

travel
directors



Adventures of a lifetime

Escorted Tours 2017-2018



Contents

WELCOME	3
What Makes us Different?	3
Real Travel Experiences	4
Supporting Local Communities	4
Supporting Conservation	4
Our Itineraries	4
All Inclusive	5
List of Tours by Country	6
All Aboard	6
Food	7
Accommodation	7
How Strenuous are our Tours?	8
Activity Grading	8
Comfort and Safety	8
Single Travellers	9
Tours by Departure Date	10
Our Staff and Tour Leaders	12
Frequent Traveller Rewards	12
CENTRAL ASIA & THE MIDDLE EAST	
The Five Stans	14
Treasures of Persia & The Caucasus	16
ASIA	
Indian Essence NEW TOUR	18
The Himalayan Express	20
Road to Mandalay	22
UNDISCOVERED EUROPE	
Gateway to the Balkans NEW TOUR	24
Beyond the Black Sea	26
The High Arctic	28
Jewels of the Mediterranean	30
Soul of the Balkans	32
Baltics and Beyond	34
AFRICA	
Mozambique, Zanzibar & the Great Migration NEW TOUR	36
Namibia: Masterpiece of Nature	38
Southern African Magic	40
African Dawn	42
Pearls of the Indian Ocean	44
LATIN AMERICA	
South America: The Top End NEW TOUR	46
Essential South America	48
Treasures of Central America	50
Cuba & Mexico	52
RAIL TOURS	
Epic Rail Odyssey NEW TOUR	54
Manchester to Marrakech	56
Rail Across Europe	58
The Legendary Trans-Siberian	60
The Christmas Trans-Siberian	62
Keeping in Touch	64
Medical Questionnaire	65
Booking Form	66
Terms & Conditions	67

Cover: Monk at Bagan, Myanmar

Welcome!

It seems amazing that it is now 25 years since we ran our first escorted 'Adventure of a Lifetime'. That unforgettable trip, on the Trans-Siberian railway, catapulted Travel Directors to the forefront of the adventure travel market, where our innovative approach and original ideas have ensured we remain to this day.

We were the first Australian travel company to conduct tours to Cuba and Ethiopia, the first to lead groups on the Himalayan Express in Tibet, and the first to take Australian travellers to the Five Stans of Central Asia. Our new itineraries, which include Mozambique, Zanzibar & the Great Migration, and the amazing Epic Rail Odyssey – a momentous rail journey from Moscow to Singapore – underpin our commitment to 'paths less trodden'.

Over the past two decades we have taken thousands of like-minded travellers to remote corners of the world, sharing with them our unique brand of escorted travel. We now travel to more than 60 destinations annually but our mission remains the same: to provide thrilling adventures to extraordinary parts of the world. We have never held any ambitions to be the world's biggest travel company; instead we concentrate on a more intimate approach to group travel. The number of repeat customers, many of whom have travelled on ten or more of our tours, is a glowing endorsement of this philosophy.

We hope you enjoy our new brochure, which contains a host of wonderful journeys. They all have one thing in common though – they are all spectacular 'Adventures of a Lifetime' in the unique Travel Directors' tradition.

What makes us different?

We have never subscribed to the tired old concept of escorted travel. Our adventures are not for those who are content to be shepherded around famous sights in large groups, along with the tourist hordes. To us, the word 'escorted' simply means helping to make the absolute most of the limited time one might have to visit a particular part of the world.

It is our proud boast that over the years we have convinced hundreds of independent travellers that escorted need not be a 'dirty' word. Needless to say, these travellers have embraced our non-regimented approach and have been on many more of our tours. Our tour leaders and local guides are well aware of our relaxed and easy-going philosophy that also allows guests with special interests to get the utmost out of the journey.

As we say ...

"You may only go there once, so do it right!"

Real travel experiences

From the very beginning we have believed that one of the most important components of travel is interaction with locals. To this end, on our tours we go out of our way to meet genuine local people; to discover how they live, what makes them tick, what they believe and what their values are. A wonderful result of this is that many of our travellers have established firm and lasting friendships with people we have introduced them to in remote parts of the world. We always seek to avoid mass consumer tourism and will drive further up a mountain to explore a remote Andean village, or visit a section of the Great Wall of China where few other tourists go. We use small independent ground operators in all the countries we visit and they share our commitment to providing our guests with the best possible 'close-up' travel experience.

Supporting local communities

We think it is important to give back to the people and communities we visit on our Adventures of a Lifetime. In many of the countries we visit we take our groups to a school, orphanage, or local village which we sponsor. For example, we provide books and equipment to a school in Uganda, and help set up agricultural and farming projects, which allow the schools to become self-sustaining. In Mongolia we visit the Lotus Centre orphanage and take pencils, books and clothing for the children. When we visit the Iby Iwacu cultural village in Rwanda, we donate several goats as a gift for their hospitality. We aim to ensure that the cultural interactions built into our tours, provide a benefit to the local people as well as an enriching experience for our travellers.

Supporting conservation

We strive to leave as small a footprint as possible on the places we visit, by practising responsible tourism and conserving the environment. We also support conservation projects, the most recent being the adoption of a young Cheetah named Dune. The AfriCat Foundation, at Okonjima in Namibia, cares for the large carnivores that are orphaned or otherwise in need of rehabilitation. Dune, a two-year-old female cheetah, was found severely dehydrated at 5 months old, near Dune 7 at Walvis Bay. Now, thanks to AfriCat, and with sponsorship from Travel Directors, she is well on the way to being released from Okonjima, back into the wild. We are also proud to sponsor the Save African Rhino Foundation, whose founder and President, Nicholas Duncan, is our highly regarded tour leader on Southern African Magic.



Our Itineraries

We pride ourselves on our unique, handcrafted journeys. We strive to remain at the cutting edge of adventure travel, giving our adventurous friends an experience to remember forever. A huge amount of research and experience has gone into each of our tours. We never send a new trip without having first made a thorough reconnaissance of the entire route. This means checking restaurants, menus, hotels, transportation, etc. In other words, nothing is left to chance. Before each departure we provide every traveller with a detailed handbook containing vital information for the trip ahead. Everything is covered including expected climatic conditions, essential items to take, sightseeing information, and health and currency matters. We believe the better prepared you are for one of our adventures, the more you will get out of it. You will also receive a phone call from your tour leader before departure to make sure you are happy with all the arrangements and have everything you need to make this the trip of a lifetime.

All inclusive

Our tours are virtually all-inclusive. In fact, if you're not into shopping you could just about leave your wallet at home. We generally include a soft drink or water with meals, and sometimes beer or wine is also provided. But if you like to buy souvenirs and have the odd night-cap at a local bar then you'll need a few dollars in your pocket. Our tours are always inclusive of: return economy-class flights, twin-share hotel accommodation (four-berth on the Trans-Siberian, with two-berth optional upgrades available), group transfers, ground transportation, most meals, sightseeing and entrance fees, professional tour guides, experienced tour leaders, and visas. On a tour such as The Five Stans, for example, the considerable cost of the visas, and difficulty in obtaining them, is all handled within our office – which means you can spend your time reading up on these extraordinary countries and not filling out lots of forms.

Generally the only items not included in our tour prices are insurance and personal spending. We rarely have any optional extras, which we know can hike up a holiday cost significantly. In fact, our travellers are often amazed at how much is included in the tour price. In short, we believe our tours represent excellent value for money. We even pay all tips and gratuities!



List of Tours by Country

COUNTRY	PAGE	COUNTRY	PAGE
CENTRAL ASIA & THE MIDDLE EAST			
Armenia	16 & 17	AFRICA	
Azerbaijan	16 & 17	Botswana	40 & 41
Georgia	16 & 17	Ethiopia	42 & 43
Iran	16 & 17	Madagascar	44 & 45
Kazakhstan	14 & 15	Mauritius	44 & 45
Kyrgyzstan	14 & 15	Mozambique	36 & 37
Tajikistan	14 & 15	Namibia	38 & 39
Turkmenistan	14 & 15	Reunion	44 & 45
Uzbekistan	14 & 15	Rwanda	42 & 43
		South Africa	40 & 41
		Tanzania	36 & 37
		Uganda	42 & 43
		Zimbabwe	40 & 41
ASIA			
Bhutan	20 & 21	LATIN AMERICA	
China	20 & 21; 22 & 23	Argentina	48 & 49
India	18 & 19	Bolivia	48 & 49
Myanmar	22 & 23	Brazil	48 & 49
Nepal	20 & 21	Colombia	46 & 47
Tibet	20 & 21	Costa Rica	50 & 51
		Cuba	52 & 53
		French Guiana	46 & 47
		Guatemala	50 & 51
		Guyana	46 & 47
		Honduras	50 & 51
		Mexico	52 & 53
		Panama	50 & 51
		Peru	48 & 49
		Suriname	46 & 47
		Venezuela	46 & 47
UNDISCOVERED EUROPE			
Albania	32 & 33	RAIL JOURNEYS	
Belarus	34 & 35	Austria	58 & 59
Bosnia & Herzegovina	32 & 33	Cambodia	54 & 55
Bulgaria	24 & 25; 26 & 27	China	54 & 55; 60 & 61; 62 & 63
Corsica	30 & 31	France	56 & 57; 58 & 59
Croatia	24 & 25; 32 & 33	Germany	58 & 59
Denmark	28 & 29	Kazakhstan	54 & 55
Estonia	34 & 35	Malaysia	54 & 55
Greenland	28 & 29	Mongolia	60 & 61; 62 & 63
Iceland	28 & 29	Morocco	56 & 57
Latvia	34 & 35	Russia	54 & 55; 60 & 61; 62 & 63
Lithuania	34 & 35	Spain	56 & 57
Macedonia	32 & 33	Switzerland	58 & 59
Malta	30 & 31	Thailand	54 & 55
Moldova	26 & 27	United Kingdom	56 & 57; 58 & 59
Montenegro	32 & 33	Vietnam	54 & 55
Norway	28 & 29		
Poland	34 & 35		
Romania	26 & 27		
Sardinia	30 & 31		
Serbia	24 & 25		
Sicily	30 & 31		
Slovenia	24 & 25		
Ukraine	26 & 27		



MS Emanuel

All aboard

We now have two tours that feature a private charter cruise aboard the small ship MS Emanuel: Soul of the Balkans and Gateway to the Balkans. With just 18 cabins, Emanuel is the perfect size for visiting the small ports and coastal towns of the magnificent Croatian coastline. Her small and dedicated crew, headed by the owner Ante, take great pride in providing friendly service and delightful cuisine, as we cruise the sparkling waters of the Adriatic. The cabins are small, but comfortable, and all have en-suites. There are several lounge areas, both indoors and on-deck, where you can sit and relax and enjoy the scenery as we sail. Best of all, as we have sole occupancy of the ship, we can drop anchor from time to time, and enjoy a swim in the crystal clear waters of the small inlets and bays we visit along the coast.



Spices

Food

Tasting different cuisines is a major highlight of travelling overseas and we pride ourselves on the meals we provide on our adventures. On any trip good food is vital to good health, and we feel it is critical to know that the restaurants we visit are tried and tested and adhere to strict hygiene standards. Where possible on our tours we include all meals for this very reason and also, crucially, to save time. Our travellers often remark that the standard of food exceeded their expectations and you can expect some amazing culinary experiences. We also endeavour to share meals in family homes for an even more authentic experience. Wherever possible, we will strive to avoid the regimented tourist restaurants.

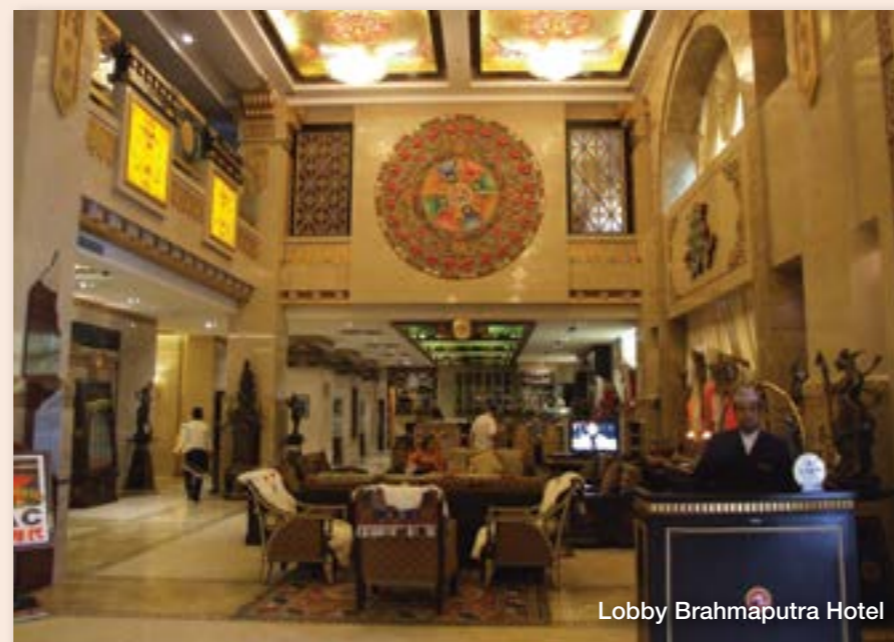


MS Emanuel interior



Accommodation

While we like our hotels to be comfortable and even luxurious, we don't subscribe to the idea of 'biggest is best'. Our properties are primarily chosen for their central location. Traffic congestion in most of the world's large cities is getting worse, which means that an inordinate amount of time can be wasted driving between badly situated hotels and famous sights. We will not compromise on this crucial factor so in Moscow, for example, we will almost always stay in a hotel within walking distance of Red Square. Similarly, on our Essential South America tour, we will stay in a hotel on the edge of the Iguassu Falls – not in a lesser property outside the national park itself, which some companies use. We know for a fact that this means a non-central hotel in, say, Beijing, Moscow or Ulaan Baatar can result in additional time on the bus rather than seeing the sights. We also choose our properties with an eye to traditional architecture, good service, friendly staff and good cuisine. We normally strive to use four/five-star boutique hotels but in some instances, such as in the Himalaya, our accommodation may be in two-star hotels. However, they will always be the best in the area, spotlessly clean and with en-suites.




Lobby Brahmputra Hotel


How strenuous are our tours?


Unlike some companies, we do not discriminate when it comes to age. We subscribe to the notion that age is largely a state of mind and this has been proven many times on our tours. Over the years we have had spectacular success with our group mixes across all age ranges. However, some of our adventures require reasonable levels of fitness and mobility and we ask all travellers to complete a medical form when they book. We reserve the right to refuse a booking if we feel a person is not fit enough for a particular tour. This is both for the benefit of that particular person and for the group itself. Our maximum group size generally ranges from 16–20 for our Africa tours and up to 26 on our other tours. We do not subscribe to the idea of large groups in order to maximise revenue at the expense of quality, comfort and enjoyment. We treat every one of our guests as an individual, respecting that everyone has different needs, expectations and requirements.

As you will note, all of the tours listed in this brochure are graded to help you decide whether they're right for you. The grading is as follows:

Activity Grading

 **EASY:** While a basic level of fitness is required, the tour is generally easy-paced.

 **MODERATE:** Within the capability of anyone leading a normal active life. However, involves more walking or tiring journeys.

 **ACTIVE:** These tours may involve considerable walking and long travel days. They include tours that go to altitudes above 3,000m. It is important to talk to us if you have any concerns or doubts about your ability to undertake these tours.

Comfort and safety

Your safety is of course our primary concern. We will never embark on a tour if we feel it is unsafe to do so, and from time to time – due to world events – it has been necessary to cancel a tour for this reason. We have an extensive network of highly experienced ground operators, guides and contacts throughout the world who constantly advise us about the situation in any particular country. As for transport, all the buses, boats and 4WD vehicles we use around the world are rigidly maintained to high standards. Likewise, the drivers we use are the most experienced available.



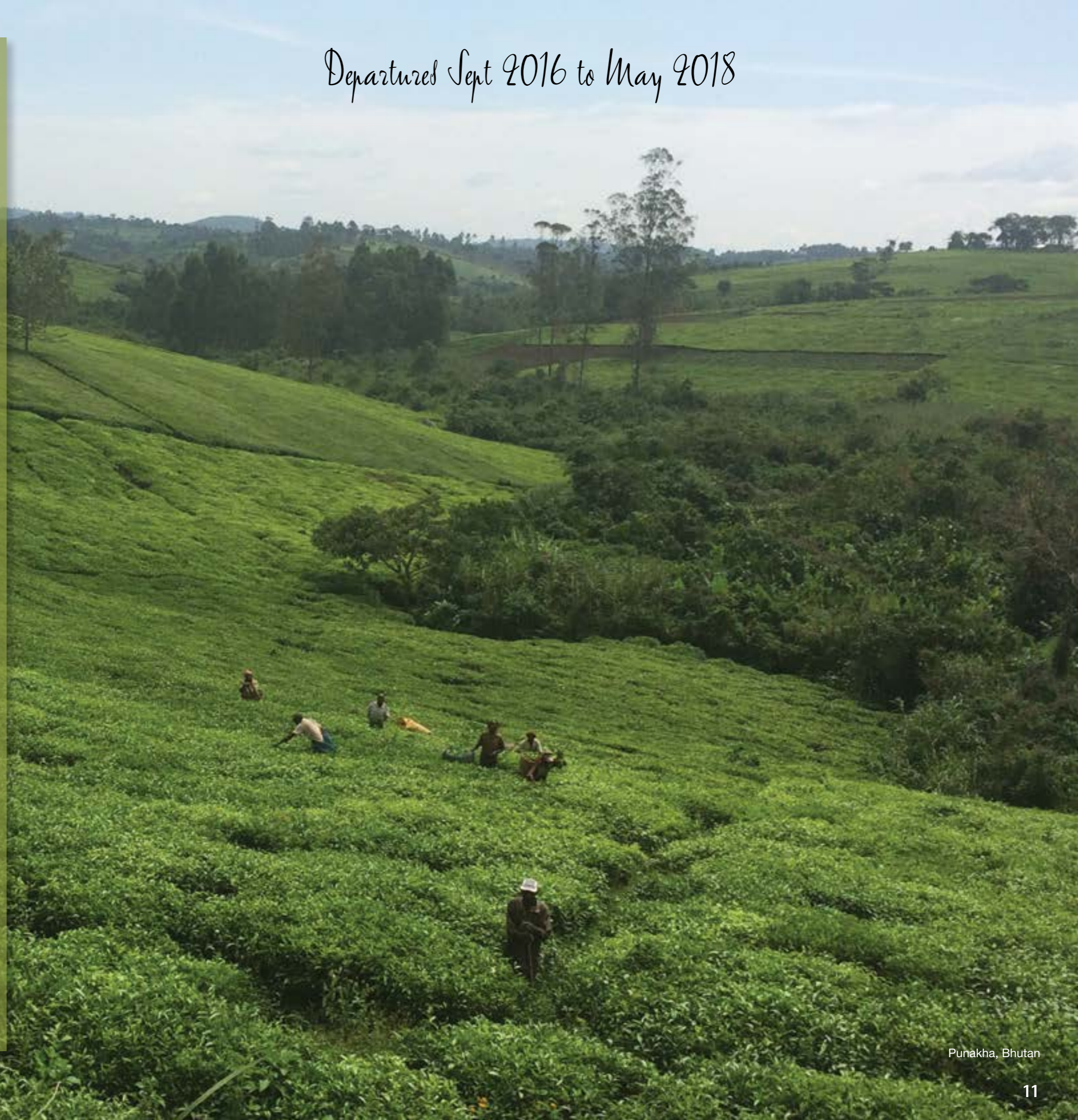
Single Travellers

We welcome and encourage single travellers to join our tours and, in fact, about 25–30 per cent of our groups are made up of solo travellers. We realise and respect that travelling alone in a group for the first time can be something of a daunting prospect for some people. We go out of our way to dispel these concerns and will introduce fellow singles to each other prior to departure where possible. We can assure you that you will never be left alone on a tour, unless you want to be. Our tour leaders are not from the '9–5 school'; far from it. They will almost always be the first to rise in the morning and the last to bed at night! We are proud of the fact that over the past two decades many single travellers on our tours have forged long and lasting friendships with fellow guests and we often find these people embarking on future tours together. If you require a hotel room of your own, a single supplement is payable. However, if you don't mind sharing we will endeavour to match you up with a suitable partner of the same sex. If we can't do this, for whatever reason, we will pay the single supplement. We must stress though, that single accommodation is not available on the trains we use on our rail adventures.



Departures Sept 2016 to May 2018

DEPARTURE	TOUR	PAGE
04-Sep-16	The Five Stans	14 - 15
05-Sep-16	Treasures of Persia and the Caucasus	16 - 17
11-Sep-16	The Five Stans	14 - 15
16-Sep-16	Manchester to Marrakech	56 - 57
01-Oct-16	The Himalayan Express	20 - 21
04-Oct-16	Essential South America	48 - 49
31-Oct-16	Road to Mandalay	22 - 23
06-Nov-16	Cuba and Mexico	52 - 53
15-Dec-16	The Christmas Trans-Siberian	62 - 63
04-Jan-17	African Dawn	42 - 43
10-Feb-17	Indian Essence	18 - 19
20-Feb-17	Road to Mandalay	22 - 23
18-Mar-17	Treasures of Central America	50 - 51
19-Mar-17	Cuba and Mexico	52 - 53
31-Mar-17	Namibia: Masterpiece of Nature	38 - 39
04-Apr-17	Essential South America	48 - 49
07-Apr-17	The Himalayan Express	20 - 21
07-May-17	Pearls of the Indian Ocean	44 - 45
07-May-17	The Five Stans	14 - 15
08-May-17	Jewels of the Mediterranean	30 - 31
08-May-17	Treasures of Persia and the Caucasus	16 - 17
02-Jun-17	Mozambique, Zanzibar & the Great Migration	36 - 37
11-Jun-17	Rail Across Europe	58 - 59
12-Jun-17	Baltics and Beyond	34 - 35
28-Jun-17	Soul of the Balkans	32 - 33
30-Jun-17	The Trans-Siberian: Naadam	60 - 61
04-Jul-17	The High Arctic	28 - 29
12-Jul-17	Gateway to the Balkans	24 - 25
09-Aug-17	Epic Rail Odyssey	54 - 55
22-Aug-17	Southern African Magic	40 - 41
26-Aug-17	Beyond the Black Sea	26 - 27
01-Sep-17	The Trans-Siberian - Autumn in Russia	60 - 61
03-Sep-17	The Five Stans	14 - 15
04-Sep-17	Treasures of Persia and the Caucasus	16 - 17
08-Sep-17	Manchester to Marrakech	56 - 57
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Tour Leaders and Local Guides

A great tour leader means a great adventure and we are extremely proud of our experienced team, many of whom have been with us for a decade or longer. They have all been hand-picked for their passion, knowledge, dedication and professionalism. Over the past 15 years our aim has been to create an international 'family' of leaders and today our distinguished escorts come from Australia, New Zealand, the UK, China, Tibet, Peru, Argentina, Madagascar, Russia, Guatemala, France and Holland. While so much of the pre-planning work for any tour emanates from the Travel Directors' back office, we believe our tour leaders provide the 'icing on the cake'.

Our local city and country guides are simply the best-of-the-best. Time and time again we are complimented on their unparalleled commitment and willingness to go the extra mile for our guests. Having worked with us for many years, our local guides are also part of the Travel Directors 'family' and contribute enormously to making our tours an unforgettable experience for you. Remember, all tips and gratuities are included in our tour prices so these guides will not expect you to remunerate them at any time. We take care of that, making the whole travel experience even more enjoyable.

Frequent Traveller Rewards

Once you have travelled on two of our tours, you are eligible for our loyalty discount, which will save you \$250 on future tours. We greatly value our repeat clients and also newcomers to our unique 'Adventures of a Lifetime'. Over the years our price rises have been kept to a minimum to ensure our superb itineraries are accessible to anyone wanting a truly unforgettable travel experience. We pride ourselves that many of our travellers have been on numerous tours with us and keep coming back for more!

Our Staff and Tour Leaders



PETER NEWSOM Peter is our Sydney-based director with more than 40 years travel experience. His love of travel started whilst leading minibus tours in Europe. Returning to Australia he established his own travel business which led to the development of new destinations. With fellow director, John Bescoby, he has been involved with tourism in Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe for over 30 years.



JOHN BESCOBY John is our Africa-based Director. His life in travel started more than 40 years ago in the Royal Merchant Navy. Following a stint with a merchant bank in South Africa, he became involved in the travel industry running a domestic airline with safari interests. This led to the establishment of mobile safaris and management of safari lodges throughout Southern Africa.



TONY EVANS Tony is our Perth-based director, although he spends more time out of Australia than in it! He is the 'brains' behind the company's Adventures of a Lifetime, having personally devised almost all our tours. Widely acknowledged as a pioneer in the field of small-group adventure travel, Tony has more than 28 years' experience in the travel industry.



NIA CARRAS Nia is General Manager of Travel Directors and has more than 30 years experience in adventure tour operations. She has travelled extensively and is passionate about all of TDs' destinations, particularly Africa and Russia. In the 1980s Nia lived and worked in Southern Africa and is actively involved in the fight against the poaching of black Rhinos in Zimbabwe.



NICK MERCURI Nick is our longest-serving member of staff, having been with Travel Directors since its inception. After working for 15 years as a member of our front office team of travel consultants, Nick moved to the back office where he now manages our accounting department. Having travelled extensively over the past 35 years, Nick's favourite city is Boston.



HELEN POWER Helen is Travel Directors' Marketing Manager. Before joining the company full-time she escorted many of our tours having first been a client on the Trans-Siberian more than 12 years ago. She has led this great adventure many times, as well as our African Dawn, Himalayan Express, Silk Road and Festivals of Snow and Ice tours.



CAMILLA ROSWALL Originally from Sweden Camilla is Travel Directors' expert on all things Scandinavian! Having joined us eight years ago as a consultant, Camilla is now a valued member of our wholesale team ensuring that our Adventures of a Lifetime go without a hitch. In addition, she has been the mastermind behind our very popular High Arctic tour.



SYLVIA TOMASI Sylvia has more than 20 years' experience in the travel industry specialising mainly in event and group tours. She lived in Scotland for four years in the 1990s, from where she travelled extensively throughout Europe and Africa. Before joining the team in the office, Sylvia led several Travel Directors' tours including the Himalayan Express and Cuba and Mexico.



SARAH BUTLER Sarah was born with travel in her blood. She joined Travel Directors 16 years ago and has now won just about every travel award going! She has journeyed on numerous TD tours including Essential South America, The Trans-Siberian, Cuba and Mexico and Beyond the Black Sea. Few people in the travel industry can match her experience and knowledge.



GRAEME MIDDLETON Graeme has been in the travel industry for almost three decades and is regarded by his peers as one of the most professional consultants in the business. He has travelled to all points of the globe and has journeyed on many Travel Directors' tours including The Trans-Siberian, Essential South America, The Himalayan Express and The Five Stans.



KAREN MILLER Karen has worked for more than 30 years in adventure travel. She has travelled extensively and has lived and worked in the Middle East and India. A member of our front-office team, she has superb destination knowledge and is also a very popular tour leader, having led many tours including The Himalayan Express, Road to the Holy Land and Rail Across India.



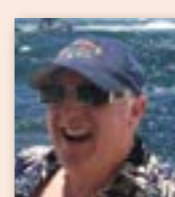
JULIE CRITCHISON Julie is an accomplished member of our front office team. She has worked in travel for more than ten years and has superb destination knowledge. She has travelled to all seven continents and loves all things adventure. Passionate about trekking, she has done the Inca Trail, Kokoda, the Annapurnas in Nepal and most recently, the mighty Kilimanjaro.



MICHELLE DI MICCO & NATARSHA REID have over 50 years' experience in the travel industry between them working as retail consultants specialising mainly in travel to Italy & Europe. In addition to Europe their travels have also taken them to the USA, Pacific, Asia, Egypt, Israel & Dubai. They joined the Travel Directors team last year to look after the Sydney reservations office.



DIARY ANDRIANAMPOINA Diary is a native Madagascan. He is a philanthropist, musician, botanist and a naturalist and his knowledge in these areas is second to none. He began as our local guide in Madagascar where his tour-leading potential was quickly spotted and he is now the cornerstone of our Pearls of the Indian Ocean tour.



KEN BARRIE Ken has enjoyed an illustrious career as a tour leader, working for many esteemed companies around the world. He is now one of our key leaders, having escorted our tours on the Trans-Siberian Railway, the Himalaya, Rail Across Europe, Jewels of the Mediterranean and Baltics and Beyond.



NICHOLAS DUNCAN Our Southern African Magic tour leader is none other than Nicholas Duncan, founder and president of the Save the Rhino Foundation. Nicholas is a veteran of more than 60 trips to Africa and his vast knowledge of the wildlife and his superb network of contacts means that he can offer our groups experiences not available to other companies.



CHRISTINE DUNN Christine started her tour-leading exploits in Europe 40 years ago. Always involved in adventure travel she has worked in retail, marketing and promotions. She has lived in nine different countries and used these opportunities to travel extensively, lead tours and learn as much as she could about each diverse culture.



ANAIT GARAeva Anait has been a part of the Travel Directors' family for more than 12 years, initially as our guide in Uzbekistan on our Silk Road tour. Of Armenian extraction, she lives in Samarkand with her family, and has vast knowledge of the Central Asian region. A natural leader, she has a sparkling humour making her a favourite with our guests.



ROXANNE GARNER Roxanne has been leading tours for more than 20 years and is one of our most experienced leaders. She has led Travel Directors' adventures across the Himalaya, through Africa, to the High Arctic and on the Trans-Siberian railway. A consummate professional, she also has a great sense of fun – as so many of our travellers have found out and enjoyed over the years!



JANE HENWOOD de GARCIA Jane was born and educated in Britain and now lives in Guatemala. While travelling through North and Central America she fell in love both with a Guatemalan man, now her husband, and the beautiful country and its people. She has been a tour guide since 2004 and is now our hugely popular leader on Treasures of Central America.



HANS KONING Hans is our 'Dutch connection' and one of our most experienced leaders. He has escorted Travel Directors tours all over the world, from South America to Siberia, the Himalaya and beyond. Loved for his friendly caring style, he is one of our most popular leaders.



OLGA MESCHERYAKOVA Olga is our St Petersburg-based leader. Her infectious laugh and sense of humour have made her one of our most popular guides. She regularly escorts the Soul of the Balkans and Trans-Siberian tours and when in St Petersburg also works as our city guide. She is regarded by her Russian peers as one of the finest in the business.



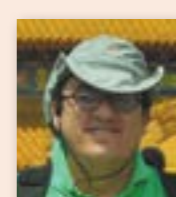
CHRYSTEL REYMONDON Our 'French connection', Chrystel was born and raised in Saint Etienne. Whilst working for a British travel company in South America she met our Peruvian guide, Juan Carlos Yanez. She is now married to JC and lives with him in his home town of Cusco. A multi-linguist and superb tour leader, Chrystel is a great addition to our South American team.



LEON VAN NEER Leon studied law at university and then promptly embarked on a life in travel! He has escorted tours all over the world for more than 20 years, including Travel Directors' Cuba and Mexico, Five Stans and Treasures of Persia & the Caucasus tours. He is fluent in five languages and has a wealth of experience in adventure travel.



JUAN CARLOS YANEZ Juan Carlos was born in the Peruvian city of Cusco and is an acknowledged authority on Incan history. He first worked with Travel Directors in 2001 and continues to lead our tours throughout South America. He has also escorted our Trans-Siberian and Himalayan Express tours and is a hugely popular member of the Travel Directors' family.



JUAN MANUEL YANEZ Like his younger brother, Juan Carlos, Manolo (Manny) took to guiding from an early age. As with JC, his knowledge of the Inca and Tiwanaku civilisations is simply phenomenal. In addition to our South American adventures, Manny has also led Travel Directors' Trans-Siberian tours and is an integral part of our team.



The Five Stans

Birthday celebrations at Darvaza Gas Crater, Turkmenistan

The Five Stans was first introduced to our line-up of unique adventures in 2013 and has gone on to become one of our most popular tours. The diverse and unspoilt central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan offer the discerning traveller an opportunity to experience ancient cultures and pristine natural beauty. This part of the globe is home to great steppes, magical deserts, fertile valleys and some of the highest mountains in the world. The scenery is breathtaking and remarkably varied, with green-blue glacial lakes, saw-toothed mountains, red rock formations, sparkling rivers and rolling hills. These lands produced great scholars and conquerors, and were a 19th and 20th century geopolitical chess board on which the 'Great Game' was played out between Britain and Russia. Until recently shut off from the outside world and still shrouded in legend and mystery, the personality of each of the 'stans' makes an extraordinary journey into the greatest remaining story-book history in world travel today.



Registan Square, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

30 Day Tour Itinerary

- Days 1 – 2 Australia – Almaty** Fly China Southern to Almaty via Guangzhou and Urumqi. (D)
- Day 3 Almaty** Explore the city then head to the outskirts to see the magnificent panorama of Almaty. (BLD)
- Day 4 Almaty – Chon Kemin Valley** Cross the border into Kyrgyzstan. Follow the Chuy River to reach the serene valley of Chon Kemin. (BLD)
- Day 5 Chon Kemin Valley** Watch a fantastic exhibition of horsemanship by skillful Kyrgyz horsemen. Later board a craft for two exhilarating hours on the fast-flowing Chon Kemin River. (BLD)
- Day 6 Chon Kemin – Karakol** Depart for Karakol, skirting the north shore of Issyk Kul Lake. Take a boat ride on the lake before continuing to the Cossack outpost of Karakol. (BLD)
- Day 7 Karakol** Travel to nearby Jety Oguz to see the extraordinary formations of red sandstone cliffs known as the 'seven bulls'. Continue to the magnificent Oguz Valley glacier for a picnic lunch. (BLD)
- Day 8 Karakol** Karakol was formerly known as Przewalski, after one of the most intrepid explorers of the 19th century. Explore the town and visit the memorial of Nikolai Przewalski. (BLD)
- Days 9 – 10 Karakol – Bishkek** Drive around the south shore of Issyk Kul Lake en-route to Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. Enjoy a walking tour of the tree-lined city. (BLD)
- Day 11 Bishkek – Dushanbe** Fly to Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan. Totally unspoilt by tourism, this delightful country is home to a warm and open-hearted people. (BLD)
- Day 12 Dushanbe** Drive 30km out of Dushanbe to the fortress town of Hissar. (BLD)
- Day 13 Dushanbe – Iskanderkul Lake** Travel by 4WD high up into the Fann Mountains to Iskanderkul Lake. Enjoy lunch with a local family at Sary Tag village. (BLD)
- Day 14 Iskanderkul Lake – Khujand** Drive north through spectacular landscapes and fertile valleys lined with orchards and cotton fields en-route to Khujand. (BLD)
- Day 15 Khujand – Tashkent** Visit Khujand bazaar before making the short journey to the Tajik-Uzbek border. Continue to the Uzbek capital, Tashkent. (BLD)
- Day 16 Tashkent** Explore the beautiful city of Tashkent. (BLD)
- Day 17 Tashkent – Samarkand** Board the new high-speed train, the Afrosiab, for Samarkand. On arrival we explore this exotic Silk Road city. (BLD)
- Days 18 – 19 Samarkand** Continue exploring this fabulous city, including breathtaking Registan Square, Shahi-Zinda Necropolis, Tamerlane's mausoleum and the observatory of Ulugbek. (BLD)
- Day 20 Samarkand – Bukhara** Drive to Bukhara. On arrival visit the Fayzulla Khodjaev House. (BLD)
- Days 21 – 22 Bukhara** Explore the Ark Fortress and the superb Samanid Mausoleum, dating back to the 9th century. Stroll through the warren of narrow medieval streets to the 16th century trading domes, and the Bolo Hauz and Kalyon mosques. (BLD)
- Day 23 Bukhara – Khiva** Drive 450km across the Kyzyl Kum Desert to Khiva. (BLD)
- Day 24 Khiva** Tour the old part of the city, known as Ichan-Kala, with its towering minarets surrounded by the powerful clay walls of the fortress. (BLD)
- Day 25 Khiva – Dashoguz – Darvaza** Cross the border into Turkmenistan. Visit the fort at Dashoguz before continuing on to the Darvaza gas crater, known locally as 'the door to hell'. (BLD)
- Day 26 Darvaza – Ashgabat** Drive to Ashgabat. Enjoy a day at leisure. (BLD)
- Day 27 Ashgabat** Enjoy a city tour of Ashgabat and then continue to a farm for lunch with the locals. Later visit the Turkmenbashi Mausoleum. (BLD)
- Day 28 Ashgabat** Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Nissa. Late evening transfer to the airport for the homeward flight to Australia. (BLD)
- Days 29 – 30 Ashgabat – Urumqi – Guangzhou – Australia**



Tajik musicians

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

KAZAKHSTAN Visit to stunning Zenkov Cathedral.

KYRGYZSTAN Exhilarating water-raft ride on the Chon Kemin River. Fantastic show of horsemanship including the traditional game 'Buzkashi'. Dinner with a local Cossack family at Karakol. Superb BBQ lunch in the beautiful Valley of the Flowers.

TAJIKISTAN The oriental bazaar at Dushanbe. Visit to the 8th century fortress at Khujand. Excursion to Iskanderkul Lake in the Fann Mountains.

UZBEKISTAN Samarkand's magnificent Registan Square. Uzbek folk show in an ancient madrassah. Two-night stay at a madrassah in the heart of Khiva.

TURKMENISTAN Visit to World Heritage site of Nissa. Exclusive Travel Directors' dinner at Darvaza gas crater.

TOUR DATES

- 2017 07 May – 05 Jun
- 14 May – 12 June
- 03 Sep – 02 Oct
- 2018 06 May – 04 Jun

(Also departs 11 Sep 2016. Limited space. Call for details.)

COST

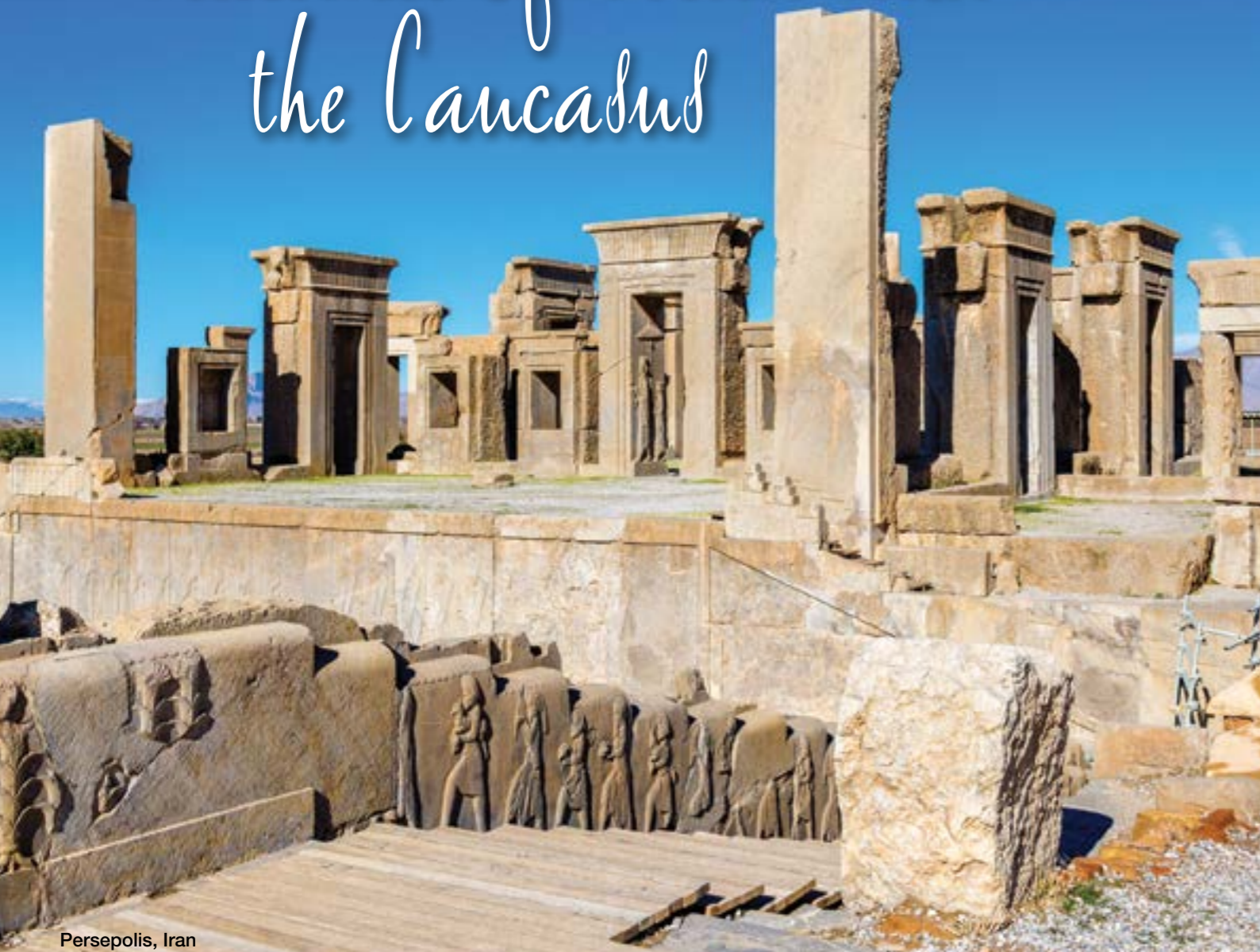
From \$16,450
Single Supp: \$3,350

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎虎



Eagle hunter, Kyrgyzstan

Treasures of Persia and the Caucasus



Persepolis, Iran

Iran and the Southern Caucasus is a region of breathtaking scenery dominated by magnificent mountains, sublime lakes and exquisite architecture. Our tour begins in the unspoilt cultural treasure-trove of Iran. Renowned for the overwhelming hospitality and friendliness of its people, Iran has a vast amount to offer – from magnificent ancient cities to glorious mosques and mausoleums. We explore Shiraz, the ancient site of Persepolis, Yazd, Isfahan and Tehran, before crossing the border to Armenia – the Cradle of Christianity. Here we visit the cultural hub of the nation, Yerevan – in the shadow of Mount Ararat, before moving on to the heart of the Caucasus, Georgia, with its fabulous cuisine and culture, incredibly diverse landscapes, and exceptionally warm and friendly people. Finally we head to Azerbaijan and its ancient capital, Baku. Join us for a truly memorable journey to extraordinary Iran and the beautiful Caucasus!



Khor Virap Church Mt Ararat, Armenia

29 Day Tour Itinerary



Days 1 – 2 Australia – Dubai – Shiraz Fly Emirates to Shiraz via Dubai. **(LD)**
Day 3 Shiraz Explore the city including the pink-tiled Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque and the 18th century citadel. **(BLD)**
Day 4 Shiraz – Persepolis Drive to the ancient city of Persepolis. Visit the monumental tombs of the kings carved into the cliff. **(BLD)**
Day 5 Shiraz – Yazd Explore the amazing archaeological site of Pasargadae, before continuing to the ancient desert city of Yazd. **(BLD)**
Day 6 Yazd Enjoy a full day exploring Yazd. Visit the Fire Temple, which holds a fire that has been kept alight continuously since 470 AD. **(BLD)**
Day 7 Yazd – Isfahan Drive 270km across the desert to Isfahan, stopping en-route at the charming desert town of Na'in. **(BLD)**
Days 8 – 9 Isfahan Take a city tour including the famous bridges and Isfahan's vast Imam Square. Explore Chehel Sotun Palace and the magnificent Friday Mosque. **(BLD)**
Day 10 Isfahan – Tehran Drive to Tehran, via the desert town of Kashan. **(BLD)**
Day 11 Tehran Enjoy a city tour of Tehran including the Golestan Palace complex. **(BLD)**
Day 12 Tehran – Tabriz After breakfast visit the former residence of the last Royal Family of Iran. Later fly to Tabriz. **(BLD)**
Day 13 Tabriz This morning explore the remarkable rock village of Kandovan. After lunch visit the magnificent, labyrinthine covered bazaar. **(BLD)**
Day 14 Tabriz – Goris Cross the Iran-Armenia border and drive through beautiful mountain forests to the town of Goris. **(BLD)**
Day 15 Goris – Tatev – Yerevan Visit the extraordinary Tatev Monastery, perched on a natural fortress of rock. Continue to Yerevan, in the shadow of Mt Ararat. **(BLD)**
Day 16 Yerevan Explore the ancient Armenian capital, visiting the markets, the

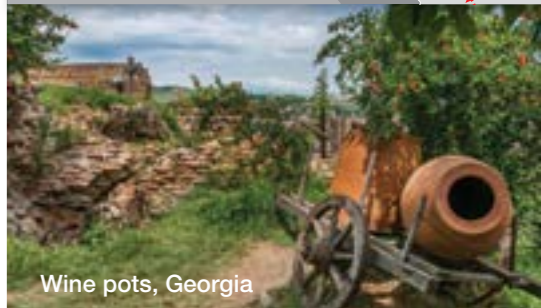
Genocide Memorial, Swallow Fortress and Mair-Hayastan (Mother Armenia) statue. **(BLD)**
Day 17 Yerevan Drive through a stunning canyon to the ancient monastery of Geghard. In the afternoon visit the brandy factory of Ararat, home to what is reputedly the best cognac in the world. **(BLD)**
Day 18 Yerevan – Lake Sevan – Dilijan Travel to Lake Sevan, the Pearl of Armenia. Explore the lake and its surrounds by boat before continuing to Dilijan. **(BLD)**
Day 19 Dilijan Dilijan is home to lush forests and imposing snow-capped mountains. Take a walk in the forest before enjoying a BBQ lunch. **(BLD)**
Day 20 Dilijan – Tbilisi Cross the border into Georgia and head to Tbilisi. After lunch explore the Old Town including the Godirdi sulphur baths and Victory Park. **(BLD)**
Day 21 Tbilisi – Gori – Tbilisi Drive to the amazing ancient cave city of Uplistsikhe. Afterwards head to the town of Gori where Stalin was born and educated. **(BLD)**
Day 22 Tbilisi – Kazbegi Drive along the Georgian Military Highway to Kazbegi. Take an exhilarating 4WD tour into the Royal Range of the Caucasus and enjoy a BBQ. Later return to Tbilisi. **(BLD)**
Day 23 Tbilisi – Kakheti Travel through beautiful scenery to the eastern wine-growing region of Kakheti. Lake Lopota is our base to explore some of the most beautiful wine-growing country in the world. **(BLD)**
Day 24 Kakheti Explore the lovely town of Kakheti – a place rich in history with beautiful churches, castles and mansions, and warm and friendly people. **(BLD)**
Day 25 Kakheti – Sheki Cross the border into Azerbaijan and head to the ancient city of Sheki located on the picturesque hillsides of the Caucasus Mountains. **(BLD)**
Day 26 Sheki – Baku Drive 350km to the Azerbaijan capital, Baku. After lunch explore the new part of the city. **(BLD)**
Day 27 Baku Explore on foot the Old City and ancient cultural treasures of Baku. **(BLD)**
Days 28 – 29 Baku – Dubai – Australia The morning is at leisure in Baku. Later transfer to the airport for our flight back to Australia via Dubai. **(B)**



Yazd, Iran



MAP NOT TO SCALE



Wine pots, Georgia

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

IRAN Day excursion to ancient Persepolis. Two-night stay at the ancient desert city, Yazd. Three-night stay in the beautiful city of Isfahan. Visit the old cave city of Kandovan.

ARMENIA Three-night stay at Yerevan with its imposing views of Mt Ararat. The extraordinary Tatev Monastery, accessed by the longest aerial tramway in the world. Day trip to 'The Pearl of Armenia', Lake Sevan. Exclusive BBQ lunch in the forests at Dilijan.

GEORGIA Explore Kakheti, Georgia's beautiful wine-growing region. 4WD tour into the Caucasus Mountains at Kazbegi. Visit to Gori where Stalin was born and educated.

AZERBAIJAN Explore the Old City and cultural treasures of Baku.

TOUR DATES

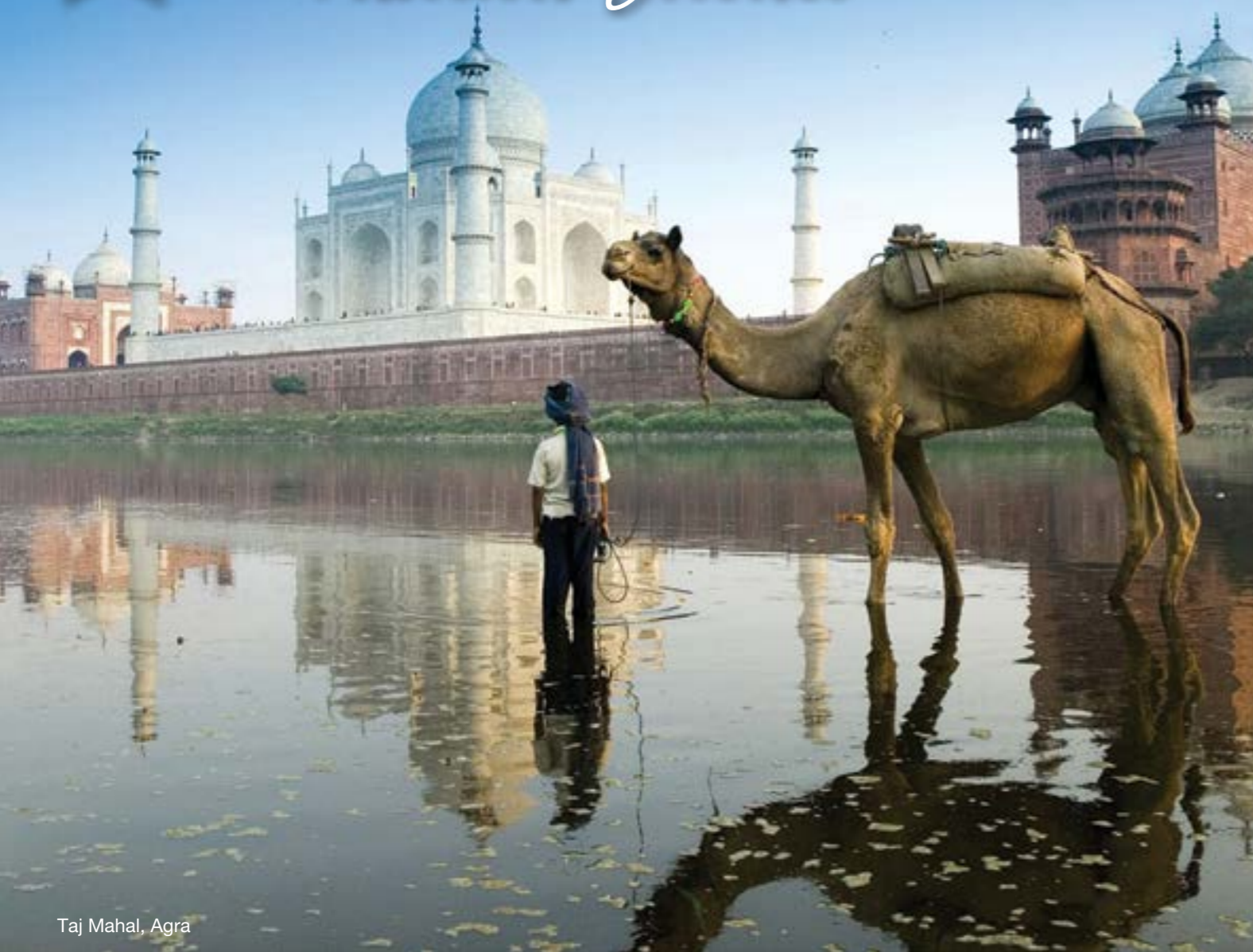
2017 08 May – 05 Jun
 04 Sep – 02 Oct
 2018 07 May – 04 Jun
 (Also departs 05 Sep 2016. Limited space. Call for details.)

COST

From \$16,950
 Single Supp: \$3,650

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎

Indian Essence



Taj Mahal, Agra

Indian Essence is a spectacular 21-day journey to the historic and exotic cities of Rajasthan in the north of India, and the serenity and natural beauty of the state of Kerala in the south-west. We begin in Delhi, before boarding the Shatabdi Express for the two-hour rail journey to Agra, and the inimitable Taj Mahal. Continuing south, we visit the magnificent Ranthambhore National Park, Rajasthan's fabled pink city of Jaipur, the blue-washed city of Jodhpur, the heritage town of Narlai and, the Lake City of Udaipur. Leaving the Golden Triangle we fly south to the state of Kerala – an area of serenity and natural beauty in stark contrast to the vibrancy and bustle of the north. Here we enjoy the national parks, tea and spice plantations, canals and waterways and the sublime coastline of this delightful pocket of India. *Indian Essence* is a magnificent journey which offers a perfect insight into the diversity of this life-affirming country.



Jodhpur

21 Day Tour Itinerary

- Day 1 Australia – Delhi** Fly Singapore Airlines to Delhi via Singapore.
- Day 2 Delhi** Enjoy an extensive city tour of Delhi including the Red Fort, Jama Masjid Mosque, Chandni Chowk market, Humayan's Tomb and India Gate. **(BLD)**
- Day 3 Delhi – Agra** Early this morning transfer to New Delhi train station and catch the Shatabdi Express to Agra. On arrival visit the magnificent Taj Mahal, built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife. **(BLD)**
- Day 4 Agra – Ranthambhore** Drive 300km to Ranthambhore stopping en route at the remote village of Abhaneri, site of one of Rajasthan's most awe-inspiring step-wells. **(BLD)**
- Day 5 Ranthambhore** After breakfast enjoy a thrilling open jeep safari into Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in search of these shy and elusive creatures. The park is also home to magnificent flora and fauna. **(BLD)**
- Days 6 – 7 Ranthambhore – Jaipur** Drive to the fabled 'Pink City' of Jaipur. Explore the city including the Palace of Winds and the local bazaar. Hop aboard festively-decorated elephants for the up-hill climb to the spectacular Amber Fort. **(BLD)**
- Days 8 – 9 Jaipur – Jodhpur** Bid farewell to Jaipur and head to the 'Blue City' of Jodhpur – a hectic metropolis dominated by its huge fort overlooking the blue buildings that characterise the city. Explore the old town on foot, where the blueness is particularly striking in the winding streets. **(BLD)**
- Days 10 – 11 Jodhpur – Narlai** Travel to Narlai, a delightful heritage town. Enjoy walking tours and jeep safaris of this idyllic pocket of rural Rajasthan. **(BLD)**
- Days 12 – 13 Narlai – Udaipur** Drive south to India's famous lake city of Udaipur stopping en-route at Ranakpur, home to the white marble Jain Temple complex. Enjoy a sunset boat ride on Lake Pichola and visit Jagmandir Palace. Visit the imposing City Palace of Udaipur which towers over the lake. **(BLD)**



Indian woman at Munnar

- Day 14 Udaipur – Mumbai – Kochi** Fly south to Kochi via Mumbai. Explore Kochi, which is located on a cluster of islands and small peninsulas in the southern part of the state of Kerala. **(BLD)**
- Day 15 Kochi** Continue to explore Kochi including Mattancherry Palace, the Dutch cemetery and the Jewish area. Watch local fishermen using their huge cantilevered shore-based fishing nets. **(BD)**
- Days 16 – 17 Kochi – Munnar** Board the coach for the two-hour drive east to the mountain scenery and emerald-green tea plantations of Munnar. Visit a tea factory and plantation, and take a stroll through Eravikulam National Park, famous for its rare species of mountain goat. **(BLD)**
- Day 18 Munnar – Alleppey** Head to the coast and board a traditional Kettuvallam houseboat. Explore the canals and backwaters from the comfort of your floating home! **(BLD)**
- Day 19 Alleppey – Kovalam** After breakfast on board continue to cruise serenely through the waterways. Leaving our boat we board a coach and continue on to Kovalam. **(BLD)**
- Day 20 Kovalam – Trivandrum – Singapore** Today is at leisure to explore Kovalam before transferring early evening to Trivandrum for our flight home. **(BD)**
- Day 21 Singapore – Australia** On arrival in Singapore connect with your flight back to Australia.



Spice Market, Kochi



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- » Visit Agra and the Taj Mahal.
- » Stay at heritage hotels in Jaipur, Jodhpur and Narlai.
- » Elephant ride to the famous Amber Fort.
- » Jeep drive through Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.
- » Sunset boat cruise on the lake at Udaipur.
- » Overnight stay on a traditional Kettuvallam houseboat at Alleppey.
- » Visit tea and spice plantations in Kerala.
- » Explore the spice trade centre at Kochi.

TOUR DATES

2017 10 Feb – 02 Mar
2018 09 Feb – 01 Mar

COST

From \$12,950
Single Supp: \$3,750

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎



Traditional Kettuvallam house boat

The Himalayan Express



Potala Palace, Lhasa

The Himalayan Express Travel Directors was the first western company in the world to escort groups on the Himalayan Express and today this trip is one of our most popular. We begin in China's ancient capital, Xian, where we see the famous Terracotta Warriors. We then fly to Xining and board the unique oxygenated train for the historic journey to the capital of one of the world's most mysterious countries, Tibet. Here we travel into the very heart of the Himalaya as far as Rongbuk, the Everest base supply camp on the remote north face. We then head south to neighbouring Nepal, a fantastic Himalayan kingdom. Finally we venture to an even less-visited and completely unspoilt nation, the ancient Kingdom of Bhutan – the world's last Shangri-La!



Prayer flags, Mt Everest



Punakha Dzong, Bhutan



Terracotta warriors, Xian

25 Day Tour Itinerary

Days 1 – 2 Australia – Xian Fly Singapore Airlines to Xian via Singapore and Guangzhou. (D)

Day 3 Xian Visit the extraordinary Terracotta Warriors known as the eighth Wonder of the World. (BLD)

Day 4 Xian Visit the superb Shanxi Provincial Museum and the famous Wild Goose Pagoda. (BLD)

Day 5 Xian – Xining – Tibet Fly to Xining and explore the city. Later transfer to the railway station for the thrilling journey to Lhasa on the Himalayan Express. (BL)

Day 6 Arrive Lhasa Early morning the train begins its climb to the Tibetan Plateau, reaching a height of 5,072m before heading down to Lhasa, Tibet. (D)

Day 7 Lhasa Begin our tour of the city with a visit to the Potala Palace, the traditional home of the Dalai Lama. (BLD)

Day 8 Lhasa Visit Norbulinka Park, the summer residence of the Dalai Lamas. In 1994 it was granted UNESCO World Heritage status. (BLD)

Day 9 Lhasa Drive to Sera Monastery – famous for the debating traditions of its monks who provide a uniquely entertaining spectacle. (BLD)

Day 10 Lhasa – Gyangtse Board our bus and drive up towards the turquoise waters of Yamdruk Lake. Later pass the giant Kanola glacier before descending to Gyangtse. (BLD)

Day 11 Gyangtse – Shigatse Explore Gyangtse with its wealth of traditional Tibetan architecture. Visit the impressive Kunbon Stupa before driving the short distance to Shigatse. (BLD)

Day 12 Shigatse – Tingri Early this morning visit the amazing Tashilumpo Monastery before driving through stunning mountain landscapes to Everest National Park. (BLD)

Day 13 Tingri – Everest Base Camp Drive 100km to Everest Base Camp where the North Face of Everest soars 8,848m into

the heavens. There are few sights in the world that are as spectacular as this. (BLD)

Day 14 Tingri – Zhangmu Enjoy many more spectacular views as we drive through three passes before descending to Zhangmu. (BLD)

Day 15 Zhangmu – Kathmandu Cross the Friendship Bridge that divides Tibet and Nepal, then drive through scenic river valleys to Kathmandu. (BLD)

Day 16 Kathmandu Explore the bustling Nepalese capital which contains no fewer than seven UNESCO World Heritage sites, essentially making the area a living museum. (BLD)

Day 17 Kathmandu After breakfast we continue to explore the sights in the city of Kathmandu. (BLD)

Day 18 Kathmandu – Thimphu Fly across the dramatic Himalayan range to Bhutan. The views are simply astonishing as we soar above the highest mountains on earth. On arrival in Paro make the short journey to the capital, Thimphu. (BD)

Day 19 Thimphu Explore the delightful town of Thimphu. Blissfully untouched by western influences, Bhutan is rightly referred to as the 'last Shangri-La'. (BLD)

Day 20 Thimphu – Punakha Drive across Dochula Pass, with spectacular views of the eastern Himalaya, en-route to Punakha. (BLD)

Day 21 Punakha Visit the Temple of the Divine Madman and Punakha Dzong – an imposing fortress situated at the confluence of the Mo Chuu and Pho Chuu rivers. (BLD)

Day 22 Punakha – Paro After breakfast begin our drive back to the magnificent Paro Valley. (BLD)

Day 23 Paro Our final day in Bhutan is an extra-special one: we visit the breathtaking Taksang Monastery, more commonly known as the 'Tiger's Nest'. (BLD)

Days 24 – 25 Paro – Singapore – Australia Transfer to the airport for our flight to Australia via Singapore. (B)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

CHINA AND TIBET The extraordinary Terracotta Warriors in Xian. A spectacular Tang Dynasty show. Journey on the world's highest railway to Lhasa. The magnificent Potala Palace. Lunch with a Tibetan family. Picnic in the mountains overlooking Yamdruk Lake. Visit to Everest Base Camp.

NEPAL Spectacular flight over Everest and the Himalaya. Exclusive dinner in Kathmandu's Garden of Dreams.

BHUTAN Explore the beautiful Punakha valley. Visit to the Temple of the Divine Madman. Walk up to the incredible Tiger's Nest Monastery.

TOUR DATES

2017 07 April – 01 May
07 Oct – 31 Oct

2018 06 Apr – 30 Apr
(Also departs 01 Oct 2016. Limited space. Call for details.)

COST

From \$16,550
Single Supp: \$3,250

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎虎



Road to Mandalay

Monk at Bagan, Myanmar

Road to Mandalay is a remarkable journey to south-western China and the newly emerging nation of Myanmar. Beginning in China we visit the delightful towns of Kunming, Lijiang and Dali before heading to Tengchong, where incredible volcanic landscapes exist alongside ancient villages. Reaching the beautiful border town of Ruilli, we cross into the mysterious land of Burma. Unspoilt by mass tourism, the Burmese people themselves are one of the most compelling reasons to visit. Entering through the remote northern border allows us to explore untouched Shan villages and enjoy multiple night stays at Hsipaw and Maymyo. From Mandalay, we cruise along one of the world's greatest rivers, the Irrawaddy, to the magnificent temple complex of Bagan, before heading to the serenity and beauty of Inle Lake and our final destination, Yangon. Road to Mandalay is a stunning journey that encapsulates mystery, beauty and adventure, touching the very heart of two exquisite countries!



Stone Forest, Kunming

26 Day Tour Itinerary

Days 1 – 2 Australia – Kunming Fly Singapore Airlines to Kunming via Singapore. (D)

Days 3 – 4 Kunming Visit Kunming's Golden Temple showcasing some of the best plant collections in China. Drive to the magical Stone Forest, a mass of strange rock formations where a vast sea receded millions of years ago. (BLD)

Day 5 Kunming – Lijiang Early morning, fly to Lijiang. Visit the scenic gardens of Black Dragon Pool. After lunch take a walking tour of old Lijiang with its delightful cobbled lanes, canals and arched bridges. (BLD)

Day 6 Lijiang Enjoy a full day excursion to the Blue Moon Pools and Yak Meadow in the beautiful Jade Dragon Snow Mountain range. Later take a walking tour of Long Quan village. (BLD)

Day 7 Lijiang – Dali Drive to Dali, home to the friendly Bai minority people, and explore the famous 'Foreigner Street' and local markets. (BLD)

Day 8 Dali Explore the old part of Dali including the legendary Temple of the Three Pagodas, situated at the foot of the Cangshan Mountain range. After lunch take a boat ride to Jinsao Island. (BLD)

Day 9 Dali – Tengchong Drive south on the fabled 'Old Burma Road'. After lunch continue on through this ethnically diverse region reaching Tengchong late afternoon. (BLD)

Day 10 Tengchong Explore Tengchong's surroundings which are dotted with countless volcanoes and natural hot springs. Later visit the beautiful walled settlement of Heshan. (BLD)

Day 11 Tengchong – Ruilli After breakfast drive to the 'Oriental Jewellery City' of Ruilli located on the Chinese-Burmese border. (BLD)

Day 12 Ruilli – Hsipaw Cross into Burma and drive through the picturesque villages of Shan state, climbing into the mountains of remote northern Burma. Late afternoon reach Hsipaw. (BLD)

Day 13 Hsipaw Today we soak up the atmosphere and warmth of the locals in the unspoiled former Shan royal city of Hsipaw. (BLD)

Day 14 Hsipaw – Maymyo After breakfast drive to the railway station and board the train for the scenic journey to Maymyo. Cross the amazing Gokteik Viaduct then continue by road to the former British hill station town of Maymyo. (BLD)

Day 15 Maymyo Explore this wonderful relic of colonial rule, famous for its haunted mansions, stagecoaches and the beautiful National Gardens of Kandawgyi. (BLD)

Day 16 Maymyo – Mandalay Drive to Burma's last royal capital, Mandalay, lying on the east bank of the Irrawaddy River. Spend a full day exploring this great city. (BLD)

Day 17 Mandalay Visit the largest Buddhist monastery in Burma where more than 1,000 monks worship, and the Kuthodaw Pagoda where 729 stupas sit together. Later head to the world-famous U Bein Bridge to watch the sun set. (BLD)

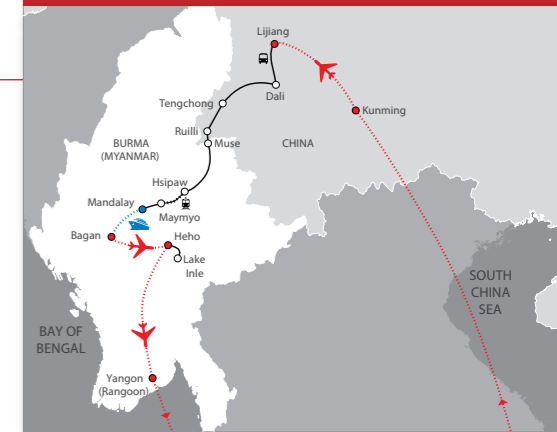
Day 18 Mandalay – Bagan This morning board our riverboat for the cruise down the majestic Irrawaddy River to Bagan. As night falls, we moor in the tranquil waters near the riverbank. (BLD)

Days 19 – 20 Bagan Explore the 11th century site of Bagan, with its thousands of ancient pagodas, stupas, shrines and monuments. Visit Ananda Temple and the adjacent monastery with superbly preserved murals. Take a sunrise hot air balloon flight over the magnificent vista of Bagan and the Irrawaddy. (BLD)

Days 21 – 22 Bagan – Heho – Inle Lake Board our flight to Heho then drive to magnificent Inle Lake. Take a boat out on the lake and see the famous 'leg rowers' and the endless floating gardens. Visit the spectacular stilt village of Nampan with its labyrinth of canals. (BLD)

Days 23 – 24 Inle Lake – Heho – Yangon Drive to Heho and board our flight to Yangon. Enjoy a full day sightseeing in the fascinating melting pot of Yangon including the famous Strand Road, the Jewish and Indian quarters, and Shwe Bontha with its pavement teashops. Enjoy lunch on Inya Lake, 200 metres from Aung San Suu Kyi's house. (BLD)

Days 25 – 26 Yangon – Singapore – Australia Transfer to the airport for our flight back to Australia via Singapore. (B)



U Bein Bridge, Myanmar

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

CHINA Two-night stay in ancient Lijiang. Visit the amazing Stone Forest at Kunming. Cable car ride to Yak Meadow. Two-night stays in Dali and the volcanic town of Tengchong.

BURMA Explore remote and unspoilt Shan villages in northern Burma. Cross the spectacular Gokteik viaduct by train. See the iconic U-Bein Bridge at sunset. Overnight cruise from Mandalay to Bagan. Hot air balloon flight over Bagan. Boat ride on beautiful Inle Lake. Two-night stay on Kandawgi Lake, Yangon.

TOUR DATES

2017 20 Feb – 17 Mar
30 Oct – 24 Nov

2018 19 Feb – 16 Mar

(Also departs 31 Oct 2016. Limited space. Call for details.)

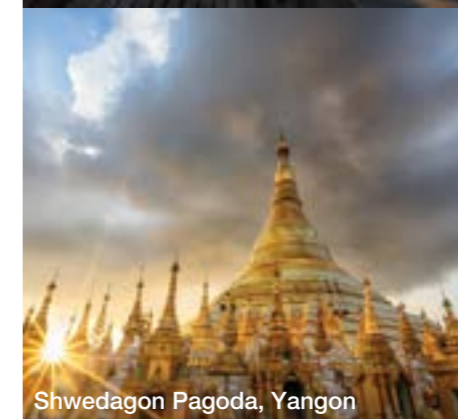
COST

From \$13,990
Single Supp: \$3,990

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎



Leg rower on Inle Lake, Myanmar



Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon

Gateway to the Balkans



Church on an island in Lake Bled, Slovenia

Gateway to the Balkans Following on from our acclaimed Soul of the Balkans tour, we now introduce a brand new adventure which visits Bulgaria, Serbia, Slovenia and the sparkling gems of the northern Croatian coast. We begin in the Bulgarian capital Sofia before travelling west into Serbia and onto the beautiful city of Nis. Moving north we visit the Serbian capital Belgrade, then continue on to the architectural wonderland of Novi Sad. Crossing into Slovenia we head to the snow-covered Slovenian Alps that surround Lake Bled, where we spend three glorious nights perched right on the lake itself. Moving on to Croatia's Roman town of Pula we board our private cruise ship MS Emanuel and spend 11 days sailing between remote islands, extraordinary towns and the delightful National Parks of the Dalmatian coast. Finally we drive to the magnificent Plitvice Lakes, an area of unparalleled beauty.



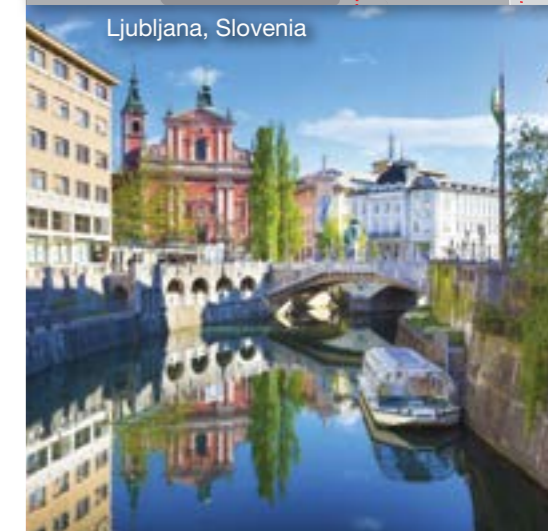
Belgrade, Serbia

29 Day Tour Itinerary



Days 1 – 2 Australia – Sofia Fly Emirates to Sofia via Dubai. **(D)**
Day 3 Sofia One of the most ancient cities in Europe, Sofia sits on the crossroads of eastern and western routes. Explore the city with its rich Byzantine, Roman and Turkish heritage. **(BLD)**
Day 4 Sofia – Nis Cross the border into Serbia and drive to Nis, the birthplace of Constantine the Great. Visit the Tower of Skulls – a reminder of the Battle of Cegar in 1809. **(BLD)**
Day 5 Nis – Novi Pazar – Belgrade Drive north to Belgrade stopping en-route at Novi Pazar, the Jerusalem of Serbia, where Islam and Orthodox Christianity mingle. **(BLD)**
Day 6 Belgrade Explore Belgrade on foot. Visit the Kalemegdan Citadel and the House of Flowers – Tito's marble mausoleum. **(BLD)**
Day 7 Belgrade – Novi Sad Skirt the Danube on the drive to Novi Sad – one of Europe's historical treasures with architecture from many different eras. **(BLD)**
Day 8 Novi Sad – Lake Bled Drive to the Serbia-Slovenia border. Cross the border and continue on to Lake Bled. **(BLD)**
Days 9 – 10 Lake Bled Lake Bled is an emerald-green lake with a church located on a small islet and a medieval castle looking down from the cliffs. Circumnavigate the lake and explore the castle. Take a cable car to the top of Mt Vogel for spectacular views. **(BLD)**
Days 11 – 12 Lake Bled – Ljubljana Leave Lake Bled for the short journey to the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana. Explore this delightful city with its meandering river. **(BLD)**
Day 13 Ljubljana – Pula – Board MS Emanuel Drive to the Croatian border and continue to Pula. Board our private cruise ship MS Emanuel, our home for the next 12 nights. **(BLD)**
Day 14 Pula Begin our exploration of the northern Croatian coast. Visit the Brijuni Islands – an archipelago north of Pula. **(BLD)**
Day 15 Pula – Opatija Set sail for Opatija, a beautiful resort nestled between forested hills and the sparkling Adriatic. **(BLD)**
Day 16 Opatija – Grgur – Rab Head to the idyllic island of Grgur then continue on to Rab, an island in the Gulf of Kvarner. **(BLD)**

Day 17 Rab – Mali Losinj Sail to Mali Losinj, a 33km wide island where dolphins may be seen swimming in its sparkling coves. **(BLD)**
Day 18 Mali Losinj – Zadar Venture to the heart of the Adriatic and the city of Zadar, located on a small peninsula on the Dalmatian coast. Explore the historic old town. **(BLD)**
Day 19 Zadar – Kornati National Park Cruise to the nautical paradise of Kornati – a kaleidoscope of islands, reefs and inlets. **(BLD)**
Day 20 Kornati NP – Skradin Sail through a 200m karst canyon along the Krka River to the small town of Skradin where spectacular waterfalls define the Krka National Park. **(BLD)**
Day 21 Skradin – Zlarin Continue south to the island of Zlarin. Explore the beautiful traditional village on the island. **(BLD)**
Day 22 Zlarin – Omis Cruise to the very heart of the Dalmatian coastline and the Omis Riviera – an area of immense beauty and ancient history. **(BLD)**
Days 23 – 24 Omis – Split Set sail for Split. Explore Diocletian's Palace and the beautiful promenade. Visit the nearby town of Trogir with its serpentine medieval streets. **(BLD)**
Days 25 – 26 Split – Plitvice Lakes Bid farewell to Emanuel and board the coach bound for Plitvice Lakes – a national park comprising 16 lakes inter-connected by waterfalls. Explore the lakes on foot and by boat. **(BLD)**
Day 27 Plitvice Lakes – Zagreb Drive to Zagreb. Explore the medieval quarter in the lower town and later stroll the labyrinth of cobbled streets in the upper town. **(BLD)**
Day 28 Zagreb – Dubai – Australia Transfer to the airport for the flight home. **(B)**
Day 29 Arrive back in Australia today.



Ljubljana, Slovenia

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

SERBIA Explore the little-visited city of Nis. Two-night stay in the Danube city of Belgrade. Visit to Tito's mausoleum. Explore the cobbled streets of Novi Sad.

SLOVENIA Three-night stay at magnificent Lake Bled. Cable car ride to Mt Vogel in the Julian Alps. Two-night stay in beautiful Ljubljana.

CROATIA Exclusive 12-night cruise on a small ship along the Dalmatian coast. Explore the Roman amphitheatre at Pula. Hear the haunting sound of the Zadar Sea Organ. Explore the coral island of Zlarin. Soak up the beauty of the Plitvice Lakes.

TOUR DATES

2017 12 Jul – 9 Aug

COST

From \$18,950
 Single Supp: \$4,560
 (Price based on twin-share lower-deck. Upgrade to main deck \$825pp twin-share.)

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎



Omis, Croatia



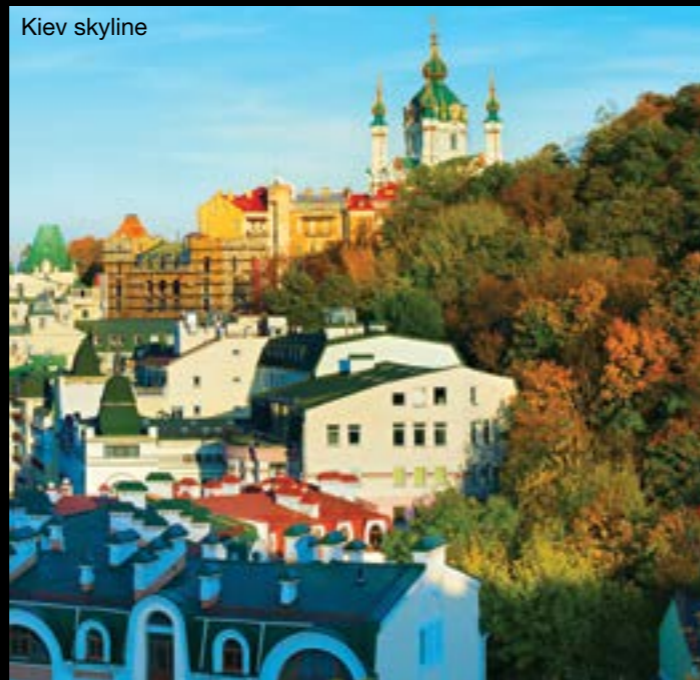
MS Emanuel



Beyond the Black Sea

The medieval town of Sighisoara, Romania

Beyond the Black Sea This journey is a mix of contemporary and ancient history, myths and legends, set against the backdrop of the Black Sea, Transylvanian Alps and the Carpathian Mountains. It is undiscovered Europe with a capital U! We begin in Ukraine, visiting Kiev, the extraordinary site of the world's worst nuclear accident, Chernobyl, the UNESCO World Heritage city of Lviv and historic Odessa. We then head to Moldova, passing through the only unrecognised country in Europe, Transnistria, where the last vestiges of a Soviet-style system are still in evidence. Next stop is Romania and it is here, deep in the Transylvanian Alps, that we visit Dracula's castle. Crossing into Bulgaria we visit the remarkable fairy tale towns of Veliko Tarnovo and Plovdiv – without the tourist hordes found in more mainstream European cities – before concluding the tour in the Bulgarian capital Sofia.



Kiev skyline

27 Day Tour Itinerary



Days 1 – 2 Australia – Kiev Fly Emirates to Kiev via Dubai.
Day 3 Kiev Explore the old city on foot and stroll down its most famous street, Andriyivsky Uzviz. **(BLD)**
Day 4 Kiev – Chernobyl Visit the deserted ghost town of Pripyat and Reactor 4 at Chernobyl. **(BLD)**
Day 5 Kiev – Kamyanets Podilsky Explore Peschersk Lavra, or Monastery of the Caves. In the evening board the train for the overnight journey to Western Ukraine. **(BLD)**
Day 6 Kamyanets Podilsky After breakfast explore Kamyanets Podilsky – one of the oldest cities in Ukraine, renowned for its harmonious blend of landscape and architecture. **(BLD)**
Day 7 Kamyanets – Lviv Drive to the medieval Khotyn Fortress on the Dnieper River. Later continue to the Western Ukrainian capital, Lviv. **(BLD)**
Day 8 Lviv Walk the narrow medieval streets of Lviv and see the unique combination of Western and Eastern cultures. **(BLD)**
Day 9 Lviv – Odessa Continue to explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Lviv. In the evening transfer to the train station for the overnight journey to Odessa. **(BLD)**
Days 10 – 11 Odessa Take a walking tour around the town. Visit the famous Opera and Ballet Theatre, Primorskiy Boulevard and the world-famous Potemkin Stairs. Explore the fascinating catacombs, built nearly 200 years ago. **(BLD)**
Day 12 Odessa – Chisinau Travel to the Moldovan capital, Chisinau. On the way pass through the only unrecognised country in Europe, Transnistria. **(BLD)**
Day 13 Chisinau Enjoy a city tour of Chisinau. Later drive to the village of Milestii Mici – home to the largest subterranean wine cellar in the world. **(BLD)**
Day 14 Chisinau – Brasov Begin the 450-km drive to the Romanian town of Brasov. **(BLD)**

Day 15 Brasov Visit Peles Castle in the Carpathian Mountains. Later head to the village of Bran – home to Dracula's Castle. **(BLD)**
Day 16 Brasov – Sighisoara Begin the drive to Sighisoara, birthplace of Vlad the Impaler. **(BLD)**
Day 17 Sighisoara – Sibiu Head to the walled town of Sibiu, visiting the Astra Village Museum en-route. **(BLD)**
Day 18 Sibiu Take a walking tour of Sibiu including the 13th-century Stairway Tower and the Liar's Bridge. Also visit the Cathedral where Vlad the Impaler's son was assassinated. **(BLD)**
Day 19 Sibiu – Bucharest Begin the drive to Bucharest via the magnificent Transfagarasan road through the mighty Fagaras Mountains. **(BLD)**
Day 20 Bucharest Enjoy a city tour including the Triumph Arch and the gigantic Palace of the Parliament. **(BLD)**
Day 21 Bucharest – Veliko Tarnovo Cross the Danube via the Friendship Bridge into Bulgaria, continuing to the former capital of the Bulgarian Empire, Veliko Tarnovo. **(BLD)**
Day 22 Veliko Tarnovo – Etara – Plovdiv Begin the drive to Plovdiv, visiting Etara village and the magnificent Valley of the Roses en-route. **(BLD)**
Day 23 Plovdiv Explore the fascinating sights of the Old Town, including the ancient Roman amphitheatre dating back to the 2nd century AD. **(BLD)**
Day 24 Plovdiv - Sofia Drive to Sofia. The afternoon is at leisure. **(BLD)**
Days 25 Sofia One of the most ancient cities in Europe, Sofia sits on the crossroads of eastern and western routes. Explore the city with its rich Byzantine, Roman and Turkish heritage. **(BLD)**
Day 26 Sofia – Dubai – Australia (BL) After lunch transfer to the airport for the flight home
Day 27 Arrive back in Australia today.



Ferris Wheel, Pripjat, Ukraine

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

UKRAINE Full-day tour to Chernobyl and the deserted village of Pripjat. Dinner in a medieval castle. 'Night Watch' tour of Lviv.

MOLDOVA Traditional lunch with a Moldovan family. Exclusive tour of Europe's largest underground winery, Milestii Mici. Visit to the breakaway republic of Transnistria.

ROMANIA Visit to Dracula's Castle in Transylvania. Dinner in the house where Vlad the Impaler was born. Participate in a Romanian wedding.

BULGARIA Visit the ancient cultural capital of the Balkans, Veliko Tarnovo. Tour the fantastic open-air 'museum' village of Etara. Two-night stays in the Bulgarian cities of Plovdiv and Sofia.

TOUR DATES

2017 26 Aug – 21 Sep

COST

From \$16,950
 Single Supp: \$2,930

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 庚庚



Peles Castle, Romania

The High Arctic



Disko Bay, Greenland

The High Arctic This is a stunning 27-day tour to an extraordinary part of the world. The High Arctic is one of the world's least-visited, yet most beautiful regions, featuring stunning glaciers, mountains, fjords, geysers and icebergs. Our tour takes in the incredible highlights of Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Danish capital Copenhagen, all rich with ancient civilisations, cultures and majestic scenery. The centrepiece of this great adventure is a fantastic five-day cruise along the rugged Norwegian coastline on a working ship from the Hurtigruten line. We also travel on the world-famous Flam Railway, and enjoy a four-day stay at the stunning iceberg town of Ilulissat. We invite you to join us on an unforgettable adventure to the extraordinary High Arctic!



Geirangerfjord, Norway

27 Day Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Australia – Bangkok Fly to Bangkok and connect with the flight to Oslo.

Day 2 Bangkok – Oslo Arrive in Oslo early morning. Visit the Viking Ships Museum and the superb 80-acre Vigeland Sculpture Park. **(LD)**

Day 3 Oslo Explore the 13th century fortress of Akershus. Later visit the museum that houses the world's most famous polar ship, the Fram. **(BLD)**

Day 4 Oslo – Flam Travel to Flam via Myrdal on the 65-year-old Flam railway – one of the world's most scenic stretches of railroad. **(BLD)**

Day 5 Flam Board a boat and head out to Naeroyfjord, an area of extreme, dramatic and beautiful scenery. **(BLD)**

Day 6 Flam – Bergen Travel by train to Bergen. Later visit the composer Edvard Grieg's house in Trolldhaugen. **(BLD)**

Day 7 Onboard ship Board the ship for the five-day journey to Tromso. **(BD)**

Day 8 Floro – Molde – Kristiansund Arrive at Alesund. Disembark and drive to the Geirangerfjord via a spectacular winding road. Re-board the ship and continue to Molde and Kristiansund. **(BD)**

Day 9 Kristiansund – Trondheim – Rorvik Sail up the wide Trondheim fjord to the medieval city. Afterwards cruise past 6,000 islands before arriving at Rorvik in the evening. **(BD)**

Day 10 Rorvik – Bronnoysund – Svolvaer Cross the Arctic Circle to the modern town of Bodo. Continue via the Vestfjord to the large fishing village stations of Stamsund and Svolvaer. **(BD)**

Day 11 Tromso Arrive at Tromso, gateway to the Arctic. Explore the town including the amazing Arctic Cathedral. **(BD)**

Day 12 Tromso – Reykjavik Fly to Reykjavik via Oslo, arriving mid-afternoon. **(BD)**

Day 13 Reykjavik – Akureyri Drive across Iceland's highland interior to Akureyri via Thingvellir National Park. **(BLD)**

Day 14 Akureyri – Lake Myvatn Visit the 'waterfall of the gods', Godafoss, then continue to Lake Myvatn. **(BLD)**

Day 15 Lake Myvatn – Egilsstaðir Head inland towards Namaskard Pass and continue to the biggest waterfall in Europe; Dettifoss. Later drive to the stunning fjords of east Iceland. **(BLD)**

Day 16 Egilsstaðir – Skaftafell Enjoy a boat tour among the floating icebergs at Jokulsarlon, which lies at the foot of Europe's largest glacier Vatnajokull. Later drive to the Skaftafell National Park. **(BLD)**

Day 17 Skaftafell – Vik – Selfoss Drive to the black volcanic beach of Vik then head to Selfoss via Skogar and Sejlandsfoss waterfalls. **(BLD)**

Day 18 Selfoss – Reykjavik Take the Golden Circle tour. Visit the waterfall, Gullfoss, and the sprouting geysers, before returning to Reykjavik for a city tour. **(BLD)**



Day 19 Reykjavik Continue exploring Reykjavik, the world's most northerly capital. Later relax in the world-famous Blue Lagoon. **(BD)**

Day 20 Reykjavik – Ilulissat This morning, fly to Ilulissat. On arrival explore the town, visiting the Danish trading station, the busy fishing harbour and the museum. **(BLD)**

Days 21 – 22 Ilulissat Travel by boat to the hunter's settlement, Rodebay. Take a plane flight over the spectacular Icefjord. Enjoy a cruise on the Icefjord as the midnight sun and warm red colours reflect in the gigantic icebergs. **(BLD)**

Day 23 Ilulissat View the astonishing Equip Glacier. Cruise along its 5km width, hopefully catching sight of the 'birth' of an iceberg. Continue to explore Ilulissat. **(BLD)**

Day 24 Ilulissat – Copenhagen Fly to Copenhagen via Kangerlussuaq, arriving in the evening. **(B)**

Day 25 Copenhagen Enjoy a city tour of Copenhagen. The afternoon is at leisure before a wonderful farewell dinner in the Tivoli Gardens. **(BD)**

Days 26 – 27 Copenhagen – Bangkok – Australia Transfer to the airport for the homeward flight. **(B)**



Puffin, Iceland



Jokulsarlon lagoon, Iceland

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

NORWAY Ride on the world-famous Flam railway. Visit to the composer Edvard Grieg's house. Four-night cruise on a working ship along Norway's coastline. Visit to the beautiful city of Tromso, gateway to the Arctic.

ICELAND Visit to the famous Blue Lagoon. Boat tour amongst the icebergs at the beautiful glacier lagoon, Jokulsarlon. Visit to the extraordinary Skaftafell National Park. Lunch with a local farmer at Vik. Golden Circle tour via the beautiful waterfall Gullfoss.

GREENLAND/DENMARK Boat tour to the hunter's settlement, Rodebay. Spectacular scenic plane flight over the Icefjord. Midnight cruise through the icebergs of Disko Bay. Visit to the awesome Equip Glacier. Dinner in the famous Tivoli Gardens.

TOUR DATES

2017 04 Jul – 31 July

COST

From \$23,950
Single Supp: \$4,995

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎

Jewels of the Mediterranean



Greek theatre, Taormina, Sicily

Jewels of the Mediterranean This is a spectacular journey to Malta and some of the less-visited islands of the Mediterranean – Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica. Steeped in history, these islands are home to ancient Greek and Roman sites, rugged limestone cliffs and caves, volcanic landscapes, forests and mountains, and some of the most dramatic coastlines of the Mediterranean. We begin with four days in magnificent Malta, before crossing by ferry to Sicily. Our first stop is the mountain resort town of Taormina, with spectacular views of one of the world's most active volcanoes, Mount Etna. The island of Sardinia is our next port of call, and we travel the whole length of its wild interior where ancient bronze-age towers and settlements – nuraghi – are found. Making the small hop to Corsica we arrive in the medieval cliff-top town of Bonifacio, before taking one of the most scenic train rides in the world: the carriages of the narrow-gauge railway train offering perfectly-framed views of the dramatic landscapes. Finally, we board a ferry for the journey to the French Riviera and the city of Nice.



Traditional Maltese fishing boats

27 Day Tour Itinerary



Days 1 – 2 Australia – Malta Fly Emirates to Malta via Dubai. (D)
Day 3 Malta Visit the beautiful Barraca Gardens for superb views of Valetta's Grand Harbour. Later head south to the cities of Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea. (BLD)
Day 4 Malta Enjoy a day excursion to Malta's sister island of Gozo. (BLD)
Day 5 Malta Visit Mdina, the old capital of Malta. Afterwards head to Rabat and walk around the narrow winding roads to St Paul's catacombs and the grotto. (BLD)
Day 6 Malta – Pozzallo – Taormina Catch the ferry to Pozzallo then drive to Sicily's most picturesque town, Taormina. (LD)
Day 7 Taormina – Mt Etna Board 4WD vehicles and drive to the base of Mount Etna. Visit the Thieves Cave, the extinct craters of Sartorius Mounts and the lava flow of the 2002 eruption. (BLD)
Day 8 Taormina – Agrigento Drive to the town of Piazza Amerina and explore the famous Villa Romana del Casale. After lunch continue south to Agrigento. (BLD)
Day 9 Agrigento Visit Sicily's oldest historic site, the Valley of the Temples – one of the greatest legacies of ancient Greece. (BLD)
Day 10 Agrigento – Palermo Drive to Marsala, the famous wine-growing region of Sicily. After lunch at the famous Donafugarta winery, continue to the bustling Sicilian capital of Palermo. (BLD)
Day 11 Palermo Enjoy a full day exploring historic Palermo. (BLD)
Day 12 Palermo Drive to Monreale and visit the magnificent cathedral built in the 12th century by William II, the Norman ruler of Sicily. (BLD)
Day 13 Palermo – Cagliari Continue exploring Palermo. Later board a ferry for the overnight journey to Sardinia. (BL)
Days 14 – 15 Cagliari Begin to explore the medieval Sardinian town of Cagliari. Visit the lagoons and bird sanctuaries, home to a vast flamingo colony. (BLD)

Day 16 Cagliari – Alghero Drive north to the small village of Barumini and explore Sardinia's largest Nuraghe. Afterwards continue to Alghero. (BLD)
Day 17 Alghero – Capo Caccia Visit the wonderful and rugged Capo Caccia with its impressive cliffs. Take a boat to the famous cave, Grotta di Nettuno. (BLD)
Day 18 Alghero – Palau Drive to the small port village of Palau and enjoy a boat ride to the island of Maddalena. (BLD)
Day 19 Palau – Bonifacio Board a ferry to Corsica and the medieval town of Bonifacio with its imposing limestone cliffs. (BLD)
Day 20 Bonifacio Explore the Alta Rocca mountain range, the backbone of Corsica. Visit the mountain village of Sainte Lucie de Tallano and the ancient settlements of Sartene and Pianu de Levie. (BLD)
Day 21 Bonifacio – Ajaccio Drive to Ajaccio, capital of Corsica and the island's largest city. Visit Napoleon's house and the beautiful harbour area. (BLD)
Day 22 Ajaccio – Gulf of Porto Visit the Gulf of Porto – famous for its extraordinary natural beauty and the dolphins and seals that thrive here. (BLD)
Day 23 Ajaccio – Bastia Travel on the narrow-gauge railway to Bastia through some of the most breathtaking scenery on the island. (BLD)
Day 24 Bastia Depart for Cape Corse – famous for its rugged peaks, olive orchards, vineyards, remote bays and quaint fishing villages. (BLD)
Day 25 Bastia – Nice Take the ferry to Nice and the French mainland. (B)
Days 26 – 27 Nice – Australia In the afternoon transfer to the airport for the Emirates flight home via Dubai. (B)



Valley of Temples Agrigento, Sicily



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

MALTA Visit to Mdina, Malta's ancient walled capital. Day trip to Malta's delightful sister island, Gozo. St Paul's catacombs and grotto at Rabat.

SICILY Three-night stay at the beautiful town of Taormina. 4WD tour to the base of Mt Etna. Visit to the historic Valley of the Temples.

SARDINIA Visit to the lagoons and bird sanctuaries at Cagliari. Boat ride to the underground caves at Capo Caccia. The Nuraghic village at Barumini.

CORSICA Two-night stay at the medieval cliff-top town of Bonifacio. Spectacular narrow-gauge rail-journey from Ajaccio to Bastia. Visit to Cape Corse, famous for its 'Genoese' towers.

TOUR DATES

2017 08 May – 03 Jun
 2018 07 May – 02 Jun

COST

From \$17,750
 Single Supp: \$3,550

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 庚庚庚

Cliff-top houses, Bonifacio, Corsica



Valetta street, Malta





Soul of the Balkans

Mostar Bridge, Bosnia

Soul of the Balkans This unique itinerary takes us to a fascinating and little-visited area of Europe. We begin with an exclusive week-long cruise along Croatia's beautiful Dalmatian coast from Dubrovnik to Split. We then head to the amazing Bosnian 'bridge town' of Mostar, and on to Sarajevo, a city steeped in history. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand here in 1914 triggered World War I. From there we cross the magnificent Dinaric Alps into Montenegro before heading to fascinating Kosovo, which since 2008 has been recognised as an independent country, by all except Serbia. Travelling further south we enter Macedonia and the Ottoman city of Skopje, before visiting stunning Lake Ohrid. We then cross into mysterious Albania, a fitting finale to this spectacular tour.



Dubrovnik, Croatia

25 Day Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Australia – Singapore – Frankfurt Fly Singapore Airlines to Frankfurt

Day 2 Frankfurt – Dubrovnik Transfer to our cruise ship, MS Emanuel. With just 18 cabins, Emanuel is the perfect size for visiting the small ports and coastal towns of the Adriatic. **(D)**

Day 3 Dubrovnik Explore Dubrovnik, the 'Pearl of the Adriatic' including its magnificent medieval city wall. **(BLD)**

Day 4 Dubrovnik – Mljet – Korcula Set sail from Dubrovnik and arrive at the island of Mljet. Enjoy a delightful walk to the two lakes. Mid-afternoon set sail for Korcula. **(BLD)**

Day 5 Korcula Explore Korcula – a typical medieval walled Dalmatian town reputed to be the birthplace of the great explorer, Marco Polo. **(BLD)**

Day 6 Vis Sail to the most westerly of the larger Croatian Islands, Vis, where Marshall Tito directed his partisans from a secret cave in which he worked and slept. **(BLD)**

Day 7 Vis – Hvar Arrive at the island of Hvar, recently voted one of the world's 10 most beautiful islands. **(BLD)**

Day 8 Hvar – Split Arrive in Split, the second-largest city in Croatia and a UNESCO World Heritage site. **(BLD)**

Day 9 Split Visit the nearby town of Trogir with its serpentine medieval streets and imposing Kamerlengo Fortress. Return to Split and explore the ancient buildings within the walls of Diocletian's Palace. **(BLD)**

Day 10 Split – Mostar Drive to Medjugorje, world famous since 1981 for the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Later depart for nearby Mostar. **(BLD)**

Day 11 Mostar – Sarajevo Pass through the beautiful mountainous scenery of the Dinaric Alps before arriving in Sarajevo. **(BLD)**

Day 12 Sarajevo Explore Butmir Tunnel Museum, the Olympic Stadium and 'Bascarsija', the pedestrian street. **(BLD)**

Day 13 Sarajevo – Kolasin Drive from the Sarajevo valley up to the mountains. Cross the border into Montenegro and continue to Kolasin. **(BLD)**

Days 14 – 15 Kolasin Explore the Bjelasic and Biogradska Gora mountains and the beautiful national park. Full day excursion to the Tara River Gorge and an exciting raft ride through the magnificent scenery of Durmitor National Park. **(BLD)**

Day 16 Kolasin – Skopje Cross the border into Kosovo. After lunch in Pristina, drive into Macedonia and continue to the capital, Skopje. **(BLD)**

Day 17 Skopje City tour of the 2,500-year-old Skopje with its varied architecture and mix of cultures. **(BLD)**

Day 18 Skopje – Ohrid Leave Skopje and head to Bitola, Macedonia's second city with a bustling centre. Enjoy a walking tour before driving to Ohrid. **(BLD)**

Day 19 Ohrid Explore the sublime lakeside town of Ohrid, thought to be among the oldest human settlements in Europe. **(BLD)**

Day 20 Ohrid – Elbesan – Berat Leave Ohrid and cross the Albanian border to the Ottoman city of Elbasan with its 15th Century fortress. Later continue to UNESCO-listed Berat – the 'town of a thousand windows'. **(BLD)**

Day 21 Berat – Durres – Tirana Drive to Durres, Albania's vital port city on the Adriatic Sea. Visit the amazing amphitheatre before continuing to Tirana. **(BLD)**

Days 22 – 23 Tirana Explore Tirana – a lovely city of parks and striking architecture. Enjoy a cable car ride to the top of Mount Dajti. Visit the medieval town of Kruje and its 15th century castle. **(BLD)**

Day 24 – 25 Tirana – Istanbul – Singapore – Australia Fly back to Australia via Istanbul and Singapore.



Sveti Naum, Lake Ohrid, Macedonia



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

CROATIA Explore the historic city walls of Dubrovnik. Exclusive eight-night cruise on a small ship along the Dalmatian Coast. Visit the island of Vis, Tito's HQ during WWII. Lunch at Korcula's beautiful Lumbarda winery. Visit to Diocletian's Palace in Split.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA Dinner under the stunning floodlit Mostar Bridge. Scenic drive through the Dinaric Alps.

MONTENEGRO 4WD tour through the Biogradska Mountains. Exclusive BBQ by the shores of Biogradsko Lake.

MACEDONIA Two-night stay in the heart of Skopje. Two-night stay at beautiful Lake Ohrid.

ALBANIA Visit the magnificent Roman amphitheatre at Durres. Cable car ride to the top of Mount Dajti. Visit the UNESCO-listed town of Berat.

TOUR DATES

2017 28 Jun – 22 Jul

COST

From \$16,350
Single Supp: \$4,200

(Price based on twin-share lower-deck. Upgrade to main deck \$550pp twin-share.)

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL

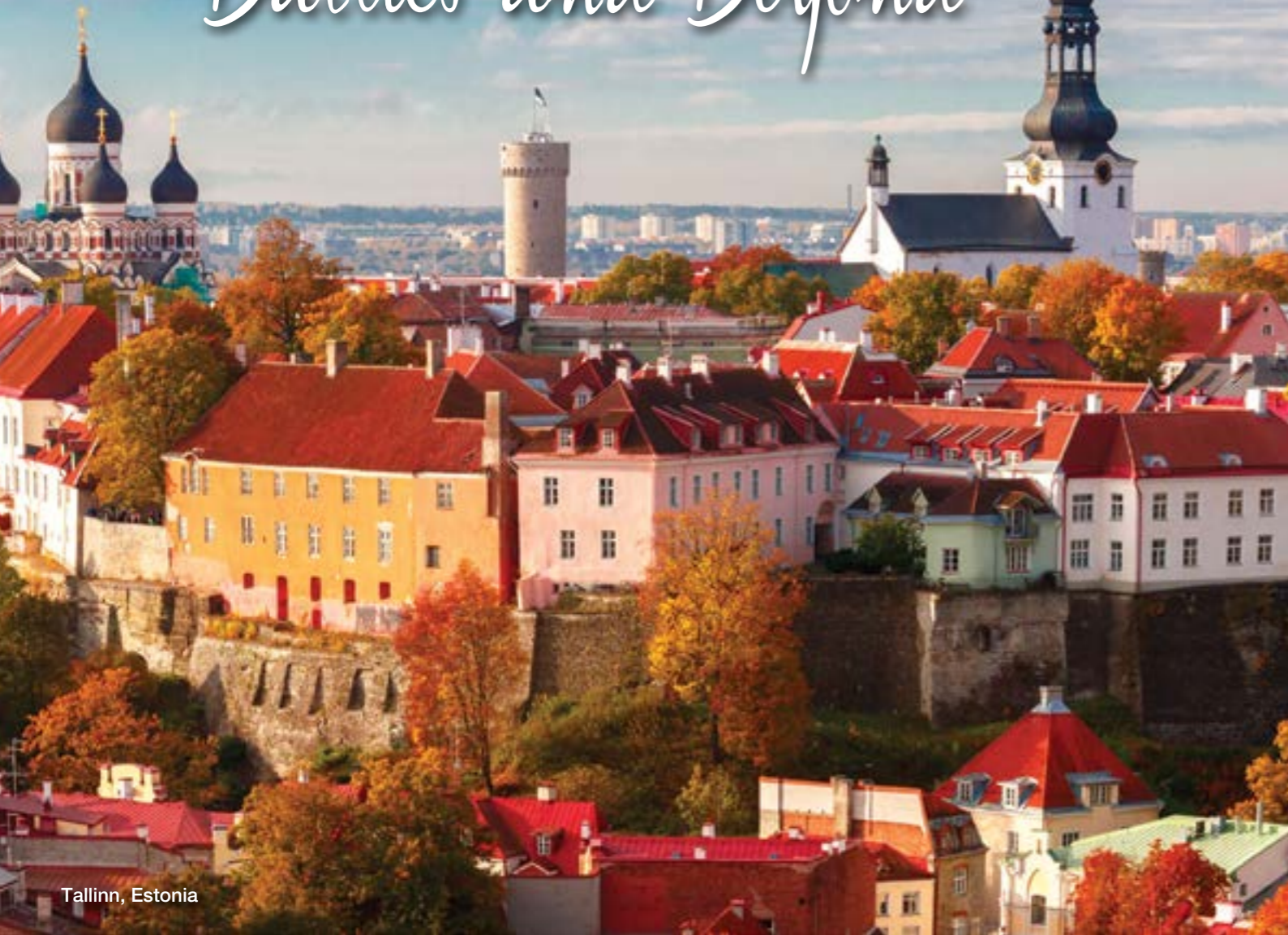


MS Emanuel moored at Split



Town of 1,000 windows, Berat, Albania

Baltics and Beyond



Tallinn, Estonia

Baltics and Beyond Plunge into this unexplored pocket of Europe for an unforgettable journey through ancient and modern history, stunning architecture and astounding natural beauty. We begin with eight days in the beautiful Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, before crossing to Belarus, a wonderful time-capsule still steeped in Soviet traditions. Crossing the border into Poland, we head for the magnificent Masurian Lake District, where thousands of lakes shimmer in the shadow of majestic forests. It was here, deep in the forest, that Hitler built his extensive military complex – the Wolf’s Lair – and we visit the derelict bunkers and buildings for an extraordinary walk through the history books. We enjoy multiple-night stays in the beautiful cities of Gdansk, Wroclaw and Krakow, before hitting the Chopin trail in Warsaw. This foray into Undiscovered Europe is a must for anyone with a passing interest in ancient and modern history.



The Hill of Crosses, Lithuania

29 Day Tour Itinerary



Days 1 – 2 Australia – Dubai – Stockholm Fly Emirates to Stockholm via Dubai. **(D)**
Day 3 Stockholm – Tallinn Enjoy a walking tour of Stockholm. Later board the overnight ferry for Tallinn. **(BLD)**
Days 4 – 5 Tallinn Explore the ancient cobbled streets and medieval buildings of Tallinn. Visit Kadriorg Palace and look down on Tallinn from the Patkul lookout point. **(BLD)**
Day 6 Tallinn – Riga Drive south to the Latvian capital, Riga, visiting beautiful Gauja National Park and the magnificent medieval Turaida Castle en-route. **(BLD)**
Day 7 Riga Take a walking tour of Riga, renowned for its magnificent art nouveau buildings. **(BLD)**
Day 8 Riga – Jurmala After breakfast visit the spa resort town of Jurmala, famous for its mineral springs, quiet streets and distinctive wooden houses. **(BLD)**
Day 9 Riga – Vilnius Leave Riga and drive south to Lithuania. Visit Rundale Palace and the fascinating Hill of Crosses en-route to Vilnius. **(BLD)**
Day 10 Vilnius Explore the heritage-listed Old Town of Vilnius. In the afternoon visit the KGB Museum. **(BLD)**
Day 11 Vilnius – Trakai Drive to Lithuania’s ancient capital, Trakai. Visit the 15th Century Trakai Castle, located on an island amongst the lakes. **(BLD)**
Day 12 Vilnius – Minsk Drive to Minsk, the capital of Belarus. In the afternoon enjoy a city tour. **(BLD)**
Day 13 Minsk Enjoy a full-day excursion to the ‘Stalin Line’ 35km from Minsk. **(BLD)**
Day 14 Minsk Visit the forests and village of Lolua just outside of Minsk. **(BL)**
Day 15 Minsk – Masurian Lake District Travel to the Belarus-Poland border and continue to the magnificent Masurian Lake District. **(BLD)**

Days 16 – 17 Masurian Lake District Visit Adolf Hitler’s extraordinary eastern headquarters – the Wolf’s Lair – deep within the Masurian Forest. Explore the unspoilt canals and channels of the Lake District by boat. **(BLD)**
Day 18 Masurian Lake District – Gdansk After breakfast drive west to the shipyard town of Gdansk, birthplace of Lech Walesa’s Solidarity movement. **(BLD)**
Day 19 Gdansk Explore the city, known as the ‘Pearl of the North’. Walk down Long Street to magnificent Artus Court and Neptune’s Fountain. **(BLD)**
Day 20 Gdansk – Wroclaw Drive south to Wroclaw, stopping at the extraordinary Gothic town of Torun en-route. **(BLD)**
Day 21 Wroclaw Enjoy a walking tour of Wroclaw – an undiscovered gem of Lower Silesia – with its fascinating architecture and beautiful rivers and bridges. **(BLD)**
Day 22 Wroclaw – Auschwitz – Krakow Drive to the largest Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz, where more than a million people died during WW2. Later drive to one of the most beautiful cities in Europe – Krakow. **(BLD)**
Days 23 – 24 Krakow Explore the pedestrianised Old Town. Visit the 700-year-old salt mine at Wieliczka – a labyrinthine underground city with amazing structures carved from salt. **(BLD)**
Day 25 Krakow – Warsaw Travel to the Polish capital, Warsaw, a UNESCO World Heritage city on the Vistula River. **(BLD)**
Days 26 – 27 Warsaw Walk the medieval city walls to the Market Square. Visit the Jewish Cemetery and memorial. Embark on the ‘Chopin trail’ to the house where the great composer lived and the Holy Cross Church which has an urn containing his heart. **(BLD)**
Days 28 – 29 Warsaw – Dubai – Australia Fly Emirates back to Australia via Dubai. **(B)**



Trakai Castle, Lithuania

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

ESTONIA Dinner in a medieval castle.

LATVIA Visit to magnificent Turaida Castle in Gauja National Park. Explore the art nouveau buildings of Riga.

LITHUANIA Hot-air balloon ride over Vilnius. Boat ride to the island castle of Trakai.

BELARUS Excursion to the defensive fortification of the ‘Stalin Line’.

POLAND Three-night stay at the Masurian Lake District. Visit to ‘The Wolf’s Lair’, Hitler’s hidden bunker-city. Two-night stays in Gdansk, Wroclaw and Krakow. Visit to Auschwitz concentration camp. Exclusive Chopin piano recital.

TOUR DATES

2017 12 Jun - 10 Jul

COST

From \$16,450
Single Supp: \$3,400

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎虎



Masurian lakes district, Poland

MEALS KEY: **B** Breakfast **L** Lunch **D** Dinner

Easy 虎 Moderate 虎虎 Active 虎虎虎



Mozambique, Zanzibar & The Great Migration

Wildebeest migration

Mozambique, Zanzibar and the Great Migration - takes us from the vibrant cultural mix of Mozambique and Zanzibar, to the scenic beauty and perhaps the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth in Tanzania. We begin in Mozambique, a little visited country that still moves to centuries-old rhythms of its African, Arabic, Indian and Portuguese influences. We then move to the endless plains of East Africa, a stage that hosts an annual migration of 1.5 million animals. It is a veritable natural film set in the Serengeti, in which 1.4 million wildebeest and 200,000 zebra and gazelle, travel in a clockwise movement, for nearly 3,000kms each year in search of rain ripened grass. We descend into the Ngorongoro Crater, an area of stunning beauty and one of the oldest wildlife sanctuaries in the world before flying directly to the spice island of Zanzibar and its UNESCO capital, Stone Town. Join us on our brand new tour to this remarkable pocket of Africa!



Tufo Dancers, Mozambique



Serengeti sunset



19 Day Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Australia – Johannesburg

Fly South African Airlines to Johannesburg.

Day 2 Johannesburg – Maputo On arrival in Maputo we transfer to our hotel. **(D)**

Days 3 – 4 Maputo Take a city tour of Maputo including the old town, known as Baixa. Enjoy an exclusive dinner with local musicians in the city's cultural heart, the Mafalala district. Cross by ferry to Catembe village where the pace of life is slow and relaxed, and enjoy amazing views of the Maputo skyline on the return journey. **(BLD)**

Day 5 Maputo – Nampula – Mozambique Island Early morning, fly to Nampula then drive 180km to Mozambique Island (Ilha de Mozambique), the oldest settlement in East Africa, noted for its Portuguese colonial architecture. **(BLD)**

Day 6 Mozambique Island After breakfast we enjoy a boat ride around the entire perimeter of the island. Later explore the streets and colonial architecture on foot. **(BLD)**

Day 7 Mozambique Island – Nampula – Arusha Leaving Mozambique Island we drive back to Nampula for the flight to Arusha via Dar Es Salaam. **(BD)**

Days 8 – 9 Arusha – Ngorongoro Crater Drive on good roads to the great Ngorongoro Crater, an area of immense beauty in the shadow of Mt Kilimanjaro. The crater was formed 2.5 million years ago when a volcano collapsed, and today it is more than 600 metres deep and covers an area of 260 square kilometres. Enjoy spectacular game-viewing as we travel across the floor of the great crater. **(BLD)**

Days 10 – 11 Ngorongoro – Serengeti National Park Pass through the Ngorongoro conservation area and continue across vast savannah plains where massive herds of wildebeest, zebra,

gazelle, buffalo, elephant and giraffe roam. Enjoy spectacular game viewing in this remarkable wildlife sanctuary. **(BLD)**

Day 12 Serengeti National Park – Grumeti Region Leaving behind the treeless savannah plains we head west to the Grumeti River area with its huge population of crocodile and hippo. **(BLD)**

Days 13 – 14 Grumeti Located on the riverbank our camp is ideally positioned for sightings of river crossings. Even without the migration there is a staggering density of wildlife here. We also see herds of buffalo and elephant, as well as massive lion prides and hyena clans. **(BLD)**

Day 15 Grumeti – Arusha – Zanzibar After breakfast transfer to the airstrip for our flight to Arusha and onward flight to Zanzibar. **(BD)**

Days 16 – 17 Zanzibar The capital of Zanzibar, Stone Town, is a place of winding alleys, bustling bazaars, mosques and grand Arab houses. Enjoy a full walking tour of this amazing settlement. Visit the remarkable spice plantations which flourish on the island. **(BLD)**

Day 18 Zanzibar – Dar Es Salaam – Johannesburg Transfer to the airport for our flight to Australia via Dar Es Salaam and Johannesburg. **(B)**

Day 19 Today we arrive back in Australia.



Zebras, Ngorongoro

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

MOZAMBIQUE Visit Maputo's cultural heart, the Mafalala district. Exclusive dinner with local musicians. Two-night stay on the World Heritage-listed Mozambique Island. Complete circuit of the island by boat.

TANZANIA Spectacular game-viewing at the Ngorongoro Crater. Multiple-night stays in Serengeti National Park. See massive herds of wildebeest and zebra. Sensational game-viewing in the Serengeti. Three-night stay at the Grumeti River area of western Serengeti.

ZANZIBAR Extensive tour of Stone Town. Visit to a spice plantation.

TOUR DATES

2017 02 Jun – 20 Jun

COST

From \$17,650
Single Supp: \$2,695

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎虎

The great migration depends on the rains in Africa. It varies from year to year and is not possible to predict precisely. However, the Ngorongoro Conservation area and Serengeti National Park have a staggering density of wildlife year-round. You will experience a thrilling wildlife adventure!



Namibia: Masterpiece of Nature

Red dunes in the Namib Desert

Namibia: Masterpiece of Nature Often referred to as ‘The land God made in anger’, Namibia is a country of starkly contrasting landscapes, from the gigantic sand dunes of the mighty Namib Desert to the wild Skeleton Coast – graveyard to numerous shipwrecks and home to the unique desert-adapted elephant. In the north we visit Etosha National Park with its shimmering salt-pan and abundance of wildlife, and Epupa, one of Namibia’s prime tourist destinations, famous for its cascading waterfalls and richly-coloured rock walls. We explore the coastal resort town of Swakopmund, and the capital Windhoek, both characterised by their German colonial architecture, and visit a settlement of the native Himba people. We invite you to join us on a remarkable tour to this extraordinary corner of Africa!



Cheetah at Okonjima



Game at a waterhole, Etosha



25 Day Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Australia – Johannesburg Fly from Australia to Johannesburg.

Day 2 Johannesburg – Windhoek Early morning board our flight to Windhoek.

Enjoy a city tour, including the National Botanical Gardens and the Old Fort. **(LD)**

Days 3 - 4 Windhoek – Okonjima Drive north to Okonjima, home of the Africat Foundation – an organisation committed to the long term conservation of Namibia’s large carnivores. Activities include leopard tracking by vehicle and cheetah tracking on foot. **(BLD)**

Day 5 Okonjima – Etosha This morning continue north to the world famous Etosha National Park. Enjoy an afternoon game drive before returning to our lodge for dinner. **(BLD)**

Days 6 – 7 Etosha Explore the park which is home to 114 species of mammals, several of which are rare and endangered, and 340 species of birds, of which one third are migratory. **(BLD)**

Day 8 Etosha – Ondangwa Travel through the park en-route to Ondangwa. Visit a traditional village of the Ovambo people and learn about their customs and lifestyle. **(BLD)**

Day 9 Ondangwa – Ruacana Today we head towards the Kunene River which forms the border with Angola. Early evening enjoy a sundowner cruise on the river. **(BLD)**

Days 10 – 11 Epupa Falls Drive eastwards to Epupa, one of Namibia’s prime tourist destinations, with its beautiful cascades and richly coloured rock walls. Visit one of the many scattered Himba settlements. **(BLD)**

Day 12 Epupa Falls – Sesfontein Head south through the Kunene Region to Sesfontein which derives its name from the six fountains in the vicinity. **(BLD)**

Days 13 – 15 Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp Drive to Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp, which straddles the Palmwag area and the iconic Skeleton Coast National



Himba boy



Rock carving, Twyfelfontein

Park. Enjoy nature drives and walks in search of the desert-adapted elephant, lion and black rhino. **(BLD)**

Days 16 – 17 Twyfelfontein Area Begin our exploration of UNESCO World Heritage-listed Twyfelfontein. See the 6000-year-old rock engravings and visit the Burnt Mountains and the Organ Pipes – a distinctive series of pillars that have been exposed by erosion. **(BLD)**

Day 18 Twyfelfontein – Swakopmund After breakfast begin the drive to the coastal resort town of Swakopmund. **(BLD)**

Days 19 – 20 Swakopmund Enjoy the ‘Living Desert’ tour and the dolphin cruise out of Walvis Bay. Explore the town which is famous for its hand-crafted jewellery, leather goods and German style cafes. **(BLD)**

Day 21 Swakopmund – Sossusvlei Travel south to Sesriem Canyon in the Namib Naukluft Park. See the top attraction in the park, Sossusvlei, which is renowned for its majestic star shaped dunes. **(BLD)**

Day 22 Sossusvlei Area Drive through the desert plains to see ostrich, springbok and black-backed jackal. Late afternoon drive to the Sesriem Canyon, home to Hartman’s mountain zebra, klipspringer and baboons. **(BLD)**

Day 23 Sossusvlei – Windhoek Today we head back to Windhoek and enjoy a farewell dinner. **(BLD)**

Days 24 – 25 Windhoek – Johannesburg – Australia After breakfast depart for the airport and board our flight to Johannesburg and onward connecting flights. **(B)**

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- » Leopard and cheetah tracking at Okonjima.
- » Two-night stay at Etosha National Park.
- » Visit the Ovambo people at Ongula Village.
- » Sundowner cruise at Ruacana.
- » Visit to a Himba settlement at Epupa.
- » Three-night stay at Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp.
- » See the desert-adapted elephant and black rhino at Damaraland.
- » Explore Namibia’s World Heritage site of Twyfelfontein.
- » See the gigantic star-shaped dunes at Sossusvlei.

TOUR DATES

2017 31 Mar – 24 Apr
2018 30 Mar – 23 Apr

COST

From \$15,990
Single Supp: \$3,395

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎虎



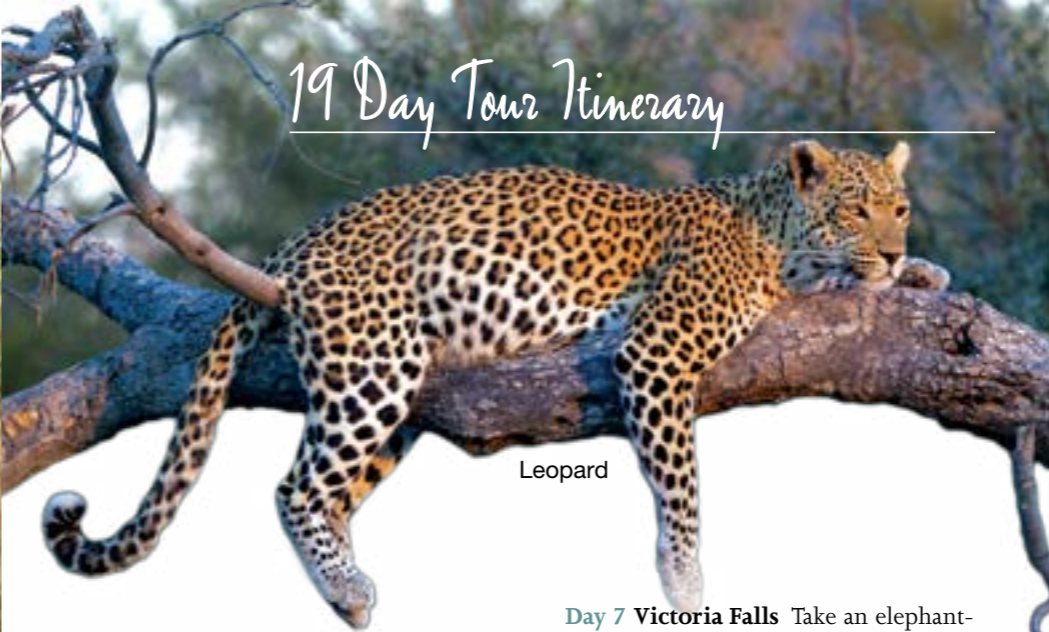
Southern African Magic

Elephant in the reeds, Botswana

Southern Africa is a remarkable safari experience, beginning in Hwange National Park – home to 30,000 elephants as well as giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, leopard and lion. A short drive then takes us to one of the seven natural Wonders of the World, Victoria Falls – the largest curtain of falling water on earth. In Botswana we stay two nights at magnificent Chobe National Park, before heading for the magical land of the Okavango Delta. Here we explore a labyrinth of water channels, rich in amazing and diverse wildlife. Finally, we head to the vibrant city of Cape Town, which nestles beneath the great Table Mountain. This is an extraordinary tour that will excite anyone who loves nature and wildlife.



Yellow-billed storks



Leopard

Day 1 Australia – Johannesburg Fly South African Airlines to Johannesburg.

Day 2 Johannesburg – Victoria Falls On arrival in Victoria Falls we transfer to our lodge. (LD)

Day 3 Victoria Falls – Hwange National Park Transfer to Hwange National Park and The Hide – our home for the next three nights. It is a wonderful resort with its own waterhole where elephant, giraffe and zebra come to drink. (BLD)

Day 4 Hwange National Park Hwange National Park is one of the world's greatest game reserves with great numbers of buffalo, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, and more than 30,000 elephants. Enjoy early morning and evening game drives. (BLD)

Day 5 Hwange National Park Experience late-night game drives by spotlight to see nocturnal small cats and mammals. Also view animals from just a few metres away in fully-enclosed hides at our lodge. (BLD)

Day 6 Hwange National Park – Victoria Falls Take a short drive to Victoria Falls – one of the Wonders of the World. At nearly two km wide they form the largest curtain of falling water in the world and we view them by air and on foot. (BLD)



Lion at a waterhole, Hwange

Day 7 Victoria Falls Take an elephant-back safari at Wild Horizons. In the evening enjoy a sundowner cruise on the Zambezi. (BLD)

Day 8 Victoria Falls Today is at leisure to enjoy the fascinating town and huge markets at Victoria Falls. (BLD)

Day 9 Victoria Falls – Chobe Take a short drive to Botswana and transfer to Chobe National Park. It is world-renowned for its big game viewing including lion, leopard, kudu and hippo. (BLD)

Day 10 Chobe Enjoy an early-morning game drive to try and locate the big cats after their overnight activity. In the afternoon we have the choice of another game drive or a boat safari on the Chobe River. (BLD)

Day 11 Chobe – Okavango Delta This morning we take a private charter flight to the Okavango Delta. Our camp is on the banks of the River Khwai, on the edge of the magnificent Moremi Wildlife Reserve. (BLD)

Day 12 Okavango Delta Start the day with an early-morning game drive. In the afternoon experienced 'polers' guide us through the maze of watery channels by Mokoro (dug-out canoe). (BLD)

Day 13 Okavango Delta Another magical day of game viewing in the Okavango Delta, or if you prefer, a day relaxing at our exquisite camp. (BLD)

Day 14 Okavango Delta – Cape Town After breakfast, board our flight to Cape Town via Johannesburg. (BLD)

Day 15 Cape Town Travel by cable car to the top of majestic Table Mountain, which dominates the city and affords spectacular views from the summit. (BLD)

Day 16 Cape Town Enjoy a full-day tour to the Cape Peninsula. Visit Simon's Town, a historic settlement well-known for its marine life including whales, penguins and seals. (BLD)

Day 17 Cape Town Explore South Africa's fertile valleys, world-famous for producing fine wines. (BLD)

Days 18 – 19 Cape Town – Johannesburg – Australia The morning is at leisure. In the afternoon we transfer to the airport for our homeward journey. (BL)

19 Day Tour Itinerary



Kudu at waterhole

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

ZIMBABWE Helicopter flight over Victoria Falls. Elephant ride at Wild Horizons. Dinner by a waterhole while elephants bathe. Sundowner cruise on the Zambezi.

BOTSWANA Three-night stay at the spectacular Okavango Delta. Mokoro boat ride on the delta. Two-night stay at the beautiful Chobe Bush Lodge.

SOUTH AFRICA Cable car ride to the top of Table Mountain. Scenic drive to the Cape of Good Hope. Visit to Nelson Mandela's prison cell on Robben Island.

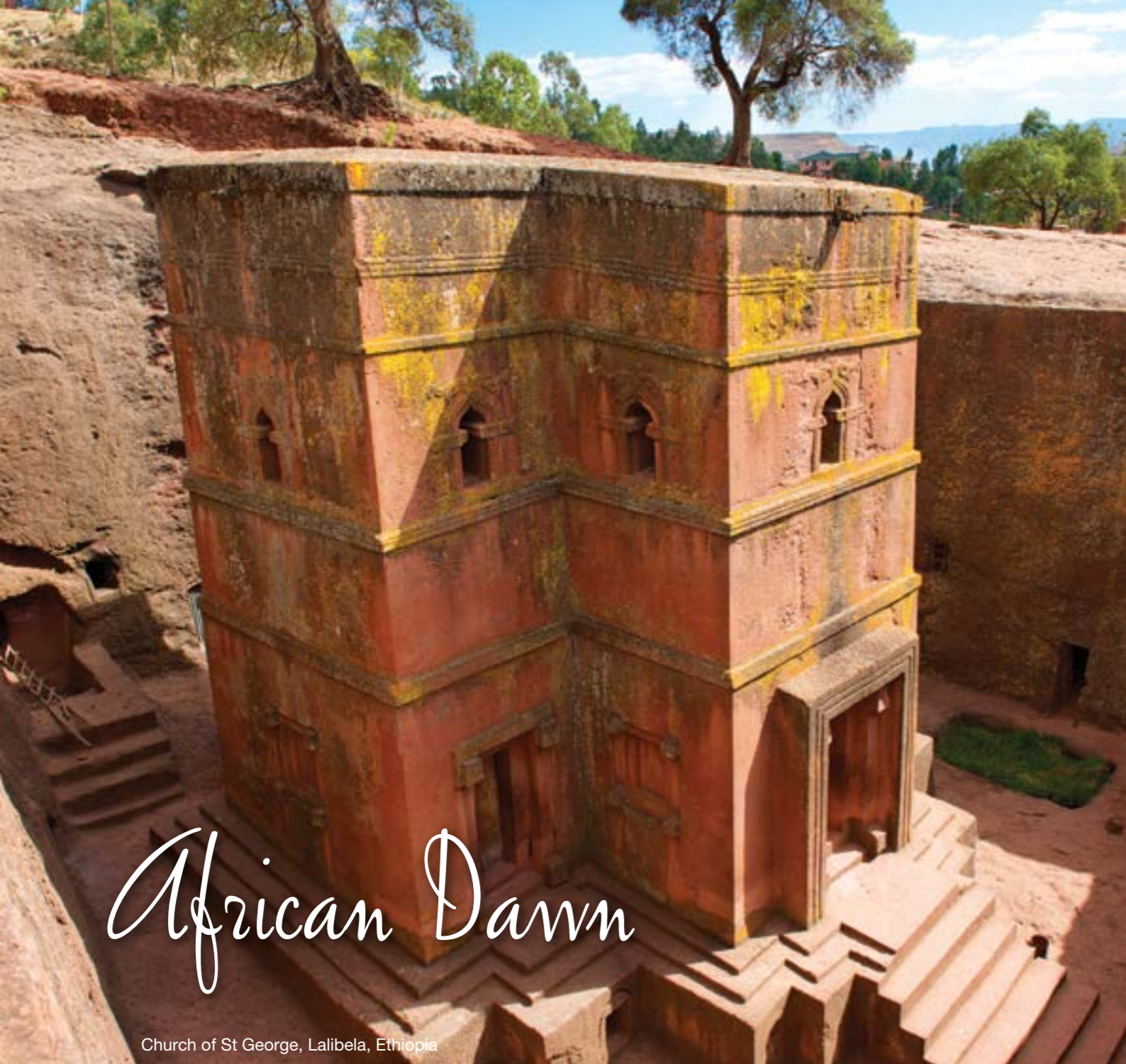
TOUR DATES

2017 25 Aug – 12 Sep

COST

From \$15,050
Single Supp: \$3,400

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎虎



African Dawn

Church of St George, Lalibela, Ethiopia

African Dawn Imagine an adventure that starts with the thrill of visiting Lake Victoria and the source of the River Nile. The tour continues across the 'Mountains of the Moon' and on to one of the great wildlife parks in Africa, Queen Elizabeth National Park. We then cross the border into Rwanda and head to magnificent rainforests - home of the rare mountain gorilla. We take a trek on the slopes of an extinct volcano to see these great creatures in their natural habitat. The next leg of our journey brings us to Ethiopia for arguably one of the most amazing festivals in the world - Timkat - which celebrates the Baptism of Christ. Remarkable rock-hewn churches and medieval castles provide a spectacular finale to a truly extraordinary adventure!



Lake Bunyonyi, Uganda

28 Day Tour Itinerary



Days 1 – 2 Australia – Dubai – Entebbe Fly to Uganda via Dubai. Transfer to Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, situated on the banks of Lake Victoria. **(D)**

Day 3 Kampala Enjoy a city tour including the theatre and markets. **(BLD)**

Day 4 Kampala – Jinja Drive to Jinja and board a boat to the source of the Nile. Lunch is a picnic beside a memorial to John Hanning Speke at the spot where he first saw the Nile. **(BLD)**

Day 5 Lake Victoria – Fort Portal Drive to Fort Portal and the famous Mountains of the Moon, (Rwenzori Mountains). En-route see chimpanzees in the wild. **(BLD)**

Day 6 Fort Portal – Queen Elizabeth National Park Cross the Equator and enter Queen Elizabeth National Park. **(BLD)**

Day 7 Queen Elizabeth National Park Enjoy an early sunrise game drive. Later take a boat ride to see the diverse animal and bird life of the Kazinga Channel. **(BLD)**

Day 8 Queen Elizabeth National Park – Kabale Depart for the border town of Kabale, passing through coffee and banana plantations. **(BLD)**

Day 9 Kabale Travel to magnificent Lake Bunyonyi and enjoy a boat ride to some of its beautiful islands. **(BLD)**

Day 10 Kabale – Ruhengeri Cross the border into 'the Switzerland of Africa'. Shortly afterwards arrive at the town of Ruhengeri on the edge of the Virunga Mountains. **(BLD)**

Day 11 Ruhengeri Enter the Parc National des Volcans, home to the magnificent mountain gorillas. Walk through the cultivated foothills of the mountains to reach our gorilla family. **(BLD)**

Day 12 Ruhengeri – Kigali Drive south to the Rwandan capital, Kigali. **(BLD)**

Day 13 Kigali Enjoy a walking tour of the delightful Rwandan capital. **(BLD)**

Day 14 Kigali – Addis Ababa Further explore Kigali before boarding an afternoon flight to Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia. **(BLD)**

Day 15 Addis Ababa Today is the start of the Timkat Festival, celebrating the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River. Thousands of worshippers, all veiled in white, dance and sing in the streets to the beating of drums. **(BLD)**

Day 16 Addis Ababa Today the Arc of the Covenant is paraded in a great procession to a pool of water where priests in satin robes celebrate a communal service. Thousands of joyous people throng to the area waiting for a drop of holy water which priests spray into the crowd. It is a truly remarkable spectacle. **(BLD)**

Day 17 Addis Ababa – Bahir Dar Fly to Bahir Dar and transfer to the shores of Lake Tana, the largest lake in Ethiopia. Later visit the Blue Nile Falls. **(BLD)**

Day 18 Bahir Dar Today we take a boat ride to the famous island monasteries of Lake Tana. In the afternoon we visit local villages and the colourful markets. **(BLD)**

Day 19 Bahir Dar – Gondar After breakfast we begin a leisurely drive north towards the fabled highland city of Gondar, popularly known as 'Ethiopia's Camelot'. **(BLD)**

Day 20 Gondar Gondar was founded by Emperor Fasilidas around 1635. The city is famous for its stunning medieval castles and beautiful churches. Today we explore these amazing sites. **(BLD)**

Day 21 Gondar – Simien Mountains Today we visit the beautiful Simien Mountains. Soaring 4,000m high peaks, canyons and gorges combine to produce a startling wilderness. **(BLD)**

Day 22 Gondar – Axum After breakfast we begin our drive north through deep canyons and high plateaus to Axum, the holiest city in Ethiopia, arriving mid-afternoon. **(BLD)**

Days 23 – 24 Axum Visit the Queen of Sheba palace and Stele Park, where mysterious obelisks have stood since the 3rd century. Take a day trip to the spectacular Adwa Mountains just outside Axum. **(BLD)**

Day 25 Axum – Lalibela Fly to Lalibela, famous for its 1,000-year-old churches chiselled out of solid red volcanic rock. This afternoon visit the first group of churches. **(BLD)**

Day 26 Lalibela Further explore the churches including the magnificent rock-hewn Bet Giyorgis, the 'House of St George'. **(BLD)**

Days 27 – 28 Lalibela – Addis Ababa – Dubai – Australia Fly back to Australia via Addis Ababa and Dubai. **(B)**



Gorilla, Virunga Mountains, Rwanda

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

UGANDA Three-night stay at magnificent Speke Resort on the shores of Lake Victoria. Picnic at the source of the Nile. See chimpanzees in the wild.

RWANDA Visit to the rare mountain gorillas of the Virungas. Exclusive dinner at Hotel Rwanda.

ETHIOPIA The spectacular Timkat 'Baptism of Christ' Festival. Visit to the island monasteries of Lake Tana. Exclusive bonfire party inside Gondar Castle. Visit to the spectacular rock-hewn churches of Lalibela.

TOUR DATES

2017 04 Jan – 31 Jan
2018 04 Jan – 31 Jan

COST

From \$19,950
Single Supp: \$3,435

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 庚庚庚



Ugandan school children



Pearls of the Indian Ocean

Baobab trees, Madagascar

Mauritius, Reunion and Madagascar - three incredible islands located in the sparkling Indian Ocean just eight and a half hours flying time from Western Australia. Our adventure begins in Mauritius where we stay at the idyllic Sands Resort and Spar at Flic en Flac. Next we fly to Reunion, an island of exquisite waterfalls, mountains, canyons, and lively Creole villages - all lying in the shadow of Piton de la Fournaise, one of the most active volcanoes in the world. But perhaps the most spectacular 'pearl' is Madagascar. This unique island is endowed with an astonishing variety of flora and fauna, resulting from millions of years of evolution. We enjoy 14 days visiting the pristine national parks, spectacular highlands and diverse wildlife of this extraordinary island, even getting close up and personal with its most famous inhabitants, the lemurs!



Ifaty, Madagascar



Lemur, Madagascar



22 Day Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Australia – Mauritius Fly to Mauritius via Perth. **(D)**

Days 2 – 3 Mauritius Visit the capital Port Louis, the Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousse and the Sugar Museum. See the geological formation of the Seven Coloured Earths at Chamarel. **(BLD)**

Day 4 Mauritius – Reunion Island Fly to Reunion. **(BLD)**

Day 5 Reunion Island Depart for Piton de la Fournaise, one of the world's most active volcanoes. **(BLD)**

Day 6 Reunion Island Set out for Reunion's incredible natural wonder, the Cirque de Cilaos, with its magnificent waterfalls. Later explore a typical village. **(BLD)**

Day 7 Reunion – Antananarivo Fly to the capital of Madagascar, Antananarivo, affectionately known as 'Tana'. **(BLD)**

Day 8 Antananarivo Drive to the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Summer Palace of Ambohimanga. In the afternoon take a city tour in Citroen cars. **(BLD)**

Day 9 Antananarivo – Antsirabe Drive south to Antsirabe, passing through typically beautiful highland country. **(BLD)**

Day 10 Antsirabe Tour Antsirabe by rickshaw, visiting a miniature toy factory and a zebu (ox) horn workshop. **(BLD)**

Day 11 Antsirabe – Ranomafana Drive further south to the woodcarving town of Ambositra. Enter the Ranomafana National Park and follow the Namorona River to our hotel. **(BLD)**

Day 12 Ranomafana Visit the rainforest at Ranomafana, home to a dazzling array of reptiles and lemurs, including the golden bamboo lemur. **(BLD)**

Day 13 Ranomafana – Ambalavao Continue driving south through the highlands to reach the lovely town of Ambalavao where we visit the Zebu market. **(BLD)**

Day 14 Ambalavao – Isalo Drive to the Anja National Park, home to more than 300 ring-tailed lemur, the national animal of Madagascar. Continue to the fringes of Isalo National Park. **(BLD)**

Day 15 Isalo National Park Explore Isalo National Park which is characterised by vast eroded sandstone formations and is home to a brilliant array of flora. **(BLD)**

Day 16 Isalo – Ifaty Start our journey to the southwest of the island. **(BLD)**

Day 17 Ifaty Visit the fascinating village of Ambolimalaka and meet fishermen and local Vezo people who inhabit this part of the island. **(BLD)**

Day 18 Ifaty – Tulear – Antananarivo – Andasibe Fly to Tana and transfer to Andasibe. Visit Lemur Island and interact with the five species of semi-tame lemurs living here. **(BLD)**

Day 19 Andasibe Visit Analamazaotra – home to the largest lemur in the world, the Indri. It has no tail and walks on two legs. **(BLD)**

Day 20 Andasibe – Antananarivo This morning we return to Antananarivo and in the afternoon visit the superb curio market. **(BLD)**

Days 21 – 22 Antananarivo – Mauritius – Perth After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our journey back to Australia. **(B)**



Malagasy woman

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

MAURITIUS Visit the Seven Coloured Earths at Chamarel. Sunset dinner cruise. Explore the Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousse.

REUNION Excursion to Piton de la Fournaise. The magnificent scenery of Cirque de Cilaos.

MADAGASCAR City tour of Antananarivo in Citroen cars. Exclusive candle-lit dinner amidst ancient Baobab trees. Visit to Ranomafana National Park, home of the Golden Bamboo lemur. Enjoy close interaction with lemurs on Lemur Island.

TOUR DATES

2017 07 May – 28 May
2018 06 May – 27 May

COST

From \$13,450
Single Supp: \$2,450

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎虎



Seven Coloured Earth, Chamarel



Colourful street , Guatapé, Colombia

South America: The Top End

South America: The Top End is Travel Directors most daring foray into the great continent. This journey to little-visited destinations offers utterly pristine jungles, an abundance of flora and fauna, the world's highest waterfall, and the rich culture of Colombia – a country that is a secret waiting to be discovered. We begin in French Guiana where the cultures of France and the Caribbean meet exotic South America. Crossing into the Dutch colony of Suriname we explore remote villages that still cling to their African roots. In Guyana we visit what is arguably the most pristine rainforest in the world, before travelling onto Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, and venturing upriver to magnificent Angel Falls. From Venezuela we head to Colombia, a country that has emerged from a violent past into one of the most staggering destinations in Latin America. Here we discover the previously impenetrable colonial wonders of Salento, Medellín and Cartagena. Join us on a magnificent journey to the top end of South America!



Hat stall, Medellín, Colombia

30 Day Tour Itinerary

Days 1 – 2 Australia – Singapore – Paris Fly Singapore Airlines to Paris. On arrival at Charles De Gaulle transfer to Orly and our hotel. The afternoon is at leisure. **(LD)**

Day 3 Paris – Cayenne Fly to Cayenne. On arrival transfer to the hotel. **(BD)**

Day 4 Cayenne Take a city tour of the capital of French Guiana, with its narrow streets, shuttered windows and bustling marketplace. **(BLD)**

Day 5 Cayenne – Kourou Drive to Kourou and board a boat to Devil's Island, the prison island that is famously described in the book 'Papillon'. **(BLD)**

Day 6 Kourou – Paramaribo Visit the Ariane Space Centre – an amazing high-tech complex in the jungle 500km north of the equator. Later cross the border into Suriname and the capital, Paramaribo. **(BLD)**

Days 7 – 8 Paramaribo – Santigrón – Paramaribo Begin a walking tour of Paramaribo including the main square, Presidential Palace, and waterfront area. Take a day trip to the village of Santigrón whose inhabitants are descendants of 18th century runaway slaves. **(BLD)**

Day 9 Paramaribo – Georgetown After breakfast we transfer to the airport for the short flight to Georgetown, capital of Guyana. On arrival embark on a city tour. **(BLD)**

Day 10 Georgetown – Kaieteur Falls Board our charter flight for the short trip to Kaieteur Falls. Walk through the pristine Iwokrama Forest, with its magnificent bird life, to the falls. **(BLD)**

Day 11 Kaieteur Falls – Turtle Mountain – Kaieteur Falls Take a boat to the foot of Turtle Mountain. Climb 290m to the summit for spectacular views over the rainforest canopy. **(BLD)**

Day 12 Kaieteur Falls – Sloth Island – Georgetown Fly to Bartica and transfer across the Essequibo River to Sloth Island. After our visit return to Georgetown. **(BLD)**

Days 13 – 14 Georgetown – Port of Spain Make the short flight to the capital of Trinidad and Tobago – Port of Spain – the cultural melting pot of the Caribbean. Stroll through the Botanical Gardens and Independence Square, and drive an entire circuit of the island of Trinidad. **(BLD)**

Day 15 Port of Spain – Caracas Early this morning fly to Caracas, capital of Venezuela. Enjoy a city tour including Plaza Bolívar, Caracas Cathedral, and the Government Palace. Later take a cable car to the top of the Avila Mountain range for magnificent views. **(BLD)**

Days 16 – 17 Caracas – Canaima – Angel Falls Fly to Canaima and take a boat to the Canaima Lagoon. See the ancient rock formations, the 'tepuys'. Take a boat upriver and begin the hike to Angel Falls, the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall. Later return to our lodge at Canaima. **(BLD)**



Day 18 Canaima – Caracas After a leisurely morning take a charter flight to Puerto Ordaz and connect with the flight to Caracas. **(BD)**

Day 19 Caracas – Bogota Fly to Bogotá, capital of Colombia. Take a cable car to the top of Cerro de Monserrate for astonishing views of the city and the Andes beyond. **(BD)**

Day 20 Bogotá Discover the cultural epicentre of Bogotá, La Candelaria, with its cobbled streets and neat rows of colourful houses. **(BLD)**

Day 21 Bogotá – Armenia – Salento Board our plane for the hour-long flight to Armenia. On arrival transfer to the small town of Salento. Later take a tour of a coffee plantation. **(BLD)**

Day 22 Salento This morning walk through the beautiful Valle de Cocora, home to massive palms and beautiful hummingbirds. Later explore the town of Salento. **(BLD)**

Days 23 – 24 Salento – Medellín Begin the spectacular drive to Medellín through precipitous terraces of coffee and banana plantations. Cross the Rio Cauca and continue to Medellín. Explore the 'City of Eternal Spring' including the historic quarter and its beautiful parks and plazas. **(BLD)**

Day 25 Medellín – Guatapé – Medellín Drive to Guatapé, one of Colombia's most picturesque towns, characterised by the decorative painting on the houses. Explore the town and later head to El Penon rock, a monolithic formation standing 2,100 metres above sea level. **(BLD)**

Days 26 – 27 Medellín – Cartagena This morning fly to Cartagena, a jewel in the crown of the Caribbean. Explore the delightful old town – a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit the Castle of San Felipe de Barajas outside the walled city and enjoy some free time in this colonial gem. **(BLD)**

Day 28 Cartagena – Bogotá – Paris After breakfast transfer to the airport for the flight to Paris via Bogotá. **(B)**

Days 29 – 30 Paris – Singapore – Australia Fly home to Australia via Singapore.



Cock of the Rock, Guyana

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

FRENCH GUIANA Visit to the Ariane Space Centre. Explore the old island prison, Devil's Island.

SURINAME Three-night stay in exotic Paramaribo. Visit to the former slave village of Santigrón.

GUYANA Two-night stay in Iwokrama Forest. See the beautiful Kaieteur Falls. Climb to the summit of Turtle Mountain. Visit to Sloth Island.

VENEZUELA Cable car ride to the top of the Avila Mountain range. Two-night stay at Canaima National Park. Day trip to magnificent Angel Falls.

COLOMBIA Two-night stay in Bogotá's historic district, La Canalaria. Visit to a working coffee plantation. Two-night stays in spectacular Medellín and Cartagena. Day trip to the town and lake of Guatapé.

TOUR DATES

2017 03 Nov - 02 Dec

COST

From \$19,790
Single Supp: \$3,560

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 庚庚庚

Essential South America



Machu Picchu, Peru

South America South America is perhaps the world's most exciting continent. Steeped in history, culture and awe-inspiring scenery it is a continent of superlatives – boasting the largest jungle, the longest river, the widest waterfalls and the longest mountain chain in the world. Our spectacular tour begins in the capital of Peru, Lima, before spending three days in the Amazon jungle reaching areas that are seldom visited by explorers, let alone tourists! Next we explore Cusco, the Sacred Valley and the lost city of the Incas, Machu Picchu, before heading to the world's highest navigable lake, Titicaca. From the extraordinary Bolivian city of La Paz we fly to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's most exciting city, lying in the shadow of the mighty statue of Christ the Redeemer, before spending two nights at spectacular Iguassu Falls. Our momentous tour concludes in the exciting Argentinian city of Buenos Aires – birthplace of tango.



La Boca district, Buenos Aires

31 Day Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Australia – Lima Fly from your preferred capital city to Sydney, then connect with the flight to Lima via Santiago. **(D)**

Day 2 Lima Explore the 'City of Kings', before lunch at a magnificent restaurant on a pier in the Pacific Ocean! Later visit the bohemian district of Barranco. **(BL)**

Day 3 Lima – Iquitos – Amazon Fly to Iquitos and transfer by boat to the Amazon Basin. Visit the Manatees Rescue Centre and in the evening, enjoy a boat trip by torchlight. **(BLD)**

Day 4 Amazon Jungle Enjoy magnificent views of the jungle canopy from the aerial walkway. Travel by boat to a remote jungle settlement. **(BLD)**

Day 5 Amazon – Iquitos After lunch return to Iquitos and in the evening enjoy a special dinner at Al Frio y al Fuego floating restaurant. **(BLD)**

Day 6 Iquitos – Lima – Cusco – Sacred Valley Fly to Cusco via Lima. On arrival enjoy home-made coca tea and delicious empanadas at the house of our tour leader's mum! Later transfer to the Sacred Valley of the Incas. **(BLD)**

Days 7 – 8 Sacred Valley Visit the stunning Inca ruins at Ollantaytambo and the market at Pisac. Drive high up into the mountains to visit a remote Andean community and enjoy lunch with the local people. **(BL)**

Day 9 Sacred Valley – Machu Picchu Take the train from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu. On arrival visit the spectacular ruins of the 'Lost City of the Incas'. **(BL)**

Day 10 Machu Picchu – Cusco Today we have a second opportunity to see Machu Picchu – at sunrise. After lunch take the train back to Cusco. **(BL)**

Day 11 Cusco Enjoy an extensive tour of the ancient Inca capital including the Temple of the Sun, San Pedro market and the remarkably well-preserved site of Sacsayhuaman. **(BL)**

Day 12 Cusco Today is totally at leisure to explore the narrow laneways, stairways and back streets of Cusco. **(BD)**

Day 13 Cusco – Lake Titicaca Drive across the Andes through magnificent La Raya pass (4,300 m) before reaching the shores of Lake Titicaca at Puno. **(BL)**

Day 14 Lake Titicaca Take a boat ride on Lake Titicaca to the famous floating reed islands, home of the Los Uros Indians. **(BL)**

Day 15 Lake Titicaca – Sun Island Cross the border into Bolivia and set sail for Isla de Sol, 'Sun Island', on Lake Titicaca. **(BLD)**

Day 16 Sun Island – La Paz Explore the beautiful northern part of Sun Island and its archaeological site 'Chincana'. Later drive to La Paz. **(BL)**

Days 17 – 18 La Paz Explore the highest capital city in the world, including Plaza de Armas and Moon Valley. Enjoy a full day excursion to the amazing pre-Incan ruins

of Tiahuanaco. Later enjoy some traditional Bolivian hospitality! **(BLD)**

Day 19 La Paz – Rio de Janeiro Transfer to the airport for our flight to Rio via Sao Paulo. **(BD)**

Day 20 Rio de Janeiro Take a funicular to Corcovado Mountain and the statue of Christ the Redeemer. Later visit the Santa Teresa district. **(BL)**

Days 21 – 22 Rio de Janeiro After breakfast take a cable car to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain for spectacular views of Rio. In the evening attend a dazzling samba show. Tour the famous favelas or slum areas in open-topped jeeps. **(BD)**

Days 23 – 24 Rio de Janeiro – Iguassu Falls Fly to Iguassu Falls and transfer to our hotel situated right inside the national park overlooking the falls. Explore the Brazilian side of the falls and take a thrilling speedboat ride on the Iguassu River through the rapids to the base of the cascades. **(BL)**

Day 25 Iguassu Falls – Buenos Aires Explore the Argentinian side of the falls via bridges and walkways for incredible views of the 'Devil's Throat'. Later fly to Buenos Aires. **(BD)**

Day 26 Buenos Aires Day excursion to an 'estancia' for a day of fun and superb horsemanship, courtesy of the local gauchos. **(BL)**

Day 27 Buenos Aires Enjoy a city tour including the Casa Rosada (Pink House), Recoleta Cemetery, and the famous La Boca district. **(BD)**

Day 28 Buenos Aires Travel through glorious countryside to the beautiful River Plate delta. **(BL)**

Day 29 Buenos Aires – Santiago In the afternoon transfer to the airport for the flight to Santiago. **(BL)**

Days 30 – 31 Santiago – Australia Cross the International Date Line en-route to Sydney.



Christ the Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Peruvian weaving

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

PERU Three-night stay in the Amazon rainforest. Visit to a remote Andean community. Overnight stay at Machu Picchu. Visit to floating reed islands, Lake Titicaca.

BOLIVIA Overnight stay on Sun Island, Lake Titicaca. Stunning folk show in La Paz. Lunch with local family at Tiahuanaco.

BRAZIL Dazzling samba show in Rio. Private tour to the famous Rio favelas. Spectacular helicopter flight over Iguassu Falls.

ARGENTINA Horsemanship display by local gauchos. Visit to La Boca and San Telmo districts. Day trip to the River Plate Delta. Vibrant tango show with dinner.

TOUR DATES

2017 04 Apr – 04 May

03 Oct – 02 Nov

2018 03 Apr – 03 May

(Also departs 04 Oct 2016.

Limited space. Call for details.)

COST

From \$19,950

Single Supp: \$3,640

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎虎

Treasures of Central America

Toucan, Costa Rica

Central America There are few parts of the world that offer such diversity as awe-inspiring Central America. Our superb itinerary features four countries in the region: Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala. Panama is the starting point for this tour with a boat cruise along the Panama Canal. Next stop is Costa Rica with its erupting volcanoes, spectacular wildlife and primeval cloud forest of Monteverde. But perhaps the jewel in the crown of this sparkling tour is Guatemala. We visit when the colourful Easter processions take place in Antigua, before heading for the shores of magnificent Lake Atitlan. Crossing the border into Honduras, we visit Copan, one of the most spectacular centres in the Mayan world, before returning to Guatemala to continue our journey north to the Rio Dulce and Livingston, and finally the mighty ruins of Tikal. This remarkable journey is an eclectic mix of breathtaking natural beauty, ancient heritage sites and diverse cultural experiences.



Poas Volcano, Costa Rica

29 Day Tour Itinerary

- Day 1 Australia – Los Angeles** Fly to Los Angeles. **(D)**
- Day 2 Los Angeles** Today is entirely at leisure in Los Angeles. **(B)**
- Day 3 Los Angeles – Panama City** Fly to Panama City. **(BD)**
- Days 4–6 Panama City** See the major highlights and enjoy a cruise on the Panama Canal through Miraflores and Pedro Miguel locks. Take a ride on the Panama Canal Railway. Visit a community of the Embera Indians. **(BLD)**
- Day 7 Panama City – San Jose** Fly to San Jose, capital of Costa Rica. Visit the famous Poas Volcano, La Paz Waterfall Gardens and the world's largest butterfly observatory. **(BLD)**
- Day 8 San Jose – Tortuguero** Drive to the Tortuguero National Park. Later, enjoy a twilight river safari. **(BLD)**
- Day 9 Tortuguero** Further explore the national park which is home to hundreds of endangered or threatened species of birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. **(BLD)**
- Day 10 Tortuguero – La Fortuna** Cross Lake Arenal and continue by road to the town of La Fortuna, in the shadow of the mighty Arenal Volcano. **(BLD)**
- Day 11 La Fortuna** The Arenal is one of the world's most active volcanoes. Today we explore the area thoroughly and may even see the volcano erupt. **(BLD)**
- Day 12 La Fortuna – Monteverde** Cross Lake Arenal to Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve - one of the most outstanding wildlife sanctuaries in the Americas. **(BLD)**
- Day 13 Monteverde** Enjoy a guided tour through the Cloud Forest and take the famous skywalk tour through the lush forest canopy. **(BLD)**
- Day 14 Monteverde – San Jose** Visit the Selvatura Park where bridges above the trees allow fantastic views of the Cloud Forest. Later travel to San Jose. **(BLD)**
- Day 15 San Jose – Antigua** Fly to Guatemala City and transfer to Antigua. **(BLD)**
- Day 16 Antigua** The build-up to Easter begins two weeks prior and today we see a magnificent procession through the narrow streets. **(BLD)**
- Day 17 Antigua** Visit local villages - famous for textiles and wood carvings, and the Maya Traditions Museum. **(BLD)**
- Day 18 Antigua – Lake Atitlan** Drive to Comalapa and explore the market and the famous primitive painting galleries before continuing to Lake Atitlan. **(BLD)**
- Day 19 Lake Atitlan** Enjoy a cruise on Lake Atitlan, visiting some of the villages on its shores. **(BLD)**
- Day 20 Lake Atitlan – Guatemala City** Drive to Guatemala City via the town of Chichicastenango, which hosts a vibrant and colourful market. **(BLD)**
- Day 21 Guatemala City – Copan** Cross the border into Honduras and head to the



- beautiful colonial town of Copan. Visit the Macaw Mountain bird park. **(BLD)**
- Day 22 Copan** Today we fully explore Copan, one of the most spectacular centres of the Mayan world, built around the fifth century AD. **(BLD)**
- Day 23 Copan – Rio Dulce** Cross back into Guatemala and travel to Rio Dulce. **(BLD)**
- Day 24 Rio Dulce – Livingston – Tikal** Take a boat to the jungle settlement of Livingston, then head north to Tikal. **(BLD)**
- Day 25 Tikal** Visit the magnificent Mayan city of Tikal – a sprawling complex of more than 3,000 structures deep in the heart of the jungle. **(BLD)**
- Day 26 Tikal – Flores – Guatemala City** This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to Guatemala City. **(BLD)**
- Days 27–28 Guatemala City – Panama – Los Angeles** Fly to Los Angeles via Panama City. On arrival in Los Angeles, connect with the flight to Australia. **(B)**
- Day 29** Arrive in Australia.



Antigua, Guatemala



Dancer, Panama City



Tikal temple, Guatemala

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- PANAMA** Boat cruise on the Panama Canal. Ride on the world's first Trans-Continental railway. Visit to a remote Indian community.
- COSTA RICA** Visit to the primeval Cloud Forest of Monteverde. Two-night stay in the jungle at Tortuguero. Visit to the finest hummingbird garden in the world.
- GUATEMALA** BBQ on the shores of beautiful Lake Atitlan. The extraordinary Easter parade in Antigua. Day trip to the Mayan ruins of Tikal.
- HONDURAS** Evening at the house of David Sedat, the archaeologist who discovered the site of Copan.

TOUR DATES

- 2017 18 Mar – 15 Apr
- 2018 03 Mar – 31 Mar

COST

- From \$17,990
- Single Supp: \$3,580

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎



Cuba and Mexico

Cuban ladies

Cuba and Mexico There's no time like the present to visit Cuba – a remarkable destination almost trapped in a time-warp. But for how long? With US-Cuba relations thawing after more than 50 years in the cold, the window of opportunity to visit this fascinating country before it changes, is closing. Our exhilarating 26-day tour begins in Mexico where we visit the ancient jungle ruins of Palenque and the other great Mayan site, Chichen Itza, as well as the delightful towns of San Cristobal and Merida, and the seaside resort of Cancun. Then it's on to Cuba. Unlike many tours to this remarkable destination, we cover the entire island from Pinar del Rio and the enchanting capital, Havana, to Santiago de Cuba at the country's eastern tip. En-route we take in Che Guevara's adopted hometown, Santa Clara, the fabulous World Heritage-listed town of Trinidad, the Bay of Pigs, and one of Cuba's glittering gems, Cienfuegos.



Cathedral, Havana

26 Day Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Sydney – Los Angeles – Mexico City Fly to Los Angeles via Sydney. Connect with the flight to Mexico City. Crossing the International Date Line, arrive in Mexico City the same day. **(D)**

Days 2 – 3 Mexico City Enjoy a full day sightseeing in the world's largest city. Drive to the ancient Aztec city of Teotihuacan, the site of the huge Pyramids of the Sun and Moon. **(BLD)**

Day 4 Mexico City – Tuxtla – San Cristobal Transfer to the airport for the flight to Tuxtla Gutierrez. Drive to the Sumidero Canyon for an exhilarating powerboat ride on the Rio Grijalva. Continue to the colonial town of San Cristobal. **(BLD)**

Day 5 San Cristobal Explore the Tzotzil and Tzeltal Indian villages. Visit a family workshop and see the locals working on exquisite embroidered garments. **(BLD)**

Day 6 San Cristobal – Palenque Drive to San Cristobal via the beautiful waterfalls of Agua Azul. **(BLD)**

Day 7 Palenque – Villahermosa – Merida Visit the magnificent and well-preserved Mayan site of Palenque. Later drive to Villahermosa for the short flight to Merida. **(BLD)**

Day 8 Merida Enjoy a city tour of Merida, famous for its colonial architecture and fine Panama hats. **(BLD)**

Day 9 Merida – Chichen Itza – Cancun Travel through the Yucatan Peninsula and visit the stunning Mayan ruins at Chichen Itza. Later drive to Cancun. **(BLD)**

Day 10 Cancun Today is a full day at leisure in this beautiful Mexican coastal town. **(BD)**

Day 11 Cancun – Havana After a relaxing morning transfer to the airport for the flight to Cuba. **(BD)**

Day 12 Havana Explore old Havana visiting Plaza de Armas and the cathedral. Later tour the new part of the city in 1950s American cars. **(BLD)**

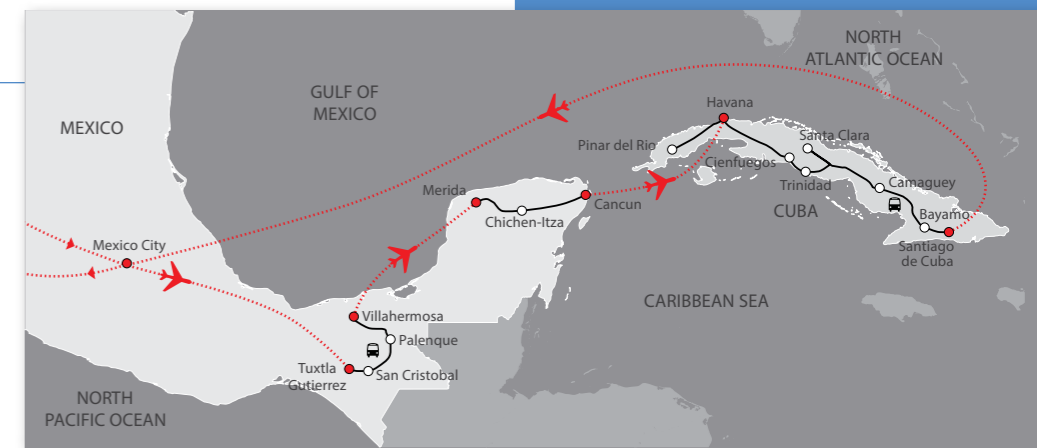
Day 13 Havana – Pinar del Rio – Havana Drive to the finest tobacco-growing area in the world – Pinar del Rio. Visit a cigar factory and meet the workers. **(BLD)**

Day 14 Havana Head out of central Havana to the fishing village of Cojimar, where Ernest Hemingway lived and wrote his famous novel 'The Old Man and the Sea'. **(BLD)**

Day 15 Havana – Bay of Pigs – Cienfuegos Drive to Cienfuegos via the Bay of Pigs – famous for the ill-fated invasion of American-backed Cuban exiles in April 1961. **(BLD)**

Day 16 Cienfuegos – Trinidad Explore Cienfuegos, one of the glittering gems of Cuba. After lunch travel through vast sugar plantations and mountainous countryside to Trinidad. **(BLD)**

Day 17 Trinidad Enjoy a walking tour of Cuba's most remarkable colonial city. **(BLD)**



Day 18 Trinidad – Santa Clara – Camaguey Drive into the Guanayara Reserve, rich in flora and fauna. After lunch at a cattle farm, continue through the mountains to Santa Clara. Tour Che Guevara's adopted city before heading south to Camaguey. **(BLD)**

Day 19 Camaguey – Bayamo Today we drive to Bayamo, birthplace of Cuban independence. **(BLD)**

Day 20 Bayamo – Santiago de Cuba After breakfast journey south to one of the most beautiful cities in the Caribbean, Santiago de Cuba – known as the home of rum and revolution! **(BLD)**

Day 21 Santiago de Cuba Explore the city including the magnificent Morro Castle on the cliffs overlooking Santiago Bay. Visit El Cobre, the most important shrine for Cubans. **(BLD)**

Day 22 Santiago de Cuba – Havana This morning we fly back to Havana. The afternoon is free to soak up the atmosphere of Havana. **(BLD)**

Day 23 Havana – Mexico City – Los Angeles After a morning at leisure in Havana we transfer to the airport for the flight to Los Angeles. **(B)**

Day 24 Los Angeles Today we take a city tour of Los Angeles before an evening transfer to the airport for our homeward flight. **(B)**

Days 25 – 26 Los Angeles – Australia Fly home to Australia crossing the International Date Line.



Colourful cars Havana, Cuba

Church domes, Mexico City



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

MEXICO Exhilarating jet boat ride through the towering Sumidero Canyon. Visit to the greatest Aztec ruins in the world, Teotihuacan. Fun-filled dinner with an Indian family in the mountain town of San Cristobal las Casas. The stunning Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza. The great jungle ruins of Palenque.

CUBA Tour of Havana in classic 1950s American cars. Dinner at Ernest Hemingway's favourite restaurant in Havana. Exclusive salsa party with a local family. 4WD tour to Guanayara Reserve. Visit to the heritage-listed colonial town of Trinidad.

TOUR DATES

2017 19 Mar – 13 Apr
05 Nov – 30 Nov
2018 18 Mar – 12 Apr
(Also departs 6 Nov 2016. Limited space. Call for details)

COST

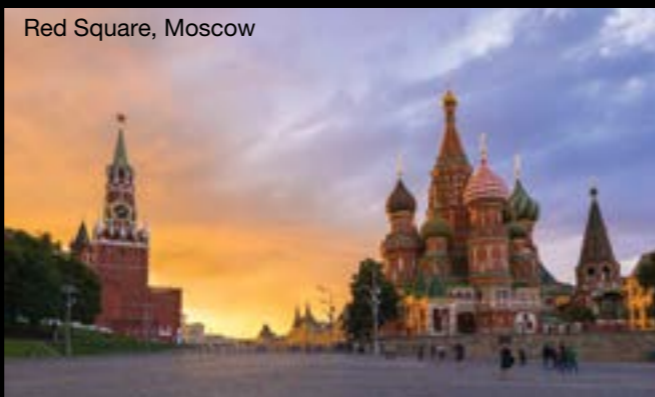
From \$14,750
Single Supp: \$3,550

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 庚庚

Epic Rail Odyssey



Epic Rail Odyssey is the ultimate rail adventure that stretches 12,589km, across the face of the earth. More than simply a rail journey, it is a spectacular adventure that transports us through vast steppes, deserts, mountain ranges and rich fertile valleys, spanning a quarter of the earth's land surface. Beginning in Moscow and travelling almost entirely by rail to Singapore, we visit seven countries and travel on a variety of long-distance trains including the incredible Urumqi – Lanzhou high speed train. En-route we enjoy stops at the desiccated shores of the Aral Sea, Kazakhstan's beautiful city of Almaty and the Chinese cities of Urumqi and Kunming, before crossing south into Indo-China and the Vietnamese capital, Hanoi. We continue on to Ho Chi Minh City, Phomh Penh, Siem Reap and Bangkok before concluding our journey in Singapore. This remarkable 34-day tour is aptly named *Epic Rail Odyssey* and is, without doubt, Travel Directors' most thrilling undertaking so far!



Red Square, Moscow

34 Day Tour Itinerary

Days 1 – 2 Australia – Singapore –

Moscow Fly Singapore Airlines to Moscow. On arrival transfer to the hotel. Later take a leisurely tour of Red Square. **(LD)**

Days 3 – 4 Moscow Enjoy a day excursion to Star City, the Cosmonaut centre where Yuri Gagarin trained for the first space flight. Experience a simulated launch and flight in a Soyuz rocket! Visit the extraordinary 'Stalin Bunker 42', located 70 metres below ground. Late evening transfer to the railway station for the journey to the Aral Sea. **(BLD)**

Days 5 – 6 On board train The train heads south and crosses into Kazakhstan. Early evening on the second day arrive at Aralsk, a former fishing port on the Aral Sea.

Day 7 Aral Sea Explore the northern part of the Aral Sea where the shoreline has been pushed back some 60km and is now characterised by the rusted ships lying in the former harbour. **(BLD)**

Day 8 Aral Sea – Almaty After breakfast board the train for the journey through the steppes to Almaty. **(B)**

Day 9 Almaty Arrive Almaty mid-afternoon and transfer to the hotel. **(D)**

Days 10 – 11 Almaty Enjoy two days exploring the beautiful city of Almaty lying in the shadow of the magnificent Tian Shan Mountains. Transfer to the train station for the journey to Urumqi. **(BLD)**

Day 12 On board train Cross the border into China and continue to Urumqi.

Day 13 Urumqi Early morning arrive in Urumqi. Explore the city that was once a major hub of the old Silk Road and is the Uighur heartland of China. **(LD)**

Day 14 Urumqi Drive to the Tian Shan Mountains and beautiful Heavenly Lake. Early evening board the Urumqi-Lanzhou high-speed train for the journey south. **(BLD)**

Days 15 – 16 On board train Skirt the Gobi Desert en-route to Gansu province. Change trains at Lanzhou and continue to Kunming.

Day 17 Kunming Mid-morning arrive Kunming and transfer to the hotel. Later begin a city tour. **(LD)**

Day 18 Kunming Explore the magical Stone Forest, a mass of strange rock formations where a vast sea receded millions of years ago. **(BLD)**

Day 19 Kunming – Hanoi After breakfast transfer to Kunming train station for the journey to Vietnam. Cross the border at Lao Cai and by mid-afternoon reach Hanoi. **(BD)**

Day 20 Hanoi The capital of Vietnam for more than 1,000 years, Hanoi is a fascinating mix of Chinese and French culture. Explore the city, including the French Quarter and Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum. **(BLD)**

Day 21 Hanoi – Ho Chi Minh City Board the celebrated 'Reunification Railway' for the journey south to Ho Chi Minh City. **(B)**

Day 22 Ho Chi Minh City Cross the 17th parallel and continue south along the coast. Late afternoon we arrive at Ho Chi Minh City. **(D)**

Days 23 – 24 Ho Chi Minh City Take a tour of this frenetic city, including Saigon Central Post Office – designed by Gustav Eiffel – and the Reunification Palace. Visit Ben Thanh Market and the incredible Cu Chi Tunnels where the Viet Cong lived during the Vietnam War. **(BLD)**

Day 25 Ho Chi Minh City – Phnom Penh Board the coach for the first of only two city-to-city drives of the tour. Early afternoon arrive into the Cambodian capital Phnomh Penh. **(BLD)**

Day 26 Phnomh Penh – Siem Reap Head up the Mekong River by speed boat passing through the vast lake of Tonle Sap and continue to Siem Reap. **(BLD)**

Day 27 Siem Reap: Angkor Wat Explore the 700-year-old temple city of Angkor Wat, often said to be the 8th wonder of the world. **(BLD)**

Day 28 Siem Reap – Aranyaprathet – Bangkok Drive the short distance to the Cambodia – Thailand border and continue on to Aranyaprathet. Board the train for Bangkok. **(BD)**

Day 29 Bangkok Enjoy a city tour of Bangkok. Visit Chinatown and the floating markets. **(BLD)**

Day 30 Bangkok – Singapore Continue exploring Bangkok. Early evening board the train for the journey to Singapore. **(BL)**

Day 31 On board train Today we arrive at the Malaysian town of Butterworth and change trains for the final journey to Singapore.

Days 32 – 33 Singapore Early morning arrive at Johor Bahru and transfer to Singapore. Explore the city including Merlion Park, Parliament House and City Hall. Enjoy a farewell dinner to celebrate the end of our momentous rail journey! **(BLD)**

Day 34 Singapore – Australia Transfer to the airport for the homeward flight. **(B)**

Day 19 Kunming – Hanoi

After breakfast transfer to Kunming train station for the journey to Vietnam. Cross the border at Lao Cai and by mid-afternoon reach Hanoi. **(BD)**

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Day 34 Singapore – Australia Transfer to the airport for the homeward flight. **(B)**



Singapore skyline

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

RUSSIA Visit the Cosmonaut training centre, Star City. Explore Stalin's bunker.

KAZAKHSTAN Two-night stay at the Aral Sea. See the rusted, beached fishing boats. Two-night stay at Almaty Cross the Tian Shan mountains by train.

CHINA Day trip to Heaven Lake in the Tian Shan Mountains. Explore the western Chinese city of Urumqi. Travel on China's newest bullet train. Explore the Kunming Stone Forest.

INDO-CHINA Two-night stay in Hanoi. Travel on the amazing Reunification Express. Three-night stay in Ho Chi Minh City. Visit to the famous Cu Chi Tunnels. Speed boat ride up the Mekong to Siem Reap. Day trip to the temple complex of Angkor Wat.

TOUR DATES

2017 09 Aug – 11 Sep

COST

From \$18,950
Single Supp: \$2,750

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎虎



Manchester to Marrakech

Jemaa el Fna, Marrakech

Manchester to Marrakech is a remarkable journey from the heart of the Industrial Revolution in England to the magnificent Atlas Mountains in Morocco. En-route we travel through spectacular scenery in England and Wales before heading to France on the high-speed Eurostar. We travel deep into 'Tour de France' country and the spectacular Pyrenees, where historic narrow-gauge steam trains allow us to visit remote valleys where no roads run. Leaving France, we cross the mountains at the southern fringes of the Pyrenees and head south through the sublime Spanish countryside and on to Gibraltar. From here we take the short journey to an entirely different world, Morocco, one of the most diverse countries in Africa. Manchester to Marrakech is a journey of nearly 6,000km through authentic and unspoiled pockets of Europe to the bustling souks of the Kasbah.

30 Day Tour Itinerary

- Day 1 Australia – Dubai** Fly Emirates to Manchester via Dubai.
- Day 2 Manchester** Spend a relaxing afternoon on a narrow boat on Manchester's canals. Later enjoy a welcome dinner at our hotel. **(D)**
- Day 3 Manchester** Tour this vibrant city, including the old docks area which is now a thriving arts hub. **(BLD)**
- Day 4 Manchester – Bangor – Caenarfon** Travel on the famous South TransPennine route to the Welsh town of Bangor. Transfer to Llanberis station for our two-hour journey on the Mt Snowdon railway for magnificent views of Snowdonia. Later continue to Caenarfon. **(BLD)**
- Day 5 Caenarfon** Explore Caenarfon Castle – one of the most impressive castles in the world – which dominates the town. **(BLD)**
- Day 6 Caenarfon – Portmeirion** Ride on the oldest independent railway in the world, Ffestiniog, a 21 kilometre railway passing through incredible scenery. **(BLD)**
- Day 7 Portmeirion – Talyllyn – Portmeirion** Board a steam train for some of the most beautiful countryside in mid-Wales. Later explore the Italianate village of Portmeirion where the 1960s TV show 'The Prisoner' was set. **(BLD)**
- Day 8 Portmeirion – London** After breakfast travel to London and check into the beautifully restored St Pancras Renaissance Hotel. **(BLD)**
- Day 9 London – Paris – Clermont-Ferrand** Board Eurostar for the journey through the Channel Tunnel to Paris. Change trains and continue into the heart of France – the Massif Central. **(BD)**
- Day 10 Clermont-Ferrand** Head out to the dormant volcanoes, which form part of the Tour de France circuit, for fantastic vistas of the mountains and back to the city. Explore the historic city centre of gothic buildings carved from volcanic rock. **(BLD)**

- Day 11 Clermont-Ferrand – Nimes – Perpignan** Leave Clermont-Ferrand and journey through the upper end of the Allier Gorge across the Massif Central and on through the Cevennes Mountains to Nimes. Change trains for the short journey to Perpignan. **(BLD)**
- Days 12 – 13 Perpignan** Travel on 'Le Train Rouge' across viaducts and through deep gorges. Enjoy one of the great railway journeys of the world – the Little Yellow Train of the Pyrenees – to Villefranche de Conflent. Explore this historic UNESCO World Heritage site before returning to Perpignan. **(BLD)**
- Day 14 Perpignan – Zaragoza** Today we leave France and head across the border into Spain and the fascinating city of Zaragoza. **(BLD)**
- Day 15 Zaragoza** Explore Zaragoza with its wealth of Baroque buildings and museums. **(BLD)**
- Day 16 Zaragoza – Valencia** Take one of the most scenic rail journeys in Spain from Zaragoza to Valencia, located on the Iberian Peninsula.
- Day 17 Valencia** Enjoy a walking tour of Valencia, renowned for its beautiful parks and eclectic mix of old and contemporary architecture. **(BLD)**
- Day 18 Valencia – Cordoba** After breakfast board a train for Cordoba and explore the medieval part of this historic city. **(BLD)**
- Day 19 Cordoba** Further explore Cordoba's plazas, hidden tree-lined courtyards and beautiful gardens. **(BLD)**
- Day 20 Cordoba – Ronda – Algeciras** Travel by train to Ronda – dramatically set above a deep ravine and surrounded by river valleys. Later make the scenic rail journey to Algeciras. **(BLD)**
- Day 21 Algeciras – Gibraltar – Algeciras** Colloquially known as 'The Rock', Gibraltar is an overseas territory of the UK. We explore this unique place with its labyrinth of secret tunnels, caves and internal roads. **(BLD)**

- Day 22 Algeciras – Tangier** Board our ferry for the 30 minute journey to Tangier, gateway to North Africa. Explore the old walled settlement and maze of medieval alleyways. **(BLD)**
- Day 23 Tangier – Fez** Today we roll through vast sunflower fields and date plantations before reaching the lower Atlas Mountains en-route to Fez. **(BLD)**
- Day 24 Fez** Spend the whole day soaking up the atmosphere of the cultural and spiritual capital of Morocco. **(BLD)**
- Day 25 Fez – Volubilis – Fez** Drive to the nearby Roman settlement of Volubilis. The spectacular countryside can be seen from all sides of the ruined site. **(BLD)**
- Day 26 Fez – Marrakech** Cross the Middle Atlas Mountains reaching the mighty frontier of the Sahara Desert. Late afternoon our train pulls into Marrakech. **(BLD)**
- Days 27 – 28 Marrakech** Explore this remarkable city, which comes to life after dark with street entertainment from dancers, fire-eaters, acrobats and snake charmers. Enjoy a picnic in Toubkal National Park – at the foot of the High Atlas Mountains. **(BLD)**
- Days 29 – 30 Marrakech – Casablanca – Australia** Drive to Casablanca and transfer to the airport for our flight back to Australia via Dubai. **(BL)**



Moroccan tajins

The Mezquita, Cordoba, Spain



Yellow Train of the Pyrenees

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

UNITED KINGDOM Travel the TransPennine line to North Wales. Visit to the 'film set' Welsh village of Portmeirion. Reach the summit of Mt Snowdon by rail.

FRANCE Two-night stay in the Volcano city of Clermont-Ferrand. Traverse the French Massif Central. Ride the Little Yellow Train through the Pyrenees.

SPAIN Multiple night stays at Zaragoza, Valencia and Cordoba. Visit to the beautiful town of Ronda. Explore Monasterio de Piedra park.

MOROCCO Multiple night stays in Fez and Marrakech. Visit to the Roman ruins at Volubilis. Picnic in the awe-inspiring High Atlas Mountains. See the snake charmers at Jemaa el Fna Square, Marrakech.

TOUR DATES

2017 08 Sep – 07 Oct

COST

From \$19,990
Single Supp: \$3,640

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎

Rail Across Europe



Steam train on the Glenfinnan Viaduct, Scotland

Rail Across Europe This sublime journey presents Great Britain and Europe from a fresh perspective: from the comfort of a railway carriage. In fact, this trip is not so much about the destination, but the journey itself and the glorious landscapes between each port of call. Europe and Great Britain are blessed with some of the most scenic and fascinating train routes in the world and this tour has been designed to take advantage of some of the greatest and most famous. Travel is first-class wherever possible and along the way we stay in famous railway hotels, many of them a throwback to the Victorian era – the golden age of railways.

St Pancras Renaissance Hotel, London



28 Day Tour Itinerary



Day 1 Australia – Dubai – Glasgow Fly Emirates to Glasgow via Dubai.
Day 2 Glasgow – Edinburgh Transfer by coach to Edinburgh and check into the opulent Balmoral Hotel. Enjoy a hearty welcome dinner in the private dining room of our hotel. **(D)**
Day 3 Edinburgh A full day at leisure to explore Edinburgh. **(BD)**
Day 4 Edinburgh – Mallaig Begin our great railway adventure with a journey through the Scottish Highlands to the Kyle of Lochalsh. Take the ferry to Mallaig for an evening of Scottish merriment! **(BD)**
Day 5 Mallaig – Edinburgh Return to Edinburgh on one of the world's most famous rail routes – the West Highland line. It's a truly magnificent trip past beautiful lochs, across stunning moorlands and over great viaducts such as the famous Glenfinnan. **(BD)**
Day 6 Edinburgh – York Embark on another famous railway journey – the Settle to Carlisle line through the Yorkshire Dales and northern Pennines to historic York. **(BD)**
Day 7 York A full day at leisure to explore this great city. **(BD)**
Day 8 York – Aberystwyth Travel through Yorkshire and the Midlands into Wales and visit the charming coastal town of Aberystwyth. **(BD)**
Day 9 Aberystwyth Board one of the 'Great Little Trains of Wales' – the Vale of Rheidol Railway. A narrow gauge steam locomotive takes us 19km up the beautiful Rheidol Valley to the remarkable Devil's Bridge. **(BD)**
Day 10 Aberystwyth – London Head back to Shrewsbury and change trains for the famous Heart of Wales Line to Swansea. Continue on the Great Western Railway to London. **(BD)**
Day 11 London Take a private guided sightseeing tour of London by luxury coach. **(BD)**
Day 12 London A full day at leisure in this vibrant capital. **(BD)**

Day 13 London – Paris Board Eurostar for the lightning-fast journey to Paris through the Channel Tunnel. **(BD)**
Day 14 Paris Enjoy a full-day sightseeing tour of 'Gay Paree' by luxury coach. **(BD)**
Day 15 Paris A full day at leisure in beautiful Paris. **(BD)**
Day 16 Paris – Zermatt Board the train for the sensational journey to beautiful Zermatt, in the shadow of the mighty Matterhorn. **(BD)**
Day 17 Zermatt A full day at leisure in Zermatt. **(BD)**
Day 18 Zermatt – St Moritz Travel on the world-famous Glacier Express through some of Switzerland's most spectacular scenery en-route to St Moritz. **(BD)**
Day 19 St Moritz A day at leisure in St Moritz. **(BD)**
Day 20 St Moritz – Vienna Leave St Moritz and cross the border into Austria. Continue to our destination, Vienna. En-route we pass through more stunning Alpine landscapes. **(BD)**
Day 21 Vienna Enjoy a half-day walking tour of Vienna. The rest of the day is at leisure. **(BD)**
Day 22 Vienna A full day at leisure to explore the city of Vienna. **(BD)**
Day 23 Vienna – Wernigerode Head for the beautiful old German town of Wernigerode, travelling on the German ICE high-speed train, which cruises at speeds of up to 300km/hr. **(BD)**
Day 24 Wernigerode Ride the famous steam train to the summit of Mt Brocken – a magnificent trip through the forest on a wonderful railway that still provides a vital link between neighbouring towns. **(BD)**
Day 25 Wernigerode A day at leisure to explore this lovely town. In the evening enjoy a farewell dinner in one of the town's best restaurants. **(BD)**
Day 26 Wernigerode – Frankfurt Catch the early afternoon train to Frankfurt airport for your Emirates flight back to Dubai. **(B)**
Days 27 – 28 Arrive in Dubai and connect with your flight home.



Scenic train ride through the Swiss Alps

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Two-night stay at Edinburgh's beautiful Balmoral railway hotel. Travel in first-class comfort on Europe's most spectacular railways. Two-night stay at the fantastic Royal York Hotel. Three-night stay at the beautifully restored St Pancras Renaissance Hotel. Three-day breaks in London, Paris and Vienna. Visit to glorious Zermatt, in the shadow of the Matterhorn. Travel through stunning mountain scenery on the world-famous Glacier Express. Three-night stay in the delightful medieval town of Wernigerode. Relive the golden age of steam on private railways in the UK and Germany.

TOUR DATES

2017 11 Jun – 08 Jul

COST

From \$16,950
Single Supp: \$3,785

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎

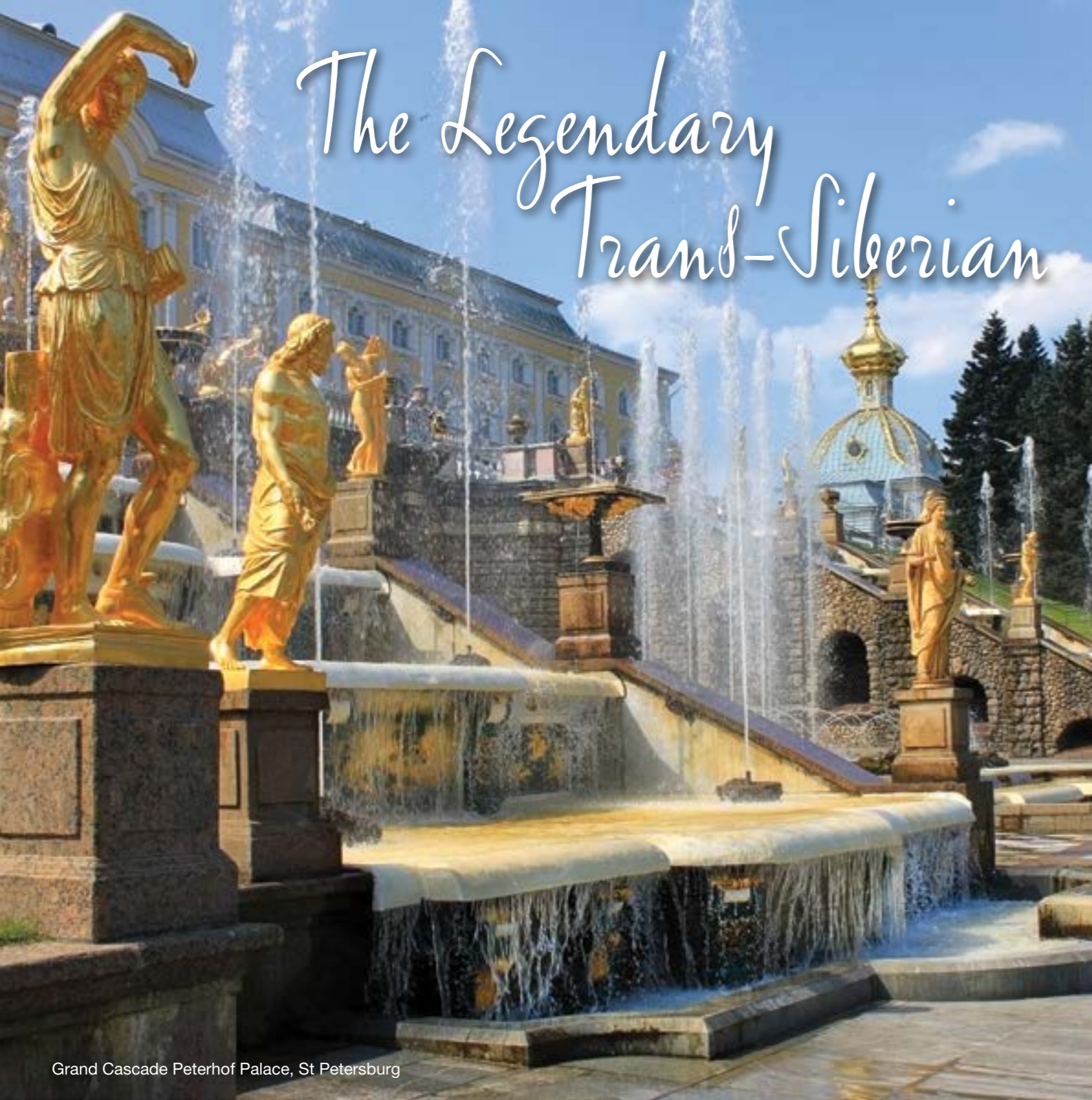
Castle at Wernigerode, Germany



MEALS KEY: **B** Breakfast **L** Lunch **D** Dinner

Easy 虎 Moderate 虎虎 Active 虎虎虎

The Legendary Trans-Siberian



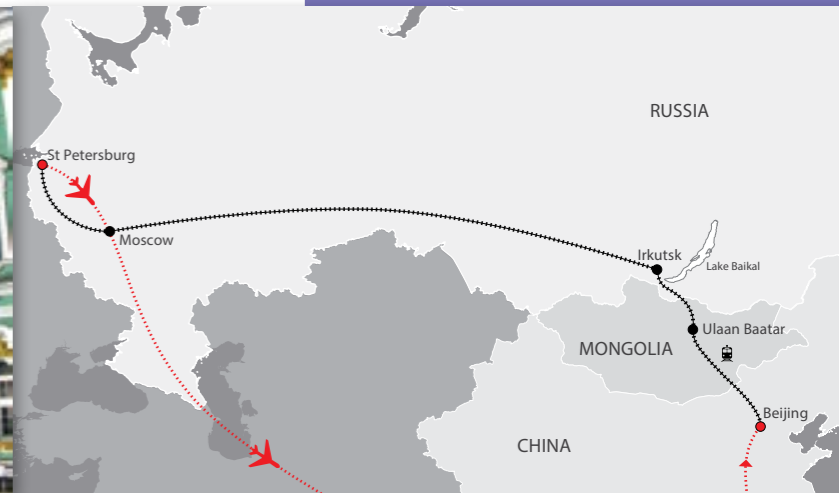
Grand Cascade Peterhof Palace, St Petersburg

The Trans-Siberian railway journey is without doubt the world's greatest train ride: an epic 9000-km journey through the very heart of Asia and into Europe. The 'Legendary Trans-Siberian' was the first escorted adventure we organised back in 1990, and it remains one of our most popular tours. Over the years we have adapted and improved this great adventure and today we firmly believe we offer the best experience possible on this extraordinary route. These tours lend themselves beautifully to affordable and exciting post-tour extensions. Please contact our friendly consultants for details.



Mongolian girls

The Hermitage, St Petersburg



27 Day Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Australia – Singapore – Beijing
Fly Singapore Airlines to Beijing.

Day 2 Beijing Take a stroll in the world's largest public plaza, Tiananmen Square. **(LD)**

Days 3 – 4 Beijing Explore the Summer Palace, the largest imperial garden in China. Visit the Forbidden City, the world's largest ancient palace complex. Tour the fascinating old part of the city, the 'Hutong', by cycle rickshaw. **(BLD)**

Day 5 Beijing Drive to the Great Wall of China at Mutianyu. In the evening, attend a Chinese folk show. **(BLD)**

Day 6 Beijing – Ulaan Baatar Board the Trans-Mongolian Express for the thrilling journey to Ulaan Baatar. **(B)**

Day 7 Ulaan Baatar – Dugana On arrival in Ulaan Baatar drive to our ger camp in the beautiful Dugana National Park. **(LD)**

Day 8 Dugana Ger Camp This glorious area of the Gobi is a paradise for nature lovers. We have the opportunity to ride Mongolian horses and try our hand at archery. **(BLD)**

Days 9-10 Dugana – Ulaan Baatar Drive to Ulaan Baatar and explore the city including Gandan Monastery, Zaitan Hill and the museum. In the evening attend a Mongolian folk show. **(BLD)**

Day 11 Ulaan Baatar – Irkutsk Our great rail journey continues as we board the train and head north to the Mongolia–Russia border. **(BLD)**

Day 12 On board train The train passes through beautiful mountain scenery laced with conifer forests as it heads to the Siberian capital, Irkutsk.

Day 13 Irkutsk Early morning we join the main Trans-Siberian railway line. The train now skirts the shore of Lake Baikal as we approach Irkutsk. **(BLD)**

Day 14 Irkutsk Drive to the pretty village of Listvyanka on the shores of Lake Baikal. Weather permitting, enjoy a boat ride on the lake and a picnic lunch onboard. **(BLD)**

Day 15 Irkutsk – Moscow This morning transfer to the railway station and board the Trans-Siberian Express for the epic journey across Siberia to Moscow.

Days 16 – 17 Onboard Trans-Siberian Express The train pushes inexorably towards Moscow, passing through famous cities such as Novosibirsk and Yekaterinburg. Later we cut through the foothills of the Ural Mountains as we leave Asia and enter Europe.

Day 18 Arrive Moscow Finally, the train rolls into Yaroslavsky Station at the end of its momentous journey. After lunch stroll into Red Square. **(LD)**

Day 19 Moscow Enjoy a city tour of Moscow including a visit to the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. **(BLD)**

Day 20 Moscow Visit the Kremlin, and the great Armoury Museum. Explore the palatial stations of the Moscow underground system. Later stroll through Arbat Street, Moscow's famous pedestrian mall. **(BLD)**

Day 21 Moscow Head out of Moscow to the beautiful estate of Kolomenskoye on the banks of the Moskva River. Here we witness a traditional Russian wedding. **(BLD)**

Day 22 Moscow – St Petersburg The morning is at leisure. In the afternoon board the train for the four-hour journey to St Petersburg. **(BLD)**

Day 23 St Petersburg Enjoy an extensive city tour of St Petersburg including St Isaac's Cathedral and Peter and Paul's fortress, where the bodies of Tsar Nicholas and his family are interred. **(BLD)**

Day 24 St Petersburg Board a hydrofoil for the trip down the Neva River to Peterhof, the site of the magnificent Summer Palace. **(BLD)**

Day 25 St Petersburg Visit the famous Winter Palace, which now houses the Hermitage Museum, the world's greatest art collection. In the evening enjoy a traditional Cossack Show. **(BLD)**

Days 26 – 27 St Petersburg – Moscow – Singapore – Australia Fly back to Australia via Singapore. **(L)**



The Trans-Siberian Railway

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

CHINA Exclusive picnic in a watch-tower on the Great Wall. Lunch with a local family in the Hutong. Magnificent Beijing Acrobats show.

MONGOLIA Two-night stay in our beautiful ger camp. Lunch with a nomadic family at their ger. Exclusive Mongolian Folk concert. The magnificent Naadam Festival (July departure only).

RUSSIA Private classical concert in a Siberian mansion. Full-day tour and boat ride on Lake Baikal. Cossack folk show with champagne and caviar. Private canal cruise in St Petersburg. Moscow River dinner cruise. Exclusive dinner in Stalin's secret bunker.

TOUR DATES

2017 30 Jun – 27 Jul
01 Sep – 27 Sep

(Due to the Naadam Festival in Mongolia, the July departure is 28 days with an additional day in Ulaan Baatar.)

COST

From \$17,250
Single Supp: \$3,450

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎



The Christmas Trans-Siberian

New Year's Eve, Moscow

Christmas and New Year Trans-Siberian Our exclusive tour is a sensational experience as we travel through a winter wonderland, conjuring up images of Dr Zhivago. Among the highlights are a Christmas Day sleigh-ride through a snowy Siberian forest and an unforgettable New Year's Eve celebration in Moscow's Red Square. At this time of year there are far fewer tourists which means we often get famous sights such as the Great Wall of China virtually to ourselves. Russia in winter is simply glorious and a white Christmas is guaranteed!



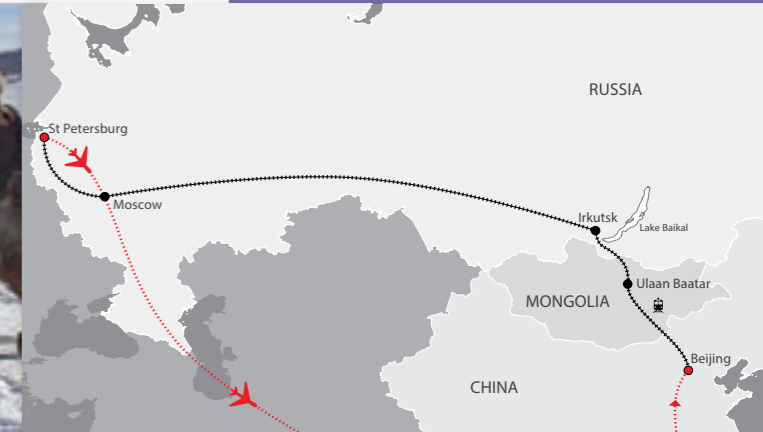
Sergiev Posad



Russian dolls



Nomadic horsemen, Mongolia



26 Day Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Australia – Singapore - Beijing

Fly Singapore Airlines to Beijing via Singapore.

Day 2 Beijing Visit the Silk Markets. Later tour the beautiful Summer Palace, the largest and best-preserved imperial garden in China. **(LD)**

Day 3 Beijing Stroll in the world's biggest public plaza, Tiananmen Square. Visit the Forbidden City – the world's largest ancient palace structure. **(BLD)**

Day 4 Beijing Drive to the Great Wall of China at Mutianyu. In the evening attend a Chinese folk show. **(BLD)**

Day 5 Beijing Today we explore the old part of the city, the 'Hutong', by cycle rickshaw. Enjoy lunch in the home of a local family. **(BLD)**

Day 6 Beijing – Mongolia Board the Trans-Mongolian Express for the thrilling journey to Ulaan Baatar. **(B)**

Day 7 Ulaan Baatar Travel through the Gobi's rolling steppes before arriving in the Mongolian capital, Ulaan Baatar. **(D)**

Day 8 Ulaan Baatar Explore the city then head out to the snow-covered grasslands to meet a nomadic family and watch a thrilling display of Mongolian horsemanship. In the evening enjoy a Mongolian folk show. **(BLD)**

Day 9 Ulaan Baatar Visit the famous History Museum and Sukhe Bator Square. In the evening board the train for the journey north to Russia. **(BLD)**

Day 10 On board train The train passes through beautiful mountain scenery laced with conifer forests as it heads to the Siberian capital, Irkutsk.

Day 11 Irkutsk Early morning the train joins the main Trans-Siberian railway line then skirts the shores of Lake Baikal before arriving in Irkutsk. **(BLD)**

Day 12 Christmas Day at Lake Baikal Drive to a snow-covered forest at Lake Baikal for a ride in a horse-drawn Russian sleigh, or troika. Later join a fun-loving Siberian family for a traditional lunch. The festivities continue into the evening! **(BLD)**

Day 13 Irkutsk Enjoy a tour of this charming city with its distinctive wooden houses. **(BLD)**

Day 14 Irkutsk – Moscow Late afternoon transfer to Irkutsk railway station and board the world's most famous train, the Trans-Siberian Express, for the epic journey to Moscow. **(BL)**

Days 15 – 16 On board the Trans-Siberian Express Enjoy the wonderful winter landscapes as the train rolls across Siberia to Moscow.

Day 17 Arrive Moscow Arrive into Yaroslavsky Station at the end of our momentous journey. **(D)**

Day 18 Moscow Visit the Kremlin, and the great Armoury Museum. Later walk to Red Square for the New Year celebrations! **(BLD)**

Day 19 Moscow Stroll back into Red Square and visit St Basil's Cathedral. Later explore Arbat Street – Moscow's famous pedestrian mall. **(BLD)**

Day 20 Moscow – Sergiev Posad After breakfast drive to the religious capital of Russia, Sergiev Posad, one of the country's most beautiful towns. **(BLD)**

Day 21 Moscow – St Petersburg Explore the beautiful estate of Kolomenskoye on the banks of the Moskva River. Later transfer to the railway station for the journey to St Petersburg. **(BL)**

Days 22 – 23 St Petersburg Enjoy a city tour of St Petersburg including St Isaac's Cathedral and Peter and Pauls' fortress. Travel to Pushkin to see the beautiful palace of Catherine the Great. **(BLD)**

Day 24 St Petersburg Visit the famous Winter Palace which now houses the Hermitage Museum, the world's greatest art collection. In the evening enjoy a traditional Cossack folk show. **(BLD)**

Day 25 St Petersburg – Moscow Early this morning transfer to the airport for the flight home via Moscow and Singapore. **(B)**

Day 26 Singapore – Australia Connect with your flight back to Australia.



Russian train

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

CHINA Exclusive picnic in a watchtower on the Great Wall. Rickshaw tour of the Hutong district. Magnificent Beijing Acrobats show.

MONGOLIA Dog sledding on a frozen river. Horse race in the Gobi Desert. Exclusive Mongolian folk concert.

RUSSIA Horse-drawn sleigh ride through a snowy forest. Christmas Day feast with a Siberian family. New Year's Eve fiesta in Moscow's Red Square. Visit to Sergiev Posad. Cossack folk show with champagne and caviar. Visit to Catherine the Great's Palace at Pushkin.

TOUR DATES

2017 14 Dec – 08 Jan 2018
(Also departs 15 Dec 2016. Limited space. Call for details)

COST

From \$17,250
Single Supp: \$3,450

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL 虎虎虎

Keeping in touch

We regularly send out updates about our tours and information about tours under development. These newsletters go out on email, usually on a weekly basis, and also contain information about cruise deals, airline earlybirds, and other travel industry special deals. If you would like to receive these e-newsletters, give us a call or head to our website and sign up for the newsletter in the box at the bottom of the home page. We also send out several printed newsletters each year with more detailed information about forthcoming tours and general travel news. If you would like to receive these, please call the office or submit an enquiry form from the website.

Tour information sessions

During the course of the year, we hold information sessions in all Australian capital cities, to give you a detailed run-down of some of our most popular tours. These 'holiday planner days' are an ideal way to get a clearer picture of the tours and help you decide where you might like to go to next. It is also a great opportunity for us to meet prospective travellers and catch up with our extended Travel Directors' family! Generally these sessions are held over weekends in February/March and August/September. If you want to receive notification of these info sessions, make sure you subscribe to our e-news, or call the office to find out when we will be in your capital city.

Visit our website

For more in-depth information on our Adventures of a Lifetime, including detailed day-by-day itineraries, tour-specific FAQs, suggested reading material, and highlights and inclusions, head to our website: www.traveldirectors.com.au.

MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

This form **MUST** be completed by all travellers and returned to our office with your deposit and booking form. Failure to do so will delay confirmation of your tour.

(N.B. THIS FORM IS CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL ONLY BE USED TO ASSIST IN THE DELIVERY OF OUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES).

NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

TOUR NAME: _____ No. OF DAYS: _____

DEPARTURE DATE: _____

1. DO YOU HAVE ANY PHYSICAL DISABILITIES NECESSITATING THE USE OF A WHEELCHAIR OR OTHER WALKING AIDS?

2. DO YOU HAVE A HISTORY OF ANY SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL (PHYSICAL OR MENTAL) OR SURGICAL PROBLEMS? IF YES PLEASE STATE CONDITION AND MEDICATION REQUIRED.

3. WILL YOU BE CARRYING THE PRESCRIBED MEDICATION? IF SO PLEASE ADVISE WHAT TYPE OF MEDICATION AND THAT YOU HAVE SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES FOR THE DURATION OF THE TOUR.

4. DO YOU SUFFER FROM A CONDITION THAT MAY REQUIRE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE? IF SO, PLEASE ADVISE WHAT TYPE OF ASSISTANCE MAY BE REQUIRED.

5. DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE FIT AND WELL, AND FULLY ABLE TO UNDERTAKE THE PROPOSED TOUR? THIS MAY INCLUDE WALKS OF UP TO 3 KMS (AT A REASONABLE PACE), CLIMBING STAIRS, STANDING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AS SPECIFIED IN THE BROCHURE.

Please consult your doctor for advice if necessary. For travellers aged over 70, medical clearance must be provided. Travellers must accept that Travel Directors reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a member of the tour group at any time.

Your attention is drawn to 'Terms and Conditions' item No.13 (see page 67), that you have read and fully understand same, before signing and dating this declaration.

DECLARATION

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the information contained in the relevant pages of Travel Directors brochure, together with the health and fitness requirements sheet, that I understand the Conditions of Contract (printed on page 67) and join with Travel Directors in agreeing and accepting all conditions.

PRINTED NAME _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

N.B. As you will note on the Tour List page our tours are graded on the level of effort required. Do not hesitate to contact us for further clarification.

TRAVEL DIRECTORS BOOKING FORM

YOUR TRAVEL CONSULTANT IS _____

TOUR TITLE _____

DEPARTURE DATE _____

PERSONAL DETAILS (FULL NAME AS ON PASSPORT)

TITLE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	PREFERRED FIRST NAME
ADDRESS	CITY		STATE/POSTCODE
HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	MOBILE PHONE	
FAX NUMBER	EMAIL		
OCCUPATION	EMPLOYER		

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

TRAVEL INSURANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL OF OUR TOURS. PLEASE PROVIDE POLICY DETAILS HERE OR ASK US FOR A QUOTE

EMERGENCY CONTACT (NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND TEL. NO.) _____

PASSPORT DETAILS

PASSPORT NUMBER	PLACE OF ISSUE
ISSUE DATE	EXPIRY DATE
DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY AS SHOWN ON PASSPORT

PLEASE SPECIFY ANY PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITION(S)

F. FLYER NOS./AIRLINES _____

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS _____

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (E.G. WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, ETC.) _____

ROOMING (PLEASE NOTE WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO MEET YOUR REQUIREMENTS, THOUGH IT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE POSSIBLE)

TWIN DOUBLE (ON REQUEST ONLY) SINGLE

WOULD YOU LIKE TRAVEL DIRECTORS TO TRY TO MATCH YOU WITH A ROOMING COMPANION? YES NO

DO YOU WISH TO UPGRADE TO A 2 BERTH COMPARTMENT ON THE TRAIN? (Trans-Siberian passengers only: cost \$1715.00) YES NO

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT TRAVEL DIRECTORS?

DO YOU WISH TO UPGRADE TO BUSINESS CLASS? YES NO ARE YOU THINKING OF EXTENDING YOUR TOUR? YES NO

PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR CONSULTANT WHO WILL BE HAPPY TO OFFER SUGGESTIONS AND ADVICE.

BOOKING FEE AND FINAL PAYMENT

Enclosed herewith is the amount of \$ _____ being deposit / full payment (PLEASE DELETE ONE) for the reservation held on my behalf. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. All prices quoted are for cash or cheque payments only. We accept all major credit cards, however payment by same will incur a surcharge.

ABN 40 009 135 924 Lic No. 9TA 00 295

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- A non-refundable deposit of \$3,000 per person must be paid at time of booking. The deposit is accepted as a first instalment of the tour cost and will only be refunded if the applicant's arrangements cannot be confirmed or the tour is cancelled by Travel Directors Pty Ltd.
- All tour departures are subject to a minimum of ten (10) paying passengers travelling together. Alterations to itineraries to suit individual requirements may be made in most instances for a fee of \$55 per person plus any additional costs.
- The accepted application (hereinafter known as the client) will pay the balance of the tour cost no later than 90 days before departure of Travel Directors tour.
- Payment by credit card/charge card will incur a surcharge.
- If the balance of the tour cost due to Travel Directors is not paid 90 days prior to departure, Travel Directors may treat the booking as cancelled by the client(s) or a late fee will be incurred to cover visa & other costs of not less than \$150 per person. This includes passports, photos & any other documents required by Travel Directors, which must be in our office by the final date stated on the invoice.
- Price Guarantee on Full Payment.** Prices in this brochure are based on costs and exchange rates as at 1st June 2016. Should these costs change it may be necessary to make a surcharge on the price of your holiday which will be advised to you at the time you book. However no surcharge in respect to cost or currency fluctuations will be made to the arrangements of your holiday once full payment has been received by Travel Directors, unless any changes are made to your booking in accordance with these terms and conditions. This price guarantee does not apply to: (i) fares, charges or levies imposed by airlines up until ticketing; or (ii) any taxes, charges or levies imposed by any government or their agencies.
- If the client(s) wishes to amend his/her booking a minimum amendment fee of \$150 will be charged. Amendments cannot generally be accepted less than four weeks prior to departure of Travel Directors tour.
- Once the booking has been accepted by Travel Directors, cancellations can only be made in writing. Conditions of these cancellation fees change depending on when the booking is cancelled prior to departure date.

These fees are as follows:- (exception of 'Early Bird Bookings' – see 5a)
Deposits, credit card charges, visa and courier fees are non-refundable.

90 days – 60 days	- 35% of tour cost
59 days – 30 days	- 55% of tour cost
29 days – Departure date	- 100% of tour cost

Travel Directors reserve the right to cancel a tour or part of a tour without prior notice. In this case, monies paid for the unfinished portion of the tour will be refunded. All tour costings are subject to currency fluctuations and can increase without notice. Travel Directors reserve the right to apply these increases to all tours.

5a. Early Bird bookings: Please note that cancellation conditions apply as follows:

Deposit – Non-refundable	
Date of full payment	
90 days or longer	- 35% of tour cost
89 days – 60 days	- 55% of tour cost
59 days – 30 days	- 75% of tour cost
29 days – Departure date	- 100% of tour cost

We strongly advise that travel insurance is taken out on payment of deposit to avoid unnecessary losses.

- Travel Directors and/or associated companies give notice that all tickets and coupons or vouchers issued by them and all arrangements for transport or conveyance, or for hotel accommodation, are made by them as agents upon the express condition that they shall not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of or any company or person engaged in

conveying the client, or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour, or for any failure on the part of the hotel to provide any of the facilities normally available.

- Travel Directors and/or associated companies accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delays or changes in trains, flights or other services, sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantines or other causes. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the client.
- The right is reserved to substitute hotels and to make any alteration to the itineraries as may be found desirable for the convenience of parties and the proper operation of the tour. The client is bound by any such changes made and additional expenses, if any, may be borne by the client.
- Airlines and other carriers are not responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the client is no on board their planes or conveyances. The client's contract in use by the airline concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between carrier and purchaser of the tour and/or the client. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall incur no responsibility or liability to any client, aside from their liability as common carriers.
- All services provided are subject to the law of the country in which the services are provided.
- Nothing in this brochure is intended to affect rights granted by the Australian Trade Practices Act or other consumer protection legislation which by law cannot be excluded. This contract shall be constructed and the relationship between the parties determined in accordance with the laws of the State of Western Australia. All matters of difference arising under or in connection with this contract shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the WA courts.
- Clients acknowledge and agree that there are inherent risks involved in participating in any of our tours including, and without limitation, possible contact with native fauna, local residents, unforeseen events and travel in remote places. By booking on one of our tours the client accepts all risks associated therein. In so doing the client unconditionally releases Travel Directors from all liability, including without limitation in contract and in tort, for any cause of action, including any injury, damage, loss, cost, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused directly or indirectly as a result of the inherent risks associated with the tour, or any force majeure events or other situations beyond our control including, but not limited to, war, civil disobedience, terrorism, insurrection, accident, explosion, sickness, fire, floods, severe weather, acts of God, acts of Government, alteration or cancellation of scheduled air services, ground operations, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment or industrial action.

13. TOUR PARTICIPATION:

Clients agree to accept the authority and decisions of the Company's employees, tour leaders and agents while on tour with the Company. If in the opinion of such persons the health, level of fitness or conduct of a client at any time, before or after departure, appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable or happy progress of a tour, the client may be excluded from all or part of the tour without refund or recompense. In the case of ill-health the Company may make such arrangements as it sees fit to recover the costs thereof from the client. If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and the Company shall cease to have responsibility to/ for them.

If you are affected by a condition, medical or otherwise, that might affect you or affect other people's enjoyment or active participation of the tour, you must advise us at the time of booking. No refund will be given for any unused services.

It's always

HAPPY HOUR

at 40,000 ft

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