

# GLOBE TROTTING

with Goway

THE MAGAZINE FOR WORLD TRAVELLERS - SPRING/SUMMER 2017

CANADIAN EDITION No. 24



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## Champions of the Natural World

History has no shortage of people defending the natural world. For instance, St. Francis of Assisi advocated that wolves and birds were fellow brothers and sisters back in the 13th century. Henry David Thoreau wrote about returning to nature in Walden in 19th century America. But conservation and environmentalism is at a crucial moment in the early decades of the 21st century.

By Aren Bergstrom

The planet's growing population and advancing technology has had a profound impact on the global environment, threatening animal species and habitats, and ruining entire ecosystems. While international tourism has the advantage of bringing people to further reaches

of the globe in greater numbers, it also has to contend with preserving the very habitats it celebrates. In this precarious environment, conservation has grown more vital.

Conservation has a long and proud history with many defining figures. However, few individuals have loomed as largely as Jacques

Cousteau. If conservationists of past centuries were often intellectuals or religious leaders, much of our current conservation movement is spearheaded by celebrities. This is because having a public platform to change people's attitudes towards nature is undisputedly helpful in combating environmental damage.



The Blue Hole in Belize (a large submarine sinkhole), initially made famous by Jacques Cousteau.

### Defending the World Beneath the Waves

Jacques Cousteau made his name as a filmmaker documenting the incredible world beneath the ocean. Cousteau initially had no interest in preserving animal life. In his Oscar-winning documentary from 1956, *The Silent World*, he drove his ship, *Calypso*, into a pod of sperm whales, fatally injuring a calf in the process. His crew proceeded to shoot the sharks that arrived to feed on the corpse. The whole endeavor was hugely damaging to the environment Cousteau was exploring. These were not the actions of a conservationist, but they were fundamental in Cousteau's development as a champion of the natural world.

In 1956, audiences who saw *The Silent World* would have thought nothing of shooting the sharks or driving the ship into the pod of whales. Interaction with the natural world was often violent. Conservation had yet to become a popular movement and it took individuals like Cousteau to demonstrate a conservationist approach to nature.

As Cousteau continued to make films and explore the depths of the ocean, he embraced marine conservation, forming the Cousteau Society or *L'Equipe Cousteau*, an organization dedicated to educating audiences about the marine world and encouraging them to protect that world from damage. In 1960, he stopped the French government from dumping nuclear waste into the ocean, going toe-to-toe with President Charles de Gaulle in the process. Later, he was

Continued on page 3...

## Best Value European Cities



The Discoveries Monument in Lisbon, Portugal pays homage to the country's Globetrotting Explorers

By Christian Baines

It's a cheesy metaphor, but words like 'buffet' come to mind when first planning a Europe trip. You can't finish it all in one sitting, and even if you could, you'd be ready for a return trip by the time you'd finished. There are literally hundreds of great stops here, and even with exceptional air and rail deals, hopping around them can get expensive. To get the most out

of your Europe vacation, you're going to have to prioritise the cities and attractions that interest you.

World travel isn't just for the rich, so let's talk about Europe on a budget. London, Paris, Rome, Amsterdam...these places are must-sees, but they aren't cheap! What's more, everyone wants to see them, which is going to swing prices upward, even if you use public transport, eschew tourist restau-

rants, and eat and drink locally. The good news is, because Europe has so many worthwhile stops at every price point, all accessible without a visa (most are in the Schengen travel zone), you can design a great itinerary and explore for very little.

So with that in mind, here are (arguably!) nine of the best value city breaks to be found in Europe:

Continued on page 7...

## The Colourful Barrios (Neighbourhoods) of Buenos Aires



Colourful La Boca is a haven for artists

By Christian Baines

Considered South America's most European capital, Buenos Aires is a huge city with a wide variety of barrios (neighbourhoods) to explore, each with its own distinctive look, flavour, and attitude.

Centro, or San Nicolas is where you'll find the Casa Rosada, the pink presidential palace, which stares across the Plaza de Mayo at the Cabildo museum. A visit to

all three is a great way to put your Argentina vacation in perspective. You'll also find Argentina's most famous landmark, the Obelisk, located on the corner of Avenue Corrientes and Avenue 9 de Julio, the world's widest street. Just one block to the west, visit the famous Teatro Colon, considered one of the five best concert venues in the world. If you have time, cross the

Continued on page 18...

## Do You Have a Globe # ?

Unless your name is on the label below with a *Globe #*, you may not receive our next edition. Existing subscribers (with an identification number, eg: *Globe 1234*) and readers who complete our subscription form at [www.goglobetrotting.com](http://www.goglobetrotting.com) will be certain to receive the next edition.

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Goway offers all kinds of cruises: boutique, expedition, river, and ocean. Some are BIG ships, others are small. At [www.goway.com](http://www.goway.com) you will find 211 cruise ideas, all over our wonderful world

As usual, this edition of Globetrotting Magazine features several interesting travel ideas (e.g. unique accommodations p. 19), tips (e.g. what not to do in Asia p.10) and useful information (e.g. dates and events p.5) for globetrotters. There is a human interest feature (Champions of the Natural World) and several focus destinations (Zimbabwe, Cook Islands, Fiji, Iceland, Europe, The Philippines, Tokyo, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Argentina, Kenya and South Africa). This edition however has a strong focus on cruises...Yes cruises.



Virtually all of Goway's cruise ideas are luxury, and they sail in all parts of our wonderful world

We do not write about one kind of cruise, we talk about several styles (boutique, expedition, river, ocean), big (Norwegian Cruise Lines) and small (catamarans). For many globetrotters incorporating a cruise in their overall itinerary has become very popular. Over the years we at Goway recognized this trend and developed what we

believe is the largest collection of cruise ideas in North America. They can be found at [www.goway.com/cruises](http://www.goway.com/cruises) and there are 211 of them.

Virtually all of Goway's cruise ideas are luxury, and they sail in all parts of our wonderful world. Suggestions include the Arctic and Antarctic, Barges and River Ships in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and South America, the largest choice of vessels in the Galapagos Islands, boutique cruises in the world's most idyllic islands such as Tahiti, Fiji, the Seychelles and of course Greece & Croatia. For travellers who prefer larger ships we now have a marketing arrangement with Norwegian Cruise Lines who sail all over the world (see page 16).

For virtually all the cruise travel ideas at [goway.com/cruises](http://goway.com/cruises) you will find photos, deck plans and other useful information. Goway staff know the advantages and disadvantages of the ships and subtle differences you might be interested to know.

As a recipient of this magazine you are probably already a globetrotter. With our magazine, our different brochures and our extensive website, we want to tempt you to keep globetrotting ... with Goway. Don't forget to consider including a cruise of your liking.

We look forward to showing you more of our wonderful world.

*Bruce Hodge*

BRUCE J. HODGE  
Founder & President

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Please see page 15

## Travel Clubs

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We are also able to hold Go Globetrotting or destination specific presentations for your club, depending on your location and time of year requested.



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## GOWAY'S DREAM TEAM OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS:

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# Champions of the Natural World

... Continued from page 1

instrumental in the International Whaling Commission passing a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986.

While Cousteau died in 1997, the Cousteau Society continues his mission to educate people about the ocean and to protect marine life. The Cousteau Society pushes for the adoption of the Bill of Rights for Future Generations, introduced by Cousteau in the early 1990s, which stipulates that future generations "have a right to an uncontaminated and undamaged Earth." The Society also fights commercial whaling that operates through a loophole in the 1986 moratorium, champions the conservation of the vaquita, the most endangered porpoise in the world, and, perhaps most importantly, continues to show how the ocean is ground zero when it comes to the effects of climate change.

Jacques Cousteau used his films and his immense pop-culture capital to champion marine life and change the way people think about the world's oceans. He demonstrated that a person can learn from past mistakes and embrace a conservationist mindset.

## Protecting Nature's Scariest Creatures

Anyone who watched television in the late nineties and early aughts has seen an episode of *The Crocodile Hunter* and recognizes its late star, Steve Irwin. The show and Irwin were ubiquitous in pop culture at the turn of the millen-



Steve Irwin, the "Crocodile Hunter" was really an eco warrior fighting to protect animals and their habitat

nium. He would show up on late-night talk shows to display exotic animals, or guest-star on children's morning variety shows. Steve Irwin and his wife, Terri Irwin, were everywhere.

Although Steve Irwin is now mostly remembered for his boisterous catchphrase, "Crikey," and his tragic death in 2006, he should also be celebrated as a conservationist fighting to preserve the animals of Australia. Throughout his entire career as an entertainer and popular educator, he demonstrated how terrifying animals like crocodiles and poisonous snakes are deserving of protection and appreciation.

Steve and Terri Irwin founded their conservationist organization, the Wildlife Warriors, in 2002. The Warriors are based out of Australia Zoo with the goal of ensuring that people, wildlife, and natural habitats can co-exist. They achieve this by protecting natural environments, educating the public on the value of these habitats, and researching ways to further conservation practices in the future.

Their primary avenue of conservation remains the Australia Zoo on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. The Australia Zoo educates people on the practices of conservation and ethical tourism. It also gives them access to the incredible wildlife of the Australian continent. The Australia Zoo also has a Wildlife Hospital that answers up to 100 emergency calls a day, providing medical care for everything from koalas to kangaroos to crocodiles.

Steve and Terri's Wildlife Warriors do more than operate the Australia Zoo and Wildlife Hospital. As befits Steve's legacy, they pioneer research into crocodiles and protect their habitats from hunters and development. They also protect Grey Nurse Shark nurseries and support other conservation movements abroad, such as Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya, which protects eastern black rhino, and anti-commercial whaling efforts.

Steve Irwin was a charismatic and passionate individual who shared his enthusiasm for animals with the larger world. But he also channeled that passion into protecting animals and educating people on the importance of wildlife they'd usually fear and despise. He was a champion of animals that are seen as nuisances at best, monsters at worst.

## Fighting Poachers and Poverty in Africa

While popular personalities certainly have their place in the world of conservation, most of the fight to protect wildlife is done by grassroots organizations made up of ordinary people such as Wildlands Conservation Trust based out of South Africa.

Wildlands Conservation Trust combats poaching, poverty, and climate change through its many initiatives and partnerships. In particular, Wildlands' Conservation SPACE (Species, People and Conservation of the Environment) helps areas affected by poverty to make money off of and preserve the land. Wildlands operates this project through the well-supported belief that conservation is essential to economic development and uplift.

Species conservation is one of cornerstones of this project. Habitat loss is a growing issue in South Africa and only grows more severe each passing year. Wildlands' programs aim to support the most affected species and improve conservation spaces across the country.

Rhino Conservation is perhaps the main focus of the species conservation programs. Rhino numbers have been severely impacted over the past century and illegal poaching continues to threaten the animal in most of South Africa. In order to defend rhinos and their habitats, Wildlands participates with Project Rhino KZN, an initiative meant to combat poaching

within conservation areas in South Africa.

Project Rhino KZN monitors and defends rhinos against illegal poaching by equipping them with digital trackers and responding to crisis situations with Zululand Anti-poaching Wing (ZAP Wing), which provides aerial surveillance. Goway actively supports this initiative, having donated two installments of R50,000 to Project Rhino KZN in previous years. Beyond Rhino Conservation, Wildlands also focuses on Wild Dog and Bearded Vulture initiatives, protecting these endangered animals that are often ignored by wider conservation movements.

Wildlands Conservation Trust is improving the lives of people and animals in South Africa, fighting to eradicate poverty and poaching and make way for a future where all animals and people are afforded the opportunity to thrive in their environments.

## Sharing and Supporting the World

Goway Travel is well aware of the relationship between tourism and conservation. Tourism celebrates the exotic corners of the world, but it also needs to support these destinations, preserving the environment and empowering the local people so as to retain what makes these destinations so special. That's why Tourism Cares exists.

Tourism professionals founded Tourism Cares in 2004 in order to support sustainable tourism and empower the local communities of popular travel destinations. Its mission is to restore and protect at-risk destinations, invest in future tourism professionals, and encourage corporate social responsibility. Tourism Cares runs initiatives in many countries, including Egypt, Myanmar, Nepal, and the United States, with a Jordan initiative slated for the near future. It also spawned a sister organization, Turismo Cuida, which supports local entrepreneurs in the travel industry in Peru.

Tourism Cares rose to the occasion after the Nepal Earthquake of April 2015, setting up the Nepal Recovery fund, which continues to help rebuild the country and encourage international support

two years later. Tourism is one of the best ways to support Nepal's recovery: it injects foreign money into the nation by employing locals and supporting their businesses. It also educates visitors on the nation's struggles. The Nepal Recovery Fund runs NepalNow.org, which displays the best times to visit the country as well as recovery information for international tourists. It supports hospitality training for local Nepali people, providing them with income and training after the devastation of the earthquake.

Through initiatives like the Nepal Recovery Fund, Tourism Cares has helped rebuild incredible destinations after disaster has struck and empowered tour groups and providers to preserve these destinations.

If international travel is to exist long into the future, travellers have to respect and champion the destinations they visit. Goway Travel strives to learn from individuals like Jacques Cousteau and Steve and Terri Irwin and support initiatives like Wildlands Conservation Trust and Tourism Cares in order to preserve the people, places, and animals we hold so dearly.

The world is an incredible place, but if Globetrotters don't work to preserve its animals and environments, it will not remain one forever. Tourism and conservation have to work hand-in-hand. One cannot survive without the other. Luckily, by working together and holding strong to our values, we can preserve and celebrate this world together.



If international travel is to exist long into the future, travellers have to respect and champion the destinations they visit.

## Smooth Traveller: Zimbabwe

By Renée S. Gordon

"The Africa within, which we carry, sees the mirror image of the Africa without and something within our soul responds." —Dr. Ian Player

The Republic of Zimbabwe, bordered by Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia, is easily accessible, has a developed infrastructure, uses the American dollar as standard currency and boasts several of Africa's most significant historic and natural attractions. There are five UNESCO World Heritage Sites within its borders.

The area has been an important trading center since 900 AD when the Mashona people traded their primary trade item, gold, with other cultures. Zimbabwe's "stone houses" were the traditional homes of the rulers and although more than 180 of these ruins exist the most significant was the capital of the Kingdom, Great Zimbabwe.

This 1,720-acre complex, located between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers, at its height housed more than 15,000 people and is the largest sub-Saharan collection of ruins on the continent. There are two main complexes, the Valley Enclosures and the Great Enclosure and at some points the walls, constructed of granite blocks without mortar, reach a height of 37-ft. and a width of 20-ft. Eight soapstone Zimbabwe birds were carved here atop a series of columns and are now depicted on the country's flag. The birds have lips and feet instead of a beak and claws. Artifacts found at the site are featured in an on-site museum. The monument, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986, is open Monday-Saturday.

The largest of Zimbabwe's parks is the 5,657-sq. mile Hwange National Park, once the hunting province of the aNdebele king,



Zimbabwe's greatest jewel, Victoria Falls, inspires awe even at a distance

designated in 1929 the Wankie Game Reserve. Hwange has a variety of landscapes and more than 105 mammal and 400 bird species including 20,000 endangered elephants and the world's largest population of wild dogs. Game drives here are spectacular because you are virtually guaranteed to spot some of the abundant wildlife, among them the giraffe, cheetah, brown hyena, zebra, leopard, lions, rhinos, wildebeest and buffalo. The park is on the edge of the Kalahari Desert and some of the animals move from there to graze in the

parks natural salt pans.

The Painted Dog Conservation Center is on the park's border. African wild dogs are unique to the continent and the center is dedicated to conservation, rehabilitation and education. Their population went from 500,000 to 3,000 in 10-years before they were reintroduced into the park. They weigh up to 79-lbs. and can attain speeds of 41 M.P.H. Visitors are welcome.

There are numerous types of accommodations from which to select in the Hwange area, from

camping to luxury lodges, for all budgets and to match your African dreams. If your desire is the ultimate "Hemingwayesque" adventure while basking in luxury, Elephant's Eye Lodge is the natural choice. Just as elephants — who originated in Africa, are majestic and the only large animal capable of shaping their environment to suit their needs — so too is the iconic Elephant's Eye Lodge. The staff is dedicated to crafting your fantasy safari adventure.

Continued on page 22...

## Busting the Myths of Business Class (...and Premium Economy)



Relax in Business Premier aboard Air New Zealand and you'll arrive refreshed and ready to start your vacation!

By Christian Baines

We've all done it. Shuffled down the aisles of our plane jealously trying not to stare at those few passengers comfortably settled into seats far more comfortable than ours. But aren't those seats all five times the price? Well beyond the reach of any flier not on an expense account?

Not necessarily. Nabbing a chance to fly 'up front' can be easier than you think, and bring about some neat added benefits.

Even if you only upgrade to Premium Economy, you'll usually enjoy advance boarding, a higher luggage allowance, wider seats with more leg room and pitch, better meals, and more ticket options if you do need to change your plans. Don't forget about access to the airport lounge! It can mean superior food, drinks, showers, and a much more comfortable seat while you wait for your flight – invaluable if you've got a long layover. There's one extra benefit you might not know about. Passengers in Business and Premium Economy are not just first off the plane. Their luggage is first off the plane as well!

There are several ways to land

one of those coveted seats without splashing out on a full price fare. You can use those valuable frequent flier points. Join at least one program in each of the three major airline alliances – Star Alliance, Skyteam, and Oneworld – learn which airlines are in each group and collect on every single flight you can. Upgrading a ticket can often be a much more economical use of your points than buying an economy ticket. You can also increase your chances of landing a great Premium Economy or Business class deal by being flexible on your destination. Travellers often ignore hot deals on front-of-plane seats, thinking they can't afford them. Being flexible gives your agent more range to take advantage of such deals.

Some airlines are taking comfort in the sky even further. The features and furnishings of Emirates' incredible first class suite conjure impressions of a 5-star hotel by way of luxury space travel. At the less stratospheric end of seating upgrades, Air New Zealand's Skycouch does exactly what it says on the label. A comfy back, ample legroom, and an easy flatbed option for your long-haul flight downunder.

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# IDYLIC ISLANDS

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Price based on travel 01Nov '17 - 31Mar '18

\*Prices listed are "from", per person, based on twin share and current exchange rate. All packages and prices are subject to availability. Airline taxes are included. Please enquire about departures from other cities, single supplements, extensions or upgrades.

## Cruise & See more of Fiji

Sailing the turquoise waters of the Fijian archipelago, Captain Cook Cruises invites Globetrotters to explore the unspoiled islands of Fiji in style and comfort.

Consistently one of the South Pacific's most popular destinations, Fiji is famous for its welcoming locals, a complex blend of island and Indian culture, as well as warm, clear waters and coral reefs ideal for diving and swimming. Captain Cook Cruises are designed to help travellers discover Fiji's treasures, all from the comfort of their 'floating resort' the MV Reef Endeavour.

Captain Cook Cruises offers a range of cruise itineraries from quick day trips aboard smaller ships to its private coral atoll, Tivua, to complex

multi-day voyages that showcase the very best of the Fijian islands. These itineraries are undertaken aboard the Reef Endeavour, a miniature cruise ship that allows passengers to explore the Fijian islands in detail, without the large crowds carried by larger vessels.

Besides the two larger islands, Fiji is made up of a number of smaller archipelagos including the Mamanucas, a series of beautiful, well-developed islands popular with honeymooners, and the more remote Yasawas, popular with those

seeking a more active or adventurous Fiji vacation. The advantage of a small cruise itinerary – Captain Cook Cruises offers itineraries aboard the Reef Endeavour ranging from three to eleven days – is that it allows passengers to discover a new island each day, seeing far more of Fiji than a simple resort vacation would show them. This variety also lets Globetrotters choose exactly what kind of vacation they'd like to have.

A Fijian 4 Cultures Discovery Cruise for example is geared toward



Experience a warm Fijian welcome on board Captain Cook Cruises

culture seekers wanting to explore a big part of what makes Fiji stand out from other South Pacific nations – its people. Over seven nights circumnavigating Vanua Levu, passengers encounter the Ellice Islanders, the Barnabas, Indian, and native Fijian people. The itinerary is rich in natural attractions too, including The Great Sea Reef. Those who really want to focus on Fiji's natural wonders might prefer a cruise through the Yasawa Islands, which takes in the famous Sawa-i-lau "Blue Lagoon."

Ready to go way off the tourist trail? The Fijian Discovery cruise to the remote islands of Fiji's north and east. Few tourists make their way to this part of the country, which feels a world away from the expansive resorts of Denarau Island, Fiji's main port, from which most cruise ships depart. No matter which itinerary passengers choose, they're sure to see the unique highlights of each island they visit, including both the popular tourist

stops, and hidden treasures of Fiji. Passengers might visit a pearl farm one day, or a local village or serene waterfall the next, with time for snorkelling on a vibrant coral reef in between.

The Reef Endeavour features a swimming pool, spa and sauna, mini gym, glass bottom boat for exploring the reefs, and platforms and facilities for diving and boat access. In addition, all meals are included, along with daily stopovers and water activities, and entertainment aboard ship.

Save 20% off a Captain Cook Cruises Fiji voyage by booking early. Visit [goway.com/cruises](http://goway.com/cruises) for more information.



Captain Cook Cruises Stateroom



Captain Cook's small ship means its never crowded & lots of time on the islands

# The Cook Islands: Catching Up with Relaxation

We've known for a while that the Cook Islands are one of the South Pacific's true treasures. Here's what Goway's Graphic Designer, Alejandro had to say about an escape to island paradise.



One Foot Island, Aitutaki, is maybe one of the most beautiful lagoons in the world

## First off, what attracted you to the Cook Islands?

The first thing that attracted me was how remote and beautiful the islands looked. I've browsed through images of the South Pacific islands, like Tahiti and Fiji and even though they all are stunning, I really wanted to experience a quiet and almost untouched destination like the Cooks where the local culture and ways of living are almost intact

## Where did you stay, and how would you describe it?

I had the opportunity to visit Rarotonga and Aitutaki, the two most visited islands (there are 15 in total) In Rarotonga, I stayed in 3 different parts of the island; the east, west, and the south. They were all different, and stunning in their own way. The west part of Rarotonga is beautiful, with quiet waters, long beaches and lots of small reefs to explore, it also has the best sunsets. We stayed at the Crown Beach Resort, a beach-front adults-only resort. Our room (Courtyard Pool Suite) had its own private plunge pool. Here you're also very close to a few good restaurants and resorts.

The east side of Rarotonga to me was the best. We stayed at the Pacific Resort Rarotonga, one of the larger resorts on the island. home to the famous Muri Lagoon which has amazing clear waters with beautiful white beaches. The perfect area to swim. The east side also features a choice of resorts on the island, and great places like the Mooring Fish Cafe and The Te Vara Nui Village, which are a must when you visit Rarotonga

The south part of the island is the quietest. We stayed at the boutique, Sea Change Villas. The property is intimate; there are only 9 luxurious villas and this style of accommodation is great for a longer stay as there is a full kitchen, plus a private pool and villas with one, two or three bedrooms. There, I could relax and enjoy the open ocean views swim and snorkel. It's the most romantic and remote area, for sure. Regardless of where you stay on the island, it is very easy to get around.

Aitutaki was a different experience altogether, and one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen. The 5-star Pacific Resort Aitutaki was incredible. Our bungalow was steps from the pristine white-sand beach. You can drive around the island in 30 minutes by scooter and it has the most beautiful lagoon. Maybe the best in the world. The

island cruise is a must-do because it is the only way to visit the nearby smaller islands that encompass the totality of Aitutaki. Especially One Foot Island, a small islet where you can get your passport stamped. . Simply one of the most beautiful places on earth. Since Aitutaki is very remote, even more-so than Rarotonga, and way smaller, there aren't many places to eat or things to do. Just being there is an incredible experience.

## What really stood out for you?

The most memorable Rarotonga experience for me was visiting The Te Vara Nui Village which is a live Polynesian show with buffet dinner. I learned a lot about the island culture and history. In Aitutaki, I felt free like my wife and I had the island all to ourselves. Aside from the amazing VAKA Cruise, which I repeat is a MUST! Just scooting around the Island, exploring its surroundings and talking to its people was incredible. I also brought my drone which allowed me to catch breathtaking footage and pictures and experience the islands in a completely different way.

## The Cook Islanders are famously welcoming. Tell us more about your interactions with the locals.

I had the chance to interact with the locals from the very beginning. Not only were they welcoming but also very warm and willing to help at all times. My wife's luggage was misplaced and did not arrive at the airport the day we got there. She recovered it three days later but I have to say that if it wasn't for the support and comfort the islanders showed us it would have been a very different experience. We met people everywhere we went and I don't think I've ever met nicer, more loving, or happier people. Their lives are so different compared to the one I know and this allows them to relax and enjoy every minute and every person they



The Cook Islands are accessible from North America or Australia & New Zealand

come into contact with. One of the highlights of the Cook Islands is definitely its people

## Could you see yourself staying there for a while?

I met a few people from Australia and New Zealand who had left the big cities and had now been living in the Cook Islands for years and I asked myself if I could leave it all behind and move there or even live there for a while? I have to say that as much as I love the place, I wouldn't be able to stay there forever. But I most definitely could live in the Islands for a few months. If I had the chance to move there for a while, who knows? Maybe the Islands would captivate me and I would end up staying there for good.

## Sounds like you wouldn't be the first. What was one thing that surprised you about the Cook Islands?

To be honest I wasn't expecting to find good food when I got there. I knew they import much of their food stock so I was very surprised when every dish I tried was so delicious. The local fruit and vegetables are so fresh. They do a great job combining most of their cuisine with international flavours. Another thing that surprised me was how time seems to go slower every hour. Maybe because I was so relaxed, but many times I found myself thinking it was way later than it actually was. In paradise, time is definitely different.

## So finally, now that you've been, what would you tell would-be travellers to the Cooks about visiting?

I would say that if you're looking to escape to a remote paradise for your honeymoon or wanting to visit one of the most beautiful places on earth, not only for its people but also for its views please visit the Cook Islands. The journey is 10 hours from Los Angeles, but as soon as I was there I felt great and knew it was worth the distance. I'd recommend traveling during the months of April to August. which is the best season for weather (the most dry). I went in March, the end of the rainier season and we experienced hot, humid days. However, between November and March, this is the low season, so expect great value. I'm sure I will continue to travel to many other beautiful destinations but one thing is for sure, I will never forget this place

Stay 5 nights at the Crown Beach Resort, Pacific Resort Rarotonga, Pacific Resort Aitutaki or Sea Change Villas and receive one night free. See [Goway.com](http://Goway.com) for more information

## Some Important Dates & Events Around the World

01 July - 31 December 2017\*

### LATIN AMERICA

Jun 24	Inti Raymi: Festival of the Sun	Peru and Ecuador
Jul 28, 29	Patriotic Festivals	Across much of Peru
Jul 22-23	Winter Carnival	Punta Arenas, Chile
Jul 29-9 Aug	Flower Festival	Medellin, Colombia
Aug 10-23	World Tango Championship	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Oct 12	Columbus Day	Most of Latin America
Oct 18	Lord of the Miracles Festival	Lma, Peru
Nov 2	Day of the Dead / All Souls' Day	Much of Latin America
Nov 5	Puno Day	Puno, Peru
Dec 6	Quito Festival	Quito, Ecuador

### EUROPE

Jul 7-16	Copenhagen Jazz Festival	Copenhagen, Denmark
Jun-Aug	Athens & Epidavros Festival	Athens, Greece
Jul-Aug	Dubrovnik Summer Festival	Dubrovnik, Croatia
Jul 3-16	Wimbledon Tennis Championship	London, England
Jul 7-16	Umbria Jazz	Perugia, Italy
Jul 14	Bastille Day	France
Jul 14-Aug 5	Ceský Krumlov International Music Festival	Krumlov, Czech Rp
Jul 21-Aug 30	Salzburg Summer Festival	Salzburg, Austria
Aug 4-26	Edinburgh Military Tattoo	Edinburgh, Scotland
Aug 4-28	Edinburgh Fringe Festival	Edinburgh, Scotland
Aug 9-13	Reykjavik Jazz Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland
Aug 11-Sep 10	Lucerne Festival in Summer	Lucerne, Switzerland
Aug 12-19	Oslo Jazz Festival	Oslo, Norway
Mid-Aug	Gràcia Festival	Barcelona, Spain
Aug 19-26	Conwy River Festival	Conwy, Wales
Aug 21-27	Hans Christian Andersen Festival	Odense, Denmark
Sep	Wine harvest festivals	France
Sep 3-4	Flower parade on canals	Netherlands
Sep 7-23	Dvorák's Prague Music Festival	Prague, Czech Republic
Sep 14-17	Gelato Festival Finals	Florence, Italy
Sep 16-Oct 3	Okttoberfest	Munich, Germany
Sep 22-Oct 1	York Food and Drink Festival	York, England
Sep 25-27	Galway Oyster Festival	Galway, Rep of Ireland
Oct 13	Major pilgrimage to Fátima	Portugal
Oct 31-Nov 5	Jazzfest	Berlin, Germany
Nov-Dec	Christmas Fair in Tivoli Garden	Copenhagen, Denmark
Nov 2-6	Iceland Air/Waves Music Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland
Nov 5	Guy Fawkes Night	England
Dec	"Winter Wonders" Christmas Market	Brussels, Belgium
Dec 10	Nobel Peace Prize Day	Stockholm, Sweden
Dec 13	St. Lucia Day: Festival of Lights	Across Scandinavia

### DOWNUNDER AND ISLANDS

Jul 7-23	Heiva Tahiti	Tahiti
Jul 29	Australian Outback Marathon	Uluru
Aug	Bledisloe Cup Rugby Festival	Sydney
Aug 11-27	Visa on a Plate Festival	Wellington
Aug 25-Sep 10	Audi Quattro Winter Games	Queenstown
Sep 15-Oct 16	Floriade Festival	Canberra
Sep 15-17	The Goroka Show	Papua New Guinea
Oct 10	Fiji Day	Fiji
Oct 20-22	Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix	Phillip Island
Nov 4-11	Melbourne Cup Carnival	Melbourne
Nov 19	Air NZ Marathon	Queenstown
Dec 3	NZ Ocean Swim	Auckland
Dec 28-31	Taste of Tasmania Festival	Hobart

### AFRICA

Jul 7-16	The Knysna Oyster Festival	South Africa
Jul 15-16	Franschhoek Batille Festival	South Africa
Sep 22-26	Hermanus Whale Festival	South Africa

### MIDDLE EAST

Jul 9-Aug 20	Dubai Summer Surprises	Dubai
Sep	Eid al-Adha Festival	Dubai
Nov 14-18	Dubai International Motor Show	Dubai
Nov 16-19	DP World Tour Championship	Dubai

### ASIA

Jun 10-13	Nha Trang Sea Festival	Vietnam
Jun 24-Jul 1	Durian Festival	Malaysia
Jul 5-21	The Nadaam Festival	Mongolia (China)
Jul 13-15	The Bali Kite Festival	Sanur (Indonesia)
Aug 8-10	Baliem Valley Festival	Indonesia
Aug 21	Shoton/Tibetan Yogurt festival	Lhasa
Aug 28-Sep 5	The Hungry Ghost Festival	Hong-Kong & Singapore
Sep 30	Moon Festival	Hong Kong & China & Taiwan
Oct 5	Fire Boat Festival	Laos
Nov 2-4	Bon Om Thouk	Cambodia
Nov 13	Diwali	India & Nepal & Malaysia
Nov 18-27	Pushkar Camel Festival	India
Nov 29-Dec 10	Thai Silk Festival	Nakhon Ratchasima (Korat)

## \*12 Month Calendar of Events

For a complete listing of upcoming events and special dates, visit the Goway Groups website [www.goway.com](http://www.goway.com)

# Why Visit Fiji? An interview with an Expert



A picturesque island of the Mamanuca Group

Natalie Jurcic, one of our Goway Travel Idyllic Islands experts, recently returned from a trip exploring Fiji. Here, she shares her experience about this beautiful island paradise.

## Where did you go in Fiji?

Travelling on Fiji Airways (from Los Angeles, direct to Fiji in 10 hours), I arrived into Nadi. From here, I had the opportunity to visit several locations including the Mamanuca Islands group, Yasawa Islands group, and the main island of Viti Levu. I also spent a night aboard a Blue Lagoon cruise ship, and even got out to the remote Lau Islands group in the far east of Fiji.

## What was your highlight of the trip and why?

It's tough to pick just one! Experiencing local culture is always important to me when travelling. Visiting the local village of Soso in the Yasawa Islands where myself and the other Blue Lagoon cruise guests were welcomed by children singing on the beach, before partaking in a traditional Kava ceremony, was certainly amazing. This village was hard hit by Cyclone Winston in February of this year, but despite

the obstacles, the villagers' warmth and generosity shone through. It's great to know that tourist dollars are contributing to the rebuilding efforts of local villages and infrastructure.

Earlier that same day, after a briefing by a marine biologist aboard the ship, I had the opportunity to swim with white-tip sharks! Although my heart definitely skipped a beat when one swam right by my face, the educational session beforehand really helped to understand shark behaviour and reassured us that the sharks were not interested in having us for lunch.

## What gives Fiji the reputation for having some of the friendliest people?

In Fiji, the definition of family is much looser than here in North America, with neighbours and other members of the community often considered part of one's extended family. I think this is a large part of why Fijians are so well known for their friendliness. The famous "Bula welcome" is just their way of welcoming you to their homeland, and into their family.

## What kind of traveller would you recommend visits Fiji?

I think Fiji really offers something for everyone, from adventure to luxury/romance, and everything in between. Fiji is known as the "soft coral capital of the world," so for certified divers it's certainly a bucket list destination. When comparing to a destination like French Polynesia, one of Fiji's big advantages for romance travellers is the "private island experience." There are a variety of boutique properties offering the utmost privacy, as well as the advantage of having meals included in the package price. For North American clients accustomed to Caribbean all-inclusive vacations, having most costs included and avoiding any unexpected surprises at check-out is a real advantage. Fiji even offers one of the only fully all-inclusive properties in the South Pacific, in Namale Resort.

## What are some interesting excursions, or itineraries that you would recommend?

For the type of traveller who worries about getting restless after a few days of relaxing on the beach, I would recommend a combo itinerary offering them a few days (or a week, depending on how much time they have) on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu or in the Northern Islands, where there are a broad range of land-based activities available. They can finish up with some relaxation in the Yasawas or Mamanucas, which are Fiji's most well-known beach destinations.

As far as excursions, they will vary depending on where you stay, but for those staying in the Coral Coast region of Viti Levu, I would definitely recommend at least one excursion to the Sigatoka Valley. This area is surrounded by lush green rolling hills and a large river which can be explored by boat (as long as you don't mind getting wet!) or by 4WD along either side. There are sacred caves which can be visited, and they will find friendly locals throughout. For clients interested in adventure, zip-lining is another great option.

Water-based activities abound – diving, snorkeling, surfing, etc. In the Mamanuca Islands a unique day trip is a visit to Cloud 9, a floating bar and pizzeria in the middle of the sea!

## Why would you recommend Fiji?

Fiji offers a great opportunity to connect with the local culture, both at the hotel and regionally, so definitely recommend it to people who are looking for that. When it comes to natural beauty, for some reason Fiji is often overshadowed by some of its other neighbours in the South Pacific. For anyone looking for crystal clear lagoons and picturesque white sand beaches, they can certainly be found here too, and the Yasawa Islands (resort stay or on a cruise) would be my top recommendation. Lastly, one of the biggest selling tools to this destination is the fact that there are more inclusive packages, which therefore offer greater overall value as compared to some other Idyllic island destinations.

## Did anything surprise you?

Some of the amazing views of turquoise lagoons while flying over the Yasawas in a seaplane were spectacular! Also, I wasn't expecting the really varied geography. Driving to the Coral Coast on the main island there were moments where the landscape resembled the US Midwest, with rolling grassy hills.



The lush interior of Sigatoka Valley

## If you go back, what would you like to see?

I didn't have a chance to visit the northern islands this time around, so that would be my goal for the next trip... particularly since my boyfriend is a diver and some of the best dive spots are in that region!

Growing up in her family's business afforded Natalie many opportunities to travel with her parents on working holidays, and once able to, would travel on her own at every opportunity! Natalie's most memorable holidays have been to warm island destinations. After spending several years in the front lines of retail travel, she is now happy to assist agents with building their clients' dream vacations in the South Pacific, or Indian Ocean.

# Iceland Touring: A Symphony of the Elements

Far in the North Atlantic, Iceland contains such astonishing natural phenomena that curious travellers from North America, Europe, and beyond have been flocking in recent years to see what all the fuss is about. One of the most unique landscapes on earth, touring Iceland offers a taste of Europe's final frontier – an unspoiled Nordic nirvana.

As Iceland pulls itself from the darkness of winter into the stunning summer, sights like the northern lights give way to the midnight sun and world renowned natural scenery. With Iceland's popularity on the rise, travellers who don't book early are often left fighting for space, missing out on popular tours, or paying much higher prices. Successful planning and booking of an Iceland summer adventure starts months in advance!

## Go Whale Watching

Sail the scenic bay of Faxaflói to meet Iceland's giant underwater residents. The cold waters are home to minke whales, white-beaked dolphins, harbor porpoises, and the popular humpback whales. Whale watchers are also accompanied by seabirds such as gan-



The famous Blue Lagoon

nets, guillemots, cormorants, gulls, kittiwakes, arctic terns, and many more. The trip will sail past several islands inhabited by colonies of puffins. These adorable sea birds hang around mostly in the summer months (mid-May to mid-August), making for a great photo opportunity.

## Volcanoes & Lava Fields

Did you know that Iceland has about 130 volcanoes, active or otherwise? The island nation is situated on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. Almannagjá is a canyon formed between two tectonic plates, and you can scuba dive between two continents. Wet suits are highly recommended! Iceland has moss covered lava fields, the largest glaciers in Europe, powerful geysers, and the famous Blue Lagoon. Widely known as "The Land of Fire and Ice," almost 80% of Iceland is uninhabited. Many people on Iceland tours explore the country by traversing its incredibly scenic Ring Road, stopping along the way to experience the lunar landscapes of Lake Mývatn, Þingvellir National Park, Gullfoss, and Goðafoss waterfalls, among other sights.

## Self-Drive Iceland

The long days of summer mean

plenty of daylight hours to hike the pristine landscapes, take a 4x4 drive to a glacier, or to go for a swim in a thermal pool. It's the perfect time to explore Iceland by car and Goway offers both set departures and set itineraries for self-drive fans. Iceland's ease of movement and connectivity of its famous tourist regions – Golden Circle, South Coast, and Northern Iceland make it an easy and safe self-drive destination.

Goway offers a wide choice of self-drive itineraries, including highly recommended guaranteed self-drive options. This means that not only is the itinerary based on the most popular routes, it means that the accommodation, one of the hardest aspects of booking Iceland, is guaranteed and travellers can book immediately, knowing all aspects of the tour are confirmed. Choices include the 10-day Active Iceland Scheduled Self-drive, the 7-day Iceland Explorer Scheduled Self-drive and coming soon, the 5-day Golden Circle and Black Sands itinerary. Select dates are available through the summer season.

Also available are standard, pre-designed self-drive itineraries that confirm accommodation at the time of booking, but also offer the flexibility of choosing your own



The Northern Lights flying over the Glacier Lagoon in Iceland

date of travel. Goway recommends the 8-day Iceland Express Self Drive: Summer, or the very popular 5-day Iceland Golden Circle Self Drive.

## Search for Elves

Surveys have suggested that about half of Icelanders believe in the existence of the Huldúfolk – the hidden people. These Icelandic elves are not the small, green, pointy-eared creatures we North Americans picture. In Iceland, they're the same size as you and me, but are invisible to most of us. In case you haven't guessed by now, the power of folklore is strong in Iceland. People feel strongly about protecting the elves, and they believe that the elves help to protect them in return. Plans to build a new road in Iceland ran into trouble a couple of years ago when local campaigners warned that it would disturb elves living in its path. Though the elves are invisible, you can look for signs of their existence across the island during your Iceland tour. Keep your eyes out for elf churches and elf chapels in the Icelandic countryside.

## Cool Cultural Scene

A strong and creative cultural scene and literary tradition still thrives in modern Iceland, and Icelandic authors publish more books per capita than in any other country in the world. Iceland prides

itself on a prospering music scene, a burgeoning film industry, and Icelandic design. Reykjavik is the country's cultural capital, and it's here you can experience a charming old town, legendary nightlife, and music scene. Enjoy a night out in a local bar, take a guided city tour, or simply get lost in the city's charming streets.

Iceland's accommodation is limited, and the country doesn't have large commercial hotel chains. Book well in advance – particularly if you plan to travel in June, July or August – to avoid disappointment. For more information on Iceland tours, visit us at [www.goway.com](http://www.goway.com).



Strokkur geyser



Canal Houses of Amsterdam at dusk

...continued from page 1

## Amsterdam, The Netherlands

No matter which way you approach it, Amsterdam is expensive. This is a smallish city that everyone wants to visit once in their lifetime, and you'll pay dearly for a room anywhere near the canal rings. You also won't want to stay anywhere outside of that. The good news is it's worth it. Once settled in, Amsterdam is enchanting regardless of how much or how little you want to spend. If you do want to save, pick up an Amsterdam



Budapest's Chain Bridge, Royal Palace and Danube River

City Card for the duration of your stay. It includes public transit, a canal cruise, and entry to countless sights including Rembrandt's House, and the Van Gogh and Stadelijk Museums. Since many great Amsterdam attractions don't take that long to visit, you can zip through a lot quite cheaply during your stay, which offsets a high hotel bill.

## Lisbon, Portugal

People seem to be talking about Lisbon in much the same way they talked about Berlin fifteen years ago. Okay, Lisbon is smaller, more relaxed, and less international than the German capital, but here's what it does have. One of the most beautiful downtown cores in Europe, centuries of history as a major port city and capital of a vast empire, a hopping nightlife, and a laid back nonchalance about everything that makes it great. We haven't even gotten to the food, wine, or day trips out to fantastic sights like Sintra yet. Plus, Portugal seems to be an afterthought for many Europe travellers. Take advantage of their mistake and enjoy the lack of crowds in this gorgeous, and very affordable slice of Southern Europe.

## Berlin, Germany

Ten or fifteen years ago, Berlin would have topped this list with nary a second thought. Everyone is heading to Berlin these days, to the point local authorities are intervening to try and keep the city affordable for natives. That means seeking out local haunts if you want to keep costs down. Luckily, Berlin's happening neighbourhoods make this easy. Spend a day contemplating the madness of World War 2 and the city's division, then another exploring world class museums like the Pergamon and Nueues. Then get to know the 'real' Berlin by heading into 'hoods like Kreuzberg, Prenzlauer Berg, and Shoneberg. Be sure to visit both west and east to get the complete Berlin picture. Finally, if you're coming here to party, leave the vanity at home. Ditch the designer duds, and remember, no photos allowed in

the club!

## Budapest, Hungary

Forget all the meaningless labels like 'The next Prague' or 'Paris of the East.' Budapest is a city as unique as the Magyars who founded it. The sharp, utilitarian blocks of the communist era are juxtaposed with the gorgeous neo-gothic splendour of buildings such as the Parliament, Opera House, and Fisherman's Bastion. Immerse yourself in both the awe-inspiring history and architecture of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the sobering tales of Cold War Budapest. Then recharge

with a couple of hours in one of the city's many thermal baths, before hitting the famous 'ruin pubs' after dark. Don't forget to sample your way through the flavourful Magyar cuisine, and best of all, enjoy it at a bargain price.

## Paris, France

Undeniably on the pricey side, Paris is about good value, not cheapness. You're going to spend a lot each day, and leave wishing it could have gone on forever. Paris has some of the world's greatest museums and they're quite reasonably priced, particularly if you pick up a Museum Pass (which also lets you skip the queues). When it comes to meals, pre-fixed menus are the mid-budget traveller's best friend, letting you sample a wide range of cuisine at a very reasonable price. If your food budget does start to spiral, stop in at a creperie or boulangerie for a fresh and filling snack, like the locals do. You know Paris is on everyone's bucket list, so be ready for crowds and pricey hotel rooms (and some would argue, grumpy Parisians) if you come in the spring or early fall. Want to bypass both? Paris is one of Europe's best winter destinations, with mild weather, and much thinner crowds.



Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Gaudi's impressive Cathedral

## Barcelona, Spain

The Catalan capital sees far more non-Spanish speaking tourists than the rest of Spain, and so feels easier to navigate. What's more, Barcelona

# Best Value Europe Cities

can be a bargain. But here's the trick. There's the Gothic Quarter, and everywhere else, and if you're here on a budget, you'll want to eat, sleep, and party in a neighbouring district. Don't skimp too much on your hotel or sightseeing. Comfort and space in Barcelona will set you back a little extra, as will seeing those lovely modernista interiors. Your reward? One of the most beautiful and culturally complex cities anywhere in the world. Provided you don't spend all your time in the Gothic Quarter, you'll find Barcelona very reasonably priced with sights on par with Paris and Rome, astonishing cuisine, and great nightlife. Just remember not to sit down to dinner before 9pm.

## Rome, Italy

Like Paris, Rome is a relatively pricey city that nonetheless offers fantastic value for money. Rather than being all about museums, Rome lets you go right to the source of its incredible history, and like Paris, its attractions aren't all that expensive. Just don't underestimate your meal budget. Having to leave Rome with an unfulfilled stomach is a tragedy that would get Nero fiddling, so sit down and take your time at every meal. Good, moderately priced restaurant or trattoria meals can be found all over the city. Just use your common sense and don't dine right in the shadow of big tourist attractions. Also, this is one city where you'll want a city pass that lets you bypass the lines, particularly in high season.

## London, England

London? A bargain? Well, yes, it can be. Just accept that you're not going to save so much on meals or transport particularly in popular areas such as Soho. The good news is that around half of London's top attractions, particularly its museums and galleries, are absolutely free. So you can have several days of top notch sightseeing here without spending a penny on attractions. For a dose of world class theatre on the cheap, pick up a 'yard' (standing) ticket at Shakespeare's Globe, or queue early for a same-day ticket to a West End show. A pint at a London pub is also pretty reasonable next to the rather pricey plate



Looking through the London Eye towards Big Ben

of fish and chips you ordered with it. In short, yes, this is the most expensive city on the list, and this manifests in some expenses you can't avoid, particularly food. Be sure to budget a little extra for the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, and other paid attractions. These London icons might be pricey, but nobody will argue they're not worth it.

## Prague, Czech Republic

Medieval Disneyland? Ruined by tourists? The next Prague? Fie! Fie! The old Prague is doing just fine, thank you. This is the kind of magical city most travellers dream of when visiting Europe, so you really can't blame the crowds who pack the Old Town and Charles Bridge every summer. Prague remains hands down the best value city you can add to your Europe vacation. Spared from the bombing of World War 2, and having shaken off the soot and shackles of communism, the city embraces oddity and fairy tale beauty in equal measure. There's no escaping 'tourist Prague' at any time of year, but considering just how far past



St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague

## EUROPE STOPOVERS

### Amsterdam Getaway

4 Days From CA\$664

### Berlin Stopover

4 Days From CA\$778

### Barcelona Getaway

5 Days From CA\$930

### London Stopover

4 Days From CA\$758

### Rome Stopover

4 Days From CA\$855

### Berlin Stopover

4 Days from CA\$788

### Budapest Stopover

4 Days from CA\$604

### Madrid Getaway

4 Days from CA\$756

### Prague Stopover

3 Days from CA\$316

### Lisbon Getaway

5 Days from CA\$766

Prices are land only. Contact your Travel Agent or call 888 469 2950 for international airfare pricing

# Unique views and an Unforgettable Journey

The canals of France provide idyllic cruising routes through countryside that is culture-rich and captivating. Designed for the traveller looking for something different, a barge holiday with Back-Roads Touring allows you to take a unique journey of discovery at the gentle pace of your hotel barge. If you are hankering to get to the heart of French history, culture and cuisine, the Back-Roads touring series afloat on the canals of France provide a truly special way of experiencing its abundance. Back-Roads Touring, known for their small coach touring through Europe, see canals as the back roads of the waterways. Envision cruising gently through provincial towns, quaint villages and a rustic landscape resplendent with rural bliss, stopping off to explore their stories and delicacies as you go.

The Provence tour uses the Canal du Rhône à Sète to explore the treasures of southern France in the MS Anne-Marie. The ability to

putter along at an unhurried pace along peaceful waterways is one of the benefits of travelling by barge. Holidays with Back-Roads always give guests ample time to themselves, whether they want to relax on the boat or borrow one of the onboard bicycles to explore the nearby surroundings. One of their dedicated Mercedes mini-coaches is always on hand alongside the vessel

to tempt you to explore beyond the towpath. Whichever of their barge holidays you choose to take (they also travel thru Burgundy), you can be guaranteed that your cruise will give you an intimate understanding of the places you pass through.

Guests can save 10% on all 2017 sailings, subject to availability. Visit [www.goway.com/cruises](http://www.goway.com/cruises) for details.



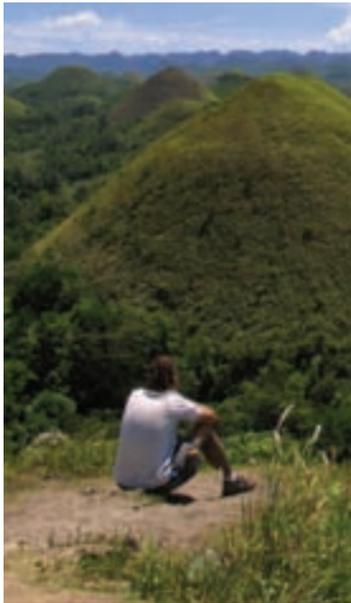
Exploring Europe by Barge

# Add The Philippines to Your Bucket List

The Philippines might not have the instant cache of China, Japan, or Thailand, but Globetrotters should consider adding it to their bucket list when they know all that this vibrant island nation has to offer.

Consisting of 7,000 islands in the western Pacific Ocean, the Philippines has the 17th largest population on the planet, with over 100 million people. Each major island in the country has its own distinct culture and customs, so visitors experience something unique and exciting regardless of which island they visit. Of course, despite their differences, every island offers delectable local cuisine and the incredible hospitality of the Filipino people.

Most vacations to the Philippines start in Manila, the nation's capital. Manila is sprawling and a little hard to navigate, but that's because each neighbourhood operates as its own ecosystem. Every step through Manila's streets becomes a journey of discovery. Intramuros, the city's oldest district, offers a sense of



Gazing out at the Chocolate Hills, Bohol



The dazzling white sands of Boracay

the country's history, which blends Spanish and American colonial influences with almost 3,000 years of indigenous culture. The Baroque San Agustin Church, an UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a must-visit in the city centre.

The pristine island of Palawan to the southwest of Manila offers a stunning juxtaposition to the nation's capital. While Manila is sprawling and undeniably urban, Palawan feels like it's been untouched by humankind. It's only an hour from Manila by air and offers all manner of natural wonders to behold. The massive underground river and karst rock formations of the Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park are an UNESCO World Heritage Site while El Nido, often dubbed the Philippines' "Last Frontier," is where gorgeous overwater resorts abound.

Globetrotters who dream of lounging on white-sand beaches and swimming in crystal-clear waters should consider heading to El Nido on Palawan or the island of Boracay, the Philippines' top tourist destination. The island is only seven-kilometres long and its White Beach is a picturesque stretch of hotels, restaurants, bars, and shops guaranteed to satisfy the fancy of any beachgoer. Boracay can match the island paradises of Tahiti or Fiji, but its crowds are smaller and prices more affordable.



Possibly the most gorgeous cultivated land in the world

No trip to the Philippines is complete without visiting the Banaue Rice Terraces, an UNESCO World Heritage Site and possibly the most gorgeous cultivated land in the world. Located north of Manila, these terraces transform mountains into gorgeous, handmade works of art. It's marvelous to behold the seemingly-endless parade of rice paddies cascading down the mountainside. The Ifugao people produced the terraces around 2,000 years ago and a visit to Banaue offers a chance to learn about their fascinating culture. Banaue might be full of tourists, but nothing can distract from the incredible sights of these mountain terraces.

Most trips to the Philippines incorporate some combination of Manila, Banaue, Boracay, and Palawan, but the country boasts more than these popular destinations. The island of Cebu, home to the country's oldest and second largest city, deserves a visit. Cebu City houses the oldest church in the country, the Roman Catholic Basilica Minore del Santo Nino and the impressive colonial fort, San Pedro. Bohol, to the south-east of Cebu, boasts the incredible Chocolate Hills, over 1,300 grassy hills that turn a milk chocolate hue in the dry season. Mayon volcano sits further east, on the south-eastern tip of Luzon. This massive volcano looks like the dictionary definition of an active volcano with

its perfectly-balanced slopes and coned peak.

The Philippines abounds with memorable sights that match the best of China, Japan, and the rest of Southeast Asia. The country should be high priority on any passionate Globetrotter's bucket list.

Goway's "Essential Philippines" is the ideal 9-day introduction to this gorgeous archipelago. This independent tour includes Manila, the waterfalls of Pangsanjan, Boracay, Bohol's chocolate hills, and Cebu, the Philippines' oldest city. From CA \$2,186 (international airfare additional).

## ASIA ESCAPES

### Cambodia Showcase

5 days from CA \$1,072

### Classic Vietnam

8 days from CA \$1,675

### Bhutan in Depth

8 days from CA \$2,928

### India Odyssey

14 days from CA \$2,549

### Classic Sri Lanka

15 days from CA \$3,525

\*Prices are land only. Contact your Travel Agent or call 888 469 2950 for international airfare pricing.

## Cruising Unexplored Regions of the Mekong

The magnificent Mekong River connects incredible cities, untouched villages, and near-uncharted jungle territory. Travel in style on board the Mekong Sun, a 14-cabin boutique river cruiser, with numerous departures from 5 to 11 days.



Left: The Mekong Sun exploring unusual and extraordinary regions of this unique River. Right: local fisherman



There are few natural wonders like the Mekong River, and the Mekong Sun is a boutique ship perfectly calibrated for travel on this mighty river. With only 14 cabins, each with wood-paneled, hardwood floors, air conditioning, en-suite bathrooms and French balconies, the vessel offers ample privacy and also the opportunity for casual interaction with fellow travellers. Enjoy a cocktail while taking in spectacular views of the surrounding countryside from two viewing decks. Delicious Laotian as well as international food is served on board.

The 6-day program aboard the

Mekong Sun begins and ends in Luang Prabang, a charming city with a vibrant café culture, and home to hundreds of saffron-robed monks who collect alms each morning. You will moor two nights on a remote sandbank and three nights near Luang Prabang, exploring natural and sacred sites such as the Kuang Si Waterfalls and the Pak Ou Caves, and meeting local villagers, schoolchildren and craft-people.

The 8-day program "Laos Revealed" travels the Mekong from Chiang Rai in Northern Thailand to Luang Prabang. Included on this journey is the chance to explore the

Golden Triangle and opium trade museum, ride a longtail boat up to a remote Khmu village, and visit an elephant conservation camp near Pak Beng.

The full 11-day "Mekong Adventure" travels between Chiang Rai and Vientiane, and includes all the treasures of the 8-day program plus the chance to visit tribal villages south of Luang Prabang, stop in at the bustling market town of Pak Lai and explore the highlights of Laos's capital city Vientiane.

Goway offers 3 cruise programs aboard the Mekong Sun. Call 1-888-469-2950 or visit [goway.com/cruises](http://goway.com/cruises) for more details.

## SMILE CORNER

### Philosophies for the Weird

- I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- Borrow money from pessimists. They don't expect it back.
- Half the people you know are below average.
- 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- If you want the rainbow, you have got to put up with rain.
- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- So what's the speed of dark?
- How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something
- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- When everything is coming your way, you are in the wrong lane.
- Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.
- I intend to live forever. So far, so good.
- What happens if you get scared
- half to death twice?
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- The sooner you fall behind, the more time you will have to catch up.
- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?





You can sightsee for nothing at the neon-lit streets of Shinjuku at night

## Reasons Tokyo is My Favourite Asia City Break

By Christian Baines

Few things thrill me more than landing in a new, foreign city with time to play. While Europe spoils for choice with its beautiful and diverse cities, Asia's urban centers boast their own delights. Yet, I have never experienced another city like Tokyo. The Japanese capital distills everything I love about Asia into one of the world's most accessible and well-ordered cities. Here are some specific reasons why it stands out for me amid such strong competition.

### It's Easy

Despite multiple independent networks and minimal English translation, I was able to pick up the nuances of Tokyo's public transit system within a couple of trips. My visit included a spontaneous trip into the suburbs to visit a local friend's favourite whiskey bar, and all the sightseeing I could stuff into five days. Simply load up your PASMO or Suica smart card, and away you go on Tokyo's metro, and on the JR lines that run through the city. Note that a JR Pass will not cover non-JR lines, or the local metro. Unless you have private transfers, a smart card is the easiest, most economical way.

When it's time to eat, many Japanese eateries, restaurants and pubs offer very considerate illustrated menus, or plastic models of various dishes. These are incredibly useful, since many servers only speak Japanese. They're also a great way to try food that looks interesting to you without quite knowing what it is. Getting around allergens can be a challenge, so consider carrying a card explaining any food allergies in local characters, so you can jump into the local cuisine without fear.

### It's Delicious

Anyone who tries to shame you for eating your way through Tokyo is just jealous. A few days here will show you just how far beyond sushi Japanese cuisine can go.

Japanese pubs are an excellent place to be spoiled for choice without spending a fortune, and to watch the locals at play as well. On the go, you can enjoy a street food culture as rich and varied as any in Asia, or duck into a noodle, ramen, or curry house for a cheap, fast meal. If you want to blend in with the locals, pick up a perfectly balanced bento box from a supermarket to enjoy in the park, onboard the Shinkansen, or even at Kabuki-za.

And if you'd rather be served your meal by Anime-style maids, await your food in a dark, creepy jail cell, or enjoy a full robot cabaret after dinner, your culinary adventures are limited only by your imagination in Tokyo.

### It's Friendly

Respect and hospitality are taken very seriously in Japan. While the Japanese are not intrusive or par-

ticularly outgoing people, they are proud of their country and will usually help an obvious foreigner if they can. Don't hesitate to ask directions, preferably trying a little Japanese, however broken. Not only does it show you've made an effort, it may put the person you're speaking to at ease about their own English skills, since fear of making a mistake can be the biggest barrier to Anglo-Japanese communication.

### You Can Sightsee For Almost Nothing

As a bona fide travel cheapskate, this, for me, is a huge tick in Tokyo's favour. Specifically...

- Meiji Jingu shrine
- Senso-ji temple
- The view from Metropolitan Government Centre
- Colourful teen fashions in Harajuku
- Geeking out in Akihabara
- Browsing a utopian shopping future in Roppongi Hills
- Walking under the blossoms in Ueno Park, or the gardens surrounding the Imperial Palace
- The neon-lit streets of Shinjuku and Shibuya at night

All of these iconic Tokyo experiences are free, while many others, including the impressive National Museum, or a one-act ticket to Kabuki-za, offer superb sightseeing value. Tokyo can cost a fortune if you're determined to eat at the finest restaurants and drink at the trendiest designer bars. Still, it's completely up to you. Splash out on these luxuries, or save instead for a day trip to a spa resort or Mount Fuji. Just don't turn up on too small a budget. You never know when Tokyo will surprise you with a 'must-do' experience. Keep in mind also that many stores and eateries accept cash only.

### It's Endlessly Creative and Original

Japan went through its economic boom and love affair with all things western before the Internet globalised pretty much everything. As a result, many things can seem familiar, yet unmistakably Japanese. While there's no shortage of western icons and brands (hello Ginza), home-grown Japanese creativity and sensibility is everywhere, confidently evolving on its own terms. Boundary-pushing galleries and restaurants can be found all over Tokyo, but unique to the city is its sense of style and fashion. Now, Harajuku is not what it was 15 years ago. But dive into the nearby boutiques and malls on a weekend, and you can still see Tokyo youth fashion at its most creative. Though they're a minority, it's not unusual for young Tokyoites to be rocking original punk, gothic, Victorian, steampunk, or even Anime-inspired looks as they comb their favourite clothing and record/CD stores for new ideas.

Yes, old-school music fans rejoice. Tokyo is your haven from the iTunes era!

# Cruise the Golden Land in Elegance



The Strand Cruise in Myanmar mirrors the legendary style of its sister property, The Strand Hotel, Yangon, founded in 1901. The 28-cabin luxury ship was completed in 2015 and sails the Irrawaddy between the ancient capitals of Bagan and Mandalay. The heritage of the Strand is reflected in key moments throughout the cruise experience, from photographs and tales of the golden age, to signature cocktails in the bar and traditional afternoon tea.



The Strand offers luxury along the Irrawaddy

The design and layout of the ship encourages the social interaction that originally made the Strand Hotel so famous, with comfortable and spacious public areas, frequent cocktails and social events, and even long tables in the restaurant to allow for optional communal dining. The layout of the sun deck and upper deck allow for a variety of

different dining options depending on weather conditions – alfresco on the Sun Deck or within the fine dining Strand restaurant – as well as private dining options.

On-board facilities include a swimming pool, fitness room, and spa. Cabin suites are enhanced with the latest technology, such as individually-controlled air condi-



Studying Amidst the temples of Bagan.

tioning, and each of the suites have the services of a round-the-clock butler while on board.

The Strand Cruise enjoys access to private moorings in prime locations along the Ayeyarwady. The ship moves regularly in order to position as close to landmarks as possible, allowing more time for tours and cruising on the river, and reducing the need for travel by road. Aside from a private, air-conditioned minibus for a long tour, all other means of transportation are local and diversified, characterizing traditional Myanmar life, from tuk tuks in Mingun to horse-drawn carts in Ava.

Goway offers The Strand's iconic 4- and 5-day journeys. Call 1-888-469-2950 or visit [goway.com/cruises](http://goway.com/cruises) for details.

# Two Top River Expeditions in Asia



Discover the rich riverside history and daily life of the Irrawaddy and Mekong rivers with Pandaw, Southeast Asia's longest-established river cruise operator. Pandaw's boutique shallow-draft ships are hand-crafted in teak and brass and range from five to 30 cabins, designed to maximize comfort and personalised service.



Pandaw's hand-crafted teak and brass ships maximize views and fresh air

Pandaw's expedition managers are constantly searching out undiscovered treasures for inquisitive guests to explore. Excursion programs are designed to help passengers get in touch with local communities, and mountain bikes are provided in order to help guests step off the beaten tourist track.

### The Irrawaddy: Mandalay to Bagan (7 nights)

This popular expedition takes

in the very best highlights of the Irrawaddy, offering guests an in-depth exploration of Myanmar's Buddhist archaeology, art, and architecture spanning two millennia. There are over 3,000 monuments to discover in Bagan alone! Highlights include stops in small villages known for their pottery-making, discovering the temples of Salay, ascending the Tan-Ch-Taung Mountains by 4x4, and exploring

the UNESCO World Heritage treasures of Bagan. This varied itinerary gives passengers a unique insight into this incredible country.

### The Mekong: Siem Reap to Saigon (7 nights)

Pandaw's newly-revised schedule takes you through striking cultural contrasts, from Vietnam's bustling delta to the tranquillity of rural Cambodia. During high water season, Pandaw's shallow-draft ships offer guests the exclusive opportunity to travel to Kratie and observe the endangered river-dwelling Mekong dolphins. This conservation-sensitive excursion underlines Pandaw's commitment to offering travel experiences in tune with Southeast Asia's magnificent and precious natural environment. Other expedition highlights include discovering the splendours of the former French city of Phnom Penh by cyclo, travelling by canals to the local markets of Sa Dec, and strolling through a Muslim village of the Cham tribe.

Goway offers these two journeys plus several other Pandaw boutique cruises in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, China and India. Call 1-888-469-2950 or visit [goway.com/cruises](http://goway.com/cruises) for details.

# What NOT to do On Your Southeast Asia Vacation!

Southeast Asia is one of the world's most diverse and fulfilling regions to visit. With so much to see, do, taste, and experience, all at what seems like a bargain price, it can be easy to become overwhelmed and make a few mis-steps. Here are some things to NOT do on your Southeast Asia tour, to help you enjoy a vacation that leaves a good impression on both you and your destination.

By Christian Baines

## Don't Skip the Cities

Modern Asian cities tend to get a rap for being noisy, polluted, chaotic, impossibly huge concrete jungles, where everything moves at a hectic pace – except the traffic when you're in a hurry. Though there can be challenges, your enjoyment of Southeast Asia's cities really depends on your attitude. Few cities are maintained in a traditional style, and they usually aren't striving for walkability. But the sights,

be they temples, palaces, ancient shopping districts, or historic markets, are often well worth the effort. There are other, more subtle charms in each city as well. Take Hanoi in Vietnam. Where else can you hop on the back of a moto taxi and zip through traffic along centuries old streets? Or walk calmly and confidently into traffic to cross the road, knowing the locals will weave around you? If it does get too much, pull up a stool at a café, order the local beverage of choice and watch

the chaos swirl around you. And those local flavours count for a lot. Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore all deserve a spot among the world's top foodie destinations.

Globetrotters don't come to this part of the world for a familiar experience. They come to try something new! Resisting the city's natural flow is your fastest route to frustration. Try the street food, bargain in the markets, take a trip using the local transport of choice, and try to leave your idea of what makes a 'functional city' at home.

Singapore is a good choice for beginners. While it's the most expensive city/country in the region, nearly all of the population speaks English, the traffic is orderly and the streets clean, the sights and attractions impressive and forward thinking, and the food endlessly varied and delicious.

## Don't Stay in the Cities

Now that we've sung their virtues, know that the cities of Southeast Asia are far from the whole story. Reaching the highlights outside of town is easier than you think. Hiring a car yourself is madness, but booking a tour through your agent, either individually or as part of a group, can be an illuminat-



Singapore is a great choice for beginners, who find the food varied and delicious.



Do not take a one day trip to Halong Bay

ing way to reveal the surrounding sights. A visit to Bangkok isn't complete without zipping out to the Ayutthaya ruins to taste one of most splendid periods in Thai history, or the River Kwai and its famous bridge for an insight into one of the most horrific. Leave frenetic Saigon behind and discover the fascinating Cu Chi Tunnels, or get a different perspective on Vietnamese life in the Mekong Delta. Visit a floating village outside of Siem Reap, or if you're visiting Yogyakarta, Indonesia, do not miss the awesome temples of Borobudur or Prambanan.

With that said, be sure your day trip is in fact a day trip. If you're visiting Ha Long Bay, for example, you'll definitely want to overnight on the boat. The drive is much longer than you might think, so don't try to cram a full Ha Long Bay trip with return to Hanoi into one day. Consider a one-night, 3-star cruise on the Bay the minimum standard for a comfortable and rewarding trip.

## Don't Get Too Cheap

Sure, you consider yourself a fairly savvy traveler and don't want to get ripped off. Everything seems so affordable in Southeast Asia, and you're suspicious when prices start to creep up. Just don't take it too seriously. Being savvy is a good quality for travelling here. Being cheap is not. Many local people, particularly in rural areas, survive on shockingly low incomes. Paying an extra few dollars for that skirt might not mean that much to you, but it can make a huge difference to them. So don't get into an argument over such a small difference. If you're bargaining in the markets, counter the initial asking price with an offer of about a third of it. It's a good start to negotiation without being insulting. Try to meet the merchant around the 50-60% mark, and don't be afraid to start walking away. If they try to stop you, you're still in the game. If not, you really are trying to drive them below what they can offer, and you might want to ease up. It's also not unknown for travelers to order tailor-made clothing only to back out of the deal or try to renegotiate at the last minute, after the perfectly good work has been completed. Do not do this. Not only is it extremely disrespectful, but any lost income will likely come out of an employee's pocket, and that could easily be a month's salary or more.

## Don't Overpay Just Because You Can

While you don't want to fight tooth and nail over a few dollars for a souvenir, don't instantly agree to the asking price either. It's not just you who'll be ripped off. Blindly paying too much just because you can will drive up prices for the locals too. So aim for that happy medium.

## Mind Your Feet

Etiquette in Thailand can be a complex thing, but if you keep just one thing in mind, it should be to mind what you do with your feet. This is good advice throughout much of Asia. Ensure you remove your shoes when entering a temple (slip on shoes are your new best friend!), and don't step on the threshold, where spirits are said to reside. Don't ever point your feet at another person, or something meant to represent them, such as an image. Likewise, don't step on someone's picture. In Thailand, this includes stepping on a coin to stop it rolling away, as currency features the face of the late King. Conversely, the head is accorded great respect, and should absolutely not be touched unless specifically invited to do so.

## Don't Fear the Street Food

It's easy to be so overwhelmed by warnings about hygiene in Southeast Asia that you start taking paranoid precautions. Cities like Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Hanoi, Saigon...and the list continues, are famous for their street food, and they wouldn't be if it wasn't generally safe. If you're not feeling confident, or would like a bit of local knowledge to boost your courage, embark on an organised street food tour. Otherwise, a decent queue (of locals) usually signals a winner.

## Don't Buy from Kids on the Street

And don't give to them when they come begging, either. It can be hard to say no, but this kind of street begging or 'commerce' is a full time industry that exploits these kids. The \$2 you might spend on a bracelet goes right into the pocket of some adult running the show behind the scenes, and their little enterprise keeps the kids who approach you out of school, or worse. If you want to help, there are plenty of legitimate channels you can take.

## Exploring China's Legendary Waterway



Sanctuary Retreats' river cruise ships explore some of the world's most amazing cultural and ecological sites along epic rivers including the Nile in Egypt, the Ayeyarwady in Myanmar, and the Yangtze in China. Each boat has a limited number of travelers to create an intimate and personal cruise experience. Secluded docks as well as carefully-designed itineraries in each location offer the ultimate cruise experiences.



Left: Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer offers luxurious service and the highest staff-to-passenger ratio on the Yangtze River. Right: Pampering on board Sanctuary Retreats' river cruise ships.



There are few natural wonders like China's Yangtze River, and no better way to experience this legendary waterway than from on board the *Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer*.

Home to history-steeped cities and towns, ancient Taoist temples, and the natural beauty of scenic gorges and forest-cloaked peaks, the Yangtze River is a highlight of any China trip. The *Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer* is the most luxurious ship on the Yangtze River, with each of the 62 expansive cabins and suites featuring a private balcony. The

boutique vessel has been extensively restyled in a contemporary design with Chinese influences, including authentic Chinese artwork and stylish textiles.

With the highest staff-to-passenger ratio on the Yangtze River, service is exemplary and very personalized. *Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer* offers a choice of either a three-night cruise from Chongqing to Yichang or a four-night cruise from Yichang to Chongqing, bringing guests as close as possible to central China's most captivating landscapes. On

board, guests can enjoy an immersive and cultural experience, including calligraphy masterclasses, captivating talks about Chinese history, the all-important tea ceremony, and dumpling-making classes. Guests can also unwind and supercharge their wellbeing with Tai Chi masterclasses, Chinese medicine, spa treatments, and use of the fitness centre.

Goway offers all of *Sanctuary Retreats'* exquisite cruise journeys on the Yangtze. Call 1-888-469-2950 or visit [goway.com/cruises](http://goway.com/cruises) for details.



Don't fear the street food!

# Great Ideas for a Second Australia Visit that are Off The Beaten Path

Australia abounds with extraordinary sights and there's no way you'll see everything the country has to offer on one visit. While a first visit to Australia will usually check off the icons, from Sydney with its famous Harbour Bridge and Opera House, to the Great Ocean Road in Victoria to Uluru/Ayers Rock in the Northern Territory and the Great Barrier Reef up in the north of Queensland, there's still plenty to see on your return visit. If you want to begin your vacation the moment you step on board, you'll begin with Air New Zealand. That's right. Avoid the touristy crowds and start to feel yourself get into the local rhythms. It'll open up a whole new way of seeing Australia and appreciating its distinct ways of life.



Vineyards of the Margaret River, Western Australia, an area similar to the Bordeaux region of France.

By Aren Bergstrom

On a second Australian vacation, you'll have a better chance to live like a local. You can hang out at the surfing spots on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, stroll for miles on uncrowded pristine white sandy beaches, or grab a pint at a pub and learn the best places to find ideal surf. In South Australia, you can bushwalk the fascinating mountainscape of Wilpena Pound and swap stories with other hikers you meet along the way. In Western Australia, you can move between the Margaret River wineries, mastering the subtleties of Australian wines. By the time you're done, you'll be such an expert at discussing Cabernet Sauvignon, only your accent will give away the fact that you're not a local.

Or perhaps you merely want to see some of the country's best sites far away from usual tourist crowds. Whatever your motivations, you can make this trip to Australia something special by trekking off the beaten path, losing yourself in the culture and soaking in everything the country has to offer.



Paddle Boarding at Pumicestone Passage

## Chill on the Sunshine Coast

Located just north of Brisbane in southern Queensland, the Sunshine Coast is one of Australia's premier leisure destinations. It tops the bucket list with the locals due to its relaxed coastal lifestyle, sublime hinterland hidden gems, year round sub-tropical climate and safe, pristine oceans and waterways. From the majestic heritage listed Glass House Mountains to Noosa and the coloured sands of Rainbow Beach, the region includes over 100 kilometres of pristine sandy beaches, surrounded by the quiet beauty of coastal and hinterland villages. You can get lost for months here. Spend your time enjoying time in the refreshing surf, relaxing in the local pubs and cafes chatting with locals

chatting with locals and feasting on the wonderful foods found at the region's numerous farmers markets or one of the many award-winning restaurants.

Wonders of nature, beachside culture, fresh local food, immersive encounters and world-class events are in abundance on the Sunshine Coast. However, perhaps the most distinctive thing about the Sunshine Coast is the people. It is a place where you will feel like a local from the moment you arrive. From sun-kissed surfers to bohemian artists, there is no shortage of friendly people with easy smiles. It's no surprise they're happy, as the region enjoys a subtropical climate with plenty of warmth - in fact an average of 300 days of sunshine per year. This guarantees a big sunny welcome!

Savour the naturally refreshing flavours - A natural food bowl, the Sunshine Coast is one of Australia's favourite taste destinations. Courtesy of its distinctive coast and country geography, the region has an appetising variety of producers, waterfront restaurants, food festivals, cooking schools and local farmers markets. Highlights include the world famous Eumundi Markets each Wednesday and Saturday with over 300 stalls, and Sunday markets at the Caloundra Street Fair, Cotton Tree Markets and Noosa Farmers Markets. Celebrate the Coast's fresh and bountiful local produce by taking a visit to one of the region's many food attractions, hinterland vineyards or enjoy a paddock to plate and trawler to table dining experience.

If you're a golfer, you'll have plenty of options to hit the green at some of Australia's best golf courses. There are 18 golf courses to choose from on the Sunshine Coast including world-class championship courses, each with their own unique character. Some Goway favourites include Twin Waters Golf Club, Pelican Waters Golf Club, Maroochy River Golf Club, Noosa Springs Golf & Spa Resort and Mount Cooloolum Golf Course which sits at the foot of stunning Mount Cooloolum. It's also easy to head from the Sunshine Coast to Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island, which sits at the southern edge of the Great Barrier Reef. The island is a natural paradise and offers endless activities for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts with its rolling sand dunes and vibrant rainforest.

## Visit Seals on Australia's own Galapagos, Kangaroo Island

South Australia often gets overlooked during a first visit to Australia where you hit the big landmarks, so be sure to head to the southern state and see all that it has to offer. This southern state is where you'll find Kangaroo Island, an incredibly biodiverse island that's often dubbed the "Galapagos of Australia." The island is teeming with wildlife, offering you plenty of opportunities to visit koalas, short-beaked echidnas, Little Penguins, or the island's eponymous kangaroos. At Seal Bay Conservation Park you can see one of the largest populations of Australian seals. This endangered species has called the island home for thousands of years and you'll be able to witness them in their natural habitat, free of any enclosures or cages.



Spectacular Wilpena Pound

## Bushwalk through Wilpena Pound

If you're meaning to explore the Outback on a return visit to Australia, head to Flinders Ranges National Park to the north of Kangaroo Island to see some of the country's best landscape without the overwhelming crowds. Flinders Ranges is the largest mountain range in South Australia and Wilpena Pound is its crowning achievement. The pound is a natural mountain amphitheatre comprising 80 square kilometres. While many people think the amphitheatre was made by a meteorite strike due to its crater shape, it's actually a natural formation made by years of wind and erosion.

Wilpena Pound is a popular spot for bushwalking or rock climbing. If you're a hiker, you will want to head on a circuit leading to St. Mary's Peak, the highest point in the amphitheatre sitting at 1171 metres on its northeastern side.

## Play Sommelier in the Margaret River

If you really want to head to the remote parts of Australia where crowds are an afterthought, head



Kangaroo Island, South Australia, teems with wildlife

to Western Australia. Take a break from sightseeing that comprises most international travel and slow down the rhythm. The Margaret River region south of Perth is the perfect area to explore at your own pace, visiting the many wineries that have made a splash worldwide.

Margaret River has a consistent temperature range throughout the year, similar to the Bordeaux region of France. The air is also remarkably fresh. This climate is key to growing the region's grapes. Wineries in the Margaret River are most famous for Cabernet Sauvignon, but they also produce lots of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. Tour between the various wineries, from Ashbrook Estate to Stella Bella Wines to Leeuwin Estate, and experience the variety of flavours and vintages.

When you're not tasting wine, you can take a boat out to search for migratory whales, catch a wave at the local surf beaches or simply enjoy the charming small towns that dot the region.

## Dive the Coral Marvel of the Ningaloo Reef

Don't limit yourself to the land when returning to Australia. The ocean holds many wonders, such as the Ningaloo Reef off the coast of Western Australia. The reef runs 260 kilometres between Exmouth and Quobba Station and is relatively untouched when compared to the Great Barrier Reef. Aside from being Australia's largest fringing coral reef, Ningaloo is most remarkable for its wildlife. Hundreds of fish, mollusk, crustacean, and coral species call the reef home. Particularly fantastic is the abundance of manta rays, which you can snorkel alongside.

Ningaloo Reef is probably most famous for the presence of whale sharks between March and July. Swimming alongside these gentle giants is an once-in-a-lifetime experience, but be sure to keep at least a five-metre distance and avoid using flash photography, as it scares the fish. You'll be able to witness these sharks feed off the plankton and other small sea life thriving off the coral growth.

## The Remote Beehives of the Bungle Bungles

If you want to go somewhere remote even by Aussie standards, you should head to the Bungle Bungles in the north of Western Australia. These strange rock structures resemble beehives with their cone shapes and orange and grey striped surfaces. They're located in



Sunrise at the Glasshouse Mountains

Purnululu National Park, which was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2003.

Usually accessed via Kununurra, which lies 250 kilometres north, the Bungle Bungle Range was formed between 375 and 350 million years ago. Comprised of either sandstone or rock conglomerates, the hives get up to 580 meters tall. You can take a helicopter ride to see them from a whole new angle, or merely hike around the baseline to take in their bizarre shapes. Just be aware: the park is only open during the dry season between April and November. Plan your visit accordingly.



Exploring Cathedral Cove in the incredible Beehive Bungle Bungles

Australia is so much more than the Sydney Opera House and the Great Barrier Reef. It's an incredible country you can get lost in. Whether you're embedding yourself in the rhythms of beach life on the Sunshine Coast or hiking through the remote Outback of Bungle Bungle Range or Wilpena Pound, you'll experience a part of what makes this country so amazing. Return on a second Australia vacation and experience a whole new side of Downunder.

**FLY AIR NEW ZEALAND**



Flying Air New Zealand to Australia via Auckland is good value! Fly from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Honolulu, or Vancouver, B.C. and you'll arrive at the same convenient terminal for your connecting flight. No long hike. Just a hop to one of 8 great Australian gateways and your bags are automatically checked to first arrival point. Business Premier™ passengers, Star Alliance Gold, and other eligible travelers can visit Air New Zealand's lounge. Air New Zealand offers innovative seating options like the Economy Skycouch™ to meet the needs of every traveler - including fresh cuisine, award-winning wines and 2000+ hours of continuous entertainment.

## Riding Oz's Big Red

The Ghan train was named after the Afghan camelers who plied the trade routes between Adelaide and Alice Springs in Australia and supported the building of the ribbons of steel between the two communities. Although today's Ghan does not run along the original timber section of track – nature took care of that with flash flooding and white ants – it continues to provide Australian and international travellers with a unique perspective into the harsh reality and stark beauty of the Australian Outback.



All inclusive dining in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant

The Outback is traditionally described as desert but not all desert landscapes are beige and barren. In fact, Australia's rich interior is steeped in deep ochre earth bursting with vegetation. As many as a million camels still roam free through the Outback – descendants of the animals let loose by their Afghan handlers before the men returned home.

The Ghan's logo is the camelier astride his mighty desert workhorse and the colour is red – that of the Outback, intrinsically linking this train to its past and the heart of Australia. While the expedition across Australia was tougher in earlier days, today the train provides every modern comfort for guests wishing to connect with this special part of the world.

Travelling over three days and two nights, The Ghan wends its way from the tropical city of Darwin in the Top End of the Northern Territory to its first stop – Katherine. Not just any stop, this is an inclusive Off Train Excursion that takes you to the amazing beauty of

Katherine Gorge. After your day's adventure, chat among friends and enjoy fine dining as the sun sets.

The following morning, wake up to the rust red landscapes and enjoy a sumptuous breakfast before arriving at Alice Springs, where guests can walk through Simpsons Gap, or visit the Desert Park during the five hour stopover.

The train departs later that day, heading south for an evening Outback experience at Manguri, where the stars meet the glow of a bonfire. The journey ends the next morning as you arrive into the South Australian food and wine capital, Adelaide.

If travelling northbound from Adelaide, you can experience an Outback sunrise at Marla before travelling on to Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin.

### All Inclusive Rail Travel – local Australian cuisine

Whether you choose Platinum Service or Gold Service travel on The Ghan or Indian Pacific, all meals and beverages are included



The Ghan in Australia's Outback

in the fare. Regionally inspired a la carte menus are served in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant for Gold Service guests, while a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are available in the Outback Explorer Lounge. Platinum Service guests can enjoy the ambience of Platinum Club for 5-course dining and a range of Australian premium wines, beers, spirits and refreshments.

### Travel in comfort

The atmosphere on train allows guests from Australia and afar to share experiences in the air conditioned comfort of the Outback Explorer Lounge – one of the buzzing communal areas on train.

Or you can choose to relax in your own private cabin, dine with friends, savour a fine wine or just gaze out the window at the ever changing scenery.

Whatever you choose, you can rest assured that it won't be long before another off train adventure will begin. Select between the luxury of Platinum Service Double or Twin Cabins with full en-suite facilities and transfers to and from the station included in your fare, or classic Gold Service with Twin Cabins having compact en-suite facilities.

### The ultimate outback rail experience – The Expedition

The Ghan Expedition offers guests the ultimate in outback rail experiences, with extended touring off train as part of the 4 day/3 night journey from Darwin to Adelaide. Cruise the magnificent Katherine Gorge (Nitmiluk), wonder at the

Outback cattle station lifestyle on the Katherine Outback Experience, tour the West MacDonnell Ranges in the Red Centre and enjoy an outback Aussie BBQ under the stars.

Alternatively, upgrade your Red Centre adventure with a scenic flight to Uluru and ground tour with lunch. The Expedition takes you further as you also venture to the unique Opal mining capital of the World – Coober Pedy.

Whatever you choose – now's the time to experience Australia's outback and book early to get the best all inclusive fares available.

Goway's 12-day Classic Aussie Rail vacation travels from Sydney to Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock and Cairns. You'll enjoy two fabulous rail journeys, travel from Sydney to Adelaide on the Indian Pacific and from Adelaide to Alice Springs onboard the Ghan in Gold Service comfort. Enjoy comfortable sleeping berth accommodation, modern Australian cuisine and beverages and a selection of off train experiences. Travel in December/January and February and take advantage of special offers, visit [www.goway.com](http://www.goway.com) for details.



Off Train evening excursion at Manguri

## 2-week Trip Carry-On?

By Carolyn Wepler

Several years ago I sat at Toronto's Pearson International Airport, waiting impatiently for 60 long, agonizing minutes for my bags to appear on the baggage carousel – dead tired after a long overnight flight from South America. I looked enviously at the scores of commuter travellers whisking past me with their smart little carry-on suitcases. They got to stroll right through the exit doors towards waiting taxis, shuttle buses, or family, while I continued to watch for my bag to arrive. It was at that moment that I started to ponder the possibility of doing an international-flight trip with a carry-on. Could it be done? Could I, the woman who had 4 pairs of shoes with me, possibly fit it all into one bag? Then I started to think... if I had done this trip with a carry-on, I'd actually be at home right that very moment. It was then that I made a lifelong travel-altering decision – I was going to travel with carry-on baggage only!

My first step was to head to the luggage store to buy the lightest and biggest bag that the average airline will allow on board. (Please note that this does not apply to those low-cost online-only carriers that make their money in fees). China was my next international trip, and I was off to Beijing, Xining, Lhasa, Chengdu and Shanghai. The trip was in June so the weather was warm – meaning no need for bulky sweaters and pants. In other words, the perfect first trip for a carry-on novice.

So how to do this? First thing's first – it is imperative to wear as much as possible on the flight. If you need hiking boots or clunky runners, you have to wear them. Same with jeans, shirt, hat and a light jacket. Next is to research where you're staying.

If it is a 3-star or more, they are going to have a hairdryer, toiletries, and laundry service. Yes, you have to indulge in laundry service when working a two-week trip into one suitcase. Armed with this knowledge, you can pack bare minimum toiletries, and remember, they all have to fit neatly into

## HOTTEST DESTINATIONS IN GOWAY'S

Travel trends wax and wane. Some destinations will always be popular, while some can fade into obscurity for years before coming back with a roar. Our 'hot' destinations for 2017 are a mix of old favourites, emerging stars, and come-back kids from around the globe. Explore Australia the way the locals do, live it up on the Amalfi Coast, lose yourself in the romance of the Islands of Tahiti, or go in search of new adventures in Iceland and Colombia.



### ICELAND

Golden Circle Self Drive  
5 Days from CA \$1264

One of Europe's hottest emerging stars, Iceland easily accessible, offers rugged mountain scenery, black-sand beaches, and some of the world's most impressive waterfalls. It's ideal for a long weekend (yes!) away in Reykjavik, or for a longer trip filled with hiking, cruising, unique sights and seeing the Northern Lights. Iceland is the "Land of Ice and Fire" Travellers are advised to book early as space fills up fast.



### AUSTRALIA

Live Like a Local  
15 Days from CA \$1561

Time to go Downunder like a local! In 2016, Goway introduced its Live Like a Local travel concept, with itineraries in Australia's Gold Coast, Central Coast, Sunshine Coast, and Cairns (plus New Zealand and The Cook Islands). This unique style of vacation lets travellers experience places where the locals go on vacation, in a fully self-contained apartment. Live and vacation where Aussies and Kiwis live and vacation.



### COLOMBIA

Essential Colombia  
8 Days from CA \$4341

Colombia has left its troubled past behind and is fast becoming the continent's most talked about destination. It's not hard to see why. Colombia is close, just a few hours from most major US airports. It's also safe, affordable, and offers travellers beaches on the Caribbean coast, ancient cities, and a vibrant culture still relatively unknown to North Americans. Goway's most popular trip is the Essential of Colombia.

with Just



Travel light for a stress free trip!

see-through plastic containers that hold less than 100ml. Plus, if you need something, I have discovered after many years of travelling, you can get pretty much anything you need locally, and while it might not be quite what you are used to, consider it part of the travel experience. Once you've paired down the toiletries, ditched the hairdryer, and committed mentally to only two pairs of shoes, you are ready to start packing. You should be able to fit enough socks, undies, t-shirts, shorts, and a pair of pants – with a little bit of room to spare for a souvenir or two!

Here are some fantastic bonuses for traveling sans checked baggage!

- **Your bags never get lost**
- **You never wait at the baggage carousel**
- **You have all your stuff with you on the flight if you need anything**
- **There are no checked baggage fees to worry about**

That trip to China was in 2009, and I have since managed carry-on about 80% of my trips. Multiple-weather destinations and winter trips are a bit more challenging, as are business trips requiring dressier clothes, but I have to say, there is nothing better than landing back home and rolling my carry-on right past those baggage carousels!

## True North Adventure Cruise: "That's The Best Holiday I Ever Had!"

So say many of the passengers who step off a True North adventure cruise. A South Pacific cruise with a difference, the True North offers adventure cruises all around the magnificent Australian coastline, venturing into the waters of equally stunning Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

This appetite for waters less travelled – at least by cruise ships – makes an adventure on the True North one of Australia's most unique and desired holidays.

The True North's carefully crafted sailing schedule shows off every destination is at its best. Whether taking in the breathtaking majesty of the Kimberley region, enjoying the overwhelming hospitality of the South Pacific, or kicking up their heels in one of Australia's colourful and diverse cities, passengers are assured of being in the right place at the right time.

Specifically excluding extended periods at sea, a True North itinerary focuses on offering guests the chance to really experience each destination. Daily activities can include walks, fishing, snorkelling, diving, picnics, cultural events, or learning about the fascinating ecology and natural history of this region.

The True North is purpose built to access those wilderness areas bigger ships can't reach. Multiple adventure boats take guests in small groups to experience nature up-close, and the luxury of numerous tenders also gives guests greater opportunity to do "what they want, when they want." Most cruise options feature an on-board helicopter, adding another dimension to the adventure.

As an Australian registered ship, the True North is not required to exit territorial waters during Australian voyages. That means every day on-board is an activity day.

The adventure cruiser features spacious cabins, each offering modern decor, en-suite, and a satellite telephone. Guest numbers are limited to 36, and an Australian crew of 22 uniquely chaperones every experience. Dining on-board is sustainable and organic, with a fresh take on modern Australian cuisine. The ship's menus are also destination-inspired and feature the very



True North in the Kimberley Region, one of the last great wilderness regions left on the earth

best locally sourced ingredients.

Signature dishes might include barramundi (perhaps caught by the passenger's very own hand that same day), plump black-lip oysters prized from the rock in between sips of champagne, mud crabs cooked on the beach at sunset, or Spanish mackerel served as sashimi in the ship's lounge.

Hometown highlights can include delicious mangrove jack

and finger-mark bream, seasonal yellow-fin tuna, and Yeeda Estate beef. The True North's 'heli-picnics' are an unforgettable way to enjoy the quintessential Aussie barbeque, featuring a wide variety of seafood cooked alongside your private waterfall in the wild.

Destinations include the spectacular Kimberley region, the wild coast of Western Australia, including the Abrolhos Islands and world-

famous Ningaloo Reef, Komodo Island, home to the famous dragons, the islands of the Raja Ampat, the whale sharks of Cenderawasih Bay, the mighty Sepik River, the un-spoilt islands of Papua New Guinea, mysterious Bougainville, beautiful Sydney Harbour, and a seafood safari around the delightful Eyre Peninsula.

Purpose built and accommodating a maximum of just 36 guests, a cruise vacation on board True North is a once in a lifetime experience. We recommend booking early to guarantee availability. The Kimberley season runs from April through to early September and space sells quickly. Choose from 8, 11 or 14 day itineraries starting at \$14 071 per person including on board accommodation, all meals on board featuring modern Australian cuisine, specialist guides, cultural experiences, daily activities and more. Check out holiday in cruises in Sydney as well, spend Christmas or the New Year cruising Sydney Harbour and surrounds – the perfect vantage point for the world famous Sydney New Year Eve Fireworks. Visit [www.goway.com](http://www.goway.com) for cruise details.



Purpose built, the adventure cruiser can reach areas that bigger ships simply can't.

## WORLD FOR 2017 AND BEYOND



### KENYA

**Essential Kenya**  
8 Days from CA \$3526

Why is Kenya a perennial favourite? There are many reasons, from the welcoming locals to exceptional game viewing, including the "greatest show on earth", the migration. It's ideal for a first-time safari, but also sees its share of repeat visitors, as there is so much to see. Right now, there are many never to be repeated offers on Kenya. More airlines are flying to Kenya meaning fares are good.



### ITALY

**Spirit of Amalfi**  
8 Days from CA \$3120

Italy has always been a traveller's favourite. Traditionally, Tuscany has been an extremely popular area, and that trend continues, but what the Amalfi coast was also one of Goway's most requested destinations in the summer of 2016. Passengers who don't book early risk missing out on enjoying the lifestyle of the enchanting south.

Highlights include: Pompeii, Naples, Orrido di Pino hike, Capri Positano and Amalfi.



### THAILAND

**Northern Thailand**  
8 Days from CA \$2347

Thailand is famous for its beaches and vibrant Bangkok, but Northern Thailand is the 'it' spot for 2017. The cultural heart of Thailand, travellers see beautiful remote villages and hill tribes, take an authentic cooking class, and visit fascinating Buddhist temples. Choose from an 8-day overland tour that combines day cruising of the Mekong with off-the-beaten track lodge stays, or an 8-day cruise all the way from Chiang Rai to Luang Prabang.



### TAHITI

**Bora Bora Vacation**  
8 Days from CA \$3589

In 2017, the islands that became the byword for paradise will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Overwater Bungalow. Travellers can expect to see some hot deals from Goway this year. With the official opening of the Conrad Bora Bora Nui couples can save \$1,800 when traveling between 01 Nov - 15 Dec'17; 10 Jan - 31 Mar'18

Price includes international airfare.



### ARGENTINA

**Argentina Top to Bottom**  
9 Days from CA \$1899

Argentina has been making bold strides to attract international visitors, from dropping the unofficial 'blue rate' on its currency, to this year eliminating the 21% VAT on hotel rooms. Whether it's a few days in Buenos Aires, a leisurely tour through wine country, or an exciting outdoor adventure in Patagonia or to the Antarctic, one of South America's most appealing countries has never been more inviting.

# 10 Must-Do Aussie Experiences

Sure, Australia has plenty of must-see attractions. But a great vacation isn't just about the tourist spots. Those little local or cultural experiences make all the difference when experiencing a new country, particularly one that has a lot in common with home. Here are ten uniquely Aussie experiences we can recommend to first timers and return visitors alike. Some are routine, while others are signature Aussie encounters locals should get around to, but never do. Either way, consider this your 'other' bucket list for a great Australia vacation.

By Christian Baines

## Have a Flat White

North Americans have started to catch on in recent years, as more and more Aussie baristas have introduced this stronger, smoother latte-style beverage to independent cafes across Canada and the United States. Oh, and Starbucks sells something they call a \*cough\* 'flat white' too. But none compare to a flat white ordered from a good independent café in Australia. If you're downtown in one of the state capitals, a line of local office workers before 10am usually sig-

nals a winner. But the two essential flat white experiences one can have as a visitor are sipping one in one of Melbourne's fabled inner city laneways, or overlooking the ocean in a Sydney beach suburb. Just be warned that if you're also visiting New Zealand, they claim to have invented the drink first. So, in the interests of trans-Tasman relations, let folks in both countries keep their version of the story, and just enjoy your coffee.

## Try a Meat Pie

Like the flat white, it's not for lack of effort. But if there's a better meat pie than one you can pick up in an

Aussie bakery, I've not yet found it. Despite numerous attempts to franchise and mass-market the humble Aussie meat pie, the best pies are usually sold fresh over the counter in suburban, or better yet, country town bakeries around Australia. This makes them an ideal snack to break up a long Aussie road-trip. Whether it's mince, steak, chicken, veggie, cheese, curry, or a mix of the above, this Australian favourite is not to be missed. Just don't skimp on the tomato sauce, and whatever you do, don't call it ketchup.

## The Arcades and Laneways of Melbourne

Shopping, dining, and coffee are all local obsessions in Melbourne, so you'll probably spend a good amount of your Melbourne CBD time roaming the intimate alleys and passageways that connect the city's main streets. Melbourne's street art is almost as famous, earning comparisons to cities such as New York and Berlin. So take your time enjoying this underground aspect of the city's fierce creativity.

## A Small Group Cruise on Sydney Harbour

Enjoy a touch of Sydney's glamorous side and go out on the water. Many of Sydney Harbour's most picturesque coves and nooks take



Explore the Barossa Valley Wineries, South Australia. Credit Paul Torcello

some effort to reach by land. A harbour cruise can not only get you there quickly, but offer you the best views as well. In addition, there may be nothing more 'Sydney' than a barbecue lunch overlooking Sydney Harbour, either on land or on the water.

## Visit the Queen Victoria Market

You'll find 'farmers' markets' in pretty much any Australian city. For the most part, they're much the same as farmers' markets anywhere else. But the Queen Victoria Market or 'Vic Market' in Melbourne stands head and shoulders above the rest. Serving the country's culinary capital, this historic landmark is the city's favourite spot for fresh food, artisanal meats and cheeses, wine, and a whole lot more. It's also a nice spot to pick up souvenirs for friends and family back home.

## Fish and Chips in a Sydney Suburb

While Sydney's tastes might run a little upscale these days, this is still a beach town at heart. Easy access to crisp, tasty, unpretentious fish and chips is a necessity, particularly in popular beach suburbs like Bondi, Coogee, or Manly. While we don't recommend combining this with your flat white overlooking the ocean, you certainly wouldn't be the first to do so.

## An Aboriginal Cultural Experience

No visit to Australia is complete without a taste of its Aboriginal culture. You can engage with authentic Aboriginal culture almost anywhere on your Australia vacation. It may mean taking a dreamtime walk, enjoying a traditional dance performance or hunting demonstration in Kuranda rainforest, taking a guided walk around the base of Uluru and learning about its sacred connection to the Anunga people, or if your timing is right, seeing a performance by Bangarra, Australia's indigenous modern dance company. Australia's Aboriginal culture is endlessly diverse, and so are the opportunities for visitors to engage with it in a respectful and enriching manner.

## Sunrise on the Beach

Australia's east coast offers a seemingly endless choice of beautiful white sand beaches. It's worth getting up before dawn on at least

one day of your Australia vacation to watch the sun rise over the Pacific. Let the steady crash of waves on the sand be the only soundtrack to this truly magical Australia experience.

## Visit a Winery...or Five

Some wine snobs may turn their noses up at the 'new world' tastes of Australia and New Zealand. Good. That means all the more for you. The big three Australian wine regions are South Australia's Barossa Valley, the Hunter Valley of New South Wales, and the Margaret River region of Western Australia. But you can find smaller wine regions all over the country, including McLaren Vale, just outside of Adelaide, Victoria's Yarra Valley, and Queensland's Granite Belt. Take an organised day trip from the nearest big city, or add a couple of days in wine country to your Australia self-drive vacation.



The Block Arcade, Melbourne. Credit: Robert Blackburn

## Add a Wildlife Encounter

If you're going all the way to Australia, you're going to want to see the unique Australian wildlife. Whether it's at Sydney's Taronga Zoo, the Irwin family's Australia Zoo on the Sunshine Coast, on an encounter in the wild on Kangaroo Island, or on a bush safari outside Melbourne, there are plenty of ways to see Australia's most iconic creatures. You might even splurge on something truly unique, such as a dive with whale sharks on Western Australia's Ningaloo Reef, or hand-feeding wild dolphins at Brisbane's Tangalooma Resort.



Feeding the Dolphins at Tangalooma Resort, Queensland



Queen Victoria Market. Credit: Roberto Seba

## Cruise to Tasmania's Remote National Parks



Coral Expeditions' 7-night Tasmania Expedition Cruise explores the rugged coastal beauty and World Heritage-listed national parks of Australia's island state. Enjoy the intimate comfort of the Coral Discoverer, a premium vessel with a maximum of 72 passengers.

Guests can immerse themselves in Tasmania's national parks, exploring the dramatic pink granite peaks of the Freycinet Peninsula, as well as Maria Island National Park with its abundant wildlife and history. On reaching Tasman National Park, they're greeted by seals, dolphins, and albatrosses, all against a backdrop of 300-metre-high dolerite cliffs.

For an insider's view of this unique area, passengers can embark on easy hikes in the com-

pany of an expert Expedition Team, including a Tasmanian Specialist. Popular hikes include the rugged Fluted Cape Track on Bruny Island, the Needwonnee Boardwalk at Melaleuca, and the Wine Glass Bay Track at Freycinet. The Expedition Team is a hallmark of every Coral Expeditions voyage, accompanying passengers on all shore excursions and providing expert commentary. But indoor types won't miss out. All hikes are designed to suit a wide variety of fitness levels.

This cruise offers an authentic expedition voyage with a flexible itinerary, enabling the captain to respond to local weather conditions and ensure all guests see the best of Tasmania in comfort.

Subject to weather conditions, passengers also spend two days exploring the untouched Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area at Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour. Normally only accessible by seven-day hike or light aircraft, this remote, pristine wilderness is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful landscapes on Earth. Coral Expeditions' Tasmania Expedition Cruise offers one of the most convenient, comfortable, and informative ways to explore it.

Book by 30 June, 2017 and receive an on-board credit of AUD\$200.00 per person.



Top: Great Walks around Tasmania. Left: Coral Expeditions at Maria Island. Right: Spectacular views at Wine Glass Bay



New Zealand's landscape is spectacular. Pictured, clockwise from above left: Cathedral Cove in the Coromandel Peninsula (Credit: Tourism New Zealand and Legend Photography); Moeraki Boulders, Waitaki (Credit Myles Holden); Views of Wellington from Mount Victoria

## Exploring New Zealand's Cool Factor

It might horrify some Australians to hear it, but New Zealand might just be one of the world's coolest countries. It isn't just the stunning landscapes that work in its favour (though they certainly don't hurt!), nor the much talked-about 'livability' of Auckland. From top to southern tip, New Zealand has a cool factor that's evident right throughout the country.

### Wellington – The world's coolest capital city?

With respect to Canberra (or for that matter, Ottawa or DC), Wellington knows that capital cities get a bad rap for being dull government hubs. Determined to shake off that stereotype, Wellington boasts more bars, cafes, and restaurants per capita than New York City. Considering New Zealand's reputation for good food and wine, you know those restaurants are going to take their duty to your taste buds seriously. Don't worry if you're not a wine drinker. Wellington also wears its 'craft beer capital' crown with pride. When it's time to sightsee, Te Papa is the national museum of New Zealand, bringing together its complex geological, indigenous, biological, and modern histories to create one of the city's must-see (free!) highlights in arguably the best museum in the country. You'll also want to zip up to the top of Mount Victoria for the best 360 degree view, or hop the historic Wellington Cable Car, which takes you to a separate peak. Astronomy buffs might want to linger at the top to explore the Space Place at Carter Observatory. You can even relax afterward in Wellington Botanic Garden, right next door.

### Christchurch – Re:Started, Revived

Even six years on, there are those who advise against visiting post-quake Christchurch, saying that much of the beautiful architecture that characterized the town centre is now gone, and that little remains to interest tourists. While the first of these statements is true to an extent, the city didn't just up and disappear, and the years since have been busy! If you're coming to the South Island, there's a very good chance you'll pass through Christchurch anyway, so you might as well stop to see what this fiercely resilient city has to offer, both old and new. Highlights such as the Canterbury Museum, International Antarctic Centre, Regent Street, and beautiful Hagley Park are as appealing as ever, while newer projects such as the Re:Start Mall, Transitional Cathedral, and the numerous art

installations that have popped up around the city demonstrate its eagerness to move forward. The rebuild has lured a host of new eateries and bars into the city as well. While the full fruits of the intended 'new' Christchurch are still a few years off, the city has plenty to offer visitors now, with the promise of more when they return.

### Go West (With Glaciers, Fjords, and Adventure Sports)!

There are worthy rivals, but we think the South Island's West Coast is one of the world's great 'must-do' drives. Comfortably done over two to four days, the route between Nelson and Queenstown takes in several absolutely stunning New Zealand stops, including Punakaiki Rocks, the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers, the picturesque town of Wanaka on its namesake lake, and of course, Haast Pass, immortalized in the Lord of the Rings films (not that it really needed help). Visually, this is one of the most memorable trips you'll ever take, but it does require a little planning. The main challenge is finding accommodation, and sometimes even car rental. This is particularly true in the summer, when the weather is virtually flawless, unburdened by either the chills of the world's wettest coastline (all that lovely green comes at a price), or the oppressive heat that often defines summer in Australia. New Zealand is a small country, and the secret is well and truly out, so if you want to explore the West Coast in summer, the time to book is six months in

advance. While the summers are perfect, and the pleasantly mild winters still offer spectacular skiing in the Southern Alps, those willing and able to visit in the spring or fall can enjoy the same incredible landscape and relatively mild (if sometimes wet) weather with much greater flexibility on accommodation. Those seeking an adventure vacation will be in heaven at any time of year, enjoying hang gliding, parasailing, climbing, caving, skiing, sailing, and bungee jumping. What's cooler than safely jumping into a spectacular view in the country that invented the sport?

### Rubbing Shoulders with Locals by the Bay

It's easy to tick off the main tourist sights of Auckland and Wellington, explore the fascinating geothermal attractions at Rotorua, be wowed by the dramatic landscape of the West Coast, or enjoy the extreme sports of Queenstown and its surrounds – whether that's jet boating, bungee jumping, zip-lining, or waiting on line for half an hour with the hipsters at Ferburger (an essential Queenstown experience). But you'll almost certainly be surrounded by fellow Globetrotters, and while there's nothing wrong with that, it would be a shame to leave New Zealand without having hung out with the famously friendly Kiwis. There are popular local destinations dotted all over New Zealand, such as Kaiteriteri Beach (conveniently located between Nelson and Abel Tasman National Park), Kaikoura, and Lake Taupo. Perhaps none however is as popu-



"Live Like a Local" in Mount Maunganui. Credit Chris McLennan

lar as the Bay of Plenty. Stretching east of Tauranga, a two and a half hour drive from Auckland, the Bay of Plenty extends upon much of New Zealand's northern coast. The Maori call it the Sea of Toi, while many Aucklanders call it their second home. There are no big ticket attractions or tour buses here. Just spectacular views over miles of unspoiled beach. Yet you're never far from civilization either, giving you plenty of opportunity to meet the locals, or Aucklanders who maintain holiday homes in areas such as Mount Maunganui (which boasts a fantastic view over the Bay). With all the conveniences of Tauranga (approx pop. 118,000) close by, this is the perfect spot to get a feel for the real New Zealand and live like a local for a while.

### Travel and Booking Tips

New Zealand's small size can make trying to get accommodation in high season intensely competitive. Since we're sure that's not the kind of extreme sport you had in mind on your New Zealand vacation, here are some tips to take the pressure off. Some unspoken impulse usually sends self-drive New Zealand travellers down through the country from north to south. However, simply by reversing this route, you can go against popular demand and get a cheaper deal, including on your ferry ticket between the islands. If you're comfortable with group travel, New Zealand is a great destination for a coach touring holiday, which ensures good quality accommodation, a knowledgeable guide, and flexible meal options. Goway's

Freedom of Choice Touring also lets passengers customize the adventure to include more included activities, or more free time. If you really want to take the guesswork out of accommodation and enjoy total freedom, rent a motorhome and explore the country at your own pace. Canadian and US driver's licenses will do just fine in New Zealand, though you'll have to get used to driving on the left side of the road. Again, these need to be booked well in advance, particularly between November and February. If you can, seriously consider booking in shoulder season. The crowds are thinner, the weather mild, and while autumn brings its harvest flavours to New Zealand's famous food and wine, spring sees the country come alive with wildflowers and newborn lambs.

### NEW ZEALAND ESCAPES

#### Live Like a Local

15 days - CA \$1852\*

#### Classic New Zealand

13 days - CA \$3097\*

#### Ultimate New Zealand

9 days - CA \$7761\*

#### Snowbird Long Stay

31 days - CA \$5579

Including airfare from Vancouver

#### Discover Auckland, Queenstown and Rotorua

13 days - CA \$4179

Including airfare from Vancouver

\*Prices are land only. Contact your Travel Agent or call 888 469 2950 for international airfare pricing.



Walk the New Zealand Alps to Ocean Trail. Credit Mike Holden.

# Norwegian Guests Cruise with Freedom

Since Goway Travel and Norwegian Cruise Lines both cater to globetrotters, an alliance became very logical



Goway features Norwegian cruises in Europe, South America, Panama Canal, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii.

As the innovators, Norwegian Cruise Line has a 50-year history of breaking the boundaries of traditional cruising. Perhaps the most notable of its achievements is the introduction of Freestyle Cruising, which revolutionized the industry by giving guests freedom and flexibility to design their ideal cruise vacation. Freestyle Cruising is about maximizing passenger choice, meaning no fixed dining times or assigned seating, relaxed attire, up to 29 distinct dining options including complimentary and specialty restaurants, relaxed disembarkation and lounges, bars, theatres, and more. Onboard enter-

tainment is world class, including Broadway hits such as Rock of Ages or Million Dollar Quartet, plus thrilling acrobatic shows including Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy. Norwegian invites guests to Feel Free, exploring the world on one of 14 purpose-built Freestyle Cruising ships.

Passengers can enjoy a relaxed, resort style cruise vacation on some of the newest and most contemporary ships at sea, boasting innovative new interactive features. There are even studios designed for solo passengers, affordable and private for when the solo traveller needs quality 'me' time. At the top of

the scale sits The Haven, a unique luxury enclave at the top of the ship, offering elegant, personalised service and privacy.

Goway features Norwegian cruises in Europe, South America, Panama Canal, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Additionally, Goway offers Norwegian Cruise Line's Pride of America, the only ship that sails year-round from Honolulu on seven-day, intra-island Hawaiian cruises. Recently, the line was named "Europe's Leading Cruise Line" for the ninth consecutive year, as well as "Caribbean's Leading Cruise Line" for the fourth time and "World's Leading Large Ship

Cruise Line" for the fifth year by the World Travel Awards.

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Norwegian's Free At Sea promotion lets you choose up to 5 fantastic, Free offers! When you book an Ocean view Stateroom or higher you'll choose 2 Free offers and better yet, if you book a Suite or The Haven, you'll get all 5 offers for Free!

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Each of the nineteen Galapagos islands has its own character, geography, and wildlife. Pictured, left to right: Galapagos Albatross; The perfect family vacation adventure; Wildlife is unafraid of humans

# Sail in Nature's Ultimate Animal Playground

There's no bad time to visit' is a well-worn travel cliché, but in this case of the Galapagos Islands, it happens to be true. The famed archipelago is located right by the Equator Line, attracting a steady, predictable, and very vacation-friendly climate throughout the year.

some sun by the pool, relax in the Jacuzzi, or grab a drink by the bar. *The Galapagos Legend's* 56 cabins provide twin beds or convertible double beds, all with private bathrooms, while onboard activities for all ages ensure cruising between the islands is never dull. High standards of sustainability are observed

amazing survival skills.

While it's tempting to think of the Galapagos Islands as a whole, each of the nineteen main islands has its own character, geography, and wildlife, meaning visitors wake up into a new adventure each morning. It might mean visiting beaches that are home to sea lions, walking through cacti forest to see blue-footed boobies, or though lush green humid lands to see the iconic Galapagos Tortoises. The adventures continue underwater. The Galapagos Islands are one of the best diving spots in the world, since the nutrients brought by different ocean currents attract not just local creatures, but migrating visitors such as killer whales. Divers can meet the only penguin living in the tropics, the green Pacific turtle, along with playful sea lions known to swim alongside human visitors. Other (less sociable!) species include endemic fish and sharks. Meanwhile, those wanting to stay



M/V Galapagos Legend Balcony Suite

While the Galapagos wildlife is legendary, the islands' geological history is just as dynamic. Having risen from an underwater hotspot, these geologically young formations have never been attached to any continent. That animals and plants managed to reach them at all is a stunning feat of nature, as is how quickly they've adapted in order to survive. No wonder then, that when Charles Darwin arrived to the islands in 1835, he was so intrigued by its natural history, that it would partly inspire his famous Theory of Evolution decades later.

A cruise through this natural wonder demands an attractive, eco-friendly ship. The recently renovated *M/V Galapagos Legend* offers its guests a sense of elegance with teak wood interiors and brass details, yet keeps the emphasis on the adventure. Social areas with panoramic windows ensure passengers never miss a great view of the islands, while the dedicated crew and staff make the journey even more comfortable. Passengers can also catch

to leave the lightest possible footprint on this fragile ecosystem.

A professional naturalist guide is onboard to lead two land excursions each day. These might mean hiking the island trails to quiet corners of the Galapagos that nonetheless harbour astonishing sights and views. Travellers can even enjoy some beach time, enjoying remote hideaways marked by crystal clear waters and surreally beautiful coloured sands. Amid all the adventure there are also close encounters with nature. With their evolution almost unmarked by human interference, the creatures of the Galapagos thrive right throughout the islands. Many of them can only be seen in this specific part of the planet, having adapted perfectly to the archipelago's climate and geography. From marine iguana species that swim and feed underwater, to tiny lava lizards that camouflage in the lava paths, up to the extraordinary giant tortoises. It looks like a land forgotten in time, where plants and animals have developed



All the locals are friendly

dry can opt for a glass-bottom boat tour, and because this show of nature never repeats itself, every visit reveals something new.

The Galapagos Islands offer activities for people of all ages, all against a superb natural background. Stunning photos are a given, but no photo will capture the experience of seeing these unique and fearless creatures up close. All these are great reasons to come and visit this amazing destination.

Book your 2017 Galapagos voyage onboard the *M/V Galapagos Legend* and save 10% on Junior or Balcony Suites (conditions apply.)



M/V Galapagos Legend offers guests a sense of elegance yet keeps the emphasis on the adventure.

## Catamaran Sailing in the Galapagos



M/C Ocean Spray, an exclusive luxury catamaran for only 16 guests

Explore the natural wonders of Ecuador by sailing the Galapagos Islands from the comfort of one of Haugan Cruises' three luxury catamarans.

The Galapagos Islands are icons of biodiversity. There's no better way to explore the albatross nests of Espanola or the "Green Beach" of Floreana than onboard Haugan Cruises' fleet of exclusive luxury catamarans: *M/C Cormorant*, *M/C Ocean Spray*, and *M/C Petrel*. Each vessel houses only 16 guests, guaranteeing an intimate experience and spacious accommodations with private balconies, as well as incredible itineraries in the company of expert bilingual naturalist guides.

*M/C Petrel* is the newest and largest of the fleet, but all three vessels

have cruise managers and attentive staff members ready to tend to your every need and introduce you to a world of prehistoric-looking marine iguanas, lumbering giant tortoises, and spectacular colonies of colourful fish. Embark on fascinating excursions around the islands during the daytime before enjoying al fresco dining and relaxation in the ample social areas or the Jacuzzi in the evening. Take a kayak out on the water or relax and enjoy the stable ride provided by the catamarans' twin hulls. There's no better way to experience the diversity of the Galapagos than with the sustainable operations of Haugan Cruises.

Book a participating cruise for travel in 2017 and receive 10% off additional services in Ecuador.

## Small Vessel Luxury Cruising in the Galapagos



Sea Star Suite aboard the M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Journey

The Galapagos Islands are an incredible destination. The only way to improve an exploration of these amazing islands is to cruise aboard the boutique yacht, *Sea Star Journey*.

This small expeditionary yacht accommodates up to 16 guests in spacious deluxe cabins ranging from 25-35m2. *Sea Star Journey* offers not only professional crew providing exceptional service, but also convenient facilities where guests can relax, such as the sun deck with both shaded and unshaded Jacuzzis. Kayaks and snorkeling equipment are available to provide exciting leisure when guests aren't accompanying experienced naturalist guides around the islands.

*Sea Star Journey* also offers full-board service, mixing Ecuadorian and international cuisine, ensuring that every meal aboard is a tanta-

lizingly new experience. Whether they dine in the Al Fresco dining area, at an outdoor private table reserved for special occasions, or in the indoor dining room, guests are guaranteed an enchanting experience.

On a Galapagos Islands cruise, the islands may provide the luxury, but the exceptional *Sea Star Journey* provides exclusivity and unmatched attention to detail.

Book a participating cruise for travel in 2017 and receive 10% off additional services in Ecuador.



M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Journey



Ancient Inca culture in modern Peru

## A Week with the Incas

With just over one week to get away from it all, seasoned globetrotters Adrian and Ben chose Peru for their first real taste of South America.

The grandeur and scope of Machu Picchu is legendary, but nothing compares to visiting the ruins in person. But there's much more to Cusco and the Sacred Valley than the once lost city itself. "What impresses me is the size and scope of the Incan ruins," says Adrian. "There are dozens of sites, all with their own unique charm and character. You might think that seeing ruin after ruin would get monotonous but that's never the case as they all have different scenery and points of interest."

Their itinerary saw the men fly into Lima around midnight and sleep off the jetlag at an airport hotel before flying up to Cusco the next morning. They spent three nights in the ancient capital before heading into the Sacred Valley. This part of the trip was another 3-night exercise, with a night at Machu Picchu bookended by a night either side in Ollantaytambo. One final night in Cusco brought the trip to a close before flying back to Lima.

And the highlight of that itinerary?

"Cusco is interesting, but for us, the highlights were some of the smaller cities and towns. Ollantaytambo is a beautiful small town at the base of some incredible Incan ruins. It was our favorite place to stay on the trip. We loved exploring the ruins that many tourists miss, on the other side of the town from the main ruins. It was really fun to climb all over the hills and just come across ruin after ruin. I also loved the beauty of Moray, and the strange salt ponds of Maras. But every Incan site was beautiful in its own way."

Getting to Machu Picchu itself was another adventure. Only a minority of visitors to the site actually approach it via the Inca Trail (a four day hike that books out months in advance). Adrian and Ben instead chose to get just a taste of Andes trekking, walking up to the site from the nearby river. Was the 4:30AM start and high altitude hike worth it?

"Machu Picchu doesn't disappoint. It's one of those locations

that lives up to the hype and is every bit as impressive as you've been led to believe. Walking up from the river was hard but a definite highlight. The altitude makes it harder than you think it should be. But when the sun bursts through the cloud and fog and the whole site becomes visible, it's an amazing experience."

It shouldn't surprise anyone that Peru is one of South America's most consistently popular destinations. An easy sell in so many ways, it offers centuries of history preserved in beautiful ruins, sitting atop stunning scenery. Then, there's the colourful art and culture of Cusco and the Sacred Valley, where indigenous traditions still thrive, despite the tourist rush. But Peru still has some surprises up its sleeve, and some of them are delicious.

"What surprised me most was the food," Adrian admits, remarking on the three distinct areas of Peruvian food - coastal, Andes, and jungle. "We tried so much wonderful food, from mystery meat skewers from road side stalls to high end restaurants in Cusco and Lima. The roasted guinea pig at Inca Grill in Cusco was a revelation, like the most amazing duck you've ever had."

One week is just enough time to see the essential Inca sights and get a taste of Peru. But did it pass the real test of a great destination and leave the boys wanting more?

"It was extraordinary. We definitely want to go back there."

Sounds like a resounding 'yes' to us!

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Machu Picchu doesn't disappoint, living up to the hype.

# Peru's Amazon

An increasing number of travellers to Peru are adding time to visit the Amazon region, an area full of extreme biodiversity that covers approximately 60% of the country's territory. Those in the know are attracted to this incredible part of the country by its accessibility to unrivalled nature and wildlife, and great selection of river cruises and jungle lodges.



Left: Aria Amazon on the Amazon River: Right: the luxurious Design Suite on board

## Amazon River with Aqua Expeditions

Cruises in the Amazon region allow for exploration through many otherwise-hard-to-get to zones that offer up-close and personal experiences with the highest concentration of plant and animal species. Visitors spend their time exploring the forest and waterways and visiting protected wildlife areas such as the Pacaya Samiria Reserve, where macaws, falcons, and Amazon kingfishers dance in the air, and troops of squirrel monkeys sore from tree to tree.

Aqua Expeditions sails two of the world's most legendary rivers located at opposite ends of the Earth, the Amazon and the Mekong, providing utmost comforts and an exclusive 1:1 crew-to-guest ratio.

Recently refurbished to reaffirm the brand's well-established position as Best in Class, the 147-foot, 16-cabin *Aria Amazon* commands the mighty Peruvian Amazon River in uncompromising style. Custom designed by noted Peruvian designer, Jordi Puig, this luxury vessel boasts generous indoor and

outdoor lounging spaces, an elegant dining room, and an upper-deck bar. Spacious private living quarters feature newly upgraded interiors and floor-to-ceiling, river-facing windows. Guests enjoy delectable dishes from Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, globally renowned for his Amazon-influenced cuisine, paired with sommelier-selected South American wines.

Experienced naturalist guides lead excursion groups of eight guests deep into the enigmatic black waters and lush jungles of Amazonia. Guests get up close to countless species while on board and during short excursions, engaging with the endangered pink Amazon dolphin, endearing three-toed sloth, playful squirrel monkey, and hundreds of exotic birds. Guest may cycle, kayak, swim, and fish en route to further engage with the wonders of the Amazon. A full-time paramedic is on board to ensure guest safety on every adventure. Between excursions, guests may

cool off in the outdoor Jacuzzi while sipping pisco punch, exercise behind glass windows with a motivational river view, or enjoy massages from professional therapists with 100% pure, natural essential oils.

*Aria Amazon* offers guests privileged opportunities for interaction and inspiration on special-edition departures. Experience the Amazon from the insider perspective of CEO and Founder Francesco Galli Zugaro. Treat your palate to the ultimate pleasure of joining Pedro Miguel Schiaffino in unique chef-hosted departures. Discover the Peruvian Amazon with world-class explorer and champion of ocean conservation, Jean-Michel Cousteau. These experts and other adventures await.

Goway's 4-day *Luxury Amazon Cruise on the Aria Amazon* begins in Iquitos sailing in the Amazon. Float down the Tahuayo, spotting a variety of wildlife then explore the Yacapana Islands before visiting Puerto Miguel village. Prices start from CA \$5339

## The Barrios of Buenos Aires



Left: The impressive Obelisk of Buenos Aires; Right: See Tango dancing in La Boca

...Continued from page 1

engineering marvel that is Puente De La Mujer to Puerto Madero. A word of warning: It is said that couples who cross the bridge together are bonded for life!

Working class La Boca is home to brightly painted (if touristy) Caminito Street, which has been a haven for artists since Benito Quinquela Martin completed its colourful makeover in 1960. Soccer fans meanwhile will want to visit the famed stadium La Bombonera, where a clash between the local Boca Juniors and River Plate is the stuff of football legend. Just to the north, San Telmo is the place to be on Sunday, when Calle Defensa

turns into the city's largest street market. San Telmo is also one of the best barrios to find great food and tango, alongside various international cuisines.

Another big Buenos Aires draw is Recoleta Cemetery. Eva Peron is indeed here (follow the tourists), but if Buenos Aires is the Paris of the South, Recoleta is its Pere Lachaise, where many of the country's most noteworthy personalities have been laid to rest in magnificent mausoleums. Stop by the National Museum of Fine Arts for more local culture, or bask in the shadow of Floralis Generica, a gigantic metallic flower that opens and closes with the sun's movements.

Always hopping Palermo is one of the most popular districts with locals, even though many lament its gentrification. Parks, cafes, bars, theatres, and nightclubs define the area. Stroll the Botanic Gardens, or immerse yourself in regional culture at the Museum of Latin American Art. If you want to learn about Argentina's most famous great lady, stop by the Evita Museum, then return to Palermo if you're looking for a place to party after dark... no self-respecting Argentinean sits down for dinner before 10pm.

Goway's 3-day *Buenos Aires Highlights* includes transfers, 2 nights accommodation and a city tour, and starts from CA \$846

# Unique Accommodations of the World



Glass Igloo &amp; Northern Lights



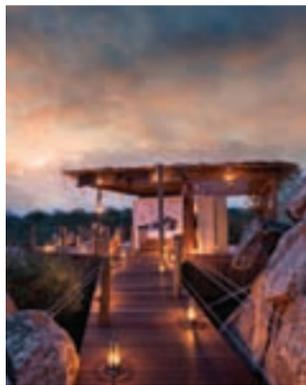
Condoreye Views in Sky Lodges



Overnight safari-style in Sydney



Dine underwater in the Maldives



Overnight in a treehouse in Africa



Stay in a treetop hotel in Laos

By Don Forster

For the past 47 years Goway has been sending Globetrotters to some of the world's last true frontiers. In addition, we also offer a various choice of accommodations... some quite extraordinary! From sky lodges on the side of the Andean mountains to sleeping under the stars on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, and game watching while you're on your own private "Ark," Goway offers not only unique destinations but unique accommodations.

## Europe

Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort is the world's leading premium arctic resort located 250 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle in Finnish Lapland. Offering magical experiences surrounded by the authentic arctic wilderness – every season of the year – the resort is best known

for its world-famous Glass Igloos, Northern Lights, Midnight Sun, and arctic art.

## South America

Have you ever wanted to sleep in a condor's nest? Here is the next best thing! A transparent luxury capsule that hangs from the top of a mountain in the Sacred Valley of Peru. Sleeping, suspended from the side of a mountain with aerial views up and down the Sacred Valley that leads to Machu Picchu and feeds the Amazon River, is just simply amazing. To access the SkyLodge, you first must hike a trail interspersed with zip lines. Your stay overnight, 400 feet over the valley floor, offers a condor's 300 degree eye view of the Sacred Valley.

## Downunder

Australia has a well-deserved reputation for being home to some

of the more, let's say exotic, not to mention, deadliest animals in the world. Goway offers a chance to get somewhat face to face with the unique fauna of Australia, providing a truly memorable and personal experience. Enjoy an overnight stay in Sydney at the famous Taronga Zoo. Sleep in safari-style tents, enjoy a delicious dinner and a nightcap, plus guided night time and early morning safari walks. Keep an eye for the "Drop Bears."

## Idyllic Islands

From one magical water playground to another – from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean – sample Conrad Maldives Rangali Island Resort. Offering the first ever Underwater Restaurant – sitting five meters beneath the surface – this unique dining experience offer guests 180 degree views encom-

passing the lively coral greenhouse surrounding it. Match this unique experience with a stay in one of the Conrad's outstanding Overwater Villas, and you are sure to have a holiday of a lifetime.

## Africa

When staying at one of the Lion Sands game lodges in Sabi Sands or Kruger National Park in South Africa, guests have the option to spend a night beneath a million stars on an elevated platform, complete with all the comforts of a 5-star lodge. Guests are dropped off at the treehouse at sunset, where drinks and a delicious picnic basket await them, and the night is spent absorbing the sounds and smells of the African bushveld.

## Asia

Goway's new adventure excursion from Chiang Rai in Thailand

to Luang Prabang in Laos, offers Globetrotters a truly unforgettable experience. Travellers spend a night in a multi-share treetop hotel near the border of Thailand and Laos. The only access to your mattress is by zipline! Awaken in the mist of the rainforest before swinging to your next destination, which happens to be boarding a riverboat up the Mekong to Luang Prabang.

Aside from offering new and different locales and exciting travel ideas, Goway is always searching for something different when it comes to places to stay. The above are a small sample of unique accommodation to truly make your globetrotting adventures even more memorable. Ask your destination specialist about these accommodations, and any other ways we can assist in offering a unique and unforgettable experience.

## Majestic Iguassu Falls

Eleanor Roosevelt supposedly said just two words on catching her first glimpse of Iguassu Falls: "Poor Niagara". While some claim that oft-retold story to be apocryphal, it's hard not to share the sentiment as our car pulls up at the entrance to the Brazilian walking track, and we first see the dozen or more curtains of white water cascading over the verdant cliffs that mark the edge of Argentina.

By Christian Baines

"You like the small falls?" asks our guide.

Somehow tearing our eyes and cameras away, we turn to him with stupid grins before realizing: 'Oh yeah. These are the small falls.'

Best thought of as two national parks rather than a single attraction, Iguassu Falls is arguably the most impressive single system of waterfalls in the world, where approximately 275 (it varies according to the season) falls carry around 1000 cubic meters of water over the edge every second. The platforms on the Brazilian side offer the best panoramic view, and for my money, best first impression of the falls you can get. Following the Path of the Falls, which hugs the cliff face from the luxurious Belmond Hotel das Cataratas to the Devil's Throat Elevator, we hear the steadily building roar of the garganta del diablo, the Devil's Throat.

So...these would be the 'big' falls, then?

The Devil's Throat is actually a convergence of a whopping fourteen falls. Together, they send enough water over their 350 feet drop to create a permanent 100 foot cloud of mist. The walkway to the foot of the 'Throat' gives the falls a wide berth, but it's not enough to avoid being soaked by the cool mist – not at all unwelcome in the tropical heat!

Soaked to the skin but deliriously happy, we make our way back to the elevator that returns visitors (via a gift shop, of course!) to the top of the cliff, where our guide, who's stayed high and dry, is waiting. The Path of the Falls can be comfortably done in an hour or two, including leisurely photo stops. Those wishing to linger on the Brazilian side can opt for a popular safari adventure that combines a trip through the jungle with

a boat ride. They can also opt to visit to a local bird park, dedicated to nurturing and preserving native species, or even take a helicopter ride for the ultimate view of the falls. But a half day is usually enough, allowing time for one of these activities as well.

Drying off quickly in the heat, we're dropped off at our hotel on the outskirts of Foz do Iguacu, the town which supports the bulk of tourism in the region. Larger and more developed than Puerto Iguazu on the Argentinean side of the river, Foz do Iguacu offers a greater choice of hotels, shops, and restaurants than its counterpart. This includes a truly spectacular Brazilian churrascaria, which sends us back to the hotel (via complimentary shuttle) in a state of meat coma-induced joy. With that said, some visitors prefer the homelier, more relaxed pace of Puerto Iguazu. So if you're visiting both sides of the falls, where to lay your head is really a question of preference.

What the Brazilian side can't offer is Argentina's up close and personal views of the falls. With a memory card full of awe-inspiring wide shots, our second day is all about seeing those 'small falls' up close. But not before taking the train to see a very different view of the Devil's Throat. Catching the first train of the day, we weave our way up through the rainforest to a lengthy series of walkways that stretch out over the Iguassu River. Though my Portuguese is weak and my Spanish worse, I'm pretty sure



Platform trails let you get close to the largest series of waterfalls in the world

there are no words in either language – much less English – that quite describe being just a few feet from the edge of waterfalls this powerful. Watching flocks of birds fly through the mist, in and out of the largest falls, we're unable to even see the walkway that took us to the lower viewing point on the Brazilian side. Our guide tells us that the birds nest behind the falls, just one more secret nature hides in this incredible landscape.

The elevated trail out to the Devil's Throat is one of several walking trails accessible on the Argentinean side. Two more take you to see the smaller falls up close. The 'lower' track is typically less crowded, and takes you to more viewing points and great photo spots, particularly at the base of the small falls. The upper track is dominated by a series of walkways over the river, which take us to the thresholds of the small falls.

The skeletons of walkways past stretch over the river as tattered reminders of its awesome power. The last major flooding incident occurred in 2014, when water flowed over the falls at 33 times the usual rate, tearing walkways and bridges to shreds. Fortunately, the depth of the Parana River's gorge and ample warning time mean

these rare floods pose little threat to human life. Still, they've played havoc with tourist infrastructure over the years, leaving several generations of ruined bridges, another reminder that we are nature's guests in this spectacular place.

One potential source of Globetrotter confusion is the border crossing between Brazil and Argentina. Simply put, yes, both countries' entry requirements apply if you plan to visit both sides of the falls. Canadians entering Argentina pay a reciprocity fee of CA\$100 online prior to arrival, while Americans can currently enter the country without a visa. Brazil however, requires both Americans and Canadians to obtain a tourist visa before arrival. This requirement unfortunately deters many who think seeing the Argentinean side 'will be enough.' As impressive as the Argentinean side of the falls is, the best views are still to be had from Brazil, making the visa process well worth the effort, particularly if combined with a longer Brazil vacation.

Feel the epic rush of the world's most spectacular waterfall system, visiting both the Brazilian and Argentinean Falls on Goway's 3-day Iguassu Falls Complete Tour. Prices start from CA \$1286.



Iguassu Falls is arguably the most impressive single system of waterfalls in the world

# Globetrotter's Bucket List Idea: Cruising the Nile with Sanctuary Retreats



Since the Arab Spring in 2011, Egypt has suffered social and political destabilization, but things are calming down. This coming year offers an opportunity to get ahead of the crowds and travel to this vibrant nation bridging two continents. Egypt remains an appealing destination perfect for global adventurers and budget travellers alike. A cruise with Sanctuary Retreats down the mighty Nile River is a perfect way to experience this country's intoxicating blend of vibrant culture, rich history, and natural splendour.

There's a reason the country of Egypt revolves around the Nile. Without the mighty river (the longest in the world), the country would be unbroken desert. Luckily, this river forms a lush valley, which gave birth to one of the planet's great civilizations. There is debate over whether ancient Egypt is the

oldest known civilization (some experts argue Mesopotamia, others the Indus), but regardless of which great civilization came first, Egyptian culture has had monumental influence on the planet. Luckily, unlike with most ancient societies, the artefacts and monuments of ancient Egypt remain to this day. The Valley of the Kings and Queens is your best spot to visit these ancient tombs, including the famous tomb of King Tutankhamun or King Tut, whose discovery in 1922 reignited the world's obsession with Egypt.

Of course, Egypt is not a country living in the past. The cities and towns are bursting with life much like the surface of the Nile with its lotus flowers. Vibrant markets and cafes are the best places to engage with locals and take the temperature of Egyptian life. Cairo could keep guests occupied for an entire

stay, splitting their time between the pyramids at Giza, the Egyptian Museum, and El Khalili Bazaar. But globetrotters should be sure to venture beyond the capital to enjoy the country's many distinct flavours.

Alexandria on the coast offers a Mediterranean atmosphere, abounding with connections to ancient Rome and the rest of the ancient world, while Abu Simbel in the far south offers historical sites like the Great Temple of Ramses II you won't find elsewhere. Combining past and present, stone monuments and bustling culture, Egypt should appeal to any globetrotter, and its budget price next to similar destinations should only make it more appealing. A great way to see the country is to embark on a river cruise between Aswan and Luxor to delve into the country's fascinating history.

Sanctuary Sun Boat IV is a contemporary boutique boat with an art deco influence, featuring 40 cabins and suites each with stunning river views and ensuite bathrooms. Three- and four-night itineraries between Aswan and Luxor have been carefully created to provide insight into the history and cultures along the Nile River. Fascinating shore excursions are accompanied by one of Sanctuary Retreats' Egyptologists, who, with their specialist knowledge and insider



Sanctuary - Sun Boat IV Pool Deck

access, will guarantee to enhance guests' Nile experience. Excursions include visits to the Valley of the Kings and Queens, the Unfinished Obelisk, and Kom Ombo.

Renowned for their first-class hospitality, the Sanctuary Sun Boat IV team create a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere that is unmatched on the Nile. Activities on board include cooking classes with the accomplished chefs and a traditional 'galabeya' party. Guests

seeking to travel at a gentler pace can simply relax in sundeck's pool, as they sail through the mystical landscapes of the Nile. The combination of elegant surroundings, cultural itineraries, and experienced Egyptologists makes this Nile cruise a trip of a lifetime.

Goway offers all of Sanctuary Retreats' exquisite cruise journeys on the Nile. Visit [goway.com/cruises](http://goway.com/cruises) for details.



This coming year offers an opportunity to get ahead of the crowds



Cabin Accommodation Sun Boat IV

## Trekking Jordan

We've talked about exploring the sights of Jordan from top to bottom in Globetrotting Magazine before. But have you ever thought of taking the journey on foot? Taking the concept of a biblical pilgrimage to new heights, the Jordan Trail invites active travellers to hike 650 kilometers of trail from 4 to 36 days, exploring this incredible country in eight distinctive sections.

Anyone who thinks Middle Eastern countries are all about desert needs to take a closer look. Besides its archaeological riches, which are abundant from top to tip, Jordan boasts some of the world's most impressive mountains and cliffs. Of course, the deserts – called wadis in Jordan – are pretty appealing too, particularly Wadi Rum, made famous in the film *Lawrence of Arabia*.

The Jordan Trail sets out for Um Qais, high in the country's north. Its first few 4-day segments showcase Jordan at its most lush and fertile. Hikers can expect green hills, natural springs, and farmland, as well as thriving villages. The highlights of course include Byzantine and Roman ruins, the namesake castle at Ajloun, and even some prehistoric sights along the way. The complex

mixture of Christian and Muslim influences here has created a cultural legacy like no other.

Of course, two of Jordan's most famous treasures are found in its southern region. The southern segments of the Trail extend to five or six days, allowing trekkers plenty of time to explore the rose red city of Petra, and Wadi Rum. In fact, Petra marks the checkpoint between two Trail segments, meaning travellers who wish to linger here can do so. The segments allow hikers the flexibility to join and leave the Trail as they wish, meaning their holiday can be anything from a short 4-day escape, to the ultimate Middle Eastern trek.

Jordan's weather is another important factor in deciding which sections of the trail to do. The cooler months of February and March are the ideal time to hike the deserts of the south, while hikers wanting to explore the north may want to wait until spring. Remember, the country is much more than a simple desert, and the winter months can bring snow and rain. For the most part however, Jordan is blessed with exactly the kind of year-round temperate climate that makes an outdoor adventure so tempting.



You can hike the Jordan Trail from 4 to 36 days

## SOUTH AFRICA CULTURAL SPOTLIGHT: CAPE TOWN

### The Cultural Side of Cape Town

Called "The Mother City," Cape Town is an exception to Africa's typically outdoorsy destinations. It offers that too, and visitors absolutely should not leave without a day exploring natural attractions such as Table Mountain, Cape Point, Boulders Beach, and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

But it's also perhaps the only city in sub-Saharan Africa that stands as out as a destination in its own right. An urban playground that has earned comparisons to San Francisco and Sydney (at a fraction of the price), Cape Town's cultural attractions add both context and variety to any trip, from a short African Safari, all the way up to Goway's Cape to Cairo, an epic 32-day adventure from Cape Town which travels the length of the continent to Egypt. This Ultimate Journey of a Lifetime has been so popular, its 2017 departure is already sold out. Two additional departures scheduled for 2018 are expected to do the same.



Aerial view of Robben Island, the political prison that once held Nelson Mandela

### Stroll the Waterfront

Admittedly the heart of 'tourist' Cape Town, the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront still makes a great half day out. Formerly a working harbor, it now welcomes visitors to South Africa with sculptures of the country's Nobel Peace Prize laureates, museums devoted to the city's military history and national rugby team, plus a wealth of historic sights. September will see the opening of Zeitz MOCAA, touted as the first major contemporary art museum in Africa. In fact, Globetrotters arriving a few days early to join this year's Cape to Cairo will have the chance to be among its first visitors.

### Malayan Africa in Colourful Bo kaap

You might not think to look for Asian influences in Africa, but the Bo kaap district, characterized by its vibrant coloured houses brings a touch of Malay, Ceylonese, and Javanese culture to Cape Town. Its history is sadly steeped in tragedy. Most of its Asian inhabitants during the 17th and 18th centuries were

slaves, and the district later became a mixed-race township under the Apartheid regime. But this unique mix has created one of Africa's most fascinating neighbourhoods. The story behind the district's bright colours changes with who you ask, but it's often thought to be a bold statement of independence following Apartheid's end.

### Remember the Faces of Robben Island

Apartheid has left many marks on Cape Town's history, most notably at Robben Island. This infamous political prison once held Nelson Mandela and current President, Jacob Zuma. A tour guided by one of the former prisoners followed by a bus tour of the island will open up its Apartheid history before going further, exploring a maritime and army history spanning several centuries. The Moturu Kramat shrine even brings a touch of spirituality to one of Cape Town's most infamous locations.

### Follow the Walk to Freedom

If you're looking for a city walk that puts Apartheid history in perspective with today's Cape Town, while ticking off some must-see sights, this is a good one to choose. The Walk to Freedom Tour takes in the District Six Museum, which shows up segregation in all its ugliness, before taking you to the Langa Township, the oldest surviving housing scheme from the regime. Here's where the future seems brighter, as markets, B&Bs, an arts centre, a traditional healer, and powerful voices for black advocacy come together to form a community that offers visitors a window onto today's South Africa.

# The Greatest Show on Earth Explained

The Great Migration is simply like nothing else on Earth. Perhaps you've seen the migration before on a Kenyan safari or you've only seen Disney's *The Lion King* and wondered what a wildebeest stampede looked like for real. No matter your experience with African wildlife, the Great Migration will amaze you on your East Africa vacation.

Well over one million animals migrate across one of the most robust environments on the planet in order to eat and reproduce. Lion and hyena thin out large portions of the herd while other animals simply die of exhaustion. This is the game of life and death played out on one of the planet's most fantastic stages.

## What is the Great Migration?

The Great Migration is the name for the movement of over 1.5 million wildebeest and hundreds of thousands of zebra and gazelle during the dry season on the East African savanna. The herds move around 2,000 kilometres from the southern expanse of the Serengeti plains and Ngorongoro Crater over the borders of Kenya to Maasai Mara National Reserve and back down to the southern Serengeti again in search of food and water.

However, while named the Great Migration, this movement of animals is not a simple trip from point A to B. No migration ever is. Instead of a simple back and forth movement between Tanzania and Kenya, the Great Migration is a clockwise cycle of movement that wildebeest undergo every year in order to find food and water and rear their young during seasonal change.

## An Ever-Moving Cycle

In January, the herds are at the southern plains of the Serengeti. In January and February, the wildebeest give birth to their young on these southern plains. The entire wildebeest herd produces around 300,000 calves within the brief period of two to three weeks. While lion and hyena are common on these southern plains, the calves are too many for the predators to prey on in their entirety. Furthermore, wildebeest calves are incredible animals that can stand after two to three minutes and be off running with the herd at just five minutes old.

In March and April, the wildebeest herd moves north and west, to the central and western reaches of the Serengeti, near Lake Victoria. During the long rains of April, the rut occurs, when the wildebeest mate after complex territorial rituals by males. In June and July, the great crossing of the Serengeti happens in earnest. Wildebeest cross over the Grumeti River and eventually the Mara River to reach Kenya.

If you were travelling to Kenya and Tanzania in August and September, you'd see the central Serengeti dry up and the entirety of the herd arrive in Maasai Mara National Reserve and the northernmost reaches of the Serengeti, past the Mara River. In October and November, the low rains begin and vegetation starts returning to the flood plain in the south. The herd starts to move back south, along the eastern fringes, only to settle in the south for birthing and the long rains of spring.

However, this traditionally-pre-

dictable routine is ever changing. Weather is never the same from one year to the next, and the effects of climate change have exacerbated the divergence from year to year. The rains of the Serengeti are becoming increasingly irregular. Some years see early downpours while others have suffered from extended drought, which upsets the natural balance of the herds.

Witnessing the Great Migration on the Serengeti plains is one of the great experiences a person can have on their Africa vacation. Everyone who has the chance to stand up in their jeep and gaze out on thousands of animals moving across the magnificent plains should take that chance. But it's important to be aware of the current challenges facing these animals and their ecosystem, if you're to fully cherish this natural wonder.

## Best Time of Year to Visit

Kenya and Tanzania don't have the traditional Western four seasons of spring, summer, fall, and winter. Instead, the seasons are mostly divided into a wet and dry season, with mini-wet and dry seasons happening in between. June to September is the dry season. Temperatures are warm and rain is infrequent. The low rains begin in late October followed by the mini-dry season, while the true wet season is April through May.

The best time to see the Great Migration is during the dry season, between July and early October. It's warm, weather is stable, and animals are abundant. The sparse vegetation and dried-up waterways force the animals to head up north to find food and drink.

If you visit in November or December, you'll still see wildebeest and zebra, but the movements will not be as pronounced as during July and August. Just be sure to avoid April and May if you're hoping to catch the Migration. The animals haven't left the southwest yet and the torrential rains flood the Serengeti and make travel difficult.

## Your Ideal Vantage Point

Since the Great Migration involves over 1.5 million wildebeest, 200,000 zebra, and 400,000 gazelle, it's hard not to catch the action. That's an enormous number of animals! Still, certain places are better than others to see this amazing movement of animals. Serengeti National Park in Tanzania and Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya are your best vantage points on a Tanzanian or Kenyan safari. However, the herds don't all move in exact unison. For instance, zebra are more likely to reach Maasai Mara before wildebeest as they're slightly faster.

The Grumeti River which runs horizontally across Serengeti National Park is an ideal spot to witness wildebeest drinking and crossing. Crocodiles populate the river and often attack unsuspecting wildebeest as they ferry across. Wildebeest have to cross the river to reach the grazing lands of the north despite the abundant predators, so the crossing is a necessary feat of sacrifice and desperation. It's a harrowing display of life and death.

The Mara River similarly runs northeast through Serengeti



Wildebeest and Zebra during the great migration

National Park into Narok Country in Kenya. The migrating herds have to cross the Mara to get to the vegetation of the Maasai Mara National Reserve, so you'll catch them at the crossings.

It's also common to see a lion or cheetah take down wildebeest, as Serengeti National Park and Maasai Mara National Reserve are home to thousands of predators. In fact, Maasai Mara National Reserve has one of the highest concentrations of lions in the world. The wildebeest calves, born only short while before, are key targets for these predators. Cheetah especially focus on

the calves as their frames are much slighter than those of lions, and an adult wildebeest might prove too large to attack.

## Make 2017 Your Migration Year

There's no reason to wait to see this magnificent spectacle for yourself on an Africa vacation.

There are plenty of excellent places to stay in and around Serengeti National Park and Maasai Mara National Reserve. Goway offers an abundance of trips, even for a first-time Globetrotter, focusing on the Serengeti and the Great Migration

In Tanzania and Kenya you'll see

feats of life and death – animal struggles familiar only from nature programs on your television screen – play out in front of you. You'll witness the imposing herds of wildebeest and zebra move across the East African savanna in one of the world's greatest migrations.

You won't be disappointed.

*Goway's East Africa Safari offers savings of up to CA \$2878 per couple. Prices start from CA \$7379 and include transfers, accommodation, some meals, transport in 1 X 7 seater 4 x 4 vehicle, Hippo pool breakfast at Mara Serena Lodge, flying doctor evacuation coverage. Many other great ideas are available.*

## Kenyan Conservancies are Eco-Friendly and Intimate

It's hard to determine the difference between a national park and a conservancy on a first visit to Kenya, but Globetrotters should know one from the other before heading to this incredible east-African nation.

National parks in Kenya are not the same as in Canada or the United States. Regulations are more relaxed and it's often hard to trace where the entry fees end up. Numbers are not restricted in national parks, so visitors can find themselves alongside two dozen other vehicles when viewing a lion or giraffe. However, unlike vehicle numbers, hours and road rules are restricted in national parks, meaning visitors can only enter a national park during the day and have to stay to the highways to view animals.

National parks do a lot of things right and their mere existence is a boon to wildlife protection, but their size often makes it difficult to understand how they affect the local communities. Conservancies are altogether unique from national parks and are by-their-nature more local.

The first conservancies came together in the early seventies when private owners joined forces in an effort to preserve wildlife while also ensuring work for the people within their communities. Many of these owners were the traditional tribespeople who lived on the land, such as the Maasai. As such, conservancies support the preservation of these traditional societies, offer

more localized land management, and more employment opportunities for local people than national parks and similar reserves.

The number of visitors at a private conservancy is lower than at a national park and only vehicles belonging to the lodges with the conservancy are allowed to drive on the land. As well, because conservancies limit the number of vehicles allowed in the park, they can also allow greater flexibility in road rules. While visitors will never get a chance to go off-road in search of buffalo or track a leopard at night in a national park, they can often do so at a conservancy under the guidance of professional rangers and trackers.

It's also important that conservancies usually limit the number of vehicles allowed to approach a game sighting. If two or three vehicles are already parked to watch a lion feast on a slain gazelle or a family of hippo crossing a street, any other vehicles that arrive will have to move onto another spot. This ensures that animals are not crowded or disturbed in their habits, making them less likely to be spooked by consistent human presence. This rule also affords visitors a more intimate look at these incredible animals.

There are many reasons Globetrotters should support conservancies when heading to Kenya or any safari destination. Not only is the safari experience at a conservancy more intimate than at other parks, but supporting conservancies

helps protect the vast amount of land and wildlife that is not actively protected by the government.

As conservancies restrict the amount of people allowed to visit the land, they preserve the land for future generations. And since lodges lease the land from the traditional landowners who own the conservancies, the money these lodges generate from visitors funnels back into the local communities, which pays for leases, employees, and generally circulates the local economy.

Visiting a Kenyan conservancy is a great way for Globetrotters to see amazing animals like lions, hyenas, and elephants while also supporting efforts to preserve and maintain their habitats. It supports both the people and the animals of this amazing African nation.



Maasai tribesman overlooking river



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# Smooth Traveller

...continued from page 3

Elephant's Eye is situated just outside the park and is completely environmentally friendly. The complex is comprised of the main lodge area and eight deluxe chalets, tented and built atop stilts, with commanding views of the waterhole below for game sighting and sunrise and sunset viewing. Suites have netted beds, a fireplace, wireless Internet, designer amenities and an awesome outdoor shower.

All meals are prepared by a chef and are followed by drinks around the firepot located near a waterhole for night game viewing. A spa and curio shop also on site. Game drives and visits to area places of interest can be arranged. The staff is exemplary and can be credited with making a stay here extraordinary.

A 90-minute drive from Hwange along a main road is Zimbabwe's greatest jewel, Victoria Falls. White settlers began encroaching into the region in earnest in the 1880s and in 1888 the British South Africa Company, led by Cecil Rhodes, traded money and guns for the region's mineral rights. Salisbury was founded in 1890 and is today the capital Harare. War was inevitable and when the land conquered, the country colonized by the British and the land renamed Southern Rhodesia in honor of Rhodes. Natives were forced onto reservations and their lands were given to white settlers. Two laws, in 1930 and 1969, declared it illegal for a Black to own land in a white area. In 1965, Rhodesia declared the Unilateral Declaration of Independence when a division



Meet wild "painted" dogs in Zimbabwe

developed with Britain over colonial policies. On April 18, 1980, Zimbabwe gained independence.

Victoria Falls inspires awe even at a distance as if commanding your attention. The sound of the falls echoes for 25-miles and the 1,300-ft. rising mist can be glimpsed for 30-miles. The indigenous people called it "Mosi-oa-Tunya," "the smoke that thunders". The Falls, located on the Zambia/Zimbabwe border's Zambezi River, are the only ones with a height exceeding 328-ft. Artifacts discovered there indicates that the region was inhabited 2-million years ago but it was not until 1855 that they were officially "discovered" by David Livingston the explorer and missionary. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1989 and is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Victoria Falls is spectacular in every season. They are more than a mile wide and nearly 145,300,000-gallons of water pour over the basalt cliffs every 60-seconds. Of the five falls, four are located in Zimbabwe, The Devil's Cataract, Horseshoe, Rainbow and

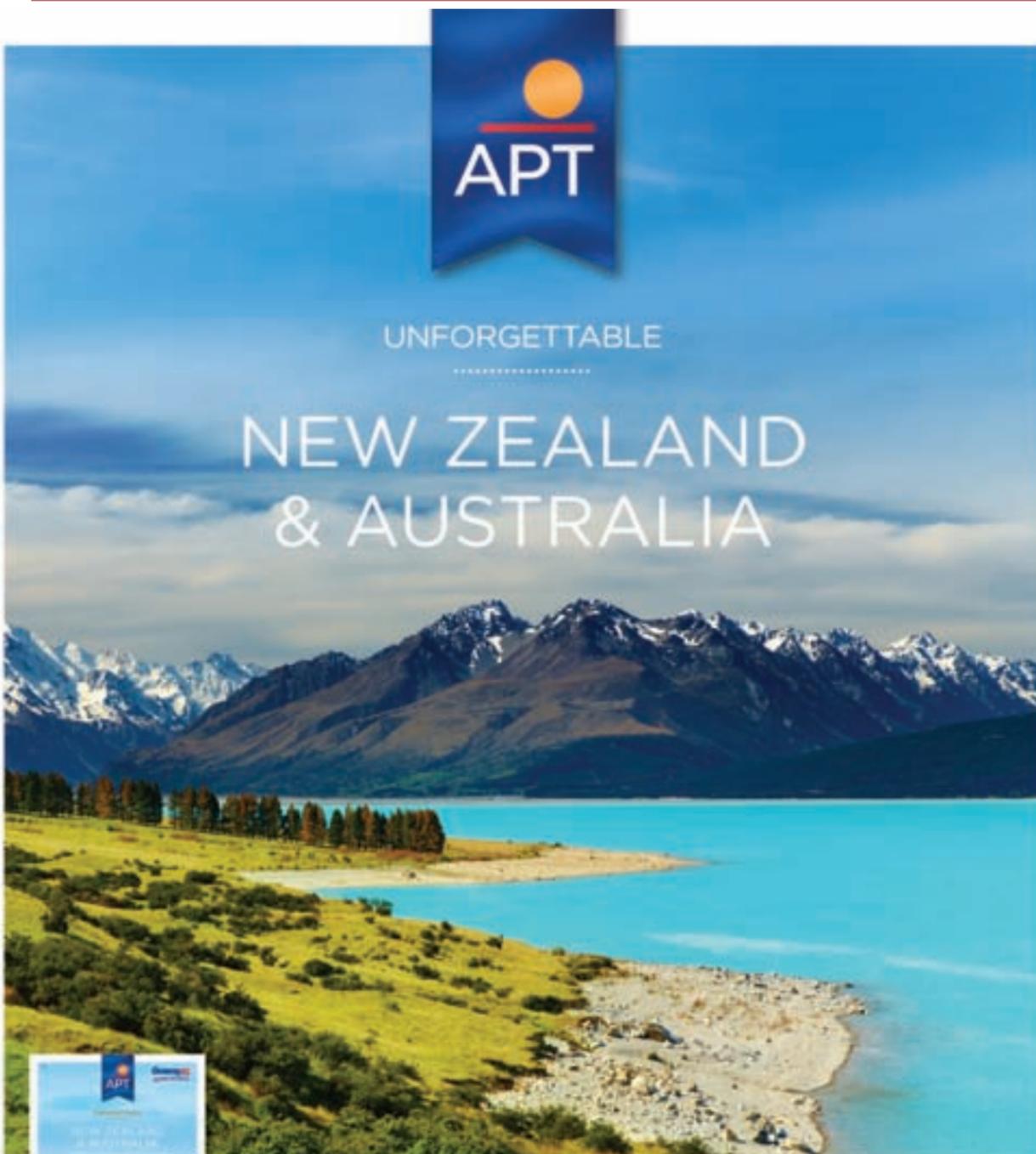
the Main Falls. A paved path allows visitors to walk along the falls and view them from several vantage points. It can be completed in 90-minutes depending upon your interests and the number of stops you make and if you elect to take the 73 steps down into the gorge to the Cataract Viewpoint. The David Livingston statue provides a perfect spot for a photo op as is the rain-forest portion of the path.

The town of Victoria Falls is also a destination for active adventure. Boat cruises, helicopter tours, safaris and bungee jumping are just a few of the offered activities. The luxury Ilala Lodge is a 10-minute walk to the falls entrance and is adjacent to the famous Craft Market. In addition to great accessibility and deluxe accommodations, the hotel provides superior service with old world elegance.

A private charter, the Ra-Ikane departs daily for a guided sunset cruise complete with dining, drinks and spectacular views of Zimbabwe and Zambia. The boat replicates Livingston's Ma-Robert boat and named in honor of his most important African guide.

*Smooth Traveler* blogger, Renée Gordon from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is a Goway globetrotter.

Renée has written a weekly travel column for the Philadelphia Sun Newspaper for the past 28 years and has published articles on local, national, and international travel in numerous publications. Renée has been a guest radio commentator on various aspects of tourism and currently guests monthly on a local radio station as a travel commentator.



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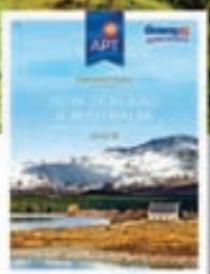
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1. The "Great Migration" of animals in East Africa move around 2000 kilometers. True or False?
2. There is no bad time to visit the Galapagos Islands. True or False?
3. Cape Town calls itself the "Mother City" of Africa. True or False?
4. Buenos Aires is considered South America's most European capital. True or False?
5. Steve "The Crocodile Hunter" Irwin's Australian Zoo is on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. True or False?
6. African Wild "Painted" Dogs can attain speeds of 100mph. True or False?
7. The main ports from which cruise ships leave in Fiji is Denarau. True or False?
8. "One Foot Island" is found on a beautiful lagoon in Tahiti. True or False?
9. Surveys say half the people in Iceland believe in protecting elves. True or False?
10. Beautiful Rice Terraces are found in Bali and are claimed to be the most gorgeous cultivated land in the world. True or False?
11. Myanmar (once Burma) promotes itself as "The Golden Land". True or False?
12. The Nile is the longest river in the world. True or False?
13. China's legendary waterway is the Ayeyarwady River. True or False?
14. Goway has a new program where you can "live like a local" in Australia, New Zealand and the Cook Islands. True or False?
15. New Zealand claims Wellington is the "coolest capital city in the world". True or False?
16. Iguassu Falls in South America can be viewed from both Brazil and Peru. True or False?

All questions relate to articles in this edition of Globetrotting Magazine. We invite you to complete the interactive version of this quiz online at [www.goglobetrotting.com](http://www.goglobetrotting.com). All correct entries will be eligible to win a \$250 Goway Travel Voucher

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**\$250 Goway Travel Voucher winners**

- **A. Yukit** of Fort McMurray identified the "Where in the World" photograph.
  - **V. Chiles** of Midland identified "What Country Am I?"
  - **S. Greenwood** of Thornhill correctly completed the Globetrotting Knowledge Quiz.
- We thank all participants and congratulate all winners.

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- GOOD LUCK!



1

**What Country am I ?**

2



Clue: "Where in the World" photographs are featured on Goway's websites and/or in Goway Travel Planners.



**Last Issue Answers**

In our last edition the mystery photograph above was Stonehenge in the U.K. The mystery country was Brazil.

**TESTIMONIALS FROM GOWAY GLOBETROTTERS**

**Third time is a charm!**

I've just finished the third trip with Goway. I've gone to the Maritimes, South Africa and recently India. All the trips have been phenomenal. Love my tour director and I follow her on all the trips. Goway takes care of everything and thinks of all the details. In each airport & train rides, we are met with a Goway representative to ensure we are taken care of. I love having a tour director on top of a tour guide. Accommodations, food & experiences have been awesome. I found out they also arrange custom trips for groups.

Jane Thorne



The Hebridean Sky Antarctic Expedition

**Antarctic Expedition**

If you are a lover of nature and are eager to do and see things that will change your life this is the trip for you. The knowledge, the friendships with people as well as animals that you will be introduced to will stay with you forever. Antarctica is nothing that you have ever experienced in your life before and it leaves you in awe, the silence, the undisturbed beauty is breathtaking, hard to describe to anyone that has not been there. It's an expedition that will challenge all your senses as well as your body and brain power. I was challenged in many ways. I loved the trip.

Elayne Ely

**Asia Trip March 2017**

Thanks to Goway Travel, our Asia trip in March was a great success. They were very patient in the many changes we made to perfect our tours. We had a wonderful time in Bangkok, Ko Samui, Phuket, Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Singapore. We recommend Goway.

FD

**Goway, best way.**

Our Goway Travel trip to Peru was wonderful. The agent did a fine job at answering my questions, booking everything, and keeping me up to date with new info. The itinerary itself was superb, everything was planned out to a T, including translators, baggage, etc. We felt very safe and taken care of the whole trip! Would definitely recommend for other travelers!

Jordan Konkel

**Two weeks in the Philippines**

We had heard of Goway but never saw anything about them until we looked at tours in the Philippines online. They had very low price packages described on the web site, but we learned that you can upgrade anything you like. We went on an 8 day package called "Essential Philippines" that was great - wonderful hotels and sightseeing tours on four islands. However, we needed two more days in Cebu - our only complaint. (It was impossible to do all the things that were planned in our one day there.) Our second package to the island of Boracal was nice, but we didn't stay in the best area, El Nido, the place that makes the Boracal experience so popular. We stayed at a nice resort but the swimming in the ocean was dangerous, so we swam in the beautiful pool instead. We enjoyed the underground river trip especially.

Carol Desmond

**Fantastic trip to New Zealand**

Our trip to New Zealand was fantastic. This is a gorgeous country... very verdant pastures, beautiful mountains, water everywhere and the best food ever!!! Goway travel was instrumental in making our trip such a wonderful success. Their knowledge of the country and its unique culture, enabled us to have a diverse experience, both with activities and relaxation. We particularly enjoyed the majesty of Milford Sound (we will do Doubtful Sound next time), the fabulous steamboat ride and lunch at Walter Peak sheep ranch outside Queenstown. The Te Papa museum in Wellington, our mountain hike in Mt Maunganui, kayaking in the Coromandels, our afternoon bush to beach tour in Auckland and of course visiting Hobbiton!!! Goway was also able to squeeze in so much more (yeah... wine tasting) without making it exhausting, and is a real asset to anyone planning to trip to New Zealand.

Ann Kirby



The Zambezi Queen

**The Galapagos Islands Should be on Everyone's Bucket List!**

Goway Travel helped me plan and book a trip to the Galapagos Islands, which are incredible. My hotel accommodations in Quito (Hotel Patio Andaluz) and Guayaquil (Oro Verde) were excellent. The ship on which I spent 7 nights, the Galapagos Legend, was wonderful; a comfortable cabin, excellent food, a great crew and very knowledgeable guides. My experience with Goway was positive from the start. I will use Goway again in the future.

Deborah Faye Talker

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 from CA \$15 809



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 Departures: **2018** - 23Feb, 28Sep  
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**CRADLE OF THE INCAS**



**9 Days**  
 Departures: **2017** - 12Oct,  
**2018** - 22Feb, 14Jun, 11Oct  
 from CA \$5299



**SAMBA, TANGO, & WATERFALLS**



**9 Days**  
 Departures: **2017** - 4Oct,  
**2018** - 14Feb, 6Jun, 3Oct  
 from CA \$7199



**SIGNATURE SOUTH AMERICA**



**17 Days**  
 Departures: **2017** - 4Oct  
**2018** - 14Feb, 6Jun, 3Oct  
 from CA \$12 299



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