

travel
directors

**WORLDWIDE
ESCORTED
TOURS**

AFRICA | ASIA | CENTRAL ASIA
EUROPE | LATIN AMERICA
MIDDLE EAST | RAIL JOURNEYS

2019-2020

*Adventures
of a Lifetime*







Cover: Marsaxlokk, Malta
 This page: Herding Llamas, San Pedro de Atacama, Chile

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Welcome to Travel Directors

It seems amazing that it is more than 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 *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Passage of the Nile* - from Addis Ababa to Alexandria - 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 80 destinations annually but our mission remains the same: to provide thrilling adventures to extraordinary parts of the world. 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 - they are all spectacular *'Adventures of a Lifetime'* in the unique Travel Directors' tradition.



Tony Evans
Director, Travel Directors

"Wow! A fantastic experience all round. Loved the surprises along the way."

Susan, NSW.



The Travel Directors Difference

*"This was our 7th trip.
We enjoy TD because
they are so professional
and everything is perfect.
Couldn't be better."*

Dane, VIC.

Paths Less Trodden

We pride ourselves on our unique, handcrafted journeys. We work hard to ensure our itineraries remain at the cutting edge of adventure travel, taking our adventurous friends to the more remote corners of the globe for an experience they'll never forget.



Comfortable Group Sizes

We have never subscribed to the old concept of escorted travel; we prefer smaller, more intimate groups which allow us to move around with more flexibility and get to those off-the-beaten-path destinations. Typically, our groups are made up of around 14 - 20 like-minded travellers, with an absolute maximum of 24.

Real Travel Experiences

One of the most important components of travel is interaction with locals. On our tours we go out of our way to meet genuine local people; to discover how they live, what they believe and what their values are. We will drive further up a mountain to explore a remote Andean village, or visit a section of the Great Wall of China where fewer tourists go, to provide our guests with the best possible 'close-up' travel experience.



Travel With The Experts

When travelling to those less-visited destinations it is important to know you are in the safe hands of an experienced operator. With more than 25 years' experience escorting small groups around the globe, you can be sure you are travelling with the experts. We work with an extensive network of highly experienced ground operators and local guides around the world, who are all an integral part of the Travel Directors' family.

Perfectly Paced Itineraries

Our travellers book with us because they want to get the absolute most out of the time they have to visit a particular part of the world. Our itineraries are sensibly paced and are generally designed with multiple-night stays.



Fully Inclusive

We believe our inventive itineraries and meticulous planning are a major reason why our travellers choose us again and again. Another reason is the all-inclusive nature of our tours. Everything is organised and paid for in advance, with no hidden extras along the way, leaving our travellers free to enjoy the journey without keeping half an eye on the calculator.

Our tours are inclusive of:

- Return economy-class flights (including all internal flights) from any Australian capital city;
- Group transfers;
- Twin-share hotel accommodation (four-berth on some train tours, with two-berth optional upgrades available);
- All local sightseeing excursions and entrance fees;
- Bespoke surprises and special events;
- All visa and courier fees;
- All ground transportation;
- All meals (except whilst onboard during rail journeys, or otherwise marked on itineraries);
- Experienced Tour Leader and expert local guides;
- All tips and gratuities.

In fact, if you're not into shopping you could just about leave your wallet at home.



Laguna Colorada, Bolivia

Activity Grading

Some of our tours require reasonable levels of fitness and mobility and we ask all travellers to complete a medical form when they book (see page 68). Whilst it rarely happens, we do 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.

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:

🚶🚶 MODERATE: Within the capability of anyone leading a normal active life. However, may involve more walking, climbing steps, or tiring journeys.

🚶🚶🚶 ACTIVE: These tours may involve considerable walking, climbing steps, and longer 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.

Note: Some of these tours may not be physically active, but can be more challenging due to altitude, longer and more tiring travel days, very early starts, and more difficult terrain.



Shipwreck Lodge, Namibia

Hotels

We choose our properties with an eye to traditional architecture, good service, friendly staff and good cuisine. We don't subscribe to the idea of 'biggest is best' and we strive to use four/five star boutique hotels where possible, though in some instances – such as the Himalaya – our accommodation may be in quite basic hotels: rest assured, they will always include private facilities, be clean and comfortable, and the best available in the area.

Importantly, we also choose our properties for their central location. And, with smaller group sizes, we are often able to stay in unique heritage properties not suitable for larger groups. Traffic congestion in some of the world's largest cities means 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.

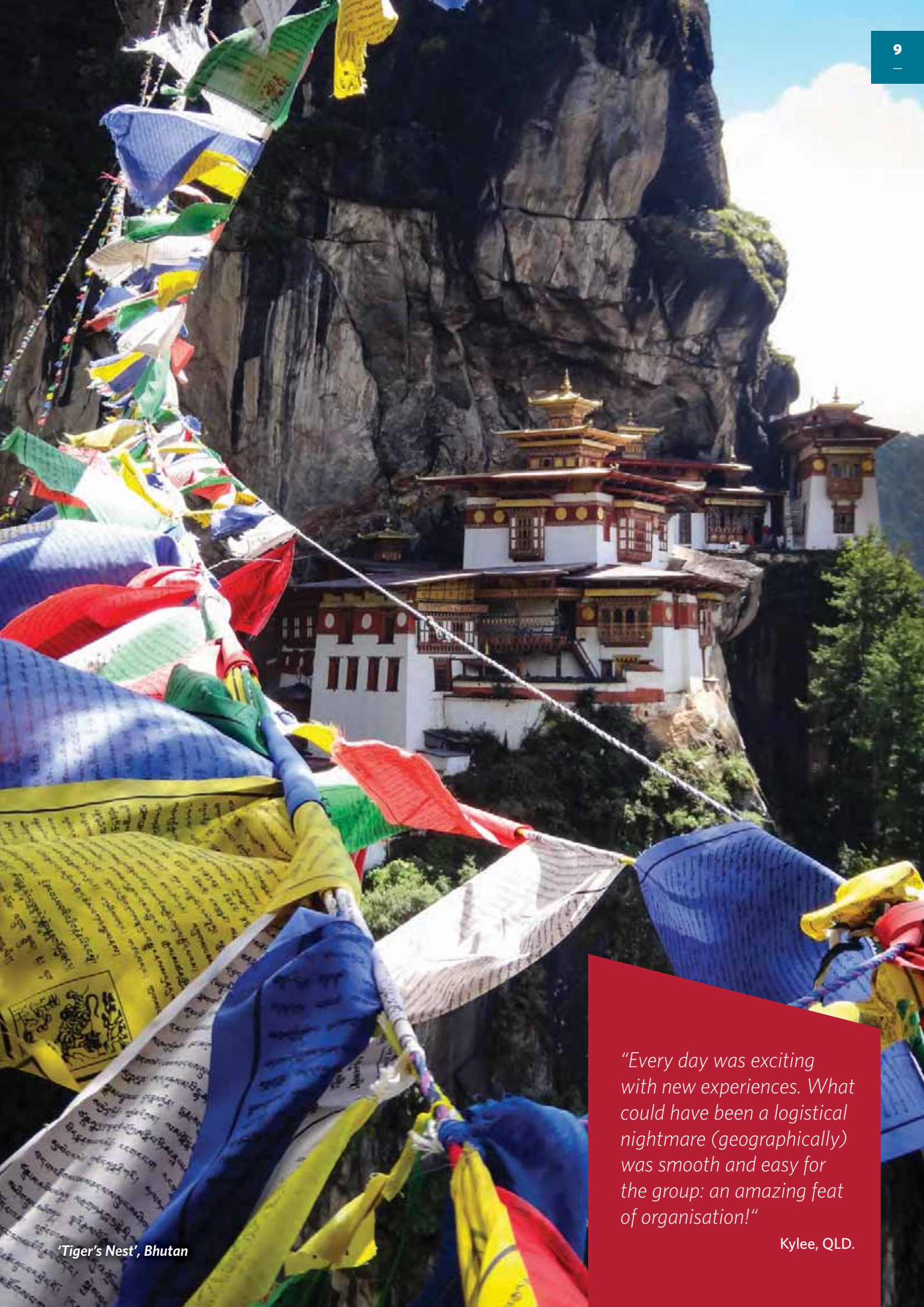
We have not listed the hotel names on each tour itinerary as they may vary between departures, but further information is available on our website.



Spicy Tagine

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 certainly expect some amazing culinary highlights. We also endeavour to share meals in family homes for an even more authentic experience. Wherever possible, we strive to avoid the regimented tourist restaurants.



'Tiger's Nest', Bhutan

"Every day was exciting with new experiences. What could have been a logistical nightmare (geographically) was smooth and easy for the group: an amazing feat of organisation!"

Kylee, QLD.



Tour Leaders

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, Peru, Madagascar, Russia, 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 look after that, making the whole travel experience even more enjoyable and carefree for you.

Supporting Local Communities

We think it is important to give back to the people and communities we visit. 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.

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 female cheetah, was found severely dehydrated at five 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.



Discounts

FREQUENT TRAVELLER DISCOUNT

Once you have travelled on two of our tours, you are eligible for our \$250 loyalty discount on future tours. We greatly value our repeat clients and we pride ourselves that many of our travellers have been on numerous tours with us and keep coming back for more.

EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT

A \$500 discount is available if you book and pay for your tour in full six months prior to departure.

Note: This discount can be combined with the Frequent Traveller Discount where applicable, giving you a total discount of \$750.

TWIN SHARE MATCH

We welcome single travellers on our tours. If you require a hotel room of your own a single supplement is payable, but if you don't mind sharing we will endeavour to match you up with another traveller of the same sex. If we can't do this, for whatever reason, we will pay the single supplement for you!

Note: We are not able to cover the single supplement for the cruise portion of our Galapagos to Patagonia and High Arctic tours.

Stay In Touch

ONLINE


For more information about any of our 'Adventures of a Lifetime' including day-by-day itineraries, hotel lists, FAQs and even suggested reading materials – head to our website!


www.traveldirectors.com.au


ENEWS

Ensure you have signed up to our regular newsletter so we can keep you informed about our current tours and even special departures we operate throughout the year. Head to our website to sign up now!

SOCIAL MEDIA

 Follow us on facebook
facebook.com/TravelDirectors

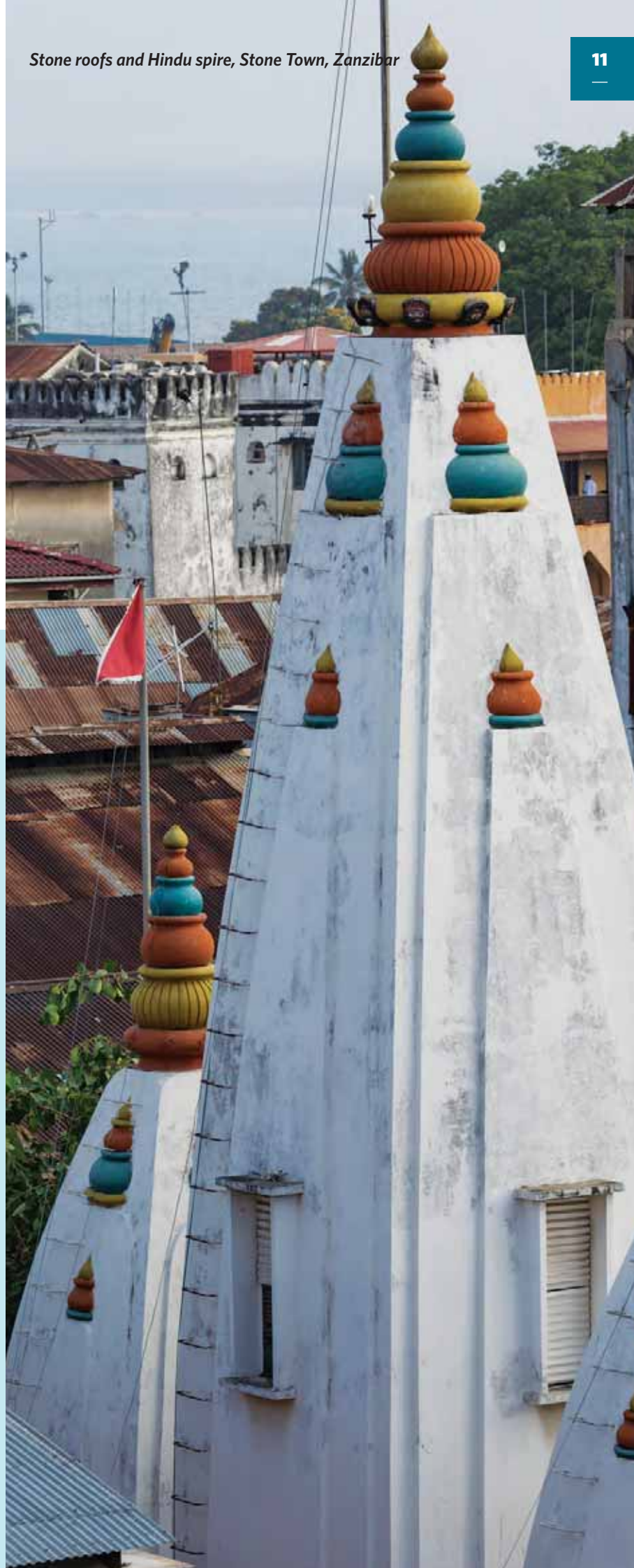
 Share your Instagram photos
[@Travel_Directors](https://www.instagram.com/Travel_Directors) #TravelDirectors

 Read our blog
<http://www.traveldirectors.com.au/blog>

Meet With Us

We would love to meet with you and introduce you to our 'Adventures of a Lifetime'.

Each year we hold information sessions in most Australian capital cities to give you a clearer picture of our tours and help you decide where you might like to go. To find out where we will be and when, please check our website or sign up to our newsletter!



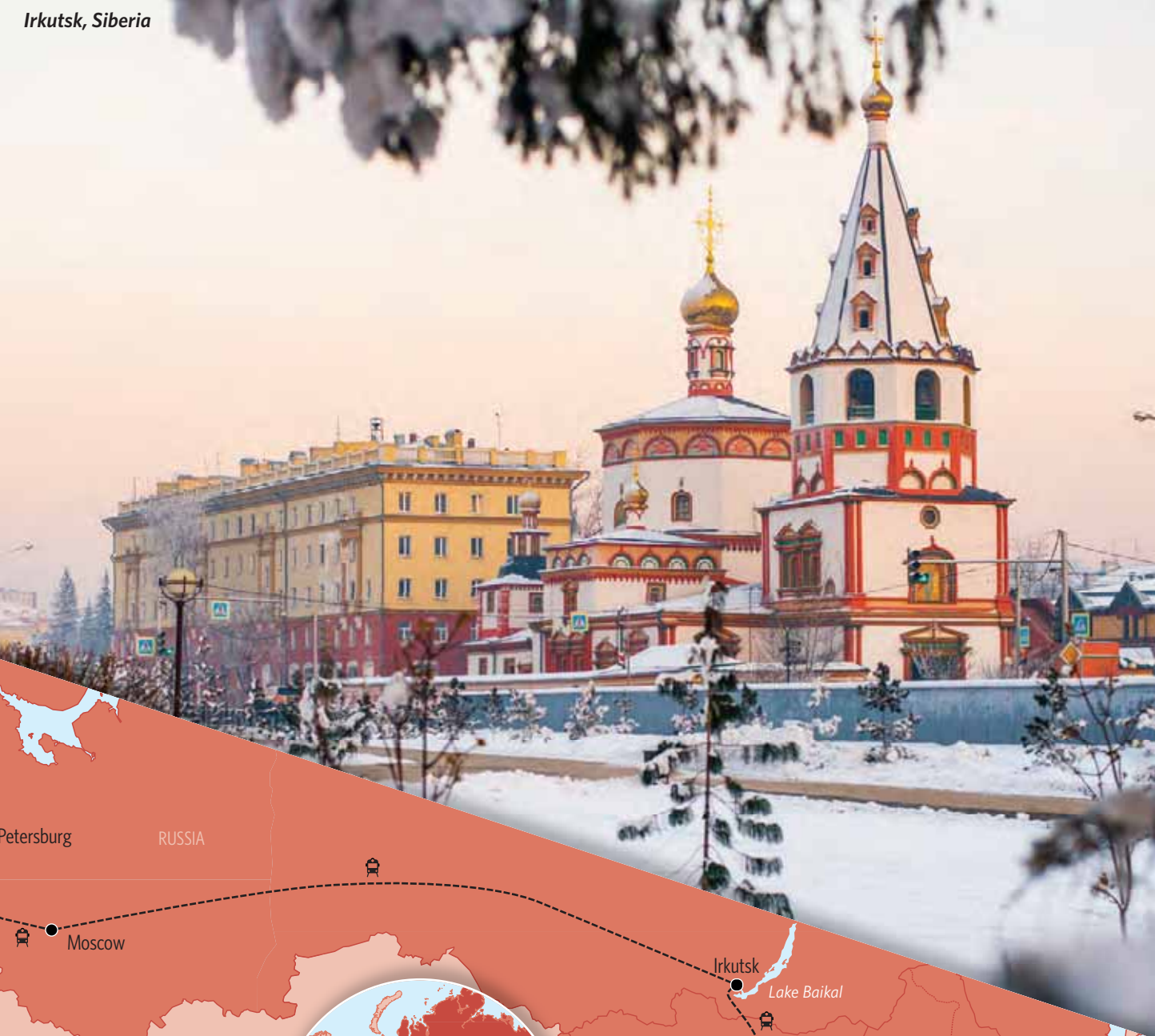


St Basil's Cathedral, Moscow



Tour Leader Karen, and local man, Mongolia

Irkutsk, Siberia



The Christmas Trans-Siberian

27 DAY TOUR

Our exclusive Christmas and New Year Trans-Siberian 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!

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. Visit a nomadic family in the snowy steppes. Enjoy a Mongolian folk show.

RUSSIA Sleigh ride through a snowy forest. Christmas Day feast with a Siberian family. New Year's Eve in Moscow's Red Square. Visit to Sergiev Posad.

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 Chinese 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. Later visit the famous History Museum and Sukhe Bator Square. **(D)**

DAY 8 ULAAN BAATAR Explore the city then head out to the snowy grasslands to meet villagers and watch a thrilling display of Mongolian horsemanship. **(BLD)**

DAY 9 ULAAN BAATAR Head out into the Mongolian countryside to see the gigantic statue of Chinggis Khan on horseback. In the evening enjoy a Mongolian folk show. **(BLD)**

DAY 10 ULAAN BAATAR - IRKUTSK After lunch board the train for the journey north to Russia. **(BL)**

DAY 11 ARRIVE IRKUTSK Early morning the train joins the main Trans-Siberian railway line then skirts the shores of Lake Baikal before arriving in Irkutsk mid-afternoon. **(D)**

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 Christmas lunch. The festivities continue into the evening! **(BL)**

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

DAY 14 IRKUTSK - MOSCOW Early morning transfer to Irkutsk railway station and board the world's most famous train, the Trans-Siberian Express, for the epic journey to Moscow. **(B)**

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. After lunch explore Red Square and visit St Basil's Cathedral. **(LD)**

DAY 18 MOSCOW Enjoy a city tour including the Church of Our Saviour and Arbat Street - Moscow's famous pedestrian mall. Later walk to Red Square for the New Year celebrations! **(BLD)**

DAY 19 MOSCOW - SERGIEV POSAD - MOSCOW After breakfast drive to the religious capital of Russia, Sergiev Posad, one of the country's most beautiful towns. **(BLD)**

DAY 20 MOSCOW Continue exploring Russia's magnificent capital. Visit the Kremlin, and the great Armoury Museum, and later see some of the palatial Metro stations. **(BLD)**

DAY 21 MOSCOW - ST PETERSBURG Visit 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 Paul's fortress. Travel to Pushkin and see the beautiful palace of Catherine the Great. **(BLD)**

DAY 24 ST PETERSBURG Visit the famous Winter Palace which



Russian train

houses the Hermitage Museum, the world's greatest art collection. In the evening enjoy a traditional Cossack folk show. **(BLD)**

DAY 25 ST PETERSBURG - HELSINKI Take the high speed train to Helsinki. In the evening enjoy a farewell dinner in the Finnish capital! **(BD)**

DAY 26 HELSINKI - FRANKFURT - SINGAPORE Fly to Frankfurt and connect with the flight to Singapore. **(B)**

DAY 27 SINGAPORE - AUSTRALIA Connect with your homeward flight.

Tour Information

2019: 14 Dec - 09 Jan 2020

A slightly different itinerary for this tour also departs 14 Dec 2018 - 8 Jan 2019. See our website for full details or call for further information.

TOUR COST FROM \$18,500 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,750

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals (except on train) | All hotel accommodation (twin-share) | 2-berth cabins on train | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL:  **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner

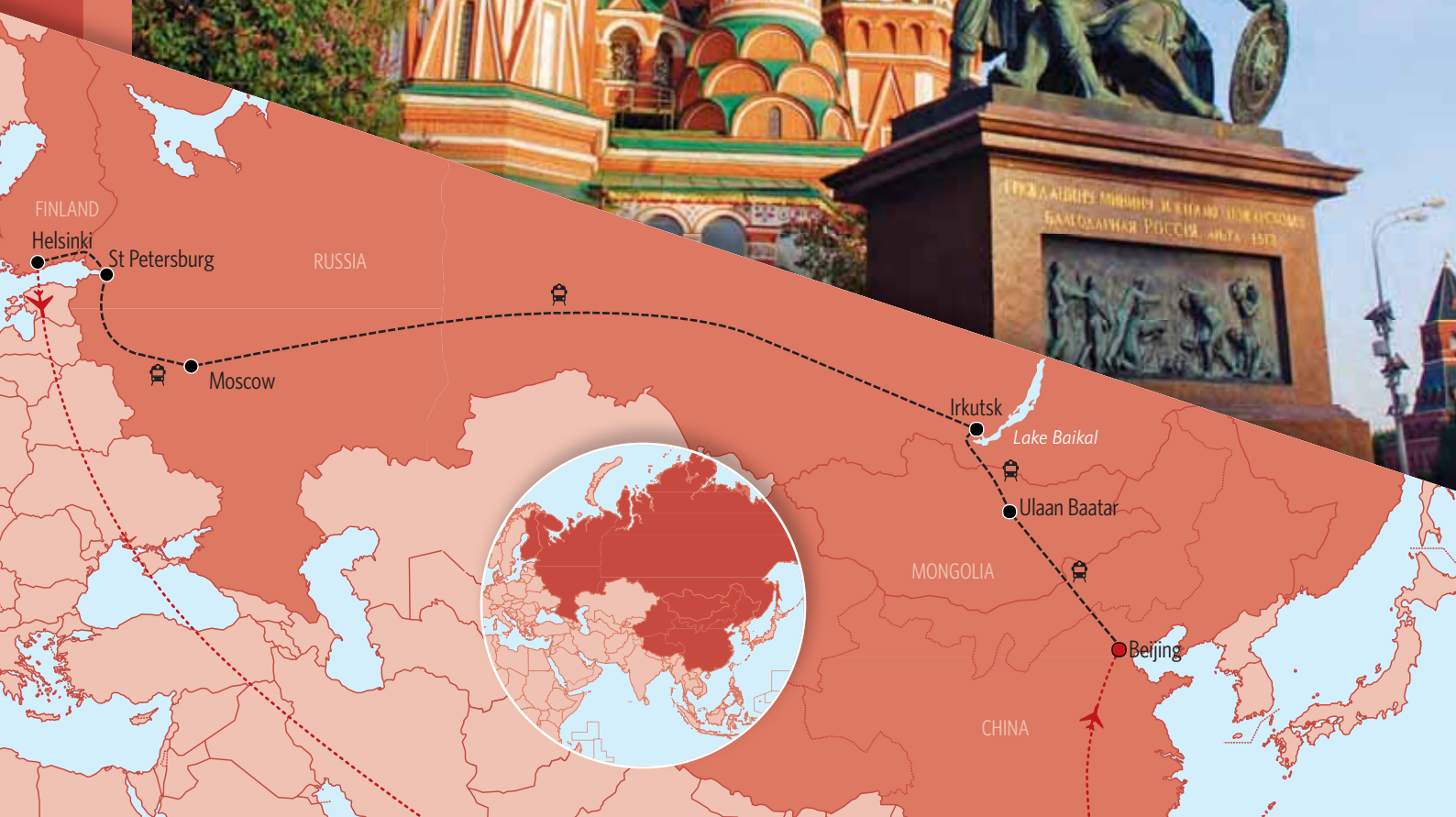


Forbidden City, Beijing



Russian train at station

St Basil's Cathedral, Moscow



The Legendary Trans-Siberian

27 DAY TOUR

The *Trans-Siberian* railway trip 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 the 90's, and it remains one of our most popular tours. Over the years we have adapted and improved this great trip and today we firmly believe we offer the best experience possible on this extraordinary route. Finishing in the Finnish capital, Helsinki, gives the opportunity for a variety of affordable and exciting post-tour extensions. Please contact our friendly consultants for details.

Highlights

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

MONGOLIA 2 nights in our beautiful ger camp. Lunch with a nomadic family at their ger. Exclusive Mongolian concert. The spectacular Naadam Festival.

RUSSIA Private classical concert in a Siberian mansion. Full-day tour to Lake Baikal. Moscow River dinner cruise. Cossack folk show with champagne and caviar. Private canal cruise in St Petersburg.

DAY 1 AUSTRALIA - SINGAPORE - BEIJING Fly Singapore Airlines to Beijing.

DAY 2 BEIJING Take a stroll in the world's biggest public plaza, Tiananmen Square. **(LD)**

DAYS 3 - 4 BEIJING Explore the Summer Palace, the best-preserved imperial garden in China. Visit the Forbidden City and tour the fascinating Hutong district 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 - JARGALANT On arrival in Ulaan Baatar drive to the 'Mongolian Secret History Ger Camp' in the beautiful countryside at Jargalant. **(LD)**

DAY 8 JARGALANT 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)**

DAY 9 JARGALANT - ULAAN BAATAR Drive to Ulaan Baatar and explore the city including Gandan Monastery. In the evening attend a Mongolian folk show. **(BLD)**

DAY 10 ULAAN BAATAR - IRKUTSK Our great rail journey continues as we board the train and head north to the Mongolia-Russia border. **(BLD)**

DAY 11 ON BOARD TRAIN

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

DAY 12 IRKUTSK Early morning we join the main Trans-Siberian railway line. The train now skirts the shores of Lake Baikal as we approach Irkutsk. **(BLD)**

DAY 13 IRKUTSK Drive to the pretty village of Listvyanka on the shores of Lake Baikal. Weather permitting, take a boat ride on the lake and enjoy a picnic lunch onboard. **(BLD)**



Mongolian Dress

DAY 14 IRKUTSK - MOSCOW Transfer to the railway station and board the Trans-Siberian Express for the epic journey across Siberia to Moscow.

DAYS 15 - 16 ON BOARD THE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS The train pushes towards Moscow cutting through the foothills of the Ural Mountains as we leave Asia and enter Europe.

DAY 17 MOSCOW Arrive at Moscow's Yaroslavy Station. After lunch stroll into famous Red Square and visit St Basil's Cathedral. **(LD)**

DAY 18 MOSCOW Enjoy a city tour of Moscow including a visit to the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. **(BLD)**

DAY 19 MOSCOW Visit the Kremlin, and the great Armoury Museum. Explore the palatial stations of the Moscow Metro. **(BLD)**

DAY 20 MOSCOW Visit the beautiful former royal estate of Kolomenskoye on the banks of the Moskva River, just outside of Moscow. **(BLD)**

DAY 21 MOSCOW - ST PETERSBURG The morning is at leisure. In the afternoon board the train for the four-hour journey to St Petersburg. **(BLD)**

DAY 22 ST PETERSBURG Take a city tour of St Petersburg including St Isaac's Cathedral and Peter and

Paul's Fortress, where the remains of Tsar Nicholas and his family are interred. **(BLD)**

DAY 23 ST PETERSBURG Board a hydrofoil for the trip down the Neva River to Peterhof, the site of the magnificent Summer Palace. **(BLD)**

DAY 24 ST PETERSBURG Visit the Winter Palace, which houses the Hermitage Museum, the world's greatest art collection. In the evening enjoy a traditional Cossack show. **(BLD)**

DAY 25 ST PETERSBURG - HELSINKI Take the high speed train to Helsinki. In the evening enjoy a farewell dinner in the Finnish capital! **(BD)**

DAY 26 HELSINKI - FRANKFURT - SINGAPORE Fly to Frankfurt and connect with the flight to Singapore. **(B)**

DAY 27 SINGAPORE - AUSTRALIA Connect with your homeward flight.

Tour Information

2019: 02 Jul - 28 Jul

TOUR COST FROM \$18,500 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,750

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals (except on train) | All hotel accommodation (twin-share) | 2-berth cabins on train | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

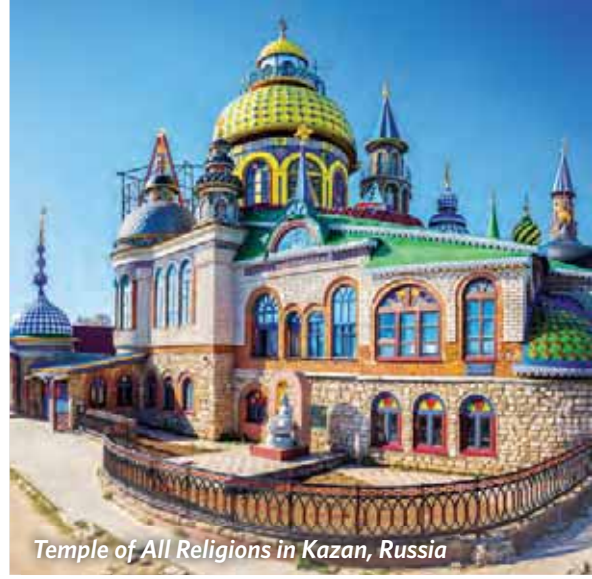
TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **MODERATE**

Meals Key: **B**-Breakfast | **L**-Lunch | **D**-Dinner

22 DAYS | RUSSIA | FROM \$18,250



Russian Train



Temple of All Religions in Kazan, Russia

Motherland statue, Volgograd



Russia: Off the Beaten Track

22 DAY TOUR

Russia off the Beaten Track is an exciting rail journey which visits parts of Russia that fly beneath the tourist radar. Beginning in the Russian resort town of Sochi on the Black Sea coast, we travel paths less-trodden to beautiful St Petersburg. En-route we stop at the remarkable cities of Krasnodar, Volgograd, Ekaterinburg and Kazan - witnessing the powerful and poignant Victory Day celebration in Volgograd, which marks one of the most important historical dates in the Russian calendar. Join us on a remarkable train journey through the backroads of Russia, from the Black Sea to the Baltics!

Highlights

4-night stay in the Black Sea town of Sochi.

Explore the Vorontsov cave system.

Exclusive Kuban Cossack Choir concert.

Witness the powerful Victory Day parade.

Visit the site where the Russian Royal Family were murdered at Ekaterinburg.

3-night stay at the Tatarstan capital, Kazan.

See the Amber Room at Catherine the Great's Palace at Pushkin.



DAYS 1 - 2 AUSTRALIA - DUBAI - MOSCOW - SOCHI Fly Emirates to Sochi via Dubai and Moscow. **(D)**

DAYS 3 - 5 SOCHI Sochi is the capital of the Russian Riviera, located on the Black Sea at the foot of the Caucasus Mountains, and was host to the 2014 Winter Olympics. Explore the city including Stalin's summer house, and the Vorontsov cave system which dates back more than a billion years. Visit Krasnaya Polyana for amazing views of the Black Sea and majestic mountains. **(BLD)**



Sochi, Russia

DAY 6 SOCHI - KRASNODAR Transfer to the train station for the six-hour journey to Krasnodar. In the evening attend a concert of the world-famous Kuban Cossack Choir. **(BD)**

DAY 7 KRASNODAR - VOLGOGRAD Enjoy a walking tour of Krasnodar and later transfer to the train station for the overnight journey to Volgograd. **(BL)**

DAY 8 VOLGOGRAD Arrive Volgograd early in the morning and transfer to the hotel. After lunch visit Mamayev Kurgan - the highest point of Volgograd where the monumental Motherland Statue overlooks the city. Later visit the extraordinary panoramic museum of the Battle of Stalingrad. **(LD)**

DAY 9 VOLGOGRAD Witness the overwhelming spectacle of the Victory Day parade, which commemorates the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in WWII. **(BLD)**

DAY 10 VOLGOGRAD - EKATERINBURG Visit the Sarepta Village - a former German colony on the outskirts of Volgograd. Early afternoon transfer to the train station for the two-night journey to Ekaterinburg. **(BL)**

DAY 11 ON BOARD TRAIN The train heads west towards the Ural Mountains and the European/Asian frontier, passing through picturesque

scenery dotted with typical Russian villages.

DAY 12 EKATERINBURG Early morning arrive Ekaterinburg. Visit the site where Tsar Nicholas and his family were murdered. Drive to the obelisk which marks the spot where Europe and Asia meet. **(BLD)**

DAY 13 EKATERINBURG - KAZAN Explore the largest military museum in Russia and visit the stone-cutting and jewellery museum. Late evening transfer to the train station for the overnight journey to Kazan. **(BLD)**

DAY 14 KAZAN Late morning arrive in Kazan and transfer to our hotel. In the afternoon begin to explore the city. **(LD)**

DAYS 15 - 16 KAZAN The 'Istanbul of the Volga' and the ancient capital of Tatarstan - Kazan is a kaleidoscope of golden domes and minarets. Walk to the Kazan Kremlin - a UNESCO World Heritage site. Head down the Volga to the island of

Sviyazhsk, home of Ivan the Terrible's fortress. **(BLD)**

DAY 17 KAZAN - ST PETERSBURG After lunch we board the train for the journey north to St Petersburg. **(BL)**

DAY 18 ST PETERSBURG Arrive St Petersburg late morning. After lunch visit the new railway museum. **(LD)**

DAYS 19 - 20 ST PETERSBURG Visit the Hermitage and take a stroll down Nevsky Prospekt. Drive to the town of Pushkin and visit Catherine the Great's Palace, famous for its magnificent Amber Room. **(BLD)**

DAY 21 ST PETERSBURG - DUBAI Explore St Isaac's Cathedral and St Peter and Paul's Fortress. After dinner transfer to the airport for the flight to Dubai. **(BLD)**

DAY 22 DUBAI - AUSTRALIA Connect with your homeward flight.

Tour Information

2019: 01 May - 22 May

TOUR COST FROM \$18,250 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$2,750

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visa & courier fees | All meals (except on train) | All hotel accommodation (twin-share) | 4-berth cabins on train (2-berth upgrade available) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



Zaragoza, Spain



Ffestiniog Railway, Wales

The tanneries, Fez, Morocco



Manchester to Marrakech

30 DAY TOUR

Manchester to Marrakech is a culturally diverse journey from the heart of the Industrial Revolution in England to the mighty sands of the Sahara Desert in Morocco. We travel almost entirely by rail from the rolling hills of England and Wales, through France's magnificent Massif Central and the sublime landscapes of Spain, to the exotic northern gateway to Africa. Our journey is on day-time trains to fully experience the changing landscapes as we traverse almost 6,000km through four countries. Manchester to Marrakech is an inspiring journey through authentic and unspoiled pockets of Europe to the bustling souks of the Kasbah.



DAYS 1 - 2 AUSTRALIA - DUBAI - MANCHESTER Fly Emirates to Manchester via Dubai. Enjoy a welcome dinner at our hotel. **(D)**

DAY 3 MANCHESTER Tour this vibrant city, including the old docks area, now a thriving arts hub. Spend a relaxing afternoon on a narrow boat on Manchester's canals. **(BLD)**

DAY 4 MANCHESTER - BANGOR - CAERNARFON Travel on the famous South TransPennine route to the Welsh town of Bangor. Ride on the Mt Snowdon railway for magnificent views of Snowdonia. Later continue to Caernarfon. **(BLD)**

DAY 5 CAERNARFON Explore the impressive Caernarfon Castle which dominates the town. **(BLD)**

DAY 6 CAERNARFON - PORTMEIRION Ride on the oldest independent railway in the world, Ffestiniog, a 21 km route 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 Travel to London and check into our 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. Explore the historic city centre of gothic buildings carved from volcanic rock. **(BLD)**

DAY 11 CLERMONT-FERRAND - NIMES - PERPIGNAN Journey through the Allier Gorge and the Cevennes Mountains to Nimes. Visit the magnificent Roman amphitheatre before continuing by train 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. **(BLD)**

DAY 14 PERPIGNAN - ZARAGOZA Today we leave France and head across the border into Spain. On arrival in Zaragoza we enjoy a walking tour of this 2,000 year old city. **(BLD)**

DAY 15 ZARAGOZA Head out of Zaragoza to explore the waterfalls and gardens of Monasterio de Piedra. **(BLD)**

DAY 16 ZARAGOZA - VALENCIA Take one of the most scenic rail journeys in Spain from Zaragoza to Valencia. **(BD)**

DAY 17 VALENCIA Enjoy a walking tour of Valencia, renowned for its beautiful parks and eclectic mix of 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 Known as 'The Rock', Gibraltar is a territory of the UK. We explore this unique place with its labyrinth of secret tunnels and caves. **(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)**

Highlights

UNITED KINGDOM Travel the TransPennine line to Wales. Visit the Welsh village of Portmeirion. Ride on the Snowdon Mountain Railway.

FRANCE 2-night stay in 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 Explore exotic Tangier. Visit the tanneries at Fez. See the Roman ruins at Volubilis. Picnic in the High Atlas Mountains. Explore Jemaa el Fna Square in Marrakech.

DAY 24 FEZ Spend the whole day soaking up the atmosphere of the cultural and spiritual capital of Morocco. **(BLD)**

DAY 25 FEZ - VOLUBILIS - MEKNES - FEZ Explore the nearby Roman settlement of Volubilis. The spectacular countryside can be seen from all sides of the ruined site. Later visit the old Imperial city of Meknes. **(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. **(BD)**

DAYS 27 - 28 MARRAKECH Explore this remarkable city, which comes to life after dark with dancers, fire-eaters, acrobats and snake charmers. Enjoy a picnic 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)**

Tour Information

2019: 06 Sep - 05 Oct

TOUR COST FROM \$20,990 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,640

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | All meals (except on trains) | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



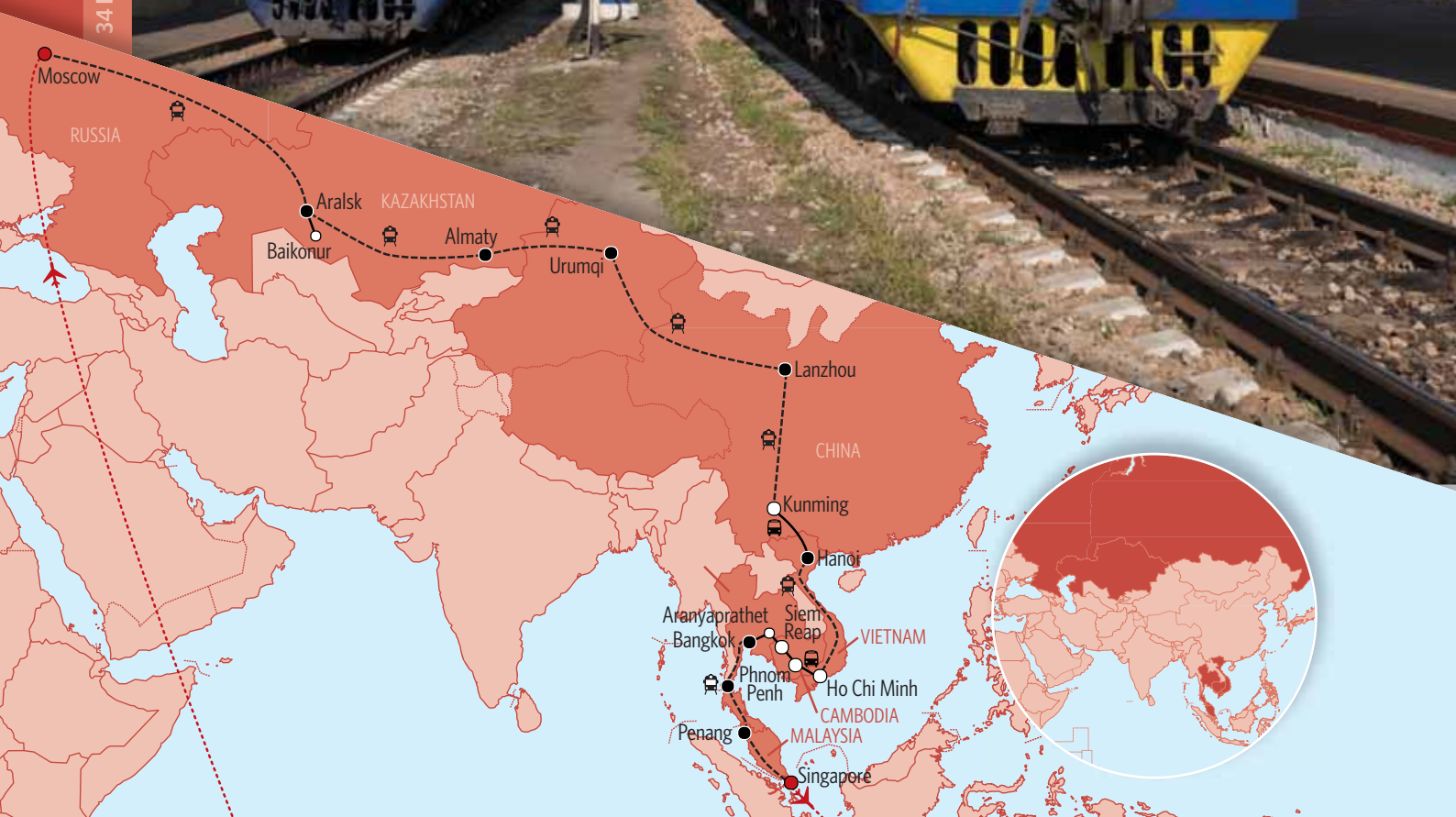
Reunification Express, Vietnam



South Gate, Siem Reap, Cambodia



Trains at a station, Kazakhstan



Moscow
RUSSIA

Aralsk
Baikonur
KAZAKHSTAN

Almaty
Urumqi

Lanzhou
CHINA

Kunming
Hanoi
VIETNAM

Aranyaprathet
Bangkok
Siem Reap
Phnom Penh
Ho Chi Minh
CAMBODIA

Penang
MALAYSIA

Singapore

Epic Rail Odyssey

34 DAY TOUR

Epic Rail Odyssey is a spectacular adventure that transports us through vast steppes, deserts, mountain ranges and rich fertile valleys, spanning a quarter of the earth's surface. Beginning in Moscow and travelling mainly 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 and Vietnam's Reunification Express. En-route we enjoy multiple stops, including two nights at the remote Aral Sea in Kazakhstan. This remarkable 34-day tour is aptly named *Epic Rail Odyssey* and is, without doubt, Travel Directors' most ambitious rail undertaking to date!

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 Continue exploring Moscow, including the Kremlin and the Armoury Museum. 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 barren, sandy landscape of the northern part of the Aral Sea at Zhalanash where the shoreline has been pushed back some 60km. **(BLD)**

DAY 8 ARAL SEA - BAIKONUR - ALMATY Board a bus for the two-hour journey to Baikonur, the busiest space port in the world, and the launch site for Soviet/Russian missions since 1957. After lunch board our train for the journey through the steppes to Almaty. **(BL)**

DAY 9 ALMATY Arrive Almaty early evening and transfer to the hotel. **(D)**

DAY 10 ALMATY - CHARYN CANYON - ALMATY Enjoy a day excursion to the magnificent Charyn Canyon National Park. **(BLD)**

DAY 11 ALMATY - URUMQI Explore 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 Mid 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 Enjoy an excursion to the Tian Shan Mountains and beautiful Heavenly Lake. **(BLD)**

DAY 15 URUMQI - LANZHOU Board the Urumqi-Lanzhou high-speed train for the journey south. Skirt the Gobi Desert en-route to Gansu province. **(B)**

DAY 16 LANZHOU - KUNMING Board the high-speed train for the 1,800km journey to Kunming. **(B)**

DAY 17 KUNMING Explore the magical Stone Forest, a mass of strange rock formations where a vast sea receded millions of years ago. **(BLD)**

DAY 18 KUNMING - HANOI Drive to the Chinese border town of Hekou. After lunch cross the border and by mid-afternoon reach Hanoi. **(BLD)**

DAYS 19 - 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. Enjoy a day trip to Duong Lam village. **(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. Early evening 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 Drive to the Vietnam/Cambodia border at Moc Bai. Late afternoon arrive into the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh. **(BLD)**

DAY 26 PHNOM PENH - SIEM REAP After breakfast board our coach for the five-hour journey to Siem Reap, arriving mid-afternoon. **(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 - BANGKOK Drive the short distance to the Cambodia/Thailand border and continue on to Bangkok. **(BLD)**

Highlights

RUSSIA Visit Stalin's bunker. Explore the Kremlin and Armoury Museum.

KAZAKHSTAN 2 nights at the Aral Sea. Visit the busiest space port in the world - Baikonur. 2 nights at Almaty.

CHINA Day trip to Heavenly 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 3-night stays in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Travel on the amazing Reunification Express. Visit to the famous Cu Chi Tunnels. Day trip to the temple complex of Angkor Wat. 2-night stays in Bangkok and Singapore.

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

DAY 30 BANGKOK - PENANG Continue exploring Bangkok. Mid-afternoon board the train for the journey to Penang. **(BL)**

DAY 31 PENANG Today we arrive in Penang and begin a tour of the island, including the Reclining Buddha - the world's fourth longest statue. **(LD)**

DAY 32 PENANG - SINGAPORE Transfer to the railway station to continue our journey south to Johor Bahru and on to Singapore. **(B)**

DAY 33 SINGAPORE Explore the city including Merlion Park, Parliament House and City Hall. Enjoy a farewell dinner to celebrate the end of our momentous journey! **(BLD)**

DAY 34 SINGAPORE - AUSTRALIA Transfer to the airport for the homeward flight. **(B)**

Tour Information

2019: 04 Sep - 07 Oct

TOUR COST FROM \$19,950 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,750

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals (except on train) | All hotel accommodation (twin-share) | 4-berth cabins on train (2-berth upgrade available) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL:  **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner

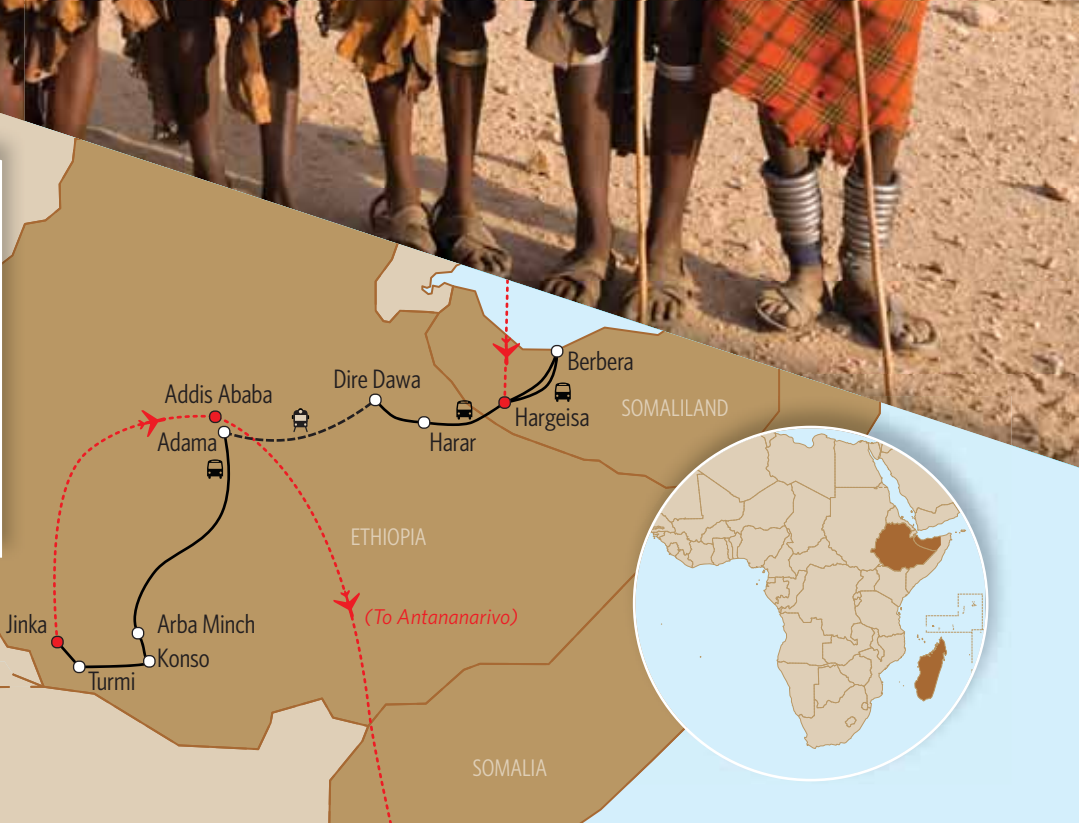
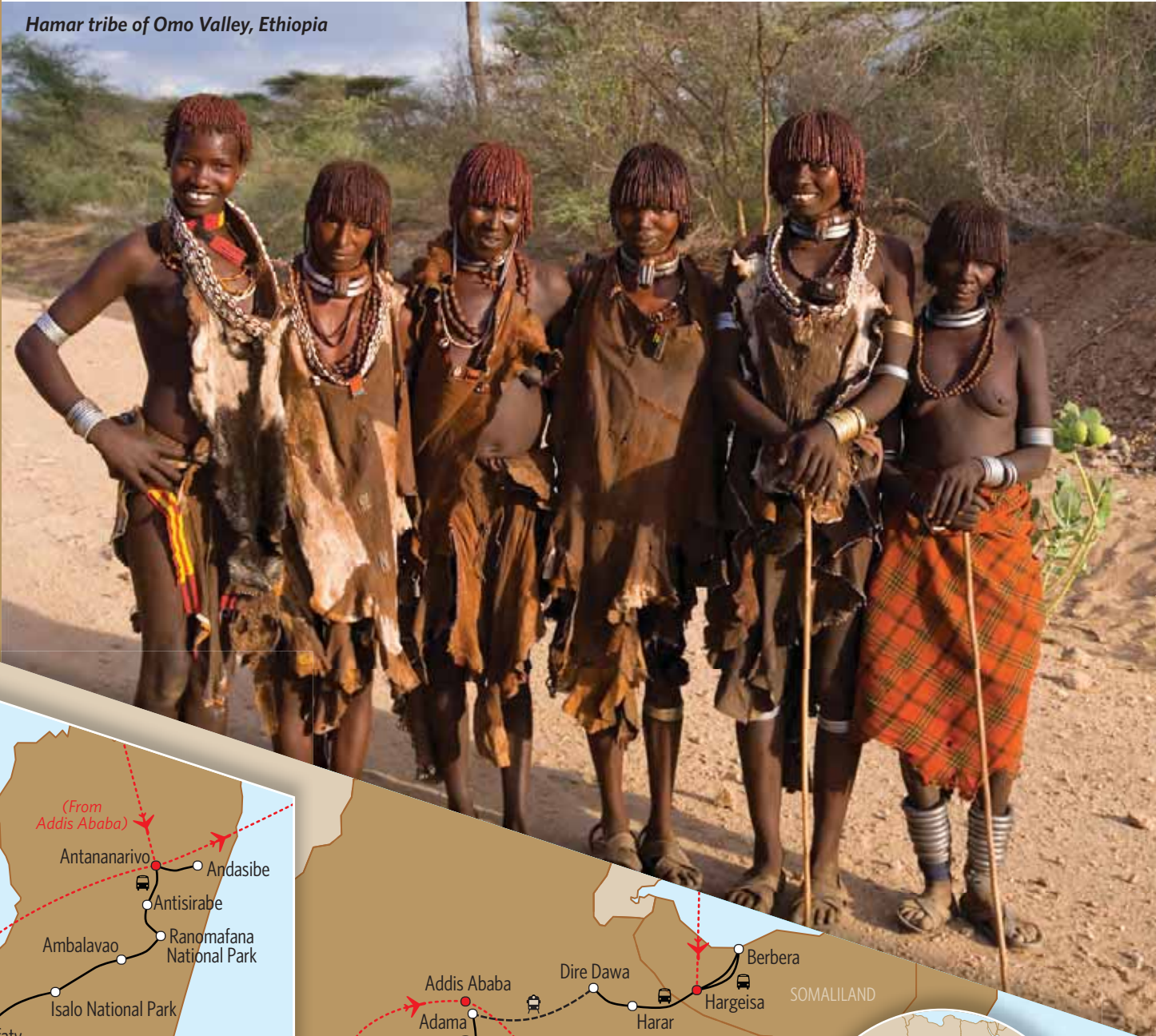


Hyena Man, Harar, Ethiopia



Turning of Bones ceremony, Madagascar

Hamar tribe of Omo Valley, Ethiopia



Africa: The Last Frontiers

30 DAY TOUR

Africa: The Last Frontiers is a heady mix that demonstrates the extraordinary diversity that hides away in Africa's most remote corner. We begin in Somaliland, one of travel's best-kept secrets – not to be confused with its chaotic neighbor, Somalia. We visit Ethiopia's remarkable walled city of Harar, before travelling on the amazing brand new 'Red Sea' train to Adama, then moving south to the Omo Valley – home to Ethiopia's diverse tribes. Finally we visit remarkable Madagascar, a treasure trove of unique flora and fauna. This tour is a dizzying combination of ancient tribes and cultures, and extraordinary landscapes. These are the last frontiers of Africa!



DAY 1 AUSTRALIA - DUBAI

Fly Emirates to Dubai. Have dinner before a late evening transfer to the airport. **(D)**

DAY 2 DUBAI - HARGEISA

Arrive early into Hargeisa, capital of Somaliland, situated in the Horn of Africa. Take a city tour, including the vibrant daily camel market. **(BLD)**

DAY 3 HARGEISA - BERBERA - HARGEISA Drive to Laas Geel, home to extraordinary cave paintings. Later head north to the Gulf of Aden and the ancient coastal city of Berbera. **(BLD)**

DAYS 4 - 5 HARGEISA - HARAR Cross the border into Ethiopia and drive through the vast Ogaden region and into the eastern Rift Valley. Early afternoon we reach the walled city of Harar. **(BLD)**

DAY 5 HARAR Harar is the fourth holiest city of Islam, and boasts 82 mosques, three of which date from the 10th century. Today we explore the historic cultural heart of the city. **(BLD)**

DAY 6 HARAR - ADAMA Drive to Dire Dawa and board the amazing Red Sea train for the six-hour journey to Adama. **(BLD)**

DAY 7 ADAMA - ARBA MINCH After breakfast drive south passing a throng of Rift Valley lakes that lie in an ancient caldera. Late afternoon arrive at Arba Minch, gateway to the Omo Valley. **(BLD)**

DAY 8 ARBA MINCH Visit the village of Dorze. The Dorze people are a hard working tribe renowned for their skill in weaving, carpentry and other traditional crafts. **(BLD)**

DAY 9 ARBA MINCH - KONSO Explore Lake Chamo, a sanctuary for vast numbers of hippopotamus and the giant Nile crocodile. Later continue driving south to the walled towns and settlements of Konso. **(BLD)**

DAY 10 KONSO - TURMI Travel to Turmi, in the heart of the Omo Valley region. **(BLD)**

DAYS 11 - 12 TURMI - QORCHO - TURMI Turmi is the home of the Hamar people, famous for their 'Bull-Jumping' ceremony – an annual rite of passage where boys are initiated into adulthood. Visit the Hamar people and also the Karo tribe who live along the east bank of the Omo River. **(BLD)**

DAY 13 TURMI - JINKA Make the short drive to Jinka in Mago National Park on the eastern shore of the Omo River. **(BLD)**

DAY 14 JINKA Visit the remarkable Mursi people, whose women still wear lip-plates made of pottery or wood. **(BLD)**

DAY 15 JINKA - ADDIS ABABA Mid-morning transfer to the airport for our flight to Addis Ababa. **(BD)**

DAY 16 ADDIS ABABA Take a city tour of Addis Ababa including the National Museum, which houses 'Lucy', the partial skeleton of the world's oldest hominid. **(BLD)**

DAY 17 ADDIS ABABA - ANTANANARIVO Transfer to the airport for our flight to Madagascar. **(BLD)**

DAY 18 ANTANANARIVO Visit the Summer Palace of

Ambohimanga. In the afternoon take a city tour in Citroen cars. **(BLD)**

DAY 19 ANTANANARIVO - ANTSIRABE Drive south to Antsirabe, passing through typically beautiful highland country. Take a tour of the city by rickshaw. **(BLD)**

DAY 20 ANTSIRABE Today we are privileged guests at the annual Famadihana ('Turning of the Bones') ceremony, a day of great joy for Malagasy families. **(BLD)**

DAYS 21 - 22 ANTSIRABE - RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK Continue south to the beautiful Ranomafana National Park. Enjoy daytime and evening visits to the park which is home to a dazzling array of reptiles and lemurs, including the golden bamboo lemur. **(BLD)**

DAY 23 RANOMAFANA - ISALO Drive through the highlands to Isalo. En-route see the ring-tailed lemurs at Anja National Park and the lovely town of Ambalavao. **(BLD)**

DAY 24 ISALO Explore Isalo National Park which is characterised

Highlights

SOMALILAND See the rock carvings at Laas Geel. Visit the vibrant camel markets.

ETHIOPIA Watch locals feed wild hyenas at Harar. Ride the amazing Red Sea train. Visit the Mursi, Hamar and Karo tribes. Explore the Omo Valley.

MADAGASCAR Explore the amazing national parks. Visit a Malagasy family. Witness the remarkable 'turning of the bones' ceremony.

by vast eroded sandstone formations and is home to a brilliant array of flora. **(BLD)**

DAYS 25 - 26 ISALO - IFATY Start our journey to the southwest of the island. See the ancient baobab trees in the silver grey spiny forests. Visit the fascinating village of Ambolimailaka and meet fishermen and local Vezo people who inhabit this part of the island. **(BLD)**

DAY 27 IFATY - TULEAR - ANTANANARIVO - ANDASIBE Fly back to Tana. Later drive to Andasibe. **(BLD)**

DAY 28 ANDASIBE Visit Analamazaotra – home to the largest lemur in the world, the Indri. Later see the five species of semi-tame lemurs living on Lemur Island. **(BLD)**

DAY 29 ANTANANARIVO - NAIROBI - DUBAI Return to Antananarivo and transfer to the airport for our homeward flight. **(B)**

DAY 30 DUBAI - AUSTRALIA Connect with the flight to your chosen Australian city.

Tour Information

2019: 06 Aug - 04 Sep

TOUR COST FROM \$21,200 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,150

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: **B**-Breakfast | **L**-Lunch | **D**-Dinner



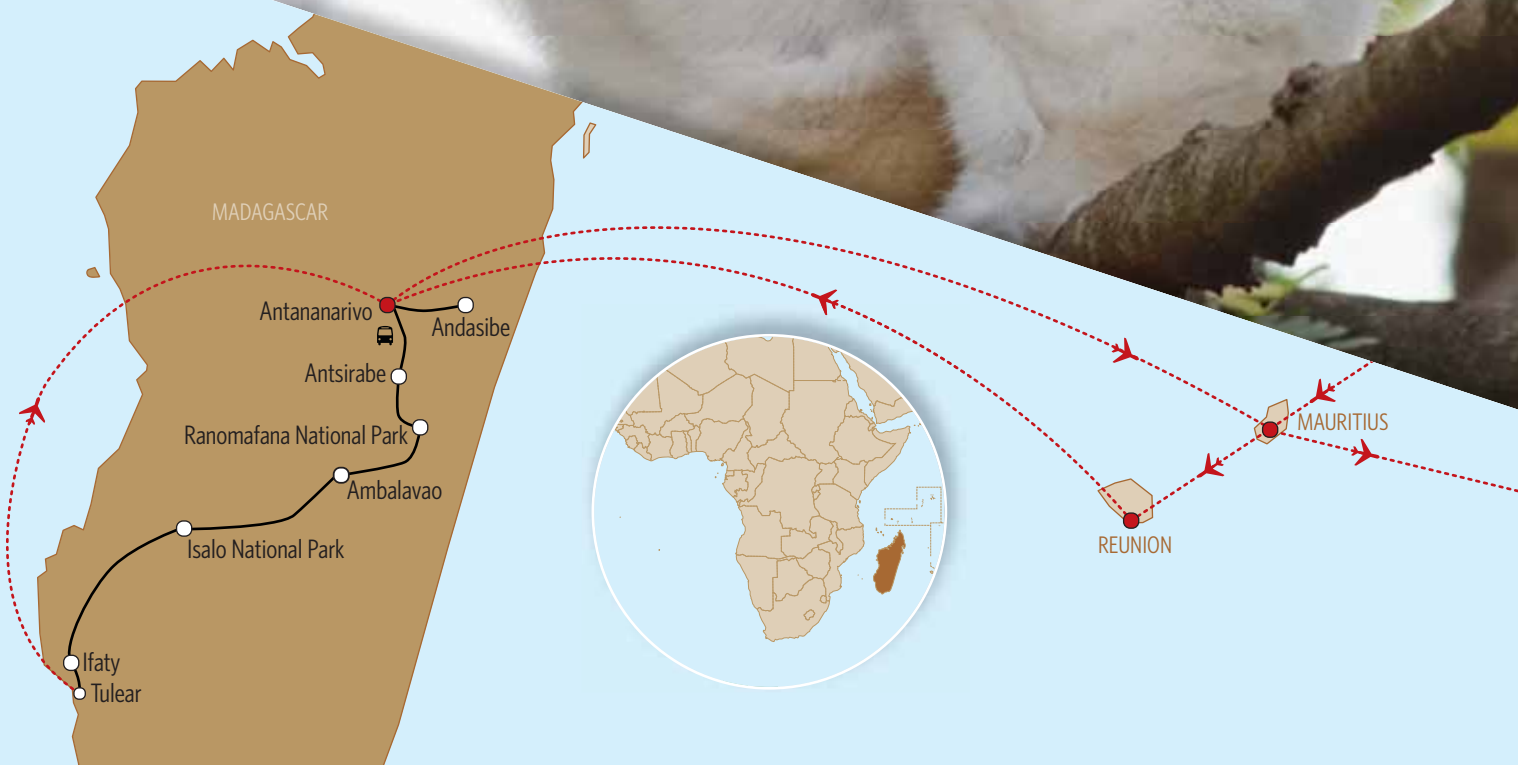
Baobab trees, Madagascar



Malagasy men at Zebu market



Sifaka Lemur, Madagascar



Pearls of the Indian Ocean

22 DAY TOUR

Mauritius, Reunion and Madagascar – three incredible islands located in the Indian Ocean just eight hours flying time from Western Australia. We begin in Reunion, an island of exquisite waterfalls, mountains, canyons, and lively Creole villages. Our next stop is Madagascar – perhaps the most spectacular of the ‘pearls’. This unique island has an astonishing variety of flora and fauna, resulting from millions of years of evolution. We enjoy 14 days seeing the unique national parks and diverse wildlife of this extraordinary island, including its most famous inhabitants, the lemurs. Finally we head to the sparkling island of Mauritius – a relaxing end to a remarkable tour.

Highlights

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

MADAGASCAR

City tour of Tana in Citroen cars. Candle-lit dinner amidst ancient Baobab trees. Visit to Ranomafana National Park, home of the golden bamboo lemur.

MAURITIUS Visit the Seven Coloured Earths at Chamarel. Explore the Botanical Gardens.

DAY 1 AUSTRALIA – MAURITIUS – REUNION ISLAND

Fly to Reunion via Perth and Mauritius.

DAYS 2 – 3 REUNION ISLAND

Set out for Reunion's incredible natural wonder, the Cirque de Cilaos, with its magnificent waterfalls. Later, explore a typical village. Fly over Piton de la Fournaise, one of the world's most active volcanoes. (BLD)

DAY 4 REUNION ISLAND – ANTANANARIVO Fly to the capital of Madagascar, Antananarivo, affectionately known as ‘Tana’. (BLD)

DAY 5 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 6 ANTANANARIVO – ANTSIRABE Drive south to Antsirabe, passing through typically beautiful highland country. (BLD)

DAY 7 ANTSIRABE Tour Antsirabe by rickshaw, visiting a miniature toy factory and a zebu (ox) horn workshop. (BLD)



Fisherman, Ifaty

DAY 8 ANTSIRABE – RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

Drive further south to the woodcarving town of Ambohitra. Enter the Ranomafana National Park and follow the Namorona River to our hotel. (BLD)

DAY 9 RANOMAFANA Visit the rainforest at Ranomafana, home to a dazzling array of reptiles and lemurs, including the golden bamboo lemur. (BLD)

DAY 10 RANOMAFANA – AMBALAVAO Continue driving south through the highlands to Ambalavao, a lovely town noted for its carved balconies and shutters. (BLD)

DAY 11 AMBALAVAO – ISALO NATIONAL PARK

See the ring-tailed lemurs at Anja National Park then continue across the Horombe Plateau to the fringes of Isalo National Park. (BLD)

DAY 12 ISALO Explore Isalo National Park which is characterised by vast eroded sandstone formations and is home to an amazing array of flora. (BLD)

DAY 13 ISALO – IFATY Start our journey to the southwest of the island. See the ancient baobab trees in the silver grey spiny forests. (BLD)

DAY 14 IFATY Visit the fascinating village of Ambolimailaka and meet fishermen and local Vezo people who inhabit this part of the island. (BLD)

DAY 15 IFATY – TULEAR – ANTANANARIVO – ANDASIBE After a morning at leisure, fly back to Tana. Later drive to Andasibe. (BLD)

DAY 16 ANDASIBE Visit Analamazaotra – home to the largest lemur in the world, the Indri. Later see the five species of semi-tame lemurs living on Lemur Island. (BLD)

DAY 17 ANDASIBE – ANTANANARIVO – MAURITIUS

This morning we return to Antananarivo and in the afternoon visit the superb curio market. Later we transfer to the airport for our flight to Mauritius. (BLD)

DAYS 18 – 20 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. Explore a tea factory and plantation and visit the Grand Bassin sacred lake. (BLD)

DAYS 21 – 22 MAURITIUS – PERTH

After a leisurely day we transfer to the airport for our journey back to Australia. (BL)



Elephant Foot, Isalo

Tour Information

2019: 05 May – 26 May

2020: 04 May – 25 May

TOUR COST FROM \$14,950 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$2,550

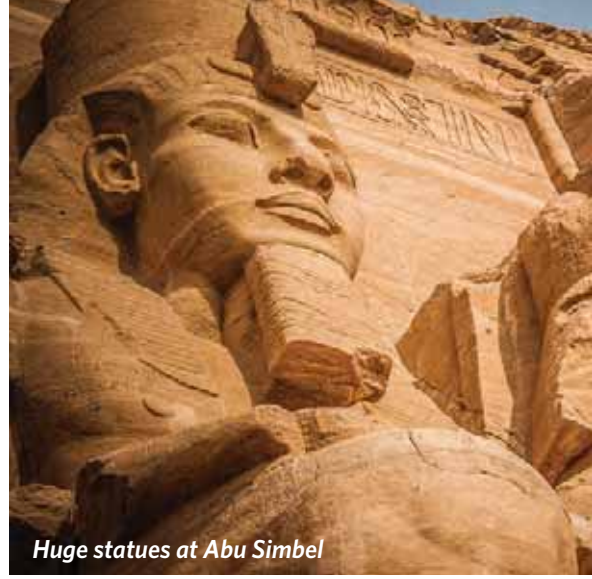
INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



The pyramids, Egypt



Huge statues at Abu Simbel

Meroe Pyramids, Sudan



Passage of the Nile

28 DAY TOUR

This great caravan of antiquity starts in Ethiopia, the 'cradle of civilization' and heads inexorably north, tracing the Nile's path to the Mediterranean Sea. From the source of the Blue Nile at Lake Tana, to Khartoum, North Sudan – where the Blue and White Nile merge – our mystical journey moves on to the sands of the Nubian Desert and the remarkable Pyramids of Meroe, less-visited but equally impressive as their Egyptian counterparts. Entering Egypt we explore the wealth of ancient treasures as we follow the Nile north to its mouth. Join us on *Passage of the Nile*, an unforgettable journey from Addis Ababa to Alexandria!



DAYS 1 - 2 AUSTRALIA - ADDIS ABABA Fly Emirates to Addis Ababa via Dubai. **(D)**

DAY 3 ADDIS ABABA Welcome to the 'Cradle of Civilisation!' Enjoy a city tour including the National Museum where the oldest human skeleton 'Lucy' is on display. **(BLD)**

DAYS 4 - 5 ADDIS ABABA - BAHIR DAR Drive to Bahir Dar on the shores of Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile. Visit the Blue Nile Falls. **(BLD)**

DAY 6 BAHIR DAR - GORGORA - GONDAR Board a boat to explore Lake Tana's famous island monasteries. Continue by boat to Gorgora on the northern shore, then continue by road to the highland city of Gondar. **(BLD)**

DAY 7 GONDAR Explore the 'Camelot City' of Gondar, so-called for its heritage-listed castle complex. Later drive to the remarkable Simien Mountains. **(BLD)**

DAYS 8 - 9 GONDAR - KHARTOUM Head north to the border and continue on to North Sudan's capital Khartoum located at the confluence of the Blue and White Nile. Visit the Presidential Palace, the stunning Archaeological Museum and the amazing Souq. **(BLD)**

DAY 10 KHARTOUM - NAGA - MEROE Leave Khartoum and drive north, soon reaching the dramatic 6th Nile Cataract. Visit the temple complex of Mussawarat, then continue on to Meroe in the Nubian Desert, where a remarkable field of around 200 pyramids sits amid the desert sands. **(BLD)**

DAY 11 MEROE Visit the astounding pyramids - tombs of the kings and queens of the Meroitic Kingdom - seldom seen by tourists. **(BLD)**

DAY 12 MEROE - KARIMA Leaving Meroe we cross the Nile to enter the vast Bayuda Desert, between the 4th and the 6th Cataract. Continue on to Karima, situated on the banks of the Nile, close to the holy mountain of Jebel Barkal. **(BLD)**



Kom Ombo courtyard, Egypt

DAYS 13 - 14 KARIMA - EL KURRU - KARIMA Explore the Jebel Barkal site and take a cruise on the Nile. Drive to the royal cemetery of El Kurru, the final resting place of Nubian King Tanwetamani and his mother, Queen Qalhata. **(BLD)**

DAY 15 KARIMA - WADI HALFA - ABU SIMBEL Depart for the Sudanese/Egyptian border travelling through the central Nubian area and the 3rd Nile Cataract. Cross into Egypt and continue on to Abu Simbel. **(BLD)**

DAY 16 ABU SIMBEL Visit the great temple complex of Abu Simbel before the tourist convoy from Aswan arrives. Later enjoy a magnificent sound and light show. **(BLD)**

DAY 17 ABU SIMBEL - ASWAN After breakfast we join our convoy for the journey to Aswan and in the afternoon visit the High Dam. **(BLD)**

DAY 18 ASWAN - KOM OMBO Take a felucca boat to visit Elephantine Island. Later board MS Amwaj for our three-night Nile Cruise, stopping first at Kom Ombo. Visit the unusual double temple dedicated to the gods Sobek and Haroeris. **(BLD)**

DAY 19 KOM OMBO - EDFU Explore the Temple of Horus - the outstanding attraction of Edfu, considered to be one of the best-preserved temples in Egypt. **(BLD)**

DAY 20 EDFU - ESNA - LUXOR Continue sailing north to Luxor. On arrival explore the complexes of Karnak and Luxor Temples. Later visit Queen Hatshepsut's Temple, and the extraordinary Valley of the Kings. **(BLD)**

DAY 21 LUXOR Disembark from our cruise boat and drive to Dendera, where we explore the remarkable temple complex. **(BLD)**

Highlights

ETHIOPIA See the source of the Blue Nile at Lake Tana. Visit the castle complex at Gondar.

SUDAN Visit the confluence of the Blue and White Nile in Khartoum. See the amazing pyramids of Meroe. Visit the necropolis at El Kurru.

EGYPT 2 nights at Abu Simbel. 3-night luxury Nile cruise. Visit the Valley of the Kings. Explore the Temple of Karnak.

DAY 22 LUXOR - CAIRO Depart for Luxor railway station for the journey to Cairo. **(BLD)**

DAYS 23 - 24 CAIRO Enjoy a city tour including the Archeological Museum, which houses the treasures of Tutankhamun. Visit the Giza pyramid complex, the Khan Al Khalili bazaar, and the old part of the city - Coptic Cairo. **(BLD)**

DAY 25 CAIRO - ALEXANDRIA Take the desert road to the 'Pearl of the Mediterranean', Alexandria, located near the Nile Delta. **(BLD)**

DAY 26 ALEXANDRIA - ROSETTA - ALEXANDRIA

Drive to Rosetta, where the great Nile River forms one of the largest deltas in the world as it drains into the Mediterranean. Return to Alexandria and explore the Royal Library and the catacombs. **(BLD)**

DAYS 27 - 28 ALEXANDRIA - DUBAI - AUSTRALIA Fly to Dubai and connect with the flight to Australia. **(B)**

Tour Information

2019: 07 Feb - 06 Mar

2020: 06 Feb - 06 Mar

TOUR COST FROM \$17,750 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,890

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Nile cruise | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner

25 DAYS | NAMIBIA | FROM \$17,500



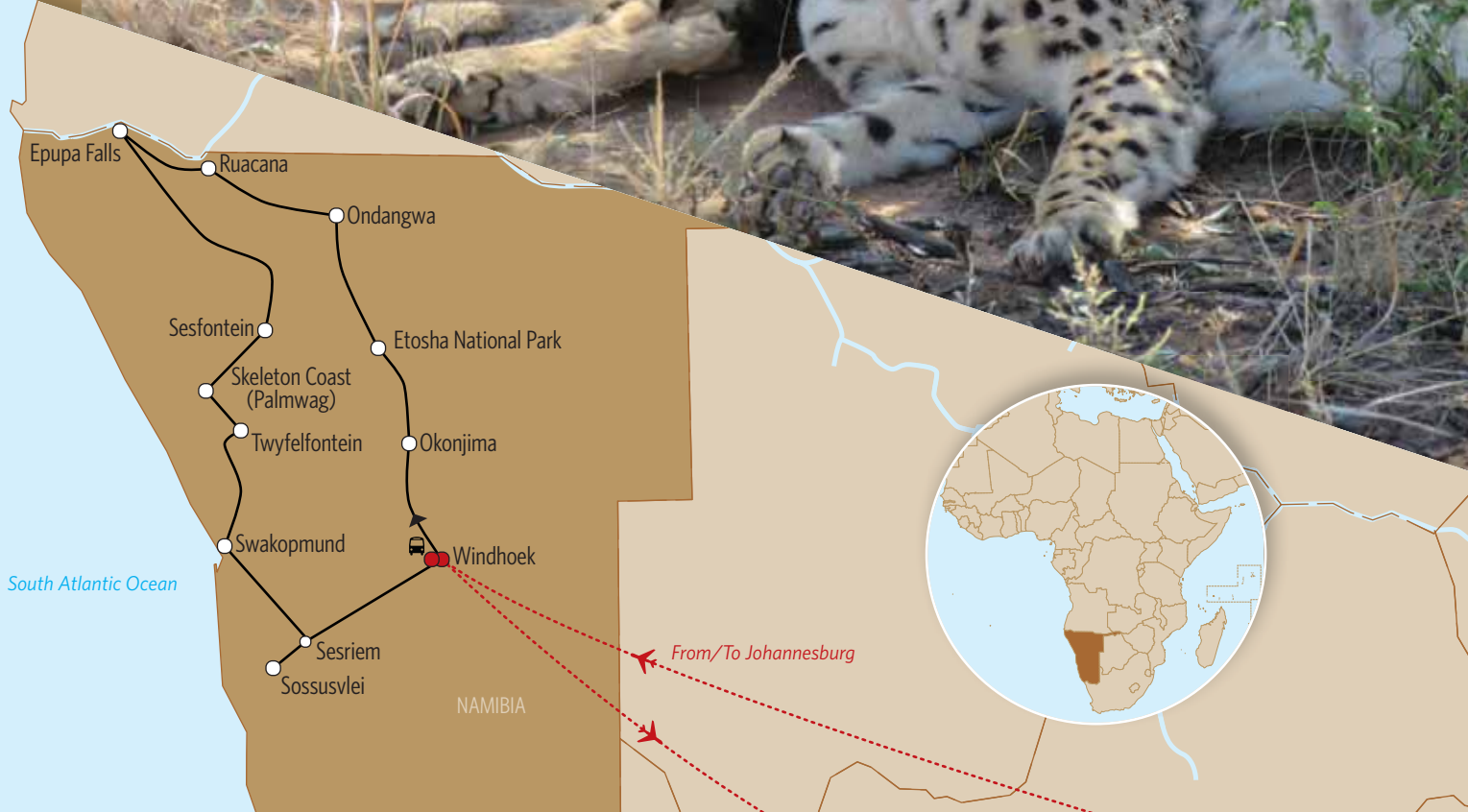
Dunes at Sossusvlei



Himba girl



Cheetahs at Okonjima



Namibia: Masterpiece of Nature

25 DAY TOUR

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. We visit Etosha National Park with its shimmering salt-pan and abundance of wildlife; Epupa Falls, famous for its cascading waterfalls and richly-coloured rock walls; and the surreal landscapes of Sossusvlei. We invite you to join us on a remarkable tour to this extraordinary corner of Africa!

DAYS 1 - 2 AUSTRALIA - JOHANNESBURG - WINDHOEK Fly from Australia to Windhoek via Johannesburg. **(LD)**

DAYS 3 - 4 WINDHOEK - OKONJIMA After breakfast 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. Enjoy multiple game drives to see elephant, giraffe, wildebeest, springbok, oryx and lion. **(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 to Epupa, famous for its

beautiful cascades and richly coloured rock walls. Visit one of the many scattered Himba settlements. **(BLD)**

DAY 12 EPUPA FALLS - KHOWARIB GORGE Head south through the Kunene Region to Sesfontein and on to our lodge nestled in the spectacular Khowarib Gorge. **(BLD)**

DAYS 13 - 14 SKELETON COAST Today we drive to Mowe Bay and transfer by light aircraft to Shipwreck Lodge situated in the iconic Skeleton Coast National Park. Enjoy nature drives and walks in search of the desert-adapted elephant, lion and black rhino. **(BLD)**

DAY 15 HOANIB - GROOTBERG Drive through the amazing scenery of Damaraland to Grootberg where our lodge overlooks the stunning Klip River Valley and the Etendeka Mountains. **(BLD)**

DAYS 16 - 17 TWYFELFONTEIN AREA Begin our exploration of 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 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)**

DAYS 21 - 22 SWAKOPMUND - SESRIEM - 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 and the surreal landscape of Dead Vlei. **(BLD)**

Highlights

Leopard and cheetah tracking at Okonjima.

3 nights at Etosha National Park.

Sundowner cruise at Ruacana.

Visit to a Himba settlement.

2 nights at luxurious Shipwreck Lodge, Skeleton Coast.

See the desert-adapted elephant at Damaraland.

Explore the gigantic star-shaped dunes at Sossusvlei.

DAY 23 SESRIEM - 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)**



Chameleon - 'Living Desert' tour

Tour Information

2019: 05 Apr - 29 Apr

2020: 04 Apr - 28 Apr

TOUR COST FROM \$17,500 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,565

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Expert driver/guide | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **ACTIVE**

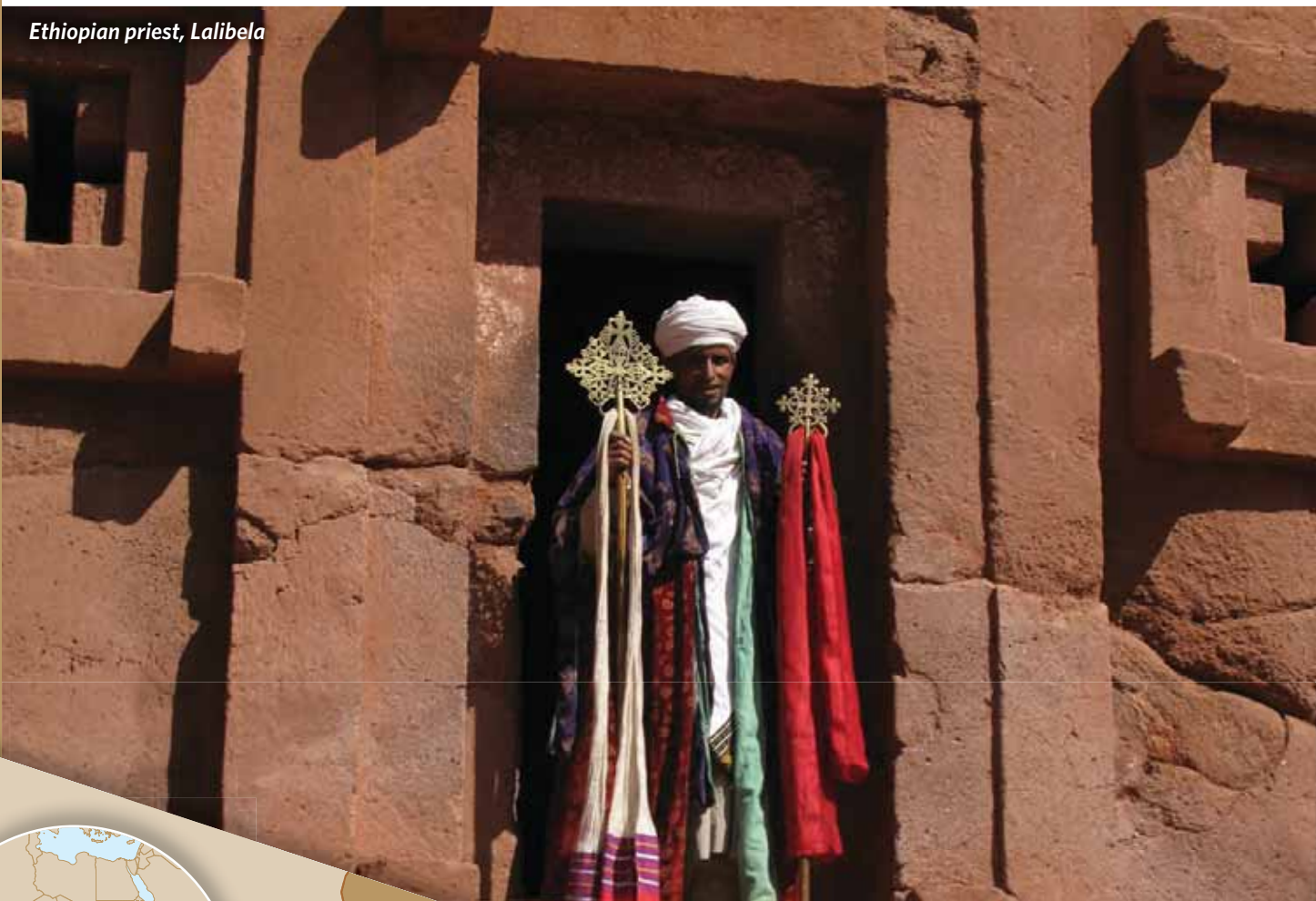
Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



Gorilla and baby, Rwanda



Lake Bunyonyi, Uganda



Ethiopian priest, Lalibela



African Dawn

27 DAY TOUR

Imagine an adventure that starts with the thrill of visiting Lake Victoria and the source of the River Nile, and one of the great wildlife parks in Africa, Queen Elizabeth National Park. Imagine coming face to face with the gorillas of Rwanda's Virunga Mountains, and exploring the remarkable castles and rock-hewn churches of Ethiopia. Our exceptional tour to this unique pocket of East Africa also features one of the most amazing festivals in the world - Timkat - which celebrates the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River. This is Africa with a difference: welcome to African Dawn!



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 KAMPALA - FORT PORTAL Drive to Fort Portal and the famous Mountains of the Moon. 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. Take a tour of the city including the Memorial Centre. **(BLD)**

DAY 13 KIGALI - ADDIS ABABA Further explore Kigali before boarding an afternoon flight to Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia. **(BLD)**

DAY 14 ADDIS ABABA Today is the start of the Timkat Festival, celebrating the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River. Thousands of worshippers dance and sing in the streets to the beating of drums. **(BLD)**

DAY 15 ADDIS ABABA - BAHIR DAR 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. Late afternoon we fly to Bahir Dar. **(BLD)**

DAYS 16 - 17 BAHIR DAR Explore Bahir Dar located on the shores of Lake Tana, the largest lake in Ethiopia. Visit the Blue Nile Falls and enjoy a boat ride to the famous island monasteries of Lake Tana. **(BLD)**

DAY 18 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 19 GONDAR Gondar is famous for its stunning medieval castles and beautiful churches. Today we explore these amazing sites. **(BLD)**

DAY 20 GONDAR Today we visit the beautiful Simien Mountains - home to the endemic Gelada baboons. Here, soaring peaks, canyons and gorges combine to produce a startling wilderness. **(BLD)**

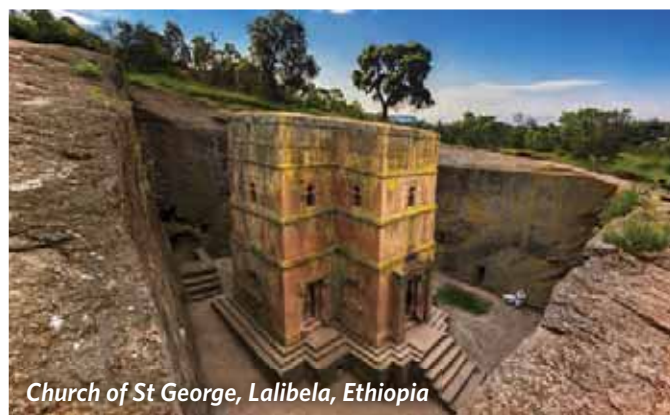
DAY 21 GONDAR - AXUM After breakfast we begin our drive north through deep canyons and high plateaus to Axum, the holiest city in Ethiopia. **(BLD)**

DAYS 22 - 23 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. **(BLD)**

DAY 24 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 25 LALIBELA Further explore the churches including the magnificent rock-hewn Bet Giyorgis, the 'House of St George'. **(BLD)**

DAYS 26 - 27 LALIBELA - ADDIS ABABA - DUBAI - AUSTRALIA Fly back to Australia via Addis Ababa and Dubai. **(B)**



Church of St George, Lalibela, Ethiopia

Tour Information

2019: 05 Jan - 31 Jan

2020: 05 Jan - 31 Jan

TOUR COST FROM \$20,950 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,835

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Rwandan gorilla permit | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: ACTIVE

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



Herd of zebra and wildebeest



Late afternoon, Serengeti

Wildebeest migration, Tanzania



MOZAMBIQUE
Nampula Mozambique Island
To Dar es Salaam

Grumeti Serengeti Ngorongoro Arusha
Mwanza
TANZANIA
Zanzibar
Dar es Salaam
From Nampula

Maputo

The Great Migration

20 DAY TOUR

This remarkable tour to Mozambique and Tanzania is a dynamic mix of African culture and heritage, and perhaps the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth. We begin in mysterious Mozambique, with its melting pot of Arabic, Indian and Portuguese influences before moving to Tanzania's Ngorongoro Crater and the endless plains of East Africa, where 1.5 million wildebeest and hundreds of thousands of zebras follow the rain on their great annual migration. Finally we fly to the spice island of Zanzibar and its UNESCO-listed capital, Stone Town – a great finale to this memorable journey!

Highlights

MOZAMBIQUE Visit Maputo's cultural heart, the Mafalala district. Exclusive dinner with local musicians. 2-night stay on Mozambique Island.

TANZANIA Spectacular game-viewing at Ngorongoro Crater. Multiple-night stays in Serengeti National Park. See massive herds of wildebeest and zebra. 2-nights at Grumeti River. 2-nights at Mwanza on the shores of Lake Victoria.

ZANZIBAR Tour of Stone Town. Visit to a spice plantation.

DAY 1 AUSTRALIA – JOHANNESBURG Fly South African Airlines to Johannesburg.

DAY 2 JOHANNESBURG – MAPUTO On arrival in Maputo we transfer to our hotel. (LD)

DAYS 3 – 4 MAPUTO Take a city tour of Maputo including the old town. 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 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)

DAY 13 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, lion prides and hyena clans. (BLD)

DAYS 14 – 15 GRUMETI – MWANZA We leave Grumeti and head west to the southern shore of Lake Victoria, and Tanzania's second city of Mwanza. Take a canoe to explore the unspoilt Sukuma fishing villages on the lake. (BLD)

DAY 16 MWANZA – DAR ES SALAAM – ZANZIBAR

After breakfast transfer to the airport for our flight to Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. (BD)

DAYS 17 – 18 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)

DAYS 19 – 20 ZANZIBAR – AUSTRALIA Transfer to the airport for our flight to Australia via Dar es Salaam and Johannesburg. (B)

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!



Local men on dhow, Zanzibar

Tour Information

2019: 26 Jul – 14 Aug

TOUR COST FROM \$17,650 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$2,695

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL:  **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner

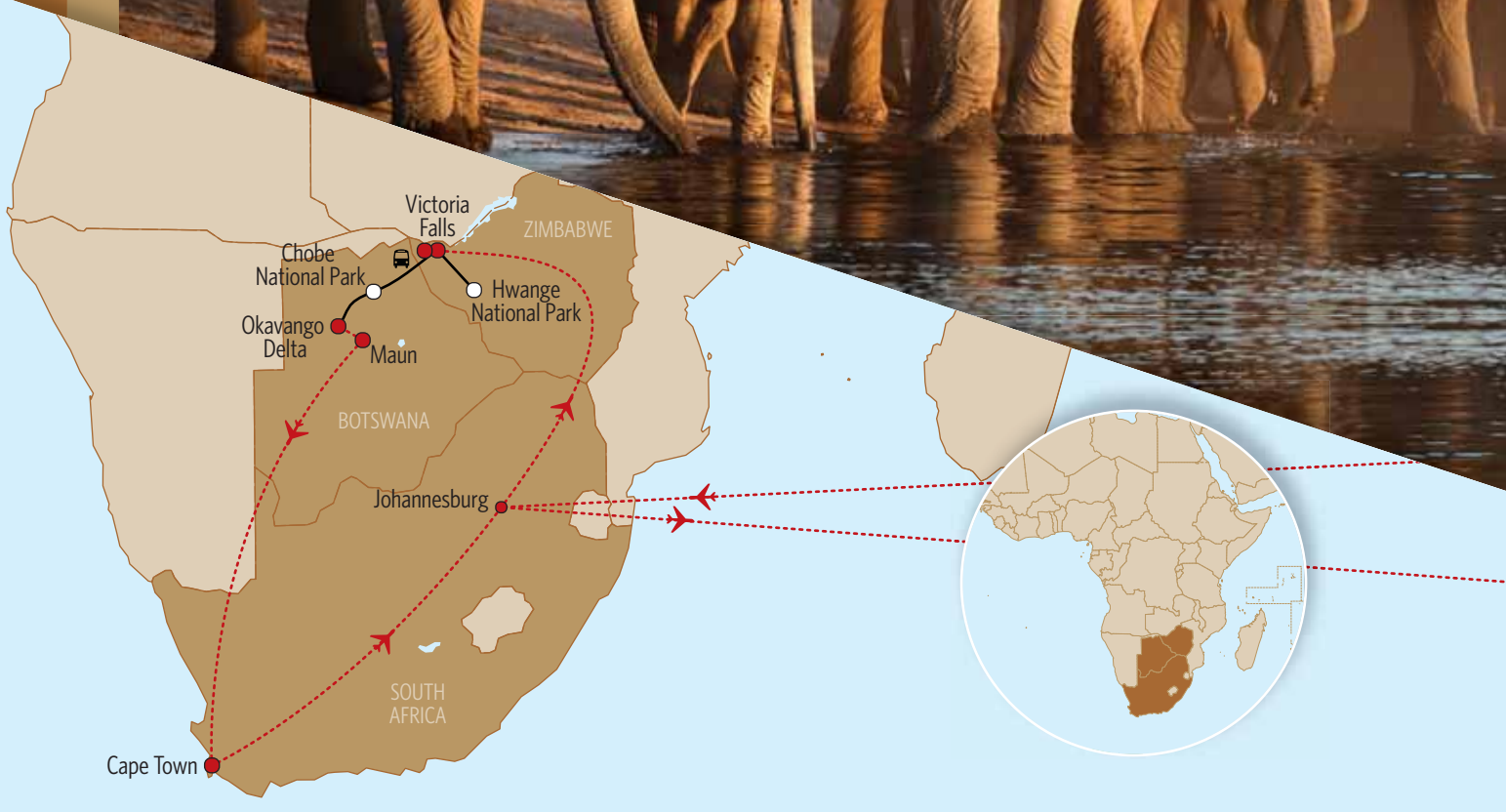


Lioness and cub, Chobe, Botswana



Zebra fighting

Elephants at waterhole



Southern African Magic

19 DAY TOUR

Southern African Magic 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. In Botswana we spend two nights in Chobe National Park before heading to the magnificent Okavango Delta. Here we explore a labyrinth of water channels rich in amazing and diverse wildlife. Finally, we head to Cape Town – one of the world's greatest cities, nestled at the foot of Table Mountain.

Highlights

ZIMBABWE 3 nights at Hwange National Park. Helicopter flight over Victoria Falls. Sundowner cruise on the Zambezi.

BOTSWANA 3 nights at the spectacular Okavango Delta. 2 nights at Chobe Bush Lodge.

SOUTH AFRICA Cable car ride to the top of Table Mountain. Scenic drive to the Cape of Good Hope.

DAY 1 AUSTRALIA – JOHANNESBURG Fly to Johannesburg via Perth.

DAY 2 JOHANNESBURG – VICTORIA FALLS On arrival in Victoria Falls we transfer to our hotel. (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 elephants, giraffes and zebras come to drink. (BLD)

DAY 4 HWANGE NATIONAL PARK Hwange National Park is one of the world's greatest game reserves with big 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 at close range from fully-enclosed hides at our lodge. (BLD)

DAY 6 HWANGE NATIONAL PARK – VICTORIA FALLS Drive to Victoria Falls – one of the Wonders of the World. At nearly 2km wide they form the largest curtain of falling water in the world (BLD)

DAYS 7 – 8 VICTORIA FALLS Fully explore the area around Victoria Falls including the town and markets. Take a helicopter flight for a birds' eye view of the cascades. (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 lions, leopards, kudu and hippos. (BLD)

DAY 10 CHOBE Enjoy an early-morning game drive to try and locate lions and leopards 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 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 park. After a relaxing afternoon, take an early evening game drive. (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)



Lilac-breasted Roller, Botswana

DAY 14 OKAVANGO DELTA – CAPE TOWN After breakfast take a 20-minute flight to Maun and connect with the flight to Cape Town. (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 Leave for 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. (BLD)



Leopard, Chobe National Park, Botswana

Tour Information

2019: 23 Aug – 10 Sep

TOUR COST FROM \$15,990 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,515

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: ACTIVE

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner

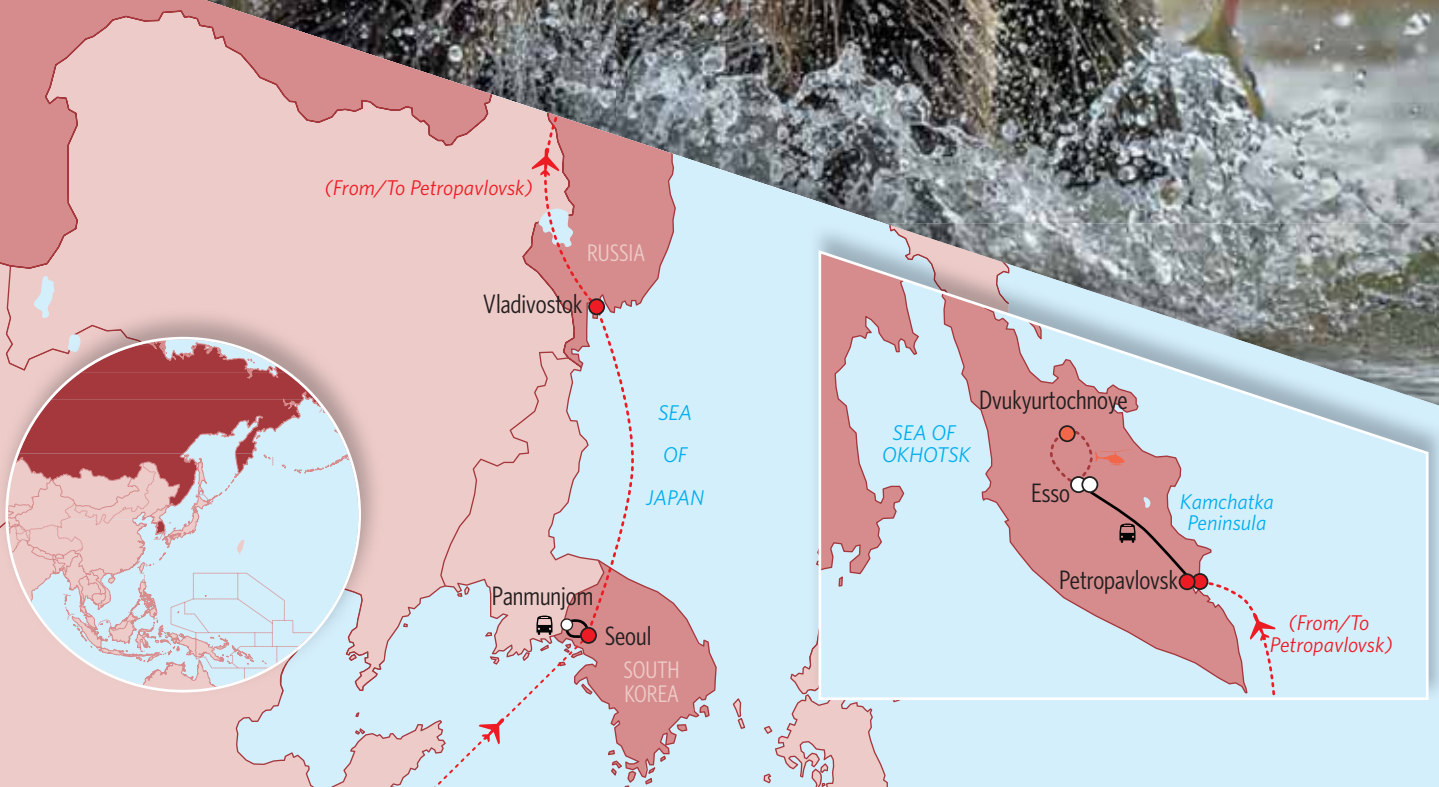


Volcanoes, Kamchatka



Picnic stop in Kamchatka

Kamchatka brown bear



Kamchatka: Nature's Tour de Force

19 DAY TOUR

Closed to the outside world until 1993, both Vladivostok and the Kamchatka Peninsula remain largely untouched by the mass tourism that so often destroys what were once unique destinations. Our tour to this pristine wilderness area reveals volcanoes, mountains, glaciers and taiga forests, much of which is accessible only by helicopter. Here we find a beauty that is both overwhelming and exhilarating, populated by large numbers of the Kamchatka brown bear. Join us on a remarkable journey from the Korean capital Seoul, and the Russian city of Vladivostok, to the 'Land of Fire and Ice' - Kamchatka!

Highlights

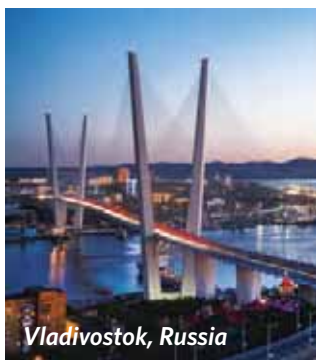
KOREA Visit the 38th parallel between North and South Korea

RUSSIA 3 nights in Vladivostok. Visit to Siberian Tiger park. Drive through the heart of Kamchatka. Visit the indigenous Koryak and Even people. Explore the amazing Valley of the Geysers. 2 nights at Lake Dvukyrtochnoye. See Kamchatka brown bears feed on salmon. Fly over the pristine wilderness areas of Kamchatka by helicopter.

DAYS 1 - 2 AUSTRALIA - SINGAPORE - SEOUL Fly Singapore Airlines to Seoul via Singapore. After lunch on Day 2 begin a city tour of Seoul. (LD)

DAY 3 SEOUL - PANMUNJOM Today is a major highlight as we drive to the 38th Parallel at Panmunjom - the Demilitarised Zone with North Korea. (BLD)

DAY 4 SEOUL - VLADIVOSTOK Transfer to the airport for the flight to Vladivostok. Located on a natural inlet - Golden Horn Bay - Vladivostok is often likened to San Francisco. On arrival we transfer to our hotel. (BD)



Vladivostok, Russia

DAYS 5 - 6 VLADIVOSTOK Explore the city and bay areas, and take a boat ride around the harbour. Visit Primorsky Safari Park which is home to Siberian tigers, stag, dappled deer, black and brown bear, and other wild animals. (BLD)

DAY 7 VLADIVOSTOK - PETROPAVLOVSK After breakfast transfer to the airport for

our flight to the Kamchatka Peninsula. (BD)

DAY 8 PETROPAVLOVSK Board a boat for a tour of Avacha Bay and Starichkov Island, passing the amazing 'Three Brothers' rocks, which jut up dramatically from the ocean. (BLD)

DAY 9 PETROPAVLOVSK - ESSO Today we drive 530km north to Esso - a beautiful town of 2,500 people. En-route we visit the Cossack village of Milkovo. (BLD)

DAY 10 ESSO - LAKE DVUKYURTOCHNOYE Drive to the helicopter pad for our 45 minute flight to Lake Dvukyrtochnoye. After lunch walk to the shore of the lake where we may see bears catching fish. (BLD)

DAY 11 LAKE DVUKYURTOCHNOYE Early this morning leave the camp and head towards the river and lake to spot bears. Return to our camp for a late breakfast, and after a leisurely day, revisit the wilderness area to observe the late afternoon activity of the bears. (BLD)

DAY 12 LAKE DVUKYURTOCHNOYE - ESSO Board our helicopter for the flight back to Esso. After lunch we begin our exploration of this lovely city, set in a picturesque valley. (BLD)

DAY 13 ESSO Hike to the nearby larch forests and enjoy a day in this pristine alpine environment. (BLD)

DAY 14 ESSO - ANAVGAY - ESSO A short distance from Esso is the settlement of Anavgay, home

of the Koryak and Even people. Today we visit Anavgay and learn about the customs of the local people. (BLD)

DAY 15 ESSO - PETROPAVLOVSK Today we make the drive back to Petropavlovsk. (BLD)

DAYS 16 - 17 PETROPAVLOVSK - VALLEY OF THE GEYSERS - PETROPAVLOVSK Take a 90-minute helicopter flight to the Valley of the Geysers. See the

amazing mud pools, geysers and thermal springs erupt through the valley floor. Drive two hours to the Avachinsky Volcano - the most active on the Kamchatka Peninsula. (BLD)

DAY 18 PETROPAVLOVSK - VLADIVOSTOK - SEOUL Transfer to the airport for our homeward flight. (B)

DAY 19 SINGAPORE - AUSTRALIA Arrive in Singapore and connect with the flight to Australia.



Even people, Kamchatka

Tour Information

2019: 5 Jul - 23 Jul; 12 Jul - 30 Jul

TOUR COST FROM \$17,500 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$2,270

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All helicopter flights | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL:  **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



Pilgrims at the Potala Palace, Lhasa



Boy monks, Tibet



Yamdruk Lake, Tibet



Guangzhou

Xining

Xian

CHINA

Shigatse

Tingri

Gyirong

Trishuli

Kathmandu

Mt. Everest

Paro

Thimpu

Punakha

Lhasa

Gyantse

NEPAL

BHUTAN

CHINA

The Himalayan Express

25 DAY TOUR

The Himalayan Express is an extraordinary journey from China's ancient capital, Xian, to the unspoiled Kingdom of Bhutan. At the heart of this tour are the remarkable 22-hour train journey from Xining to the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, and the drive across the roof of the world to Everest Base Camp on the north face. En-route we visit the remote Tibetan towns of Gyangtse and Shigatse, before crossing the border into Nepal and continuing on to Kathmandu. After three days in the bustling Nepalese capital, we then venture to one of the last truly untouched places on earth, Bhutan – the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon!

Highlights

CHINA AND TIBET See Xian's Terracotta Warriors. Ride the world's highest railway to Lhasa. The magnificent Potala Palace. Lunch with a Tibetan family. Picnic at Yamdruk Lake. Visit to Everest base camp.

NEPAL Spectacular flight over Mt Everest. Dinner in Kathmandu's Garden of Dreams.

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

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 Continue our tour of Xian. Visit the superb Shanxi Provincial Museum and the famous Wild Goose Pagoda. (BLD)

DAY 5 XIAN - XINING - TIBET Take a bullet train to Xining. On arrival board the Himalayan Express train for the thrilling journey to Lhasa. (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. (D)

DAY 7 LHASA Begin our tour of the city including the Barkur marketplace. Later visit Norbulinka Park, the summer residence of the Dalai Lamas. (BLD)

DAY 8 LHASA Explore the amazing Potala Palace, the traditional home of the Dalai Lamas. (BLD)

DAY 9 LHASA Visit Sera Monastery – famous for the debating traditions of its monks who provide a uniquely entertaining spectacle. (BLD)

DAY 10 LHASA - GYANGTSE Drive to the turquoise waters of Yamdruk Lake. After lunch at the lake continue 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 Tashilunpo 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 magnificent North Face soars 8,848m into the heavens. There are few sights in the world that are as spectacular as this. (BLD)

DAY 14 TINGRI - GYIRONG - TRISHULI Cross the border into Nepal at Gyirong. Board 4WDs and continue on to Trishuli, skirting the beautiful Langtang National Park. (BLD)

DAY 15 TRISHULI - KATHMANDU Drive to Kathmandu arriving early afternoon. (BLD)

DAYS 16 - 17 KATHMANDU Explore the Nepalese capital which contains no fewer than seven UNESCO World Heritage sites. (BLD)

DAY 18 KATHMANDU - THIMPHU Fly across the dramatic Himalayan range to Bhutan: the views are astonishing as we soar above the highest mountains on earth. On arrival in Paro we transfer to the capital, Thimphu. (BD)

DAY 19 THIMPHU Bhutan is untouched by western influences and is rightly referred to as the 'last Shangri-La'. Today we explore the delightful town of Thimphu. (BLD)

DAY 20 THIMPHU - PUNAKHA Drive across Dochula

Pass, with spectacular views of the eastern Himalaya, en-route to Punakha. (BLD)

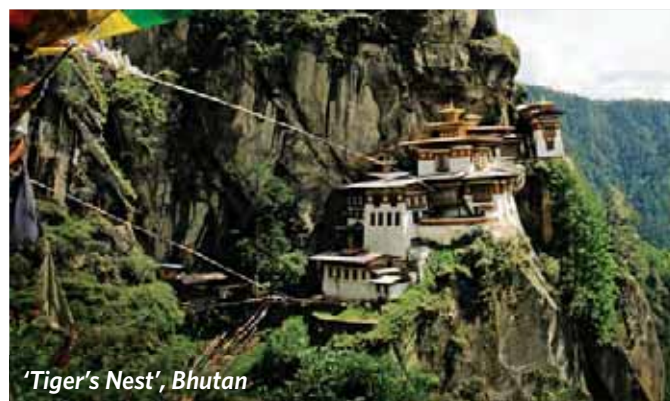
DAY 21 PUNAKHA Visit the Temple of the Divine Madman and Punakha Dzong – an imposing fortress situated at the confluence of two rivers. (BLD)

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 Taktsang Monastery, more commonly known as the 'Tiger's Nest'. (BLD)

DAYS 24 - 25 Transfer to the airport for our flight to Australia via Singapore. (B)



'Tiger's Nest', Bhutan

Tour Information

2019: 05 Apr - 29 Apr; 05 Oct - 29 Oct

2020: 04 Apr - 28 Oct

Also departs 06 Oct 2018. Limited space. Call for details.

TOUR COST FROM \$16,990 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,250

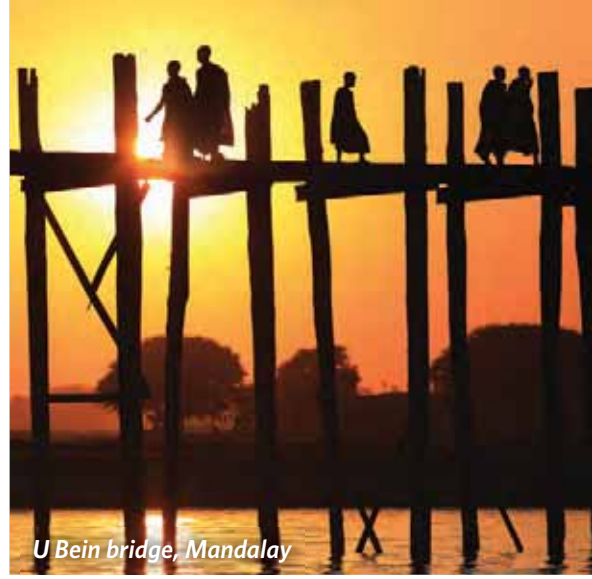
INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals (except on trains) | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL:  **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner

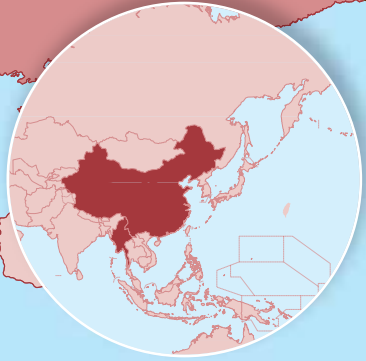
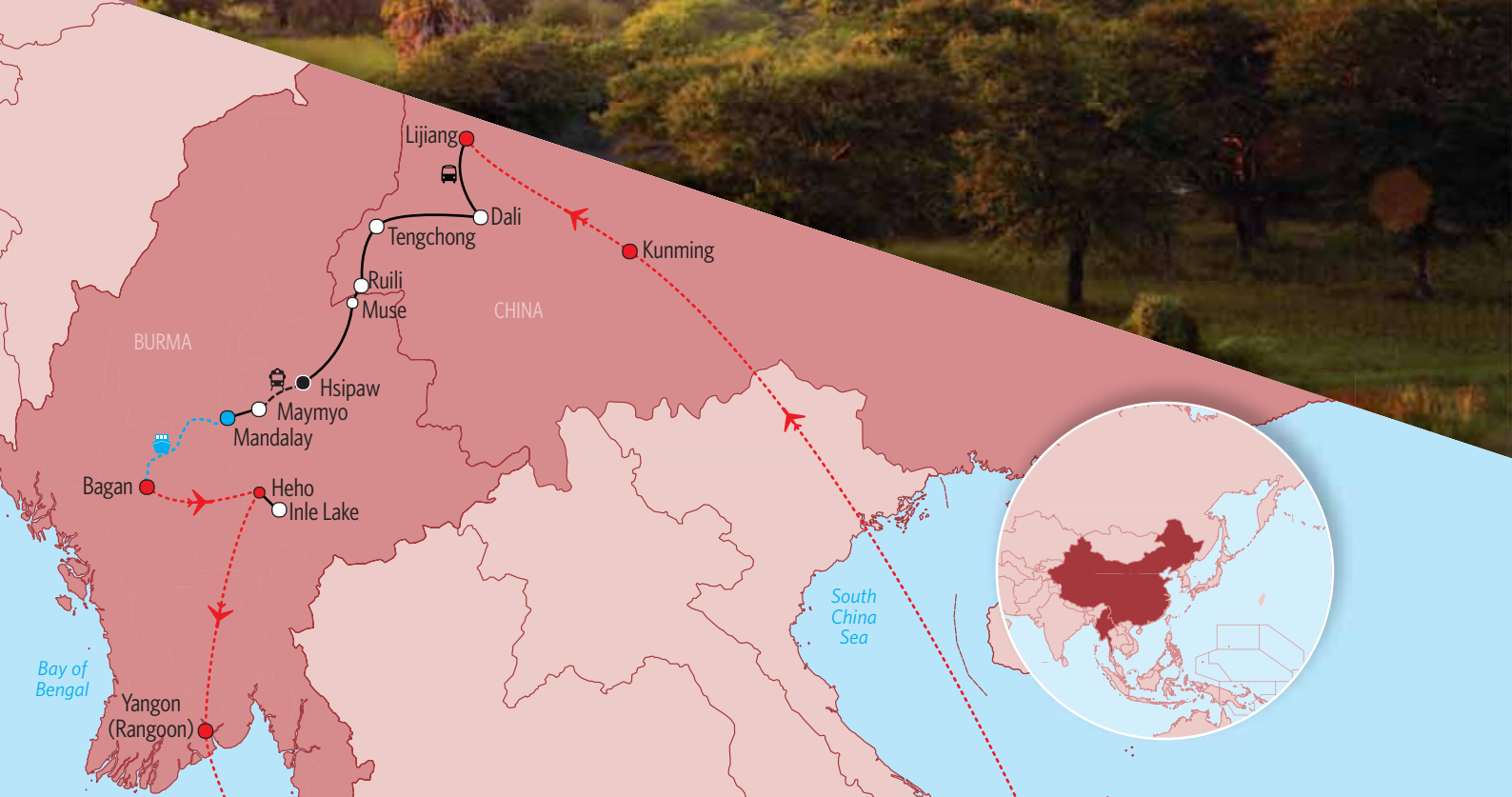


Burmese woman



U Bein bridge, Mandalay

Bagan, Myanmar



Road to Mandalay

26 DAY TOUR

Road to Mandalay is a remarkable journey to the little-visited towns of south-western China – Kunming, Lijiang, Dali and Tengchong – and the newly emerging nation of Myanmar. Unspoilt by mass tourism, the Burmese people themselves are one of the most compelling reasons to visit. We begin in the north, exploring untouched Shan villages and the delightful towns of Hsipaw and Maymyo before heading to Mandalay, Bagan, Inle Lake and Yangon. Road to Mandalay is a stunning journey that encapsulates mystery, beauty and adventure, touching the very heart of two exquisite countries!

Highlights

CHINA 2 nights in ancient Lijiang. Visit the amazing Stone Forest at Kunming. Cable car ride to Yak Meadow. 2-night stays in Dali and Tengchong.

MYANMAR Explore unspoilt Shan villages in northern Burma. Cross the spectacular Gokteik viaduct by train. See U-Bein Bridge at sunset. Overnight cruise from Mandalay to Bagan. Hot air balloon flight over Bagan. Boat ride on beautiful Inle Lake.

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' to Tengchong. 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 - RUILI Drive to the 'Oriental Jewellery City' of Ruili located on the Chinese-Burmese border. (BLD)

DAY 12 RUILI - HSHIPAW 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)



Bai woman, Kunming

DAY 13 HSHIPAW Today we soak up the laid-back atmosphere and warmth of the locals in the unspoiled former Shan royal city of Hsipaw. (BLD)

DAY 14 HSHIPAW - MAYMYO 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 Board our riverboat for the cruise down the 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 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 - 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 Nampyan with its labyrinth of canals. (BLD)

DAYS 23 - 24 INLE LAKE - YANGON Drive to Heho and board our flight to Yangon. Enjoy a full day sightseeing on foot in the fascinating melting pot of Yangon including the famous Strand Road, the Jewish and Indian quarters, and Shwe Bontha. 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)

Tour Information

2019: 18 Feb - 15 Mar

Also departs 29 Oct 2018. Call for details.

TOUR COST FROM \$14,450 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,990

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: MODERATE

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner

16 DAYS | JAPAN | FROM \$12,950



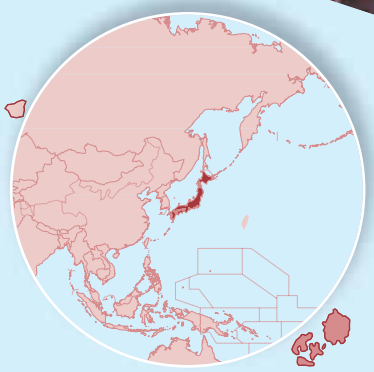
Asakusa, Tokyo, Japan



Shirakawa-go, in the Hida Mountains



Himeji Castle



Japan & the Cherry Blossoms

16 DAY TOUR

Though undoubtedly a visual feast, this tour is much more than just a ramble through the candy floss canvas of central Honshu. We visit Japan's most iconic cities and heritage sites, and explore small atmospheric towns and villages that were isolated for hundreds of years, and tell the story of the country's ancient past. From Tokyo to Kyoto, Himeji to Hiroshima, and the imposing vista of Mt Fuji – this tour is a fascinating exploration of the history and culture of Japan set against the beautiful pink and white backdrop of the cherry blossoms.

DAYS 1 - 2 AUSTRALIA - SINGAPORE - TOKYO Fly Singapore Airlines to Tokyo via Singapore. (D)

DAY 3 TOKYO Tokyo is perhaps the only city in the world that could make New York look like a sleepy town! Today we spend the whole day exploring this exciting metropolis. (BLD)

DAY 4 TOKYO Wander through the charming streets of Asakusa where 'old Tokyo' still exists. Enjoy a cruise on the Sumida River for wonderful views of cherry blossoms from the water. (BLD)

DAY 5 TOKYO - TAKAYAMA Travel by train via Nagoya into the heart of Honshu and the beautiful Hida Mountains. Arrive in Takayama and take a walking tour through the narrow streets of the town. (BD)

DAY 6 TAKAYAMA - SHIRAKAWA-GO - TAKAYAMA Drive to the delightful rural town of Shirakawa-go. Explore this 'hidden gem' of Japan, with its distinctly different culture and lifestyle. (BLD)

DAY 7 TAKAYAMA - KANAZAWA Leaving Takayama, we head to Kanazawa – said to be



Fushimi Inari, Kyoto

the cherry blossom capital of Japan. At its heart is the amazing Garden of Kenrokuen, one of the best places to see cherry blossoms. (BLD)

DAY 8 KANAZAWA - NARA - KYOTO After breakfast we begin our journey to Kyoto, home to Japan's biggest population of geisha. En-route we visit Nara Park where 1,200 deer roam freely. We also explore Todaiji Temple, located within the grounds. (BLD)

DAY 9 KYOTO Stroll along the Philosopher's Walk, where cherry blossoms line the banks of the canal. Later visit the Silver Pavilion, Nijo Castle and Kiyomi Zu Temple. (BLD)

DAY 10 KYOTO Visit the important Shinto shrine of Fushimi Inari, famous for its thousands of vermilion gates which create a tunnel effect. (BLD)

DAY 11 KYOTO - HIMEJI - HIROSHIMA Take a short bus ride to Himeji Castle, renowned for its beautiful gardens – especially in cherry blossom season. Later board our bullet train for the two-hour journey to Hiroshima. (BLD)

DAY 12 HIROSHIMA This morning we visit Peace Park and Peace Park Museum which provide a powerful reminder of the worst day in Hiroshima's history. We also see the A-Bomb Dome, a UNESCO World Heritage site. (BLD)

DAY 13 HIROSHIMA - MIYAJIMA ISLAND - HIROSHIMA Board a ferry for the short trip to Miyajima Island – famous for its beautiful display of cherry blossoms during the season. Take a cable car to the top of Mt Misen for breathtaking views of Hiroshima. (BLD)

DAY 14 HIROSHIMA - MT FUJI This morning we take the Shinkansen bullet train to Mt Fuji and transfer by bus to magnificent Ashinoko Lake. At this time of year the sky is usually clear which provides a stunning vista as the sun sets behind Mt Fuji. (BLD)

DAY 15 MT FUJI - TOKYO HANEDA AIRPORT Weather conditions permitting, we may see

Highlights

3-night stays in Tokyo and Kyoto. Cruise on the Sumida River. 2 nights at Takayama at the foot of the Hida Mountains. Stroll through the cherry blossom capital, Kanazawa. Visit Kenrokuen, one of the great gardens of Japan. Explore beautiful Nara Park. Visit the Peace Park at Hiroshima. 2 nights at the sparkling lakes in the shadow of Mt Fuji.

the sun rise over magnificent Mt Fuji. After breakfast we board our bus for the 140km journey to Tokyo's Haneda airport, to catch our homeward flight. (BL)

DAY 16 SINGAPORE - AUSTRALIA On arrival in Singapore connect with the flight to Australia.



Japanese tourists on the moat at Himeji Castle

Tour Information

2019: 24 Mar - 08 Apr

2020: 23 Mar - 07 Apr

TOUR COST FROM \$12,950 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$2,315

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **MODERATE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner

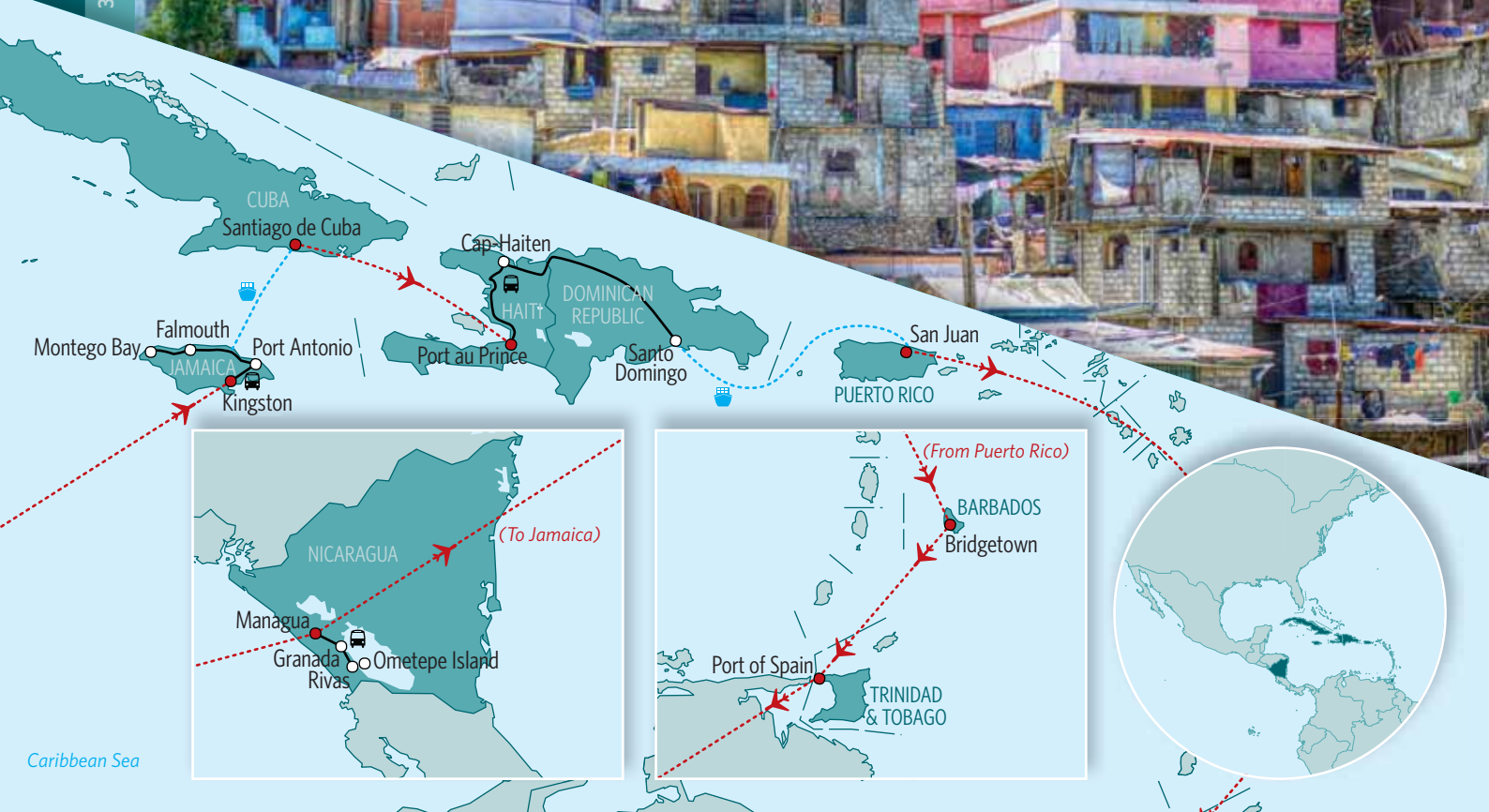


Montego Bay, Jamaica



Masaya Volcano, Nicaragua

Hillside Houses, Port au Prince, Haiti



Pirates of the Caribbean

30 DAY TOUR

This epic journey charts the course of Christopher Columbus and ruthless pirates beginning in Nicaragua then moving into the Caribbean proper, starting first with the 'birthplace of reggae' - Jamaica. Over the following days we dip into the diverse cultures and African vibes of some of the most intriguing destinations in the Caribbean, visiting Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Barbados. Our final destination is Trinidad and Tobago where we experience the thrilling spectacle of the Trinidad Carnival, often described as 'the greatest street party on earth'. This remarkable 30-day tour reveals the very soul of the Caribbean in an exhilarating traverse that takes us to eight diverse nations!

DAY 1 SYDNEY - MANAGUA - GRANADA Fly to Managua, via Houston. On arrival transfer to our hotel in Granada. **(D)**

DAY 2 GRANADA Granada sits on the shores of Lake Nicaragua with a stunning backdrop of volcanoes. Today we begin our exploration of the city on foot. **(BLD)**

DAYS 3 - 4 GRANADA Take the ferry to Ometepe Island, a mesmerising place comprised of twin volcanoes located in the southwest of Lake Nicaragua. Visit Apoyo Lagoon, a lake that formed in the caldera of the Apoyo Volcano. **(BLD)**

DAY 5 GRANADA - MASAYA - GRANADA Today we visit the Masaya National Park. As night falls we take 4WDs to the summit of Masaya Volcano and see a river of magma glowing in the volcano interior. **(BLD)**

DAY 6 MANAGUA - KINGSTON Leaving Nicaragua, we head to the birthplace of reggae - Jamaica. Explore Kingston including the former home of Bob Marley. **(BD)**

DAY 7 KINGSTON - RIO GRANDE - FALMOUTH Drive across the Blue Mountains to Rio Grande and enjoy a ride on a bamboo raft. Later continue to Falmouth. **(BLD)**

DAY 8 FALMOUTH - MONTEGO BAY - FALMOUTH Explore the beautiful Georgian town of Falmouth. After lunch drive to Montego Bay and visit the magnificent Caribbean house, Rose Hall. **(BLD)**

DAY 9 FALMOUTH - NINE MILE - FALMOUTH After breakfast drive through Jamaica's beautiful mountainous interior to the small village of Nine Mile, the birth and resting place of Bob Marley. **(BLD)**

DAY 10 FALMOUTH - OCHO RIOS - SANTIAGO DE CUBA Drive back along the north coast to Ocho Rios and board our charter boat for Santiago de Cuba. **(BLD)**

DAYS 11 - 12 SANTIAGO DE CUBA Enjoy a city tour including magnificent Morro Castle overlooking Santiago Bay. Visit Cayo Granma, a small island in the natural harbour of Santiago de Cuba, inhabited by local fishermen. **(BLD)**

DAY 13 SANTIAGO DE CUBA - PORT AU PRINCE The morning is at leisure. After lunch transfer to the airport for the flight to Haiti. **(BLD)**

DAY 14 PORT AU PRINCE Explore Port au Prince, located on a magnificent bay of the Gulf of Gonave. **(BLD)**

DAYS 15 - 16 PORT AU PRINCE - CAP-HAITIEN Drive west along the coast to Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second largest city known as 'Le Cap'. Enjoy a city tour including the remarkable Citadelle Laferriere, the largest fortress in the Americas. **(BLD)**

DAY 17 CAP-HAITIEN - SANTO DOMINGO Cross the border into the Dominican Republic and continue to the capital, Santo Domingo. **(BLD)**

DAYS 18 - 19 SANTO DOMINGO Visit the natural wonder Los Tres Ojos National Park - The Three Eyes - noted for its caves, crystal-clear waters and lush vegetation. Explore Santo Domingo before boarding the ferry for the overnight journey to Puerto Rico. **(BLD)**

DAY 20 SAN JUAN This morning arrive into San Juan, capital of Puerto Rico. Take a city tour of this rich cultural gem with its rainbow-coloured buildings. **(BLD)**

DAY 21 SAN JUAN - BRIDGETOWN Visit the home of Juan Ponce de Leon, the man who legend says set out in search of the fountain of youth. Later fly to Barbados and transfer to our hotel in Bridgetown. **(BD)**

DAY 22 BRIDGETOWN Explore the 'little England' of the Caribbean, including a circumnavigation of the entire island. **(BLD)**

DAY 23 BRIDGETOWN - PORT OF SPAIN After breakfast

fly to Trinidad. Explore the capital, Port of Spain, including the botanical gardens, Independence Square and Brian Lara Promenade. **(BLD)**

DAY 24 PORT OF SPAIN - TOBAGO - PORT OF SPAIN Visit Trinidad's sister island, Tobago, with its delightful small villages and cocoa plantations. **(BLD)**

DAYS 25 - 26 PORT OF SPAIN Experience 'the biggest street party on earth' - Trinidad's carnival - officially celebrated on the two days prior to Ash Wednesday. See thousands of masqueraders flood the streets in a riot of sound and colour. **(BLD)**

DAYS 27 - 28 PORT OF SPAIN - MIAMI - SYDNEY Depart Port of Spain for our homeward journey, crossing the International Dateline. **(B)**

DAY 29 ARRIVE SYDNEY On arrival in Sydney connect with the flight to your chosen Australian capital.

Highlights

NICARAGUA Explore the volcanoes and lagoons. 5 nights in Granada.

JAMAICA Visit Bob Marley's birthplace. Bamboo raft ride on the Rio Grande.

CUBA Explore Santiago de Cuba. Visit to Cayo Granma.

HAITI Visit the mountain fortress of Citadelle Laferriere.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Explore Los Tres Ojos National Park at Santo Domingo.

PUERTO RICO 2 nights in the wonderful capital, San Juan.

BARBADOS Circumnavigate 'little England' of the Caribbean.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO Experience the vibrant and colourful Trinidad Carnival.

Tour Information

2019: 07 Feb - 08 Mar

TOUR COST FROM \$22,750 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,640

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation & boat journeys | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL:  **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



Guatapé, Colombia



Cock of the Rock, Guyana

Angel Falls, Venezuela



South America: The Top End

33 DAY TOUR

South America: The Top End is Travel Directors most daring foray into the great continent. This journey to little-visited destinations offers pristine jungles, an abundance of flora and fauna, dramatic scenery and a huge diversity of cultures. Over 33 days we travel in some of the remotest pockets of northern South America as we visit French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and Colombia – a country that has emerged from a violent past into one of the most staggering destinations in Latin America. Join us on a magnificent journey to the top end of South America!

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 – KOUROU Take a city tour of the capital of French Guiana, with its narrow streets and bustling marketplace. Later drive to Kourou visiting the Ariane Space Centre en-route. **(BLD)**

DAY 5 KOUROU Board a boat to Devil's Island, the prison island that is famously described in the book 'Papillon'. **(BLD)**

DAY 6 KOUROU – PARAMARIBO Cross the border into Suriname and drive to the capital, Paramaribo. **(BLD)**

DAYS 7 – 8 PARAMARIBO – MAROON CULTURAL VILLAGE – PARAMARIBO

Take a walking tour of Paramaribo including the main square, Presidential Palace, and waterfront. Enjoy a day trip to a remote Maroon cultural village in the Suriname rainforest. **(BLD)**

DAY 9 PARAMARIBO – GEORGETOWN 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 – IWOKRAMA Board our charter flight for the short trip to Kaieteur Falls. Walk through the pristine Iwokrama Forest to the falls. **(BLD)**

DAY 11 IWOKRAMA – TURTLE MOUNTAIN – IWOKRAMA

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

DAY 12 IWOKRAMA – SLOTH ISLAND – GEORGETOWN

Take a charter flight to Bartica and board a boat for the journey to Sloth Island. After our visit here fly 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 – TOBAGO Enjoy a day trip to Trinidad's sister island, Tobago. **(BLD)**

DAY 16 PORT OF SPAIN – CANAIMA Fly to Canaima and take a boat to the Canaima Lagoon and our lodge. **(BLD)**

DAYS 17 – 18 CANAIMA – ANGEL FALLS Take a boat upriver past the ancient rock formations, the 'tepuys', and begin the hike to Angel Falls, the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall. Explore the pristine environment around our lodge. **(BLD)**

DAY 19 CANAIMA – CARACAS Take a charter flight to the Venezuelan capital, Caracas. **(BLD)**

DAY 20 CARACAS – BOGOTA Enjoy a city tour including Plaza Bolivar, Caracas Cathedral, and the Government

Palace. Later fly to Bogota, capital of Colombia. **(BD)**

DAYS 21 – 22 BOGOTA

Discover the cultural epicentre of Bogota, La Candelaria, with its cobbled streets and neat rows of colourful houses. Ride the cable car to the top of Cerro de Monserrate for amazing views of the city and the Andes beyond. **(BLD)**

DAY 23 BOGOTA – 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 24 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 25 – 26 SALENTO – MEDELLIN Begin the spectacular drive to Medellin through coffee and banana plantations. Cross the Rio Cauca and continue to Medellin.

Explore the 'City of Eternal Spring' including the historic quarter and its beautiful parks and plazas. **(BLD)**

DAY 27 MEDELLIN – GUATAPE – MEDELLIN Drive to Guatape, one of Colombia's most picturesque towns. Explore the town and later head to El Penon rock, a monolithic formation standing 2,100 metres above sea level. **(BLD)**

DAYS 28 – 29 MEDELLIN – CARTAGENA 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)**

DAYS 30 – 31 CARTAGENA – BOGOTA – PARIS After breakfast transfer to the airport for the flight to Paris via Bogota. Overnight in the French capital. **(B)**

DAYS 32 – 33 PARIS – SINGAPORE – AUSTRALIA Fly home to Australia via Singapore.

Highlights

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

SURINAME 3 nights in exotic Paramaribo. Visit a Maroon cultural village.

GUYANA 2 nights in Iwokrama Forest. See the beautiful Kaieteur Falls. Climb to the summit of Turtle Mountain.

VENEZUELA 3 nights at Canaima National Park. Day trip to magnificent Angel Falls.

COLOMBIA 3 nights in Bogota's historic district, La Candelaria. 2-night stays in spectacular Medellin and Cartagena. Day trip to the town of Guatape.

Tour Information

2019: 01 Nov – 03 Dec

Also departs 02 Nov 2018. Limited space. Call for details.

TOUR COST FROM \$25,950 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$4,600

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | All charter flights | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL:  **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



Iguana, Galapagos



Bolivian salt flats

Perito Moreno glacier, Argentina



Galapagos to Patagonia

29 DAY TOUR

Galapagos to Patagonia is a remarkable exploration of South America, from Ecuador and the unique Galapagos Islands in the continent's North West, to El Calafate at its southern tip. We begin with a five-day cruise around the Galapagos Islands, one of the few places on earth where nature still rules, before travelling south through the dramatically different landscapes of the Bolivian salt flats, Chile's Atacama Desert, and the Chilean-Argentinian lakes district. At the foot of South America we visit El Calafate, and the staggering Perito Moreno Glacier, before concluding our tour in one of the world's most exciting capitals – Buenos Aires.

DAY 1 AUSTRALIA – SANTIAGO – GUAYAQUIL

Fly to Guayaquil via Sydney and Santiago. (D)

DAY 2 GUAYAQUIL Explore the old district of 'Las Penas' where the old wooden houses still remain. (BLD)

DAY 3 GUAYAQUIL – GALAPAGOS Arrive at Baltra Island and board our ship. Set sail for Santa Cruz Island and the Charles Darwin Research Station, where we see the giant tortoises. (BLD)

DAY 4 GALAPAGOS Visit Santa Fe and South Plaza Islands, home to Galapagos hawks, land iguanas and sea lion colonies. (BLD)

DAY 5 GALAPAGOS Today we visit North Seymour and Santa Cruz Islands home to numerous bird colonies including a nesting colony of frigate birds, as well as sea lions and marine iguanas. (BLD)

DAY 6 GALAPAGOS Visit the islands of Bartolome and Santiago. Take a dinghy ride around colossal Pinnacle Rock and explore the area in a glass-bottomed boat. (BLD)

DAY 7 GALAPAGOS – QUITO After breakfast transfer to the airport on Baltra Island and fly to Quito. (BLD)

DAY 8 QUITO Drive to the Antisana Ecological Reserve. See massive glacier-fed lakes and rivers and the fourth highest mountain in the Ecuadorian Andes, the Antisana volcano. (BLD)

DAY 9 QUITO – LA PAZ Enjoy a city tour of Quito. In the evening fly to La Paz, via Lima. (BL)

DAY 10 LA PAZ The first sight of La Paz, which lies in a natural basin,

is unforgettable. Today we begin our exploration of the city. (BLD)

DAY 11 LA PAZ Head out of La Paz to the astonishing pre-Incan ruins of Tiahuanaco. (BLD)

DAY 12 LA PAZ – ORURO – UYUNI Drive to Oruro, then board a train for Uyuni. Pass through amazing vistas of the Altiplano and see the edge of a salt lake before arriving at our hotel. (BLD)

DAY 13 UYUNI Visit the village of Colchani on the shores of Salar de Uyuni – the largest and highest salt flat in the world. (BLD)

DAY 14 UYUNI – OJO DE PERDIZ Travel across the salt flats by 4WD to Isla Pescado, an island that lies amidst a sea of salt. Continue to the town of Ojo de Perdiz. (BLD)

DAY 15 OJO DE PERDIZ – SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA Journey to an altitude of almost 5,000m en-route to the Bolivia/Chile border. Descend 2,000m to San Pedro de Atacama. (BLD)

DAY 16 SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA Explore San Pedro de Atacama, where the ancient cultures of the Incas, Aymaras and Atacamenans converge. (BLD)

DAY 17 SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA – SANTIAGO Fly to Santiago. On arrival, visit the historical centre of Chile's capital. (BLD)

DAY 18 SANTIAGO – VALPARAISO – SANTIAGO Travel through wine producing valleys to the pretty port of Valparaiso, a UNESCO World Heritage site. (BLD)

DAY 19 SANTIAGO – PUERTO MONTT – PUERTO VARAS Fly to Puerto Montt and transfer to

nearby Puerto Varas. Take a walking tour of this attractive German town. (BLD)

DAY 20 PUERTO VARAS – BARILOCHE Today we start our lakes crossing, driving through lovely alpine villages to Lake Llanquihue. Cross into Argentina and continue to Bariloche on the shores of stunning Lake Nahuel Huapi. (BLD)

DAYS 21 – 22 BARILOCHE Explore Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi – a spectacular area of lakes, rivers, mountains, and valleys. Visit beautiful Victoria Island located on the lake. (BLD)

DAYS 23 – 24 BARILOCHE – EL CALAFATE Fly to El Calafate. Enjoy a day trip to magnificent Perito Moreno Glacier – one of the largest active continental glaciers in the world. (BLD)

DAY 25 EL CALAFATE – BUENOS AIRES Cruise on glorious Argentine Lake and later visit the longest glacier in South America,

Highlights

ECUADOR 5-day Galapagos Island cruise. Visit to the Antisana Volcano.

BOLIVIA Visit to the pre-Inca site of Tiahuanaco. Exclusive lunch at the Uyuni salt flats.

CHILE 2 nights at a luxury resort in the Atacama Desert. Amazing lakes crossing from Chile to Argentina.

ARGENTINA Boat cruise on Lake Nahuel Huapi. Watch icebergs 'calve' at the Perito Moreno Glacier.



Flamingos, Laguna Colorada

Mirador del Glacier Upsala. In the evening fly to Buenos Aires. (BLD)

DAYS 26 – 27 BUENOS AIRES Explore Buenos Aires including the famous La Boca district. Visit an 'estancia' for a day of fun and superb horsemanship, courtesy of the local gauchos. (BLD)

DAYS 28– 29 BUENOS AIRES – AUSTRALIA Fly back to Australia. (B)

Tour Information

2019: 17 Feb – 17 Mar

2020: 16 Feb – 15 Mar

TOUR COST FROM \$26,450 per person twin share
Single Supp: (Land portion only) \$4,500; Single Supp: (Combined land & cruise) \$9,400

NB: On this tour, we do not cover the cost of the single supplement for the cruise portion, if a single match-up is not available.

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | 5-day Galapagos Island cruise | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



Keel-billed toucan, Costa Rica



Poas Volcano, Costa Rica

Antigua, Guatemala



Treasures of Central America

29 DAY TOUR

Few parts of the world offer such diversity as Central America. Our itinerary features four of the most stunning countries in the region: Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras. We begin in Panama – famous for its hats and canal – before moving on to the dramatic volcanoes and spectacular wildlife of Costa Rica. A brief foray into Honduras takes us to the ruins of Copan, before we head to Guatemala, visiting the beautiful colonial city of Antigua, (where we see the colourful Semana Santa processions), Lake Atitlan, and the greatest Mayan archaeological site, Tikal. A fitting finale to a memorable tour!

Highlights

PANAMA Boat cruise on the Panama Canal. Visit to a community of Embera Indians.

COSTA RICA Explore the primeval Cloud Forest of Monteverde. 2-night stay in the jungle at Tortuguero.

GUATEMALA BBQ on the shores of Lake Atitlan. The extraordinary Easter processions in Antigua. Day trip to the Mayan ruins of Tikal.

HONDURAS Evening at the house of David Sedat, the archaeologist who discovered Copan.

DAYS 1 – 2 AUSTRALIA – LOS ANGELES

Fly to Los Angeles. Enjoy a city tour and overnight stay in LA. **(B)**

DAY 3 LOS ANGELES – PANAMA CITY

Fly to Panama City. **(BD)**

DAYS 4 – 6 PANAMA CITY

See the major highlights of Panama City. 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 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. 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 Reserve 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)**

DAYS 16 – 17 ANTIGUA

The build-up to Easter begins two weeks

prior and the whole town celebrates with magnificent processions through the streets. The parades are a major highlight of our stay here. We also visit a coffee plantation and enjoy lunch with a local family. **(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

Built around the fifth century AD, Copan is one of

the most spectacular centres of the Mayan world. Today we fully explore this ancient site. **(BLD)**

DAY 23 COPAN – LIVINGSTON

Cross back into Guatemala and travel to Puerto Barrios where we board a boat to the jungle settlement of Livingston. **(BLD)**

DAY 24 LIVINGSTON – TIKAL

Today we head north to magnificent Mayan city of Tikal. **(BLD)**

DAY 25 TIKAL

Visit the ruins 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.



Embera Indians, Panama

Tour Information

2019: 23 Mar – 20 Apr

2020: 14 Mar – 11 Apr

TOUR COST FROM \$19,490 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,880

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: MODERATE

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



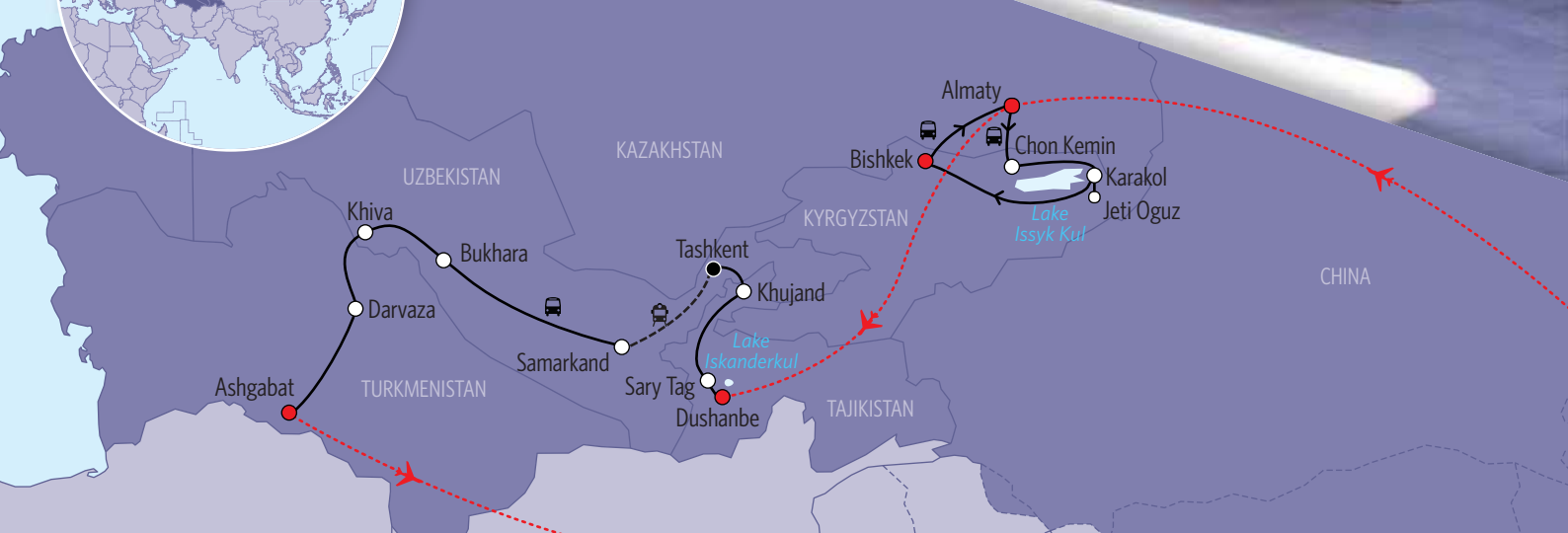
Iskanderkul Lake, Tajikistan



The game of Buzkashy, Kyrgyzstan



Gur-e-Amir mausoleum, Uzbekistan



The Five Stans

28 DAY TOUR

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. Until recently shut off from the outside world, each of the 'Stans' has its own distinct personality, making this an extraordinary journey into one of the least-visited pockets of the planet.



DAYS 1 - 2 AUSTRALIA - ALMATY Fly Emirates to Almaty via Dubai. **(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 Enjoy an 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 Issyk Kul Lake. Take a boat ride on the lake then drive to the Cossack outpost of Karakol. **(BLD)**

DAY 7 KARAKOL Travel to nearby Jeti 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)**

DAY 9 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)**

DAYS 10 - 11 BISHKEK - ALMATY - DUSHANBE Visit Bishkek markets then drive to Almaty.

After an overnight in Almaty fly to Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan, a delightful country totally unspoilt by tourism. Visit the fortress town of Hissar, just outside the city. **(BLD)**

DAY 12 DUSHANBE Enjoy a city tour of Dushanbe. **(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 en-route to Khujand. **(BLD)**

DAY 15 KHUJAND - TASHKENT Visit Khujand bazaar. Drive to the Tajik-Uzbek border and continue to Tashkent. **(BLD)**



Eagle Hunter, Kyrgyzstan

DAY 16 TASHKENT Explore the beautiful Uzbek capital. **(BLD)**

DAY 17 TASHKENT - SAMARKAND Board the high-speed train for Samarkand. On arrival explore this exotic Silk Road city. **(BLD)**

DAY 18 SAMARKAND Continue exploring this fabulous city, including breathtaking Registan Square, Shahi-Zinda Necropolis, Tamerlane's mausoleum and the observatory of Ulugbek. **(BLD)**

DAY 19 SAMARKAND - BUKHARA Drive to Bukhara. On arrival visit the Fayzulla Khodjaev House. **(BLD)**

DAYS 20 - 21 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 22 BUKHARA - KHIVA Drive across the Kyzyl Kum Desert

to 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 23 KHIVA - DARVAZA Cross the border into Turkmenistan. After lunch at Dashoguz continue on to the Darvaza gas crater, known locally as 'the door to hell'. **(BLD)**

DAY 24 DARVAZA - ASHGABAT Drive to Ashgabat. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. **(BLD)**

DAYS 25 - 26 ASHGABAT Take a city tour of Ashgabat including the Turkmenbashi Mausoleum. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Nissa. Later visit a farm and see the Akhal-Teke horses in action. **(BLD)**

DAY 27 ASHGABAT - DUBAI Early morning transfer to the airport for the homeward flight.

DAY 28 Arrive back in Australia today.

Highlights

KAZAKHSTAN Visit to Zenkov Cathedral.

KYRGYZSTAN Water-raft ride on the Chon Kemin River. Exciting display of Kyrgyz horsemanship. Dinner with a Cossack family. BBQ in the Valley of the Flowers.

TAJIKISTAN Visit the ancient fortress at Khujand. Overnight stay at stunning Iskanderkul Lake.

UZBEKISTAN Visit Samarkand's Registan Square. See an Uzbek folk show. Explore the wonderful cities of Bukhara and Khiva.

TURKMENISTAN Exclusive dinner at Darvaza gas crater.

Tour Information

2019: 05 May - 01 Jun; 01 Sep - 28 Sep

TOUR COST FROM \$17,950 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,650

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



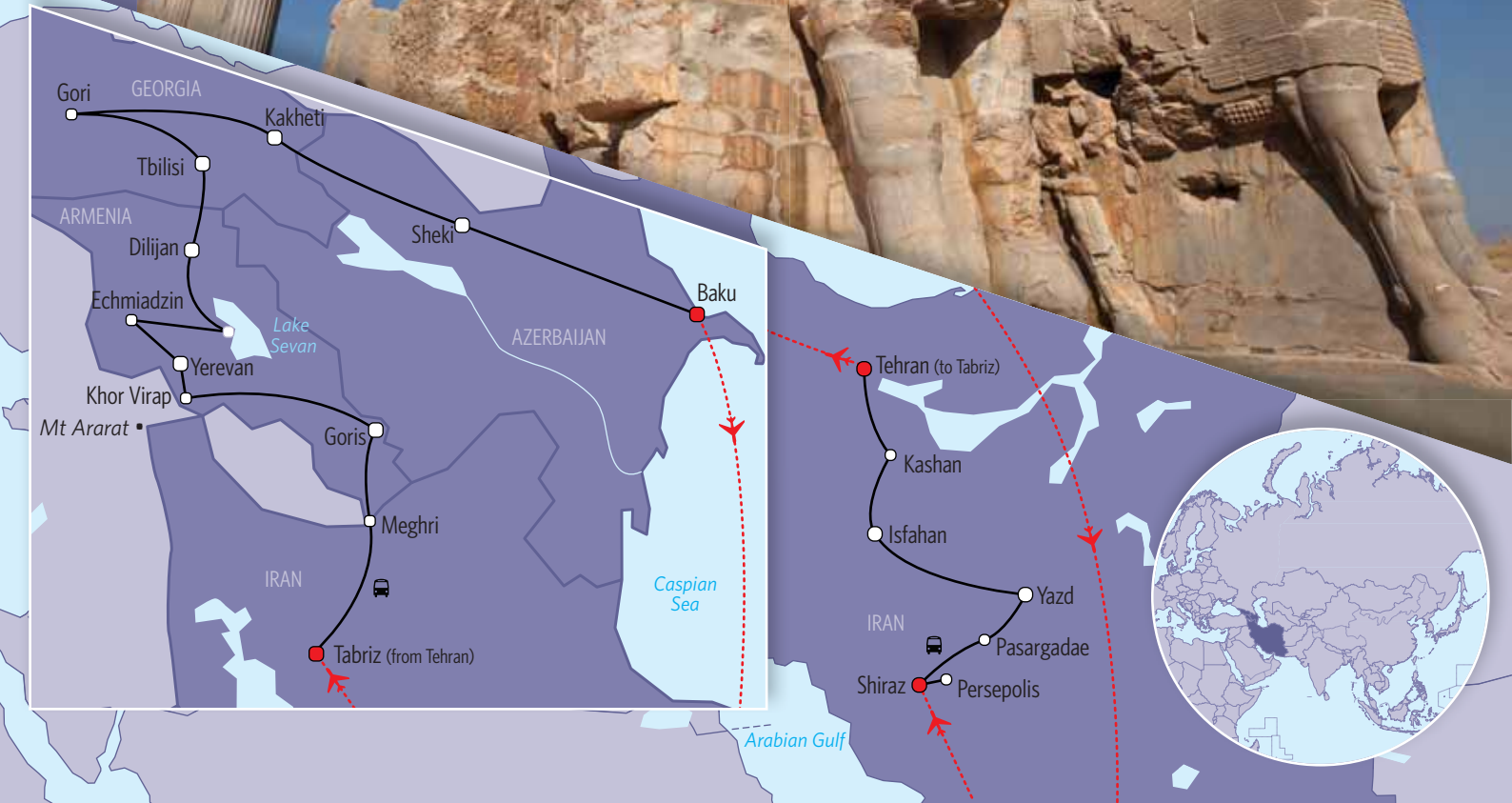
Jvry monastery, Tbilisi, Georgia



Persian carpets, Iran



Persepolis, Iran



Treasures of Persia & the Caucasus

30 DAY TOUR

Iran and the Southern Caucasus is a region of breathtaking scenery dominated by mountains, lakes and exquisite architecture. We begin in the cultural treasure-trove of Iran, renowned for the overwhelming hospitality and friendliness of its people. We explore its remarkable cities and ancient capital of Persepolis, before crossing the border into Armenia – the Cradle of Christianity. Next we move into Georgia, with its unique cuisine and culture, and ancient wine-growing tradition. Finally we cross into Azerbaijan and its ancient capital, Baku, beautifully located on the Caspian Sea. Join us for a truly memorable journey to Iran and the Caucasus!



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 ancient Persepolis. Visit the monumental tombs of the kings. **(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 flame that has burnt 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 Jameh 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 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 Victory Park, the Genocide Memorial, and the markets. **(BLD)**

DAY 17 YEREVAN Drive through a canyon to the ancient Geghard Monastery. Later visit the famous Ararat brandy factory. **(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)**

DAYS 20 – 21 DILIJAN – TBILISI Cross the border into Georgia and head to Tbilisi. Explore the Old Town including the Narikala Fortress, Mother Georgia statue, and the Godirdi sulphur baths. **(BLD)**

DAY 22 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 23 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 24 TBILISI – KAKHETI Travel through beautiful scenery to the eastern wine-growing region of Kakheti. Lake Lopota is our base to explore this beautiful area. **(BLD)**

DAY 25 KAKHETI Visit the lovely town of Kakheti – a place rich in history with beautiful churches, castles and mansions. **(BLD)**

DAY 26 KAKHETI – SHEKI Cross the border into Azerbaijan

Highlights

IRAN Visit ancient Persepolis. 2 nights at Yazd. 3 nights in the beautiful city of Isfahan. Visit the old cave city of Kandovan.

ARMENIA 3 nights at Yerevan with its imposing views of Mt Ararat. Visit to Tatev Monastery.

GEORGIA 4 nights at the fascinating capital, Tbilisi. Explore the Kakheti wine-growing region. 4WD tour into the Caucasus Mountains at Kazbegi.

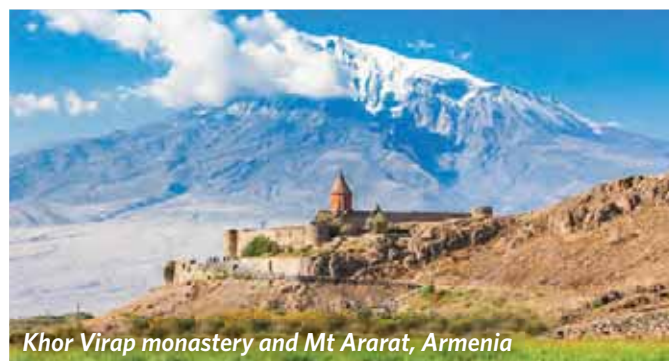
AZERBAIJAN Explore the cultural treasures of Sheki and Baku.

and head to Sheki located on the picturesque hillsides of the Caucasus Mountains. **(BLD)**

DAY 27 SHEKI – BAKU Drive 350km to the Azerbaijan capital, Baku. After lunch explore the new part of the city. **(BLD)**

DAY 28 BAKU Explore the Old City and cultural treasures of Baku. **(BLD)**

DAYS 29 – 30 BAKU – DUBAI – AUSTRALIA The morning is at leisure in Baku. Later transfer to the airport for our flight back to Australia via Dubai. **(B)**



Khor Virap monastery and Mt Ararat, Armenia

Tour Information

2019: 03 May – 01 Jun; 06 Sep – 05 Oct

TOUR COST FROM \$17,990 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,760

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: MODERATE

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner

22 DAYS | JORDAN OMAN | FROM \$13,950



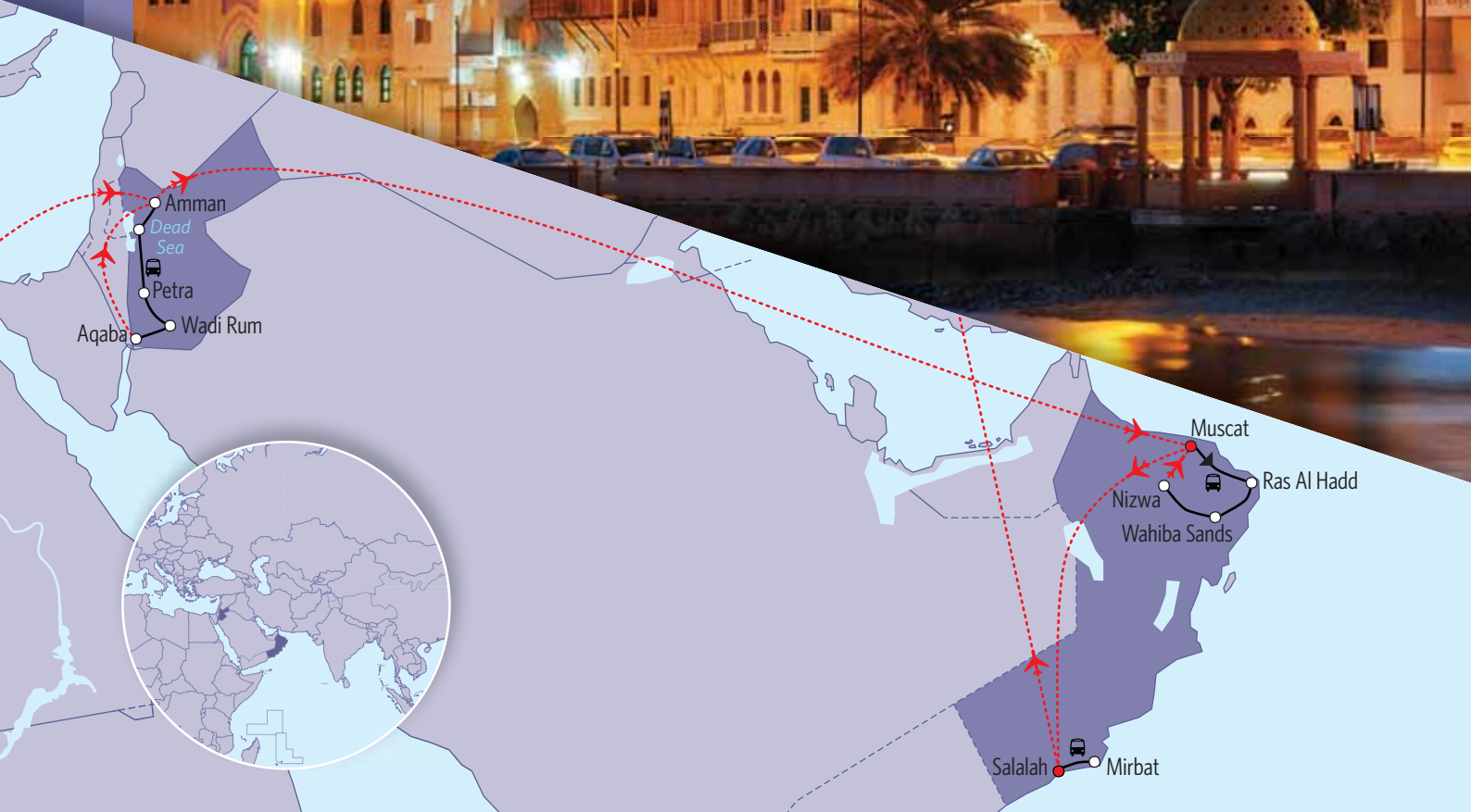
Tomb of Bin Ali, Mirbat



Bedouin man, Wadi Rum, Jordan



Muttrah Corniche, Muscat



Jordan & Oman

22 DAY TOUR

Jordan & Oman is a remarkable journey to two culturally and architecturally rich desert nations. We begin in Jordan where we visit the ancient Greco-Roman ruins of Jerash, the Dead Sea, and the extraordinary lost caravan city of Petra – one of the world's most visually stunning archaeological sites. Our exploration of the Sultanate of Oman begins in the capital, Muscat, before heading south to magnificent Wahiba Sands, Nizwa, the spectacular 'Grand Canyon' of Oman, and the gorgeously lush city of Salalah. Join us as we follow in the footsteps of prophets and kings on a journey of discovery to these ancient kingdoms of the desert!



DAY 1 AUSTRALIA - DUBAI
Fly Emirates to Dubai.

DAY 2 DUBAI - AMMAN
Mid-morning arrive Amman. After lunch begin a city tour of the Jordanian capital. (LD)

DAY 3 AMMAN Enjoy a full-day excursion to the ancient city of Jerash – one of the best-preserved Roman provincial towns in the world. (BLD)

DAY 4 AMMAN - DEAD SEA
After breakfast head south to the Dead Sea – the largest 'natural spa' in the world, and the lowest point on earth. En-route visit Madaba and Mt Nebo. (BLD)

DAY 5 DEAD SEA - PETRA
The Dead Sea contains more salt and minerals than any other sea in the world. This morning we have the chance to float in the Dead Sea before driving to Petra. (BLD)

DAY 6 PETRA The 2,000-year-old rock-carved city of Petra is an extraordinary sight. Today we explore the area including its most famous monument, the Khasneh. (BLD)

DAY 7 PETRA - WADI RUM
Drive south to the spectacular valley of Wadi Rum and share lunch with the desert-dwelling Bedouins. Our home for the night is a luxury tented camp in the desert. (BLD)

DAY 8 WADI RUM - AQABA
Take a jeep safari through the red sands of Wadi Rum. Later drive to Aqaba and enjoy an afternoon city tour. (BLD)

DAY 9 AQABA - PHAROAH ISLAND - AQABA
Take a boat ride to Pharoah Island, an exotic natural seascape environment. We have the chance to go snorkelling in the clear waters of the Red Sea. (BLD)

DAY 10 AQABA - AMMAN - MUSCAT
After breakfast drive north to Amman. On arrival transfer to the airport for the flight to Muscat. (BL)

DAYS 11 - 12 MUSCAT
Oman's capital is easily the Gulf's most attractive city. Stroll along the waterfront and into the labyrinthine souk, which has a multitude of jewellery and craft stalls. Visit the

Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, the local bazaar, and take a dhow cruise on the sparkling waters of the Gulf. (BLD)

DAY 13 MUSCAT - SUR - RAS AL HADD
Follow the rugged coastline south to Ras Al Hadd. Tonight head down to the beach to see the giant green sea turtles come ashore to lay their eggs. (BLD)

DAY 14 RAS AL HADD - WAHIBA SANDS
Drive deep into the heart of Wahiba Sands. An exhilarating drive across the dunes brings us to our desert camp where we enjoy a spectacular sunset as we prepare for a night under the desert sky. (BLD)

DAY 15 WAHIBA - NIZWA
Continue across the barren desert sands towards Nizwa, regarded as the cultural capital of Oman. (BLD)

DAY 16 NIZWA - JEBEL SHAMS - NIZWA
Explore Nizwa and the surrounding area including the 17th century Fort. Later head north through the mountains to Jebel Shams (3,000m). On the way see Oman's amazing 'Grand Canyon' which plunges 1000m to the valley floor. Later afternoon return to Nizwa. (BLD)

Highlights

JORDAN Visit the ancient city of Jerash. Float in the Dead Sea. Explore the rock-carved city of Petra. Share lunch with the Bedouins at Wadi Rum.

OMAN Spend a night in a luxury desert camp. See the amazing 'Grand Canyon' of Arabia near Jebel Shams. Discover Salalah, the 'perfume capital' of Arabia.

DAY 17 JEBEL SHAMS - MUSCAT - SALALAH
After breakfast drive back to Muscat through the stunning Wadi Bani Awf. Continue on to Muscat and the airport, for the flight south to Salalah. (BLD)

DAYS 18 - 19 SALALAH
Salalah is known as the 'perfume capital of Arabia'. Explore the souks which have a vast array of Frankincense, Dhofari traditional clothes and cosmetics. Drive across mountains to Job's tomb, where the remains of the Old Testament prophet are said to be buried. (BLD)

DAY 20 SALALAH - MIRBAT - SALALAH
Drive east to Mirbat, at the foot of the Qara Mountains. This historically significant town is noted for its old merchant houses with their wooden, latticed windows. Late afternoon return to Salalah. (BLD)

DAY 21 SALALAH - DUBAI - AUSTRALIA
This morning is at leisure. Later transfer to the airport for our homeward flight. (BL)

DAY 22 Arrive back in Australia today.



Petra, Jordan

Tour Information

2019: 13 Oct - 03 Nov

Also departs 13 Oct - 04 Nov 2018. Limited space. Call for details.

TOUR COST FROM \$13,950 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,880

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: MODERATE

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



Cruising the Norwegian coastline



Kelo chalet-igloo, Kakslauttanen, Finland

Northern Lights, Finland



Trail of the Northern Lights

24 DAY TOUR

This is an exciting journey through the winter wonderlands of Norway, Finland and far-western Russia, featuring a seven-day cruise along the Norwegian coast from Bergen to Kirkenes, with multiple opportunities to see Aurora Borealis. We also spend three nights at Kakslauttanen – staying in unique glass-domed chalets set amongst snow-laden pine trees. Highlights include visiting a remote Arctic community, meeting local reindeer herders and travelling on the historic 'Arkitka' train from Murmansk to St Petersburg. Join us for a magnificent adventure through sweeping snowscapes and majestic waterways, on the *Trail of the Northern Lights*!



DAY 1 AUSTRALIA – DUBAI

Fly Emirates to Dubai and connect with the flight to Oslo.

DAY 2 DUBAI – OSLO Arrive in Oslo early morning. Visit the Viking Ships Museum and the superb 80-acre Vigeland Sculpture Park. **(D)**

DAY 3 OSLO Enjoy a city tour of Oslo, including the 13th century Akershus Fortress and the museum that houses the world's most famous polar ship, the Fram. **(BLD)**

DAY 4 OSLO – BERGEN Travel on one of the most scenic rail lines in the world to Norway's second city of Bergen. **(BLD)**

DAY 5 BERGEN Explore Bergen, a UNESCO site renowned for its beautifully preserved wooden buildings. In the evening board our ship for the seven-day cruise north to Kirkenes. **(BLD)**

DAY 6 FLORO – ALESUND Sail past the West Cape and venture into open sea to reach the art nouveau town of Ålesund. Aboard ship enjoy a presentation about Aurora Borealis. **(BLD)**

DAY 7 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. **(BLD)**

DAY 8 BRONNOYSUND – SVOLVAER Cross the Arctic Circle and continue along the beautiful Helgeland coast. At this latitude we have a good chance to experience the Northern Lights. **(BLD)**

DAY 9 TROMSO – SKJERVOY Arrive at Tromsø, gateway to the Arctic. Explore the town including the amazing Arctic Cathedral and the Northern Lights Planetarium. **(BLD)**

DAY 10 OKSFJORD – BERLEVAG Enjoy the magnificent sub-Arctic landscape as we cross the 71st parallel towards the North Cape. Continue north into the heartland of the Sami people. **(BLD)**

DAYS 11 – 12 KIRKENES Early morning arrive at Kirkenes and disembark. Enjoy a city tour including the Snow Hotel, the Russian Monument and the frontier museum. Visit a typical fishing village. **(BLD)**

DAY 13 KIRKENES – KAKSLAUTTANEN

Cross into Finland and head towards Kakslauttanen – one of the Arctic Circle's best vantage points to see Aurora Borealis. Our cosy log chalets feature a glass igloo for optimum viewing of the Northern Lights. **(BLD)**

DAYS 14 – 15 KAKSLAUTTANEN Enjoy a reindeer sleigh ride in the snowy forest and meet local reindeer herders. Drive south to the Gulf of Bothnia and board an ice-breaker for an amazing excursion into the icy waters. **(BLD)**

DAY 16 KAKSLAUTTANEN – MURMANSK Cross the border into Russia and continue to Murmansk. **(BLD)**

DAY 17 MURMANSK Explore Murmansk – the largest city in the Arctic. Visit the nuclear icebreaker, Lenin, which is now a museum. **(BLD)**

DAY 18 MURMANSK – SAMI VILLAGE – MURMANSK

Enjoy an excursion to a village of the indigenous Sami people and learn about their way of life. **(BLD)**

DAY 19 MURMANSK – ST PETERSBURG After breakfast board the train for the 26-hour journey to St Petersburg. **(B)**

DAY 20 ST PETERSBURG Arrive in St Petersburg late morning. After lunch enjoy a city tour including St Peter and Paul's Fortress and St Isaac's cathedral. **(LD)**

DAYS 21 – 22 ST PETERSBURG Drive to Pushkin and visit the palace of Catherine the Great. Explore the Winter Palace, home to the Hermitage Museum, and see a traditional Cossack show. **(BLD)**

DAYS 23 – 24 ST PETERSBURG – DUBAI – AUSTRALIA Transfer to the airport for the flight home via Dubai. **(B)**



Floating in the Gulf of Bothnia

Highlights

NORWAY Ride on the scenic railway from Oslo to Bergen. 6-night cruise on a working ship along Norway's coastline. Visit Tromsø, gateway to the Arctic.

FINLAND 3 nights in a glass-roofed chalet. Reindeer sleigh ride through the forest. Excursion on a giant ice-breaker in the Gulf of Bothnia.

RUSSIA 3-night stays in Murmansk and St Petersburg. Visit a community of the Sami people. Ride the historic Murmansk to St Petersburg railroad.

Tour Information

2019: 23 Feb – 18 Mar; 09 Mar – 01 Apr

2020: 22 Feb – 16 Mar

TOUR COST FROM \$20,450 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,950

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals (except on train) | All hotel accommodation (twin-share) | 2-berth cabins on train | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | 6-night Hurtigruten cruise | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: ACTIVE

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



Viking Sky at Flam, Norway



Reykjavik, Iceland

Icebergs in Disko Bay, Greenland



The High Arctic

25 DAY TOUR

The High Arctic is one of the world's most beautiful regions, featuring stunning glaciers, mountains, fjords, geysers and icebergs. Our tour takes in the incredible highlights of Norway, Iceland and Greenland, all rich with ancient civilisations, cultures and majestic scenery. The centrepiece of this great adventure is a luxury 12-night cruise aboard Viking Sky, from Norway's lovely city of Bergen to the Faroe Islands and Iceland, where we cruise the northern part of the Island from Seydisfjordur in the Eastfjords to the capital Reykjavik. Finally we enjoy a three-night stay at Greenland's iceberg town of Ilulissat, a fitting finale to our great Arctic adventure!



DAY 1 AUSTRALIA - DUBAI

Fly Emirates to Dubai and connect with the flight to Oslo.

DAY 2 DUBAI - OSLO Arrive in Oslo early morning. Visit the superb 80-acre Vigeland Sculpture Park. **(D)**

DAY 3 OSLO Enjoy a city tour of Oslo, including the 13th century Akershus Fortress, the Viking Ships Museum, and the museum that houses the world's most famous polar ship, the Fram. **(BLD)**

DAY 4 OSLO - BERGEN Travel to Bergen on one of the world's most scenic railways. On arrival board Viking Sky, our home for the next 12 nights. **(BLD)**

DAY 5 BERGEN Enjoy a city tour of pretty Bergen. Visit the composer Edvard Grieg's house in Trolldhaugen and later set sail for Flam. **(BLD)**

DAY 6 FLAM Soak up the majestic views of Vassbygda Lake and ride the famous Flam Railway. In the evening begin our overnight journey to Alesund. **(BLD)**

DAY 7 ALESUND Take a walking tour of this colourful Art Nouveau town, and its surrounding archipelago and fjords. **(BLD)**

DAY 8 GEIRANGER Cruise to Geiranger via the Geirangerfjord, one of the most spectacular in Norway. Explore the area then re-board Viking Sky for our journey west to the Faroe Islands. **(BLD)**

DAY 9 CRUISE THE NORTH SEA Relax and enjoy the facilities onboard as we continue sailing west. **(BLD)**

DAY 10 TORSHAVN Arrive at Torshavn, capital of the Faroes, located halfway between Norway and Iceland. Take a scenic drive to the breathtaking fjords of Kaldbak and Kollafjorour. **(BLD)**

DAY 11 CRUISE THE NORWEGIAN SEA Enjoy another day at sea aboard our luxury cruise ship as we sail northwest to Iceland. **(BLD)**

DAY 12 SEYDISFJORDUR Arrive into Seydisfjordur, a pretty town of multi-coloured wooden houses and thriving arts scene, surrounded by mountains and waterfalls. Explore the town and later set sail for Akureyri. **(BLD)**

DAY 13 AKUREYRI Iceland's second largest city is noted for its lovely architecture. We fully explore Akureyri before continuing our cruise to the Westfjords region. **(BLD)**

DAY 14 ISAFJORDUR Arrive into Isafjordur and explore this Icelandic gem, which is characterised by dramatic landscapes and towering peaks. **(BLD)**

DAY 15 REYKJAVIK Explore the world's most northerly capital, home to three out of five Icelanders. Later relax in the famous Blue Lagoon. **(BLD)**

DAY 16 REYKJAVIK - VIK Disembark from Viking Sky and board our coach for Vik. En-route visit Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss. On arrival in Vik explore its black volcanic beach, famous for its rock formations and colonies of puffins. **(BLD)**

DAY 17 VIK - JOKULSARLON

Drive east to Jokulsarlon near Skaftafell National Park. Enjoy a boat ride among the floating icebergs at Jokulsarlon, which lies at the foot of Europe's largest glacier Vatnajokull. **(BLD)**

DAY 18 JOKULSARLON - GEYSIR Visit Skaftafell National Park, before driving westwards to Geysir and the northern part of the Golden Circle. Visit the sprouting geysers and Gullfoss waterfall. **(BLD)**

DAY 19 GEYSIR - REYKJAVIK After breakfast begin our drive back to Reykjavik, passing through the magnificent scenery of Thingvellir National Park. **(BLD)**

DAY 20 REYKJAVIK - ILULISSAT Fly to Ilulissat. On

arrival explore the town, visiting the Danish trading station, the busy fishing harbour and the museum. Travel by boat to the hunter's settlement, Rodebay. **(BLD)**

DAYS 21 - 22 ILULISSAT Enjoy a cruise on the Icefjord as the sinking sun projects a warm red glow onto the gigantic icebergs. Cruise along the 5km width of the magnificent Equip Glacier, hopefully catching sight of the 'birth' of an iceberg. **(BLD)**

DAY 23 ILULISSAT - COPENHAGEN Fly to Copenhagen via Kangerlussuaq. **(B)**

DAYS 24 - 25 COPENHAGEN - DUBAI - AUSTRALIA Transfer to the airport for the homeward flight. **(B)**

Highlights

NORWAY, FAROE ISLANDS & ICELAND Enjoy a luxury 12-night cruise from Bergen to Reykjavik via the Faroes. Ride on the world-famous Flam railway. See the spectacular Geirangerfjord. Visit Iceland's beautiful fjord towns of Seydisfjordur and Isafjordur. Explore beautiful Akureyri. Enjoy the Golden Circle tour. Boat tour amongst the icebergs at the beautiful glacier lagoon, Jokulsarlon.

GREENLAND Boat tour to the hunter's settlement, Rodebay. Cruise through the icebergs of Disko Bay. Visit to the awesome Equip Glacier.

Tour Information

2019: 29 Jul - 24 Aug

TOUR COST FROM \$29,950 per person twin share
Single Supp: (Land portion only) \$2,990
Single Supp: (Combined land & cruise) \$11,985

NB: On this tour, we do not cover the cost of the single supplement for the cruise portion, if a single match-up is not available.

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | All meals | All hotel accommodation (twin-share) | 2-berth cabins on Viking Sky (twin share) | Wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard | All port charges & taxes | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping (including onboard Viking Sky)

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **MODERATE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



Peles Castle, Romania



Cossack Rider, Ukraine



Sighisoara, Romania



Black Sea

UKRAINE

MOLDOVA

ROMANIA

BULGARIA

Lviv

Kamyansky

Kiev

Odessa

Chisinau

Onesti

Sighisoara

Sibiu

Brasov

Bucharest

Veliko Tarnovo

Plovdiv

Sofia

Beyond the Black Sea

27 DAY TOUR

This journey is a mix of contemporary and ancient history, myths and legends, set against the backdrop of the Black Sea. Beginning in Western Ukraine, we visit Kiev, Lviv and Odessa, before crossing into Moldova – via the only unrecognised country in Europe – Transnistria. Continuing west we enter Romania, where, deep in the Transylvanian Alps, we visit Dracula's castle at Brasov and the ancient towns of Sighisoara and Sibiu. Finally, we cross into Bulgaria and explore the remarkable fairy tale towns of Veliko Tarnovo and Plovdiv before concluding the tour in the capital Sofia.

Highlights

UKRAINE Visit Chernobyl and the ghost town of Pripjat. Dinner in a medieval castle. Explore the catacombs in Odessa.

MOLDOVA Lunch with a Moldovan family. Exclusive tour of Milestii Mici underground winery. Visit to Transnistria.

ROMANIA Visit to Dracula's Castle in Transylvania. Take part in a Romanian wedding.

BULGARIA Visit to the ancient cultural capital of the Balkans, Veliko Tarnovo. Tour the fantastic open-air 'museum' village of Etara.



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 - KIEV Visit the deserted ghost town of Pripjat and Reactor 4 at Chernobyl. **(BLD)**

DAY 5 KIEV - KAMYANETS PODILSKY Explore Pechersk Lavra, 'Monastery of the Caves'. Later board the train for the 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, the world-famous Potemkin Steps, and the fascinating catacombs. **(BLD)**

DAY 12 ODESSA - CHISINAU Travel to the Moldovan capital, Chisinau. On the way enjoy lunch in 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 - VISCRI - SIGHISOARA Begin the drive to Sighisoara, birthplace of Vlad the Impaler. En-route enjoy lunch at the beautiful Saxon village of Viscri. **(BLD)**

DAYS 17 - 18 SIGHISOARA - SIBIU Explore the cobbled streets and colourful facades of Sighisoara. Later depart for the walled town of Sibiu. Enjoy a walking tour of Sibiu including the 13th-century Stairway Tower, the Liar's Bridge, and the Cathedral. **(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 into Bulgaria and continue to Veliko Tarnovo. Take a walking tour of the town including Tsarevets Fortress. **(BLD)**

DAY 22 VELIKO TARNAVO - 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 visiting Rila Monastery on the way. **(BLD)**

DAY 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 After lunch transfer to the airport for the flight home. **(BL)**

DAY 27 Arrive back in Australia today.



Pechersk Lavra, Kiev, Ukraine

Tour Information

2019: 24 Aug - 19 Sep

TOUR COST FROM \$17,450 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$2,930

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | Visas | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: MODERATE

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner

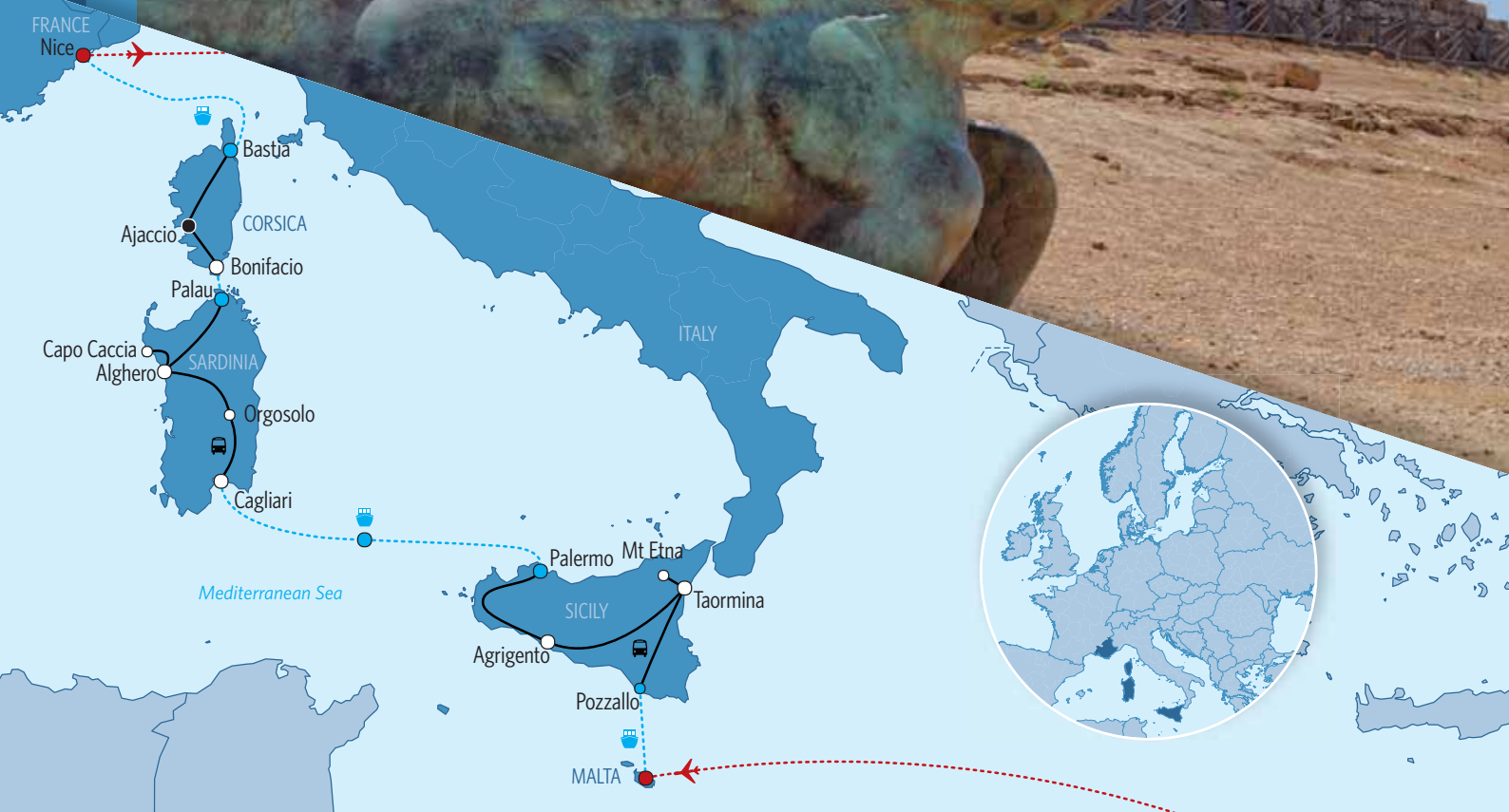


Bonifacio, Corsica



Maltese fishing boats

Temple of Concordia, Agrigento, Sicily



Jewels of the Mediterranean

27 DAY TOUR

Jewels of the Mediterranean is a spectacular journey to Malta and the less-visited islands of Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica. 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 impressive coastlines of the Mediterranean. Each island has its own unique personality and culture, completely distinct from its mainland counterpart. Far from being a relaxing meander around the Med, this tour is an active and exciting exploration of some of the most dramatic landscapes and ancient cobbled towns of the Mediterranean.



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, 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 Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. **(BLD)**

DAY 8 TAORMINA - AGRIGENTO Drive to the town of Piazza Amerina and explore the

famous Villa Romana del Casale, built in the middle of the 4th Century AD. After lunch continue west 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 a winery, continue to the bustling Sicilian capital of Palermo. **(BLD)**

DAYS 11 - 12 PALERMO Enjoy a full Day exploring historic 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 our city tour of fascinating 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 with its precipitous

white stone walls, beautiful architecture, and pristine lagoons and bird sanctuaries. **(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 Explore the sheer limestone cliffs of Capo Caccia. Weather permitting, 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 Maddalena archipelago. **(BLD)**

DAY 19 PALAU - BONIFACIO Board a ferry to Corsica and the medieval town of Bonifacio perched atop steep limestone cliffs. **(BLD)**

DAY 20 BONIFACIO Drive through the magnificent Alta Rocca mountain range, the backbone of Corsica, visiting Aiguilles de Bavella and the mountain village of Zonza. Later explore Porto Vecchio before returning to Bonifacio. **(BLD)**

Highlights

MALTA Visit to Mdina, Malta's ancient walled capital. Explore St Paul's catacombs and grotto at Rabat.

SICILY 2 nights 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 bird sanctuaries at Cagliari. Explore the Nuraghic village at Barumini.

CORSICA 2 nights at the medieval cliff-top town of Bonifacio. Scenic drive from Ajaccio to Corte. Visit to Cap Corse, famous for its 'Genoese' towers.

DAY 21 BONIFACIO - AJACCIO Drive to Ajaccio, capital of Corsica. 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 Enjoy the scenic drive north through some of the most breathtaking mountains and valleys on the island. **(BLD)**

DAY 24 BASTIA Depart for Cap Corse - famous for its rugged peaks, olive orchards, vineyards, remote bays and quaint fishing villages. **(BLD)**

DAY 25 BASTIA - NICE Take the ferry to the French mainland and the city of Nice. **(B)**

DAYS 26 - 27 NICE - AUSTRALIA In the afternoon transfer to the airport for the Emirates flight home via Dubai. **(B)**



Tour Information

2019: 06 May - 01 Jun

TOUR COST FROM \$18,750 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$3,550

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | All meals (except on ferries) | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL: **ACTIVE**

Meals Key: B-Breakfast | L-Lunch | D-Dinner



Berat, Albania



Korcula Island, Croatia

Mostar Bridge, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Soul of the Balkans

25 DAY TOUR

This unique itinerary takes us to a fascinating pocket of Europe, beginning 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. From here we cross the magnificent Dinaric Alps into Montenegro - a true hidden gem of Eastern Europe. Travelling further south we enter Macedonia and the Ottoman city of Skopje, before visiting Lake Ohrid. We then cross the border into mysterious Albania, a small country where pristine nature mingles with ancient cultures.

DAY 1 AUSTRALIA - SINGAPORE - FRANKFURT

Fly Singapore Airlines to Frankfurt via Singapore.

DAY 2 FRANKFURT - DUBROVNIK

Fly to Dubrovnik and transfer to our small private charter ship, MS Emanuel. Emanuel is the perfect size for mooring at the small ports, bays 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 Sail to the lush, green island of Mljet. Enjoy a walk to the two spectacular saltwater 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 WWII. **(BLD)**

DAY 7 VIS - HVAR Arrive at the island of Hvar, ranked amongst the most beautiful islands in the world. **(BLD)**

DAY 8 HVAR - SPLIT Set sail for 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 winding medieval streets and imposing

Kamerlengo Fortress. Return to Split and explore 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 the beautiful bridge town of Mostar. **(BLD)**

DAYS 11 - 12 MOSTAR - SARAJEVO Pass through the beautiful Dinaric Alps en-route to Sarajevo. Explore Sarajevo's Butmir Tunnel - built beneath the airport as a supply line during the siege. Explore the pedestrian street, 'Bascarsija'. **(BLD)**

DAY 13 SARAJEVO - KOLASIN Drive from the Sarajevo valley up to the mountains. Cross the border into Montenegro and on to Kolasin. **(BLD)**

DAYS 14 - 15 KOLASIN Explore the Bjelasica 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 into Kosovo. After lunch in Pristina, drive into Macedonia and continue to the capital, Skopje. **(BLD)**

DAY 17 SKOPJE Take a 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. 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)**

DAYS 24 - 25 TIRANA - ISTANBUL - SINGAPORE - AUSTRALIA Fly back to Australia via Istanbul and Singapore.

Highlights

CROATIA Explore the historic city walls of Dubrovnik. Exclusive 8-night charter cruise along the Dalmatian Coast. Visit the islands of Mljet, Korcula, Vis and Hvar. Visit Diocletian's Palace in Split.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA Dinner under the stunning floodlit Mostar Bridge. 2 nights in historic Sarajevo.

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

MACEDONIA 2 nights at beautiful Lake Ohrid. See the Roman murals at Bitola.

ALBANIA Visit the old Ottoman city of Berat. Day trip to the medieval town of Kruje.



Emanuel anchored in Bay

Tour Information

2019: 26 Jun - 20 Jul

TOUR COST FROM \$16,850 per person twin share
Single Supp: \$4,200

Price based on twin-share lower-deck. Upgrade to main deck \$550 per person twin share.

INCLUSIONS: All economy-class flights & taxes | All meals | All accommodation (twin-share) | All ground transportation | Entrance fees and sightseeing | 8-night Croatian private charter cruise | Bespoke surprises | Expert local guides | Experienced Tour Leader | All tipping

TOUR FITNESS LEVEL:  **MODERATE**

Meals Key: **B**-Breakfast | **L**-Lunch | **D**-Dinner

2018-2020 Tour Calendar

Our new brochure contains a host of wonderful journeys for you to consider. We also offer a number of other 'Adventures of a Lifetime' not featured in the brochure. Please visit our website for further information: www.traveldirectors.com.au

2018 TOURS			
OCTOBER departures 06 THE HIMALAYAN EXPRESS pg 38 14 JORDAN & OMAN pg 56 29 ROAD TO MANDALAY pg 40	NOVEMBER departures 02 SOUTH AMERICA: THE TOP END pg 46 	DECEMBER departures 14 THE CHRISTMAS TRANS-SIBERIAN pg 14 	Ask Us About A CHRISTMAS CRACKER A special festive tour travelling by rail from London to Milan. Highlights include France and Germany's magical Christmas markets, Christmas Day in Wernigerode, and the scenic Bernina Express train ride through the Swiss Alps.
2019 TOURS			
JANUARY departures 05 AFRICAN DAWN pg 30  <p>This Month's Highlight TIMKAT FESTIVAL Ethiopia</p>	FEBRUARY departures 07 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN * pg 44 07 PASSAGE OF THE NILE * pg 26 17 GALAPAGOS TO PATAGONIA pg 48 18 ROAD TO MANDALAY pg 40 23 TRAIL OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS pg 58 <p>This Month's Highlight TRINIDAD CARNIVAL Trinidad & Tobago</p>	MARCH departures 09 TRAIL OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS pg 58 23 TREASURES OF CENTRAL AMERICA pg 50 24 JAPAN & THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS pg 42 <p>This Month's Highlight SEMANA SANTA Guatemala</p>	APRIL departures 05 NAMIBIA: MASTERPIECE OF NATURE pg 28 05 THE HIMALAYAN EXPRESS pg 38 
MAY departures 01 RUSSIA OFF THE BEATEN TRACK pg 16 03 TREASURES OF PERSIA & THE CAUCASUS pg 54 05 THE FIVE STANS pg 52 05 PEARLS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN pg 24 06 JEWELS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN pg 64 <p>This Month's Highlight VICTORY DAY PARADE Russia</p>	JUNE departures 26 SOUL OF THE BALKANS pg 66  <p>Ask Us About BALTICS & BEYOND A journey through the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, & Lithuania, and onto Belarus and Poland.</p>	JULY departures 02 THE LEGENDARY TRANS-SIBERIAN pg 12 05 KAMCHATKA: NATURE'S TOUR DE FORCE pg 36 26 THE GREAT MIGRATION pg 32 29 THE HIGH ARCTIC pg 60 <p>This Month's Highlight THE NAADAM FESTIVAL Mongolia</p>	AUGUST departures 06 AFRICA: THE LAST FRONTIERS* pg 22 23 SOUTHERN AFRICAN MAGIC pg 34 24 BEYOND THE BLACK SEA pg 62 <p>Ask Us About ESSENTIAL MADAGASCAR A two-week sojourn to this remarkable Indian Ocean Island.</p>
SEPTEMBER departures 01 THE FIVE STANS pg 52 04 EPIC RAIL ODYSSEY pg 20 06 MANCHESTER TO MARRAKECH pg 18 13 TREASURES OF PERSIA & THE CAUCASUS pg 50	OCTOBER departures 05 THE HIMALAYAN EXPRESS pg 38 13 JORDAN & OMAN pg 56 	NOVEMBER departures 01 SOUTH AMERICA: THE TOP END pg 46 	DECEMBER departures 14 THE CHRISTMAS TRANS-SIBERIAN pg 14 <p>This Month's Highlights CHRISTMAS DAY IN SIBERIA NYE IN RED SQUARE Russia</p>
2020 TOURS			
JANUARY departures 05 AFRICAN DAWN pg 30 30 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN <p>This Month's Highlight TIMKAT FESTIVAL Ethiopia</p>	FEBRUARY departures 06 PASSAGE OF THE NILE pg 26 06 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN pg 44 16 GALAPAGOS TO PATAGONIA pg 48 17 ROAD TO MANDALAY pg 40 22 TRAIL OF NORTHERN LIGHTS pg 58	MARCH departures 08 TRAIL OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS pg 58 14 TREASURES CENTRAL AMERICA pg 50 23 JAPAN & CHERRY BLOSSOMS pg 42 <p>This Month's Highlight SEMANA SANTA Guatemala</p>	APRIL departures 04 NAMIBIA pg 28 04 THE HIMALAYAN EXPRESS pg 38 
CALENDAR KEY: ASIA CENTRAL ASIA & THE MIDDLE EAST UNDISCOVERED EUROPE AFRICA LATIN AMERICA RAIL TOUR * NEW			



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 phone number): _____

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)

Frequent 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

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.

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 TITLE: _____ Departure Date: / / No. of Days: _____

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.

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.

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 71) and join with Travel Directors in agreeing and accepting all conditions.

PRINTED NAME

DATE

SIGNATURE

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 71), that you have read and fully understand same, before signing and dating this declaration.

1. 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.
- 1a. 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.
2. 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.
- 2a. Payment by credit card/charge card will incur a surcharge.
3. 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.
- 3a. **Price Guarantee on Full Payment.** Prices in this brochure are based on costs and exchange rates as at 3 July 2018. 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.
4. 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.
- 5a. Once the booking has been accepted by Travel Directors, cancellations can only be made in writing. Cancellation fees apply as follows:
 90 days or longer: Loss of deposit
 89 days - 60 days: 55% of tour cost
 59 days - 30 days: 75% of tour cost
 Within 29 days: 100% of tour cost

5b. 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.

5c. 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.

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

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Airlines and other carriers are not responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the client is not 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.
10. All services provided are subject to the law of the country in which the services are provided.
11. 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.

12. 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.

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