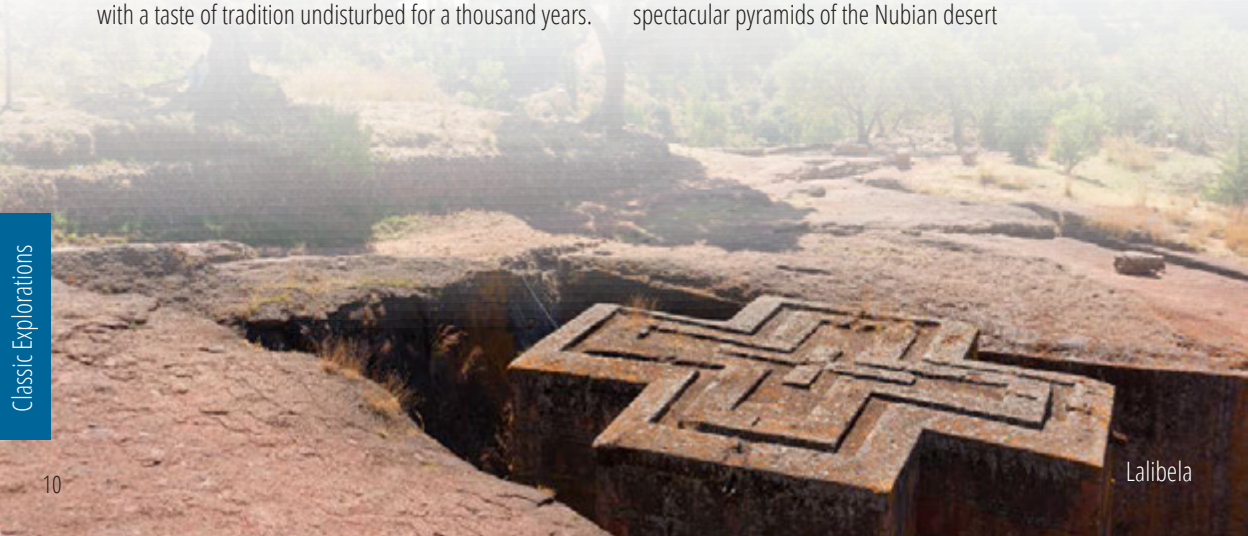
Our past travellers have been pleasantly surprised by the ease of travel in Ethiopia. While some drives are long, the scenery is consistently spectacular. Accommodation is in simple Western style hotels, easily equivalent to three- and four-star hotels anywhere. Our travellers have enjoyed warm welcomes throughout this country and are rewarded with a taste of tradition undisturbed for a thousand years.

Your Tour Leader

Eyob Awraris travelled with our director to set up this tour to Ethiopia and we've drawn extensively on his vast experience with the culture and history of the country to design this experience. A native of the Harar region, Eyob brings his considerable expertise and warm, open attitude to our exploration.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Arrive Addis Ababa
Day 2: Discover the vibrant city of Addis Ababa
Day 3: Fly to Mekele and drive to Gheralta
Day 4: Dramatic scenery and ancient churches
Day 5: Drive to Axum via the moon temple at Yeha
Day 6: View the world's largest obelisks
Day 7: Fly to the UNESCO site of Lalibela
Day 8: Explore breathtaking rock-hewn churches
Day 10: Fly to Gondar; drive to the Simien Mountains
Day 11: Gondar Castles and the drive to Lake Tana
Day 12: The source of the Blue Nile
Day 13: Fly to Addis and depart
Optional Extension: Travel to the Sudan to see the spectacular pyramids of the Nubian desert



Lalibela

Fasilides' Bath at Gondar

Blue Nile Falls

"Eyob is one of the very best local guides that I have travelled with."
– Louise L., *Ethiopia*, 2016

Ancient Bible in Amharic language

Thailand & Laos

CULTURE, CUISINE, AND CONNECTIONS

DATES: February 15 – 27, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 16 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$4595

Thailand is a thrilling combination of traditional and modern. This tour offers an intriguing look at both facets and how they come together to create a uniquely Thai way of life. Begin in bewildering and bewitching Bangkok to visit must-see temples decorated with intricate murals, mosaics, and gilt Buddhas, and observe firsthand the practice of Buddhist economics and the Thai concept of the Sufficiency Economy.

Chiang Mai is an alluring visit; this picturesque centre is easily navigated on foot to discover a hidden market or engage in conversation with a monk. The fabled area around Chiang Rai is a scenic stretch of rolling uplands dotted with remote hill tribe villages with a myriad of different dialects and customs. Northern Thailand has become justly famous for one of the world's best cuisines and we'll intimately get to know the food in night markets, restaurants, and a hands-on cooking class.

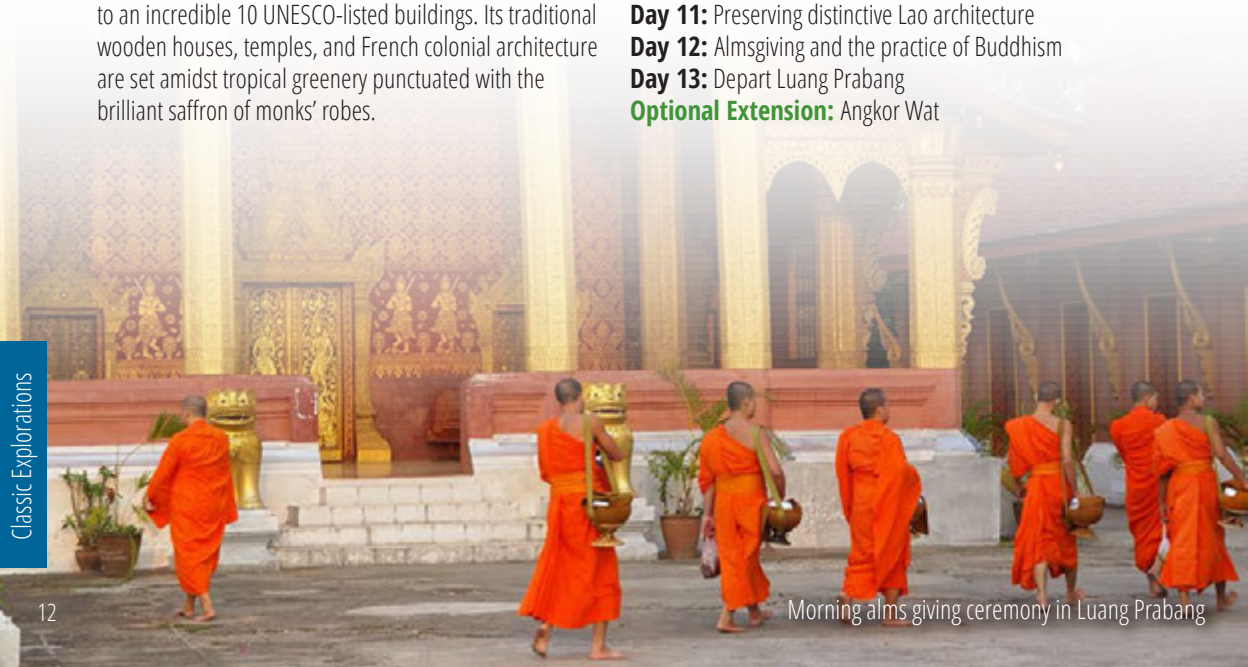
An overnight cruise on the mighty Mekong takes us to Luang Prabang. The 'refuge of the last dreamers' is home to an incredible 10 UNESCO-listed buildings. Its traditional wooden houses, temples, and French colonial architecture are set amidst tropical greenery punctuated with the brilliant saffron of monks' robes.

Your Tour Leader

Paula Swart brings her Asia expertise to this new tour, drawing on her recent UBC Continuing Education course on World Heritage Site cities. A regular traveller to the region, Paula researches and writes extensively for 'Arts of Asia'.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Bangkok
Day 2: Grand temples and royal palaces
Day 3: Mini-course at Chulalongkorn University
Day 4: Villages of Nakhon Nayok Province
Day 5: Flight to Chiang Mai; dazzling temples
Day 6: Elephants at the sanctuary
Day 7: Lanna cuisine and a cooking class
Day 8: Mountain temples on the drive to Chiang Rai
Day 9: Ancient ruins in the heart of the golden triangle
Day 10: By river boat to Luang Prabang
Day 11: Preserving distinctive Lao architecture
Day 12: Almsgiving and the practice of Buddhism
Day 13: Depart Luang Prabang
Optional Extension: Angkor Wat



Morning alms giving ceremony in Luang Prabang

Morocco

CASBAHS, SOUKS, AND THE SAHARA

DATES: March 1 – 11, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 16 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$3995

Morocco is a fascinatingly diverse country to explore with its rugged Atlantic coastline, towering peaks of the Atlas Mountains, sweeping deserts, and narrow alleyways of ancient souks.

On this trip, we'll visit many of Morocco's UNESCO World Heritage sites. We'll contrast the two-thousand-year-old ruins of Volubilis – once the outer edge of the Roman Empire – with the Spanish-Moorish-style city of Meknes. We'll soak in the lost-in-time ambience of Fez's medina: a labyrinth of lanes and covered bazaars busting with aromatic food stalls, artisan workshops, and ancient buildings hiding treasures behind colourfully painted doors. In Marrakesh, we'll watch the action in the Djemaa el-Fna Square and delve into the souk where gold, leather, and fabrics are traded much as they havebeen for hundreds of years.

Berber culture remains strongest in the desert and in the Atlas Mountains. We'll explore the dunes of the Sahara, riding a camel (or a jeep) out into the desert to sleep under a million stars in a tented camp, and spend two days hiking and walking in a spectacular landscape of peaks and oases in the Atlas Mountains.

Between our explorations, we'll enjoy beautiful riad accommodation, relax on panoramic roof top terraces and taste the flavours of saffron and cinnamon in delicious tajines.

Your Tour Leader

Laurielle Penny has travelled to Morocco regularly for her fix of medinas, Maghrebi mystique, desert stars, and mint tea. She's looking forward to sharing the lyrical landscapes from Berber strongholds to windswept coastlines as well as the eye-catching design features of Marrakesh and Fez.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Casablanca
Day 2: Drive to Fez via Meknes and Volubilis
Day 3: Exploring the ancient city
Day 4: Morning market and cooking school
Day 5: A night under the stars at a Berber camp
Day 6: Ouarzazate and gorgeous gorges
Day 7: A splendid riad in the Atlas Mountains
Day 8: Hiking and admiring the spectacular scenery
Day 9: Discover historic Marrakesh
Day 10: Gardens, hammams and souks
Day 11: Depart Marrakesh
Optional Extension: Seaside Essaouria and El Jadida

Blue medina of Chechaouen

Bolivia & Peru

THE INCA LEGACY

DATES: April 12 – 23, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 16 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$4295

A fantastic mix of spectacular scenery and impressive archeological sites, this tour follows the historical route of the Inca empire from its precursors in the Ayamara civilization of Tiwanaku, to the shores of Lake Titicaca (home of the Inca creation myth), to Machu Picchu (the place of worship of the sun god), and to Cusco, the richest city of the ancient New World.

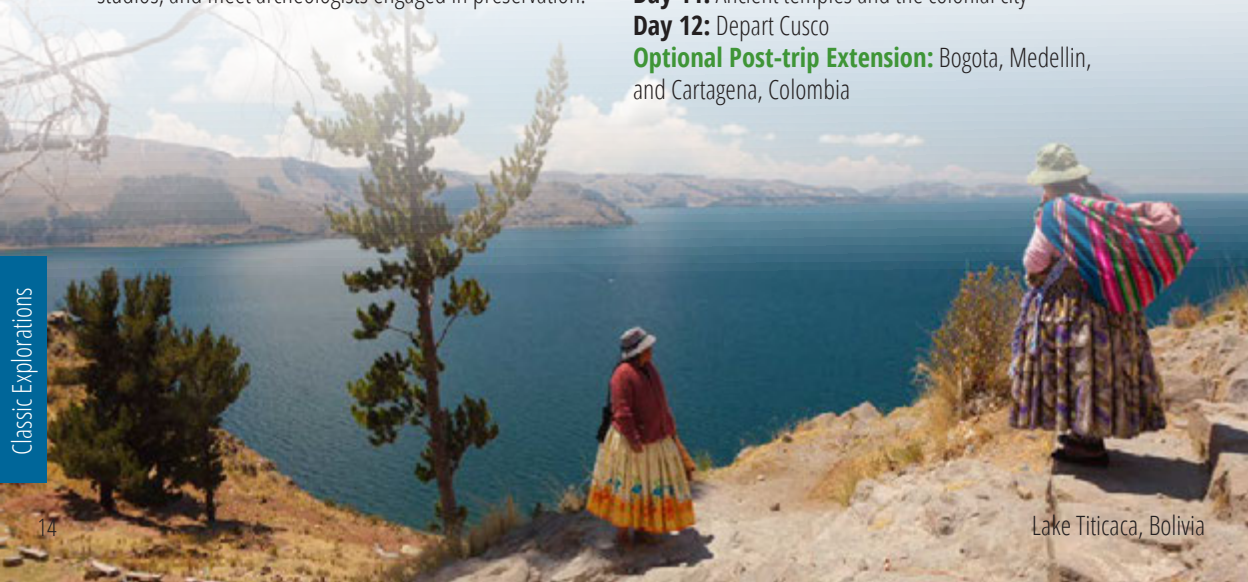
We start in the bustling city of La Paz, clinging to a canyon in a most dramatic setting surrounded by snow-capped mountains. The sprawling 2nd Century BCE site of Tiwanaku sets the architectural tone for the amazing structures of the Inca empire to come. We explore the Bolivian and Peruvian sides of the shimmering deep blue jewel of Lake Titicaca; visiting its islands and shores to observe traditional villages and pre-Columbian ruins. The scenic train from Puno to Cusco takes us to the Sacred Urubamba Valley, where we explore the amazing structures at Pisac, Moray, and Ollantaytambo, as well as colourful markets and small villages. We'll take our time to feel the energy of heavenly Machu Picchu – crown jewel of Inca civilization. In Cusco we'll admire the contradiction of ornate cathedrals and Inca ruins as we stroll the narrow streets, visit artists' studios, and meet archeologists engaged in preservation.

Your Tour Leader

Ian Shanahan is Worldwide Quest's Renaissance man; he's a tour leader, writer, editor, teacher, and theatre artist while also serving as our Project Coordinator. Ian has extensive travel experience in Tropical America, including the Andes. His wife hails from Andean Venezuela.

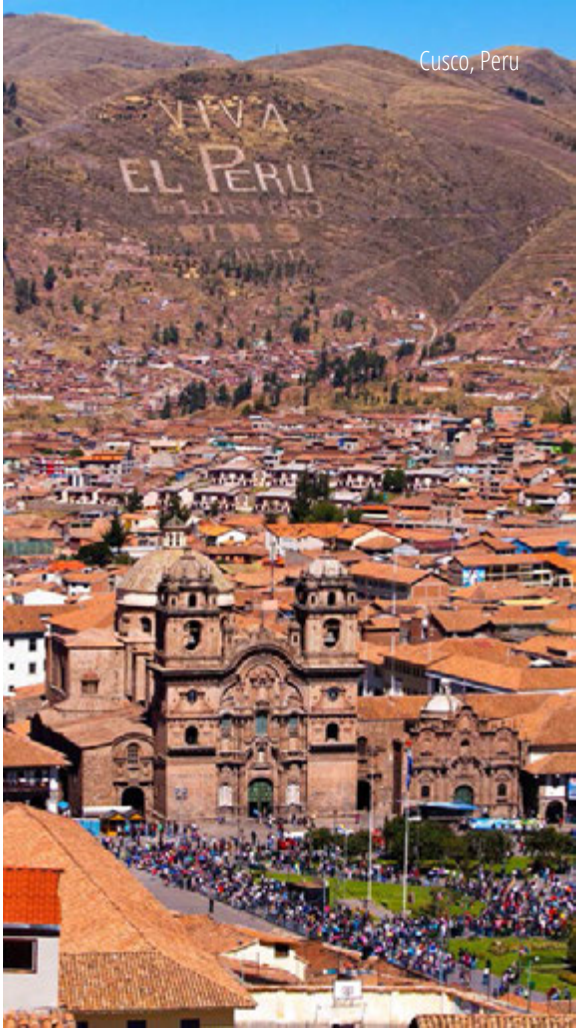
Tour at a Glance

Pre-tour Option: The salt flats of Uyuni, Bolivia
Day 1: Meet in La Paz
Day 2: The colonial centre, cable cars, Moon Valley
Day 3: Ancient Ayamara civilization at Tiwanaku
Day 4: Sun and Moon Islands of Lake Titicaca
Day 5: Around the lake to scenic Puno
Day 6: The spectacular Altiplano
Day 7: Temple complexes in the Sacred Valley
Day 8: Inca canchas, fortresses, and markets
Day 9: Explore iconic Machu Picchu
Day 10: By train to historic Cusco
Day 11: Ancient temples and the colonial city
Day 12: Depart Cusco
Optional Post-trip Extension: Bogota, Medellin, and Cartagena, Colombia



Lake Titicaca, Bolivia

Moray



Cusco, Peru

Bolivia ladies taken by Laurielle Penny, 2015

Essence of China

LYRICAL LANDSCAPES AND FASCINATING CULTURES

DATES: April 5 – 17, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 16 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$4495

A trip to China is a must in any traveller's repertoire. As new mega-cities appear seemingly out of nowhere, it's becoming harder to touch more intimate, less-travelled pieces of this fast-growing nation. On this tour, however, we have the privilege of getting to know two such areas.

We meet 'south of the clouds' in the Yunnan region with its tropical rain forests, verdant rice terraces, and snow-capped mountains. Yi, Lisu, Bai, Naxi, and Li cultural groups live here, maintaining strong Buddhist and Taoist traditions. From Kunming we set out to discover the UNESCO World Heritage site of Lijiang: a jumble of twisting lanes, laced with canals, and lined with willow trees. It's then to Dali: the town set out like a chess board in a stunning location between the mountains and a lake.

The strikingly beautiful landscapes around the city of Guilin have inspired the classical motifs of Chinese art and literature. We'll cycle in Yangshuo's ancient streets, take a bamboo raft on the Li River, admire the 400-year-old Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces, and the picturesque villages in the heart of the karst peaks. Our trip concludes in Guilin which offers easy flight connections to Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Beijing.

Your Tour Leader

Amanda Butler has a passion for the Far East and spent two years living in China before joining Worldwide Quest. She has travelled extensively around the country and is particularly drawn to the minority villages in Southern China where fascinating ethnic groups such as the Tibetan, Bai, and Yao people can be found.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Kunming
Day 2: Fly to Lijiang; explore the time-locked city
Day 3: Tribal villages and Ming Dynasty murals
Day 4: Train to Dali, the ancient Bai minority capital
Day 5: Visiting three spectacular pagodas
Day 6: Street food cycling tour in Dali
Day 7: Drive to Kunming, 'City of Eternal Spring'
Day 8: The legendary Stone Forest; fly to Guilin
Day 9: Dragon's Backbone rice terraces at Longsheng
Day 10: Dramatic landscapes on the drive to Yangshuo
Day 11: Picturesque minority villages
Day 12: Rafting on the Li River
Day 13: Depart Guilin
Optional Extension: Shanghai and Beijing

Li River rafting

Three Pagodas of Chongsheng Temple, Dali

Old Town of Lijiang

Chinese fisherman

Uzbekistan

BUKHARA, SAMARKAND, AND THE SILK ROAD CITIES

DATES: May 1 – 14, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 16 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$4895

Join our modern-day caravan along the fabled Silk Route. These ancient lands conquered by history's legendary leaders appeal to true travellers who seek out old-fashioned exploration, enduring traditions, and abundant hospitality. We'll traverse memorable landscapes and visit magnificent examples of ancient architecture in the most celebrated Silk Road oases.

From the modern capital of Tashkent, we set off for the far West to visit the wonderful Savitsky Art Museum, housing thousands of banned avant-garde Russian art pieces. A drive across the desert takes us to the beautifully intact architectural ensemble of Khiva, then onward to the living museum of Bukhara where we stay for three nights to explore this still very much lived-in old centre filled with madrassahs, minarets, a royal fortress, and a mulberry tree-shaded oasis in its heart. Over three days in Samarkand we discover the magnificent monuments of Tamerlane and Registan Square – possibly the most awesome single sight in Central Asia.

A stay in a traditional yurt in the vast red sand Kyzyl Kum Desert, strolls in vibrant crafts markets, and a master class in the art of making plov – Uzbekistan's signature rice dish – are just a few of the special signature moments of this cultural adventure.

Your Tour Leader

Paula Swart is a lecturer at the University of British Columbia and curator of Asian art. She is a Board Member of the Canadian Society for Asian Arts and has published scholarly articles in 'Arts of Asia'.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Tashkent
Day 2: Monuments, mausoleums and the Chorsu Bazaar
Day 3: Flight to Nukus; The Museum of Forbidden Art
Day 4: Ancient citadels of the desert
Day 5: Explore Khiva's spectacular old city
Day 6: Overland across the Red Sands Desert to Bukhara
Day 7: Palaces and bazaars in Bukhara
Day 8: Cookery class and artisan workshops
Day 9: Into the Kizilkum Desert; a night under the stars
Day 10: Onward to historic Samarkand
Day 11: The fabled Registan Square and vibrant bazaars
Day 12: Tamerlane's monuments, Ulug Bek Observatory
Day 13: The grand Urgut Market; by train to Tashkent
Day 14: Depart Tashkent
Optional Extension: Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan

Uzbek Babushka

Khiva mosque

Street market in Khiva

South India & Sri Lanka

EXQUISITE TEMPLES AND TROPICAL LANDSCAPES

DATES: November 1 – 15, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 14 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$5295

Discover a lush, tropical world and staggering cultural riches in the heartland of South India where Hindu culture originated and continues to flourish. Vibrant living temples decorated in kaleidoscopic colours host seemingly non-stop festivals for us to discover and enjoy. Beyond the spectacular and elaborately carved temple complexes are other treasures such as the French colonial fusion of Pondicherry, and the splendidly restored courtyard mansions of Chettinad.

A short flight takes us to Colombo in Sri Lanka from where we set off to explore the great fortresses, ruined palaces and shrines, and sacred places of one of the world's first Buddhist kingdoms. We'll visit the Temple of the Tooth when pilgrims present flowers to the shrine; the palaces, monasteries, and monuments of the epic site of Anuradhapura, hidden away in dense jungle for generations; and the monumental 'palace in the sky' of Sigiriya on the summit of Lion's Rock.

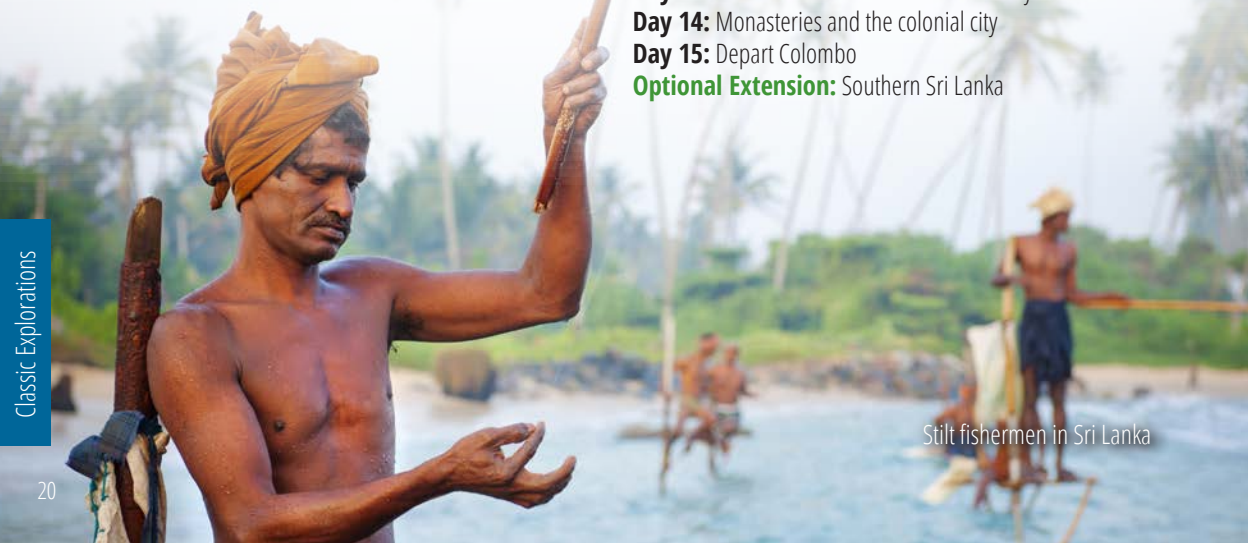
We're staying in some particularly lovely heritage inns on this trip, and indulging in delicious and distinctive cuisine, making this both a more serene and soothing India experience.

Your Tour Leader

Manoj Abraham heads up the logistics team in our Delhi office. Whether designing tours with a painstaking attention to detail or leading our travellers across Asia, Manny draws on his exceptional network of contacts to create intimate and enriching experiences.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Chennai
Day 2: The magnificent temple at Mamallapuram
Day 3: Franco-Indian fusion in Pondicherry
Day 4: The spectacle of Brihadishwara Temple
Day 5: Lavish mansions of Chettinad
Day 6: A cooking class at the mansion
Day 7: The massive temple at Madurai
Day 8: Flight to Colombo; drive to Anuradhapura
Day 9: Sacred Buddhist shrines in India's spiritual heart
Day 10: The wonder of the Rock Fortress of Sigiriya
Day 11: Tooth relic temples, stupas at Polonnaruwa
Day 12: Spice gardens, pilgrimage site of Dambulla
Day 13: The monumental ensemble of Kandy
Day 14: Monasteries and the colonial city
Day 15: Depart Colombo
Optional Extension: Southern Sri Lanka



Stilt fishermen in Sri Lanka

Meet our hosts in Visalam

Chidambara Palace

Women making flower garlands in South India

Arctic
North America
Which destination inpires you?
Northern Africa
Central America
South America
Antarctica

Europe / Russia
Central Asia
East Asia
South-east Asia
Himalaya
Middle East
South Asia
Southern Africa
Pacific

Magical Himalayan Kingdoms

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

DATES: October 15 – November 2, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 18 participants **COST PER PERSON:** US$11595

Begin in Beijing and fly up to Lhasa to spend four days exploring its unique atmosphere. Then it's on to the world's highest railway journey through breathtaking vistas down to Xining. At Chengdu, take a good look at those marvelous Pandas.

Fly over the Himalayan mountain range to visit ancient stupas and ornate temples in Kathmandu, and search for tigers at Chitwan's World Heritage listed preserve. In Bhutan, discover a Himalayan kingdom filled with vital Buddhist traditions and valleys dotted with monasteries and fortresses.

Accommodation is in particularly beautiful and luxuriously comfortable hotels that reflect the character of each place.

Set against the most inspiring backdrop in the world, this tour will introduce you to the remarkable cultures that flourish in the shadow of the world's highest mountain ranges. We invite you to join Lewie on this remarkable voyage across the roof of the world.

Your Tour Leader

After over 35 years of travelling the world, **Lewie Gonsalves** defines this as the trip of a lifetime (and that's a pretty definitive comment). Journey through Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan where people are gracious, the culture is rich, spirituality is vital, and the traveller is rewarded with a taste of tradition undisturbed.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Arrive Beijing
Days 2 – 3: Fly to Lhasa, explore Old Lhasa's history
Day 4: The Potala Palace and the sacred Jokhang Temple
Day 5: Morning prayer wheels and ancient monasteries
Day 6: The spectacular train ride to Xining
Day 7: Tour the Kumbum monastery; fly to Chengdu
Day 8: Commune with Giant and Red Pandas
Day 9: Fly over the Himalayas to Kathmandu
Day 10: Visit the Pashupatinath Temple and royal Patan
Day 11: Fly to Chitwan N.P. and our jungle lodge
Day 12: Game drives on the lookout for rhinos and tigers
Day 13: Back to Kathmandu for temples and bazaars
Day 14: Fly to Paro, spectacular scenic drive to Thimphu
Day 15: Traditional fortresses of the Thimphu Valley
Day 16: Overland visiting splendid ancient monasteries
Day 17: Hike to Paro's iconic Tiger's Nest Monastery
Day 18: Paro's temples and bazaars; fly to Bangkok
Day 19: Depart Bangkok
Optional Extension: Bangkok in depth

Treasures of Persia

THE ENDURING OPULENCE OF ANCIENT SPLENDOURS

DATES: May 12 – 24, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 18 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$5995

To many Westerners the word "Persia" conjures evocative images of turquoise domes, exotic bazaars, the scent of roses and fabulous carpets. These images live on in today's Iran. Indeed, this nation is a world both ancient and contemporary, linking the heartland of Asia and the cradle of Western civilization – a bridge between East and West.

Waves of invaders throughout the country's long history – the Greeks accompanying Alexander, Arab armies, the Turkish tribes that forced their way westward from Central Asia, and finally the Mongols – all left their mark upon the people of Persia, creating a vibrant tapestry that is indelibly Persian. During our trip we will see Shah Abbas' astonishing royal city of Isfahan; the silent ruins of Persepolis, destroyed by Alexander's fury thousands of years ago; the garden city of Shiraz; and the splendid desert city of Yazd.

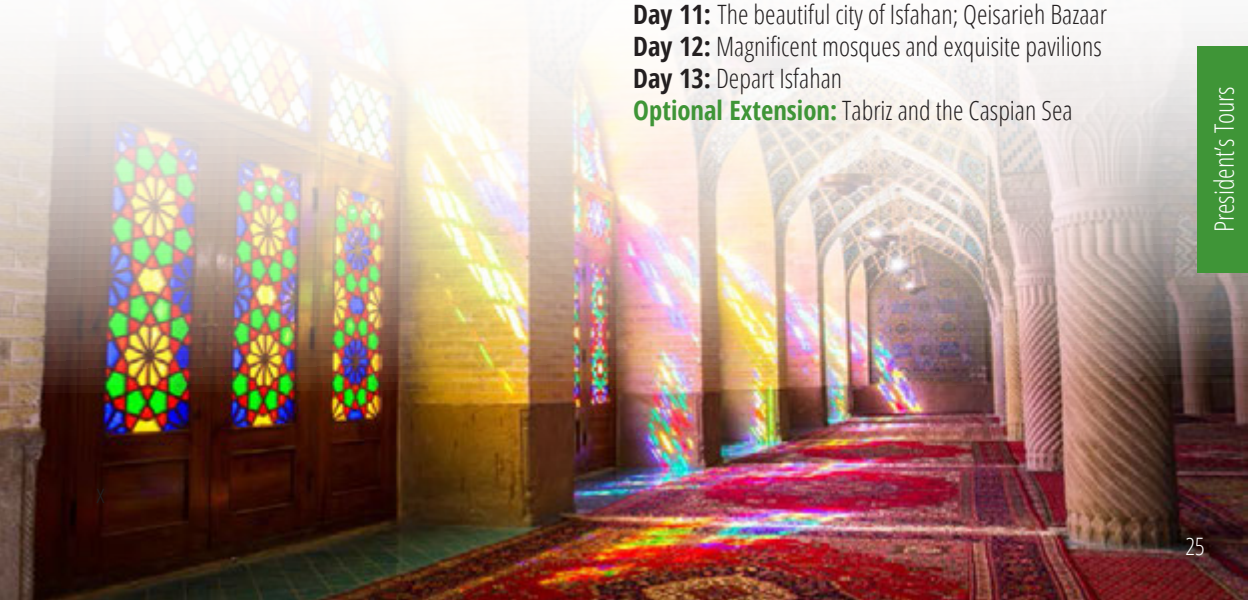
Persia has been almost completely hidden from the West since 1979 when the country underwent huge changes with an uprising that marked the end of an era and a revolution whose effects are still felt today. The country and its people have emerged from these events eager to show the majesty of their country to the enterprising traveller.

Your Tour Leader

Each year, Worldwide Quest President **Lewie Gonzalves** expands his explorations and offers you an opportunity to be a part of a select group of travellers on a trip to a thrilling destination. In 2010 Lewie led a successful trip to Persia and in 2018 he looks forward to a return journey in which he will introduce you to the hidden wonders of this enigmatic destination.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Tehran
Day 2: The Peacock Throne, exotic jewels, warm welcomes
Day 3: Palaces of the Qajar period; magnificent carpets
Day 4: Fly to Kerman on the edge of the desert
Day 5: The Grand Bazaar; the Sufi Dervish shrine
Day 6: Drive to the oasis city of Yazd
Day 7: The Eternal Flame and the Towers of Silence
Day 8: Through desert and mountain landscapes to Shiraz
Day 9: Exploring the City of Roses and Nightingales
Day 10: Persepolis, Heart of the Persian Empire
Day 11: The beautiful city of Isfahan; Qeisarieh Bazaar
Day 12: Magnificent mosques and exquisite pavilions
Day 13: Depart Isfahan
Optional Extension: Tabriz and the Caspian Sea



Ganges River Cruise

MOTHER GANGA AND A SOUTH INDIA IMMERSION

DATES: March 6 – 24, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 56 participants
COST PER PERSON: US$6995 – US$7495 (depending on cabin type)

India is a kaleidoscope of vivid experiences and wonderful places – nowhere more so than along the Ganges River. A vibrant, complex tapestry of historical chronicles, religious beliefs, and fascinating cultural traditions live and breathe along the banks of Mother Ganga.

We begin in colourful Varanasi for a first look at the Ganges at one of its holiest places. Our seven-night cruise takes us very much off the conventional tourist route to visit an area steeped in history: a land of lost capitals and erstwhile grandeur. We'll be treated to a panoply of Islamic architecture, Hindu temples, the rituals of daily life along the river, and the countryside of a part of India rarely experienced by Western travellers.

After a good look at Kolkata, India's intellectual and cultural capital and a feast of Raj-era architecture, we fly south to Chennai (Madras), to spend six days exploring the grand World Heritage-listed temples of the ancient Pallava kingdom and soaking in Pondicherry's French colonial vibe.

If this is your first trip to India, we recommend adding a visit to Delhi and the Taj Mahal at the beginning of your trip.

> We are on board an **exclusively chartered** colonial style 28-stateroom river cruiser called the *Bengal Ganga*. A replica of the colonial Clyde steamers, this modern vessel has comfortable, air-conditioned staterooms and ample outside space to observe the fascinating scenes and scenery along the Ganges.

Your Tour Leaders

Lewie Gonsalves is excited to be exploring this less-travelled part of central India: a combination of key sites plus a seven-night cruise on the Ganges on board a vessel that feels like the India of the Raj.

Adrienne Fast holds a PhD in South Asian art history from UBC. She has taught university courses on South Asian art and currently works as a curator. Her research focuses on the establishment of a visual code of 'authentic', modern expression in early twentieth-century India, particularly Bengal.

Tour at a Glance

Days 1 – 2: Arrive Delhi, fly to Varanasi for Aarti Ceremony
Day 3: The ghats of the Ganges; Sarnath ruins
Day 4: The Buddhist pilgrimage site at Bodhgaya
Days 5 – 6: Embark ship at Munger, Sultanganj
Day 7: Cruise the Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary
Day 8: The Farakka Barrage to Jangipur
Day 9: A palace and a mosque at Murshidabad
Day 10: Master craftsmen at Matiari
Day 11: Kalna's Rajbari Temple Complex
Days 12 – 13: Disembark at Kolkata, Raj architecture
Day 14: Fly to Chennai; onward to Mahabalipuram
Day 15: The spectacular temples of the Pallava Kingdom
Days 16 – 17: Drive to and enjoy French Colonial Pondicherry
Days 18 – 19: Drive to Chennai; explore George Town, depart
Optional Extension: Kerala backwaters and Cochin

Jain Temple

Indian Sadhu (saint)

Varanasi

CLASSICAL PURSUITS

Kraków

FACE TO FACE WITH POLAND'S CREATIVE ARTISTS

DATES: June 7 – 15, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 18 participants **COST PER PERSON:** US$3495

That music, art, literature, and film flourished in Poland throughout the 20th Century in spite of continuous external pressures may come as a surprise to many. To find out why, we'll travel to Kraków: a beautiful city that has remained largely intact from its earliest medieval days.

It is no wonder that in 2013 UNESCO appointed Kraków as its City of Literature. Kraków was home to poets and Nobel laureates Czesław Miłosz and Wisława Szymborska, science fiction writer Stanisław Lem, and satirical playwright Sławomir Mrożek.

We will explore Polish modernism in all its forms: painting, philosophy, theatre, literary cabarets, opera, and the revival of a vibrant Jewish culture. At the Miłosz Festival, we'll gather with literary heavyweights from around the world. We'll also visit Nowa Huta ("New Steelworks"), one of only two planned Socialist realist cities ever built. The site is a Soviet attempt to create an in-your-face proletarian opponent to intellectual, artsy Kraków.

Our trip concludes with several days in Zakopane, Poland's leading mountain resort. In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, Poland's intellectual elite decamped here. Writers, poets, painters, and architects have gathered in Zakopane for 100 years in a bid to reinterpret Polish culture.

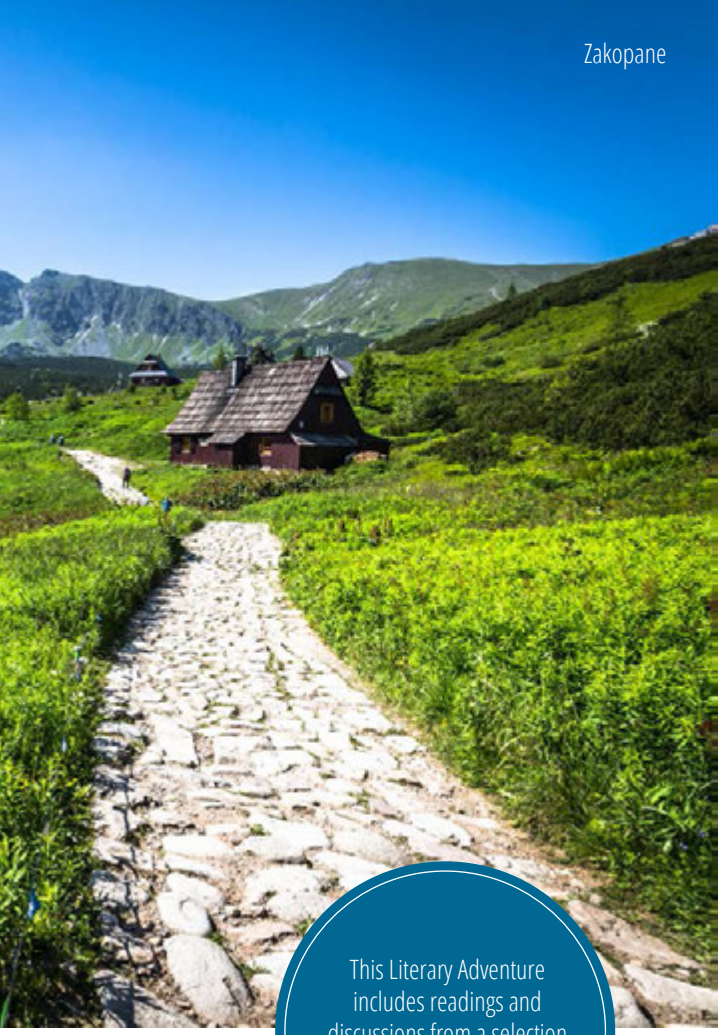
Your Tour Leader

Born and raised in Poland, **Dr. Łukasz Wodzyński** received his PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Toronto. He currently teaches courses in Polish and Russian languages at the University of Toronto and McMaster University. His research interests include the culture of European modernism, particularly in Poland and Russia; as well as studies on popular literature.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Kraków
Day 2: Splendid Wawel Castle; Royal Route to Market Square
Day 3: Milosz Poetry Festival, Jagiellonian University
Day 4: Kazimierz Jewish Quarter, O. Schindler Factory Museum
Day 5: Visit the planned city of Nowa Huta
Day 6: Into the hills at Zacopane
Day 7: Glorious mountain hike, 19th Century wooden villas
Day 8: Along the Dunajec River
Day 9: Depart Kraków

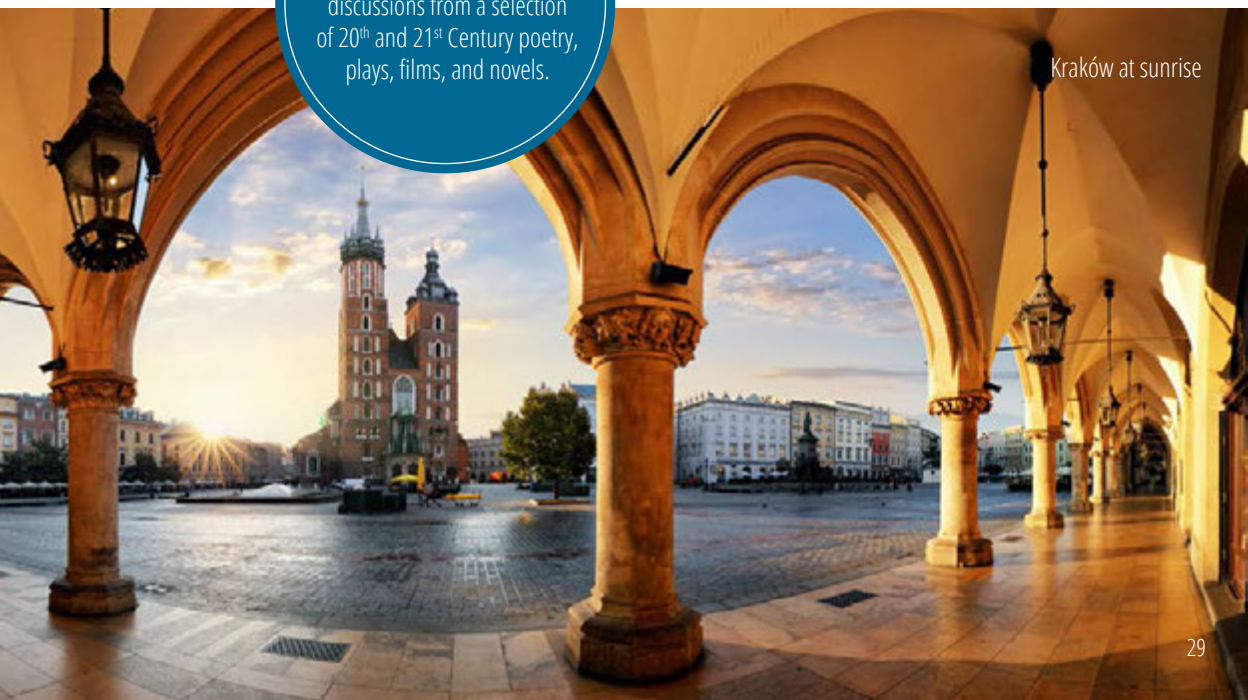
Eros Bendato by Igor Mitoraj



Zakopane

Polish cheese

This Literary Adventure includes readings and discussions from a selection of 20th and 21st Century poetry, plays, films, and novels.



Kraków at sunrise

CLASSICAL PURSUITS

Jewish Montreal

ITS MIDCENTURY LITERARY LEGACY

DATES: September 10 – 15, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 18 participants **COST PER PERSON:** C$1995

Jews starting coming to Quebec in the 18th and early 19th centuries, but remained few in number until the first half of the 20th century. A new cohort of immigrants caused the Jewish population of Quebec to increase by more than 800 percent between 1901 and 1931. Yiddish became the third most prevalent language in Montreal, after French and English. Quebec's Jewish population continued to grow, peaking at 120,000 in 1971. Nearly all the province's Jews were concentrated in Montreal, making the city a centre of cultural creativity. This was especially true for its writers who drew on their European roots while absorbing the polyglot culture in which they were living.

We will read selected works of four towering figures. A.M. Klein (1909–1972), the founding father of Canadian-Jewish literature, combines Jewish and French traditions in his poetry. Klein mentored the outspoken poet Irving Layton, né Israel Pincu Lazarovitch (1912–2006), who in turn influenced his friend Leonard Cohen (1934–2016), who began writing poetry in Montreal before turning to a career in singing and songwriting. Mordecai Richler (1931–2001) was a novelist and essayist whose abrasive but comic satire recounts the lives of the Montreal Jews he grew up with.

As we walk the streets, meet the people, hear the stories, and eat the food of Jewish Montreal, our experience will be enriched by our discussions of a literary voice unique in North America.

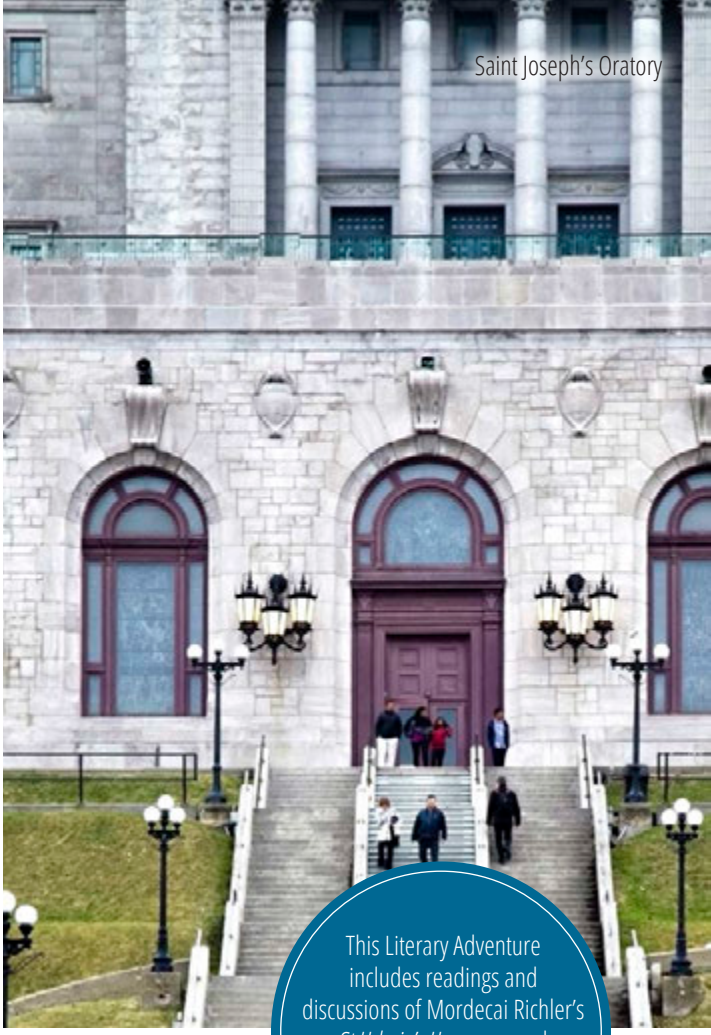
Your Tour Leaders

Ann Kirkland, founder of Classical Pursuits leads this tour with presentations by **Stan Asher, (pictured)** host of the programs Arts Notebook on Radio Centre-Ville and The Montreal Jewish Magazine on Radio Shalom; and **Eddie Paul,** Head of Bibliographic and Information Services at Montreal's Jewish Public Library.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Montreal; neighbourhood walk
Day 2: Walk along The Main and exploring Outremont
Day 3: Irving Layton's works at the Jewish Public Library, St. Joseph's Oratory
Day 4: View Mordecai Richler's collection at Concordia U.
Day 5: Museum of Jewish Montreal, walking discussion in the Plateau and Mile End districts
Day 6: Depart Montreal

Leonard Cohen (1934 – 2016)
in Montreal, 1988



Saint Joseph's Oratory

This Literary Adventure includes readings and discussions of Mordecai Richler's *St Urbain's Horseman* and selected poetry of A.M. Klein, Irving Layton, and Leonard Cohen.

© Ann Kirkland

CLASSICAL PURSUITS

Day of the Dead

CELEBRATING LIFE, DEATH, AND REBIRTH IN MEXICO

DATES: October 26 – November 4, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 18 participants **COST PER PERSON:** US$3995

Every year, at the beginning of November, something extraordinary takes place in many areas of Mexico: Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) festivities.

We will make our home base in the creativity haven of San Miguel de Allende after establishing context in the historic centre of Mexico City. Come prepared to observe and discuss the works of Frida Khalo and Diego Rivera, and dig deeper into their fascination with death. Prepare to enter the world where Mexicans celebrate *with* their beloved dead. We will learn how they prepare, what they do and why; and how they return to ordinary time when the spirits go back where they came from on November 2.

During the days leading up to Day of the Dead, we will pop into markets and visit public squares and cemeteries to see the extent of preparations. In the cemeteries, families arrive early in the day laden with brooms, buckets, flowers, candles, favourite foods and drinks of the dead, and everything else they need to set up their *ofrendas* (altars) on top of the graves.

During the celebration, join in the merriment at San Miguel's four-day La Calaca Festival, which includes following a parade of *catrinas* (Mexican characters dressed as "elegant death").

Your Tour Leader

Melanie Blake leads seminars and tours for Classical Pursuits. She discovered the poetry of Octavio Paz through the great Mexican mystic Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and has long admired Paz's seemingly boundless curiosity and imagination.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Mexico City
Day 2: Frida Khalo, Diego Rivera, Coyoacan Market
Day 3: Aztec ruins at the Zocalo
Day 4: Through the highlands to San Miguel de Allende
Days 5 – 9: Day of the Dead festivities, including offerings, parades, music, markets, and fiestas
Day 10: Depart San Miguel de Allende

Offerings on an altar

Shrimp tacos with homemade salsa

La Catrina

This Literary Adventure includes readings and discussions of Pedro Páramo by Juan Rulfo and selected poems by Octavio Paz.

Mexico City

CLASSICAL PURSUITS

Belgium & France

ENGLISH POETS OF WWI

DATES: May 19 – 26, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 18 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$3295

Following the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of WWI, journey with us to some of the most important towns and sites of the Western Front. From our bases in Arras and Ieper (Ypres) we will discover Artois and Flanders through the eyes and words of poets such as Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Isaac Rosenberg, and Vera Brittain.

Our expert guide will take us right into the trenches of Beaumont Hamel. We'll stand in the dugout used by Sassoon and look through a real WWI periscope as we read Robert Graves' poem "Through the Periscope." In Ors, we'll visit the grave of Wilfred Owen, and the forester's house where he spent his last night before being killed shortly before the war's end. Our guide will take us even deeper in, going behind the lines to the casualty clearing stations and the Talbot House, which offered food and beds to tired soldiers.

In Ypres, we will take part in the Menin Gate ceremony, which has been performed every night for nearly 90 years in honour of missing British and Commonwealth soldiers. There will also be time to enjoy the distinctive architecture of Artois and Flanders, such as the sprawling Grand Place of Arras and Ypres' magnificent Cloth Hall.

Your Tour Leaders

Melanie Blake has long been interested in 20th Century fiction and poetry about war and how it shapes society's collective understanding of conflict.

The tour is accompanied by military historian and lecturer **Julian Whippy:** a specialist in the Great War and a badged member and validator within the Guild of Battlefield Guides.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Paris; train to Lille; onward to Ypres
Day 2: Understand the Ypres Salient; village of Vlamertinghe for Julian Grenfell
Day 3: McCrae's "In Flanders Fields," poetry of Wilfrid Gibson at Lijssenthoek
Day 4: Explore the living museum Toc H; drive to Arras
Day 5: Trenches at Beaumont Hamel; villages of Auchenvillers and Mensil for Edmund Blunden
Day 6: Pay respects at Vimy Ridge; visit Wilfrid Owen sites
Day 7: Louvencourt for the works of Vera Brittain; La Boiselle for Alan Seeger; Fricourt for Siegfried Sassoon
Day 8: Depart Arras

"The trip was profound and moving." – Sharron S., *Belgium & France,* 2016

Trenches of the battlefield at Vimy

Carving of names on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial
© Veterans Affairs Canada

Menin Gate in Ypres

This Literary Adventure includes readings and discussions of poems by Wilfred Owen, John McCrae, Siegfried Sassoon, Isaac Rosenberg, Vera Brittain, Rupert Brooke, and others.

Heroes Square in Arras

Music in the Baltics

FROM RIGA, TALLINN, AND VILNIUS TO STOCKHOLM

DATES: May 1 – 12, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 18 participants
COST PER PERSON: Approx. US$3995, plus concert tickets

The Baltic states have long held music education as an important priority in their set of national values. Simply put, they believe that music makes better citizens, nationally and internationally. This music tour will feature marvelous concerts with such esteemed ensembles as the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra or the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre in their renowned concert venues. We will also witness the region's music education system at work by visiting schools, observing choral rehearsals and hearing the results first-hand.

The capitals of Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius are vibrant cities, famous for their lovingly-maintained "old towns" – all listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites. The area has much to offer art lovers: remarkable and surprising architecture that reveals a rich variety of styles from the Gothic to the Baroque, to Art Nouveau and modernist; a strong tradition of arts and crafts is felt in textiles, amber ware, painting and sculpture.

Our tour wraps up in one of the world's most beautiful cities – Stockholm. It will be an unforgettable cultural experience in a region that truly loves music and values it as a necessary ingredient to a fulfilling life.

Your Tour Leader

Rick Phillips worked in the Music Dept. of CBC Radio for 30 years, 14 of which he was Host/Producer of SOUND ADVICE, the popular guide to classical music and recordings heard across Canada every weekend. He's an experienced writer, reviewer, teacher, lecturer, broadcaster and musical tour guide – often a juror in the classical music categories of the Juno Awards, and the author of "The Essential Classical Recordings – 101 CDs."

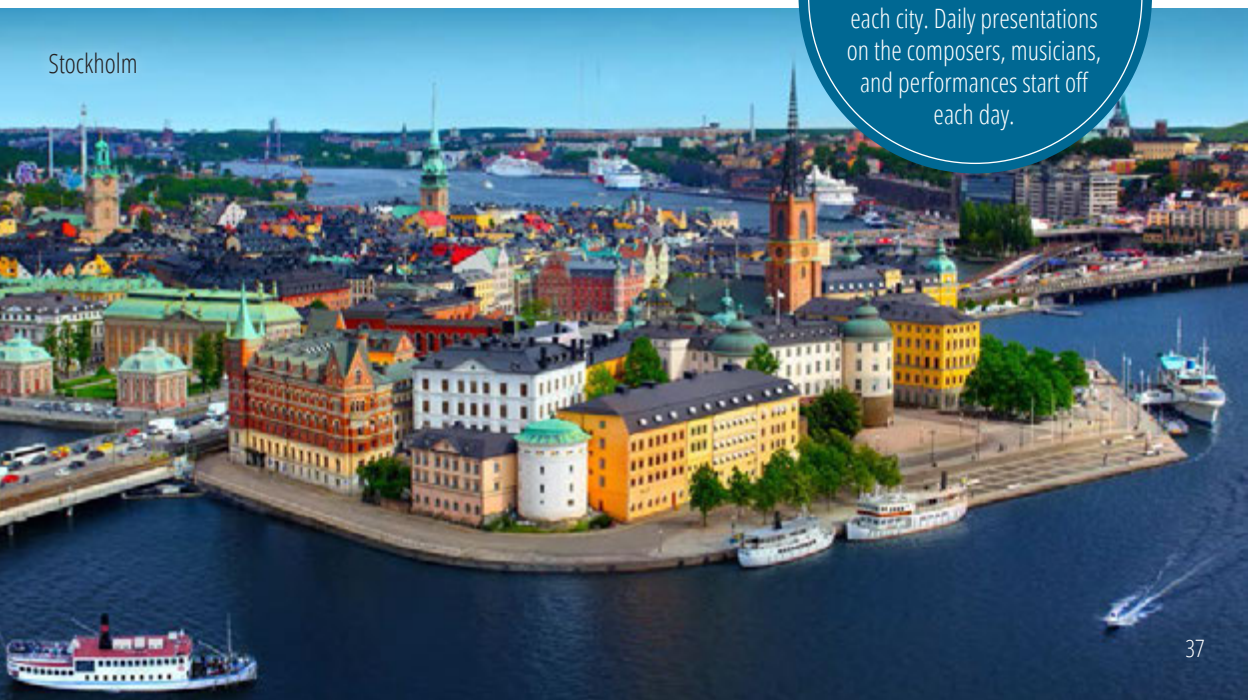
Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Vilnius
Day 2: The Baroque city palaces and the 'Gates of Dawn'
Day 3: A wealth of architecture in historical Kanaus
Day 4: The Hill of Crosses, the splendid palace of Rundāle
Day 5: Riga's medieval streets; Gothic and Baroque churches
Day 6: Art Nouveau and traditional Latvian arts
Day 7: Through beautiful hilly scenery to Tallinn
Day 8: Upper city and the picturesque medieval Old Town
Day 9: Overnight ferry to Stockholm
Day 10: Exploring the Stockholm Archipelago by boat
Day 11: Fabulous food halls; world's longest art gallery
Day 12: Depart Stockholm

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Riga, Latvia

Rundāle Palace

Rick will select six performances for the riches of the opera, symphonic, and chamber music seasons in each city. Daily presentations on the composers, musicians, and performances start off each day.



Stockholm

Culinary Vietnam

FOLLOWING THE PATH TO YOUR PALATE

DATES: November 1 – 14, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 16 participants **COST PER PERSON:** US$4995

Whether you're a food enthusiast, a photographer, or in search of a more authentic way to experience Vietnam, this is the trip for you.

Each day delivers gastronomic and cultural experiences:

- Touring street food stalls with a resident foodie
- Dining at a Canadian chef's top Hanoi restaurant
- Hiking and meeting tribal villagers in super-scenic Sapa
- Visiting pepper plantations on the island of Phu Quoc
- Engage in formal and home-style cookery classes

The signature tastes of Vietnam are the signposts along our route. Find your favourite *pho,* discover the traces of French influence in the baguettes used for *Bánh mì,* restore your energy with the addictively delicious iced coffee, cà phê sữa đá; and answer question like *should beef be boiled, stir fried or grilled?* We'll dine in fabulous small cafés, traditional a nd fusion restaurants, and favourite street stalls.

Through her presentations, Paula Swart will explore topics such as Vietnam's complex history, its tribal groups, the energy of its economy, and its lively contemporary art scene. Our local guides will introduce important temples and monuments in vibrant cities and traditional villages – all of this against a backdrop of stunning scenery from the psychedelic greens of Sapa's rice terraces to the remote turquoise waters of Phu Quoc Island.

Your Tour Leader

Paula Swart is a lecturer at the University of British Columbia and curator of Asian art. She is a Board Member of the Canadian Society for Asian Arts and has published scholarly articles in 'Arts of Asia'. Paula has been introducing travellers to Vietnam and its splendid cuisine for more than 30 years.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Hanoi
Day 2: Hanoian favourites cookery class; explore "36 Streets"
Day 3: Sample street food; overnight train to Sapa
Day 4: Explore Can Cao Market; walk Ta Phin Valley routes
Day 5: Cookery class in Sapa; visit Hmong villages
Day 6: Scenic valley walk; overnight train to Hanoi
Day 7: Fly to Danang; drive to Hoi An; creative fusion dining
Day 8: Walk ancient Hoi An; learn to spread a fishing net
Day 9: Street food cooking class with Ms Vy; browse galleries
Day 10: Fly to Ho Chi Minh; explore Antiques Street
Day 11: Mekong's floating markets; elephant ear fish for lunch!
Day 12: Morning cookery class; fly to Phu Quoc Island
Day 13: Exploring pepper plantations and seaside cuisine
Day 14: Depart Phu Quoc via Ho Chi Minh
Optional Extension: Angkor Wat

Terraced rice fields

Market vendor

Tran Quoc Pagode, Hanoi

Bánh bao
(steamed pork bun)

"Ahn com chua?"
(Have you eaten yet?)

This traditional Vietnamese greeting will guide our exploration from north to south.

"Thank you for providing such an unforgettable travel experience...in all honesty, in my extensive travels over the years, nothing quite compares!"

TRUDY H., *MAGICAL HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS,* 2016

"[The local guides] brought the island to life with their humour and sincere kindness."

YVONNE G., *FOGO ISLAND*, 2016

"My husband and I are still glowing from the beauty of Sicily and the happiness of taking this wonderful trip."

ARLENE H., *SICILY*, 2016

The trip was superb in a hundred different ways."

WORLDWIDE QUEST CLIENT
BELGIUM & FRANCE, 2016

We really loved the tour and appreciated the care and expertise of the Worldwide Quest office and the individual tour leaders and experts. Was fabulous!"

APHRODITE H.,
GREECE & CYPRUS, 2016

I loved every action packed moment. I came to learn and experience the food culture of southern India. My goal was achieved!"

LYNETTE H., *CULINARY SOUTH INDIA*, 2016

Group shot in Jaipur, India

Peru

AN ACTIVE EXPLORATION

DATES: June 8 – 18, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 16 participants **COST PER PERSON:** US$4295

This tour tops the 'must-sees' on any list, combining an in-depth look at the most dramatic archeological site in the world with some spectacularly scenic sights.

After getting to know Lima, we head out to explore Lake Titicaca: source of the Inca creation myth. A boat cruise on the lake introduces the traditional Quechua-speaking weaving communities. The drive across the High Plateau from Puno toward Cusco offers fantastic photographic opportunities.

The quaint village of Ollantaytambo is the best surviving example of Inca city planning with narrow streets that have been inhabited since the 13th Century. Here in the Sacred Valley we'll come face to face with the dramatic legacy of the Inca civilization from fortresses to places of worship and terraced hillsides. The highlight is the awe-inspiring ancient city of Machu Picchu: the best-know archaeological site on the continent. It all comes together in the lovely city of Cusco where ornate cathedrals exist over Inca temples and women in traditional skirts and bowler hats stroll the streets.

We're staying in delightful heritage hotels and enjoying Peru's marvelous markets and fantastic fusion cuisine.

Your Tour Leader

Lori Dalton is an enthusiastic tour leader, personal life coach and gifted speaker. She uses her excellent people skills to ensure that everyone is enjoying, learning, and growing while on tour with her. Her *joie de vivre* makes each one of her journeys fun-filled and stress-free.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Lima
Day 2: Visiting monasteries, mansions, and Inca sites
Day 3: Fly to Puno: birthplace of Inca mythology
Day 4: Cruising beautiful Lake Titicaca
Day 5: Scenic drive along the Altiplano to the Sacred Valley
Day 6: Markets, weavers, and spectacular Inca ruins
Day 7: Exploring iconic Machu Picchu
Day 8: Sunrise at the ruins; the fabulous market at Pisac
Day 9: Exploring the colonial city of Cusco
Day 10: Browse artisan studios and outdoor markets
Day 11: Depart Cusco

Enjoy the camaraderie and security of being with a great group of women who explore, discover, and experience the world together.

Machu Picchu

Tuscany

La Dolce Vita

DATES: September 16 – 24, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 16 participants **COST PER PERSON:** C$3995

Travel to the heart of Tuscany for a ramble through some of its most scenic and inspiring villages, as well as stylish and historic Florence.

We'll stay for six nights in a gorgeous restored palazzo in the medieval village of Radda in Chianti. From this comfortable base, we'll set off every day to explore Cortona, Arezzo, Siena, San Gimignano – all the beautiful places that make Tuscany so idyllic.

We'll take it slowly with plenty of time to stroll cobblestoned streets and photograph the many picture-perfect landscapes. Learn about the ancient rivalries that divided Siena and San Gimignano, and visit gorgeous Chianti castles along the famous historical route. We have the privilege of tasting wine with the makers and olive oil fresh from the press before rolling up our sleeves for a hands-on cooking class in a lovely farmhouse. In Florence, we'll have a guided walk to introduce the historic essentials, and then plenty of time to enjoy fine art and great shopping.

Join us and indulge in the beautiful places, wonderful food, and the dolce vita all around us!

Your Tour Leader

Elizabeth Kerr is a gifted marketing and communications consultant and publisher, specializing in project management within corporate, magazine, book, and not-for-profit environments. After 12 years as publisher of "Canadian Yachting", Elizabeth left the family business to hone her skills as a travel writer, focusing on sailing, golf, culture, architecture, and cuisine.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Florence. Transfer to our Chianti village
Day 2: Discover Cortona, site of "Under the Tuscan Sun"
Day 3: Chianti Castles and gorgeous hill towns
Day 4: Medieval San Gimignano and exquisite Siena
Day 5: A farmhouse cooking class and a grand wine tasting
Day 6: Spectacular scenery in the Val d'Orcia, the fortress of Montalcino, and all about pecorino cheese
Day 7: Walking tour of historic Florence
Day 8: Explore Florence's outdoor markets, great museums, and Renaissance architecture
Day 9: Depart Florence
Optional Extension: Rome

Tuscan landscape

Kenya

A "BIG FIVE" SAFARI

DATES: November 3 – 12, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 16 participants **COST PER PERSON:** US$3995

Birthplace of the classic safari, Kenya is home to some of the best game viewing reserves on the continent. Africa's 'Big Five' (elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo and leopard) will be in our sights as we travel overland in our pop-top safari vehicles accompanied by our safari guides.

We begin in Nairobi and head overland to the semi-desert Samburu area of the Rift Valley where we hope to get our first looks at lions, cheetahs, hippos, and elephants. At the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, we'll see the largest Black Rhino sanctuary in east Africa, as well as some of the highest densities of lion prides in Kenya. The Maasai Mara National Reserve is home to some of Africa's best game viewing. We hope to catch the end of the annual migration when hundreds of thousands of wildebeests and zebras attract constant attention from top predators.

Kenyan women have a vibrant tradition of crafts and we'll be visiting several women's cooperatives along our route to learn about bead-making, weaving, and traditional handicrafts.

We are staying in a wonderful mix of lodge and tented camp accommodation to enjoy the peace and tranquility of authentic Africa.

Your Tour Leader

Corey McCusker is a Mental Performance Coach, Motivational Speaker and Author. She founded Your Mind Matters: a unique private coaching and training company that helps adults take control of their lives by harnessing the power of their minds. Her positive outlook, leadership, and communication skills help guarantee you'll enjoy each and every moment of your trip.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Nairobi
Day 2: Elephant Orphanage, Giraffe Centre,
Day 3: Drive into "Born Free" country in the Samburu
Day 4: View hippos, elephants, lions, and cheetahs up close
Day 5: To the foothills of Mt. Kenya; Ol Pejeta Conservancy
Day 6: Visit the Black Rhino sanctuary,look for the "Big Five"
Day 7: Beautiful Lake Nakuru in the Great Rift Valley
Day 8: Maasai Mara, backdrop to the wildebeest migration
Day 9: Teeming wildlife of the Maasai Mara
Day 10: Spectacular scenery on the drive to Nairobi, depart
Optional Extension: Exotic and tropical Zanzibar

Elephant family spotted on a game drive

Myanmar

GOLDEN TEMPLES AND HILL-TRIBE MARKETS

DATES: February 8 – 19, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 16 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$3995

From the golden stupa of the 2500-year-old Shwedagon Pagoda to the gold leaf Buddhas that fill Inle Lake temples, Myanmar glows. This is a vibrantly Buddhist land where the incredibly warm and hospitable people still wear traditional dress and adhere to age-old customs.

Myanmar remains replete with charming ancient cities, stupa-filled landscapes, tribal markets and general sense of spiritual calmness. We will discover the bustle of Yangon; the vast and mysterious Plain of Temples at Bagan, with over 2000 shimmering stupas; the pagodas and monasteries of Mandalay; and magical Inle Lake with its haunting ruins, hill-tribe markets, and iconic leg-rowing fishermen.

We'll hop a riverboat for a relaxing two-night cruise on the Irrawaddy, stopping to visit waterside villages for a taste of an enduring rural life. At the former British hill station of Kalaw we'll hike in the hills and visit an elephant camp to learn more about these gentle giants.

Your Tour Leader

Lori Dalton is an enthusiastic tour leader, personal life coach and gifted speaker. She uses her excellent people skills to ensure that everyone is enjoying, learning and growing while on tour with her. Her *joie de vivre* makes every journey with her fun-filled and stress-free.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Yangon
Day 2: The colonial centre; the Shwedagon Pagoda
Day 3: Fly to the temple town of Bagan
Day 4: Explore the Plain of Temples
Day 5: Embark for Irrawaddy River Cruise
Day 6: Yandabo and Burmese villages
Day 7: Disembark in culturally-rich Mandalay
Day 8: Fly to Heho; drive to hill town of Kalaw
Day 9: Visit the elephant camp
Day 10: Drive to majestic Inle Lake
Day 11: Exploring the floating markets
Day 12: Flight to Yangon and depart
Optional Extension: Bangkok

Bagan

The Galapagos Islands

DARWIN'S ENCHANTED ISLES

DATES: November 1 – 11, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 15 participants
COST PER PERSON: US$6045 *Includes internal flights

On a Worldwide Quest Galapagos voyage, you'll enjoy the distinctive touches that only a custom small-ship charter can create. Our Quest leader and Galapagos guide lead island walks and talks as we set sail to discover these remarkable islands, skirting past dozing Galapagos Sea Lions and nesting Blue-footed and Red-footed Boobies, snorkeling among beautiful fish, and admiring the towering Giant Prickly Pear cacti.

As Charles Darwin did almost 200 years before us, we'll marvel at the wonderfully strange creatures, many of which are found nowhere else. The Galapagos are a living museum of evolutionary change and we'll appreciate this ever more as we travel from one island to the next. The creatures behave indifferently to us as though we are but a passing interest.

We'll see giant Galapagos Tortoises grazing in the lush highlands, and Marine Iguanas trudging on volcanic shorelines. There will be countless opportunities for close-up study and photography!

Our Galapagos private yacht expedition remains one of our most highly rated tours and is consistently our travellers' "trip of a lifetime".

Your Tour Leader

Geoff Carpentier is a veteran expedition leader with Worldwide Quest, is an itinerant student of nature who has been involved with wildlife his entire life, with a particular interest in the movements, interactions and behaviour of animals worldwide. He is a past President of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, a seasoned naturalist, and prolific author.

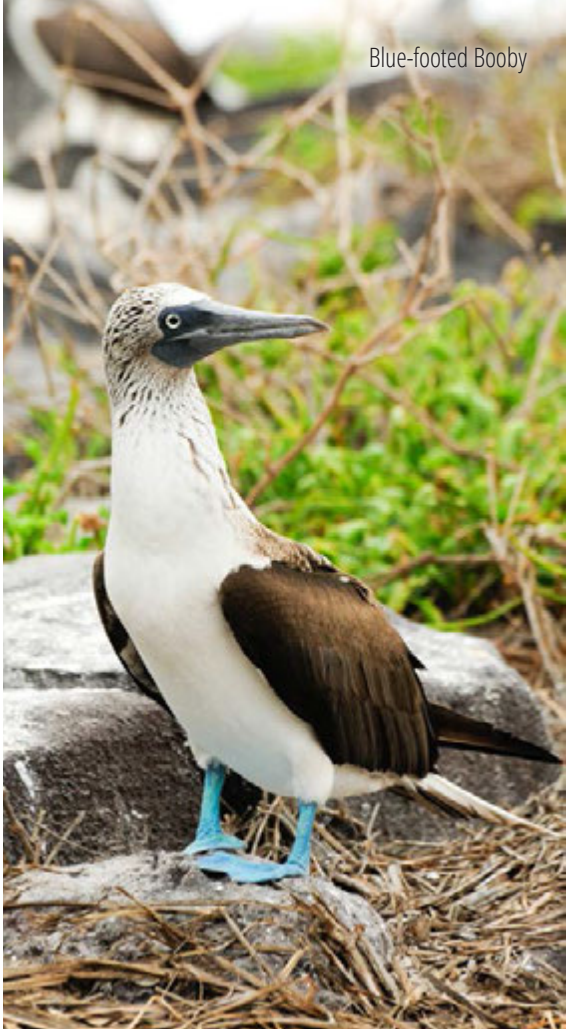
Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Arrive in Quito
Day 2: Historic Quito City Tour
Day 3: Flight to Baltra; embark the Beluga; Santa Cruz
Days 4 – 9: Explore the Galapagos Islands
Day 10: Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz; flight to Quito
Day 11: Depart Quito

South Plaza island

Galapagos Sea Lion

Blue-footed Booby



We charter the *M/Y Beluga* exclusively for our Quest group. This steel-hulled motor yacht is 33.5 metres long, accommodating 16 passengers and 8 crew. She travels at a speed of 12 knots, allowing us to get to 8 islands comfortably during our 8-day expedition cruise. She is well-appointed with comfortable private cabins and ample lounge and observation deck space.

Baffin Island

JEWEL OF THE HIGH ARCTIC

DATES: July 25 – August 5, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 92 participants
COST PER PERSON: US$6,995 – US$11,495 + 5% GST (based on cabin type), plus charter flights US$1995

Baffin Island is one of the last great wilderness regions on the planet. From Iqaluit, on Frobisher Bay, we explore up the wild east coast of Baffin Island discovering the deep fjords, soaring mountains and immense glacial systems. Our voyage takes us north of the Arctic Circle all the way to Resolute on Ellesmere Island where we'll visit Canada's most remote and spectacular National Parks.

We are constantly watching for Polar Bears – the icon of the north. From the expansive decks or the heights of the Captain's open bridge, we'll also be on the lookout for Belugas, Narwhals, and Bowhead Whales. Visits to Inuit communities provide a fascinating glimpse into the daily life of the people who call this remote wilderness their home. The history of early European exploration is ever present as we visit former Hudson's Bay Company locations and RCMP outposts. A highlight will be a visit to Beechey Island, the final resting place for crewmembers of the ill-fated Franklin Expedition of 1845-48.

Ask about the full range of East Coast and Arctic voyages:
Epic East Coast & Labrador
Labrador & Torngat Explorer
Canada's East Coast
High Arctic Explorer
Pathways to Franklin
Classic Northwest Passage & Greenland

Your Expedition Team

Seasoned polar experts and naturalists are committed to ensuring the safety of their guests and sharing their eco-conscious outlook. Their expertise spans wildlife biology, ornithology, polar history, botany, marine ecology, geology, glaciology, kayaking, and photography. Adventure Concierges attend to your life on board with customized informal hospitality. Together the team's enthusiasm, knowledge, passion and competence ensure a true voyage of discovery.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Ottawa; fly to Iqaluit
Day 2: Looking for walruses by Monumental Island
Day 3: Arts and crafts in Pangnirtung
Day 4: Crossing the Arctic Circe at Sunshine Fjord
Day 5: Spectacular scenery at Auyuittuq National Park
Day 6: Observing Bowhead Whales at Isabella Bay
Day 7: Towering cliffs at Gibbs Fjord
Day 8: Pond Inlet community visit
Day 9: The 'wildlife superhighway' of Lancaster Sound
Day 10: Prince Leopold Island seabird colony
Day 11: The Franklin site at Beechey Island
Day 12: Disembark in Resolute; fly to Edmonton

View from the bow © Daisy Gilardini

Polar Bear

Baffin Island

The *M/V Akademik Sergey Vavilov,* built in Rauma, Finland (1988), is an ice-strengthened (Canadian Type B, Lloyds Register 1A), purpose built oceanographic vessel. She is 117m. long and travels up to 14.5 knots/hour with exceptional stability, maneuverability, and quiet. Expansive observation decks offer 360° views. With just 86 passengers and 63 crew and staff on board, our vessel is the perfect platform for polar exploration.

Expedition to the Antarctic Circle

AN EXCLUSIVE FULL-SHIP CHARTER

DATES: February 9 – 21, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 86 participants
COST PER PERSON: US$11,195 – US$16,475 (based on cabin type)
Includes flights to Punta Arenas/Falkland Islands and King George Island/Punta Arenas

Join our exclusively chartered expedition to explore the spectacular Antarctic Peninsula: the most expansive wilderness on the planet amid the seemingly endless daylight of the Antarctic high summer. Journey all the way to 66 degrees, 33 minutes of latitude – the official position of the Antarctic Circle.

This exciting new Antarctic expedition maximizes your time exploring. By flying to and from Punta Arenas, Chile at the start and end of the voyage, we experience a full eight days of off-ship exploration along the Antarctic Peninsula.

You will hike amidst stunning landscapes, observe sizable penguin rookeries up close, take Zodiac boats around massive icebergs carved by the wind and water into fantastical shapes, listen to the rumbling of glaciers calving mammoth chunks of ice, and have the chance to camp overnight on the Antarctic continent itself.

This expedition is on board the exclusively chartered *Akademik Sergey Vavilov,* our mobile wilderness lodge. This purpose-built vessel is the ideal platform for polar exploration, affording us unique opportunities to chart a course through remote waters. We have unrestricted access to all sites with landings led by a stellar team of academics and expert expedition staff.

Your Study Leaders

Professor Bruno Tremblay, McGill University is an associate professor in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. His current research focuses on the presence of sea ice and snow at high latitudes and their effect on global climate and climate change. Bruno will discuss Antarctic ice sheet history and sea ice trends.

Professor Christoph Richer, University of Toronto is an assistant professor in the department of Biology whose research focuses on the impact of human activities – such as fishing, whale watching and oil exploration – on the behaviour of cetaceans. Christoph will discuss topics including animal behaviour, marine mammalogy, and biological diversity.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Meet in Punta Arenas
Day 2: Fly to Port Stanley; embark the ship
Day 3: At sea towards Antarctica
Day 4: Elephant Island and the Shackleton story
Day 5: A first view of Adelie, Chinstrap, and Gentoo Penguins
Day 6: Looking for Humpback Whales at Wilhelmina Bay
Day 7: Celebration at the Antarctic Circle
Day 8: Massive icebergs at the spectacular Lemaire Channel
Day 9: Calving glaciers at Neko Harbour
Day 10: Flooded volcanic crater at Deception Island
Day 11: Hikes at Half Moon Island
Day 12: Disembark at King George Island; fly to Punta Arenas
Day 13: Depart Punta Arenas

Mingling with Gentoo Penguins © Daisy Gilardini

Chinstrap Penguins

Humpback Whale © Ira Meyer

Exclusive charter

Exceptional Canadian Study Leaders, expert naturalists, historians, and photographers.

LeMaire Channel

The Amazon Rainforest

AN EXPEDITION VOYAGE TO REMOTE UPPER AMAZONIA

DATES: February 23 – March 3, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 28 participants
COST PER PERSON: US$5995 – US$6395 (depending on cabin type) *Includes internal flights

The fabled Amazon rainforest is a place where lines are blurred. Mighty rivers and their tributaries not only interweave the megadiverse forests, but also invade large tracts during "high water", creating a unique mosaic of habitats.

From our meeting point at Lima, we'll fly over the Andes to Iquitos, a surprisingly sophisticated city that has no roads to the outside world. Here we'll board the *Amazon Star* and sail upstream on the Amazon and along the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve.

We'll skirt past the buttressed trunks of trees, and Philodendron leaves the size of raincoats. Expert local naturalists help us spot the many fantastic and colourful birds. We'll also keep an eye out for playful monkeys, peaceful sloths, as well as orchids and bromeliads clinging to the limbs of overhanging trees.

Several times daily and on some nights, too, we will walk in the forest or use specially designed excursion boats to investigate tributaries and lagoons that radiate off the main river.

Your Tour Leader

Jean Iron is a past president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists and recipient of their Distinguished Ornithologist Award. Ontario's best-known birder, Jean also has broad interests in all matters of natural history and conservation. She is a veteran tour leader of Central and South America and will be your perfect host on this Amazonian adventure.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Arrive in Lima
Day 2: Fly to Iquitos, board the *Amazon Star*
Day 3: Junction of the Ríos Marañon and Ucayali
Days 4 – 5: Amazon River, Río Ucayali
Day 6: Dorado and/or Zapote Creek
Day 7: Travel up the Río Marañon
Day 8: Río Marañon above Nauta
Day 9: Disembark in Iquitos; fly to Lima; depart

Amazon River

Hoatzin

Monk Saki

We charter the *Amazon Star* exclusively for our group. The vessel is 139' long, accommodating 28 passengers and 14 crew. She is well-suited for our river expedition with many attributes, including a roomy, air-conditioned salon; a large observation deck with a sun canopy; and air-conditioned cabins with a floor-to-ceiling window, roomy private bathrooms and private balconies, and interiors featuring furniture hand-crafted by Peruvian artisans.

Iceland Circumnavigation

SEAS OF ICEBERGS, SAGAS, AND VOLCANIC ROCK

DATES: June 15 – 25, 2018
COST PER PERSON: Approx. US$6995 – US$9495 (depending on cabin type)
GROUP SIZE: Limited to 24 participants onboard the 199-passenger *Ocean Diamond*

This Iceland Circumnavigation Expedition Cruise reveals both natural wonders and the Icelandic way of living. Join us on an incredible journey starting in Reykjavik, before boarding the *Ocean Diamond* for a nine-night cruise.

Daily included shore excursions, designed exclusively for our group and led by experienced naturalists, geologists and historians, bring the unique character of Iceland closer to you. You'll be hiking the volcanic coastline, whale-watching, sailing among huge icebergs, walking on black sand beaches, and admiring thunderous waterfalls. Iceland is rich in epic sagas and heroic legends, and you'll learn Viking lore from onboard experts.

Experience the raw power of Iceland's ice-capped volcanoes, thundering waterfalls, dazzling glaciers, and exploding geysers.

> The *Ocean Diamond* is a modern, stable 124m long super-yacht and the ideal ship for expeditions in remote locations. The vessel is 124m long, accommodating 199 passengers and 106 staff and crew. This outstanding vessel was fully renovated in 2012 and offers the perfect balance of onboard amenities and expedition know-how.

Your Tour Leader

Jean Iron is a past president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists and is an active member of the Brodie Club: Canada's oldest and most prestigious natural history club. She actively writes for nature publications and participates in Wildlife Surveysfor the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and has travelled extensively in Iceland.

Tour at a Glance

Day 1: Arrive in Reykjavik; soak in the Blue Lagoon
Day 2: Explore the city; embark the ship
Day 3: By snowcat to the Snaefellsjökull volcano glacier
Day 4: Dramatic Isafjordur
Day 5: Village of Siglufjördur; Tröllaskagi Peninsula
Day 6: The "heaven and hell" landscapes of Lake Myvatn
Day 7: Flatey Island; whale watching in Skjalfandi Bay
Day 8: A hike in the Borgarfjordur region
Day 9: Icebergs and the Jökulsarlon glacier lagoon
Day 10: By Zodiac around the Vestmannaeyjar Islands
Day 11: Disembark in Reykjavik and depart
Optional Extension: Iceland's South Coast

Ocean Diamond © Ottar Sveinsson

Reykjavik

Höfn

Siglufjördur

Quest
NATURE TOURS

Discover Quest Nature Tours

Worldwide Quest has a division devoted entirely to natural history touring called Quest Nature Tours. We provide our travellers with the opportunity to visit wild spaces and learn about wildlife in its natural habitat. Our tours are all about experiencing exceptional natural phenomena while enjoying the camaraderie and fun that comes naturally from being with other inquisitive travellers. Our groups are accompanied by knowledgeable and congenial Canadian leaders and expert local naturalists. We believe in maximizing our time in the field, but without sacrificing basic comforts.

Here you will find a small sampling of our offerings. We travel to a variety of exciting destinations worldwide. No matter where we go, we make sure our focus is where it should be: on the wildlife, on the amazing habitats and scenery, and the complete nature experience.

Please contact us to request a copy of the latest Quest Nature Tours catalogue.

1-800-387-1483 | 416-633-5666
travel@worldwidequest.com

"Our trip was absolutely terrific and beyond expectations. It was truly fantastic in terms of diversity of wildlife and scenery. "
– Lynn and Paul
Brazil, 2016

Cuban Trogon

Dechenla Lodge

MIDSUMMER IN CANADIAN MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS, LED BY JOSHUA BARICHELLO

DATES: June 27 – July 5, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 12 participants **COST PER PERSON:** C$4195 + 5% GST

Dechenla Lodge is the perfect compromise between wilderness isolation and comfort, located on the border of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. We'll stay in snug cabins with private facilities and delicious meals. Short rambles, day hikes and excursions by 4x4-vehicle will take us to nesting waterfowl, blooming wildflowers, mineral licks attracting Caribou, and possibly a Golden Eagle's nest. Every day will be an opportunity for discovery!

Ring-tailed Lemurs

Madagascar

EVOLUTION GONE WILD, LED BY PETE READ

DATES: Sept. 16 – 30, 2017 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 12 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$6295

Madagascar's animal and plant life has followed an independent course of evolution, allowing an array of unique and frankly weird life forms to develop here. We'll visit some of the best wildlife reserves in the country in search of the many species of lemur, the stunning Blue Coua, and chameleons flaunting their colours. Plants too will entertain us with their bizarre forms!

African Lions

Tanzania Classic Safari

THE GREAT SERENGETI MIGRATION, LED BY BRIAN RATCLIFF

DATES: Feb. 23 – Mar. 5, 2018 **GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 16 participants **COST PER PERSON:** Approx. US$6295

This tour is timed to coincide with the spell-binding sight of the mass migration of the Blue Wildebeest. Game drives take us around Serengeti, Arusha, and Tarangire National Park, as well as the Ngorongoro Crater, in search of close-up views of the "Big Five" African animals, and up to 350 recorded bird species. A highlight is our stay at a classic and stylish tented camp.

In the Workshop

Please call us to pre-register for these upcoming tours:

Scotland

Women's Travel Network
September, 2018

If you've been caught up in the spell-binding world of the 'Outlander' saga, come join this women only trip to the ancient and mysterious standing stones, dramatic castles, and breathtaking landscapes from Inverness to Edinburgh.

Sicily

Literary Adventures
October, 2018

Discover this spectacular island – a place apart more simpatico with its long line of Greek, Arab, Norman, and Spanish invaders than with its parent, modern Italy – through its extraordinary literature: Giovanni Verga's Little Novels of Sicily (translated by D.H. Lawrence) and The Leopard by Guiseppe Di Lampedusa.

Indian Ocean

Expedition Cruise
November, 2018

Explore the fabled and mystical island of Madagascar by sea to see an incredible range of endemic wildlife, the World Heritage site of the "pitons, cirques, and ramparts" of La Réunion, and the spectacular lagoons and coral reefs of the Cargados Shoals archipelago.

Meanwhile,online...

Worldwide Quest added 4 new photos.
November 9 at 8:30am ·

An update from Amanda Butler in India with our alumni UBC group!
"We had a great time in Amritsar yesterday! We visited the Golden Temple, the holiest Gurdwara of Sikhism. We enhanced our visit by doing some service as we helped the volunteers make bread for the 80,000 daily visitors."

Like Comment Share

Worldwide Quest added 3 new photos.
September 13 ·

Mother Nature is an enchanting artist.
Photos by Ira Meyer of One Ocean Expeditions in Antarctica.

Like Comment Share

Worldwide Quest
April 12 ·

Thingyan, the Burmese New Year Water Festival has begun in Myanmar! In major cities such as Yangon (at the hottest time of year), garden hoses, huge syringes made of bamboo, bowls, water balloons, and even fire hoses are employed to douse each other with water. The water is intended to metaphorically "wash away" one's sins of the previous year. Talk about a fresh start!

(Photo courtesy of Mizzima)

Like Comment Share

Worldwide Quest
May 12 ·

We have a NEW and inspiring webinar for you to attend! Study leader Sean Forester will inspire you with Japanese art and culture through his Western artist eyes. Please click to register.

Webinar: Art & Culture in Kyoto and Tokyo
Thursday, May 16, 2016 at 2:00PM EDT | Click to register for free
ATTENDEE.GOTOWEBINAR.COM

Like Comment Share

Like, comment, and share! We love to learn from travellers' experiences.

Find us on Facebook today.

Terms & Conditions

How to Book
Please contact our office, or forward your completed reservation form and applicable non-refundable deposit to reserve your trip. We also require your passport details exactly as they appear on the information page of your passport.

Deposits
All trips require a non-refundable deposit of US$500 per person unless stated otherwise in the relevant trip information. The deposit will confirm your reservation. Please note that cruises may have different deposit conditions; specific deposit requirements are listed on the cruise's Detailed Itinerary.

Payments
Payments may be made by cash, cheque or credit card (VISA or MasterCard). Verbal authorization for use of your credit card for deposit confirms your reservation and indicates your compliance with our terms and conditions. A payment of US$1000 per person is required at 6 months prior to departure. The balance of payment is due 90 days prior to departure. If the balance is not paid in full by the due date, we will regard the booking as cancelled. Tours are not confirmed as operating until all participants have paid in full. Please note that cruises may have different payment conditions; specific payment requirements are listed on the cruise's Detailed Itinerary.

Upon Registration
Upon receipt of your deposit, you will receive confirmation and a pre-departure package that will include required forms, visa and/or passport requirements and insurance information. You will also receive health information, clothing suggestions and other travel tips.

Cancellation
If you decide to cancel your trip, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing. All payments are non-refundable. However your deposit of US$500 for any land tour will be held on account for you for up to one year and will be applied to your invoice for any tour booked within one year of cancellation. If you cancel within 90 days prior to departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. The tour price is quoted as a package and no partial refunds will be given for services not used.

Changes to Your Booking
If you wish to transfer from one trip to another, we must receive your notification, in writing, at least 90 days prior to departure. Your deposit can be transferred, less an administrative fee of C$75 to a trip departing not later than one year from the time of transfer of deposit. Transfers are not allowed within 90 days prior to departure. Please note that transfer of deposit is not permitted at any time on expedition cruises due to the terms and conditions of our ship operators.

Travel Insurance
We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and trip interruption insurance. It is mandatory that you have emergency medical insurance. We will send you an insurance application form and quotes for recommended coverage. Should you choose not to purchase the insurance coverage offered by Worldwide Quest, you must sign an insurance waiver and provide proof of alternate coverage. Please ensure it includes provision for emergency evacuation.

Tickets and Travel Documents
Tickets and trip documents will be sent to the tour participant approximately three weeks prior to departure. Participants assume full responsibility for loss or damage to their tickets and documents before and during the tour, and will incur any and all applicable penalties for any re-issues, plus an administration charge of C$75 per person.

Currency
We accept payment only in Canadian or US dollars.

Tour Pricing
Tour prices are listed per person, based on double occupancy. Tour costs and inclusions are listed in the detailed itinerary for each tour. Worldwide Quest tries its utmost not to increase tour prices; however sometimes increases are beyond our control. Worldwide Quest reserves the right, as governed by the Ontario Travel Industry Act, to amend tour prices (or any part) for reasons such as, but not limited to, increased fuel costs, airfares, airport charges or increases in ground operator fees. Any increase in tour price must be paid prior to the departure date. Please note: If the tour cost increases by more than 7%, you have the option of paying the full price increase or receiving a full refund.

Gratuities and taxes are not included in the tour cost and are assessed separately.

The minimum and maximum number of participants for each tour is indicated on the detailed itinerary. Should the minimum number of participants not be reached, we will offer to operate the tour with a price supplement.

Liability Release and Responsibility
Prior to participating in a tour, you will be required to complete a brief confidential personal information form. Completion of the personal information and/or the payment of a deposit is taken as acknowledgement of an agreement to these terms and conditions.

All services are organized by Worldwide Quest acting as agent for the owners, contractors and suppliers providing ground transportation, hotel accommodations and all other related travel services. Notice is hereby given that all arrangements on behalf of participants are made by Worldwide Quest on the sole condition that Worldwide Quest shall not be held responsible for any injury, death, accident, delay, loss, damage or irregularity which may be occasioned through acts of any company and/or persons engaged in carrying out arrangements and services described herein or otherwise in connection herewith. The information contained in current brochures and websites is correct to the best of our knowledge, but Worldwide Quest accepts no liability for any inaccuracies. Worldwide Quest reserves the right to alter any itinerary or service at any time without penalty to it. Any additional expense or cancellation cost shall be borne by the participant. Worldwide Quest reserves the right to withdraw or refuse any service to any participant at its discretion.

Delay, Cancellation or Change of Itinerary

Since schedules are determined many months in advance, changes in dates, accommodations, leaders or routes may become necessary prior to or during the tour. In this event, participants will have no right to a refund of the tour price. In the event the advertised tour leader becomes unable to lead the tour for any reason, a qualified substitute will be named by Worldwide Quest.

The cost of the tour does not include any additional meals and accommodations due to delays, emergency evacuation costs or transportation to and from your home to the departure point.

Worldwide Quest reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, in which case participants will be given a full refund. You will not be entitled to make any further claim for any injury, loss, expenses or damage (either direct or consequential) or for any loss of time or inconvenience that may result from cancellation (including but not limited to airline tickets, visa, passport and vaccination charges or departure, airport or airline taxes).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no refund will be given for tour cancellation due to circumstances beyond Worldwide Quest's control, including travel advisories, political turmoil or environmental disasters that may render the destination unsuitable or unsafe.

Airlines/Airfares

Worldwide Quest cannot be held responsible for air arrangements made independently. Please do not make any non-refundable air arrangements until the trip is confirmed as operating. Participants making their own flight arrangements should note that Worldwide Quest cannot accept any responsibility for the late arrival of such flights and that any such delay could result in missing the tour departure or in incurring additional expenses. The participant is responsible for notifying Worldwide Quest of any delay or change in air itinerary.

Brochures, reservation forms and these terms and conditions are not issued on behalf of, and do not commit to, any airline whose services are used or proposed to be used in the course of the tour. Airfares arranged through Worldwide Quest will be subject to the rules and regulations as determined by the air carrier. Carriage is subject to the rules and limitations established by the Warsaw Convention unless such carriage is not "international carriage" as defined by that Convention. All flight times, flight itineraries and carriers are subject to change with or without notice.

Health and Fitness Requirements

Participants are responsible to ensure they are fit for their chosen trip. Worldwide Quest may require a medical questionnaire to be completed and returned to us as proof that you are fit to participate in certain tours. In addition, the tour leader may, during the tour, direct any participant to withdraw from a tour, if he or she believes that participant is incapable, or that the participant's continued participation in the tour will adversely affect that participant, or other tour participants, or the success of the tour. No refund will be payable in these circumstances.

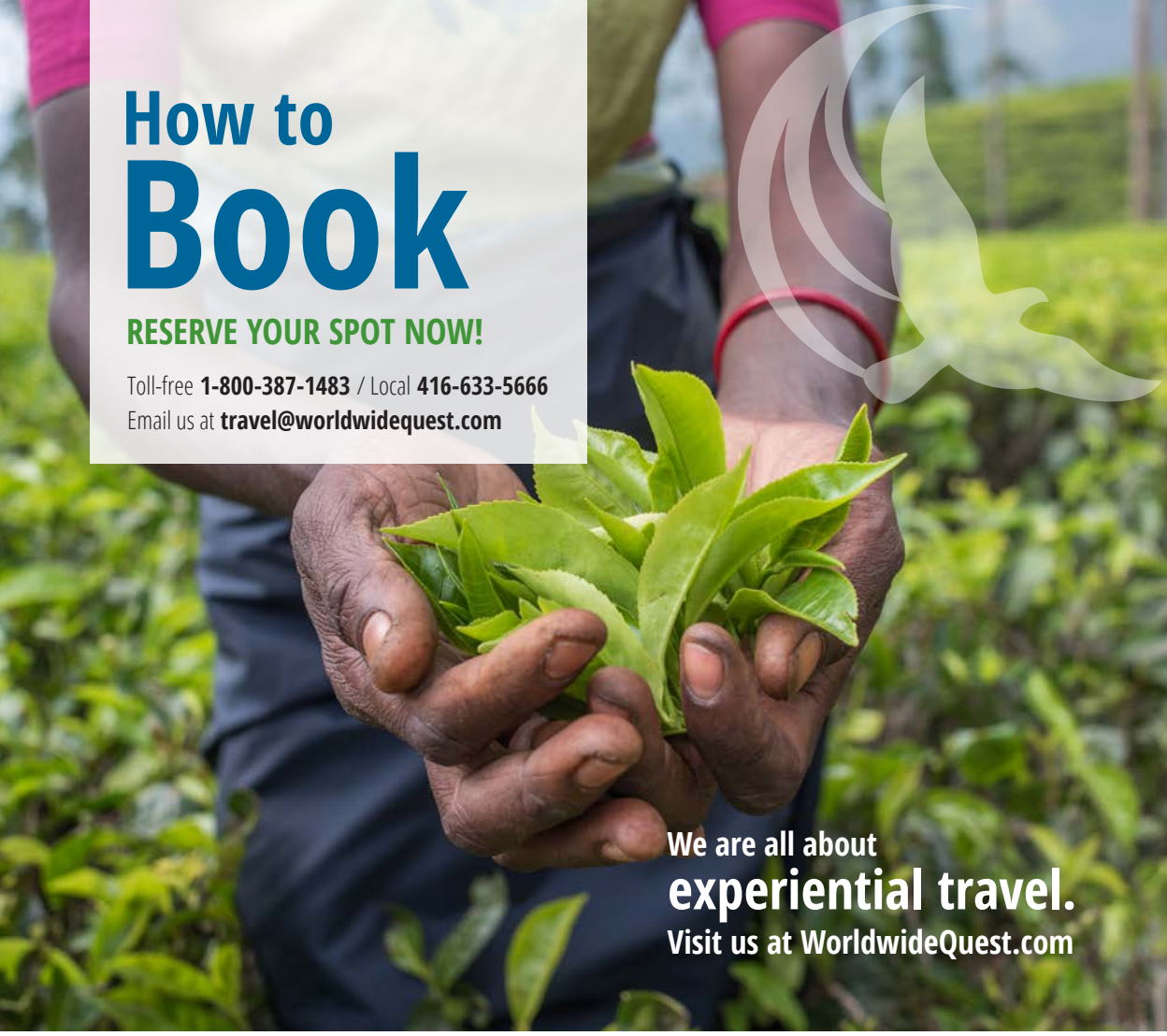
Tours may take place in remote areas where there is little or no access to normal medical services or hospital facilities. Where necessary, evacuation can be prolonged, difficult and expensive. Medical and evacuation expenses are the responsibility of the participant.

Notice To Travellers: Different living standards and conditions may exist outside of Canada, including but not limited to: provision of utilities, e.g. water and electricity; accommodations; services of all kinds; food; food preparation and water quality. Worldwide Quest International Inc. shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, injury or inconvenience resulting from different living standards and practices.

Worldwide Quest International Inc. is a Canadian tour operator. All participants on our trips are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International Inc., Ontario License # 2667946).

tico.ca
Travel Industry Council of Ontario

IATA | Accredited Agent



WorldwideQuest

EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL SINCE 1970

491 King Street East Toronto, ON M5A 1L9