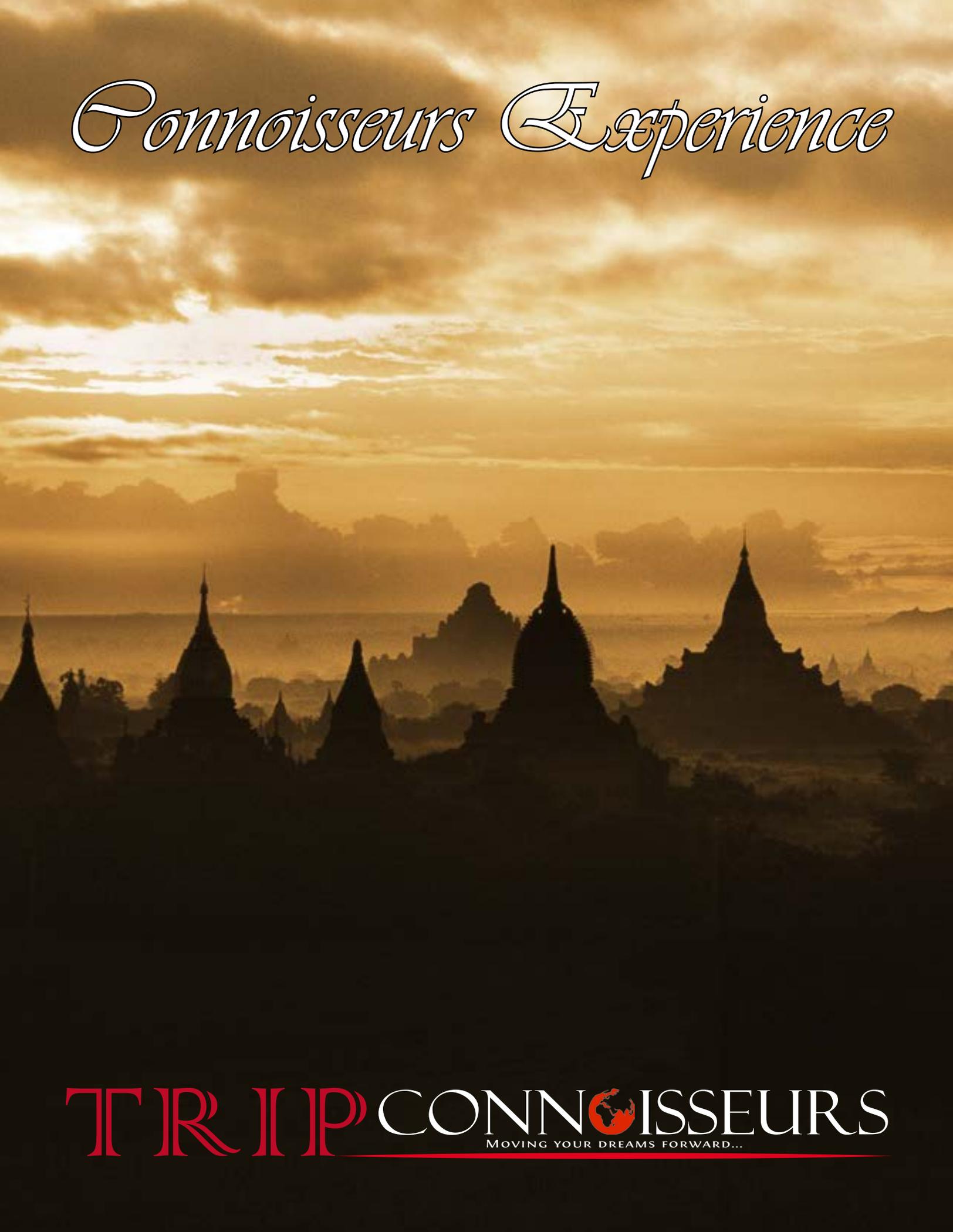


Connoisseurs Experience



TRIP CONNOISSEURS
MOVING YOUR DREAMS FORWARD...

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It also weaves together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale.

The **2018 Connoisseurs Experience** includes 17 unique itineraries centred around exotic destinations, authentic events, local festivals, wilderness and wildlife, and unique cultural encounters. As always, our Connoisseurs Experience features boutique, superior or deluxe accommodations, comprehensive sightseeing and special visits.

Many of these departures are accompanied and escorted by our own or affiliated experts, bringing in profound depth of knowledge and unique insights to enhance your travel experience. This is not just a tour, it is an intimate and personal experience.

Our Connoisseurs Experience enables you to meet fellow travellers with a diverse range of interests, experiences and professional occupations and to make new connections and new friends in some of the most memorable places on our planet.



2018 CONNOISSEURS EXPERIENCES at a *Glance*

Departure	Days	Destination	Page	Price From
Dec 21, 2017 - Jan 3, 2018	14 Days	<i>Aromas of Peru and Colombia</i>	4 - 8	USD \$3595 CAD \$4595
Jan 21, 2018 - Jan 27, 2018	7 Days	<i>Kenya Wildlife Safari in Style</i>	9 - 11	USD \$2300 CAD \$2950
Feb 4, 2018 - Feb 17, 2018	14 Days	<i>Montage of Indochina</i>	12 - 16	USD \$2550 CAD \$3250
Feb 23, 2018 - Mar 6, 2018	12 Days	<i>India Yoga Sojourns</i>	17 - 21	USD \$2995 CAD \$3795
Mar 10, 2018 - Mar 18, 2018	9 Days	<i>Natural Wonders of Galápagos Islands</i>	22 - 24	USD \$2895 CAD \$3695
Apr 1, 2018 - Apr 14, 2018	14 Days	<i>Zen, Tea, Gardens of Japan & China</i>	25 - 29	USD \$4500 CAD \$5600
May 15, 2018 - May 27, 2018	13 Days	<i>Rhapsody of East Europe</i>	30 - 34	USD \$3250 CAD \$4125
Jun 3, 2018 - Jun 8, 2018	6 Days	<i>Rocky Mountaineer</i>	35 - 37	USD \$3675 CAD \$4350
Jun 17, 2018 - Jun 24, 2018	8 Days	<i>The Art of Living in Tuscany</i>	38 - 40	USD \$2795 CAD \$3550
Jul 15, 2018 - Aug 1, 2018	18 Days	<i>Waterways of Russia & Jewels of Baltic</i>	41 - 45	USD \$3450 CAD \$4375
Jul 31, 2018 - Aug 14, 2018	15 Days	<i>Tibet Culture Interlude</i>	46 - 50	USD \$4050 CAD \$5150
Aug 15, 2018 - Aug 26, 2018	12 Days	<i>Treasures of Balkan</i>	51 - 55	USD \$3395 CAD \$4300
Sep 1, 2018 - Sep 11, 2018	11 Days	<i>South Africa Revealed</i>	56 - 60	USD \$3895 CAD \$4950
Oct 7, 2018 - Oct 20, 2018	14 Days	<i>Himalayan Kingdoms of Nepal & Bhutan</i>	61 - 65	USD \$4095 CAD \$5250
Nov 14, 2018 - Nov 25, 2018	12 Days	<i>Mysterious Myanmar</i>	66 - 70	USD \$2550 CAD \$3250
Nov 23, 2018 - Dec 8, 2018	16 Days	<i>Essence of the Orient</i>	71 - 75	USD \$2850 CAD \$3650
Dec 3, 2018 - Dec 15, 2018	13 Days	<i>Arctic Glass Igloo & Christmas Markets</i>	76 - 80	USD \$4550 CAD \$5800

PLEASE NOTE: All prices listed above are land/cruise only, per person, double occupancy, unless otherwise specified. International and domestic flights are quoted separately.



Aromas of Peru & Colombia

Lima - Cusco - Machu Picchu - Sacred Valley
Bogota - Zipaquirá - Coffee Region

December 21, 2017 - January 3, 2018



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Aromas of Peru & Colombia

Spend this Christmas in the Peruvian Andes and New Year in Colombia's Coffee Triangle; the rich traditions and lively atmosphere assure you a singular and unforgettable experience!

Christmas in the Peruvian Andes

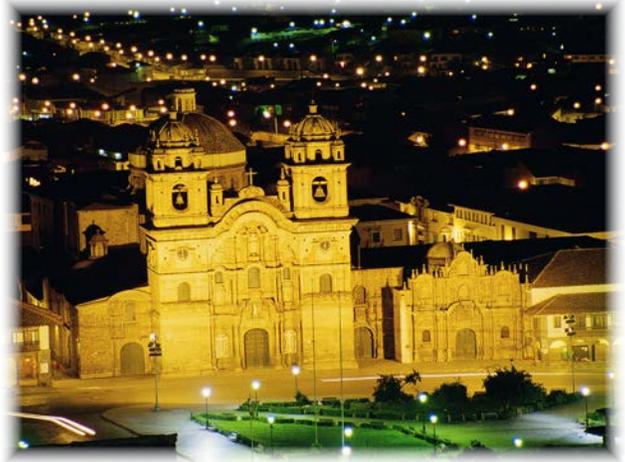
Syncretism, Tradition, and Nostalgia

The celebration of Christmas in the Inca Imperial City of Cusco is full of ancient traditions, expressed by a vibrant and dynamic culture that is inherited through the syncretism of indigenous Andean and Spanish Catholic customs.

Throughout December, Cusco is beautified by lights and Christmas décor. The Plaza de Armas features people with exaggerated long necks, adorned with gold and silver

leafing art that is characteristic of the well-known Mendivil family and in the Koricancha, much larger and highlights Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus with Andean features and clothing.

On December 24th, 2017, thousands of people gather at the Plaza de Armas to visit Santurantikuy - a popular art fair where artisans from Cusco and neighbouring towns sell their delightful crafts. Christmas Eve, awaiting the arrival of "el Niño Jesus," or "Niño Manuelito," as he is called by native Cusqueño, is greeted by the Midnight Mass, a traditional chicken stew and toasts with hugs and wishes of love and peace.



Love Thy Coffee

Colombia is synonymous with coffee!

It might seem pretentious, but it's possible to find true love in Colombia. In the land of coffee, it couldn't be any other way.

Savour the aromatic brew at Bogota's Amor Perfecto, in a two-hour tasting session, sample five coffee varieties prepared by baristas who are experts in this brand of roaster and learn about the preparation methods.

Welcome the 2018 New Year in the Coffee Region with a cup of tinto, the flavour, strong and bold, flowed directly from beans, not a layer of burned toasting. Paper cup is nowhere to be found, nobody is taking their coffee to go. Everyone is just sitting, sipping and enjoying.

Visit a coffee plantation and we see the whole process from seedling to coffee cup and every part in between. We learn about the trials and tribulations that face the region's coffee growers and how their whole way of life is affected by this simple bean. This region's local economy forms a country's culture identity! Your life as a coffee drinker will never be the same once you have tasted the elixir of life from Colombia.



AT A GLANCE

“What matters in life is not what happens to you, but what you remember and how you remember it.”

Gabriel García Márquez (Colombian Nobel Prize winner for literature)

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Thu Dec 21 2017	Arrive in Lima
Arrive Lima transfer to Kyoto		
Day 2	Fri Dec 22 2017	Lima Sightseeing
Visit the Cathedral of Lima, located at Plaza de Armas, and Plaza Mayor		
Day 3	Sat Dec 23 2017	Lima - Cusco
Visit Miraflores and San Isidro, Larco Herrera museum. Fly to Cusco.		
Day 4	Sun Dec 24 2017	Cusco Sightseeing
Fortress of Sacsayhuamán, Santurantikuy fair, Christmas Dinner		
Day 5	Mon Dec 25 2017	Cusco - Machu Picchu
Visit Machu Picchu ruins, main plaza, the Temple of Three Windows.		
Day 6	Tue Dec 26 2017	Machu Picchu - Sacred Valley
Machu Picchu citadel for a second visit and train to Sacred Valley.		
Day 7	Wed Dec 27 2017	Sacred Valley Sightseeing
Visit Ollantaytambo, drive to Urubamba and visit the main square.		
Day 8	Thu Dec 28 2017	Sacred Valley - Bogota
Visit Pisac Indian market, Awanacancha, Tambomachay. Fly to Bogota.		
Day 9	Fri Dec 29 2017	Bogota Sightseeing
Visit Gold Museum, Fernando Botero Museum, Walk “La Candelaria”		
Day 10	Sat Dec 30 2017	Bogota Sightseeing
Visit underground salt cathedral, scenic Town Cajica		
Day 11	Sun Dec 31 2017	Bogota - Armenia
Coffee Tasting at Amor Perfecto, flight to Armenia, Coffee Region		
Day 12	Mon Jan 1 2018	Armenia Sightseeing
Visit Finca Combia as a good start of the New Year.		
Day 13	Tue Jan 2 2018	Armenia Sightseeing
Visit Filandia, Cocora Valley, Salento, the oldest village of this region.		
Day 14	Wed Jan 3 2018	Armenia - Bogota - Home
Fly to Bogotá and international connection		

PRICING

(Land only)

	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$3595	\$4595	\$3850	\$4895
Single Supplement	\$1100	\$1450	\$1100	\$1450
Intertour Airfare from	USD \$600 CAD \$760 including taxes			
	Lima - Cusco - Bogota - Armenia - Bogota			



HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Welcome Dinner at **Astrid y Gastón**, ranked top 7 of Latin America’s Best Restaurants.
- Celebrate Christmas in one of the world’s most important destinations, Cusco and Machu Picchu.
- Two times visit of Machu Picchu, enable ample time to visit different sides of the citadels.
- Explore less visited Urubamba and the Village of Yucay in the Sacred Valley.
- Visit famous Gold Museum and Botero Museum in Bogota.
- Savor the aromatic brew in a tasting session, sampling five coffee varieties prepared by baristas.
- Visit the famous underground salt cathedral, scenic town of Cajica, known as “The Stone Fortress”.
- Lunch at Prudencia in an old plaster house, try a “arepa” (cornbread).
- Experience the nuances of the country’s famed coffee bean during a private tour in Armenia.
- New Years Dinner at **El Solar**, Colombian food at the Coffee Triangle.



ITINERARY

Dec 21, 2017 Arrival in Lima, Welcome to Peru!

Upon arrival, you will be met and welcomed by our representative and transferred to the hotel.

Casa Andina Private Collection Miraflores

Dec 22, 2017 Lima city tour (B/D)

Morning is free to catch a bit more sleep.

In the afternoon, enjoy a city tour in downtown. Visit the Cathedral of Lima, located at Plaza de Armas, and Plaza Mayor, decorated with a bronze fountain. A few blocks away stands the Convent of San Francisco, which dates from the 17th century.



Welcome Dinner at Astrid & Gastón

No.7 on Latin America's best 50 restaurants and World's #33 in 2017. Enjoy a degustation of 16 different dishes, the famous "Alturas Masters", which will appeal all your senses. After the meal you will be brought back to your hotel.

Dec 23, 2017 Flight Lima / Cusco (B/L)

This morning, drive through the modern quarters of Miraflores and San Isidro before visit the fascinating Larco Herrera museum.

Afterwards, continue to the traditional neighborhood of Pueblo Libre to have lunch in a typical tavern, "El Bolivariano". This lunch includes the demonstration of how to prepare a Pisco Sour, the national aperitif you probably will enjoy several times in the next days.

Transfer to the airport and fly to Cusco and on arrival, transfer to the hotel and have the rest of the day free at leisure.

Hotel El Mercado

Dec 24, 2017 Cusco (B/L/D)

Enjoy the best view of the city of Cusco from atop Cerro Pukamayo (Red Peak), a natural scenic overlook from which the outstretched arms of Cristo Blanco, a massive white statue of Christ, embrace the city in a benevolent gesture. We will then visit nearby Fortress of Sacsayhuamán, a colossal structure of enormous stones, carved and fitted together with incredible precision. As we return to the lower part of the city, you will stop off at the Mercado de San Pedro (Market of St. Peter), which being the city's main street market, will give you an opportunity to get to know the products of Cusco, overwhelming you with the sights, aromas, tastes, and colors of the region.

Just a few blocks away, we will discover one of the most impressive buildings of Incan Cusco: the Korikancha (the Golden Temple)—a temple dedicated to the worship of the Sun God, whose interior walls were said to have been covered in gold. We will visit the Cathedral and admire its exquisite vestibules and priceless paintings from the Cusco School of the 17th and 18th centuries and a stroll through the Plaza de Armas (Main Square), now transformed by local artisans, sculptors and religious image makers to show their finest work in this one of a kind special fair every year. The **Santurantikuy** fair is Cusco's spirit, tradition, culture, art and devotion.

Enjoy an amazing Peruvian Christmas Dinner.

Christmas Eve in Cusco is greeted by the Midnight Mass, hugs and wishes of love and peace at midnight, this Imperial City will be light up with fireworks! **Merry Christmas!**

Dec 25, 2017 Cusco - Machu Picchu (B/L/D)

This morning, board the **Vistadome** train and travel to Aguas Calientes, on Arrival, shuttle bus to the Machu Picchu ruins, here we learn about its discovery and the different theories on how and why it was built, visiting the main plaza, the Temple of Three Windows, the circular tower, the sacred sun dial and the burial grounds.

Lunch at the Cafe Inkaterra.

After the visit, shuttle bus down to Aguas Calientes and a short walk to our hotel.

Hotel El Mapi Machu Picchu



Dec 26, 2017 Machu Picchu - Sacred Valley (B/D)

Return to the Machu Picchu citadel for a second visit to explore with your guide. You will have the opportunity to visit different sides of the citadels and at leisure time to take amazing photos.

Return to train station and travel by **Vistadome** to Ollantaytambo and on arrival, transfer to your hotel in **Sacred Valley**.

Hotel Casa Andina Premium Valle

Dec 27, 2017 Sacred Valley excursion (B/D)

Today we will visit Ollantaytambo, one of the last remaining Incan towns which was once fiercely guarded by a massive fortress. Discover the large archeological complex of what used to serve as a wayside inn for royal delegations on long journeys.

At a local Chicheria, we will enjoy *chicha*, the famous traditional Andean drink made of germinated corn.



Drive to Urubamba and visit the main square that is attractively framed by a twin-towered colonial church and pisonay trees, followed by one or two beautiful home workshops in town.

Continue to Yucay, a pleasant and quiet little village with extraordinary views of the surrounding countryside. There are many Inca buildings, among which the Sayri Túpac Inca Palace, built of stone and adobe walls decorated in high and low relief.



Dec 28, 2017 Sacred Valley - Cusco - Bogota (B/L)

This morning, we visit Pisac and its famous Indian market, a delightful place where we will browse for the goodies. Continue to Awanacancha where we appreciate the beauty of the Peruvian Andes.

Visit Tambomachay, its canals and waterfalls that show the progress of the Inca architects and hydraulic engineers before arrive at Cusco airport for our flight to Bogota.

Reception at Bogotá Airport and transfer to the hotel.

Hotel De la Opera or similar

Dec 29, 2017 Bogotá (B/L)

Our hotel is located in downtown Bogotá, so it's only a few minutes walk to the famous Gold Museum. Imagine seven whole floors of gold, Museo del Oro doesn't just boast one of the most extensive collections of its kind in the world, it's also a veritable feast for the eyes and the best way to kick off a tour of the city.

Next, we visit the Botero Museum, a permanent exhibition of works or art by Fernando Botero, Colombia's most famous artist who's "oversized" art is instantly recognisable. The museum also houses work by other world famous artists such as Dali, Monet and Van Gogh.

It's time for lunch! Prudencia is the most highly recommended restaurant in the area. Mario Rosero and Meghan Flanigan prepare dishes inspired by home cooking all around the world – a delightful place where there's no set menu, but instead appetizing complete menus that come with succulent desserts, change week to week and never repeat. It's also a great option for vegetarians.

Walking through the old city is the perfect way to wrap up the rest of the day. From the Plaza Bolivar, the focal point of this historic part of the city, we see several important Colonial and Republican style buildings including the Palace of Justice and Colombian Congress, they embrace the square infusing it with history and tales of old. Wander the streets of La Candelaria away from the main square and exploring other parts of this historic hub. Our guide will not only explain the history of Bogota but also the intricacies of current Colombian culture and daily life.



Dec. 30, 2017 Bogotá (B/L)

Drive to the small colonial town of Zipaquirá and see the Salt Cathedral, where religious sculptures and cavernous pools are hewn from salt mine tunnels 590 feet under the Halite Mountains. Tour the city's historic main plaza, continuing to scenic Cajica, a delightful town nicknamed "The Stone Fortress." Enjoy a traditional lunch and panoramic views; then return to Bogotá, stopping to visit the town of Usaquen, known for its Spanish colonial style of architecture.

On your way back to Bogotá, stop at one of the street food restaurants and try a "arepa" (cornbread). If the weather allows it you will have an amazing view over the gigant metropolis driving down the mountains.

Dec. 31, 2017 Bogotá-Armenia (B)

The morning is at leisure for you to visit some of well preserved churches that can be found around this historic neighbourhood, embody the spirit of the city's colonial past.

Pick up from the hotel, we will enjoy a Coffee Tasting at Amor Perfecto, located in the neighborhood of Chapinero. Enjoy delicious coffee and cappuccino from the brand of the same name, as well as tasting sessions. The Huila prepared in a siphon (a temptation for any coffee enthusiasts) is not to be missed. But the most interesting option is a two-hour experience sampling five coffee varieties prepared by baristas who are experts in this brand of roaster and learning about the preparation methods.

Afterwards, transfer to Bogotá Airport and fly to Armenia, Colombia's Coffee Triangle, recently named a UNESCO World Heritage Site

On arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Hotel Isa Victory Hotel Boutique

Jan. 01, 2018 Armenia (B/D) Happy New Year!

Visit a coffee finca as a good start of the New Year. Colombia is synonymous with Coffee.

The visit to Finca Combia and learn about the process of the seed; from planting and roasting to tasting. Walk through lush plantations, reveal the secrets of the production process, and expand your palate with the help of local experts who have passed down the fine art of coffee tasting.



Enjoy the breath-taking mountain scenery and the innate kindness of its people. Return to the hotel and rest of the day is free at leisure.

Happy New Years Dinner at El Solar

Jan. 02, 2018 Armenia (B/L)

Drive through the region of Quindío; a beautiful landscape will surround you. The first stop will be Filandia, known for its traditional architecture, handicrafts and innovative kitchen. Walk around the small streets and learn more about the work of the handicrafts. Take a cup of coffee on the main square and observe the hustle and bustle of the people. Drive through the beautiful landscape arriving in the Cocora Valley. Here you will find the highest palm tree of the world, the Palma de Cera. Leaving the valley, you reach Salento, the oldest village of this region. You have time to walk through the small streets with its colourful balconies and small shops in Camino Real.

Jan. 03, 2018 Armenia-Bogotá (B)

At the scheduled time, transfer to the airport for you flight to Bogotá and international connection or take our extension to Cartagena.



Kenya Wildlife Safari in Style

**Nairobi - Aberdare National Park – Mt. Kenya
Lake Nakuru National Park - Maasai Mara National Reserve**

January 21 - January 27, 2018



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Kenya Wildlife Safari in Style

January is a lovely time to visit Kenya. With clear hot days and little rain, game viewing is at its peak. This is also the start of the calving season.

Kenya Wildlife Safari in Style is meticulously crafted for travellers whose priority is big game viewing. January is a month that sees the majority of 'Safari Africa' entering its rainy 'Green Season'. Animals move with the start of the rain, dispersing over huge areas in search of fresh grazing, knowing that waterholes will be everywhere.

Begin in Northern Frontier District, an extraordinarily wildlife-rich area in the shadow of peacockish Mount Kenya, we see some of Kenya's finest and vastest wildlife reserves. In Masai Mara, we track game with Maasai guides and enjoy sunset in camp, listening for the thunderclap roar of lions in the bush.

Moments in Kenya stick with us, no matter how old we are, no matter how many award-winning nature programs we've seen. This trip brings you an unforgettable experience of the "Safari Africa's essence.

AT A GLANCE

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Sun Jan 21 2018	Nairobi
Arrival Nairobi, Safari Briefing, Welcome Dinner		
Day 2	Mon Jan 22 2018	Aberdare - Ark
Aberdare National Park - Ark (Tree hotel)		
Day 3	Tue Jan 23 2018	Fairmont Mt Kenya
Fairmont Mt. Kenya Safari Club		
Day 4	Wed Jan 24 2018	Lake Nakuru
Lake Nakuru National Park Game Drive		
Day 5	Thu Jan 25 2018	Maasai Mara Reserve
Maasai Mara National Reserve Game Drives		
Day 6	Fri Jan 26 2018	Maasai Mara Reserve
Maasai Mara National Reserve Game Drives		
Day 7	Sat Jan 27 2018	Maasai Mara - Nairobi
Maasai Mara - Nairobi - Home		

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Visit the Aberdare National Park with an overnight stay at The Ark.
- See the pink flamingos in Lake Nakuru National Park.
- View incredible wildlife in the famed Masai Mara with all National Park entry fee included.
- Transport and game drives using 4 x 4 Land Cruiser with pop-up roof chauffeured and serviced by an experienced English speaking driver guide.
- Complimentary, unlimited supply of bottled mineral drinking water in the safari vehicle while on safari.



PRICING (Land only)	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$2300	\$2950	\$2500	\$3225
Single Supplement	\$695	\$900	\$695	\$900
Optional Balloon Safari in Masai Mara: US\$.450.00 per person.				



ITINERARY

Jan 21, 2018 Nairobi Jambo – Karibu! (D)

Our representative will meet you upon arrival at the Jomo Kenyatta International airport. You will then be transferred to the Royal Orchid Hotel. Check in, relax and your guide will help you to orientate yourself on places to visit within Nairobi. Enjoy a Safari Briefing followed by Welcome Dinner.

Royal Orchid Hotel or similar

Jan 22, 2018 Aberdare National Park – The Ark (B/L/D)

You will be picked up from the hotel and drive to the Aberdares region, a beautiful mountain range in the central highlands of Kenya to the Ark Lodge (Tree House). The Ark is located at 1800 meters above sea level on the Aberdare Ranges, situated in the heart of the Aberdare National Park, iconic and yet quicky, overlooks a floodlit waterhole and salt lick, which attracts a host of awesome wildlife.



Modeled after Noah’s Ark, the Ark has four viewing decks with balconies and lounges to provide superb game viewing from the comfort of the lodge. The animals come to you!

Ark (Tree hotel) or similar

(Children under 7 years are not allowed)

Jan 23, 2018 Mt. Kenya Safari Club (B/L/D)

You will be transferred to Nanyuki – Fairmont Mt. Kenya Safari Club. Upon arrival at the Fairmont Mt. Kenya Safari Club, a world famous retreat in the shadow of Mt. Kenya. The resort shares its delightful history and beautiful grounds with you; it was once the private hunting lodge and retreat of actor William Holden.

Fairmont Mt. Kenya Safari Club



Jan 24, 2018 Lake Nakuru National Park (B/L/D)

After breakfast, you will head to Lake Nakuru National Park which is regarded by avid birders’ as the greatest world ornithological spectacle on the Earth. Have lunch before participating in an afternoon game drive.

Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge or similar



Jan 25, 2018 Maasai Mara Game Reserve (B/L/D)

Have breakfast, then drive to Masai Mara Game Reserve, the unspoiled Savannah. Enjoy lunch upon arrival followed by your first thrilling afternoon game drive to this immense open grassland dotted with flat-topped acacia trees.

Keekorok Lodge or similar

Jan 26, 2018 Maasai Mara National Reserve (B/L/D)

After breakfast, leave for a full day game drive with picnic lunch at the Mara river migration site area. The day will be spent game viewing in Kenya’s finest wildlife park, the Masai Mara National Reserve.

Overnight: Keekorok Lodge or similar



Jan 27, 2018 Maasai Mara – Nairobi – Home (B/L)

This morning we enjoy our breakfast then check-out. We then depart back to Nairobi and arrival by lunch time. Our guide driver will transfer you to the Carnivore restaurant for lunch then on to the Jomo Kenyatta International airport for your home bound flight.



Montage of Indochina

Hanoi - Halong Bay - Luang Prabang (Laos)
Siem Reap (Cambodia) - Danang - Hoi An (Vietnam)

February 4, 2018 - February 17, 2018



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Montage of Indochina

Delve into an ancient and mysterious world of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, where every day and everywhere, a brand new picture of Indochina is shuffled.

Experience the exotic beauty and extraordinary history of Indochina as we journey through bustling cities and traditional villages. Explore gold-tipped Buddhist temples and discover how Buddhism that guide the spirituality, observe the achievements, challengers and impacts of economic reforms to these unique nations.

Your time spent in Hanoi is always fondly remembered. Majestic architecture, tree-lined boulevards, remarkable cuisine and a compelling history result in extraordinary journeys. Charming alleyways lead to coffee shops and wine bars where locals reflect on their day and visitors meld into the daily activities, watching the world pass by.

Halong Bay is heart-achingly beautiful. Dramatic, rugged karsts rise from the sea, encased by the still waters of a vast bay, creating its own mystical landscape.



Laos allows the most exquisite experiences and encounters. It's a place where untouched natural beauty, colonial charm, ancient wonders and kind people create beloved memories. Luang Prabang is the former capital of Laos and is still considered as its beating spiritual heart. The town's smart palm-lined riverbanks and abundant golden stupas combine to form the picture-postcard view of South-east Asian town of yesteryear. Visit Luang Prabang for its medley of stunning temples nestled within a picturesque landscape and crowned with resplendent architecture, and readily available salivating cuisine.

Cambodia is a land where the arts are at their most colourful and creativity oozing from every pore; from the magical allure and etchings that adorn the stunning Angkor Temples, to quirky boutique hotels and historic stories told through the Apsara dancers.

We spend 3 nights in Siem Reap, a sultry city that seduces every visitor with its magnificent temple ruins, charming restaurants, laid-back pathways along meandering rivers and overall endearing atmosphere.



We will celebrate the 2018 Lunar New Year in peaceful Hoi An, a historic gem in Vietnam. Period architecture remains well preserved for every visitor to explore and appreciate. A blend of Vietnamese design with Chinese and Japanese highlights create a charming concoction of architectural wonders. A stroll through the town is akin to taking a walk through history itself. The UNESCO recognized town harbours myriad alleys with numerous temples and ancient homes.



AT A GLANCE

“The art of dwelling happily in the present moment is the practice most needed in our time.”

Thieh Nhat Harh (Vietnamese Buddhist monk and peace activist)

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Sun Feb 4	2018	Arrival in Hanoi
Arrive Hanoi and transfer to hotel			
Day 2	Mon Feb 5	2018	Hanoi Sightseeing
Full day Hanoi city tour, Welcome dinner tonight.			
Day 3	Tue Feb 6	2018	Hanoi Sightseeing
Hanoi Street food and Market Visit, Water Puppet Show			
Day 4	Wed Feb 7	2018	Cruising Halong Bay
Cruise Halong Bay aboard Paradise Luxury Cruise			
Day 5	Thu Feb 8	2018	Hanoi - Luang Prabang
Fly Hanoi to Luang Prabang, Enjoy sunset at Mount Phousi.			
Day 6	Fri Feb 9	2018	Luang Prabang Tour
Visit Wat Xieng Thong, Excursion by boat to Pak Ou Caves			
Day 7	Sat Feb 10	2018	Luang Prabang Tour
Visit the National Museum, Wat Mai and night market.			
Day 8	Sun Feb 11	2018	Fly to Siem Reap
Give alms to the monks, fly to Siem Reap and tour Angkor Wat			
Day 9	Mon Feb 12	2018	Siem Reap Sightseeing
Full day visit the Angkor Temple complex, dinner and Show.			
Day 10	Tue Feb 13	2018	Siem Reap Sightseeing
Morning at leisure. Visit Phnom Krom, sunset and picnic			
Day 11	Wed Feb 14	2018	Siem Reap - Danang
Fly to Danang and visit Cham Museum, and tour of Hoi An			
Day 12	Thu Feb 15	2018	Hoi An Sightseeing
A full day at leisure, explore this UNESCO World Heritage Town			
Day 13	Fri Feb 16	2018	Hoi An at leisure
Cooking Class at the Red Bridge Restaurant with market visit			
Day 14	Sat Feb 17	2018	Danang - Home
Transfer to the airport for departure.			

PRICING (Land only)	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$2550	\$3250	\$2750	\$3495
Single Supplement	\$1425	\$1800	\$1425	\$1800
Intertour Air from	USD \$650 CAD \$830 including taxes			

Hanoi - Luang Prabang - Siem Reap - Danang

Tourist Visas are required for visit Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.



HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Experience the legendary hospitality of Indochina by lodging in boutique hotels for their colonial-era grace.
- Wander amid the French colonial architecture and the old quarter's hidden alleys of Hanoi.
- Welcome Dinner at **Press Club Restaurant**, savouring the bounty of Vietnam.
- Cruise among the fantastic, skyscrapery limestone karsts of Halong Bay aboard a junk for overnight.
- Visit Luang Prabang's atmospheric temples, tranquil streets, markets, delightful blend of architecture.
- Witness the 'Tak Bat', monks collect alms, a deep-rooted element of Lao's exquisitely culture.
- Explore the remarkable complex of temples at the Angkor Wat, one of humanity's greatest achievements.
- Drive out through the countryside enjoy a picnic while watching sunset over Tonle Sap Lake.
- Stroll through the antiquated Hoi An, the UNESCO recognized town.
- Celebration of Lunar New Years, Year of Dog in Hoi An.
- Cooking Class farewell dinner at **Red Bridge Restaurant**.



ITINERARY

Feb 4, 2018 **Arrival in Hanoi, Welcome to Vietnam!**

Upon arrival in Hanoi, you will be greeted by our tour guide then transfer to hotel. The balance of the day is free at leisure.

Apricot Hotel Hanoi or similar

Feb 5, 2018 **Hanoi (B/D)**

Hanoi is noisy, busy and motorbike-clogged but it's still a joy to experience the serene views, street-food scene and culture. Today we visit the Temple of Literature, one of the best-preserved examples of traditional Vietnamese architecture and the site of Vietnam's first university, Ngoc Son Temple, Rising Sun bridge, Nha Tho Cathedral, Hoa Lo Prison aka "The Hanoi Hilton, and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum was recommended because it is the only place in Hanoi where you can take pictures of soldiers and not worry about losing your camera in the process.

During the tour, we will have breaks and try the local coffee, as there is no lack of coffee shops in Hanoi offering up many java varieties, different kinds of iced and hot blends.

Tonight, enjoy a **Welcome Dinner at Press Club Restaurant**

After dinner, take a short, pleasant walk along the Hoan Kiem Lake back to your hotel.



Feb 6, 2018 **Hanoi (B/L)**

This morning, visit the bustling Chau Long market located just off of Truc Bach Lake. Walk through the narrow and busy passages with a crowd of vendors' stores displaying all sorts of colourful groceries and foodstuffs and feel the energy in the air with the excitement from the locals who are working on the ingredients for their upcoming meals at home. Twist the way through the crowd to find some interesting street food stops. There will be the tasty rice vermicelli with grilled pork patties (bun cha) with the famous deep fried Vietnamese spring roll. Continue your culinary exploration with some creative variations of the popular "pho". Next, go to an old café that has been handed down through a few generations to enjoy the aroma of the coffee made with special family brewing technique.

Afternoon is free at leisure or to join an optional cooking class.

Tonight, enjoy a Water Puppet Show, a fantastic art form originating in northern Vietnam, best seen in Hanoi.

Feb 7, 2018 **Hanoi - Halong Bay (B/L/D)**

This morning, travel by road from Hanoi to Halong and on arrival, board the Paradise Halong Cruise.

Have a cold welcome drink - cruise briefing, safety instructions and check into your cabin. Enjoy lunch while the cruise sails passing by magnificent sceneries of the World Heritage site.

In the afternoon, explore Sung Sot cave, hiking up and down steps to the magnificent limestone formations of the biggest and most marvellous cave in Halong bay or enjoy kayaking (with supplement) around Luon cave area. Back to the vessel and participate in cooking demonstration with cruise's chef. **Dinner on board Paradise Halong Cruise.**

Feb 8, 2018 **Halong Bay - Hanoi - Luang Prabang (B/L)**

Join an early morning Tai Chi session on the sundeck while tea, coffee and assorted pastries are being served. Relax on board or go visit Titov island. Back on board enjoy breakfast while the cruise sails back to pier, check out and return by vehicle to Hanoi airport where we will fly to Luang Prabang.

Welcome to Laos! On arrival in Luang Prabang, you will be met by a local guide and transferred from the airport to your hotel.

Luangprabang View Hotel

Feb 9, 2018 **Luang Prabang ~ Pak Ou Caves (B/L)**

After breakfast, visit Wat Xieng Thong which is often described as Luang Prabang's most beautiful temple. Continue to the river to begin a relaxing Mekong River trip to visit the sacred Pak Ou Buddha Caves which overlooking the confluence of the Mekong and Ou Rivers from on high, have been home to many thousands of Buddha images that were placed here by local people since 16th century. After exploring the caves and lunch at a local restaurant nearby return to Luang Prabang by boat.

On arrival back in Luang Prabang visit the textile village of Ban Xang Khong, where traditional Laotian textiles are woven on wooden looms. If time and energy levels permit it may be possible to also visit some of the other handicraft villages around Luang Prabang town.

Climb 328 steps starting from the entrance on the opposite side of National Museum or 410 steps on the other side of Khan River to the small temples atop Phou Si, the 150m high hill which sits in the middle of the town, offering beautiful Sunset views over the temples and river.



Feb 10, 2018 **Luang Prabang (B/D)**

This morning visit some of these priceless monuments under UNESCO protection as a World Heritage Site. The National Museum (former Royal Palace), a modest but graceful building which combines traditional Lao and French beaux-arts motifs. One of the palace's most prized art pieces, is the Phrabang, cast of a gold, silver and bronze alloy. Continue on to visit nearby Wat Mai - the five-tiered roof of the wooden sim epitomizes the graceful Luang Prabang architectural style.

The afternoon is free for you to relax, shop or head out on your own to continue exploring the town or visit the local markets.

Enjoy Dinner tonight at **Tamarind Lao restaurant**, a great introduction to Luang Prabang style Laotian cuisine.

After dinner take a stroll around Luang Prabang's fabulous night market with your local guide, where there is an overwhelming selection of local handicrafts on offer.



Feb 11, 2018 Luang Prabang – Siem Reap(B)

There is an opportunity to start the day early with one of the most memorable sights of Luang Prabang. Every morning at dawn, the town's community of hundreds of monks make their way through the streets of Luang Prabang for tak bak, the gathering of morning alms in silence.

Rest of the morning is free. Your guide will pick you up at designated time and transfer you to the airport for flight to Siem Reap.

Upon arrival, we meet our guide and transfer to our hotel.

Tara Angkor Boutique Hotel or similar

Set off in the late afternoon for an exploration of the main temple of Angkor Wat, the architectural and artistic masterpiece of the Khmer Empire and one of the world's greatest travel destinations. Walk amid the moss-peppered cobbled pathways, gazing up at the intricately carved tower tops, or climb the steep, narrow temple steps that lead to wide courtyards.

Contemplate the temple's spiritual power while you walk in the cool shade of its hallways, stopping to take in the perfume of burning incense. Lose yourself in contemplation as you catch the rays of sun dancing off the bas-relief carvings at sunset, the chatter of monkeys reverberating off the temple walls.

Feb 12, 2018 Siem Reap (B/D)

Travel early this morning to Ta Prohm - entangled in the surrounding jungle foliage and one of the most romantic temples of the Angkor complex - as it is bathed in the golden light of sunrise. Explore the temple at leisure amid exotic bird calls, climb over its crumbling stonework overtaken by creeping strangler figs and take winning photographs before other visitors arrive for the day. Afterward, discover Angkor Thom, a heavily fortified city built in the 10th century by King Jayavarman VII; the mysterious Bayon Temple, with its 172 large-scale faces bearing beguiling smiles; and the Elephant and Leper King Terraces. All are breathtaking examples of masterful Khmer engineering and artistry.

After a traditional Khmer lunch, explore two less-visited areas: Banteay Srei, also known as the "Citadel of Women," and Banteay Samre, one of the most complete temple complexes of Angkor

Tonight, enjoy a Cambodia Circus at **Phare** performed by the famous young and talented artists from Battambang. This sophisticated hour-long show, mixing traditional and modern theatre, music, dance, acrobatics and juggling, contortion beautifully choreographed and energetically performed shows a story about Cambodian contemporary life in an ever changing society.

Feb 13, 2018 Siem Reap (B/D)

The morning is free for you to relax, shop or head out on your own to continue exploring the town or visit the local markets.

This afternoon, a scenic drive through the countryside to Phnom Krom where we see three towers here dedicated to Shiva Vishnu and Brahma respectively, and alongside, an active pagoda on the top of a splendid hill. We visit the pagoda and for those who want to, it is possible to receive a blessing from one of the monks. It is believed the traditional Khmer blessing ceremony cleanses bad spirits from the past and brings good luck for the coming year.

We end the day with a sunset picnic while enjoying views over Tonle Sap Lake.

Feb 14, 2018 Siem Reap - Danang - Hoi An(B)

Transfer to the airport for our flight to Danang where on arrival, we are met and tour the Cham Museum that houses the best collection of Cham art dating to the 4th century.



Continue to Hoi An and enjoy a walking tour through the cobbled streets, past low tile-roofed buildings, the bustling central market and the small harbour. We will pay visits to a Private House, Sa Huynh Museum, a handicraft workshop and the famous Japanese Covered Bridge Pagoda, first constructed by the Japanese community of Hoi An to link the town with the Chinese quarters across the stream.

Sunrise Premium Resort Hoi An or similar

Feb 15, 2018 Hoi An (B)

A full day at leisure for you to explore this UNESCO World Heritage town on your own or visit a tailor to have your cloth made. Set off on a sunset boat trip and get a glimpse of local life as the sun dips into waters punctuated by fishermen's traps.

Tonight is the lunar New Year's Eve, same time with Chinese New Year of other countries in Asia. Hoi An celebrates New Years Eve (Tet Nguyen Dan) grandly with lanterns, light boat parade and more. ...



Feb 16, 2018 Hoi An (B/D)

Another day is yours to enjoy the amenities of your hotel, including swimming pools; a serene spa; Golf and a coconut tree-lined beach.

We bid farewell and enjoy a Cooking Class with market visit at the **Red Bridge Restaurant**.

Cooking Class & Farewell Dinner at Red Bridge Restaurant.

Feb 17, 2018 Hoi An - Danang - Home (B)

Transfer to Danang airport for your onward flight.



India Yoga Sojourn

Delhi - Varanasi - Agra - Ranthambore - Jaipur

February 23, 2018 - March 6, 2018



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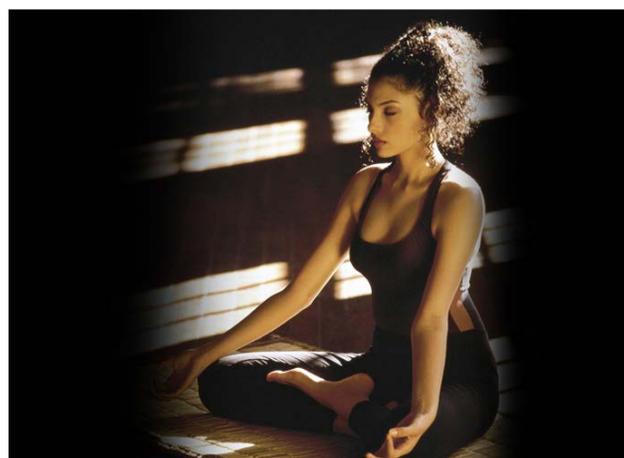


India Yoga Sojourn

Travelling to India, the land of yoga's origins is to enter a country that is in constant transformation, yet somehow timeless. For India, the science of Yoga is a way of life!

India is not just a piece of land. It is something more: it is a metaphor, poetry, something invisible but very tangible. It is vibrating with certain energy fields which no other country can claim. For almost thousands of years, thousands of people have reached to the ultimate explosion of consciousness. Their vibration is still alive, their impact is in the air; you just need certain perceptivity, a certain capacity to receive the invisible that surrounds this strange land.

This is quite strange that a civilization which goes back to the thousands of years has not produced luminaries in the fields of philosophy, science, arts. No Beethoven, Mozart, Einstein. The whole country, in miraculous way, was not interested in any objective research. To know the other has not been a goal here, but to know oneself. It has renounced everything for the single search, the search for the truth.



Yoga, the magical word for fitness today was perhaps born centuries back in India. Derived from the Sanskrit word yuj, Yoga means union of the Soul with Spirit. Yoga is an amalgamation of religion, philosophy and practices. It is a physical, mental and spiritual discipline which takes one to the path of moksha (liberation). The science of Yoga is a way of life for India.

Meditation, is when a person trains the mind to be more self-aware, to look inward, or to reach an altered state of consciousness. It's an ancient practice with a rich history in India, where both Buddhist and Hindu traditions use it.

Our Yoga and Meditation journey is a path of discovery, evolution, self-realization and attaining enlightenment. It is designed to recharge and rejuvenate your body and mind to make you feel refreshed, peaceful and inspire the Trip Connoisseurs in you!

This journey is to create a context where you are introduced to the intangible that has attracted many to India which cannot be captured in the camera but can be perceived with slight sensitivity. And in the process we are transformed as well. The true sense of wellness (in the dimension of body and mind) descends on us. At the end of the trip we ourselves will vouch for our ability to attain meditative space without any effort. Evoke your senses with a Yoga Retreat and vacation in India.





AT A GLANCE

“The one land that all men desire to see, and having once seen, by even a glimpse, would not give that glimpse for the shows of all the rest of the globe combined.” Mark Twain (American Author and Humorist)

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Fri	Feb 23	2018	Arrival in Delhi
Arrival in Delhi Welcome to India!				
Day 2	Sat	Feb 24	2018	Delhi Sightseeing
Visit Old Delhi, rickshaw ride, Akshardham Temple				
Day 3	Sun	Feb 25	2018	Delhi Sightseeing
Morning Yoga session, afternoon, tour of New Delhi				
Day 4	Mon	Feb 26	2018	Delhi – Varanasi
Fly to Varanasi, afternoon visit Sarnath, ghats of River Ganges				
Day 5	Tue	Feb 27	2018	Varanasi
Boat ride on the Ganges at sunrise, tour of the weaver’s colony				
Day 6	Wed	Feb 28	2018	Varanasi - Agra
Morning Yoga session, fly to Agra, visit Agra Fort.				
Day 7	Thu	Mar 1	2018	Agra
Early morning visit to Taj Mahal, evening, visit Mehtab Bagh				
Day 8	Fri	Mar 2	2018	Agra – Ranthambore
Drive to Ranthambore and visit Fatehpur Sikri en route				
Day 9	Sat	Mar 3	2018	In Ranthambore
Ranthambore National Park safari, leisure time				
Day 10	Sun	Mar 4	2018	Ranthambore – Jaipur
Morning at leisure. Visit Amber Fort				
Day 11	Mon	Mar 5	2018	Sightseeing in Jaipur
Tour of Jaipur visiting the City Palace and Observatory, etc				
Day 12	Tue	Mar 6	2018	Jaipur - Delhi - home
Morning at Yoga class and transfer to Delhi for onward flight.				



PRICING (Land only)	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$2995	\$3795	\$3095	\$3925
Single Supplement	\$1250	\$1595	\$1250	\$1595
Intertour Air from	USD \$250 CAD \$325 including taxes			
	Delhi – Varanasi – Agra			

Tourist Visas are required for visit India

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Private group travel conducted and serviced by Local Yoga / Food experts , English speaking Guide.
- Visit in Delhi’s world heritage sites as well as city’s new monument - beloved Akshardham Temple.
- Yoga & meditation class in Delhi, introductory lecture for healthy & healing foods and Ayurveda cooking workshop.
- Watch the evening prayer ceremony and morning boat ride on Ganges River and Yoga class on river bank in Varanasi.
- Guided tour of Varanasi including Sarnath ruins, witness the weaving of Banarasi Traditional Sarees.
- Visit Taj Mahal on a full moon night and at the sunrise, Yoga and Meditation on the rooftop of the hotel overlooking the Taj.
- Visit Fatehpur Sikri - once was the capital of the Mughal Empire.
- 2 Jeep safari for jungle activities in Ranthambore with naturalist and evening short meditative session and yoga class.
- Morning yoga class and Ayurveda massage in Jaipur Visit the ‘Pink City’ - Jaipur in Rajasthan, Elephant ride at Amber Fort.



ITINERARY

Feb 23, 2018 Arrival in Delhi Welcome to India!

You will be met by our representative for transfer to your hotel.

Zorba The Buddha or similar

Feb 24, 2018 In Delhi (B/L/D)

Start your day with a yoga lesson in the gardens of the resort

After breakfast, take a metro ride with your guide to the heart of Old Delhi. Discover the fascinating and living legacy of the Indo-Islamic culture and lifestyle of locals. Wander through the narrow and busy streets of the mile-long market Chandni Chowk, popularly known as Silver Street and filled with shops and bazaars. Visit Jama Masjid with its tapering minarets and wonderful marble domes; the largest mosque in Old Delhi. Also have the opportunity to experience a rickshaw ride here.

Afternoon, visit Akshardham Temple, its main monument depicting the ancient Indian "Vastu Shastra" and architecture is a marvel in pink sandstone and white marble.



This evening, an introductory lecture on the essential of healthy and healing foods over dinner including Ayurveda cooking workshop.

Feb 25, 2018 In Delhi (B/L/D)

Morning, a yoga session with an expert practitioner before breakfast. An interactive workshop of "Thought Yoga", learning to take control of this tool of our life so that we create results we want. This wisdom is quite original to India and will be imparted to us during the day so that wellness in real sense is experienced by us then and there.



Later in the afternoon, drive past the President Palace, India Gate and end the day's tour at Qutab Minar - a Tower of Victory built in the 12th century. Within its spacious courtyard stands the Iron Pillar, which dates back to the 4th century AD and bears a Sanskrit inscription in the Gupta style. The pillar has long puzzled scientists and historians as its iron has not rusted in all these centuries.

Feb 26, 2018 Delhi – Varanasi by flight (B/L/D)

After breakfast, transfer to airport to connect your flight to Varanasi.

Delhi - Varanasi Air India, AI 406 1015-1135 Hrs

On arrival in Varanasi, transfer to your hotel.

Suryauday Haveli or similar

As India's sacred city, Varanasi offers a fascinating insight into Hinduism and the Indian way of life. The narrow streets of the old city buzz with life as stray animals, pilgrims and Brahmin priests all make their way to the river. This afternoon, we travel out of Varanasi to visit Sarnath where Lord Buddha is believed to have preached his first sermon after enlightenment. The Museum at Sarnath is a delight.

Feb 27, 2018 Varanasi (B/L/D)

This morning, you will be visiting the ghats or banks of the River Ganges. This is a fascinating experience to witness the cultural and spiritual ethos that guides the life of the faithful. The visit can be a spiritual awakening.

Every evening a special aarti or 'prayer to Mother Ganga' is performed by specially-chosen priests. This is a passionate and divine journey as the music and the oil lamps create a trance-like experience and we float our own lighted lamps down the river.

Later over dinner, interact with an expert who explains the balance in Meal, Sleep and Exercise for attaining physical wellness.



Feb 28, 2018 Varanasi – Agra by flight (B/L/D)

Early this morning, you will enjoy a boat ride on the Ganges at sunrise and witness pilgrims taking a dip in the holy Ganges and performing Hindu rituals; some of them practice yoga and meditation. Take a fascinating walk through the ghats where we will organize a yoga session for you, followed by a stroll in the back streets past old havelis and temples, a labyrinth of streets with thousands of pilgrims.

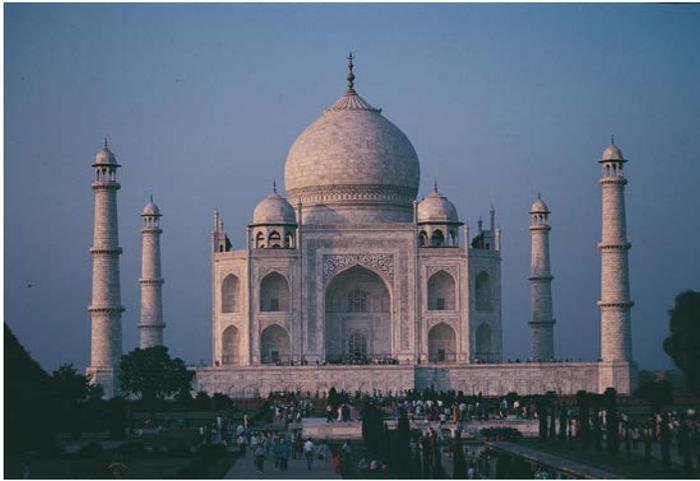
After breakfast take a guided walking tour of the weaver's colony before transferring in time to connect with our flight to Agra.

Varanasi - Agra Air India AI 406 12:10 – 13:20 hrs

Upon arrival, visit Agra Fort, strategically situated along a bend on the Yamuna River. Built in the 16th century AD by three generations of Mughal emperors, it is a superb synthesis of stern military fortifications with delicate interior details.

Check into the hotel, which has quite a few rooms with a "Taj View"

Gateway Hotel or similar



Mar 01, 2018 In Agra (B/L/D)

Start your day with your early morning visit to Taj Mahal. Experience the sublimity of the Taj Mahal - a varying kaleidoscope of solitude, color and mood. Widely regarded as the earthly replica of paradise, the Taj Mahal is likened to "a vision, a dream, a poem and a wonder"

Session of Yoga and Meditation on the rooftop of the hotel overlooking the Taj Mahal. The rest of the day at leisure and Lunch at hotel

This afternoon, visit to Mother Teresa orphanage or walk in the local bazaar to try 'petha' – a sweet speciality of the city, made from pumpkin! In the evening, visit Mehtab Bagh (Moonlight Garden) is a charbagh complex that lies north of the Taj Mahal complex and the Agra Fort and is perfectly aligned with the Taj Mahal on the opposite bank.

Mar 02, 2018 Agra – Ranthambore (B/L/D)

Drive to Ranthambore National park and enroute, visit Fatehpur Sikri, an enigmatic deserted Mughal city. This spacious, red sandstone city was built in the 16th century and the architecture is a combination of Hindu and Muslim styles, expressing Akbar's vision of synthesizing the two cultures. The city was mysteriously abandoned after 14 years occupancy and has been painstakingly restored and is now a World Heritage

Continue on road to Ranthambore National Park, home to animals like the jackal, mongoose, sloth bear, leopard, and of course, the tiger. One of the most interesting features of the park is that it's dotted with ancient ruins, including a fort where tigers and leopards are often spotted. In the afternoon, take a safari into Ranthambore National Park. Spotting the creature in the wild can test your patience but it's a worth.



Evening is at leisure. A short meditative session can be organized to relax your muscles and mind.

Khem Villas or similar

Mar 03, 2018 In Ranthambore (B/L/D)

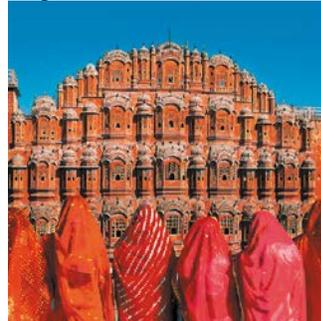
Start your day with yoga and meditation session in the resort. Morning is at leisure. You may like to indulge in spa (on direct payment) or relax by the pool.

Optional: For those interested in culinary, we can arrange a cooking lesson at hotel Alternatively, we can also arrange a visit to Dhonk – blend of ethnic and modernistic, it is a responsible enterprise making handicrafts in and around Ranthambore. It aims to provide a sustainable livelihood to the local people.

In the afternoon enjoy another safari into the Park.

Mar 04, 2018 Ranthambore – Jaipur (B/L/D)

After breakfast, drive for 4 hours to Jaipur. As the Mughal Empire was falling in the early 18th century, Jaipur was founded by a Hindu soldier-king obsessed with architecture and astronomy. The city is one of India's



first examples of urban planning, built along a grid system with the massive City Palace and an extraordinary 18th-century observatory at its heart. The opulent palaces, the pink sandstone structures, the imposing forts, the brilliant colours of the turbans, saris and the gems makes Jaipur a perfect destination.

Upon arrival check into the hotel.

We stay in lovely boutique hotel in the heart of the city. The host at Dera Mandawa is someone who is in original and knowledgeable position to bring alive this city for you.

In the afternoon, visit Amber, the ancient capital that preceded Jaipur. Originally built in the 11th century AD and expanded in size and scope by succeeding dynasties and their rulers, Amber is a fortress town of visual awesomeness. Ride up to its imposing hilltop location in jeeps and explore the maze of passages, corridors, pavilions, ornamental gardens and ramparts. On the way back you may like to stop at Anokhi Museum, where you will see a collection of old costumes with hand blocked prints that are typical to Rajasthan

Enjoy a yoga session followed a massage which can be either Ayurvedic or Thai

Dera Mandawa or similar

Mar 05,2018 In Jaipur (B/L/D)

This morning, enjoy sightseeing tour of Jaipur visiting the City Palace and Observatory (Jantar Mantar). The City Palace is the home of the royal family even today, well known for its clutch of excellent private museums that display royal memorabilia, particularly armaments, art, books, costumes and textiles. Lying adjacent to the City Palace is the medieval Jantar Mantar Observatory – built by Maharaja Jai Singh II, an inveterate astronomer who's curiously shaped and oversized implements are astonishingly accurate till today.

Later this afternoon, take a walk in the old town and enjoy shopping.

Mar 06, 2018 Jaipur - Delhi (B/D)

Morning at Yoga class and the rest of the day is free at your leisure (check out 12 noon).

Afternoon, drive to Delhi and enjoy a farewell dinner and then transfer to the airport in time for your flight home.



Natural Wonders of Galápagos Islands

Quito - San Cristobal Island - Española Island - Santa Cruz Island - South Plazas - Baltra Island - Guayaquil

March 10, 2018 - March 18, 2018



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Natural Wonders of Galápagos Islands

The history of Galápagos is central to our understanding of earthly life and a visit to the enchanted islands is a shining moment in any traveller's life.

Galápagos Islands hold a central position in modern history as the birthplace of the theory of evolution. Take your kids to join us for a wondrous educational journey to one of the most biologically unique places on earth in the Spring Break. Appreciate the diversity of life first-hand while observing the flightless cormorant, the Galapagos penguin, bluefooted boobies, giant tortoises, marine and land iguanas, and the famous "Darwin's finches". Swim with sea lions, and snorkel among colourful tropical fish and sea turtles.

Each island in this volcanic archipelago has species that are exquisitely adapted to the available food sources and surrounding environment. We will explore Isabela Island, the largest Island of the Galápagos archipelago and the lush, historic highlands of Santa Cruz Island, one of the first sites visited by Darwin. Take an excursion to visit remote coralline beaches and secluded inlets, such as South Plaza and Las Tintoreras.

AT A GLANCE

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Sat	Mar 10	2018	Arrive Quito
Arrive in Quito, overnight at the Airport hotel.				
Day 2	Sun	Mar 11	2018	Quito - San Cristobal
Fly to the Galápagos, visit the Interpretation Centre				
Day 3	Mon	Mar 12	2018	San Cristobal Island
Day trip to Española Island, see the Hood Giant Tortoise				
Day 4	Tue	Mar 13	2018	San Cristobal Island
Visit the Lagoon El Junco, La Galapaguera and Chino Beach				
Day 5	Wed	Mar 14	2018	Santa Cruz Island
Transfer to Santa Cruz Island, Charles Darwin Research Center				
Day 6	Thu	Mar 15	2018	Santa Cruz Island
Visit South Plaza, a large colony of Sea Lion and land iguanas				
Day 7	Fri	Mar 16	2018	Santa Cruz Island
Day at leisure				
Day 8	Sat	Mar 17	2018	Galápagos - Guayaquil
Leisurely morning at hotel, fly to Guayaquil				
Day 9	Sun	Mar 18	2018	Guayaquil - Home
Guayaquil departure flight home				



PRICING

(Land only)

	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Adult twin sharing	\$2895	\$3695	\$3195	\$4095
Child (under 12)	\$2150	\$2750	\$2295	\$2900
Intertour Air from	USD \$530 (Adult) USD \$380 (Child)			
Quito - San Cristobal Island -- GPS Baltra Island - Guayaquil				

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Tailor made trip for families during Spring break, with interconnecting room options, engaging activities, specially designed menus and mealtimes, and games for kids (a great way for youngsters to meet).
- First Class hotel accommodation in two islands including meals as stated and service charge and applicable government taxes
- Visit giant tortoise reserve, Charles Darwin Research Station; explore volcanic crater, South Plaza and Las Tintoreras.
- Swimming, snorkelling, and island exploring and leisure time to enjoy the beauty of the Galápagos.



ITINERARY

Mar 10, 2018 Arrive Quito

Upon arrival, check into your airport hotel for overnight.

Wyndham Quito Airport hotel or similar

March 11, 2018 Quito – San Cristobal Island (B)

Take a flight to San Cristobal and on arrival, transfer to the hotel.

Hotel Sea Side Inn or similar (standard room)

This afternoon, visit the Galapagos National Park Visitor Center to learn the history of Galapagos, its ecosystems, flora and fauna. The grounds of the Interpretation Centre are good to see the endemic Chatham mockingbird and San Cristóbal lava lizard. In the afternoon, hike 1.5 km to the Frigate Bird Hill (Cerro de las Tijeretas), to take in a good view of the town and the bay, and observe the magnificent frigate birds.



March 12, 2018 Day trip to Española Island (B/L)

Full day excursion to Española Island located at the southeastern edge of the archipelago and one of the oldest islands. Several unique species and subspecies have evolved here, including the Hood Giant Tortoise. Because of its great variety of sea birds Española is especially popular with birdwatchers. You can encounter masked and blue-footed boobies, Galapagos doves, red-billed tropicbird, mocking birds, swallowed-tailed gulls and, most important, the waved albatross.

March 13, 2018 San Cristobal Island (B)

Visit the only permanent freshwater lake in the Galapagos - Lake El Junco where we can normally see White-cheeked pintails, common gallinules and frigate birds gathering around the lagoon, surrounded by Miconia bushes and endemic tree ferns. In the highlands of San Cristobal, we will visit the “Galapaguera semi-natural”, where giant tortoises are brought to from their natural habitats in order to breed and raise their young in a more controlled environment. Along the trails around the Galapaguera, you will see typical vegetation and of course, giant tortoises found near the water holes and feeding stations.

Spend the rest of the day on the Beach Puerto Chino, enjoy swim, snorkel or just relax and observe at the same time pelicans and other birds.

March 14, 2018 San Cristobal Island - Santa Cruz Island (B/L)

This morning, travel by a speed boat to Santa Cruz Island and on arrival, a stop at the Twin Craters for you to see a lava tunnel and a short walk to observe the famous giant tortoise. This afternoon, we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and learn how the conservation of the islands is conducted, the huge efforts that scientists, park rangers and park managers among others have to make to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Above all, the reduction of brought in animals is very important for the natural balance of the archipelago

Torre Isla Sol by Solyamar or similar



March 15, 2018 Santa Cruz Island (B/L)

Full day excursion by boat to visit South Plazas Island, where a large colony of sea lions lounges daily in the equatorial sun. This island also boasts excellent examples of typical Galapaganean flora such as the towering cacti “trees” that form the principal diet for both the land iguanas and the cactus finch. Other birds that may flutter by include lava gulls, yellow warblers and red-billed tropic birds with their elaborate tails.

March 16, 2018 Santa Cruz Island (B)

After breakfast you will have the rest of the day free for you to walk around or just try to relax and use the hotel facilities.

You may take a 45min-walk out of town to Tortuga Bay, one of the long white sandy beaches where with a little luck, marine iguanas and sea turtles could be seen and bird watchers will enjoy the migratory birds walking on the shore. A western rocky edge divides the beach, resulting in a calm small cove and beach surrounded by mangroves.

Las Grietas (“Cracks”) is a rocky bay surrounded by high cliffs which offers an amazing spot to snorkel with colorful fish as the water is crystal clear and shines in all shades of blue. It can be reached by a short water taxi ride and a 15-minute walk from the pier of Puerto Ayora. On the way you pass the “Playa de los Alemanes” (“Beach of the Germans”), where you can make a break in order to enjoy the sun and swim in the refreshing ocean

March 17, 2018 Baltra Island - Guayaquil (B)

In the morning, transfer to Baltra airport and flight to Guayaquil where you will be transferred from the airport to the hotel

Hotel Unipark or similar

March 18, 2018 Guayaquil - Home (B)

Fly home from Guayaquil.





Zen - Tea - Gardens of Japan & China

Kyoto - Nara - Osaka

Shanghai - Hangzhou - Wuzhen - Suzhou

April 1, 2018 - April 14, 2018



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Zen - Tea - Gardens of Japan & China

Cherry blossom, Zen, Tea and Japanese & Chinese gourmets - recharge in blissful Kyoto and find "just as there is paradise in heaven, there are Suzhou and Hangzhou on earth".

This Connoisseurs journey has been designed for those in need of a colourful, fun and relaxing break after a period of stress or simply due to an all-too-hectic life schedule.

Begin in Kyoto with the cherry blossom time that provides magical vistas, fragrant air, seasonal delicacies and the opportunity to wander around and explore Gion's main streets as most of the magic takes place on the smaller side streets.

We spend one week in Japan visiting the ancient temples and shrines during the day and night and dine at a sleekly modern restaurant. Glimpse at a geisha gliding down a cobblestone lane, bracketed by wooden machiya houses. You feel yourself catapulted to the 18th century until you see her duct into a very 21st-century taxi, with a passenger door that opens and shuts automatically.

Admire the beauty of Kyoto in simplicity and be cocooned, nurtured and inspired by this mystical city of layered textures, fascinating culture and enveloping history. There are so many exotic pleasures of this tour that will make your visit to Japan a fascinating experience.



From Japan, we fly to China and spend another week to explore Shanghai and nearby area and learn the secrets behind some of the world's most delectable cuisines.

There is an old saying "*Just as there is paradise in heaven, there are Suzhou and Hangzhou on earth*". These cities hold the fascination of poets, painters and photographers and are renowned for their beauties that rival any in the world.

Shanghai, with its name alone, evokes so much modern glitzy excess and old school mystique (charm). Find the glamour of the past along the Bund's Art Deco facades and through the colonial era boulevards in the former French Concession. Feel the modern Shanghai when you are atop of the could piercing Shanghai Tower and when you are wandering through the flashy malls of Nanjing Road. Shanghai is well on its way to once again being a multicultural metropolis that effortlessly blends modernity with tradition.

In picturesque and elegant Hangzhou, cruise the West Lake, pick tea leaves in a plantation for the freshest cup of tea ever tasted. Tea leaves at various stages of processing are shown including cut, sorted and dried before being packaged to be shipped as one of China's finest gift to the world.

Sometimes the smallest space can contain the most wonderful architectural delights. Master of the Nets Garden is a prime example of this. It is the smallest of all Suzhou residential gardens, yet the most impressive because of its masterful use of space creating the illusion of a much greater area. Visit one of I.M. Pei's last projects and a dedication to his home town, Suzhou Museum. The building draws on traditional Chinese architecture, with whitewashed plaster walls and clay-tile roofs incorporated into a new, undeniably modern design.



AT A GLANCE

“Water is the mother of tea, a teapot its father, and fire the teacher.”

Chinese Proverb

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Sun Apr 1	2018	Osaka arrival - Kyoto
Arrive Osaka and transfer to Kyoto			
Day 2	Mon Apr 2	2018	Kyoto Sightseeing
Visit Kitano Tenmangu Temple, Kinkaku-Ji, Ryoan-ji, Ninna-ji.			
Day 3	Tue Apr 3	2018	Kyoto Sightseeing
Explore Kiyomizu Dera, Nishiki-koji, and Kodaiji Temple.			
Day 4	Wed Apr 4	2018	Kyoto
Leisure day to explore Kyoto on your own.			
Day 5	Thu Apr 5	2018	Kyoto - Nara - Osaka
Visit Fushimi Inari Taisha, Miho Museum, Nara, stay in Osaka.			
Day 6	Fri Apr 6	2018	Osaka
Explore Osaka on your own or join the optional tours			
Day 7	Sat Apr 7	2018	Osaka - Shanghai
Fly to Shanghai, Shanghai Tower for a bird eye view of the city.			
Day 8	Sun Apr 8	2018	Shanghai Sightseeing
Full day sightseeing of Shanghai.			
Day 9	Mon Apr 9	2018	Shanghai - Hangzhou
Sightseeing of Hangzhou and visit the Tea plantation.			
Day 10	Tue Apr 10	2018	Hangzhou Sightseeing
Cruise West Lake, free afternoon.			
Day 11	Wed Apr 11	2018	Hangzhou - Suzhou
Travel to Suzhou and en route visit the water village of Wuzhen.			
Day 12	Thu Apr 12	2018	Suzhou Sightseeing
Visit Humble Administrator's Garden, Master of Nets Garden			
Day 13	Fri Apr 13	2018	Suzhou - Shanghai
Chinese Cooking Class and Free time shopping			
Day 14	Sat Apr 14	2018	Shanghai Departure
Fly from Shanghai home			

PRICING (Land only)	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$4500	\$5600	\$5100	\$6350
Single Supplement	\$2150	\$2680	\$2150	\$2680
Intertour Air from	USD \$275 CAD \$350 including taxes			
	Osaka - Shanghai			

Tourist Visas are required for visit China



HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Visit Kyoto and Osaka during the exalted cherry blossom season, something glorious to behold. The country's iconic sakura (cherry blossoms), with their profusion of pink petals, blanket the country in sweetly scented splendour.
- 4 nights' stay in Kyoto with ample time to explore this ancient city and the serene and culture-rich surroundings.
- Simply soak up the atmosphere of a city lost in time.... Stroll the scenic old streets, admire the stunningly beauty and serene of Zen temples.
- Appreciate the elegance of authentic and contemporary kaiseki banquet, with entertainment by a geiko (as a geisha is called in Kyoto) and a maiko (apprentice geisha).
- Observe the art of traditional tea ceremony.
- Be among the few to visit the Miho Museum, one of the country's most beautiful private museums.
- Shop for artisan ceramics, antiques or stunning contemporary home-wares.
- Visit China's biggest economic and financial centre - the Yangtze Delta (Shanghai, Suzhou, & Hangzhou).
- Climb atop world's 2nd tallest building - Shanghai Tower
- Find the glamorous past of Shanghai from the Bund and the former French Concession.
- Join a fun, interactive and hands-on cooking program.
- Welcome to the calm and peaceful Hangzhou. Relax on the West Lake cruise, visit a Longjing tea plantation and savour a delicious farmer style lunch.
- Visit an ancient canal town and a hidden gem at Wuzhen
- Explore two of Suzhou's "Four Famous Chinese Classical Gardens" - Humble Administrator's Garden and Master of Nets Garden.
- Be a guest at Suzhou Museum, designed by the famous I.M. Pei, who is also the designer of Miho Museum.



ITINERARY

April 1, 2018 **Arrival in Osaka/Kyoto, Welcome to Japan!**

Upon arrival in Osaka (Kansai or Itami airport), you will be greeted by an English speaking assistant and attended to the appropriate Airport Shuttle transfer to your hotel.

Hotel Mystays Kyoto Shijo or Similar

April 2, 2018 **Kyoto (B/L/D)**

After breakfast, start our day with our guide for an early departure to the famous Kitano Tenmangu Temple Sunday Flea Market to rub shoulders with the locals and search for antique treasures and trinkets...



We then visit the nearby Kinkaku-ji (The Golden Pavilion), one of Japan's most iconic temples and get slammed with visitors. Continue to Ryoan-ji, a Zen Temple and UNESCO World Heritage site. Ryoan-ji's garden is considered one of the most superb examples of a dry landscape garden (kare-sansui), a type of Japanese Zen garden with large rock formations atop small, smooth pebbles that have been raked into neat lines.

On the grounds of Ryoan-ji is a vegetarian restaurant Seigeiin, we shall lunch and you'll find tofu and vegetables prepared a handful of ways.

After lunch, stroll 20 minutes to Ninna-ji, head temple of the Omuro school of the Shingon Sect of Buddhism. Founded in 888 AD, Ninna-ji was, just like Kinkaku-ji and Ryoan-ji, destroyed by fire during the Onin War. It wasn't until nearly 150 years later that it was rebuilt, and most of what you see today dates from the 17th century. The gardens here are particularly lovely during cherry blossom season.

Tonight, enjoy a **Kaiseki welcome dinner**, Kyoto's haute cuisine, an elaborate multicourse meal that originated about 500 years ago

April 3, 2018 **Kyoto (B)**

After breakfast, we will tour the Higashiyama (Eastern Mountain) area. Start with a visit to one of Kyoto's most popular temples - Kiyomizu Dera and adjacent cobblestoned lanes lined with local ceramics, crafts and foodstuffs. We'll continue on to Maruyama Park and Yasaka Shrine through well preserved traditional streets, wend our way through the park past ponds, gardens and a gigantic weeping cherry, the views are spectacular.

Stop into the small but lovely Nishiki Tenmangu shrine for a moment of tranquillity before walk and talk you through the wonderful Nishiki-koji food market, known to the locals as Kyoto daidokoro or Kyoto's kitchen. Today, the covered arcade is lined with shops selling all manner of foods – think tsukemono (Japanese pickles), soy milk donuts, and skewered octopus – as well as candy, tea, souvenirs, and kitchen tools. Many shops give out free samples, making this a great place to sample Kyoto's diverse delicacies. The best restaurants at Nishiki are hiding in plain sight: behind many of the seafood stalls are quiet shops specializing in kaiseki and featuring fresh sashimi where you can have lunch on own.

From Nishiki walk towards Gion, Kyoto's most famous hanamachi (geisha district). If you're passing through around dusk, you're likely to see geiko and maiko en route to their evening appointments.

When night comes, several temples/shrines host illumination events and it is spectacular seeing street, temples, shrines and garden under colourful lights. Highly recommended to free to roam into the Kodaiji Temple, Chionin Temple, and Shorenin Temple.

April 4, 2018 **Kyoto (B)**

Enjoy a full day at leisure giving you the opportunity to pamper yourself in the Riraku Spa or discover more of Kyoto's personality. Suggest to visit the stupendous Heian Shrine and its stroll garden, take a walk along the Kamo River, meander through a gallery or museum and visit Nijo Castle.

April 5, 2018 **Kyoto - Miho Museum - Nara - Osaka (B)**

Today, head out of Kyoto to visit Fushimi Inari Taisha shrine, its vivid vermilion torii gates are icons of Kyoto, estimated that there are nearly 10,000 torii. Our highlights today is the Miho Museum, one of I.M. Pei's most memorable museum buildings. (Later we will visit his home town - Suzhou and Suzhou Museum, his another Best Museum Designs).

Enjoy a private guided tour with one of the museum's curators, who will show you the Miho's collection of Eastern and Western antiques.



Continue to Nara to visit Japan's first established capital, a city with fantastic examples of historic architecture, beautiful parks and freely roaming sika deer.

Hotel Mystays Midosuji-Hommachi or Similar

April 6, 2018 **Osaka (B)**

Today is free at leisure, you can visit Osaka Castle on your own or just wander around and do some shopping. If you would like to travel further afield to Hiroshima or Himeji, we can help you arrange a coach tour.

April 7, 2018 **Osaka - Shanghai (B)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival in Shanghai, you are met and transferred to the hotel.

The exhilarating metropolis of Shanghai was the first city in China to be influenced by the West and lead China's rapid modernization later. Take a drive through Pudong, almost everything on this futuristic skyline is less than 30 years old. Enjoy a bird's eye view of the 21st century Pudong juxtaposing the ancient city from the 119 floor of Shanghai Tower.

Sunrise on the Bund Shanghai or similar



April 8, 2018 Shanghai (B/L)

A morning walking tour along the Bund, admire its outstanding architectural landmarks including the neoclassical Customs House and the China Merchants Bank building. Afterwards, take a tour of Shanghai's Old Quarter, the beautiful Yu Gardens with its traditional red walls and tile roofs. Lunch is served in a local restaurant at Old Town

Visit Shanghai's street markets and tour the famous Shanghai Museum, its selection of 120,000 historic artifacts may not be the most comprehensive, but it is easily the most tastefully displayed and well lit, with explanatory signs in both English and Chinese.

Explore historical French Concession features distinctive Europe architecture, and Xiantiandi, a vibrant, recently restored neighbourhood for dinner this evening or return to our hotel.

April 9, 2018 Shanghai - Hangzhou (B/L)

This morning, about an hour high speed train brings us to Hangzhou.

No city in China is more celebrated by poets, painters and emperors. Backward baby Shanghai was little more than a smelly fishing village when Hangzhou was "without doubt the finest and most splendid city in the world," as Marco Polo put it. Capital of China from 1127 until the Mongol invasion of 1276, Hangzhou was once the largest city in the world, a "paradise on earth" for reputedly about 1 million residents, beloved by scholars, writers and calligraphers obsessed with the essence of a perfect brush stroke, rain droplet or cup of tea.

Visit the Lingyin Temple and look out for the Laughing Buddha, known as the Maitreya or the Buddha of the Future: "his belly is big enough to contain all intolerable things in the world; his mouth is ever ready to laugh at all snobbish persons under heaven."

Afternoon, visit the Longjing Tea Plantation, China's best known green tea, Longjing (Dragon Well) is extensively cultivated on the terraced hills overlooking Hangzhou. To conclude the day, we visit the Hefang Street and Museum of traditional Chinese medicine .

Lake View Hotel Hangzhou or similar



April 10 2018 Hangzhou (B/L)

This morning, enjoy a leisure cruise on the West Lake,. Lap, lap, lap. Lean back, let the paddle lick the water behind you. Let the boatsman take the strain as the zither reverberates through the mist, around the lake. Afternoon is free at leisure..

April 11 2018 Hangzhou - Wuzhen - Suzhou (B/L)

Leave by coach the picturesque Hangzhou as we come to Wuzhen, an ancient canal town and a hidden gem in fast changing China. Visit the traditional houses, a wine brewery and a bamboo weaving workshop.

Lunch at a restaurant on the bank of the Grand Canal and watch sampans and barges jostle for space. Continue to a Taoist shrine and its opera stage, where we enjoy a shadow puppet show. Stroll through the ancient town with its black tiled, amber colour painted wooden houses that contrast sharply with its white walls and gray flagging, brings to mind a Chinese ink and wash painting before continuing to Suzhou.

Pan Pacific Suzhou or similar



April 12 2018 Suzhou (B/D)

Once upon a time, Suzhou had 200 private gardens, many of which survive today in the old town that anchors this burgeoning modern industrial city of 10 million people. Visit the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Master of Nets Garden both were recognized by UNESCO as symbols of the city's magnificent architectural heritage. In the afternoon, tour the Suzhou Museum, designed by the Pritzker Prize-winning Chinese-American architect I. M. Pei and has created a meaningful new language for architecture in China.



Stop at the Silk Factory to see the process of the fabric from moth cocoons and enjoy leisure time and farewell dinner tonight.

April 13 2018 Suzhou - Shanghai (B/L)

This morning, transfer back to Shanghai and the balance of the day enjoy a Cooking class to learn how to make Shanghai Dim Sum and some dishes. You will taste the dishes that you cooked on your own as lunch.

Sunrise on the Bund Shanghai or similar

April 14 2018 Shanghai (B)

This morning, transfer back to Shanghai airport for your onward flight.



Rhapsody of East Europe

Prague - Vienna - Budapest - Krakow - Warsaw

May 15, 2018 - May 27, 2018



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Rhapsody of East Europe

Discover a beautiful and poignant part of the world - a generous overview of five distinctly different and fascinating nations of Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland.

This journey spans five countries and weaves together the area's deep history with the monumental events of the 20th century. This remarkable region offers ample opportunity for enrichment, enlightenment, and enjoyment.

Begin in romantic Prague, the "Golden City of a Hundred Spires". We visit the bustling, modern urban zone centered on Wenceslas Square, oozing with recent history; explore Old Town Square; and see Josefov, Prague's historic Jewish ghetto. Walk on the Charles Bridge, a famous medieval thoroughfare crossing the Vltava River lined with saintly statues. A day trip to Český Krumlov, a charming medieval town with colourful castle, mellow Old Town, twisty river.



Tour the Habsburg legacy of Vienna. Visit Vienna's majestic Schönbrunn Palace and have access to one of the greatest and most condensed cultural offerings in the world, the Museum Quartier. In a day you can gaze on masterpieces by Rubens, Klimt, and Schiele before listening to a Mozart symphony.

Pass through Slovakia en route to Budapest, the capital of Hungary. Discover the beauty of Budapest. The mighty Magyar capital straddling the Danube is divided in two parts: hilly, historic Buda and flat, urban Pest. Upon the Castle Hill, see the Royal Palace, Matthias Church and enjoy a great view of the iconic bridge over the Danube.

Explore Poland's historic capital, still its cultural and intellectual capital, Krakow. Take a walk in the Main Market Square, one of Europe's best squares and St. Mary's Church with Viet Stoss altarpiece. Giant yellow Cloth Hall houses souvenir stands, 19th-century Polish art upstairs, and excavations underground. Pay our respects at the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camp memorial sites.



Conclude our journey in Warsaw, Poland's capital city bombed flat in WWII, now rebuilt and becoming a super-modern metropolis.

View Stalin's monstrous Palace of Culture and Science. Tour the reconstructed Old Town with Royal Palace, mermaid statue, great Synagogue, the second-biggest on earth, with museum and Tree of Life monument.

Enjoy a piano concert in Chopin's hometown.



AT A GLANCE

“The river flowed from century to century ...”

Milan Kundera, (Austrian mountaineer, sportsman, geographer)

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Tue	May 15	2018	Prague Arrival
Arrive Prague, Czech Republic and transfer to hotel.				
Day 2	Wed	May 16	2018	Prague
Explore Hradcany Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral and Golden Lane.				
Day 3	Thu	May 17	2018	Prague
Explore Josefov and experience the local Jewish heritage.				
Day 4	Fri	May 18	2018	Cesky Krumlov
Full day excursion to visit the Cesky Krumlov.				
Day 5	Sat	May 19	2018	Prague - Vienna
Travel from Prague to Vienna, Austria.				
Day 6	Sun	May 20	2018	Vienna
Morning city tour. Afternoon optional Schönbrunn Palace visit.				
Day 7	Mon	May 21	2018	Vienna - Budapest
Travel east from Vienna to Budapest, Hungary.				
Day 8	Tue	May 22	2018	Budapest
Explore Budapest's main attractions - Castle Hill, Royal Palace.				
Day 9	Wed	May 23	2018	Budapest - Krakow
Travel via Slovakia to arrive in Krakow, Poland.				
Day 10	Thu	May 24	2018	Krakow
Sightseeing in Poland's education and cultural centre.				
Day 11	Fri	May 25	2018	Krakow - Warsaw
Tour Auschwitz-Birkenau and then travel to Warsaw.				
Day 12	Sat	May 26	2018	Warsaw
Drive along the Royal Route and tour the Old Town.				
Day 13	Sun	May 27	2018	Warsaw - Home
Transfer to the airport for homeward flights.				



PRICING (Land only)	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$3250	\$4125	\$3450	\$4375
Single Supplement	\$1175	\$1495	\$1175	\$1495

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- A journey to five distinct central European countries filled with UNESCO sites. Be prepared to open a treasure chest of wonderful experiences! Apart from the big cities, discover the beautiful countryside connecting them.
- Begin in romantic Prague to explore both the modern and historic sectors. A day trip to Český Krumlov, a charming medieval town with colourful castle, mellow Old Town, twisty river.
- Enjoy the very special imperial Viennese charm and be enchanted by symphonies played in the “City of Music”.
- Visit the twin cities straddling the Danube - a good mixture of historic Buda and modern Pest with their grand architecture.
- Explore Poland's historic capital and the largest medieval square in Europe. Pay your respect at Auschwitz-Birkenau. And conclude in the current Polish capital, Warsaw.



ITINERARY



May 15, 2018 Prague, Czech Republic

Upon arrival, you are transferred from Airport to your hotel in the centre of town.

Built on seven hills more than 1000 years ago, Prague today is a wonder to behold, with beautiful architecture, lush green hills, and graceful bridges spanning the Vltava River.

Prague: Falkensteiner Hotel Maria Prag or similar

May 16, 2018 Prague (B/D)

We spend the morning exploring the Hradcany (castle) district, home of the distinctive castle towering above the Vltava River. Dating to the 9th century, the castle today is the seat of the president of the Czech Republic. Among the highlights of our tour: a visit to Gothic St. Vitus' Cathedral and a stroll along Golden Lane, with its picturesque artisans' cottages. The remainder of the day is free to continue exploring this enchanting city as we wish.

Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner.

May 17, 2018 Prague (B)

This morning's visit to Josefov, Prague's historic Jewish ghetto, includes the Old Jewish Cemetery with its centuries-old headstones and generations buried atop one another, as well as several of the once-thriving synagogues now part of the Jewish Museum of Prague. Then the remainder of the day is at leisure, perhaps to stroll through Old Town Square or visit Wenceslas Square, site of the demonstrations that led to the Velvet Revolution. Try some refreshing Czech beers and dinner on our own.



May 18, 2018 Prague - Cesky Krumlov - Prague (B)

Full day excursion to visit the Cesky Krumlov, known as 'the Pearl of the Renaissance' and one of the most important historic sites in Central Europe. You'll travel from Prague through the beautiful south Bohemian countryside passing picturesque villages and ponds. The whole town of Cesky Krumlov is on the UNESCO Heritage list, comprising 300 historic houses, the castle and chateau.



May 19, 2018 Prague - Vienna, Austria (B/D)

Following breakfast, make your own way to Prague's railway station and travel by train to Vienna. Relax in your seat and absorb the views over the Czech and Austrian countryside as your train speeds through central Europe. On arrival, take a subway to your hotel in Vienna center.

The balance of the day is at leisure to discover Vienna at your own pace and tonight, enjoy a Welcome Dinner.

Vienna: Hilton Vienna or similar



May 20, 2018 Vienna (B)

On a morning sightseeing tour, visit the Hofburg Palace, once the home of the Habsberg emperors, and view the Belvedere Palace, Prater Amusement Park, the UN Buildings, St. Stephen's Cathedral and other reminders of the city's imperial past.

The afternoon, soak up Austrian culture and cuisine with optional tour including an audio tour, 3-course dinner and a classical concert at Schönbrunn Palace. Begin by exploring the palace's ornate staterooms and guest apartments with an audio guide. Then, settle into a delicious, candlelit dinner of local cuisine at the Ehrenhof restaurant, adjacent to the palace.

Top off the evening with a concert at the Orangery Schonbrunn, where you'll enjoy live classical works from Mozart and Bach.



May 21, 2018 Vienna - Budapest (B/D)

Journey east and cross the border into Hungary. Continue through the Transdanubian region, reaching Budapest with time to freshen up before dinner.

Budapest: Radisson Blu Beke or Continental

May 22, 2018 Budapest (B)

In 1873, the twin cities of Buda and Pest joined with ancient Obuda to form a new, unified city, Budapest. Charming and beautiful, the city was declared a World Heritage site in 1987. Your morning sightseeing tour includes views of all the main attractions: The Parliament, Royal Palace and the Castle Hill area, Fisherman’s Bastion, Matthias Church, Heroes’ Square, and Gellert Hill with its Citadel.

The rest of the day is at leisure to explore this exciting city on your own.



A morning sightseeing tour starts with a visit to Wawel Hill, viewing the Royal Castle and visiting the Royal Cathedral. Next, take a walking tour of the Old Town where you will see the Main Market Square and Renaissance Cloth Hall, and visit St. Mary’s Church. The afternoon is free to go for a stroll, browse through the shops, sample some sernik or szarlotka, or simply relax.

May 25, 2018 Krakow to Warsaw (B/D)

This morning join on a tour to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the notorious concentration camp from World War II and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Later, journey to Czestochowa and visit the Yasna Gora Monastery, known for the blackened picture of the Virgin Mary, popularly called the “Black Madonna.” In the late afternoon, arrive in Poland’s capital city, Warsaw.

Warsaw: Radisson Blu Centrum (DLX) or similar

May 26, 2018 Warsaw (B)

Virtually destroyed during World War II, Warsaw was rebuilt in the decades that followed. With the fall of Communism, the city has become more dynamic and progressive while retaining much of its distinct character. Our sightseeing tour here includes a drive along the famous Royal Route from magnificent Castle Square to Lazienki Park and Palace, the summer residence of the last king of Poland. Pass by the Palace of Science and Culture (known as the “wedding cake”), the Saxon Gardens, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Monument to the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto, and Barbican. Continue with a walking tour of the Old Town, Old Market Square and St. John’s Cathedral. The rest of the day is free for shopping, a stroll through the city, relaxing in one of the many parks or gardens, or perhaps attend an optional late afternoon Chopin concert.

May 27, 2018 Warsaw Departure (B)

Transfer to the airport for your onward flights.



May 23, 2018 Budapest to Krakow (B/D)

The road to Krakow winds through the hills and countryside of Slovakia, past the Tatra Mountains, and into the rolling plains of Poland. You’ll arrive in time for a relaxing dinner.

Krakow: Holiday Inn City Center or Doubletree by Hilton

May 24, 2018 Krakow (B)

A major center of Polish culture and education, Krakow survived World War II intact, leaving it with more historic buildings and monuments than anywhere else in the country. Its authentic Old Town is a UNESCO cultural site, and the Main Market Square the largest medieval square in Europe.



Rocky Mountaineer

Vancouver - Kamloops - Banff - Lake Louise - Calgary

June 3, 2018 - June 8, 2018



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Rocky Mountaineer

Embark on a journey of luxury and romance to Canada's most-talked-about destinations, beautiful British Columbia, Banff and Lake Louise.

The Rocky Mountaineer is truly the most astonishing train trip in North America. Be prepared to be dazzled over and over again with mind-expanding vistas. Mother Nature will treat you to views of everything from fertile farmlands to awe-inspiring mountain peaks.

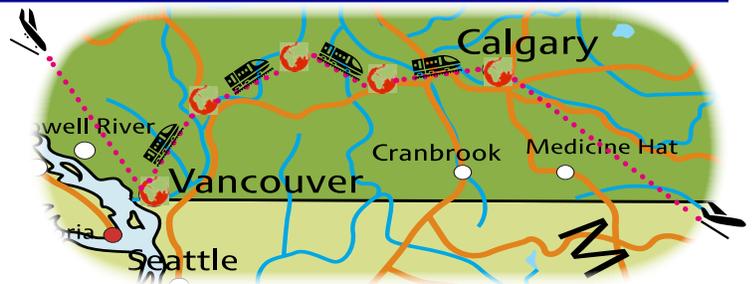
Departing from beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, you'll travel through the lush green fields of the Fraser River Valley, the winding river canyons surrounded by the peaks of the Coast and also Cascade Mountains, into the desert-like BC interior in Kamloops. Spend an overnight before continuing on your train journey across the ranchlands, along rocky lakeshores, over high mountain passes and through the remarkable tunnels that form part of the rich rail history of the Canadian Rockies. Disembark in Banff and explore the unspoiled and breathtaking natural beauty of this Continental Divide.

Trip Connoisseurs recommends the Gold Leaf dome car service which provides fully domed windows with panoramic views, large exclusive open-air vestibule viewing area, and gourmet a la carte meals.

AT A GLANCE

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Sun	Jun 3	2018	Arrive Vancouver
Vancouver Arrival. Vancouver Lookout.				
Day 2	Mon	Jun 4	2018	Vancouver - Kamloops
Board the RM Train and proceed to Kamloops.				
Day 3	Tue	Jun 5	2018	Banff National Park
RM experience through the Canadian Rockies to Banff.				
Day 4	Wed	Jun 6	2018	Yoho & Lake Louise
Experience Banff, Yoho Park Tour, and Lake Louise.				
Day 5	Thu	Jun 7	2018	Banff - Calgary
Experience Lake Louise to Calgary Tour. Farewell dinner.				
Day 6	Fri	Jun 8	2018	Calgary Departure
Depart from Calgary.				



PRICING (Land only)

	Silver Leaf		Gold Leaf	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$3675	\$4530	\$4180	\$5225
Single Supplement	\$1145	\$1430	\$1145	\$1430

Departure is guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 guests.
Above rates DO NOT include 5% GST in Canada.

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Experience the magic of the **Canadian Rockies** aboard the **Rocky Mountaineer luxury train**.
- Melt into the luxurious seats on board while soaking up the breathtaking scenery and indulging in the impeccable service, gourmet meals and premium open bar.
- Explore the beautiful coastal city of **Vancouver**, quaint community of **Kamloops** with semi-arid desert to alpine forest landscapes, rugged mountains in **Banff**, turquoise-tinged **Lake Louise** against a breathtaking mountain background, and the nearby city of **Calgary**, host of the Calgary Stampede and was once the heart of the Old West.
- **Fairmont** level accommodation and similar in Vancouver, Banff, Lake Louise, and Calgary including 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners.
- A once-in-a-lifetime journey that nourishes your mind, body, and soul!



ITINERARY

Sun, Jun 3, 2018 Vancouver

Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy leisure time to explore scenic Vancouver on your own.

If time permits, you will have time to climb atop the Vancouver Lookout for a panoramic view of Vancouver

Fairmont Hotel Vancouver or similar (1 night)



Fairmont Hotel Vancouver is known as the 'Castle in the City' and reflects timeless luxury and history of Vancouver. Holding a prime downtown location and minutes away from some of Vancouver's biggest attractions including Granville Island, Stanley Park Seawall, and Gasto

Mon, Jun 4, 2018 Vancouver to Kamloops (B/L)

After breakfast, you are transferred to RM Station and aboard the Rocky Mountaineer and travel from Vancouver to Kamloops, in the heart of British Columbia's interior. On today's journey you will see dramatic changes in scenery, from the lush green fields of the Fraser Valley, through forests and winding river canyons surrounded by the peaks of the Coast and Cascade Mountains, to the desert-like environment of the BC Interior. Highlights include the rushing waters of Hell's Gate in the Fraser Canyon and the steep slopes and rock sheds along the Thompson River. Your day concludes as the Rocky Mountaineer travels along the shores of Kamloops Lake into Kamloops.

Kamloops GoldLeaf Accommodation

Tue, Jun 5, 2018 Kamloops to Banff (B/L)

Your journey continues eastwards to the mighty Canadian Rockies and the province of Alberta. Once again you will see a spectacular array of scenery as you travel across ranchlands along rocky lakeshores, over high mountain passes and through the remarkable tunnels that form part of the rich rail history of the Canadian Rockies. Today's highlights include Craigellachie, where the last spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway was driven, the climb over Rogers Pass, Kicking Horse Canyon, the Spiral Tunnels and, of course, the glaciers and snow - capped peaks of Rockies. Your rail journey ends this evening in the resort town of Banff.

Rimrock Resort Hotel or similar (1 night)



Wed, Jun 6, 2018 Banff to Lake Louise (B/D)

Today's sightseeing takes you into Yoho National Park to view some of its natural wonders. Among the attractions are the Spiral Tunnels, Emerald Lake and a natural rock bridge spanning the Kicking Horse River. The tour ends in Lake Louise where the remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure to enjoy this magnificent location.

Dinner is provided at Fairmont Château Lake Louise.

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise (1 night)

Surrounded by soaring mountain peaks, the majestic Victoria Glacier and a glistening emerald lake, the iconic Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise hotel is a year-round luxury mountain resort and is recognized globally for progressive environmental stewardship and responsible tourism.



Thu, Jun 7, 2018 Banff to Calgary (B)

Today you will enjoy a full-day tour concluding in Calgary. Begin the morning with a sightseeing tour of Banff. Among the points of interest are Bow Falls, Lake Minnewanka, Surprise Corner and the Hoodoos. Banff Gondola included. Your tour ends in Calgary where you will have a chance to get atop of the Calgary Tower. Overnight in Calgary

Fairmont Palliser Hotel or similar (1 night)



Fri, Jun 8, 2018 Calgary Departure (B)

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport.



The Art of Living in Tuscany

Florence - Pisa - San Gimignano
Siena - Montalcino - Montepulciano

June 17, 2018 - June 24, 2018



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The Arts of Living in Tuscany

The Region of Tuscany is not only the Cradle of the Renaissance, but the centre of medieval European trade and finance and one of the wealthiest cities of the time.

Tuscany is considered the birthplace of the Renaissance and has been called "the Athens of the Middle Ages". Its peaceful countryside, vibrant cities and historical towns are all enriched by a fascinating history and culture. This authentic one-week trip will give you a good introduction to the sites, scenery, wine, food, art and history of beloved Tuscany. Discover Florence, home to numerous museums and art galleries such as the Uffizi Gallery and the Pitti Palace, is still exerting an influence in the fields of art, culture and politics. Florence is also an important city of Italian fashion, being ranked within the top fifty fashion capitals of the world. Explore Pisa, Siena, the beautiful region of the Chianti wine country and San Gimignano with guided visits, wine tasting and learn to cook regional culinary delights. This journey includes an extensive sightseeing and ample leisure time to pursue your individual interests.

AT A GLANCE

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Sun Jun 17	2018	Arrive Florence
Arrive Florence and transfer to hotel.			
Day 2	Mon Jun 18	2018	Florence
Visit Uffizi Gallery, Florence Cathedral and other attractions.			
Day 3	Tue Jun 19	2018	Pisa Excursion
Full day excursion to Pisa.			
Day 4	Wed Jun 20	2018	San Gimignano - Siena
Visit the UNESCO World Heritage town of San Gimignano.			
Day 5	Thu Jun 21	2018	Siena
Discover the Sienese medieval architecture.			
Day 6	Fri Jun 22	2018	Pienza and Cheese
Excursion to Pienza with its famous cheese tasting.			
Day 7	Sat Jun 23	2018	Chianti Wine Region
Experience the best Tuscany wine and countryside views.			
Day 8	Sun Jun 24	2018	Florence - Home
Transfer to the airport for homeward flight.			



PRICING (Land only)	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$2795	\$3550	\$2795	\$3550
Single Supplement	\$1175	\$1495	\$1175	\$1495

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Explore the highlights of Florence at Uffizi Gallery and the Duomo.
- Tour Pisa's famous cathedral & its iconic Leaning Tower.
- Learn about the rich history and heritage of the Renaissance splendors.
- Soak up the Tuscany countryside atmosphere in Siena and nearby.
- Tour the medieval town of San Gimignano and the historic centre of Siena, both UNESCO Heritage Sites.
- Enjoy famous Tuscan cheese in Pienza including Pecorino di Pienza.
- Savour the best Tuscan wine in the Chianti wine region.



ITINERARY

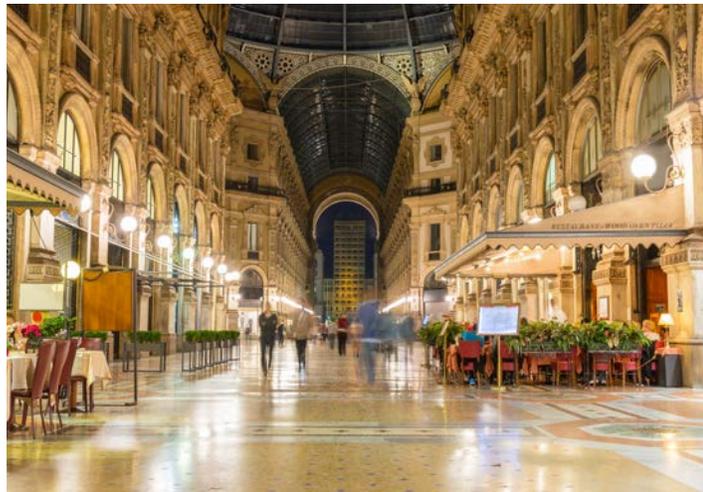
June 17, 2018 Arrive Florence

Upon arrival, transfer from Florence Peretola airport to your hotel in Florence.

Hotel Beacci Tornabuoni or similar

Jun 18, 2018 Florence (B)

The influence of the Renaissance culture is everywhere in Florence and your private guide will introduce you to the main sites of the city and the Uffizi Gallery masterpieces. With more than two thousand artworks, the Uffizi Gallery is one of the most complete art collection of Italian artists such as Botticelli, Caravaggio, Da Vinci, Canaletto, Michelangelo and many others. Your guide will make you discover the main pieces of this impressive museum and you will also enjoy a breathtaking view of the city and the Arno river from the rooftop terrace. Afterwards, you will see the Florence cathedral, one of the landmarks of the city crowned by the giant Brunelleschi's dome that keeps a secret to reveal. The religious centre is a few metres away from the political centre represented by Piazza della Signoria, where you will admire Palazzo Vecchio and the other symbols of the civic life since Medieval times. Arriving to the famous Leather market of the city don't forget to rub the boar's snout of the statue Il Porcellino to ensure your return to Florence! Finally you will step on Ponte Vecchio, the stone covered bridge nowadays renowned for the many jewelleryes.



June 19, 2018 Florence - Pisa - Florence (B)

Get the most out of a daily excursion to Pisa with private transports and private guide. Arriving to Pisa, you will admire the stunning Byzantine mosaics and artworks by the Pisan School housed in the imposing Cathedral, the Square of Miracles with the famous Leaning Tower and the other marbled buildings of the huge square. You will enjoy a relaxing view of the Arno river from the Lungarno of Pisa, finally you will return back at your hotel with endless memories of cities that are symbols of the Renaissance splendour.

June 20, 2018 Florence - San Gimignano - Siena (B)

You will be astonished by the unmistakable skyline of San Gimignano with about a dozen towers and the medieval walls that include notable examples of both Romanesque and Gothic architecture. Placed in the route of the Via Francigena, the town still hosts many churches and monasteries with paintings of the Sienese and Florentine Schools and has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The town also is famous for the saffron and its white wine, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, produced from the ancient variety of Vernaccia grape which is grown on the sandstone hillsides of the area.

June 21, 2018 Siena (B)

Enjoy a day out discovering the medieval alleys of Siena with a private driver at your complete disposal. Your private guide will show you the imposing Palazzo Comunale (Siena's town hall) with the high Mangia Tower, Piazza del Campo in which the famous Palio horse race takes place every summer, the Cathedral built in the 12th century and many others. While walking along the city, you could taste the famous Panforte, prepared with Sugar, honey, nuts, fruits and spices mixed together with flour or the famous Cavallucci pastry made with anise, almonds, candied fruits, coriander, and flour. Also, you could not leave the town before tasting Pappardelle with hare or veggie Lasagna.

Hotel Athena or similar

June 22, 2018 Pienza and Cheese private tour (B)

On your journey along the Tuscany, you will stop by Pienza, a little jewel in the Tuscany countryside. Pienza is deeply renovated in the early 15th century by Pope Pius II Piccolomini, it is considered a touchstone of Renaissance urbanism, famous also for the Pecorino cheese production. You will have the chance to taste the real Pecorino di Pienza, a famous artisan cheese made only in the Crete Senesi made only with milk from sheep raised out in the open and nourish only with the local flora.

June 23, 2018 Montalcino and Montepulciano (B)

Today you will discover Montepulciano area famous all over the world for its pork, cheese, "pici" pasta, lentils, and honey, it is known worldwide for its wine. In Montepulciano you will admire the imposing Palazzo Comunale designed in the tradition of the Palazzo della Signoria in Florence, the ancient Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta built in 1586 and the walls of the city date to around the 14th century. Then you will reach Montalcino, where you will admire the imposing Abbey of Sant'Antimo built outside the town walls, then you will enter the medieval village characterized by the fortress made of stone of the 13th century, the Cathedral and the ancient town hall.

June 24, 2018 Florence - Home (B)

Transfer to the Airport for onward flight.



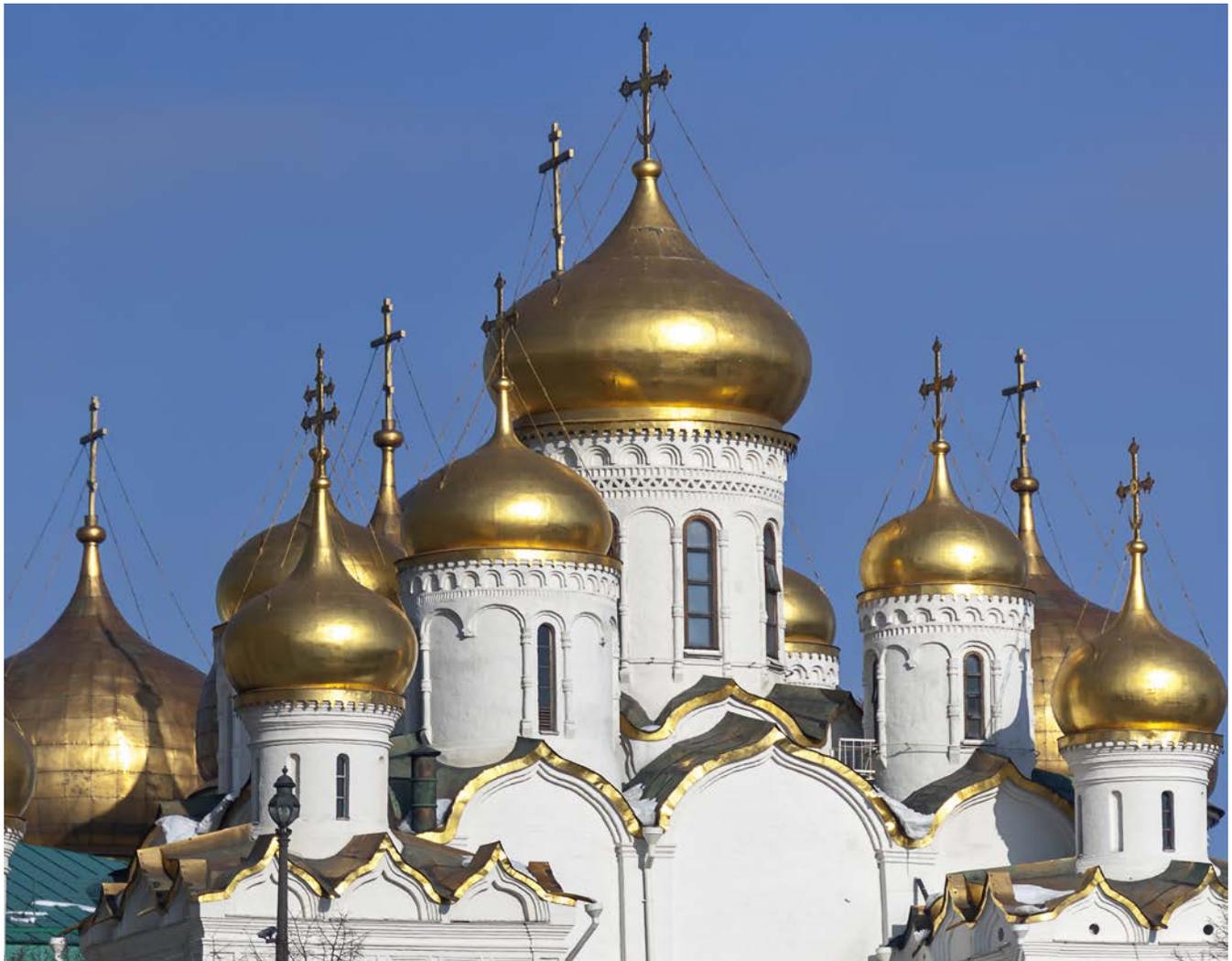


Waterways of Russia & Jewels of Baltic

Vilnius - Riga - Tallinn - Moscow - Uglich - Yaroslavl

Goritsy - Kizhi - Mandrogi - St. Petersburg

July 15, 2018 - Aug 1, 2018



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Waterways of Russia & Jewels of Baltic

Explore the lands and legacies forged by centuries of Baltic History; Cruise slowly and peacefully from Moscow to St. Petersburg through the Russian countryside.



Begin our journey in the beautiful Baltic region where examples of medieval and Art Nouveau architecture remain nearly untouched by the early 21st century. As the curtain opened, we can finally see what's laid behind ... now, sophisticated travellers are drawn to witness a world transformed.

Visit three distinct nations, three thriving capitals and the land in between as we discover for ourselves the fascinating heritage and stimulating contemporary life of this remarkable and diverse region.

Explore the UNESCO-recognized Old Town of Vilnius, Lithuania and its Radziwi Palace, the former Jewish ghetto and St. Anne's Church. Visit the Latvian Na-

tional Museum of Art in Riga. And witness Tallinn's fairy-tale charm reflected in Gothic churches, half-hidden courtyards, and gabled merchants' houses.

The timeless pageant of Russia reveals itself in the scenic rivers, lakes and canals that link St. Petersburg with Moscow. Between these two great cultural capitals, there lies a countryside seemingly untouched by the 20th century. Golden-domed churches rise out of the early morning mist. Quaint wooden villages and old-world farms dot the verdant landscape. And the gentle light of early summer evenings gives an otherworldly dimension to the banks of Russia's great "blue road" of inland waterways. Without a doubt, cruising Russia's waterways is one of the best ways to explore the world's largest country.

Aboard our intimate small ship - MS Sergey Rakhmaninov in the fabled city of Moscow, the political and commercial capital of Russia and the cultural frontier between East and West. Spend the first three nights to explore Moscow and its massive Kremlin complex and onion-domed St. Basil's Cathedral.

From Moscow, cruise for six nights through the heartland of Mother Russia, where everyday life goes on at the measured pace it has kept for generations. Here, villagers still dwell in traditional wooden cottages and preserve the folkways of their ancestors, and onion-domed churches and fortified monasteries testify to the abiding faith of the Russian people.

Spend one night onboard the ship upon arrival in St. Petersburg, Russia's "Window on the West" and the majestic legacy of that most visionary of czars, Peter the Great. Our program concludes with a Post-Cruise overnight stay in the city of St. Petersburg.





AT A GLANCE

"Music is a calm moonlit night, the rustle of leaves in Summer. Music is the far off peal of bells at dusk! Music comes straight from the heart and talks only to the heart: it is Love! "

Sergei Rachmaninoff (Russian virtuoso pianist, composer, and conductor)

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Sun Jul 15	2018	Arrival in Vilnius
Arrival in Vilnius, transfer to Hotel, check-in, welcome.			
Day 2	Mon Jul 16	2018	Vilnius Sightseeing
Walking tour of the Old Town, the medieval Trakai Castle.			
Day 3	Tue Jul 17	2018	Vilnius-Riga
Heading for Riga, visit Hills of Crosses, Rundale Palace enroute			
Day 4	Wed Jul 18	2018	Riga Sightseeing Tour
Visit Gauja National Park and in Sigulda, see Episcopal Castle			
Day 5	Thu Jul 19	2018	Riga Sightseeing Tour
Tour of the Old Town, Riga Castle, Dome Cathedral and more.			
Day 6	Fri Jul 20	2018	Riga - Tallinn
Travel to Tallinn, and visit Estonian summer resort of Parnu.			
Day 7	Sat Jul 21	2018	Tallinn Sightseeing
Visit Old Town, Toompea Castle, Dome Church and more.			
Day 8	Sun Jul 22	2018	Tallinn - Moscow
Fly to Moscow and transfer to ship for boarding.			
Day 9	Mon Jul 23	2018	Moscow City tour
Walk on Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, New Maiden Convent			
Day 10	Tue Jul 24	2018	Kremlin & Cathedrals
Moscow Kremlin, Assumption & Archangel Cathedral, Tsar Bell			
Day 11	Wed Jul 25	2018	Uglich / Volga River
Cruise through Moscow Canal into Volga River, visit Uglich.			
Day 12	Thu Jul 26	2018	Yaroslavl/Golden Ring
Explore Yaroslavl, the oldest town on the Volga River.			
Day 13	Fri Jul 27	2018	Goritsy / Sheksna
Goritsy is a tiny settlement, Visit Kirillo-Belizersky Monastery.			
Day 14	Sat Jul 28	2018	Kizhi / Lake Onega
Visit Open-air Museum of Wooden Architecture of Kizhi Island.			
Day 15	Sun Jul 29	2018	Mandrogil/ Neva River
Visit Mandrogil village, fine traditions of wooden architecture			
Day 16	Mon Jul 30	2018	St. Petersburg tour
Nevsky Prospect, Church of Our Saviour on Spilled Blood.			
Day 17	Tue Jul 31	2018	Hermitage Museum
Visit Hermitage Museum, Afternoon is free for optional tours.			
Day 18	Wed Aug 1	2018	St. Petersburg - Home
Disembarkation. Transfer to airport for flight home.			



PRICING

(Land only)

	Main Deck		Boat Deck	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$3450	\$4375	\$3675	\$4675
Single Supplement	\$1195	\$1495	\$1295	\$1625
Intertour Air from	USD \$150 CAD \$195 including taxes			

Tallinn - Moscow

Tourist Visas are required for visit Russia

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Start off in the UNESCO-recognized Old Town of Vilnius, Lithuania and visit its Radziwi Palace, the former Jewish ghetto and St. Anne's Church.
- Check out the largest of all three Baltic capitals in Riga, Latvia.
- Witness Tallinn's fairy-tale charm reflected in Gothic churches, half-hidden courtyards, and gabled merchants' houses.
- Visit "the heart of Russia" in Moscow - the Red Square, the Kremlin and the onion-domed St. Basil's Cathedral.
- Visit St. Petersburg, "Venice of the North", and its legendary landmarks - State Hermitage Museum, Church of Our Saviour on Spilled Blood, St. Isaac's Cathedral and many Russian Baroque and neoclassical architecture.
- Cruise along the Vogla river visiting cities on the Golden Ring of Russia and many UNESCO Heritage Sites including the oldest town on the Volga Yaroslavl and Kizhi Island and its all wooden Transfiguration Church.



ITINERARY

July 15, 2018 Arrive Vilnius

Arrival in Vilnius, transfer to Hotel to your hotel.

Hotel Hotel Radisson Blu Lietuva or similar

July 16, 2018 Vilnius (B/D)

Vilnius is known for its more than 1.200 medieval buildings and 48 churches. The morning sightseeing tour includes a panoramic tour of the city and a walking tour of the Old Town with Vilnius Cathedral, Gediminas Tower, Peter and Paul Church, St. Anne's Church, Old University and the Gates of Dawn.

The afternoon, we take an excursion to Trakai, the medieval capital of Lithuania, with the well preserved Trakai Castle, beautifully located on an island in Lake Galve. In the evening enjoy a folklore dinner at Restaurant Belmontas.



July 17, 2018 Vilnius - Riga (B)

Heading for Riga, the first stop is the Hills of Crosses, one of the most holy sites of Catholic Lithuania. After crossing into Latvia we soon reach the magnificent Rundale Palace, the former summer residence of the Duke of Courland. Following a guided tour of the palace we travel through the rolling hills of Southern Latvia to reach Riga late afternoon, check-in at Hotel.

Hotel in Riga Radisson Blu Latvija or similar



July 18, 2018 Riga (B)

Before we get acquainted with Riga we have the possibility of discovering medieval Latvia. The morning tour takes us to the stunning scenery of the Gauja National Park and the town of Sigulda. We listen to the medieval Latvian legend of the Rose of Turaida and see the ruins of the Episcopal Castle and of the Castle of the Knights of the Sword before we return to Riga.

The afternoon offers an optional visit to the Ethnographical Open Air Museum, a spacious exposition of 18th century country life. The evening offers an organ concert at the Dome Cathedral.

July 19, 2018 Riga (B/D)

Founded in 1201 by the German bishop Albert, Riga is the largest of the three Baltic capitals and boasts a real kaleidoscope of architectural styles. The walking tour of the Old Town includes Riga Castle, the Dome Cathedral, St. Peter's Church, the Swedish Gate, the Three Brothers, the Large and Small Guilds and the Freedom Monument.

The afternoon, you can take an optional visit to Jurmala, the vibrant Latvian sea resort, famous for its wooden architecture and sandy beaches. In the evening enjoy an Latvian dinner at the stylish Restaurant Forest.



July 20, 2018 Riga - Tallinn (B)

The tour continues along the coastal highway to the Estonian summer resort of Parnu. We do a short tour of the resort before we continue through the North Estonian land of forests and arrive in Tallinn early afternoon, hotel check-in.

Hotel in Riga Radisson Blu Olympia or similar

July 21 2018 Tallinn (B/D)

Tallinn is a charming blend of medieval tranquillity and modern urban life. The medieval Old Town is a busy place in the summer with its many shops, galleries, souvenir markets, outdoor cafés and restaurants. The sightseeing tour takes us around the old medieval city walls and into the Old Town where we see Toompea Castle, Dome Church, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, medieval Old Town Hall and Great Guild Hall. In the afternoon an optional excursion is offered to Kadriorg Park and visit to KUMU, the award-winning new Estonian art museum, with its collections of classic and contemporary fine art.

The evening, enjoy a medieval dinner at Restaurant Peppersack.



July 22, 2018 Tallinn - Moscow, embarkation (B/D)

Today, you are transferred to the airport for flight to Moscow and on arrival, transfer to your ship for check in. Welcome aboard!

July 23, 2018 Moscow, City Tour (B/L/D)

A full day tour with professional guide who will lead you through this thrilling city and tell you some interesting facts about its foundation and present-day life. Walk around infamous Red Square, a UNESCO World Heritage site where both Romanov czars and Soviet commissars flexed their might and power. Admire the multicolored grandeur of the 16th-century St. Basil's Cathedral, one of the country's most beautiful Orthodox monuments, and tour its marvellously intricate interior. The New Maiden Convent is picturesquely spread out in the Moscow River bend and the building of MGU (the Moscow State University) on the Sparrow.



July 24, 2018 Moscow, Kremlin & Cathedrals (B/L/D)

Today, visit "the heart of Russia" – the territory of the Moscow Kremlin. It is one of the largest architectural ensembles in the world, including monuments built over the time from the late 15th to the 20th centuries. Historically, the Moscow Kremlin has been the residence of power and today it is the residence of the Russian President. The monumental walls and towers of the fortress capture the look of ancient Moscow with the Kremlin's golden-domed cathedrals, old chambers, magnificent palaces, and beautiful office blocks. The unique museum complex includes several cathedrals: the Assumption Cathedral, (the coronation place of all Russian tsars), the Archangel Cathedral (the burial place of Russian tsars before Peter the Great), the Annunciation Cathedral, the Tsar Bell, the Tsar Cannon, and Ivan the Great Bell Tower.

July 25, 2018 Uglich/ Volga River (B/L/D)

This morning, cruise through Moscow Canal, an impressive system of 11 locks over 80 miles and into the Volga River, the main artery of the Russian heartland for over a millennium. In the 10th - century "Golden Ring" town of Uglich, walk to the small 17th-century Church of Prince Dimitri-on-the-Blood, built on the site where Ivan the Terrible's young son met his demise. Admire its cluster of red turrets capped with spangled blue onion domes and the elegant frescoes that adorn the inside. Continue to the stately five-domed Cathedral of the Transfiguration to view the ornate icons throughout the cathedral's large, vaulted interior".

July 26, 2018 Yaroslavl/Lake Rybinskoye (B/L/D)

Today, dock in Yaroslavl, the oldest town on the Volga River and one of the "Golden Ring" of fortified cities surrounding Moscow. This UNESCO World Heritage site is also known as the "Florence of Russia," and is famous for its authentic Russian churches with their painted onion domes and soaring turrets. Stroll along the river to the Church of Elijah the Prophet, a masterpiece of local architecture located in the heart of the Old Town and filled with well-preserved frescoes. Then see the fortified Monastery of the Transfiguration, founded in the 12th century. Later, the ship cruises through the scenic wilderness of Lake Rybinskoye.

July 27, 2018 Goritsy / Lake Beloye & Sheksna River (B/L/D)

Along the shores of Lake Beloye, see rural communities continuing the traditions of Old Russia. From the tranquil village of Goritsy, visit the Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, founded in 1397. It is said that Vasily III, the first Czar of Russia, came here to pray for an heir, and soon after, his wife Elena gave birth to the future Ivan the Terrible. Along the Sheksna River, catch glimpses of a bygone era as you pass rustic family farms and quaint dachas, the seasonal cottages of Russia's elite.

July 28, 2018 Kizhi Island/Lake Onega (B/L/D)

Rise early to see the unforgettable approach to picturesque Kizhi Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This remarkable open-air museum is a treasure trove of 18th-century Karelian and north Russian wooden architecture. Admire the Transfiguration Church, an architectural masterpiece featuring 22 cupolas built completely of wood without a single nail! This afternoon, cruise Lake Onega, surrounded by the beautifully untouched Russian countryside.

July 29, 2018 Mandrogi/Lake Ladoga/ Neva River (B/L/D)

Cruise the sparkling Svir River between Lake Ladoga, the largest freshwater reservoir in Europe, and Lake Onega, known for its almost 1400 islands. The ship calls at Mandrogi, a small riverside village, one of the most beautiful and environmentally sound places built in 1996 on the place of an ancient settlement. After our visit and shop for some souvenirs, be on deck to admire the passing wilderness of serene meadows and virgin pine and birch forests as your ship heading to St. Petersburg.

July 30, 2018 St. Petersburg, City Tour (B/L/D)

Enjoy exploring the city's legendary landmarks, which are scattered across more than 100 islands linked by six times as many bridges. St. Petersburg's main thoroughfare, Nevsky Prospekt, showcases exquisite examples of Russian Baroque and neoclassical architecture. On the morning tour, see the beautiful Church of Our Saviour on Spilled Blood (Church of the Resurrection of Christ), built on the site of Emperor Alexander II's assassination, and the 19th-century St. Isaac's Cathedral, with a striking golden dome that is one of the glories of the city's skyline.

July 31, 2018 St. Petersburg, Hermitage (B/L/D)

Enjoy a tour of the State Hermitage Museum, former palace of Catherine the Great and repository of one of the world's oldest and greatest art collections. View the priceless collection of 19th and 20th century French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works as well as the controversial group of 74 masterpieces "lost" in a storeroom since World War II and found in 1995. Its spectacular collection is rivaled only by the museum's ornate interiors. The afternoon is yours in St. Petersburg, or you can choose to join the optional excursion to skim over the Gulf of Finland by hydrofoil to Petrodvorets, the splendid palaces and parklands commissioned by Peter the Great and now a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Aug 1, 2018 St. Petersburg, disembarkation - Home (B)

Your cruise ends today, disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight home.



Tibet Culture Interlude

Xining - Qinghai Lake - Rebkong (Tongren)

Lhasa - Shigatze - Gyangtze - Tsedang

July 31, 2018 - August 14, 2018



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Tibet Culture Interlude

Travel to the “Roof of the World”, starkly beautiful and isolated plateau offer a richness of religious and cultural traditions and an amazing diversity of art and architecture.

This innovative journey reveals the heart and soul of Tibet and its close neighbour Qinghai, home to thousands of Amdo Tibetans who are both part of China and apart from it.

Travel by air, road and train on the world highest railway as we traverse magnificent landscapes and learn about the region’s fascinating history and culture from expert local guides. Visit temples, cities and villages and witness how Tibetans keep their cultures and religion alive.

Our trip culminates with an epic visit to the Artistic Capital of Tibet - Rebkong, Qinghai which has been inscribed by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

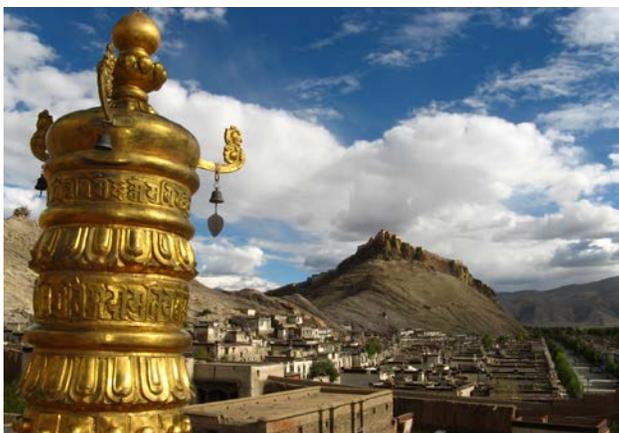
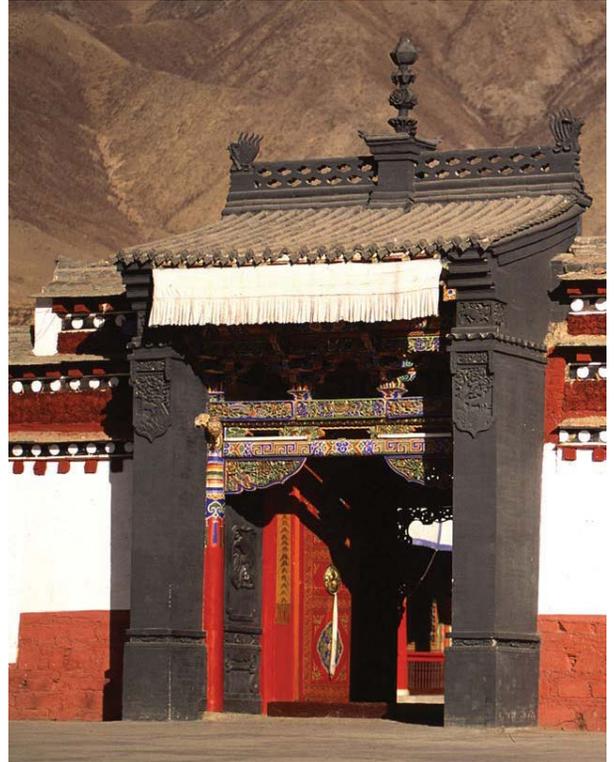
We spend two days in Rebkong to explore this vibrant area where both the ancient and the new are gracefully embraced. Join the June Festival, an unforgettable cultural experience, and to be astonished by the colours and vibrancy of ethnic Tibetans celebrating this grand event with ritual sacrifices and dedicated songs and dances to the deities.

Enjoy one of the most remarkable rail journeys experience on the planet from Xining to Lhasa. Cross the vast Qinghai - Tibet Plateau with surreal and stupendous landscapes and the source water area of the Yangtze, Mekong and more. Passing the elevated bridges and open steppes against a stunning backdrop of towering snow capped peaks to Tibet’s colourful capital of Lhasa.

Today, things in Tibet have changed - the intrusion of cell phones and the internet come to mind - the most memorable things have not: the spiritual nature and devotion of the people; ancient lamaseries dedicated to piety and the pursuit of learning; colourful ceremonies conducted by magenta - robed monks; and of course, the breathtaking beauty of the majestic Himalayas.

Our in depth visit to Tibet starts from the medieval capital city of Lhasa. We then head to the surrounding towns of Shigatse, Gyantse and Tsedang, through highland hemmed in by beige mountains and a sky whose hue verges on cobalt at this altitude. Visit Drepung, Samye, and Tashlumpo, a few of Tibet’s most historic monasteries. Walk the halls of Potala Palace and Dalai Lamas’ former residence at Norbulingka. Explore the Barkhor, the pilgrimage district surrounding Jokhang Temple.

Wherever we go, we feel as though we have stepped back through time, to the days when reincarnated lamas and ancient dynasties ruled these misty mountain realms, with the most fascinating art, history, spirituality, and grand architecture of the Tibetan culture.





GLANCE

“Wherever I live, I shall feel homesick for Tibet. I often think I can still hear the cries of wild geese and cranes and the beating of their wings as they fly over Lhasa in the clear, cold moonlight.”

Heinrich Harrer, (Austrian mountaineer, sportsman, geographer)

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Tue Jul 31	2018	Xining Arrival
Arrival in Xining and transfer to hotel.			
Day 2	Wed Aug 01	2018	Xining
Xining city sightseeing and Kumbum Monastery.			
Day 3	Tue Aug 02	2018	Xining - Qinghai Lake
Take a scenic drive to reach the largest lake in China.			
Day 4	Wed Aug 03	2018	Qinghai - Tongren
Proceed to Tongren via Kanbula National Forest Park.			
Day 5	Thu Aug 04	2018	June Festival
Be a part of the celebration and visit the local monastery.			
Day 6	Fri Aug 05	2018	Tongren - Lhasa
Some more festival viewings before overnight train to Lhasa.			
Day 7	Sat Aug 06	2018	Train - Lhasa
One of the most scenic way to see Qinghai/Tibet Plateau.			
Day 8	Sun Aug 07	2018	Lhasa
Visit Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and Barkhor Street.			
Day 9	Mon Aug 08	2018	Lhasa
Visit Drepung and Sera Monasteries and Norbulingka Palace.			
Day 10	Tue Aug 09	2018	Lhasa
Visit Tibet Family and Tibetan Museum			
Day 11	Wed Aug 10	2018	Lhasa - Shigatse
Drive to Shigatse and visit Tashilumpo Monastery.			
Day 12	Thu Aug 11	2018	Shigatse - Gyantse
Proceed to Gyantse and visit Shalu and Pelkor Monastery.			
Day 13	Fri Aug 12	2018	Gyantse - Tsedang
Through Kamba La pass and Yamdrok Lake to reach Tsedang.			
Day 14	Sat Aug 13	2018	Tsedang
Visit the oldest monastery in Tibet Samye and local buildings.			
Day 15	Sun Aug 14	2018	Tsedang - Lhasa - home
Transfer to Lhasa airport for homeward flight.			



HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- This unique trip gives a thorough treatment to the immensity of the Tibetan history, arts, breathtaking landscape and intangible cultural heritages.
- Visit Xining, Qinghai, a major gateway to the Tibetan Plateau and a culture crossroad of Han, Tibet and Muslim cultures in China. The area is also known as Amdo, one of the three traditional regions of Tibet.
- Visit Taer or Kumbum Lamasery, the birth place of Tsongkhapa, founder of the yellow hat sect of Tibetan Buddhism.
- Take an excursion to the largest lake in China - Qinghai Lake.
- Visit the Artistic Capital of Tibet - Tongren (Repkong) and be a part of the June Festival, a unique Tibetan and Tu celebration and prayer to the deities.
- A unique overnight train experience on one of the most remarkable railway across the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau.
- Visit the capital and “Holy City” of Tibet, Lhasa. Tour the majestic Potala and Norbulingka Palace, an important pilgrimage site, Jokhang Temple and the nearby Barkhor Market.
- site, the Jokhang Temple Visit some of Tibet’s most historic and influential monasteries: Kumbum, Drepung, Samye and Tashlumpo.
- Enjoy the Tibetan countryside in Shigatse, Gyantse and Tsedang.

PRICING

(Land only)

10 or more Guest **6-9 Guest**

	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$4050	\$5150	\$4650	\$5895
Single Supplement	\$1250	\$1595	\$1250	\$1595

Tourist Visas are required for visit China, special travel permit is required to visit Tibet.



ITINERARY

July 31, 2018 Xining (D)

Upon arrival, you will be met and taken to the restaurant for dinner and then check into your hotel.

Sebel Hotel Xining or similar For 2 Nights

Aug 1, 2018 Xining (B/L/D)

This morning, we visit the Museum of China Tibetan Medicine Culture where we can see the world's largest Tibetan Thangka painting which is over 2,000 feet. This world-renowned Thangka project was created over the course of 3 years by hundreds of artisans from Rebgong, a region known for producing Tibetan traditional arts.

A short drive out of city, we will then tour Taer Lamasery, known as Kumbum in Tibetan. This elegant monastery is actually the holiest shrine for Gelukpa (Yellow Hat) as its founder, Tsongkhapa was born here. We will try to arrange spectating Lama's debating session late afternoon (subject to confirmation and approval). Return back to the city, if time permits, we will have a quick stop at the Dongguan Mosque.



Aug 2, 2018 Xining - Qinghai Lake (B/L/D)

Today, we will take a very scenic drive along the ancient Tangbo Road towards Sun and Moon Mountain whose 11,500 foot summit offers a superb panorama of prairie and farmland. Like the Silk Road, the Ancient Tangbo Road and Ancient Tea & Horse Road are three historic routes that connecting China with outside world. Your guide will tell you the stories about Princess of Tang Dynasty, her marriage to the Tibetan Empire - King Songtsen Gampo, the names of mountains, rivers and other places that are associated with her long journey to Lhasa.

Arrive Qinghai Lake (Kokonor), China's largest lake, literally means Indigo Blue water in Chinese, Mongolian and Tibetan.

This afternoon, we will enjoy a cruise on the lake followed by a visit to Tibetan herdsman's family. Balance of the day is at leisure and enjoy stunning views.

More Clouds Farm Lodge for 1 night



Aug 3, 2018 Qinghai - Tongren (B/L/D)

After breakfast, drive along the scenic road of upper Yellow River valley to Tongren and en route, we make a stop Kanbula National Forest Park, renowned for its pristine views of the massive lake centred in the park and surrounded by beautiful natural scenery.

Continue to Tongren, often called the Artistic Capital of Tibet where the significant Repkong Art was established in the 15th century. Characterized by a distinctively Tibetan Buddhist religion style and unique regional features, the Repkong arts embody the spiritual history and traditional culture of the region and remain an integral part of the artistic life of people there today. In 2009 UNESCO inscribed Repkong Art as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



We will visit Wutun village, its temples and an artist's home / workshop.

Rebgon Norbang Travel Inn or similar for 2 nights

Aug 4, 2018 June Festival (B/L/D)

Our visit to Tongren will be culminated with the traditional June Festival or "Lerey of June" in Tibetan which literally means to dedicate song and dance to deities. People in Repkong pray for a peaceful time with bumper harvest, thriving livestock, safety and good health and longevity during the festival. This humane phenomenon presents a strong primitive religious atmosphere, and complex and rich cultural patterns and connotations. The festival includes a series of activities of Shaman worshiping ceremonies, performed by villagers in the format of various dances and rituals.

Spend the day viewing the festival activities and tour different villages and also visit the Repkong Museum, and the Longwu Monastery, one of the leading monasteries in the Amdo.

Lunch will be served at a local villager's family.



Aug 5, 2018 Tongren - Xining - Lhasa (B/L/D)

Today is the last day of the festival. We will tour a bit more of Tongren before head to xining later this afternoon. After dinner, board an overnight train to Lhasa, one of the most remarkable rail journeys experience on the planet. Sit back as the train travel westbound crossing grassland and entering acid Qaidam basin toward Golmud.

Soft sleeper on the train



Aug 6, 2018 Across Qinghai/Tibet Plateau to Lhasa (D)

Your morning starts with surreal and stupendous landscapes of source water area of the Yangtze, Mekong and more. Passing the elevated bridges and open steppes against a stunning backdrop of towering snow capped peaks. Early this afternoon, we arrive in Lhasa, the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, lies on the Lhasa River's north bank in a valley of the Himalayas and transfer to the hotel to rest.

Four Point by Sheraton Hotel or similar



Aug 7, 2018 Lhasa (B/L/D)

Begin our exploration of this Tibetan "Holy City" at its hallmark structure: the immense Potala Palace. Thirteen stories high and purportedly comprised of more than 1,000 rooms, the palace contains the Dalai Lama's former residences, immense tombs, numerous prayer halls and storage areas. This afternoon, visit the heart of Lhasa and its most important pilgrimage site, the Jokhang Temple, founded in 642 and now a World Heritage site. Explore the Barkhor, a vibrant and exotic market/bazaar that surrounds the Jokhang Temple.

Aug 8, 2018 Lhasa (B/L/D)

Opened to foreigners only since 1984, Tibet is a profoundly spiritual place where Buddhism has infused all aspects of life for 13 centuries. Another full day in Lhasa allows us the opportunity to visit the great Drepung Monastery, where approximately 800 monks reside. Continue to Sera Monastery in the afternoon to watch the monks' lively debating sessions.

Aug 9, 2018 Lhasa (B/L)

This morning, visit the Norbulingka Summer Palace, Tibet Museum, which displays an extensive collection of Tibetan scrolls and the gold seal of the fifth Dalai Lama. On the way to our hotel we stop to visit with a Tibetan family in their home.

Revisit the Barkhor Market area today and Tsang Kung Nunnery located just next to the Barkhor Street, so for those who want to take advantage of free time to explore one of the world's most enigmatic and ancient cities, also your hotel is within walking distance from the Barkhor



Aug 10, 2018 Lhasa - Shigatse (B/L/D)

A two and half hour train ride brings us to Shigatse, Tibet's second largest city and the spiritual home of the Panchen Lama, second only to the Dali Lama in the hierarchy of the Gelugpa "Yellow Hat" sect, the largest and most influential of Tibetan Buddhist denominations.

Explore the impressive complex of temples, prayer halls and residences at the Tashilumpo Monastery, where the 86-foot-tall Maitreiya Buddha figure sits covered with over 600 pounds of pure gold, gems and precious stones and walk along the pilgrim route before sunset.

Qiaomu Langzong Hotel or similar

Aug 11, 2018 Shigatse - Gyantse (B/L/D)

Enjoy breathtaking vistas across vertiginous, snow-capped mountains as we drive to Gyantse. En route, we visit Shalu Monastery, founded in 1040 by Chetsun Sherab Jungnay, for centuries it was renowned as a centre of scholarly learning and psychic training and its mural paintings were considered to be the most ancient and beautiful in Tibet.

Arrive in Gyantse, with a visit to Pelkor Chode Monastery, which includes the Kumbun Chorten complex, one of Tibet's great pilgrimage sites. Kumbun Chorten houses 108 chapels, each of which is elaborately decorated with historic frescoes



Gyantse Hotel or similar

Aug 12, 2018 Gyantse - Tsedang (B/L/D)

Drive over Kamba La Mountain pass and skirt the turquoise Yamdrok Lake tucked amongst the mountains of the Tibetan Plateau where we will have a picnic lunch if weather permits.

Today's stunning drive affords many dramatic views of the harsh mountain landscape, studded with alpine lakes and immense melting glaciers, as we make our way to our hotel in Tsedang.

Tsedang Hotel or similar

Aug 13, 2018 Tsedang (B/L/D)

Visit Samye Monastery, the oldest monastery in Tibet, and a unique combination of Chinese, Tibetan, and Indian architectural styles.

Walk a steep path lined with thousands of prayer flags to Yumbu Lakang, an ancient palace and reputedly Tibet's oldest building dramatically posed over the fertile Yarlung Tsangpo Valley.

Aug 14, 2018 Tsedang - Lhasa Airport (B)

Transfer to Gongkha airport or onward flight.



Treasures of Balkan

Dubrovnik - Montenegro - Cavtat - Split
Plitvice Lakes - Bled Lake - Ljubljana - Zagreb

Aug 15, 2018 - Aug 26, 2018



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Treasures of Balkan

Balkan's prime position has made it a meeting point and flashpoint of ancient Rome and Byzantium, Christianity and Islam, offering an artful blend of cultural excellence

The Balkan Peninsula has historically been the scene of wars, invasions, and religious and ethnic conflicts. Throughout the 1990s, Yugoslavia experienced violent conflict among its six regions. These regions broke apart and became independent nations stretching along the eastern shores of the Adriatic. Now, just two decades later, the Balkan region is a top travel destination thanks to a dazzling coastline, a benign climate and the remains of ancient cities founded by the Greeks, Romans, Ottoman Turks and the powerful Venetian Empire.



Our journey through the Balkan Peninsula gives you an in-depth look at this fascinating area's complex history and diverse cultures, as well as its recent economic successes.

Croatia, Slovenia, & Montenegro, just a half-day drive apart from each other, offer different cultural experiences from language to customs, religion, food and wine along with natural wonders.

Begin in picture-perfect Dubrovnik jutting into the Adriatic Sea, surrounded by medieval walls, home to Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architectures.

We take a side trip to Kotor, Montenegro's Venetian architecture is set against the stunning backdrop of its fjord-like bay and is the home of Sveti Stefan where Princess Diana and Prince Charles had their honeymoon.

Enjoy a day at sea on a historical galleon to see the best of Dubrovnik. Visit the most beautiful islands of the Dubrovnik archipelago commonly known as Elafiti islands.



Experience the Greek, Roman and other Mediterranean specialities, which prominently feature various seafood, vegetables, pastas, olive oil and garlic in the local cuisine. And of course, the local wine. Over the past decade, Croatian wine has exploded onto the scene, providing yet another reason to visit this stunning destination.

Finish our journey in Zagreb, the capital of the Republic of Croatia. The country is at the crossroads of Central Europe, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean.



GLANCE

"If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough."

Mario Andretti (Croatia born, American-Italian racing driver)

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Wed Aug 15	2018	Arrive Dubrovnik
Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel			
Day 2	Thu Aug 16	2018	Montenegro Excursion
Travel to the Republic of Montenegro, visit city of Kotor			
Day 3	Fri Aug 17	2018	Adriatic Cruise
Take a cruise to explore beautiful Elafiti islands			
Day 4	Sat Aug 18	2018	Dubrovnik - Cavtat
Morning free, afternoon visit ancient Roman Town Cavtat.			
Day 5	Sun Aug 19	2018	Dubrovnik City Tour
Tour of Old Dubrovnik visit the Rector's Palace and more.			
Day 6	Mon Aug 20	2018	Dubrovnik to Split
Travel to Split, visit the Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace			
Day 7	Tue Aug 21	2018	Split - Plitvice Lakes
Travel via Trogir to Plitvice Lakes National Park and tour.			
Day 8	Wed Aug 22	2018	Plitvice Lakes - Bled
Visit the largest caves in Europe, a miniature electric train ride			
Day 9	Thu Aug 23	2018	Bled Lake
Visit the charming town, the lakeshore and Bled Castle.			
Day 10	Fri Aug 24	2018	Bled-Ljubljana-Zagreb
Travel to Ljubljana, visit Central Market, Baroque Town Hall.			
Day 11	Sat Aug 25	2018	Zagreb
City tour, visit Upper Town, St Mark's, St. Catherine's Churches			
Day 12	Sun Aug 26	2018	Zagreb Departure
You will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.			



PRICING (Land only)

	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$3395	\$4300	\$3525	\$4475
Single Supplement	\$1095	\$1395	\$1095	\$1395

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Enjoy Eastern Europe's most expansive coastline with endless natural charms.
- Explore medieval cities, ancient Roman ruins and hospitable people in four Balkan.
- Enjoy the Adriatic coast from Dubrovnik to Split with visits to Kotor in Montenegro.
- A day is spent on the Adriatic historical galleon to the best views of the Dubrovnik region from the sea.
- Be dazzled by the Plitvice Lakes National Park for its 16 terraced lakes.
- Get ready for the must-see, Lake Bled and its Bled Castle in Slovenia.
- Finish in the Croatian capital of Zagreb via the Slovenia capital of Ljubljana, both reminiscing the old days.
- First class hotels throughout the journey.
- Enjoy the company of a Professional Tour Director.
- Whisper technology enhanced touring.



ITINERARY



August 15, 2018 **Arrival in Dubrovnik**
Welcome to Croatia! You will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Dubrovnik: Lacroma or similar

August 16, 2018 **Dubrovnik - Montenegro - Dubrovnik (B/L)**
Travel to the Republic of Montenegro. Encircled in the mountains, the innermost bays of the Gulf, Risan and Kotor, are the earliest inhabited areas with evidences of civilization dating from Illyrian, Roman and early Christian periods. We will visit the town of Risan with a Roman villa and its exceptionally well preserved mosaics from the 2nd and 3rd century AD. Next, a short boat ride from the baroque shore town of Perast will take us to one of the two islets in the Bay to visit the Church of Our Lady of the Rocks which houses one of the finest collections of wall paintings. In the UNESCO-protected town of Kotor enjoy a guided tour through one of the best preserved medieval walled cities on the Adriatic.



August 17, 2018 **Dubrovnik - Adriatic Cruise (B/L)**
The best views of the Dubrovnik region are from the sea and historical Galleon is certainly the best stage for such scenery. During this cruise you will see the three most beautiful islands of the Dubrovnik archipelago – Koločep, Lopud and Šipan commonly known as the Elafiti islands. The old legend of the islands is hidden in its name-about the old Greeks hunting for deer and subsequently naming the islands the Deer islands. Green islands, with gardens full of oranges and lemons and lovely seashore landscapes, charming and picturesque villages with harmonious architecture of summer manors; old seaman’s houses and little votive churches. Visit all the three Elaphite islands and enjoy your lunch of grilled fish and wine while being entertained by our local musicians.

August 18, 2018 **Dubrovnik - Cavtat - Dubrovnik (B/D)**
Morning is free at leisure or take an optional tour of sea kayak, paddle along the magnificent Dubrovnik City Walls, swim in one of the secluded caves and simply enjoy blue Adriatic sea.

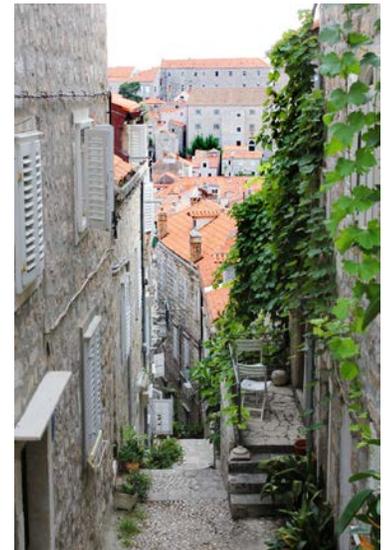
This afternoon, we visit ancient Roman Town Cavtat, one of the most beautiful small towns along the Adriatic coast. Join a guided walking tour and enjoy some time on your own discovering this charming town. On the way back, we stop at the mountain viewpoint where offers a spectacular view upon the whole area including the surrounding islands. Dinner tonight in a local restaurant.

August 19, 2018 **Dubrovnik (B)**

Dubrovnik, known as the primary Pearl of the Adriatic, has been an important Mediterranean sea power since the 13th century.

Explore the beautiful Gothic, Renaissance and baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains of Dubrovnik on a morning walking tour. Visit the Rector’s Palace, and see the Bell Tower Clock, Orlando’s Column, Sponza Palace, the Dominican Monastery, and Franciscan Monastery with its Pharmacy, one of the oldest in the world.

The rest of the day is free.



August 20, 2018 **Dubrovnik - Split (B/D)**
Travel north along the spectacular Adriatic coast, past old fishing villages and new resorts, to the city of Split, a town of ancient history, built and preserved over the course of 1700 years by its loving inhabitants.

Enjoy a sightseeing tour featuring the historic inner city, built around the Roman Emperor Diocletian’s Palace, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Then see the remnants of Split’s Roman heritage, its Renaissance and Gothic structures, Jupiter’s Temple, the Peristyle, and the Cathedral.

Split: Atrium or similar





August 21, 2018 Split - Trogir - Plitvice Lakes (B/D)

Head to Trogir, the center of artistic activities. Scholars from around the world gather here to study and paint. Then turn inland and travel to spectacular Plitvice Lakes National Park. Have your camera ready as you take a walking tour around several of the lower lakes. Enjoy the breathtaking scenery of this natural wonder of 16 terraced lakes surrounded by thickly wooded mountains and lush vegetation.

Plitvice: Jezero or similar



August 22, 2018 Plitvice Lakes - Bled Lake (B/D)

Return to the coast and travel along the beautiful bay of Kvarner to its popular resort, Opatija. After some free time, journey north to Postojna, home to one of the largest caves in Europe. Tour this fantastic subterranean world by miniature electric train. Afterward, continue to Bled, beautifully set in the Julian Alps.

Bled: Park hotel or Golf Hotel

August 23, 2018 Bled (B)

A sightseeing tour of Bled features the charming town, the lakeshore, and a visit to the imposing Bled Castle, perched on a cliff high above the lake.

The balance of the day is at leisure to explore on your own, stroll along the lake, shop, sit back in a café and nibble on Bled cream cake, or perhaps join an optional excursion visiting the small island in the middle of the lake.



August 24, 2018 Bled - Ljubljana - Zagreb (B/D)

Travel to Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, and take a walking tour. See the sights of the old city center, including the picturesque open-air Central Market, Three Bridges, Baroque Town Hall, and Robba's Fountain. Then, on to Zagreb, the capital of Croatia.

Zagreb: Westin or similar

August 25, 2018 Zagreb (B/D)

This morning, discover Croatia's capital city on a panoramic tour. See the fortified Upper Town, a historic center and cultural hub, and discover the city's detailed art nouveau architecture from the era of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Visit Zagreb's iconic landmarks, the 13th-century St. Mark's Church, St. Catherine's Church, the Cathedral, Parliament, and the Government Palace.

The rest of the day is free to explore the winding streets of the Old Town, relax in a café or take an optional excursion to see the countryside.

Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant

August 26, 2018 Zagreb (B)

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight.





South Africa Revealed

Cape Town - Cape Winelands

Kapama Private Game Reserve - Johannesburg - Soweto

September 1, 2018 - September 11, 2018



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South Africa Revealed

South Africa is more than scenery and wildlife. Its vital cultural diversity and the historical merging of local tribes and immigrants carve out the land under the bright African sun.

South Africa is known globally because of Mandela. Although the racial problem is still the most sensitive point of the local pain, surprisingly, this county has turned in the past decades, step by step into one of the world's top travel destination for lovers of wine, food, wildlife and much more.

This trip takes you to experience the diverse threads of South Africa's history, an animal kingdom of enormous diversity, the birthplace of mankind's earliest ancestors, the meeting place of two great oceans, and the juxtaposition of transplanted European values and indigenous tribal norms.



Begin in cosmopolitan Cape Town. Ascend flat-topped Table Mountain for breathtaking panoramic views and cruise to historic Robben Island, site of Nelson Mandela's incarceration. Admire the natural beauty of Cape Point and the Kirstenbosch Gardens, drive along one of the world's most scenic coastal routes to the Cape of Good Hope, and observe the African penguin colony at Boulders Beach.

Travel to the Cape Winelands and stay in the quaint town surrounded by vast and enormous mountain ranges. In this food and wine heartland of the country, tantalise your taste buds with wine tastings and top chefs created international cuisines with breathtaking scenery as a backdrop.

No trip to southern Africa would be complete without a safari in its greatest parks and game reserves. View game in the Kapama Private Game Reserve, bordering the world renowned Kruger National Park, where you can see the Big Five - lion, elephant, rhinoceros, Cape buffalo and leopard - as well as zebra, giraffe, kudu and over 40 other mammal species and 350 different types of birds.



Conclude in Johannesburg, or Joburg as it is often called, one of Africa's largest and most vibrant cities. The old town is a blend of multiculturalism where traditional medicine stores, Chinese restaurants, taxis and ultra-modern skyscrapers coexist. Explore Soweto, built in the 1950s by the apartheid authorities as a residential area for immigrant black workers and visit the Apartheid Museum.

We will also visit the Cradle of Humankind, a paleoanthropological and World Heritage site, where a new species of hominini was recently discovered.



GLANCE

"After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb."
Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (Former President of South Africa)

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Sat	Sep 1	2018	Cape Town Arrival
Arrive in Cape Town and transfer to hotel.				
Day 2	Sun	Sep 2	2018	Cape Town City Tour
Morning City Tour and visit to Robben Island in the afternoon				
Day 3	Mon	Sep 3	2018	Cape Peninsula
Full Day Cape Point & Peninsula Tour, stay in Cape Winelands				
Day 4	Tue	Sep 4	2018	Cape Winelands
Cape Winelands, visiting both Paarl and Stellenbosch				
Day 5	Wed	Sep 5	2018	Cape Town - Kapama
Flight to Hoedspruit, drive to Kapama Private Game Reserve				
Day 6	Thu	Sep 6	2018	Kapama Reserve
Safari at Kapama Private Game Reserve				
Day 7	Fri	Sep 7	2018	Kapama Reserve
Safari at Kapama Private Game Reserve, bush walk .				
Day 8	Sat	Sep 8	2018	Kapama - Joburg
Fly from Hoedspruit to Johannesburg, transfer to hotel.				
Day 9	Sun	Sep 9	2018	Johannesburg
Visit World Heritage Site - Moropen - Cradle of Humankind				
Day 10	Mon	Sep 10	2018	City tour & Soweto
Morning Johannesburg city tour, visit Soweto in the afternoon				
Day 11	Tue	Sep 11	2018	Departure
Departure from Johannesburg to home.				



PRICING

(Land only)

	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$3895	\$4950	\$3895	\$4950
Single Supplement	\$1600	\$2050	\$1600	\$2050
Intertour Air from	USD \$400 CAD \$500 including taxes			

Cape Town - Hoedspruit - Johannesburg

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Explore Cape Town visiting all the 'must-sees' when in the Mother City – Table Mountain, Castle of Good Hope, SA Museum, Company Gardens and Robben Island, The tour encompasses visits of historical, cultural and aesthetic significance to Capetonians and South Africans at large.
- Drive along one of the world's most scenic coastal routes to explore Cape Point & Peninsula, Hout Bay harbour, Cape Point, watch the penguins at Boulders Beach, walk in the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.
- Discover the charms of South Africa's oldest university town and the warm and wonderful heart of the Cape's winelands.
- Visit the heart of the Cape Winelands and stay at boutique estate and sampling excellent South African cuisine and wines in this picturesque region.
- Enjoy three nights stay in Kapama Private Game Reserve, a renowned South African game reserve featuring award-winning luxury lodges and incomparable safari experiences.
- Enjoy 3 nights stay at luxury Kapama South Camp Lodge in a stunning suite room, tastefully decorated, feature modern and African-inspired décor and with en-suite bathrooms with picture windows to enjoy the surrounding scenery and birdlife.
- Visit the World Heritage Site of The Cradle of Humankind, Maropeng Visitor Centre, Lesedi Cultural Village and enjoy a traditional African meal.
- Visit Soweto, the biggest black urban settlement in Africa with a rich political history.



ITINERARY

September 1, 2018 **Arrival in Cape Town**

Welcome to South Africa! On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

The Commodore Hotel or similar

September 2, 2018 **City Tour / Robben Island (B/D)**

Enjoy a Cape Town city tour, including a visit to Bo-Kaap, a colourful, multicultural area that showcases South Africa's Islamic heritage. Visit the District Six Museum, which captures the forced removal and relocation of people during the apartheid era. Walk through Greenmarket Square, once a produce market and now one of the city's most vibrant areas with a lively open-air craft market and sidewalk cafes. Then drive to the Castle of Good Hope, South Africa's oldest colonial building and still the headquarters of the Western Cape military command. See the Grand Parade, where Nelson Mandela spoke to the residents of Cape Town after his release in 1990.

Following lunch, take a ferry ride to tour Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for the first 18 years of his 27 years in prison. Visit the old prison block and the lime quarry where Mandela and other prisoners toiled. Most of the guides on the island are ex-political prisoners. Board a cable car for an exhilarating ride to the summit, where the views of the city and surroundings are breathtaking.

This evening, explore the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront and enjoy Welcome dinner at one of its many fine restaurants.



September 3, 2018 **Cape Peninsula / Cape Winelands (B/L)**

After an early breakfast, depart on a full-day tour of the Cape Peninsula. Take a drive down the Atlantic coast, passing some of Cape Town's most exclusive oceanfront suburbs: Sea Point, Bantry Bay, and Clifton. Drive along one of the world's most scenic coastal routes to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Spend time exploring the rocky coastline and magnificent flowering shrublands.

Drive to Cape Point, a promontory that juts out into the sea at the south-east corner of the Cape Peninsula. Walk or take the funicular to the lighthouse at Cape Point. Finally, drive to the Cape of Good Hope, the most southwestern point of the African continent.

Eat lunch at a restaurant on Seaforth Beach, and then continue along the coast to Boulders Beach for a chance to see African penguins. End the day in the Cape Winelands, sampling excellent South African cuisine and wines.

Protea Hotel Franschoek or similar



September 4, 2018 **Cape Winelands (B/L)**

After breakfast, spend the day tasting the "fruits of the vines" and enjoying the charm and hospitality of this unique region. The rolling foothills of the majestic Simonsberg Mountain are where the vineyards of Plaisir de Merle thrive, producing grapes of exceptional quality and richness. The 2,475 acre Plaisir de Merle estate has earned international acclaim for its white and red wines. Continue to Delaire Graff for a wine tasting and gourmet lunch on the elegant terrace.

After a tour of the estate, drive to Franschoek, a charming village nestled in the "Valley of the Huguenots," where the French first settled in 1688. In the afternoon, relax at the hotel and enjoy some of the activities on site, including swimming, quiet walks through the estate gardens, bird-watching, and massages at the spa.

September 5, 2018 **Cape Winelands / Kapama Reserve (B/L/D)**

Transfer back to Cape Town for a flight to Hoedspruit, then drive to the Kapama Private Reserve, located in the Greater Kruger National Park region and on arrival, check into your lodge.

Kapama Southern Camp is the proud new addition to the Kapama Private Game Reserve family, and is situated in the south of the Big Five game reserve. It offers luxury game lodge accommodation, warm hospitality and friendly service in a tranquil setting that will be savoured by even the most discerning nature lover.

Kapama Southern Camp, suite





September 8, 2018 **Kapama Reserve / Johannesburg (B)**
 Venture out for one final game drive before breakfast this morning. Then, fly to Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg and on arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Da Vinci Hotel or similar

September 9, 2018 **Moropen - Cradle of Humankind (B/L)**

Today, tour the World Heritage Site - The Cradle of Humankind. The superb Maropeng Visitor Centre is an exciting, world class exhibition, focusing on the development of humans and your ancestors over the past few million years.



From past to present, you'll be exploring Five cultures at the Lesedi Cultural Village, heart and home to families of a range of African tribes, all living harmoniously in true traditional homesteads. You'll be right there experiencing the warmth and hospitality of people from the Zulu, Xhosa, Ndebele, Sotho and Pedi cultures, and you'll find it fascinating! Our multilingual, multi-visual orientation depicts the history of South Africa, and will deepen your understanding of the complexity of our multicultural community.

September 10, 2018 **Johannesburg - Soweto (B/L)**

In the morning, take a city tour of this fast paced metropolis. Set off for Constitution Hill, home of South Africa's architectural marvel, the Constitutional Court and site of Johannesburg's Old Fort Prison. Explore the inner city of Johannesburg learning about the gold rush, before exploring the Maboneng Precinct, a wonderful example of urban regeneration of the eastside of Johannesburg.



This afternoon, an excursion to Soweto, the most metropolitan township in the country - setting trends in politics, fashion, music, dance and language. We visit the Hector Pieterse Museum, and discover the cause of the tragic riots which led to his death; we pass Mandela House, and give you time to visit this fascinating little museum. Our journey continues to Regina Mundi Church, site of many secret underground meetings of the then banned political parties. Finally we take you past the largest stadium in Africa, Soccer City, host of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Final. Soweto is unlike a suburb you've ever seen or been to, yet the history of struggle encapsulated here is a cornerstone of the South African Story.

September 11, 2018 **Johannesburg Departure (B)**

Morning is free at leisure or take an optional half day tour to the capital of South Africa, - Pretoria, the Jacaranda City.

Transfer to the airport in time for your flight home.

September 6, 2018 **Kapama Reserve Game Drive (B/L/D)**

Accompanied by a skilled ranger and tracker, you can expect to encounter a diverse range of animal and bird species on game drives. Since this is a Big Five reserve, seeing lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo is possible over a two-day safari in Kapama Private Game Reserve.

The day starts with an early wake-up call between 5 am and 5:30 am. Tea, coffee and rusks are enjoyed together before heading out at first light. While seeing big game is always exhilarating, there are many other smaller species that are also captivating, and birding enthusiasts will be delighted at the approximately 350 species of birds recorded on the reserve. Halfway through the game drive, there's a stop for hot drinks and snacks, before returning to the lodge at around 9 am for a full breakfast. Throughout the day, it's likely you will see wildlife around the lodge - nyala antelope and vervet monkeys are frequent visitors, though seeing some of the Big Five is also not uncommon.

At around 3:30 pm, everyone gathers for a decadent high tea, before heading out with your ranger and tracker for the afternoon game drive through the reserve. En route, you'll stop for a sundowner drink and will have a chance to stretch your legs as you watch the sun set over the distant peaks of the Drakensberg mountains.

As darkness falls, the nocturnal animals of the bush come out. The skilled tracker will scan the landscape using a spotlight, which illuminates animals' eyes. A variety of completely different species can be seen on the night drive back to the lodge. Arrival at the lodge is usually around 7 pm, allowing time to freshen up before enjoying a sumptuous dinner.

September 7, 2018 **Kapama Reserve (B/L/D)**

Set out for another full-day wildlife viewing and enjoy a guided bush walk with a highly trained game ranger, the experience offers an intimate encounter with nature and wildlife, and medicinal and other plants are identified en route. Between activities today, enjoy the pool and the private patios offer the opportunity to admire relaxing sundowners, while game watching at the same time.





Himalayan Kingdoms - Nepal & Bhutan

Kathmandu - Pokhara - Dhulikhel

Paro - Thimphu - Punakha

October 7, 2018 - October 20, 2018



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Himalayan Kingdoms - Nepal & Bhutan

A journey to the devout lands of Nepal and Bhutan, different in tradition and belief yet similar in spirit and the surrounding Himalayan scenery casting a truly awe-inspiring spell.

We present two beautiful Himalayan Kingdoms in one magical tour of a lifetime. Enter the serene and spiritual lands of Nepal and Bhutan and experience the countries' rich histories and unique cultural heritages. From the brightly coloured fluttering prayer flags of Nepal to the elaborate traditional dress of the Bhutanese, these captivating lands cannot fail to enchant.

Start in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu and get our first look at this landlocked Himalayan nation, a land of snow peaks, yetis, monasteries and mantras.

Walk through Kathmandu's Durbar Square, home to the old Royal Palace and the centre of the old town. Visit ancient Buddhist temple of Swayambhunath and Patan Durbar Square, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.



Travel through the beautiful Kathmandu Valley to hilltop Dhulikhel, an escape into a world of peace and tranquillity by indulging in some daily yoga sessions that are helpful to the mind and soul.

They say that a magic tiger flew through the Tibetan skies with Guru Rimpoche, the second Buddha, on his back. High above the Himalayas they soared, touching down at last on a remote, craggy peak where the views of both surrounding and distant mountains took their breath away. It was here that "Tiger's Nest," or Takstang Monastery, and the Kingdom of Bhutan, were founded.



That was, legend has it, in the 8th century. Today, over a thousand years later, little has changed. Just over half a million people living in this tiny mountain kingdom of cherished and jealously guarded isolation. National pride runs deep, as evidenced in traditional architecture and in strikingly beautiful national dress for both men and women.

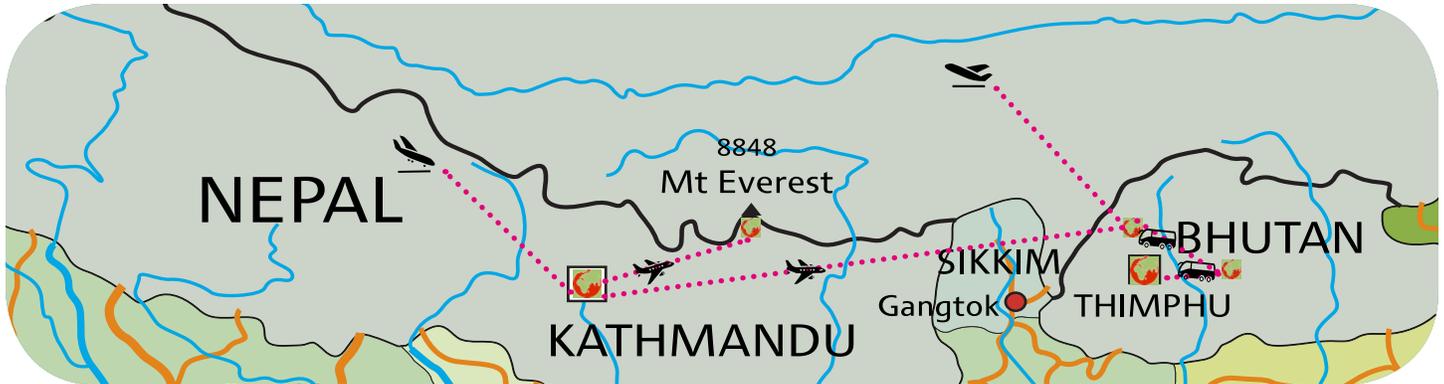
In Bhutan, prayer wheels spin, mantras are murmured, and butter lamps glow in window after window. Dzongs, monasteries and stupas dot the countryside. Colourful prayer flags flutter along the high ridges. Bright costumes adorn festival dancers. Wild animals abound in deep forests. And the smiles of the locals are warm and genuine.

Experience Bhutan, the beauty and mystery with soaring mountain peaks, picturesque valleys and delightful people. The country values Gross National Happiness and we will uncover its ancient fortresses, monasteries, fascinating markets and stunning scenery evoking Shangri-La.



GLANCE

“At high altitudes, there’s no place for the fantastic, because reality itself is more marvellous than anything man could imagine.” René Daumal (French writer and poet)



BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Sun	Oct 7	2018	Kathmandu Arrival
Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to the hotel				
Day 2	Mon	Oct 8	2018	Kathmandu
Explore the old city and bazaars, visit temples in Boudhanath				
Day 3	Tue	Oct 9	2018	Kathmandu
Visit Bhadgaon or Bhaktapur, Patan City, Durbar Square				
Day 4	Wed	Oct 10	2018	Kathmandu-Pokhara
Sightseeing of Pokhara, sunset boat ride on Phewa Lake				
Day 5	Thu	Oct 11	2018	Pokhara
Visit World Peace Stupa, a high tea session with the Sherpa.				
Day 6	Fri	Oct 12	2018	Pokhara - Dhulikhel
Fly to Kathmandu and drive to Dhulikhel, Yoga practise.				
Day 7	Sat	Oct 13	2018	Kathmandu Thimphu
Fly to Paro, drive to Thimphu, visit King’s Memorial Chorten				
Day 8	Sun	Oct 14	2018	Thimphu
See Rubthob Goema Nunnery and Motithang Takin Preserve				
Day 9	Mon	Oct 15	2018	Thimphu
Visit Textile Museum, Thimpu Dzong near the Kings Palace.				
Day 10	Tue	Oct 16	2018	Thimphu - Punakha
Visit Chimi Lhakhang (Temple of fertility) and Punakha Dzong				
Day 11	Wed	Oct 17	2018	Punakha - Paro
Visit the Ta Dzong (National Museum) and the Rinpung Dzong.				
Day 12	Thu	Oct 18	2018	Paro - Tiger’s Nest
Excursion to Taktshang Lhakhang or Tiger’s Nest				
Day 13	Fri	Oct 19	2018	Paro Sightseeing
Drukgyel Dzong, visit Kyichu Lhakhang and a Bhutanese farm				
Day 14	Sat	Oct 20	2018	Paro Departure
Departure from Paro, Bhutan home.				

PRICING

(Land only)

10 or more Guest

6-9 Guest

	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$4095	\$5250	\$4295	\$5475
Single Supplement	\$1450	\$1850	\$1450	\$1850
Intertour Air from	USD \$600 CAD \$775 including taxes			

Kathmandu – Pokhara - Kathmandu - Paro

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Explore the Kathmandu Valley - Patan Durbar Square, Swayambhunath Pagoda, Bodhnath Buddhist stupa and various other temples and shrines.
- See UNESCO World heritage site of Bhaktapur Durbar square, Heritage Walk to Boudhanath.
- Visit of Bamboo School in Katmandu and Rickshaw ride at Thamel area.
- Visit picturesque Pokhara, meet Sherpa Mountaineer with Hi-Tea.
- Sunset Boat ride on Phewa Lake in Pokhara.
- Paro Rinpung Dzong, Kyichu Lhakhang, The National Museum at Ta Dzong, local farmhouse and Paro market.
- Hike to the Tigers Nest, Bhutan’s postcard.
- Visit Thimphu - Market, Chorten’s memorial, Hand Made Paper Unit, Handicrafts Emporium.
- Thimphu Painting School and the traditional Medicine Institute Chimi Lhakang (in Punakha).
- Explore Punakha - Punakha Dzong.
- Enjoy Panoramic views of the Bhutanese Himalayas and incredible scenery.



ITINERARY

Oct 7, 2018 Arrive Kathmandu

Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to the hotel.

Mulberry Hotel, Kathmandu (Boutique room)

Oct 8, 2018 Kathmandu (B/D)

This morning, visit Kathmandu Durbar Square in the heart of old city Kathmandu. The complex was residence to Nepal's Royal family before the construction of the newer Narayanhiti Palace. There are around 50 temples in the vicinity. The Durbar is divided into two courtyards - the outer comprising the Palace of the Living Goddess – Kumari, and the inner is the main palace. Important ceremonies, including the coronation of the Nepali monarch used to be held in the Kathmandu Durbar Square. Visit Swoyambhunath - a UNESCO World Heritage site, believed to have been established more than 2,500 years ago and now an important Buddhist learning site.

Take a Rickshaw ride from Durbar Square to Thamel passing through the old Kathmandu city and local bazaars filled with local people. Spend time and enjoy the colourful scene and interacting with the locals.

Visit a Buddhist Monastery near Boudhanath surrounded by Stupas, Gumpa monasteries, curio shops, and restaurants. Light up the Butter lamp at the shrine and experience a glimpse of Buddhism and watch the monks pray. Have an interactive session with a High-Monk if possible.

Welcome dinner at the Krishna Arpan Restaurant at the Hotel Dwarika served in a traditional Nawari style and cuisine.



Oct 9, 2018 Kathmandu (B)

Drive to Bhadgaon - en route stop at a Bamboo School established to offer free education to the children of the financially weak families. You would be welcomed by the children and each guest will be accompanied by a child to make a show around of the school and the orphanage.

Arrive Bhadgaon or Bhaktapur (Place of devotees) was the largest of the 3 Newar Kingdoms of the Kathmandu valley and was the ancient capital. It is the third largest city in Kathmandu valley and the majority of the population is Newars. Bhadgaon is a UNESCO world Heritage site for its rich culture, temples and wood, metal and stone artworks.

Lunch at Patan Café in Patan City and walking through the bazaars and labyrinthine back streets of this city of arts and architecture founded in 250 AD, renowned for its fine works in bronze, silver and copper. Visit Durbar Square, the Royal Baths, Mahaboudha, Krishna Mandir and Hiranya Verna Mahabihar (the Golden Temple). Continue to the Patan Museum, housed in a beautifully restored former Malla residential palace.

Oct 10, 2018 Kathmandu - Pokhara (B)

Wake up early and after a quick cup of tea/coffee, transfer to Kathmandu domestic airport for an optional Mt. Everest Flightseeing. Mountain Flight offers the closest possible aerial views of Mt. Everest and ranges of Himalaya. The 45-minute flight offers an incredible panorama and you can take a nice photograph of the world's highest mountain and enjoy a champagne in mid-air.

Return to hotel for Breakfast and then transfer to the airport for flight to Pokhara - the largest valley in Nepal.

Atithi Resort, Pokhara (Deluxe room)



This afternoon, enjoy a sightseeing of Pokhara visiting the Devi falls, Bindhyabasini temple, Pokhara regional museum and a Tibetan refugee camp. Around sun-set enjoy a boat ride on Phewa Lake - the second largest lake in the Kingdom. Later walk around the old bazaar of Pokhara.

Oct 11, 2018 Pokhara (B/D)

This morning, visit World Peace Stupa and enjoy a sensational view of Annapurna Mountain range along with bird eye view of Phewa lake and the entire Pokhara valley. After breakfast make a short hike for three to four hours to experience typical village life and the nature. Later visit the International Mountain Museum.

Have a high tea session with the Sherpa and an interactive session to learn about his experiences climbing the Mount Everest.

Oct 12, 2018 Pokhara – Kathmandu – Dhulikhel (B/D)

This morning, transfer to airport for flight back to Kathmandu and on arrival, drive to Dhulikhel and check in at resort

Dhulikhel Mountain Resort

We will escape into a world of peace and tranquillity by indulging in some daily yoga sessions that are helpful to the mind and soul. We will visit and local village and be involved in activities offered by the resort. Around sunset, enjoy a dinner with spectacular view of the snow-capped Himalayan mountain range. Dinner & Overnight at Hotel.





Oct 13, 2018 Dhulikhel - Kathmandu - Paro - Thimphu (B/D)

Transfer to airport to board flight for Paro. Arrive Paro and drive to Thimphu, the capital town of Bhutan and check-in. Get a traditional Bhutanese welcome upon arrival including the blessing from a monk.

Druk Hotel or similar



This afternoon's city sightseeing and drive to Buddha Point where we can do a private meditation at a designated room.

Later visit to King's Memorial Chorten where locals take rounds and say the mantras while spinning the prayer wheels. In the evening, enjoy a lecture by a Buddhism scholar to explain the Gross National Happiness. Dinner & Overnight at Hotel.

Oct 14, 2018 Thimphu (B)

Morning visit the Rubthob Goema the only Nunnery. One can interact here with some of the nuns who have devoted their lives to spirituality and Buddhism. Later visit the Motithang Takin Preserve – and see the only national animal with a head of a goat and the body of the cow called Takin. Later visit the Simlokha Dzong and a handmade paper factory.

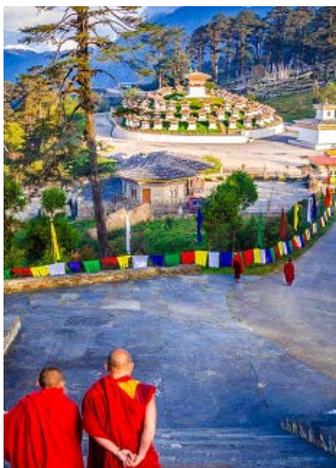
This afternoon is free time in the local bazaars for walk and independent activities.

Oct 15, 2018 Thimphu (B)

Visit Textile Museum, Simply Bhutan Museum and Trashichhoedzong. Visit the painting and crafts schools where the children study and make the local handicrafts. Visit the Thimpu Dzong near the Kings Palace.

Evening: Enjoy a mask dance organized especially for the group.

Oct 16, 2018 Thimphu / Punakha by road (75km/3hrs) (B/L)



Drive to Punakha and enroute stop at the Dochula pass, the highest pass. Arrive Punakha and visit Chimi Lhakhang also known as the temple of fertility.

Lunch at Chimi Lhakhang cafe.

This afternoon visit the Punakha Dzong – one of the most famous and beautiful Dzong situated at the junction of two rivers. It was the capital of Bhutan until 1955, and still serves as the winter residence of the monks.

Kunzangzhing Resort or similar



Oct 17, 2018 Punakha / Paro by road (B)

Breakfast at Hotel and drive to Paro. Arrive and check in at Hotel.

Afternoon: visit the Ta Dzong originally built as watchtower and now houses the National Museum. Later visit Rinpung Dzong, with the wooden galleries and fine wall paintings.

Naksel Resort or similar

Oct 18, 2018 Paro (B/L)

This morning, take an excursion to Taktshang Lhakhang or Tiger's Nest as popularly known. Hike for 2 hours each way and visit the most religious Monastery in Bhutan. It is believed that all Bhutanese people must visit this monastery at least once in their lifetime.

Enjoy a vegetarian Lunch at the Monastery – Taktshang Café.

This evening, enjoy an optional traditional Bhutanese hot stone bath at the hotel. The Stone bath has been practiced in Bhutan for centuries as a medicinal soak. Many Bhutanese believe that the bath helps in curing joint pains, helps in relaxing and other medical problems.



Oct 19, 2018 Paro (B)

Morning drive to Drukgyel Dzong, a ruined fortress and the 7th century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the 108 temples built in the Himalayas by Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo. The building of this temple marks the introduction of Buddhism in Bhutan. Visit a traditional Bhutanese farm home and enjoy local Tea with the family.

Afternoon is at leisure to explore local bazaar and buying local handicrafts and enjoying a road side café.

Oct 20, 2018 Paro / Delhi / Kathmandu / Kolkata by air (B)

Transfer to airport in time to board flight for onward connection.



Mysterious Myanmar

Yangon - Bagan - Mandalay - Mingu - Heho
Kalaw - Inle Lake - Yangon

Nov 14, 2018 - Nov 25, 2018



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Mysterious Myanmar

With traditions unchanged from the distant past, Myanmar presents a singular travel experience with its rich Buddhist culture and diverse ethnic groups.

Myanmar allows the most exquisite experiences and encounters. It's a place where untouched natural beauty, colonial charm, ancient wonders and kind people create beloved memories.

Travellers to 'The Golden Land' are exposed to a sense of raw adventure, exploring the mystical Orient in a destination where high rise buildings are a foreign enigma. Ox carts line the roadside, mobile phones are still a novelty and locals are genuinely intrigued to hear your story.



Our trip starts in the commercial and political hub of the country, Yangon. Its temples, colonial buildings, vibrant street life and friendly faces make it a very special introduction to this photographic destination.



Explore Bagan, a landscape blessed with over 2,000 shrines, against a mystical backdrop of the legendary Ayeyarwaddy River.

It is also one of the richest archaeological sites in Asia with 42 square kilometers of ruins dating back thousands of years. It is estimated as many as 13,000 temples once stood on the plains of Central Burma.

In contrast to the colonial feel of Yangon, Mandalay embodies all that is traditional about Myanmar.

Mandalay's proud declaration is that it is the country's last royal capital and the centre of Burmese culture. Every morning, monks and novice monks line up at the Mahagadayon Monastery in the former capital and township of Amarapura to receive their daily offerings of alms and food from devout Buddhists.

Set out to the hill station of Kalaw and pastoral Inle Lake, the second largest lake in Burma, and nestled within the cool green highlands and mountains of Shan State, this is the place to witness the unique one-legged rowing technique of Burmese fishermen.

Another of its many outstanding features are the floating market gardens that produce flowers and vegetables, imaginatively grown directly on the surface of the water.

This is truly a journey of deep discovery and reward.





GLANCE

“Bursts of gold on lavender melting into saffron. It’s the time of day when the sky looks like it has been spray-painted by a graffiti artist.” Mia Kirshner (Canadian actress and writer)

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Wed	Nov 14	2018	Arrive Yangon
Arrive in Yangon and transfer to hotel.				
Day 2	Thu	Nov 15	2018	Yangon City Tour
Visit revered Shwedagon Pagoda, Kalaywa Tawa Monastery				
Day 3	Fri	Nov 16	2018	Yangon - Bagan
Fly to Bagan, visit important shrines, dinner in Burmese family				
Day 4	Sat	Nov 17	2018	Bagan Sightseeing
Visit Market and village, explore by pony cart, sunset Cruise				
Day 5	Sun	Nov 18	2018	Bagan - Mandalay
Fly to Mandalay, Amarapura, U Bein Bridge, Mahamuni Pagoda				
Day 6	Mon	Nov 19	2018	Mandalay - Mingun
Cruise to Mingun, visit Mingun Paya and Myatheindan Paya.				
Day 7	Tue	Nov 20	2018	Mandalay - Heho
Fly to Heho, travel to the Kalaw, visit ethnic peoples.				
Day 8	Wed	Nov 21	2018	Kalaw - Inle Lake
Travel to beautiful Inle Lake, Visit Shwe Yan Pyae Monastery				
Day 9	Thu	Nov 22	2018	Inle Lake Visit
Visit the Innsein temple complex, lunch at a floating home				
Day 10	Fri	Nov 23	2018	Inle Lake Visit
Visit Five-Day Market, and the “Jumping Cat” monastery				
Day 11	Sat	Nov 24	2018	Inle Lake - Yangon
Return to Heho and fly to Yangon, visit Scott Market.				
Day 12	Sun	Nov 25	2018	Yangon Departure
Transfer to the airport for our onward flight				



PRICING (Land only)	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$2550	\$3250	\$2650	\$3375
Single Supplement	\$1250	\$1595	\$1250	\$1595
Intertour Air from	USD \$400 CAD \$525 including taxes			
	Yangon - Bagan - Mandalay - Heho - Yangon			

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Explore Colonial Yangon with its spacious parks, lakes, mix of modern buildings and traditional wooden architecture was affectionately coined, ‘The Garden City of the East’. Sightseeing in Yangon including Shwedagon Pagoda.
- Visit Bagan, a landscape blessed with over 2,000 shrines, against a mystical backdrop of the legendary Ayeyarwaddy River. Admire one of the richest archaeological sites in Asia.
- Gathering with Buddhist monks and see Golden-spired Ananda Shrine.
- Dinner with a Burmese family, Pony-cart excursion through Bagan, cruise on the Ayeyarwaddy River to bask in panoramic views. Optional hot air balloon ride to witness Bagan’s historic sunrise or spellbinding landscape.
- See Fabled Mandalay, the country’s last royal capital and the center of Burmese culture. Fabled Mandalay, visits to markets and artisans’ studios, tour Ancient Mingun, located on the western bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River and is famous for its large unfinished stupa, as well as its impressive bronze bell.
- Visit delightful town of Kalaw, a favourite hill retreat of the British colonials with many of the stockbroker Tudor style houses remain, surrounded by English gardens with the occasional overgrown tennis court.
- Three-night stay on Inle Lake, encounters with ethnic minorities, Lake Region touring and Lunch with Intha Family.



ITINERARY

Nov 14, 2018 Arrive Yangon

Upon arrival late this evening, we meet our Tour Director and transfer to our hotel.

Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake or similar

Nov 15, 2018 Yangon (B/L/D)

After a briefing this morning about the journey ahead, we set off to discover Yangon, Myanmar's largest and most interesting city that appears both provincial and pastoral. Our tour includes the city's downtown area, redolent with Yangon's British past (as Rangoon), where well-preserved colonial buildings flank ancient pagodas. Next we visit revered Shwedagon Pagoda, a wonder of the religious world and Kipling's 2,500-year-old "golden mystery." Shwedagon's goldleafed dome sparkles with 4,531 diamonds – and is crowned by a single diamond of 76 carats.



This afternoon we call on Kalaywa Tawa Monastery, where we learn about the fundamental role of Buddhism in Burmese culture. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Nov 16, 2018 Yangon/Bagan (B/L/D)

This morning we fly to Bagan, "city of four million pagodas" and one of the richest archaeological sites in all of Asia. With some 2,000 pagodas, temples, and monasteries (still standing) spread over a 16-square-mile site on the Eastern shores of the Irrawaddy, Bagan distills the very essence of Myanmar's Buddhist culture.

Upon arrival, we visit several important shrines, including revered Ananda with its golden spires. This afternoon we encounter Bagan's rich artistic heritage as we see artisans craft lacquerware. Then we return to Bagan to watch the sun set over this sacred site.

Tonight we dine in the home of a local Burmese family.

Aureum Palace Resort or similar



Nov 17, 2018 Bagan (B/L)

Today we encounter everyday Burmese life up close, first at the bustling Nyaung Oo fruit and vegetable market then at Phwar Saw Village. After lunch we return to Bagan where we explore by pony cart, venturing into areas inaccessible by car or bus. Early this evening we embark on a cruise along the Irrawaddy as the sun sets over Bagan

Nov 18, 2018 Bagan/Mandalay (B/L)

We fly this morning to fabled Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city at once a center of commerce and a repository of ancient culture. Upon arrival we visit the former royal capital of Amarapura, with its iconic pedestrian U Bein Bridge built of teak posts that spans lovely Taungtha-man Lake. Our tour here features Mahamuni Pagoda, the country's most sacred site after Shwedagon. After lunch we proceed to peaceful Shwe Kyaung, the "Golden Palace Monastery" that is all that remains of the former 19th-century wooden Royal Palace; and Kuthodaw Pagoda, housing the Buddhist scripture carved on 729 marble slabs. Our tour concludes with a panoramic view from atop Mandalay Hill.

Mandalay Hill Resort or similar



Nov 19, 2018 Mandalay/Mingun (B/L)

We return to the Irrawaddy for a cruise to Mingun, famed for Mingun Paya (pagoda), begun in 1790 by King Bodawpaya but left unfinished because of a prophecy that he would die when the temple was completed. We visit the huge temple then continue on to Myatheindan Paya, with its seven circular terraces; and the 90-ton Mingun Bell.

This afternoon we visit artisans creating works of marble and silk. Then we watch the setting sun paint vivid pictures as pedestrians cross wooden U Bein Bridge.





Nov 20, 2018 Mandalay/Heho/Kalaw (B/L/D)

After flying to Heho, we travel by motorcoach about 1½ hours to the peaceful hill station of Kalaw, home to several of Myanmar’s many ethnic peoples. En route we visit farming villages of the Pa-O and Shan people.

Hill Top Villa or similar

Nov 21, 2018 Kalaw/Inle Lake Area (B/L/D)

Our day begins at the Kalaw market, where the region’s ethnic minorities come to sell their wares. Then we travel to beautiful Inle Lake, whose shore and islands host 17 villages on stilts inhabited mostly by native Intha people. Primarily farmers and fishermen, the Intha propel their flat-bottomed boats with one leg and an oar – a unique style that we’ll see during our stay.

We arrive in Nyaung Shwe, gateway to Inle Lake, where we visit Shwe Yan Pyae Monastery known for its oval windows.



We also see Phaung Daw U Pagoda, with its five gilded Buddha images; and visit local artisan villages.

Nov 22, 2018 Inle Lake/Innsein (B/L/D)

A morning visit to the Innsein temple complex of decaying wooden stupas surrounded and overtaken by huge banyan trees offers an evocative and contemplative scene reminiscent of the Khmer temples at Angkor Wat. Lunch today is a small group highlight as we dine in the floating home of a local Intha family.

Returning to our hotel, we see the fishermen engaged in their unique styles of rowing and fishing, and also visit one of the lake’s improbable floating farms.

Aureum Palace or similar



Nov 23, 2018 Inle Lake (B/L)

We encounter various ethnic minorities today at the Five-Day Market, where hill tribes people come from all over the Lake Region – in their traditional tribal colors – to trade with the Intha. From here we visit the “Jumping Cat” monastery.

Nov 24, 2018 Inle Lake/Heho/Yangon (B/D)

We return to Heho today for the flight to Yangon. After checking in at our hotel.

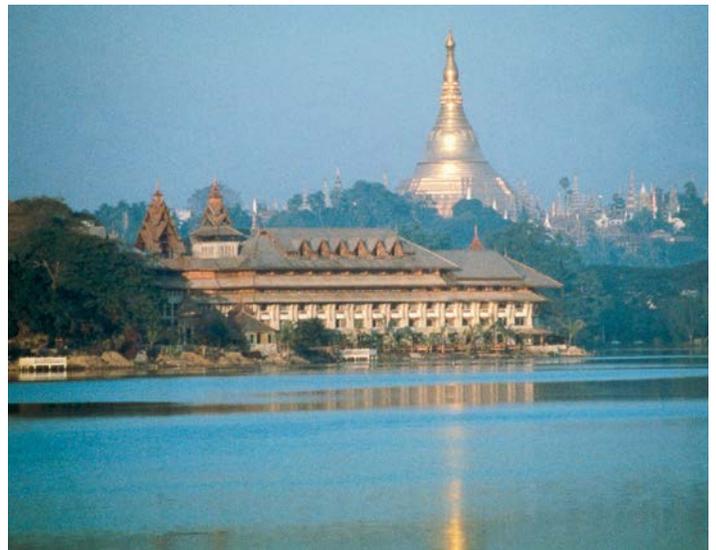


This afternoon we visit the colossal Chauk Htat Gyi Reclining Buddha. Then we visit the Scott Market, featuring a large selection of Burmese handcrafts and other goods. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at our hotel.

Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake or similar

Nov 25, 2018 Yangon/Depart (B)

After breakfast, a morning at leisure until the time for your transfer to the airport for our onward flight.





Essence of the Orient

Bangkok - River Kwai - Ayutthaya

Singapore - Bali - Ubud

Nov 23, 2018 - Dec 8, 2018



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Essence of the Orient

Experience the exotic appeal of Bangkok, majestic lure of Bali, and the cultural intensity of Singapore, where the beauty of the landscapes match the warmth of the people.



This journey takes you to lands where the beauty of the dramatic landscapes match the warmth of the people; where rich traditions endure, religion prevails, and the arts thrive; and where visitors are welcomed with the smiles of Asia, indeed.

Begin in Bangkok - Thailand's capital known for its ornate shrines, vibrant street life and legendary nightlife. There's no doubt that your senses will be assaulted in this city that blends modern civilization and historic treasures so well. The temples, despite being in the centre of a thriving 21st century metropolis, are some of the finest in all of Asia. Discover the exotic Bangkok, marvel at the opulence of the Grand Palace, visit Wat Pho and other tranquil temples, cruise the Chao Phraya River, immerse ourselves in the beauty of ancient Siam in Ayutthaya, visit the infamous bridge that spans the River Kwai, and learn about the encounter with endangered Asian elephants.

For centuries, Bali has captivated the imagination of artists, writers, and travellers with its landscapes of emerald terraced rice fields back-dropped by the sacred volcano of Mt. Batur. Admire Bali's breathtaking scenery, volcanoes, jungles and white-sand beaches. Begin with a few nights in Ubud. Observe daily life on the Island of the Gods and visit a few of its most beautiful temples. Experience the beauty of the Jatiluwih rice field terraces, a UNESCO World Heritage cultural landscape. Participate in cultural workshops and enjoy stunning views of iconic volcanoes.

Visit the Mother Temple of Prura Besakih and Sea Temple of Tanah Lot and take in the traditional markets in Ubud before concluding with a three-night stay at a beach resort in Seminyak.



Unique is the word that best describes Singapore, a country/city of delightful contrasts and balances of its old Chinese quarter and colourful Hindu temples with modern skyscrapers. Visit its lively sights, including Merlion Park and Marina Bay. Walk through popular neighbourhoods of Chinatown, Little India and Clarke Quay. Explore the Botanic Garden, have the famous Singapore Sling at Long Bar, and savour local delicacies at Lau Pa Sat Market.

Brimming with unbridled energy and bursting with exciting events, Singapore offers countless unique, memorable experiences waiting to be discovered.



GLANCE

"You gotta have a dream, if you don't have a dream, How you gonna have a dream come true?"

Linda Weaver Clarke, *The Bali Mystery*

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Sat	Nov 23	2018	Bangkok Arrival
Arrive in Bangkok and transfer to hotel.				
Day 2	Sun	Nov 24	2018	Bangkok
Tour the Royal Palace, Temple of Emerald Buddha and Wat Pho.				
Day 3	Mon	Nov 25	2018	Bangkok - River Kwai
Visit floating market and proceed to River Kwai.				
Day 4	Tue	Nov 26	2018	Drive to Ayutthaya
Proceed to Ayutthaya passing by the Thai - Burmese border.				
Day 5	Wed	Nov 27	2018	Ayutthaya - Bangkok
Visit temples and historical King's summer palace. Cruise back.				
Day 6	Thu	Nov 28	2018	Bangkok - Bali
Fly from Bangkok to Bali and transfer to Candi Dasa on arrival.				
Day 7	Fri	Nov 29	2018	Candi Dasa
Full day at leisure				
Day 8	Sat	Nov 30	2018	Candi Dasa - Ubud
Tour the the Kintamani region before travelling to Ubud.				
Day 9	Sun	Dec 1	2018	Ubud
Exploring Northwestern Bali - Taman Ayun, Jatiluwih and etc.				
Day 10	Mon	Dec 2	2018	Ubud
Full day at leisure. Dinner with Balinese dance performance.				
Day 11	Tue	Dec 3	2018	Ubud - Seminyak
Visit Goa Gajah, meet an astrologist and transfer to Seminyak.				
Day 12	Sun	Dec 4	2018	Seminyak
Full day at leisure				
Day 13	Sun	Dec 5	2018	Bali - Singapore
Fly from Bali to Singapore. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel.				
Day 14	Mon	Dec 6	2018	Singapore
Full day sightseeing in Singapore				
Day 15	Tue	Dec 7	2018	Singapore
Half day feng shui tour in Singapore				
Day 16	Sun	Dec 8	2018	Singapore - Home
Transfer to the airport for flight home.				

PRICING

(Land only)

10 or more Guest **6-9 Guest**

	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$2850	\$3650	\$3050	\$3895
Single Supplement	\$1490	\$1895	\$1490	\$1895
Intertour Air from	USD \$300 CAD \$400 including taxes			
	Bangkok - Denpasar (Bali) - Singapore			



HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Experience Bangkok's Royal Palace and temples.
- See traditional Thai life at Damnoen Saduak.
- Take a train ride on the infamous Death Railway.
- Discover the ancient capital of Thailand - Ayutthaya.
- Enjoy the various landscapes in Bali - from beautiful beaches, rainforest jungle, to active volcanic mountains.
- Take an adventure to Bali's volcanoes in Kintamani.
- Explore endless UNESCO sites in Northwestern Bali - Taman Ayun Temple, Jatiluwih Rice Field Terraces and etc.
- Savour traditional Balinese food and enjoy traditional dance performance.
- Visit Singapore's most visited Merlion Park and Marina Bay in the downtown core.
- Soak in a perfect mix of multiculturalism that defines Singapore, from traditional Chinese neighbourhoods to colourful Hindu temples.
- Enjoy delicious local fusion cuisines and have a chance to taste the "real" Singapore Sling.
- Learn the art of fengshui from a unique tour that showcases how it has affected the lives and architecture in Singapore.



ITINERARY

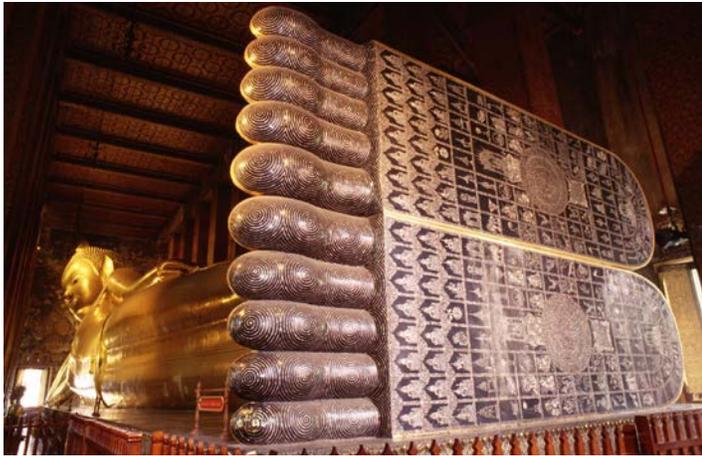
Nov 23, 2018 Arrive in Bangkok

Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to your hotel,

Chatrium Riverside / deluxe city view or similar

Nov 24, 2018 Bangkok (B/D)

This morning, we tour the Royal Grand Palace and Temple of Emerald Buddha, Bangkok's major landmark and must see tourist attractions. We also visit the Wat Pho, Bangkok's largest and oldest Wat, home to over one thousand Buddha images including the famous Reclining Buddha.



This evening, enjoy a luxury dinner cruise onboard **Manohra Song**, a rice barge of delegate gleaming wood; a romantic venue for a unique and cultural experience.

Nov 25, 2018 Bangkok - Damnoen Saduak - River Kwai (B/L)

Early morning departure for Damnoen Saduak Floating Market and we will see traditional Thai lifestyle that reflects Thailand's history. Continue to Kanchanaburi Province to visit the Allied War Cemetery and JEATH War Museum which is a replica of prisoner of war camp and contains many photographs, artefacts and other memorandums. Take a train ride along the Death Railway on the original wooden viaducts. Afterwards, visit an elephant camp followed by a gentle sail over the Kwai Noi River on a bamboo raft.

Home Phutoey / superior or similar



Nov 26, 2018 Kanchanaburi - Ayutthaya (B/L)

Visit the Hellfire Pass Memorial, a part of the Death Railway that was built out of the rock using forced labour during World War II. Continue to Ayutthaya via Suphan Buri: we will notice the stunning sceneries near the Burmese border; it is dominated by fertile farmland and jungle-clad mountains. Arrive in Ayutthaya where the rest of the day is at leisure.

Sala Ayutthaya / superior or similar

Nov 27, 2018 Ayutthaya - Bang Pa In - Bangkok (B/L)

Today we visit some of the most famous temples in Ayutthaya, such as Wat Srisanpetch, Wat Chai Watthanaram, and Wat Yai Chai Mongkol. Proceed to Bang Pa In, the historical summer residence of the kings of Ayutthaya. The Royal Palace combines Thai and European architecture styles. Thai pavilion was built in the middle of a lake and a Chinese-style palace Vihat Chamrun will certainly catch ones' eye. Board on a beautiful cruise for lunch and enjoy a relaxing cruise down the fabled Chao Phraya River to Bangkok and on arrival, transfer to hotel.

Chatrium Riverside / deluxe city view

Nov 28, 2018 Bangkok - Denpasar, Bali - Candidasa (B)

Today, we fly to Bali and on arrival, you will be transferred to the hotel in Candidasa. Rest of the day is free at leisure to enjoy your property.

Alila Manggis Bali Candidasa or similar

Nov 29, 2018 Candidasa (B)

Full day at leisure for perfect relaxation

Nov 30, 2018 Candidasa - Ubud (B/L)

Today travel to the ruggedly beautiful mountain region of Kintamani, home of the Mt. Batur volcanic caldera with its deep crater lake and bubbling hot springs. Visit the Tenganan village, known as Bali Aga and one of the most secluded societies of the archipelago. Continue on to Prura Besakih, Bali's largest and most important "Mother Temple" perched on the slopes of Mt. Agung. After lunch in Kintamani where you can enjoy stunning views over Mt. Agung, travel on to the rural village of Penglipuran, known for its typical Balinese entrance gates and unique architecture.

Alila Ubud or similar





Dec 1, 2018 Ubud (B/L)

See more of Bali's legendary natural beauty as we embark on a full-day excursion to the "magical" northwest, where terraced rice fields and river-sculpted valleys forge dramatic, unforgettable landscapes. First stop at the 15th century UNESCO site of Taman Ayun, one of Bali's most important temples. Standing in the water surrounded by a moat, the temple features incomparable historic architecture. Continue to Ulun Danu, a major Hindu temple on the shores of volcanic Bratan Lake. Then enjoy a feast for the senses at Candi Kuning market, where you see and sample some of Bali's exotic tropical fruits. This afternoon visit Jatiluwih Rice Field Terraces, one of Bali's most beautiful areas, a UNESCO Cultural Landscape, and take an hour-long walk through the rice fields as you learn about the time honored irrigation system practiced here.



Dec 2, 2018 Ubud (B/D)

Full day at leisure to pursue your own interest. You may want to visit the Ubud Market on your own, or join one of the optional tours such as Sunrise Trekking of Batur Volcano or Yoga - Awakening Inner Power at Five Element to learn how to attain and maintain good health, and enjoy a long and fulfilling life.

Tonight's dinner features a traditional Balinese dance performance.



Dec 3, 2018 Ubud - Seminyak (B)

Depart from Ubud to Seminyak and visit Goa Gajah, or Elephant Cave, a special and spiritual place for meditation. We will also meet Ida Bagus Alit Kencana Putra, the most important a Balinese astrology to learn about Pawukon calendar and Balinese astrology.

Courtyard by Marriott Bali Seminyak or similar

Dec 4, 2018 Seminyak, Bali (B)

All day at leisure.

Dec 5, 2018 Bali - Singapore (B)

Transfer from your hotel in Seminyak to the airport and fly to Singapore. On arrival, you are met and transferred to the hotel.

Orchard Hotel or similar



Dec 6, 2018 Singapore (B/L)

Start our day with a drive passing by the Padang, Singapore Cricket Club, historic Parliament House and the National Gallery Singapore converted from the former Supreme Court Building and the City Hall. Visit the Merlion Park, enjoy the impressive views of Marina Bay and Esplanade Theatres from a distance. Walk towards the Raffles Landing Site and learn about how Singapore become a vital trading centre for the Far East. Discover the city's colonial history as we walk past bronze sculptures erected along the river. From Kucinta Cats to River Merchants, each sculptures depict a scene of a long-gone era. On to the bustling enclaves of Katong & Joo Chiat that showcases the rich and baroque Peranakan architecture, visit a Peranakan store for a sampling of Nonya Delicacies.

Enjoy lunch at Lau Pa Sat, blends history, striking architecture and scrumptious local food into one heady experience.

Afternoon, we tour the Little India and stroll along narrow pathways where the air is filled with the scent of joss sticks, jasmine and spices. Step into the Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple, this iconic landmark in the heart of Little India has fascinating stories to tell of colonial Singapore.

Conclude our day at the Raffles Hotel where you can taste Singapore's very own concoction, "the Singapore Sling" on own.

Dec 7, 2018 Singapore (B/L)

The art of fengshui or geomancy is alive and thriving in modern Singapore, where it has inspired life and architecture over the years. Begin with a visit to the Singapore River, where Singapore's early fortunes began to see how feng shui principles were incorporated into the building landscapes to activate the auspicious qi (positive energies). Listen as your guide explains concepts such as the Azure Dragon and White Tiger and their influence on major buildings, visit a popular feng shui gallery to learn how to strategically place items in your house or office to help engender good health, harmony, wealth and career success. Stop at Suntec City, home to the largest fountain in the world and learn why water, or "shui," symbolizes wealth and fortune.



Afternoon is free for your to visit the National Orchid Garden, within the Singapore Botanic Gardens, which boasts a colourful display of 60,000 orchid plants, with 400 species and more than 2,000 hybrids represented, or Gardens by the Bay, a showpiece of horticulture and garden artistry that presents the plant kingdom in a whole new way, with plants seldom seen in this part of the world, ranging from species in cool, temperate climates to tropical forests and habitats.

Dec 8, 2018 Singapore (B)

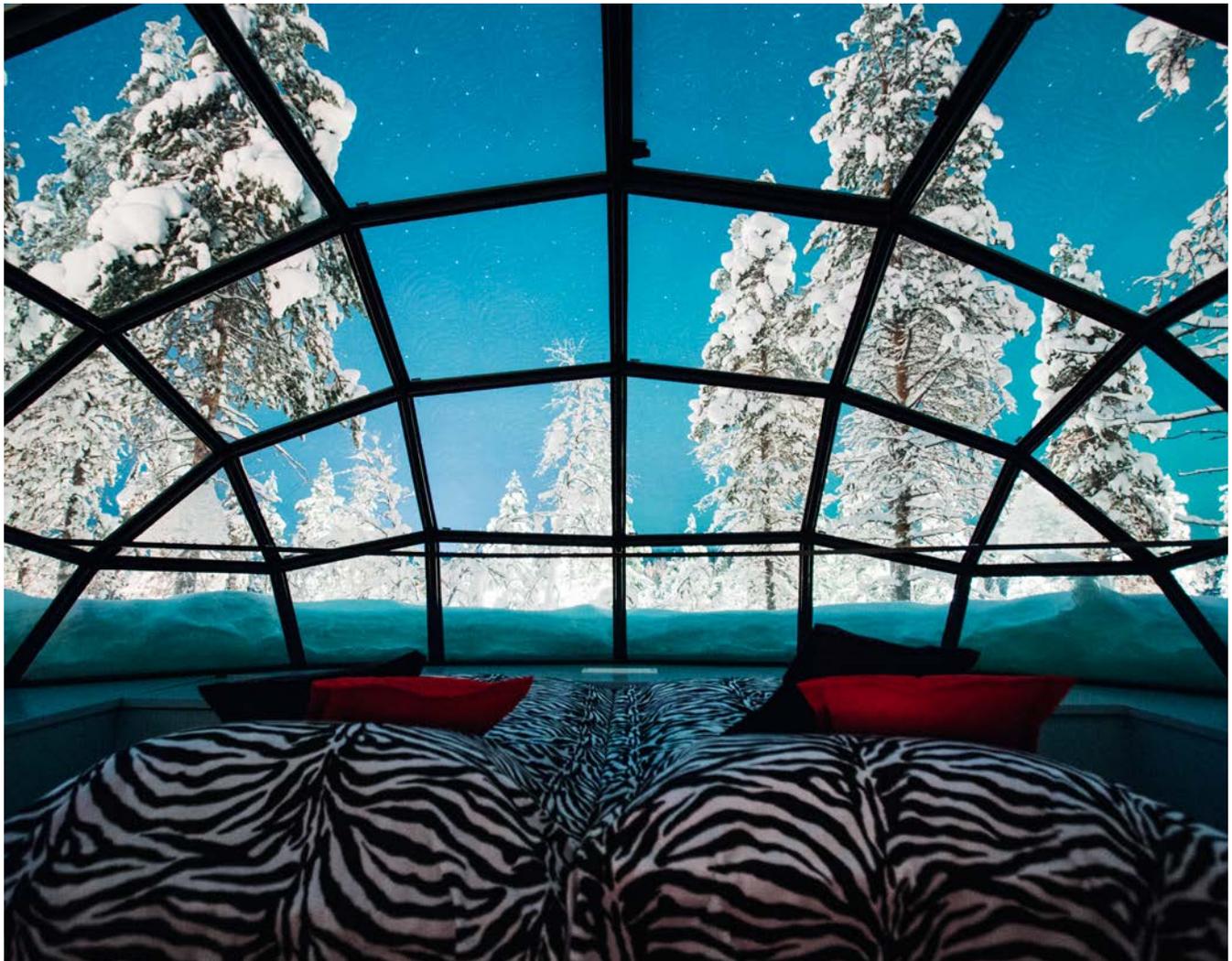
Transfer to the airport or cruise terminal for your onward journey.



Arctic Glass Igloo & Christmas Markets

Helsinki - Ivalo (Arctic Circle) - Frankfurt - Heidelberg
Rothernburg - Nuremburg - Munich - Oberammergau

Dec 3, 2018 - Dec 15, 2018



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Arctic Glass Igloo & Christmas Markets

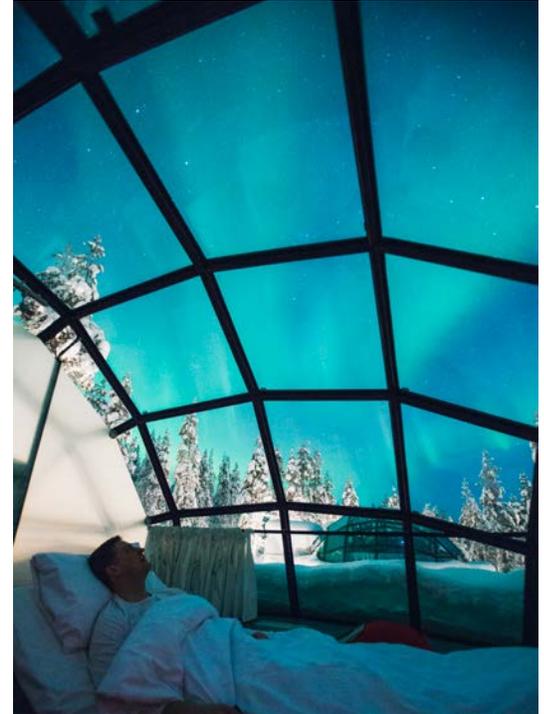
See the northern lights in the clear winter sky from the comfort of a glass igloo with all hotel room facilities surrounded by Ice and Snow and under the Northern Lights

Imagine to spend your 2018 winter in the Nordic, 250 km north of the Arctic Circle. Lie back in an amazing igloo room with glass roof and watch the Northern light show, a life time experience you wouldn't want to miss.

This is one of the best months with the blue light of twilight, miles and miles of snow, and extreme frost, the Christmas spirit gets into full swing - what the heart of an Arctic winter is made of.

What could soothe the soul more than a sledge ride pulled by huskies or reindeer, a visit to Santa Claus Village, skiing on densely packed snow or taking a snowmobile out in the crisp, bright winter sunshine?

The best way for hunting Aurora Borealis is to stay in a glass igloo which feels like sleeping in the open, but inside the igloo it is just as warm and cosy as a hotel! Your stay at the Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort will be on the Dark Moon nights, the darkness offers the perfect opportunity to see the famous Northern Lights.



Continue on a Christmas Market journey of Germany from Frankfurt to Munich. Fill your heart with Christmas cheer, your tummy with tasty Germanic treats and your suitcase with lovingly hand-crafted gifts from many festive markets that have been a part of Germany's annual celebrations for centuries.

Along the way, visit breathtaking medieval towns of Heidelberg, Rothenburg and Nuremburg, the quaint timbered homes and cobbled streets of many small towns through the Romantic Road. Wander through merry and magical Christkindlmarkts, savour the tantalizing aromas of mulled wine and gingerbread, and



enjoy ample free time to shop for Christmas gifts or souvenirs.

Feel heart-warming Munich, Bavaria's capital and journey through the Bavarian Alps. Admire stunning scenery unfolded around you - vistas of cliff-top castles, charming villages and snow-dusted, rolling hills. Tour the famous fairy tale castles Linderhof and Neuschwanstein, and take an excursion to musical Salzburg, the birth place of Mozart.

You'll notice the throngs of tourists that crowd these cities and attractions during the popular summer months are absent. Your visits will be more relaxed and enjoyable rather than the hot, crowded heat of summer.



GLANCE

“Like a great poet, Nature knows how to produce the greatest effects with the most limited means.”
Heinrich Heine (German poet, journalist, essayist, and literary critic)

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Mon Dec 3	2018	Helsinki Arrival
Arrive in Helsinki and transfer to hotel.			
Day 2	Tue Dec 4	2018	Helsinki - Ivalo
Fly to Ivalo, Lapland, Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort- Glass Igloo			
Day 3	Wed Dec 5	2018	Arctic Glass Igloo
Take a Huskies Sled Ride, enjoy Northern light from your Igloo.			
Day 4	Thu Dec 6	2018	Ivalo - Helsinki
Enjoy Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort Glass Igloo, fly to Helsinki			
Day 5	Fri Dec 7	2018	Helsinki Sightseeing
City tour, visit Senate Square with the Lutheran Cathedral etc.			
Day 6	Sat Dec 8	2018	Helsinki - Frankfurt
Fly to Frankfurt, See St Paul's Church and Frankfurt Cathedral			
Day 7	Sun Dec 9	2018	Heidelberg
Christmas market in Römerberg and tour Heidelberg.			
Day 8	Mon Dec 10	2018	Rothenburg
Rothenburg ob der Tauber, city and tour the Reiterlesmarkt			
Day 9	Tue Dec 11	2018	Nuremberg
Visit Christkindlesmarket, Nuremberg's Christmas market,.			
Day 10	Wed Dec 12	2018	Nuremberg - Munich
Enjoy a cooking class in Nuremberg, travel to Munich.			
Day 11	Thu Dec 13	2018	Neuschwanstein
Visit Neuschwanstein, Linderhof Castles and Oberammergau			
Day 12	Fri Dec 14	2018	Salzburg Excursion
Excursion to Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart.			
Day 13	Sat Dec 15	2018	Munich - Home
Transfer to the airport for your onward flight			



PRICING (Land only)

	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Double Occupancy	\$4550	\$5800	\$4950	\$6300
Single Supplement	\$1475	\$1895	\$1475	\$1895
Intertour Air from Helsinki - Ivalo - Helsinki - Frankfurt	USD \$750 CAD \$975 including taxes			

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Travel 250km inside the Arctic Circle and hunt for Aurora Borealis in an amazing glass igloo at **Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort!**
- Start a husky sled adventure through the snowy forests and plains.
- Try a traditional Finnish sauna and relax in the land of miles and miles of snow.
- Get acquainted with the lively Finnish capital, Helsinki.
- Continue this unique Christmas tour to experience the vibe of **German Christmas markets** from Frankfurt's Römerberg market to Nuremberg's famous **Christkindlesmarket** then to Munich's Christmas market around Marienplatz Square.
- Join the Night Watchmen to a night tour in the beautiful medieval city of Rothenburg ob der Tauber.
- Join a traditional cooking class in Nuremberg to make traditional gingerbread and create your own.
- Spend a day at the Neuschwanstein and nearby and take an optional excursion to Salzburg, Austria, the birthplace of Mozart.



ITINERARY

Dec 3, 2018 Helsinki

Upon arrival, check in to your hotel connected to the airport terminal.

Hotel Hilton Helsinki Airport or similar

Dec 4, 2018 Helsinki - Ivalo, Lapland - Glass Igloo (B/D)

Return to airport terminal for your flight to Ivalo located up north in Finnish Lapland, 250 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle. On arrival, you are transferred to Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort where you will enjoy two nights unique experiences in one of the “northern lights friendly” Arctic Glass Igloos.

The Glass Igloos offer “all-sky vision” in complete comfort. There are three types of Glass Igloos and can accommodate up to 6 passengers comfortably and warmly insulated, all-sky thermal-glass roofs, heated floors adjustable twin beds and a bathroom with a shower cabinet.

Balance of the day, enjoy the property and optional activities.



Dec 5, 2018 Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort Glass Igloo (B/D)

Start the day with an Arctic adventure with Huskies! Embark on a sled and dogs howl and pull at their harnesses to get moving, and as soon as the anchor is lifted, they take off at full speed through the snowy forests and plains. 2 people share 1 sled and takes turns in driving. Back at the kennel, enjoy a hot beverage and hear some Husky Story.

The rest of your day is free to enjoy this spectacular destination. Why not do as the locals and relax in the traditional Finnish sauna at your resort?

Dec 6, 2018 Ivalo - Helsinki (B)

Today, transfer back to Ivalo airport and fly to Helsinki, Finnish capital and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Hotel Glo Art** or similar**



Dec 7, 2018 Helsinki (B)

Helsinki is truly located at the crossroads of Western and Eastern culture and this is reflected everywhere in the green and lively Finnish capital. The sightseeing tour takes us around the harbours and the Senate Square with the Lutheran Cathedral, up central Mannerheim Street and by the Parliament Building, the Finlandia Hall, and the Sibelius Monument and for a visit at the famous Church-in-the-Rock.

This afternoon is free at leisure or take an optional excursion to Wooden Town of Porvoo, explore this medieval town, its picturesque yards and narrow streets.

Dec 8, 2018 Helsinki - Frankfurt (B)

This morning, you are transferred to the airport for flight to Frankfurt. Arrival at Frankfurt airport and transfer to the hotel.

The rest of the day is free to spend at your leisure. You may board a double-decker bus for a narrated sightseeing tour, which shows you the diversity of this historic yet modern metropolis including the Romer town hall, drive through the modern European banking center, and Goethe House, the former home of 18th-century literary genius Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe. Walk around the historic heart of the city, see the noteworthy architecture of St Paul’s Church and Frankfurt Cathedral and visit the Hauptwache, a Baroque plaza surrounded by modern buildings. Pass the Zeil shopping center, see the Old Opera House, and view the big towers of the former city wall.

Accommodation at the Hotel Mövenpick Frankfurt City****

Dec 9, 2018 Frankfurt - Heidelberg (B)



This morning, visit Christmas market in Römerberg. More than 200 Christmas stalls await you in Römerberg, on Paulsplatz square and at the pier by the Main river. Continue a short ride to Heidelberg, one of the most beautiful cities in Germany. Enjoy a guided walking tour and you will see the world famous castle ruins, Gothic and Renaissance buildings, the large courtyard, the mighty terrace and the world’s largest wine barrel. In the medieval town center of Heidelberg you visit the Church of Holy Spirit, the House of the Knights with its precious Renaissance facade, small lanes with half timbered houses, the Old Bridge, Karlstor and much more.

Stroll through Heidelberg’s Christmas Market, perfectly set with splendid view of the illuminated Heidelberg Castle towering above.

Heidelberg Marriott Hotel



Dec 10, 2018 Heidelberg - Rothenburg ob der Tauber (B)

Travel to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, the most beautiful city along the famous Romantic route. Its small streets and historic buildings remind us of medieval times. Visit the city and tour the Reiterlesmarkt located in the historic Old Town, surrounded by the medieval fortification walls. Visit St. Jakob's Church, which contains a 500 year old altar; climb the Town Hall tower for the best view of the town and countryside; try the local specialities. Join the Night Watchman's tour for a glimpse of the medieval town. The steep-roofed gable houses that line narrow cobbled street create a romantic and festive atmosphere.

Accommodation at the Hotel Eisenhut



Dec 11, 2018 Rothenburg ob der Tauber - Nuremberg (B)

Continue to Nuremberg. Explore the city with your guide. The Christkindlesmarkt, Nuremberg's Christmas market, has a history of almost 400 years and draws more than 2 million visitors a year. The most famous Christmas Market in the world. The "Kinderweihnacht" provides plenty of family fun, featuring an old-fashioned carousel, Ferris wheel, steam train and Nativity scene trail. Modern and mass-produced goods are strictly prohibited to ensure that only hand-crafted wares in keeping with the tradition of the market are offered. Favourite food delights at the market include the Nuremberg "plum people" (small figures made from prunes), spicy gingerbread, sweets and Nuremberg sausages.

Accommodation at the Hotel Maritim



Dec 12, 2018 Nuremberg - Munich (B)

In the morning, enjoy a cooking class, you will learn all about the traditional Nuremberg gingerbread and make your own spice bread creations. Afternoon travel to Munich and on arrival, check into your hotel. Beer and pretzels, Oktoberfest, Hofbrauhaus and leather trousers are things Munich is famous for. Explore Munich on half day city tour, Highlights include the Marienplatz square, the historical City Hall, the famous Church of our Lady with its onion domes and the Viktualienmarkt street market. Explore the traditional Christmas market of Munich, located around the Marienplatz square with its historic City Hall. A few steps away, you will find the largest nativity market in Germany.

Holiday Inn München City Center ****



Dec 13, 2018 Munich - Neuschwanstein - Oberammergau (B)

We start the day with a visit to Neuschwanstein Castle, built by Ludwig II, the notorious "Mad King". Travel to Oberammergau, famous for its Passion Play and lovely crafts. Along the way we visit the Wieskirche Church before continuing the tour to visit Linderhof Castle. This is one of the 3 castles built by King Ludwig II of Bavaria and the only one where the king actually lived for a significant amount of time. After a brief stop at the Ettal Benedictine Abbey before return to Munich.

Dec 14, 2018 Munich - Salzburg - Munich (B)

Today you can enjoy the city of Munich by yourself, try the delicious food and Bavarian hospitality.



Or join an optional excursion to Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart. The city offers the perfect combination of a picturesque mountain setting and a beautifully preserved old town. Stroll the old city and major attractions including Salzburg Cathedral, St Peter's Abbey and Mozart Square.

There is the possibility for a Horse Drawn Sleigh Ride in Austria's fairy tale winter wonderland, through the snowy Salzkammergut region passing mountains, lakes and charming villages. Snuggle up under warm blankets while gliding through the beautiful winter landscape of this stunning part of Austria. Your memorable excursion will finish with a warming drink in a traditional local bar.

Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner at one of the many exceptional restaurants in Munich.

Dec 15, 2018 Depart Munich (B)

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

Why Trip Connoisseurs

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Our connoisseurs are among the most knowledgeable and experienced players in the travel industry. In some destinations, no other company offers the expertise that we do. With the help of our connoisseurs you will be able to say, "Veni, Vidi, Vici," which means "I came, I saw, I conquered."

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We listen to the needs of our clients, which is why all of our trips can be customized. Trip Connoisseurs distinguishes itself as a specialist in the field of custom travel. This has resulted in a high level of client satisfaction, evidenced by repeat bookings as well as favourable testimonials and word-of-mouth comments.

5. **Getting the best bang for your buck:**

Our decades-long business relationships with the ground operators of host countries were built on mutual respect and unwavering dedication. Thus, we are able to offer the best value for our clients.

6. **Professionalism & Efficiency:**

We have worked at the forefront. Not only have we planned trips for clients, but we have also personally encountered the many exotic corners of all seven continents. We have stayed in many hotels featured in our itineraries. When booking with us, you are in the good hands of people who have truly been there, and genuinely understand your travel needs.

7. **One-Stop Shop:**

Whether you need flights, hotels, tours, transfers or guides, we are here for you as we have spent decades providing air travel arrangements while having access to private contracted airfares with major airlines worldwide.

8. **Support:**

Reach out to us using our toll-free number or via email to connect with your own expert Travel Specialist who advises you on travel tips, insurance, entry visa and other travel information.

9. **Security:**

We are in regular contact with our local partners while you are at the destination. Should any emergencies arise with your health or arrangements, you can be rest assured that we are on top of it.

10. **Peace of Mind:**

All of our trips include this essential promise.

Products & Services

Trip Connoisseurs is dedicated to the delivery of interactive, enriched, and imaginative itineraries - with each traveller's particular interests and preferences in mind.

Our genuine interest in understanding the needs of our clients enables us to deliver solutions that result in optimal enjoyment and satisfaction! Central to our philosophy regarding products and services is a relentless commitment to service and quality.

Expertise & Experience

Having extensive product knowledge and providing exceptional professional service is our added value and power. We are all veterans of the travel industry, "Veni, Vidi, Vici." We are driven by our fascination and love of travel and are delighted to share with you the endlessly compelling places we have had the privilege to visit and the in-depth, first-hand knowledge of the destinations, properties and tours we recommend.

Trip Connoisseurs is your one-stop travel solution. We have spent over three decades in crafting itineraries and providing air arrangements and are proud to be the first one putting some special itineraries on the map for North American travellers.

We urge you to browse through this brochure with our sample trips and let us know what speaks to you. Do not be afraid to dream big - our years of on-the-ground experience enables us to go the extra mile to craft from-the-ground-up and provide authentic, compelling experiences that never compromise on comfort - a trip of a lifetime!

The goal of everyone at Trip Connoisseurs is not only to meet the travel needs of our clients, but to also anticipate them.

Differences & Strengths

Trip Connoisseurs distinguishes itself as a specialist in the field of upscale custom travel that is recognized for offering exceptional service, anticipating the needs and desires of its clients, and getting its clients the best value for their money.

We remain committed to deliver an extraordinary travel experience to every corner of the Globe. If you are looking to travel with a company who cares about its customers and will do everything reasonable to provide the best service, then Trip Connoisseurs is the right choice.

Our decades-long business relationships built on mutual respect and unwavering dedication, have enabled us to work together as professionals with the travel trade and ground operators of host countries. Oftentimes we are perceived as the best choice on account of the utmost degree of reliability. It is this same dependability that is appreciated day after day by the people who deal with us, whereas they can count on the constant, reliable and dedicated assistance of our connoisseurs who are always mindful of the needs of our clients.

Mission & Vision

The mission of Trip Connoisseurs is to provide superior quality services, high quality products and competitive pricing that will exceed the expectations of each traveller.

Our ultimate vision is to become the top provider for high quality travel experiences to the world's exotic destinations, while achieving high levels of client satisfaction.

Travellers Information

THIS DOCUMENT CREATES A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRIP CONNOISSEURS INC. (hereafter referred to as "Trip Connoisseurs") AND YOU, THE CUSTOMER/CLIENT/PARTICIPANT (hereafter referred to as the "Client") WHO PURCHASED ANY TRAVEL SERVICES FROM TRIP CONNOISSEURS. PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLYING TO ANY TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDED BY TRIP CONNOISSEURS. TO RESERVE A TRIP WITH TRIP CONNOISSEURS AND BY SIGNING OUR AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZATION FORM INDICATES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF, AND YOUR AGREEMENT TO FOLLOW TERMS AND CONDITIONS HEREUNDER.

PRICING

Trip Connoisseurs's products are available for purchase using US Dollars (USD\$) and Canadian Dollars (CAD\$). The currency applied to the Client's booking will be determined by Trip Connoisseurs, in consideration of the booking location of the Client. The Client will be advised of the applicable currency prior to making any payment to Trip Connoisseurs.

Prices shown herein are calculated in US funds. Canadian Dollar prices will be converted from US Dollar prices based on Bank of Canada's exchange rate on the date of booking. All prices are on a per person basis for double occupancy accommodation including the current taxes & V.A.T. of each destination. All prices are dependent on fuel costs, applicable V.A.T. and local taxes, rates of currency exchange and other variable factors and are subject to change at any time should major circumstances and currency fluctuate. We reserve the right to increase the price of any product should these costs increase. In the event that the increase in price is greater than of 7% (unless caused by an increase in government taxes), upon receiving notification from Trip Connoisseurs, the Client may choose to either (a) accept the change of price; or (b) cancel the applicable item without incurring a penalty. The Client must notify Trip Connoisseurs of their decision within 14 days of receipt of notice of the increase, or they shall have been deemed to have accepted the price change and have accepted liability for payment of the increase. Every effort will be made to advise the Client of any price increase at least 30 days prior to their departure date.

Prices in the brochure are valid for travel until 31 March 2018. Trip Connoisseurs will guarantee the land rates for travel beyond March 2016 once the trip is paid in full and the Client receives trip confirmation in writing.

CHILDREN RATES

Children 12 years of age or above at time of travel will be charged adult rate. Child rate may apply for children younger than 12 (at the time of return) and proof of age is required at the time of booking and can only apply when a child is accompanied by two paying adults. Child rates vary from airline to airline and hotel to hotel, and normally between 15% and 20% discount of the adult rate, provided they share the same room with two adults with an extra bed. Otherwise the full adult fare applies.

AIRFARE

The intra tour airfares are normally included (unless otherwise specified). The miscellaneous surcharges such as airport taxes airline fuel surcharges are excluded.

The international airfares are additional and we will quote it separately at the time of quoting for the travel dates requested. Quotes provide an indicative price only, and represent no price commitment by Trip Connoisseurs or the applicable airline(s). Trip Connoisseurs acts only as a sales agent for the applicable airline(s) and the terms and conditions of the air ticket apply to the purchase and use of such ticket. Please consult the airline's applicable terms and conditions for disclaimers. Trip Connoisseurs is not responsible for changes in air itineraries, flight times and flight statuses.

HOTELS & MEALS

Trip Connoisseurs offers accommodation at the hotels stated in the programs including daily breakfast (if indicated), service charges and taxes.

We reserve the rights to substitute the hotels with same category when necessary. Specific bed types should be requested at time of booking and cannot be guaranteed. Single supplement is chargeable to individual traveller who wishes to secure a private room on a trip. Specific meal must be requested in advance and cannot be guaranteed.

SIGHTSEEING TOURS

Sightseeing tour is conducted with English-speaking guide (Guide speaks other languages available upon request, surcharges may apply) as shown in the itinerary, including entrance fees for places visited. Air-conditioned vehicles are utilized when available. The sequence of the itinerary may change.

BAGGAGE

The Client must consult with their travel agent or the specific airlines on which the client is travelling for the dimensions and weight restrictions.

However, since most of the intra tour flights operated by regional carriers have a baggage restriction of only 1 piece; 44 lbs per person, therefore, we highly recommend 1 piece of checked luggage and 1 soft carry-on baggage per person. Baggage and personal effects are at owners risk throughout the tour.

EXCLUSIONS

Prices exclude any expenses of personal nature, meals not mentioned in the itinerary, gratuity, travel insurance, cost of obtaining passport or visas, and other items not mentioned as being included.

ADMINISTRATIVE QUOTE FEES

Quotes provided to Clients regarding private and tailor-made tour arrangements are subject to a nonrefundable Administrative Quote Fee of CAD or USD \$25 (as applicable). Should the booking be confirmed, the amount will be deducted from the final payment owing to Trip Connoisseurs by that Client. Trip Connoisseurs also reserves the right to apply other Administrative Quote Fee of CAD or USD \$50 at its discretion to certain bookings which require a higher level of service and/or support. Such Administrative Quote Fees will be communicated to the Client by Trip Connoisseurs prior to initiating a quotation.

RESERVATION & PAYMENTS

Early reservations are essential. To reserve a trip, we require a nonrefundable deposit plus any applicable insurance premium. Deposits and all payments may be made by cheque, web banking or credit card (Visa & MasterCard) on Trip Connoisseurs Inc. or directly on vendors (if applicable). Deposit schedules are for tour arrangement costs only. Air payment schedules are determined by the airlines' policies. If the Client has selected instant purchase, nonrefundable air, the Client is required to pay the full air cost in addition to the land arrangement deposit at the time of booking (all of which is nonrefundable). The following are our payment schedule:

Land only tour arrangements without special restrictions: CAD or USD \$400 per person at the time of reservation.

Land only tour arrangements with rail, cruise, and/or special restrictions: CAD or USD \$400 plus additional deposit amount and alternate cancellation terms (if applicable) at the time of reservation.

We reserve the right to request additional deposit for any booking if required by hotels and vendor, specially for peak season such as (but not limited to) Christmas, New Year and Chinese New Year, Easter and Thanksgiving.

The balance of payment is due 60 days prior to departure (except bookings of rail, cruise and tour arrangements with special restrictions which will be advised on the invoice). Any booking made within 60 days of departure must be payable in full at time of confirmation. To confirm the reservation, traveller and/or their representative must provide us with complete mandatory information of traveller, sign and return the relevant documents no more than 3 days after receipt.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

The Client's authorization to use their credit card to pay for travel services provided by Trip Connoisseurs indicates the Client's acceptance of and compliance with Trip Connoisseurs's booking Terms & Conditions, regardless if the Client have physically signed the appropriate credit card slip. Verbal authorization for the use of a credit card confirms the reservation and simultaneously the Client is also acknowledging their acceptance of our Terms and Conditions. Therefore, by providing the Client's Travel Agent or Trip Connoisseurs with authorization to use their credit card to pay for travel services, the Client is confirming that he/she will pay the total amount charged for those services to the card issuer according to the Client's cardholder agreement.

CANCELLATION PENALTY

Any cancellation request must be received in writing. Both cancellations of confirmed bookings and transfers to new travel dates will result in penalties and fees assessed by travel suppliers. If the Client needs to transfer or cancel for any reason prior to departure, written notice of cancellation must be received within the time periods described below, and following cancellation fees will apply.

Days prior to departure	Cancellation Fee
90 +	A nonrefundable deposit will be retained
89 - 60	25% of the trip price or 100% total cost if the booking value is less than \$400
59 - 30	50% of the trip price or 100% total cost if the booking value is less than \$600
29 - 15	80% of the trip price or 100% total cost if the booking value is less than \$600
14 - 0	100% of the trip price

Cancellation for air reservations are subject to airline fare rules and normally is 100% nonrefundable once paid in full.

Trip Connoisseurs reserves the right to cancel, re-schedule or amend any itinerary in accordance with operating requirements or circumstances beyond its control or if the quality of the trip or the safety of

travellers is judged to be compromised. In such a case, refund of payments received by Trip Connoisseurs shall constitute full settlement.

Trip Connoisseurs is not responsible for any other travel arrangement affected due to our cancellations. Where amendments beyond our control require us to add or amend a service(s) resulting in an increased cost, a sur-charge may be payable by the Client for the additional or amended service(s). Trip Connoisseurs cannot assume responsibility for any loss incurred on account of nonrefundable air tickets.

REVISION AND SWITCH TRIPS

More than 60 days prior to a Client's original departure date, the Client will have a sole opportunity to switch the land only arrangements to a different date in the same calendar year upon payment of a fee of CAD or USD\$ 100 per person. Other fees may be applicable for tour arrangements with rail, cruise or special restrictions. Within 60 days of departure, no change can be made and the applicable cancellation fees will apply.

A revision fee of \$50 per person applies to any alternation or revision made to a confirmed booking.

ACCURACY OF INFORMATION

Trip Connoisseurs makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein and to the best of its knowledge, all information is accurate at the time of publication. We attempt to ensure that the prices in the brochure and on the website are accurate; however, errors do occur and we reserve the right to refuse to accept bookings at any price published in error. Updates are published on our website when new information becomes available including updates on our terms and conditions.

In addition, Trip Connoisseurs reserves the rights to change the itinerary when necessary for reasons beyond our control and provided the travel facilities or other services are of at least the same standard or value. We strongly recommend that you to visit our website www.tripconnoisseurs.com for the most up-to-date information.

DOCUMENTATION

The Client is responsible for obtaining and paying for all visas and entry documents, for meeting all health and other requirements, and for any documents required by the laws, regulations, orders, and/or requirements of the countries the Client will visit and for their return home. Canadian citizens can contact Foreign Affairs Canada at www.travel.gc.ca and US citizens can contact the U.S. Department of State at www.state.gov/travel for assistance in obtaining this information. Citizens of other countries should check with their corresponding Tourism Board or Consular Office of the destination which they are intending to visit. Visa and entry documents must be obtained independently prior to departure. Trip Connoisseurs will assume no responsibility whatsoever for passenger(s) denied carriage by the airline or refused entry into any country.

Trip Connoisseurs strongly recommends that the Client carries a valid passport when travelling outside of their home country. Please note that most countries now require your passport to be valid for up to six months after the completion of your travel in order to be accepted by them as a valid travel document. Trip Connoisseurs cannot accept liability for any passenger refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure of the passenger to carry the correct documentation by the time required.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Trip Connoisseurs strongly recommends that all travellers review and purchase their trip cancellation and health insurance to ensure they have coverage appropriate to meet their needs when confirming on a trip, in case of any cancellation penalty, loss of property, or liability of medical treatment

during the trip. Please consult your travel agent or Trip Connoisseurs for premium. If we do not receive payment for the insurance at the time of the Client's deposit, it will be assumed that the Client has declined coverage.

HEALTH

Clients are responsible for assessing their own suitability and capability to participate in the tour arrangements such Client has booked. Trip Connoisseurs encourages all Clients to seek their physician's advice regarding the Client's fitness for travel, necessary vaccinations, medical precautions, or other medical concerns regarding the entirety of the Client's travel with Trip Connoisseurs. Trip Connoisseurs does not provide medical advice. Certain Products may not be suitable for all people. It is the Client's responsibility to assess the risks and requirements of each tour arrangement in light of such Client's limitations due to physical, mobility or cognitive disability, pregnancy or various other physical or mental conditions of such Client.

By sending a deposit to Trip Connoisseurs towards the Client's trip purchase and/or completing traveller information form, the Client certifies that he/she does not have any physical, mobility or cognitive disability or any other limitations that would create a hazard for him/her or to other travellers and that the Client has received all appropriate mandatory vaccinations.

Travellers who need special assistance due to any limitation(s) must be brought up to the attention of Trip Connoisseurs in writing at the time of booking. Trip Connoisseurs will not be liable for any consequences resulted from the Client's failure to notify their limitations at the time of booking.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We promise to make sure that all travel arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide, as applicable, as part of our contract with the Client are made, performed or provided with reasonable skills and care. The Client's purchase of travel services provided by Trip Connoisseurs is based on the traveller's agreeing to this Limitation of Liability.

Travellers must accept each and all terms and conditions herein and assume full responsibility for any loss, injury, death or damage to them, their family or their dependents arising in connection with their participation in the trips. Travellers must have their own insurance appropriate to their needs and the needs of their family or dependents in respect of such loss, injury, death or damage. On the Client's behalf, Trip Connoisseurs arranges with airlines, independent ground suppliers to provide the Client with the travel services the Client has purchased. We use our best efforts in selecting these companies with respect to their performance and reliability. However, we have no direct or indirect control over these suppliers; and therefore, Trip Connoisseurs cannot be held responsible for injury, loss or damage whether mental, emotional or physical howsoever sustained, resulting from any error, omission or negligence of any company or person, agent, employee or sub contractor supplying any of the services, flights, transfers, tours or accommodation provided as part of the Client's trip. Trip Connoisseurs as the tour operator and/or its agents does not assume responsibility for any claims, losses, damages, costs or expenses arising out of personal injury or death, loss of enjoyment, upset, disappointment, illness, distress or frustration whether physical, emotional or mental, resulting from any of the following:

- i) Any negligent act or omission by the airlines, transportation companies, coach tour operators, car rental organizations, hotel/resort properties or other suppliers or their personnel or any company or person not under our direct control;
- ii) Government actions, political issues, weather, equipment failure, labour disputes, sickness, theft or

- any other cause beyond our direct control;
- iii) Failure of the passenger to obtain the necessary documentation or meet the required health regulations in order to complete their travel arrangements;
- iv) Failure of the passenger to arrive at the airport by specific airline's check-in deadlines on the day of departure whether due to missed connections, adverse weather conditions, mechanical failures or any other reason whatsoever;
- v) The need for us to change itineraries or substitute accommodation or services, provided that every effort is made to supply the most comparable services and accommodations available;
- vi) Cancellation of trip arrangements made by Trip Connoisseurs, provide all monies paid by travellers are fully refunded back to travellers;
- vii) While every effort has been undertaken to ensure accuracy, photographs, artist rendering and written descriptions in this brochure are representational only and are not a guarantee that everything will be exactly the same as at the destinations.

ACT OF GOD/FORCE MAJEURE

Trip Connoisseurs and/or its agents, act only as agent(s) for travellers in all matters pertaining to the trips. We shall not be liable for any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, delays or loss of enjoyment, of any nature or kind whatsoever, resulting from events beyond our or a supplier's reasonable control, including but not limited to acts of God, strikes, lockouts or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts or restraints imposed by government authorities. Trip Connoisseurs shall be excused; discharged or released from its performance to the extent such performance is so limited or prevented, without liability of any kind.

Travellers agree that Trip Connoisseurs is the trustee of the respective rights under this Limitation of Liability, which will apply to a traveller's trips with Trip Connoisseurs, and any transfer of a reservation to another trip, including any deviations or extensions. This Limitation of Liability is binding upon all members of the traveller's family, dependents, estate, heirs, successors and legal personal representatives. Any claim or dispute arising out of or relating to this Limitation of Liability or its interpretation, the trip, or the traveller's relationship with Trip Connoisseurs will be resolved exclusively in the courts of the Province of Canada in which the particular office of Trip Connoisseurs is located and with which traveller had contracted their trip and will be governed exclusively by laws of that province of Canada.

CLAIMS & REFUND POLICY

Except for verifiable extenuating circumstances, there are no refunds, whatsoever, for any unused travel arrangements and services including but not limited to accommodations, meals, intra tour transportation or sightseeing. Any refunds for unused travel arrangements and services shall be issued in the sole discretion of Trip Connoisseurs. Any adjustment considered will be based on the actual cost of the service involved and not on a per diem basis.

All claims must be made in writing to the Client's travel agent and accompanied by receipts, reports and other documents pertaining to the claim and must be received by Trip Connoisseurs for investigation no later than 14 days after the Client returns from their trip. We will not consider any request for refund received by it after 30 days of tour termination.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Special thanks to Chris Lajeunesse, Jerry Gu and many others for their kind contribution to this brochure and to all of our clients who gave us the permission to share their past travel experiences with

TRIP CONNOISSEURS.

RHAPSODY OF EAST EUROPE

MAY 15 - MAY 27, 2018

TREASURES OF BALKAN

AUG 15 - AUG 26, 2018

THE ART OF LIVING IN TUSCANY

JUN 17 - JUN 24, 2018

WATERWAYS OF RUSSIA & BALTIC

JUL 15 - AUG 1, 2018

FINLAND ARCTIC & GERMANY

DEC 4 - DEC 15, 2018

EUROPE

MONTAGE OF INDOCHINA

FEB 4 - FEB 17, 2018

ZEN, TEA OF JAPAN & CHINA

APR 1 - APR 14, 2018

TIBET CULTURE INTERLUDE

JUL 31 - AUG 14, 2018

MYSTERIOUS MYANMAR

NOV 14 - NOV 25, 2018

ESSENCE OF THE ORIENT

NOV 23 - DEC 8, 2018

ASIA

AMERICAS

PERU & COLOMBIA

DEC 21, 17 - JAN 3, 18

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

MAR 10 - MAR 18, 2018

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

JUN 3 - JUN 8, 2018

AFRICA

KENYA SAFARI

JAN 21 - JAN 27, 2018

SOUTH AFRICA

SEP 1 - SEP 11, 2018

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA YOGA

FEB 23 - MAR 6, 2018

NEPAL & BHUTAN

OCT 7 - OCT 20, 2018

TRIP CONNOISSEURS

MOVING YOUR DREAMS FORWARD...

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