

Phil Hoffmann  
travel

# ESCORTED JOURNEYS COLLECTION 2019/20

DISCOVER THE WORLD







## ESCORTED JOURNEYS COLLECTION 2019- 2020

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# journey with us and treasure the intimate moments

Iconic cities, castles, deserts, mountains, lakes and places of rare beauty, often far from the crowds.

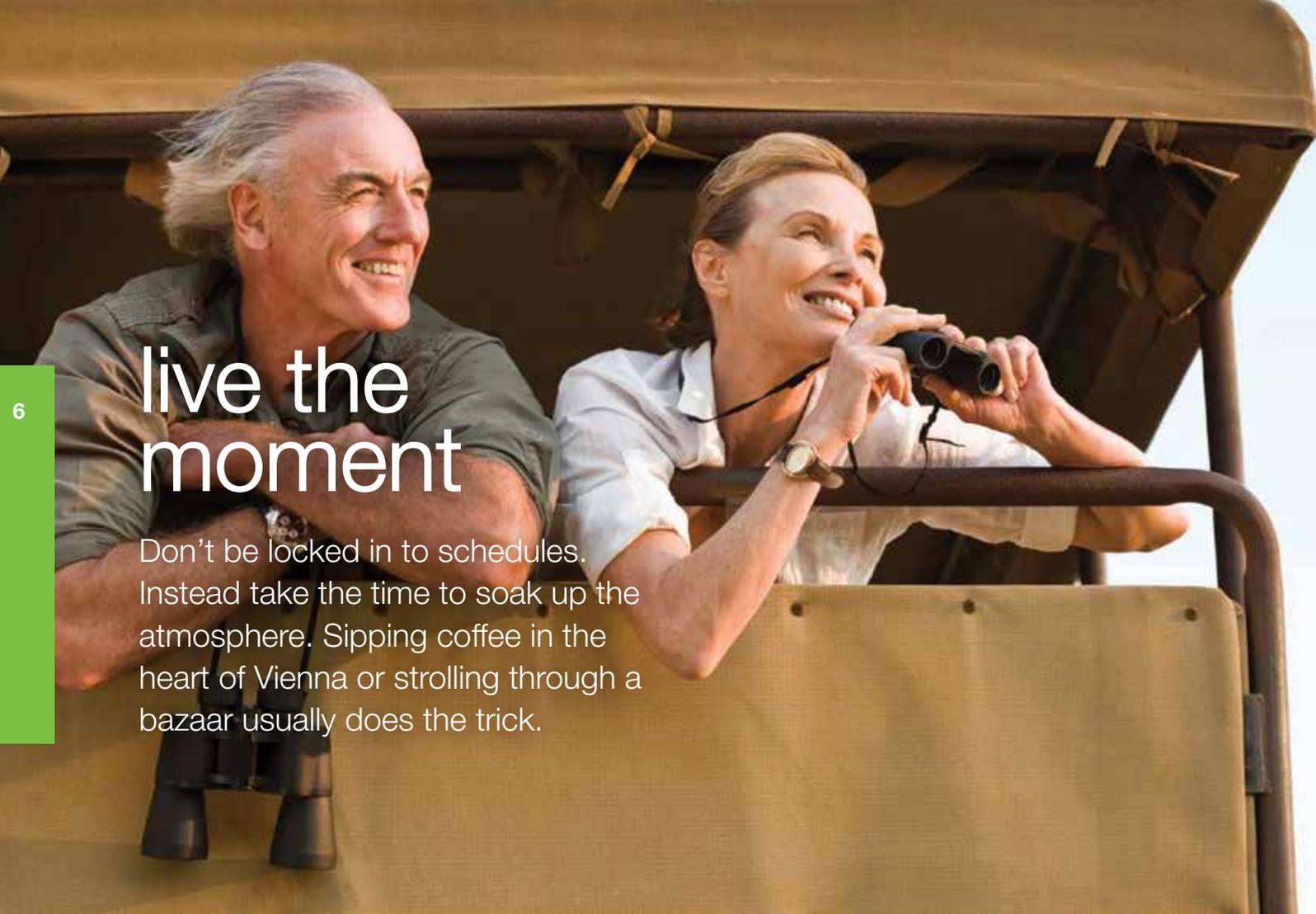


# the personal touch along with qualified expertise

Delight in a rich tapestry of encounters, an insider's view and the incomparable knowledge imparted by local guides paired with exceptional company.

# exquisitely handcrafted

Our Escorted Journeys are tailored, bespoke to our requirements, with WOW moments sewn in for good measure. With our own people on the ground, our tours are the perfect fit for travellers wanting a one-of-a-kind experience.

A man and a woman are sitting in the back of a safari vehicle, looking out towards the right. The man is on the left, wearing a green shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a white shirt and holding binoculars to her eyes. They both appear to be smiling and enjoying the experience. The vehicle has a tan canvas top and metal railings.

# live the moment

Don't be locked in to schedules. Instead take the time to soak up the atmosphere. Sipping coffee in the heart of Vienna or strolling through a bazaar usually does the trick.

A vast, golden field of rice stretches across the frame. In the lower right corner, three small figures of people are walking away from the viewer, each holding a colorful umbrella. The scene is bright and sunny, with the golden color of the rice dominating the palette.

# a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step

At Phil Hoffmann Travel, we delight in crafting the most amazing holidays. Make an appointment with one of our experienced consultants and begin your journey.

# sit back, relax and enjoy the journey

Not only will you be on a journey of discovery with like-minded travellers, you'll enjoy a journey often filled with value-added inclusions – airfares, hotels, many delicious meals and plenty of sightseeing.



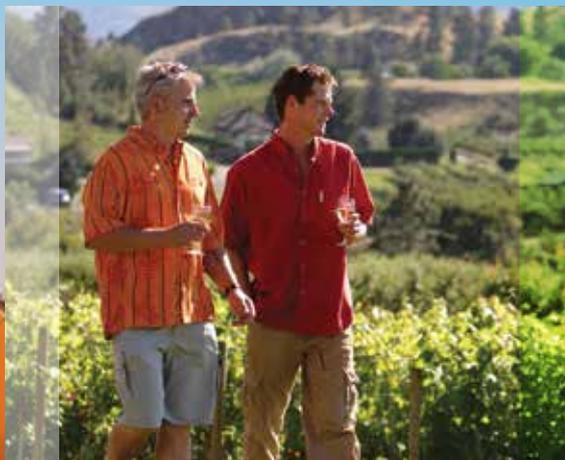


# what to expect on our escorted journeys?

**WE'RE HERE TO GUIDE YOU** Designed for those who wish to relax and enjoy their holiday while we take care of every detail, our Escorted Journeys provide a Phil Hoffmann Travel Tour Escort who travels with the group from Adelaide (on most tours), at absolutely no extra cost to you. Our Escorted Journeys have been a perfected favourite amongst our travellers for over 25 years.

## WHAT IS INCLUDED ON MOST TOURS

- **Return airfares from Adelaide** Upgrades to Premium Economy, Business and First Class available on selected routes
- **Phil Hoffmann Travel Tour Escort** The services of our Tour Escort who accompanies the group from Adelaide, at absolutely no extra cost to you.
- **Quality accommodation** Hotels, lodges, luxury tented camps, cruise cabins in the best locations
- **Sightseeing and touring** Included are all the must-see sights and all on-trip transfers by train, 4x4 and more
- **Great meals** Included are an array of meals, providing the chance to sample local gastronomy plus built-in flexibility allowing you to discover your own restaurants
- **Get-Togethers and Reunions** Meet fellow travellers at our pre-tour cocktail functions, receive tour documentation plus share your memories at our post-tour reunions
- **24/7 Emergency Assistance** For peace of mind whatever the time, wherever you are, we are here to help



**THE VERY BEST** With our own people on the ground helping orchestrate our Escorted Journeys, we cover the best of every destination, allowing our travellers to enjoy the exclusive, individual and authentic experiences that set us apart. Into the mix, we add unexpected gems that offer further delight to your experience.

**Expertly led** An integral ingredient of our Escorted Journeys is the expert local Tour Director at destination level, and also the Phil Hoffmann Travel Tour Escort who will travel with the group from Adelaide\* – at absolutely no additional cost to you. The expert local Tour Director's job is to showcase the destination and leave you with incredible memories of new places and new experiences. The Tour Escort is there to assist as or when the need arises and is ever-present without being intrusive.

**First-class hotels** Choosing the right hotels is of paramount importance to Phil Hoffmann Travel. We hand-select moderate and first-class hotels which afford easy access to where it all matters. Often reflecting the mood of the destination, you might savour a stay somewhere opulent in the Rockies, or perhaps aboard a luxury river cruise on the Danube. Rest assured, we expect and insist upon every comfort and satisfaction for our travellers.

**New friendships** Everything has a beginning. On a Phil Hoffmann Travel Escorted Journey, you'll enjoy the start of something new. New beginnings, new experiences and newly forged friendships. Our journeys are high on natural camaraderie. Our pre-departure get togethers, organised activities on tour and post-tour reunions provide a natural spark for new friendships, so much so that we often witness future travel plans made amongst people that met on tour!

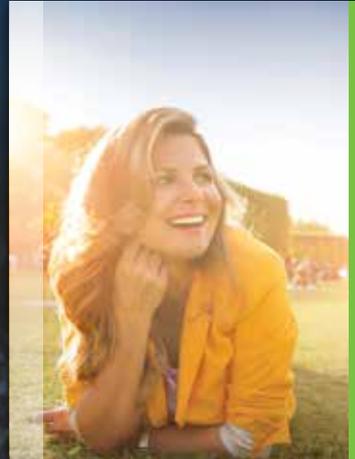
*\*(Except where noted, for example Tuscan Experience – where the Tour Escort meets clients in Italy). These tours are hosted at destination)*

travel with  
complete  
confidence

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# Solo travellers



## PHIL HOFFMANN TRAVEL SOLO COLLECTION

When travelling solo, Phil Hoffmann Travel Escorted Journeys are the perfect choice, since you can elect to pay the single supplement and have a room to yourself. Or alternatively, we can endeavour to locate a like-minded same-sex traveller on the tour you have chosen, to share with you. You'd then pay just the twin share cost\*! It's through our dedicated Solo Traveller Club, that there is often perfect opportunity for many of our travellers to make friends and find their perfect travel companion to share with whilst on tour. Look out for the Solo Traveller logo on selected tours throughout this brochure.

In our desire to be inclusive to all, these tours also commonly attract duos travelling together, resulting in a fine mix of travellers with whom to enjoy your new experiences. Likewise, any of our regular tours are also very suitable for solo travellers, where we commonly see solo travellers or friends travelling together.

The Phil Hoffmann Travel Solo Traveller Collection has opened up the world, and a whole new set of close friends, to many of our solo travellers. When you travel with the Solo Traveller Club, you'll never feel alone.

## JOIN THE SOLO TRAVELLER CLUB AND MEET WITH FELLOW TRAVELLERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

There has never been a better time to become a member of the PHT Solo Traveller Club. You can join the club for only \$25 per person, which is redeemable upon your first booking. Benefits for members include choice of exclusive programs featuring social functions • Invitations to special events • Access to a wide range of exclusive offers • Quarterly 'Go Solo' newsletter packed with events, solo offers and tips.

**For more information or to become a member of the Solo Club call 1300 748 748 or visit [pht.com.au/soloclub](http://pht.com.au/soloclub)**

*\*Please refer to our Terms and Conditions for further information.*

**JOIN THE  
SOLO TRAVELLER  
CLUB FOR ONLY  
\$25**

redeemable on your  
first booking!

## YOUR TRIP GUIDE

From exploring The Five 'Stans on one of our Exotic Collection tours, to tours with an added focus on cruising or solo travellers, all of our tours have a particular theme or emphasis. Some of our tours will combine one or more of these themes! To help you learn more about our tours, read below the explanations accorded to the legend(s) depicted across our tour pages.



### UNIQUE

Our unique journeys are exactly that. We offer 'one-of-a-kind' journeys exclusive to Phil Hoffmann Travel that you'll find nowhere else. In Hong Kong, we'll head to Happy Valley for the traditional Wednesday night horse racing. Or join us in 2020 – as we explore the Imperial Capitals of Europe before taking our coveted places in Oberammergau to witness the once-every-ten-years performance of the Passion Play. From Beijing, we'll travel aboard the Trans-Mongolian and Trans-Siberian all the way to Moscow.



### EXOTIC

Sometimes the more interesting places are just that little harder to reach. With this in mind, striking and unusual destinations such as our 'Five 'Stans' tour – which combines Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan or our 'Discover Persia' fit this theme beautifully. Talking of exotic, join us in Egypt and see the pyramids at Giza - legends of the ancient world.



### CLASSIC

Our classic journeys are a favourite amongst our travellers and showcase a region or countries which share a set of distinguishing characteristics; be it scenery, history, architecture or cuisine. European river cruising, the wildflowers of Western Australia and Canada and Alaska are some of our classic touring experiences.



### CRUISE

We always choose the best way to showcase a destination, and there's no finer or more relaxing way than by cruise. Be it a week-long cruise along the Alaskan Inside Passage, cruising around the Dalmatian Islands in Croatia or sailing along the River Nile in Egypt, a cruise offers a fantastic opportunity to see your holiday from an enticingly different vantage point.



## FOODIE

By a country's literature and architecture you'll understand its history; by its art and music you'll appreciate its personality. It is by its food, though, that you'll understand its unerring character. The most communal of the arts, gastronomy is visual and physical. Delight in an extrasensory journey on tours that showcase the gastronomy of the country you are visiting. In Iran, try Persian cuisine - an exotic melange of herbs, spices, meats and rice. Sample Australia's finest fayre aboard The Ghan. In Italy, try our Tuscan Experience or Simply Sicily and enjoy delectable Italian food.



## SOLO TRAVELLER

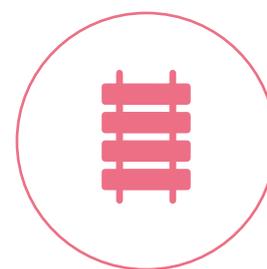
Thirty years of experience has taught us that the combination of beautiful locations, stimulating conversation and fascinating subject matter is ideal for anyone travelling solo. We welcome people travelling on their own, for whom any of our tours are ideal. We also offer a special selection of tours especially for Solo travellers. In our desire to be inclusive to all, these tours also commonly attract duos travelling together, resulting in a fine mix of travellers with whom to enjoy your new experiences.



## FITNESS LEVEL

All our tours have a physical rating, so you can tell how physically exerting a tour is and how fit you'll need to be to enjoy it. Whilst no physical preparation is required to make the most of a journey, at the minimum, participants should possess average fitness and enjoy a stroll. At archaeological sites, walking can be conducted on uneven or elevated ground. In Europe, there are often more stairs to navigate than other destinations, particularly in museums and hotels.

-  Easy but don't forget to pack your walking shoes
-  An average to medium level of fitness required, with more walking
-  Action packed. On the go, with frequent walking

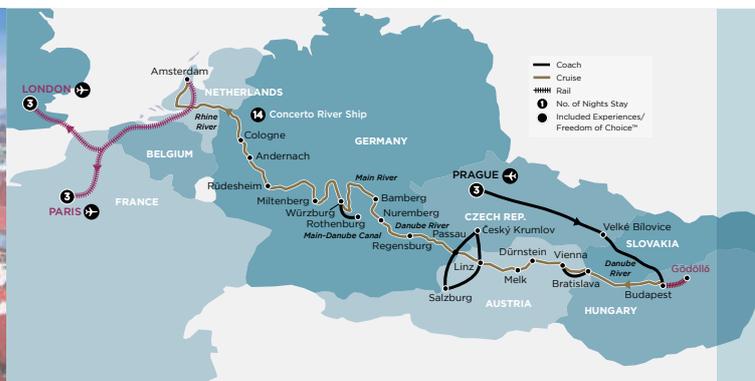


## RAIL

At risk of sounding a little poetical, and as the saying goes 'Let the train take the strain'. Travelling by train can be about the journey, and equally about the destination. In Russia across the Siberian Steppe to the precipitous but beautiful valleys in the Canadian Rockies, railways cut an often-incredible swathe. Delve within, and you'll discover some of the most amazing train journeys. Some are a few hours long. Some are an expedition through cultures and across far-flung lands. Yet, a common denominator amongst all the train journeys featured here is the delivery of a travel experience that is equalled by no other means of transport.

# magnificent europe river cruise

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Escorted by  
Phil Hoffmann Travel

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$12,345\***

SOLO OCCUPANCY **\$17,595\***

^Depicted pricing based on 19 Nov 2019  
Prague to Paris itinerary Cat. E Cabin.  
Other pricing on application.

## WEATHER:

Spring – Summer (Apr-Aug)  
– bright moderate to warm  
days. Average 18-27°C

Autumn (Sep, Nov) – cooler, bright  
days. Average 12-20°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 6 nights first class accommodation
  - 14 nights luxury river cruise
  - Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach and train
  - Sightseeing including Freedom of Choice per itinerary with entry fees
- 53 meals (complimentary beverages served onboard cruise)
  - Luggage portorage, gratuities
    - Escorted from Adelaide
  - Services of a professional English speaking tour director
  - One-way home to airport transfer
    - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

**21 DAY TOUR • DEPARTS 23 APR; 21 MAY; 18 JUN; 30 JUL; 19 NOV 2019**

Cruising in the heart of Europe, discover ancient towns and grand cities. Enjoy 3 nights in Prague and Paris or London and a luxury 14 night river cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam. Discover the Danube city of Budapest before a journey aboard The Grand Empress Steam Train to visit Gödöllo Palace. Waltz into Vienna for a stunning private concert featuring members of the Mozart Boys' Choir. Regensburg, Nuremberg, Bamberg, Rothenburg, Würzburg and Miltenberg are all ripe for exploration. Enjoy a regal evening at Burg Narned Castle – set near the Rhine River, the enchantment of Cologne, and canal-festooned Amsterdam.

### DAY 1 PRAGUE

Arrive Prague. Be met and transferred to your hotel. Later, enjoy a Welcome Reception.

**Stay** Radisson Blu Alcron Hotel – 3 nights (WR)

### DAYS 2-3 PRAGUE

**Day 2** Enjoy a Prague sightseeing tour comprising UNESCO-listed Prague Castle and Saint Vitus Cathedral. Take a stroll across Charles Bridge and witness the ancient Astronomical Clock, which has been delighting visitors for more than 600 years. (B,D)

**Day 3** Visit the Baroque 18th century fairy tale estate of Chateau Jemiste. Enjoy also a private falconry display. (B,L)

### DAY 4 PRAGUE TO VELKE BILOVICE AND BUDAPEST

Visit a traditional Czech wine cellar. Continue to Budapest

and board the luxury river ship. Witness Budapest in illumination.

**Stay** APT Concerto River Ship – 14 nights (15B,13L,14D)

### DAY 5 BUDAPEST

In enchanting Budapest, a city tour offers a thrilling discovery. See Buda Castle, the Royal Palace, Fisherman's Bastion and more. After your city tour embark on an imperial train journey aboard The Grand Empress Steam Train, before disembarking for a guided tour of Gödöllo Palace. Upon return to Budapest re-board the ship and sail to Vienna.

### DAYS 6-7 VIENNA

**Day 6** Arrive in Vienna, Austria's capital, home to striking architecture, a rich classical musical culture and vibrant cafes. Tonight, attend a cocktail reception and private concert at the City Palace, featuring members of the Mozart Boys'

Choir, a full orchestra performing classical masterpieces by Strauss, and an operatic recital.

**Day 7** Today select from a range of exciting Freedom of Choice touring options, such as a tour of the Schönbrunn Palace or a visit to Bratislava Slovakia.

### DAYS 8-10 DÜRNSTEIN TO MELK, LINZ, PASSAU AND REGENSBURG

**Day 8** Cruise through the Wachau Valley wine region today. On arrival in Dürnstein, there's opportunity to explore or perhaps ride a bike along the banks of the Danube to Melk and rejoin the ship. In Melk, enjoy a guided tour of Melk Abbey.

**Day 9** Today select from a range of exciting Freedom of Choice touring options, such as a city tour of Salzburg or a visit to Český Krumlov.

**Day 10** Dock alongside one of Germany's best-preserved medieval cities, Regensburg,

**FLY FREE  
TO EUROPE  
inc taxes<sup>^</sup>**



**5  
reasons  
to go**

See the beauty of baroque treasure – Prague • See the heart of Europe aboard a luxury river ship • Attend a private concert featuring members of the Mozart Boy's Choir in Vienna • Enjoy a regal banquet at Burg Namedy Castle • Discover Paris, enjoy lunch in Versailles and dinner at Moulin Rouge

and enjoy guided touring of the historic city centre.

**DAY 11 NUREMBERG**

A historic city tour of Nuremberg takes in a selection of World War II sites, such as the Reich Party Rally Grounds, the site of Hitler's now infamous rallies held annually from 1927 to 1938.

**DAY 12 BAMBERG**

In UNESCO-listed Bamberg – another of the few German cities that wasn't destroyed during WWII, choose touring options such as a tour of the Old Town or a guided walking tour.

**DAY 13 WÜRZBURG**

In beautiful Würzburg select from a Freedom of Choice range of touring options such as a visit to the illustrious Würzburg Residence or take a journey along the Romantic Road to medieval Rothenburg.

**DAY 14 MILTENBERG**

After an on-board glass-blowing demonstration, disembark in pretty Miltenberg and enjoy exploring this ancient town with a

local guide. Explore half-timbered shops, mingle with residents and sample delicious local fare along the way.

**DAY 15 RÜDESHEIM**

Take a trip aboard the Winzerexpress mini-train to the town centre. Select from a Freedom of Choice range of touring options such as a visit to Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum or travel in a gondola to the Niederwald Monument. Cruising to Andernach, enjoy an exclusive visit to regal Namedy Castle, home to Princess Heide von Hohenzollern, who will open the doors of her castle just for us. Enjoy some free time to wander about the castle at leisure, then savour a banquet in the ballroom, accompanied by a classical piano recital.

**DAYS 16-17 COLOGNE TO AMSTERDAM**

**Day 16** In Cologne, select from a Freedom of Choice range of touring options. Take a city tour and visit the famed old government quarter or travel to

Cologne, a city centred around the twin spires of its famous cathedral for a walking tour.

**Day 17** Today, sail into the beautiful Dutch capital, Amsterdam. Select from a Freedom of Choice range of touring options such as a canal cruise or perhaps visit the village of Zaanse Schans. A lovely village famous for its wooden windmills, traditional Dutch houses and specialty produce, there's time to explore and taste the region's renowned cheeses. Tonight, enjoy the Captain's Farewell Dinner.

**DAY 18 AMSTERDAM TO PARIS**

Disembarking the ship, travel aboard the stylish high-speed Thalys train to Paris. Evening at leisure.

**Stay** Hotel du Collectionneur Arc de Triomphe – 3 nights (B,L)

**DAYS 19-20 PARIS**

**Day 19** Enjoy a city tour of Paris, including Avenue des Champs-Elysees and the Arc de Triomphe, plus the iconic Eiffel Tower. Indulge in a sumptuous lunch at Ore Restaurant in Versailles, a contemporary French café. (B,L)

**Day 20** In Paris, select from a Freedom of Choice range of tours such as a culinary walking tour, a guided tour through the Louvre or a visit to Montmartre and Sacré-Coeur Basilica. This afternoon savour an exclusive evening of French Champagne tasting and hors d'oeuvres followed by dinner and a show at the legendary Moulin Rouge. (B,D)

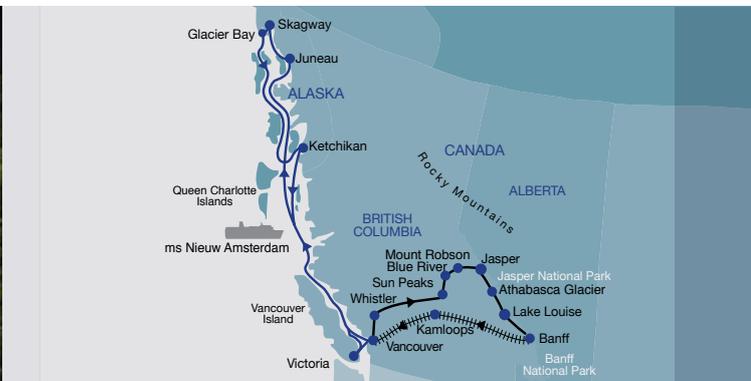
**DAY 21 PARIS**

Transfer to the airport in Paris, for your onward flight. (B)

Switch your Paris stay with a London city stay; including 3 nights' accommodation at the May Fair Hotel, sightseeing and an exclusive Gin tasting for Phil Hoffmann Travel clients. Enquire for further details about this itinerary that concludes in London.

# panoramic rockies and alaskan cruise

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Escorted by  
Phil Hoffmann Travel

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$16,495\***

SOLO OCCUPANCY **\$22,695\***

\* Depicted pricing based on 24 May 2019. ^Companion Fly Free including taxes – valid select departures offer expires March 2019 (subject to availability)

## WEATHER:

Spring and Summer – bright, blue sky days. Average 18-28°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 15 nights first class accommodation
  - 7 nights luxury ocean cruise (Verandah stateroom)
  - Travel by air-conditioned coach
  - Rocky Mountaineer Gold Leaf journey – Banff to Vancouver
  - Sightseeing including Freedom of Choice per itinerary, with entry fees
- 46 meals (and select complimentary beverages throughout the cruise)
  - Luggage portorage, gratuities
    - Escorted from Adelaide
  - Services of a professional English speaking tour director
  - One way home to airport transfer
    - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 23 DAY TOUR • DEPARTS 24 MAY; 07 JUN; 6 SEP 2019

Enjoy a breathtaking tour in the Canadian Rockies enjoying Jasper, Lake Louise and Banff. Explore Butchart Gardens with breakfast before the crowds arrive, look for bears and meet Mounties. Choose from a fantastic array of included excursions such as floatplane sightseeing, a Harley-Davidson sidecar tour, whale watching and more. Enjoy a memorable journey across the Rockies aboard the Rocky Mountaineer and savour award-winning Gold Leaf Service. From Vancouver, cruise to Alaska's Inside Passage aboard Holland America Line. Discover Ketchikan (salmon capital of the world), spectacular Juneau, Skagway and Glacier Bay National Park.

### DAY 1 VICTORIA

Arrive Victoria. Here you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. Later, enjoy a Welcome Dinner.

**Stay** Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort and Spa – 2 nights (D)

### DAY 2 VICTORIA AND THE BUTCHART GARDENS

Visit The Butchart Gardens before the crowds have arrived, and enjoy breakfast in the original Butchart residence. Then, after exploring the gardens, select from a Freedom of Choice range of touring options such as whale watching or afternoon tea at the Fairmont Empress. (B)

### DAY 3 VICTORIA VIA GEORGIA STRAIT TO WHISTLER

Today, ride the ferry across Georgia Strait, then travel up the Sea to Sky Highway

via Shannon Falls to Whistler.

There is also an optional floatplane to Whistler (ask us for details and pricing).

**Stay** The Westin Whistler Resort and Spa – 2 nights (B,D)

### DAY 4 WHISTLER

Enjoy breakfast and a tour at Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre. This afternoon, select from a Freedom of Choice range of touring options such as a floatplane flight or Snowcat adventure. (B)

### DAY 5 WHISTLER TO SUN PEAKS

Travel through the Cariboo region to the alpine village of Sun Peaks, set beneath three famous summits.

**Stay** Sun Peaks Grand Hotel (B,D)

### DAY 6 SUN PEAKS TO JASPER

At Blue River, set off on a guided

river safari to search for bears and other fascinating wildlife. After lunch, stop at Mount Robson en route to Jasper, in the province of Alberta.

**Stay** Jasper National Park, The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge (B,L)

### DAY 7 JASPER

Select from a Freedom of Choice range of touring options in Jasper National Park today such as a Harley-Davidson motorcycle sidecar tour or rafting. Tonight, enjoy a lakeside barbecue and entertainment from a First Nations group, at your hotel. (B,D)

### DAY 8 JASPER TO LAKE LOUISE

Journey the picturesque Icefields Parkway, past the ancient glaciers and vast icefields, straddling the Continental Divide. At the giant Columbia Icefield, board an Ice Explorer vehicle and journey onto the Athabasca Glacier. Later,

**COMPANION  
FLY FREE  
inc taxes<sup>^</sup>**



**5  
reasons  
to go**

Spot bear at Blue River • Stay at the legendary Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise • Travel aboard the Rocky Mountaineer in Gold Leaf • Witness glaciers calve at Glacier Bay • Dine on the taste sensation that is Canadian salmon

continue to Lake Louise.

**Stay** Banff National Park, The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise – 2 nights (B)

**DAY 9 LAKE LOUISE**

Experience the beauty of the impossibly blue Moraine Lake and Lake Louise and gaze into their glacier-carved depths, ringed by mountains and pines. Today, join an expert Mountain Heritage Guide for a stroll and learn about the rich natural history of the region.

Tonight, dine at one of the superb restaurants at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. (B,D)

**DAY 10 LAKE LOUISE TO BANFF**

Travel along the Trans-Canada Highway to Banff. Tour Banff then ride the Banff Gondola to the top of Sulphur Mountain. Later, meet a Canadian Mountie. Tonight, dine at one of the restaurants at the Fairmont Banff Springs.

**Stay** Banff National Park, The Fairmont Banff Springs – 3 nights (B,D)

**DAY 11 BANFF**

Select from a Freedom of

Choice range of touring options such as a helicopter flight over the Rockies, a float trip along Bow River or a cruise on Lake Minnewanka. (B)

**DAY 12 BANFF**

A day at leisure in one of the most naturally beautiful locations on Earth. (B,D)

**DAY 13 JOURNEY ABOARD THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEER**

Relax in Gold leaf comfort on the descent from the Rockies. Traverse Kicking Horse Pass, and cross the Continental Divide to Kamloops.

**Stay** Kamloops – accommodation to be advised (B,L)

**DAY 14 EN ROUTE TO VANCOUVER**

Admire towering snow-capped peaks and incomparable scenery

**Stay** The Fairmont Waterfront Hotel – 2 nights (B,L)

**DAY 15 VANCOUVER**

Embark on a sightseeing tour of Vancouver taking in Stanley Park and cultural Granville Island.

Rest of day at leisure. Enjoy a special dinner this evening. (B,D)

**DAY 16 VANCOUVER – 7 NIGHT ALASKA CRUISE**

Today board the ms Nieuw Amsterdam and settle in for a relaxing 7-night Alaskan cruise. Phil Hoffmann Travel is delighted to invite you to a Sail Away dinner at speciality restaurant – The Pinnacle Grill.

Cruise Holland America Line ms Nieuw Amsterdam (Verandah Stateroom). Day 16 (B,D).

**DAYS 17-23**

(B7,L6,D6)

**DAY 17 CRUISE THE INSIDE PASSAGE**

Enjoy a day at sea, gliding along the Inside Passage.

**DAY 18 TRACY ARM, JUNEAU**

Cruise to the entrance of Tracy Arm before arriving in Juneau, Alaska's capital located on the Gastineau Channel at the foot of the majestic Coast Mountains.

**DAY 19 SKAGWAY**

Journey to Skagway, a gateway for the Klondike gold rush and where the frontier atmosphere still lives on.

**DAY 20 GLACIER BAY**

Wake to the breathtaking sight of UNESCO-listed Glacier Bay National Park, with its rivers of ice and sky-scraping peaks.

**DAY 21 KETCHIKAN**

This morning, dock in Ketchikan, set on the shores of the Tongass Narrows near one of America's largest wilderness areas.

**DAY 22 CRUISE THE INSIDE PASSAGE**

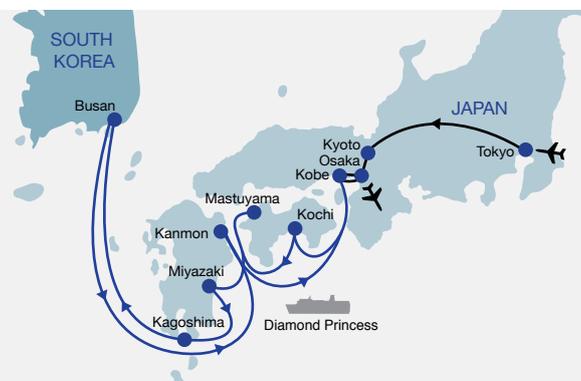
Continue south through the picturesque Inside Passage.

**DAY 23 VANCOUVER**

Disembark the cruise this morning and see all of Canada's spectacular landscapes from east to west, in only eight minutes with FlyOver Canada. Afterwards, transfer to the Vancouver Airport and enjoy lounge access before boarding the homeward flight.

# japan discovery

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Escorted by  
Phil Hoffmann Travel

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$8,399\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$3,239\***

## WEATHER:

Spring – clear, bright days.  
Average 15-18°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes
- 9 nights first class accommodation
  - 7 night cruise
- Ambassador Lounge-Singapore (Day 17)
  - Travel by coach, train, cruise ship
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
  - 32 meals
- Luggage transfer: Tokyo - Kyoto
  - Escorted from Adelaide
  - Guided by Japanese Tour Guide on days 2,3,5,6,7,8
- One-way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 18 DAY TOUR • 24 MAY – 10 JUNE 2019

Known as the 'Land of the Rising Sun', Japan is a world apart – a cultural Galapagos where exists an eclectic mélange of sumo wrestling, geishas, sake, karaoke bars, traditional onsen (hot springs), ryokan (tatami-matted inns), curious capsule hotels and pachinko parlours. The juxtaposition of neon-drenched modernity with austere shrines, ancient gardens and spiritual mountains makes for a jarring, yet mesmerising contrast. Join us on a tour taking in Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka, followed by an amazing 7-night cruise aboard Diamond Princess from Kobe, that even pulls into Busan, South Korea.

### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO TOKYO

Fly from Adelaide to Tokyo, via Singapore, arriving in the early hours of 25 May. On arrival, enjoy a short transfer from Tokyo Haneda Airport to our hotel for immediate check-in and a good night's sleep.

**Stay** Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa or similar - 4 nights

### DAY 2 TOKYO

Good morning Tokyo!  
Continue guided exploration of Tokyo by private bus and on foot. At Shibuya – visit the famous 5-level zebra crossing. Continue to the Meiji Shrine. Dedicated to the deified spirit of Emperor Meiji, the shrine is surrounded by over 100,000 trees and an oasis of serenity and spirituality. Enjoy some time for shopping in Harajuku or Omotesando street – a broad tree-lined precinct. Enjoy lunch at a local okonomiyaki restaurant. Continue to the Tokyo National Museum, which boasts one of

the largest and best collections of art and archaeological artefacts in Japan. Lastly, visit Tokyo Tower for incomparable views across Tokyo, a city of 9.2 million. Transferring back to the hotel, enjoy the remains of the day at leisure. (B,L)

### DAY 3 TOKYO

Enjoy a further full day of sightseeing by private bus and on foot. Visit Asakusa Temple. Enjoy a spot of shopping at Nakamise shopping street. Continue to Shinjuku, a popular entertainment and shopping area. Enjoy a teppanyaki dinner. (B,D)

### DAY 4 TOKYO

Day at leisure to enjoy the city your way. Included is a pre-loaded PASMO – a smartcard used in place of train tickets and cash on local trains and buses in Tokyo. There are no guide services today. (B)

### DAY 5 TOKYO TO KYOTO

Transfer to Shinagawa station by bus. Saying Sayonara to

our Tokyo guide, we board the Nozomi bullet train journey (1st class, reserved seat) to Kyoto. Enjoy a Bento box commuter lunch as the train reaches maximum speeds of 240-320 km/h. Met on arrival by our Kyoto guide, enjoy some sightseeing. Visit Sanju Sangendo and Kiyomizu—a Buddhist temple that enjoys UNESCO status. Later, continue to the hotel. (B,L)

*Note: Our large suitcases will travel on ahead of us for delivery tonight, so please pack any emergency requisites in your daypack for use, today.*

**Stay** Hotel Monterey Kyoto or similar - 3 nights

### DAY 6 KYOTO

Enjoy a guided tour of Kyoto by bus today. Amongst the highlights is the UNESCO-listed Nijo Castle, built in 1603 as the Kyoto residence of the first Shogun of the Edo Period. Continue to the Kyoto Imperial Palace, erstwhile residence of Japan's Imperial Family until 1868, when the emperor and capital was moved from Kyoto to Tokyo.



**5**  
reasons  
to go

Explore Kyoto in traditional dress – a kimono • Ride the Shinkansen bullet train • Try gastronomic delights – okonomiyaki and teppanyaki • Witness the 5-way zebra crossing at Tokyo's Shibuyu • See coastal Japan on a relaxing cruise

Thereafter, enjoy a tea ceremony experience. The Japanese tea ceremony, also called the Way of Tea, is a Japanese cultural activity involving the ceremonial preparation and presentation of matcha – a powdered green tea. Continue to Kinkakuji Temple and visit Gion – Kyoto's famous geisha district. Filled with shops, restaurants and teahouses, it is where geiko and maiko entertain. Transfer back to hotel. (B)

**DAY 7 KYOTO**

Continue guided exploration of Kyoto by bus. Kyoto is a city rich in history and culture. Wearing kimono while visiting temples and shrines is very popular for tourists and Japanese alike. Enjoy a 'dress-up' with a difference today. Attired in beautiful outfits, enjoy a stroll in the oft-photographed Arashiyama Bamboo Forest. Also visit the UNESCO-listed Tenryuji Temple, the most important temple in Kyoto Arashiyama district. After returning to our Western garb, visit Fushimi Inari Shrine. Featured in the movie 'Memoirs of a Geisha', Fushimi Inari is known for its thousands of red Torii gates leading up and through the sacred forest of Mount Inari. Transfer back to hotel. (B)

**DAY 8 KYOTO TO NARA AND OSAKA**

En route to Osaka, enjoy a visit to Nara—famed for the Todaiji Temple. Its Great Buddha Hall is the largest wooden building in the world and houses the world's largest bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. Also visit national treasure, the Nara Deer Park— home to hundreds of freely roaming deer, which are considered in Shinto to be messengers of the gods. (B)

**Stay** Hotel Nikko Osaka or similar

**DAY 9 OSAKA TO KOBE**

Transfer to Kobe port for the departure of the cruise aboard Diamond Princess. Over the next 7 nights, discover a wonderful array of ports. (B)

**Stay** Diamond Princess – 7 nights (7B, 6L, 7D)

**DAY 10 KOCHI**

Dotted with hot springs, historical townscapes such as Kochi Castle, old sake breweries and traditional markets, Kochi is well-preserved.

**DAY 11 MATSUYAMA**

Famed for its celebrated 17th-century castle, from the

hospitality at Dogo Onsen— Japan's oldest hot springs to the renowned Matsuyama tarts and botchan dango (rice dumplings in bean paste), you won't want to leave this port!

**DAY 12 MIYAZAKI**

A resort atmosphere permeates Miyazaki, fragranced by blooms from local botanical gardens. Emerald green golf courses, some of the best surfing in Japan, and a zoo with the largest number of flamingos in captivity in all of Japan add to the festive atmosphere.

**DAY 13 KAGOSHIMA**

Situated at the top of the Satsuma Peninsula, Kagoshima is a mountainous, geothermal wonderland of hot springs and geysers. The area is also rich in modern Japanese history: Saigo Takamori and the Satsuma samurai were leaders of the Meiji Restoration that toppled the shogun and restored the Emperor to power in 1868.

**DAY 14 BUSAN (SOUTH KOREA)**

Home to majestic mountains, beaches, steaming hot springs

and fantastic seafood, South Korea's second-largest city is a rollicking port town with lots on offer for the visitor.

**DAY 15 KANMON STRAITS**

Cruise the stretch of water that divides Honshu and Kyushu.

**DAY 16 KOBE TO OSAKA**

Disembarking the ship after breakfast, enjoy a bus transfer back to our hotel in downtown Osaka where luggage may be dropped. Rooms will be available from 3pm today. Enjoy the day in Osaka at leisure. No guide service today.

**Stay** Hotel Nikko Osaka or similar

**DAY 17 OSAKA TO ADELAIDE**

Early this morning, transfer to Osaka-Kansai Airport for the onward flight to Adelaide via Singapore, arriving on the morning on day 18. As there is approximately 6 hours connection between flights, we have arranged an Ambassador Lounge pass. Relax, enjoy a shower and something to eat. (B)

# beijing to st petersburg

20



Hosted from Beijing to St Petersburg by Deb Machink

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$15,349\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$2,699\***

### WEATHER:

Autumn – clear, bright days.  
Average 10-18°C

### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 17 nights 3 star accommodation, 1 night guesthouse, 2 nights traditional Mongolian ger
  - 7 nights train (2-berth sleeper compartment)
  - Travel by local trains (Chinese, Mongolian and Russia rolling stock)
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
  - 30 meals
- Hosted from Beijing to St Petersburg
  - Services of a professional English speaking tour leader
  - Services of specialist local guides
    - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 28 DAY TOUR • 30 AUGUST – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

9062km. A trip on the Trans-Mongolian and Trans-Siberian is the biggest train ride of all. Start in Beijing – home of the Forbidden City and a chunk of the Great Wall and then head north to Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia. Following in the footsteps of Genghis Khan - camp in a cosy ger and marvel at Tarbosaurus skeletons. Over the border, get in touch with Buddhism at Ivolginsky Datsan at Ulan Ude. Drop in at Irkutsk and Lake Baikal (bigger than Belgium). Discover Yekaterinburg – final stop for the Romanovs. Explore the beauty of Suzdal, Stalinist Moscow including Red Square and the Kremlin before arriving in the city of tsars – jam-packed with palaces and the legend of the Romanov dynasty.

### DAY 1 BEIJING

On arrival, enjoy a transfer to the hotel.

**Stay** Kapok Hotel or similar – 4 nights

### DAY 2 BEIJING

Enjoy the day to relax and take it easy. Late this afternoon, a pre-departure meeting will precede a Welcome Dinner of Peking Duck with our Tour Leader. (B,D)

### DAYS 3-4 BEIJING

Good morning Beijing! On day 3, visit the iconic Great Wall. Back in Beijing, consider exploring Wanfujing Street and Donghuanmen Night Market. On day 4, head to Beijing's symbolic heart – Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City, verboten to commoners until 1912. Later, soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven.

### DAY 5 BEIJING TO ULAANBAATAR

Early transfer to the station for the overnight train to Ulaanbaatar.

**Stay** train (B)

### DAY 6 ULAANBAATAR

Transfer to the hotel. Enjoy sightseeing of eclectic and cosmopolitan Ulaanbaatar –on Mongolia's endless grass steppe. Tonight, enjoy a Mongolian barbecue. (D)

**Stay** Tuushin Hotel or similar

### DAYS 7-10 ULAANBAATAR & TERELJ NATIONAL PARK

On day 7, en route to Terelj National Park call in at Ghandaan Khiid, Zaisan Memorial and a monastery. With wide open spaces, stunning rock formations and nomadic felt tents that dot the horizon, our home for 2 nights is a traditional ger. On day 8, visit Turtle rock and a nomadic family to experience their lifestyle. On day 9, en route to the capital, visit the gargantuan

Genghis Khan statue. A city tour includes the National History Museum and bustling Sukhbaatar Square. On day 10, enjoy a day at leisure – a chance to pick up snack provisions for the train journeys ahead.

**Stay** Aloonoo Ger Camp – 2 nights (2B,2L,2D)

**Stay** Tuushin Hotel or similar – 2 nights (2B)

### DAY 11 ULAANBAATAR TO ULAN UDE

Afternoon transfer to the station for the overnight train to Ulan Ude – capital of Buryatia – a federal subject of Russia located in Eastern Siberia.

**Stay** train (B)

### DAY 12 ULAN UDE

Arriving early into Ulan Ude, enjoy immediate hotel check-in and breakfast. Later this morning, embark on a city tour, and excursion to Ivolginsky Datsan – a Buddhist complex that has



**5**  
reasons  
to go

Ride the biggest train ride of them all – from Beijing to St Petersburg • Discover the Great Wall and Forbidden City • Dine on Mongolian barbecue and witness the gargantuan statue of Genghis Khan • Stay on the shores of Lake Baikal – the world’s deepest lake • Explore the beauty of St Petersburg’s many tsarist palaces

operated continuously even through the Soviet period since 1945.

**Stay** Baikal Plaza (B)

**DAY 13 ULAN UDE TO IRKUTSK AND LAKE BAIKAL**

Free day to further explore Ulan Ude. Tonight, transfer to the station for the overnight train to Irkutsk.

**Stay** train (B)

**DAY 14 IRKUTSK TO LAKE BAIKAL**

Arriving this morning, en route to Listvyanka on Lake Baikal, visit the Taltsy Museum of Wooden Architecture and Ethnography. The small village of Listvyanka sits on the shores of Lake Baikal. As big as Belgium and almost 2km deep, the world’s largest freshwater lake is a Mecca for omul fishing and recreation in all seasons.

**Stay** Chalet, Listvyanka, Lake Baikal (B)

**DAY 15 LAKE BAIKAL TO IRKUTSK**

Transferring back to Irkutsk – a major centre for dissidents exiled during the Decembrist Revolt, embark on a walking tour with opportunity to see

the famous ornate wooden houses and a visit to a local museum.

**Stay** Marriott Courtyard Hotel or similar (B)

**DAYS 16-19 IRKUTSK TO YEKATERINBURG**

Day 16 – Afternoon transfer to the station for 3-day journey west to Yekaterinburg. Late on the evening of day 18, enjoy an arrival transfer to the hotel. On day 19, embark on a walking tour of Russia’s 4th largest city founded in 1723 by Peter the Great, which sits east of the Ural Mountains, in the middle of the Eurasian continent, at the boundary between Asia and Europe. Forever connected to the Romanovs (Russia’s Royal family were executed here), we’ll visit the Romanov Church and memorial, the mineral museum and Europe/Asia Obelisk.

**Stay** train – 2 nights (1B)

**Stay** Park Inn Yekaterinburg – 2 nights (1B,1L)

**DAYS 20-22 YEKATERINBURG TO SUZDAL (VIA VLADIMIR)**

Day 20 - Morning transfer to the station for the overnight train to

Suzdal – one of Russia’s oldest towns and stuffed to the gunnels with monuments and listed buildings, including several that are UNESCO-listed. On day 21, arrive into Vladimir – erstwhile capital of 12th century Russia. Significant buildings survive from this golden period, two of which are UNESCO-listed. Enjoy some exploratory touring, before continuing to Suzdal by road. On Day 22, embark on an excursion of Suzdal including the Kremlin and Wooden Museum.

**Stay** train (1B)

**Stay** Pushkarskaya Sloboda Hotel or similar – 2 nights (1B)

**DAYS 23-25 SUZDAL TO MOSCOW (VIA VLADIMIR) AND ST PETERSBURG**

Day 23 – Transfer from Suzdal to Vladimir by road. Continuing to Moscow by train, enjoy an arrival transfer to the hotel and the remains of the day at leisure. On day 24, embark on a city tour by bus. Highlights of Moscow – Russia’s powerhouse include Red Square and St Basils Cathedral. On day 25, ride the Moscow Metro, visit the

Kremlin and two cathedrals, plus the treasure-filled Armory. Late this evening, transfer to the station for the overnight train to St Petersburg.

**Stay** Peter 1 Hotel or similar – 2 nights (3B, 1D)

**Stay** train – 1 night

**DAYS 26-27 ST PETERSBURG**

On day 26 transfer to the hotel (rooms available later today), before a sights tour of St Petersburg – the jewel in Russia’s imperial crown. Visit the Peter and Paul Fortress. On day 27, explore Peterhof including the Grand Summer Palace and Park. Continue by hydrofoil back to the city, with a visit to the Hermitage Museum at the Winter Palace, which features an incredible art and antiquities collection amassed by Catherine the Great. (B)

**DAY 28 ST PETERSBURG**

Transfer to St Petersburg Pulkovo Airport for your onward flight. (B)

# hong kong international horse racing

22



Escorted by  
Chris Dittmar

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$5,299\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$1,399\***

## WEATHER:

Winter – warm days, low humidity. Average 25-27°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes.
- 6 nights first class accommodation with early check-in
  - Travel by air-conditioned coach
  - 10 meals
    - International Jockey's Championship Night Race
    - Sha Tin Racecourse—breakfast/barrier draw and Trackwork
    - Longines Races Day Gold package
- Airport and all relevant transfers in hong Kong and One-way home to airport transfer
  - Escorted from Adelaide
  - Gratuities for drivers/guides
  - Services of a professional English speaking tour director
- Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 8 DAY TOUR • 3-10 DECEMBER 2019

Hong Kong comprising Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and surrounds, is one of Asia's great cities. In December, enjoy a tour packed with incredible inclusions and horseracing highlights as we head to Happy Valley and the prestigious Longines Hong Kong International Races at Sha Tin Racecourse in the New Territories. The tour includes some free time to discover Hong Kong on your own, maybe shop the famous 'Miracle Mile' on Nathan Road, the Stanley Markets on Hong Kong Island, and the famous night markets. For the big kids, maybe a visit to Disneyland Hong Kong?

### DAY 1 DEPART ADELAIDE

Fly late this evening from Adelaide with Cathay Pacific direct to Hong Kong. On arrival, enjoy a private transfer to the hotel.

### DAY 2 HONG KONG

Good morning Hong Kong! Arriving early, enjoy a private transfer and immediate check-in at your hotel. Freshen up, relax with a leisurely breakfast and a chance to explore.

Hong Kong comprising Hong Kong Island and Kowloon and surrounds is one of Asia's great cities. Navigate its teeming, tightly packed sidewalks and labyrinthine streets and you're met at every turn with neon signage shrieking Cantonese and English slogans. Busy canteens, markets stuffed to the gunnels with goods and chattels and a Babel

of chatter form the fabric of downtown Hong Kong be that Causeway Bay, Tsim Sha Tsui or Mongkok. Immediately exciting, Hong Kong offers a roll-call of must-do's.

### The Park Lane Hotel, Causeway Bay Hong Kong —a Pullman Hotel:

Across the road from Victoria Park, the Park Lane Hong Kong Hotel – a Pullman Hotel is located in vibrant Causeway Bay, minutes from the subway station and a stone's throw from tahe city's most compelling attractions, from chic designer boutiques and Michelin-starred restaurants to pulsating bars and clubs. Savvy design, intuitive service and jaw-dropping views of the harbour, Victoria Park and the Kowloon skyline combine to make The Park Lane the ultimate sanctuary in Hong Kong for the modern urban nomad. The hotel features three restaurants, bar, casual café, sauna and fitness centre.

Comfortably appointed guest rooms feature plush furnishings, contemporary design and offer flat-screen TVs, DVD/CD players and minibar, complimentary WiFi plus tea and coffee making facilities, in-room safe and 24/7 room service. Glass-walled bathrooms with privacy screens offer bathrobes, slippers and signature cult-brand C.O Bigelow of New York toiletries.

This evening, enjoy a transfer to the Happy Valley Racecourse for an exciting and fun-filled night of racing under the lights. At the International Jockey's Championship Night Race, included is your admission badge to the Happy Valley Stand, race card, an international buffet dinner and unlimited standard bar, beers and house wines for the duration of the races from 6.30pm-11pm.

### Happy Valley Racecourse:

Happy Valley Racecourse was built in 1845 to offer horse racing for the British in Hong



## 5 reasons to go

Revel in the Hong Kong horse racing scene, one of the most prestigious in the world • Special access to morning track work and a barrier draw • Take in the view of Hong Kong Harbor and surrounds from Victoria Peak • Try some of the delicious local food of Hong Kong • Shop some of the best retail stores and markets you will find in Asia

Kong. The area was previously swampland, but the only flat ground suitable for horse racing on Hong Kong Island. To make way for the racecourse, Hong Kong Government prohibited rice growing by villages in the surrounding area. The first race ran in December 1846. Today Happy Valley Racecourse is one of two racecourses in Hong Kong used by the Hong Kong Jockey Club for horse racing meets, the other of course being the Sha Tin Racecourse. The Happy Valley Racecourse and its seven-storey stands are capable of accommodating approximately 55,000 spectators for the traditional Wednesday night races. (B,D)

**Stay:** The Park Lane Hong Kong— 6 nights.

### DAY 3 HONG KONG

This morning, enjoy a transfer to Sha Tin Racecourse to witness morning track work. Enjoy breakfast at the track, whilst enjoying the sight of top trainers putting their horses through the paces before Sunday's Hong Kong International Races. Experience also the Barrier Draw.

### Sha Tin Racecourse:

Located in Sha Tin in the New Territories, Sha Tin Racecourse is managed by the Hong Kong Jockey Club. Originally built in 1978 with capacity for 35,000 and one grandstand, it now has capacity for 85,000 and two grandstands, and holds close to 500 race meets a year. It also has 20 stables for a capacity of 1,260 horses.

Other features include:

- Equine Hospital
- Racing Laboratory
- Equine Swimming Pool
- Riverside Gallop

Tonight, consider exploring Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade on the Kowloon side for great views of the Symphony of Lights. (B)

### DAY 4 HONG KONG

This morning, enjoy a half day Hong Kong tour. Visit Victoria Peak with one-way Peak Tram, Aberdeen Fishing Village with sampan ride and drive via Repulse Bay and Stanley. Returning to the hotel early this afternoon, the rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

### DAY 5 HONG KONG

Today, enjoy Hong Kong your way. Alternatively, consider an optional (at additional expense) day tour with lunch to the former Portuguese colony of Macau. Reverting to Chinese rule in 1999 after nearly 400 years under the Portuguese, it is known as the Las Vegas of the East for its casinos. (B)

### DAY 6 HONG KONG

This morning, enjoy a transfer to the Sha Tin Racecourse for the Longines Hong Kong International Races, where the purse is an impressive HKD\$84 million plus. Included is your admission badge to the Champion Circle, race card, international buffet with afternoon tea and unlimited standard bar, beers and house wines for the duration of the races from 12pm-6pm. (B,L)

### DAY 7 HONG KONG

Enjoy a leisure day to relax, shop and sightsee in arguably one of Asia's most exciting and

cosmopolitan cities. Alternatively, any keen golfers may want to take an optional tour (at additional expense) to Mission Hills Golf Course in neighbouring Shenzhen, China. (Please note: Pete Dye Course and Zhang Lianwei Course are for Mission Hills members only). This evening, we will reunite for a farewell dinner with the group at a popular Hong Kong restaurant—Ho Le Fook, including 2 hours of free-flow house wines and beer. (B,D)

### DAY 8 HONG KONG TO ADELAIDE

Early this morning, enjoy a transfer to Hong Kong International Airport for the onward direct flight to Adelaide, arriving this evening. (B)

# russian waterways

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Escorted by  
Juile Williams

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$9,295\***

SOLO OCCUPANCY **\$17,690\***

*\*Depicted pricing based on a Panoramic Window Stateroom Category D Cabin. Other pricing on application.*

## WEATHER:

Autumn – cooler, bright days. Average 12-20°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 2 nights first class accommodation
  - 10-night luxury river cruise
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
- 35 meals (beer, wine, soft drinks with lunch and dinner on your cruise)
  - Luggage portorage, airport charges and tipping
  - Escorted from Adelaide
  - Services of a professional English speaking guide
- One-way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 13 DAY TOUR • DEPARTS 6 SEPTEMBER – 18 SEPTEMBER 2019

A country that conjures up strong images with the mere mention of its name, no one can accuse Russia of not being diverse. From its lavish palaces and museums, to rural towns and pioneering history of space exploration, it's a nation with so many drawcards even the most seasoned traveller will be kept on their toes. Glimpse into the past with remnants of the Soviet state scattered all around. Then add to the mix a healthy appreciation of the arts and thriving nightlife, and this is a destination that must be on every traveller's list.

### DAY 1 ST PETERSBURG

Arrive St Petersburg. Be met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight, enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Stay** Kempinski Hotel Moika 22. (D)

### DAY 2 ST PETERSBURG

This morning, enjoy a city tour taking in attractions such as St Isaac's Cathedral, Nevsky Prospect and Palace Square. Afterwards, embark on a guided tour of the amazing imperial estate, Peterhof Palace. Later this afternoon board your river ship.

**Stay** MS Valentina River Ship – 10 nights (11B, 11L, 11D)

#### MS Valentina

Arranged across five passenger decks, are a restaurant, bar, lounge, sun deck, fitness centre and spa. Comfortably appointed cabins feature en suite bathroom, television, heating/cooling and ample storage

space. Enjoy a buffet breakfast each morning, whilst lunch and dinner are a four-course menu with a selection of beer, wine and soft drinks available.

There is an array of entertainment on offer. Enjoy live music in the bar each evening. Take in mouth-watering vodka tastings and traditional cooking demonstrations of blinis and pelmeni dumplings. Learn the Russian language with onboard lessons or take in a history lecture.

### DAY 3 ST PETERSBURG

After breakfast, enjoy an exploratory tour of the lavish Catherine Palace and grounds, constructed in the 18th century as a summer palace for the Empress and a masterpiece of Russian rococo architecture, unrivalled in luxury and scale. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure back in St Petersburg. Tonight, gain an appreciation of Russia's arts scene with a breathtaking private ballet performance at the

Hermitage Theatre, one of the oldest theatres in St Petersburg.

### DAY 4 ST PETERSBURG

Take a Hydrofoil ride over the waters of the Neva River to the State Hermitage. Here, experience a special tour before the museum is open to the public with an exclusive Hermitage Peacock Clock Ceremony. Acquired by Catherine the Great in 1781, the Peacock Clock is a large automated clock featuring three life-sized mechanical birds. Afterwards, tour the museum. The Hermitage Museum is one of the largest and oldest in the world and features nearly three million works of art by masters including Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, arranged across six buildings.

### DAY 5 LAKE LADOGA AND MANDROGI

After cruising through the night, dock in Mandrogi, a charming village teeming with traditional houses. Afterwards, spend



**5**  
reasons  
to go

The city of tsars - St Petersburg and its imperial treasures including Catherine Palace and the incredible antiquities collection at the Winter Palace • Kizhi Island and its amazing wooden architecture • Ancient Uglich with its Kremlin • Stalinist Moscow – including the Kremlin and priceless Fabergé eggs at the Armoury • The chance to purchase a ushanka!

time at leisure to look around and browse the handmade trinkets for sale.

**DAY 6 LAKE ONEGA AND KIZHI ISLAND**

Situated on Lake Onega, Kizhi is home to some of Russia's most amazing wooden architecture. Explore the open-air museum of wooden buildings and marvel at the UNESCO-listed Transfiguration Church, built in 1714 without the use of a single nail.

**DAY 7 WHITE LAKE AND GORITSY**

Today cruise onto the White Lake, then dock in Goritsy, a small and peaceful farming town. Your guided tour here includes a visit to the Monastery of St Cyril on the White Lake and its Museum of Icons.

**DAY 8 YAROSLAVL**

Today stop in the historic Golden Ring city, Yaroslavl. Founded by Prince Yaroslav the Wise in 1010, this is one of Russia's oldest cities, tracing its roots back to the Vikings. Here, a

sightseeing tour illuminates the city's history through its glorious architecture, including Spassky Monastery and the Church of Elia the Prophet.

**DAY 9 UGLICH**

Dock in another Golden Ring city, Uglich. On a guided tour, visit the Kremlin and the Church of St Demetrios on the Blood, built to honour the slain son of Ivan the Terrible. Alternatively, consider a visit the Hydroelectric Station and Hydropower Engineering Museum.

**DAY 10 MOSCOW**

Dock in Moscow this afternoon. During any season, Moscow thrills visitors with its artistry, history and majesty. At the heart of Moscow is the Kremlin and Red Square – Russia's bastion of power. Capping one end of Red Square is the Disneyesque St Basil's Cathedral, whilst along the Kremlin wall sits Lenin's austere black marble mausoleum. The remains of the Soviet state are scattered all over the city in the shape of Stalinist architecture, monuments

to fallen heroes and victorious battles and the museum-like metro with its stoic bronze figures and mosaics depicting the great collectivisation for the State. Ballet, the circus, galleries stuffed to the gunnels with art and antiquities, all form part of Moscow's artistic scene. And then there is Orthodoxy at every turn. The glittering golden domes of some 600 churches adorn the cityscape. Interiors are packed with ancient icons and faithful worshippers. Orthodoxy has helped to define the Russian nation, a significance that is palpable in these atmospheric churches. And then there is the gastronomy. Don't leave Russia without trying fine pancakes filled with wild mushrooms and washed down with a nip of vodka. Enjoy an insightful tour of Red Square and St Basil's Cathedral.

**DAY 11 MOSCOW**

Take a guided tour of the Armoury Museum within the walls of the Kremlin, a historic fortified 15th century complex that was once the royal residence of the Tsars.

The Armoury is home to many treasures, ranging from the coronation robes of the tsars to the famous Carl Fabergé eggs.

Later, perhaps gain an insight into the history of space exploration with a visit to the Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics, situated at the base of a 100-metre titanium obelisk. Alternatively, explore Tretyakov Art Gallery, Russia's national gallery.

**DAY 12 MOSCOW**

Disembark the river ship. Marvel at some of Moscow's unique Metro stations, which feature chandeliers and marble statues. This evening, enjoy a Farewell Dinner, accompanied by traditional Russian folklore.

**Stay** Hotel Baltuschug Kempinski.

**DAY 13 MOSCOW**

Transfer to the airport in Moscow, for your onward flight. (B)

# tuscan experience

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Hosted from Florence by  
Renato Di Stefano

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$7,899\***

SOLO OCCUPANCY **\$9,250\***

## WEATHER:

Summer – clear, sunny days. Average 20-25°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 13 nights accommodation -Villa Castellare de' Sernigi
- 1 night accommodation – Pensione Sorriso, Vernazza, Cinque Terre
- Travel by coach, train & boat per itinerary
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
  - Culinary art sessions (optional) including fresh pasta making
  - 30 meals including a help-yourself breakfast daily, 5 lunches and 11 traditional dinners prepared by local cook with limited wine\*
  - Services of professional guides at selected locations
  - One-way home to airport transfer
- Pre-departure function with antipasti and wine, tour documentation

\*Additional wine can be purchased

*With prior notice given, catering arrangements can be made for those with an ovo-lacto vegetarian diet or gluten intolerance.*

**15 DAY TOUR • 7-21 SEPTEMBER 2019\*; 5-19 SEPTEMBER 2020\*\***

*\*connects to Simply Sicily tour 23 Sep – 5 Oct 2019\* and 21 Sep to 03 Oct 2020\*\**

For travellers keen to indulge their passion for authentic Italian food, Renaissance treasures and a deliciously relaxing stay in a 15th century villa in the heart of the Tuscan countryside, the Tuscan Experience is 'La Dolce Vita' personified. Not only will this holiday be the most relaxing 5 days ever, there's opportunity to learn more about Italian food combined with a discovery of the riches of this extraordinary region with genial host – Renato Di Stefano.

### DAY 1 FLORENCE TO CASTELLARE DE' SERNIGI

Arrive at Florence Santa Maria Novella rail station, for the transfer at 1.00pm to villa Castellare de' Sernigi. Enjoy a delicious welcome lunch at the villa. Later, join Renato for an estate tour then relax before a light dinner. (L,D)

### DAY 2 BARGINO – ANTINORY WINERY

Enjoy Sunday morning at leisure. Later, visit Antinory winery in Bargino for a degustation of fine wines and lunch (not included). Tonight, enjoy a dinner of wood oven pizza at a local pizzeria (B,D)

### DAY 3 SAN GIMIGNANO AND VOLTERRA

Visit San Gimignano. Dominating the Val d'Elsa, it is one of Europe's best-preserved hill top medieval towns. Continue to medieval Volterra, known for its

Etruscan museum and Roman theatre. (B,D)

### DAY 4 CASTELLARE DE' SERNIGI

At leisure. Later, partake in a culinary art session with Renato and help prepare lunch. This afternoon, visit the convent and church of Santa Maria del Carmine al Morrocco founded in 1459 by a former owner of our villa! (B,L,D)

### DAY 5 FLORENCE

In Piazza Della Repubblica in the heart of Florence, savour a coffee at Bar Gilli. Stroll through Piazza Della Signoria to Galleria Degli Uffizi for a guided tour of the Renaissance treasures. Later, visit the Franciscan Basilica of Santa Croce, festooned with frescoes by Giotto. (B,D)

### DAY 6 TAVARNELLE

Enjoy a walk to Tavarnelle and the atmospheric open market in the piazza. Lunch is at a local taverna (not included) and the afternoon is at leisure (B,D)

### DAY 7 VERNAZZA AND LE CINQUE TERRE

Journey by mini bus to La Spezia – gateway to the legendary Cinque Terre – five villages that straddle a picturesque serrated coastline. Take a boat trip (weather permitting) or a train trip to Vernazza. This afternoon, consider taking the local train to Rio Maggiore to walk the Via dell'Amore then visit Manarola and Corniglia before returning to Vernazza. Perhaps join Renato for dinner (not included) at a seaside restaurant, then a nightcap at the Blue Marlin bar.

**Stay** Pensione Sorriso, Vernazza – 1 night (B)

### DAY 8 LUCCA AND PISA

Travel by train to La Spezia then by mini bus to medieval Lucca – birthplace of composer Puccini and surrounded by imposing Renaissance walls and beautiful gardens. Continuing to Pisa, see the Piazza Del Duomo with the famous leaning tower.

**Stay** Castellare de' Sernigi – 7 nights (B,D)



**5**  
reasons  
to go

Stay at an atmospheric 15th century manor house in the heart of Tuscany • Learn the art of Italian gastronomy in an idyllic setting • Discover San Gimignano and the beauty of Florence • Witness the magic of the Cinque Terre • Explore medieval Montepulciano and Siena

**DAY 9 TAVARNELLE VAL DI PESA**

Stroll to Tavarnelle for coffee, pastries and time to explore. Later, join Renato in the kitchen as he prepares a delicious lunch. Rest of day at leisure. Dinner (not included) is at a local restaurant. (B,L)

**DAY 10 MONTEPULCIANO, PIENZA AND MONTALCINO**

Discover the hilltop medieval and Renaissance town of Montepulciano and 15th century Pienza - capital of Pecorino cheese. Wine tasting and

lunch is at a boutique Brunello winery, before a visit to medieval Montalcino, famed for Brunello di Montalcino wine. (B,L,D)

**DAY 11 SIENA**

Travel to Siena and explore this medieval masterpiece - Italy before the Renaissance, magically transported to the modern day. Tonight, enjoy dinner at the Villa. (B,D)

**DAY 12 FLORENCE**

Travelling to Florence embark on a guided visit of the Galleria

dell'Accademia to marvel at Michaelangelo's 'David'. Also see the Renaissance Treasures at Bargello Museum. (B,D)

**DAY 13 TAVARNELLE**

Walking to Tavarnelle, stroll through the open market square as Renato selects ingredients for a hands-on culinary art session and delicious villa lunch. Dine tonight at a restaurant (not included). (B,L)

**DAY 14 BARBERINO**

Walk to medieval Barberino.

Enjoy lunch with spectacular views of the Val d'Elsa (not included) then return to Tavarnelle for a welcome gelato. Rest of the afternoon is at leisure to rest and make preparations for morning departure. Tonight enjoy a farewell dinner at the villa. (B,D)

**DAY 15 CASTELLARE DE' SERNIGI TO FLORENCE**

Farewell Castellare de' Sernigi today with a 9:00 am transfer to the Florence train station (B)

Why not continue on Renato's 'Simply Sicily' - commencing 23 September 2019 or 21 September 2020.

**ABOUT YOUR HOST RENATO DI STEFANO**

Renato Di Stefano has a passion for Italy, Italian food and the romantic Italian language. From an early age, under his Nonna's guidance, Renato learned the correlation between choice, fresh ingredients (often gathered at local markets) and delicious meals. His childhood experiences together with the repertoire of tips and tricks learned while helping Nonna prepare family meals, laid the foundations for Renato's love of good food and traditional Italian cooking. As a TAFE lecturer for many years, Renato introduced the concept of teaching the Italian language and culture through its cuisine, giving students a small taste of the broad and varied gastronomy of Italy's regions. Considered a great concept, Renato was invited to run classes at Phil Hoffmann Travel as part of our 'Lifestyles' series.

Hosting tours in Italy since 2002, Renato's 'Tuscan Experience' offers an indulgent and relaxing stay at a 15th century villa combining Italy's incredible gastronomy with exploration in beautiful places.

**ABOUT THE SETTING IN SICILY**

Nestled in the Chianti hills, overlooking valleys rich in history, is the 15th century manor house - Castellare de' Sernigi. Once owned by wealthy merchants and patrons of the arts - the Sernigi family, Its enviable location in the heart of Tuscany in the thousand-year-old hamlet of Palazzuolo, a stone's throw from Siena, San Gimignano and Florence, makes Castellare de' Sernigi an idyllic base.

Lovingly restored, the finely appointed and fully air-conditioned 7-bedroom villa each with Tuscan views and en suite bathroom is furnished with antiques, two large upstairs sitting rooms with picturesque views, spacious dining and living room, well-equipped kitchen and cellar. Surrounding the villa, in the lovely gardens are furnished seating areas, a large stone terrace with arbour covered al fresco dining area, and swimming pool with surrounding stone deck.

# Croatia & the Adriatic

28



Escorted by  
Annemarie Hundhammer

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$8,359\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$2,779\***

## WEATHER:

Autumn – warm, sunny days. Average 25-28°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes
- 8 nights 4 star accommodation (with early check-in—Zagreb, Dubrovnik)
  - 7 night 4 star Croatia cruise
  - Travel by private bus, ship and public bus on Dubrovnik Card
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees plus Dubrovnik Card
- 24 meals (on cruise—inc choice of wine, beer or soft drink with lunch, fresh fruit, bottled water)
  - Luggage portorage
  - Escorted from Adelaide
- Services of a professional English speaking tour director
- One-way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 18 DAY TOUR • 8 SEPTEMBER – 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

If your Mediterranean fantasies feature pleasant days by azure water in the shade of ancient walled towns, Croatia is the place to turn those dreams into stunning reality. Poised between the Balkans and Europe, this land has passed between competing kingdoms, empires and republics for millennia. This is a land steeped in history, where the gastronomy is extraordinary, the landscapes are peerless and the island-speckled coast - one big attraction. Explore Zagreb, Opatija, Plitvice Lakes and Split, then board a 7-night cruise. Loll on a sun lounge, and if that sounds too relaxing – snorkel, swim and explore gorgeous towns, culminating in 3 nights at the walled city of Dubrovnik.

### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO ZAGREB

Fly from Adelaide to Zagreb, via Dubai

### DAY 2 ZAGREB

On arrival in Zagreb, enjoy a transfer to the hotel for early check-in and the rest of the day at leisure.

**Stay** Best Western Astoria Zagreb or similar - 2 nights

### DAY 3 ZAGREB

This city rewards those on foot. On an easy paced walking tour, discover the gems of Zagreb including the Kaptol settlement, Cathedral, Dolac farmer's market, Upper Town's red-roof and cobblestone glory peppered with church spires, the Parliament and more. (B)

### DAY 4 ZAGREB TO ISTRIA AND OPATIJA

Istria is the perfect getaway with its rustic landscapes, beautiful hilltop towns, gastronomy and culture.

Enjoy an unique truffle hunting experience at Karlic farm. Continue to the village of Motovun and the seaside resort of Rovinj, before a later wine tasting at Kozlovic winery. (B)

**Stay** Hotel Jakov or similar - 1 night

### DAY 5 OPATIJA TO PLITVICE LAKES

Driving east, arrive at the UNESCO-listed Plitvice Lakes. Within the boundaries of this forested national park, 16 crystalline lakes tumble into each other via a series of waterfalls and cascades. Some 18km of wooden footbridges and pathways snake around the edges and across the rumbling water, making this one of the prettiest places in Europe. (B)

**Stay** Hotel Degenija or similar - 1 night

### DAY 6 PLITVICE LAKES TO SPLIT

Continuing south, later arrive at Split. A blend of ancient and modern, dynamic and buzzing Split is Croatia's second largest city. Centrepiece of Split is the

UNESCO-listed Diocletian's Palace. Step inside this impressive Roman monument and you'll see dozens of bars, restaurants and shops thriving amidst the atmospheric old walls where Split has been humming along for millennia. (B)

**Stay** Hotel Marul or similar - 1 night

### DAY 7 SPLIT

This afternoon, transfer to Split Harbor to board our ship. Anchor's aweigh tomorrow, so enjoy more time to explore Split with a guided tour. Later, return to the ship for a Welcome Meet and Greet cocktail reception—opportunity to meet the Captain and Crew and fellow passengers before a relaxing onboard dinner. (B,D)

MV Summer—Launching in June 2019, the state-of-the-art MV Summer is a well-appointed 43m ship offering 18 air-conditioned twin or double en suite cabins for 36 guests and free WiFi. The air-conditioned upper deck offers single-seating dining, bar area with LCD TV and al fresco lounge area. The 200 sq m lounging sundeck is equipped with sun-shades



**5**  
reasons  
to go

Zagreb - a city made for strolling and studded with secessionist Neo-baroque and art deco buildings • The natural beauty of the Plitvice Lakes • Diocletian's extraordinary Palace in Split • Cruising to the islands dotted along Croatia's stunning Dalmatian Coast • The walled city of Dubrovnik

and deck loungers, two al fresco showers (perfect for rinsing off after an ocean dip), Jacuzzi and rear access platform and ladders for easy access to the glittering waters of the Adriatic sea. Enjoy a daily buffet breakfast, 4-course lunch with choice of wine, beer or soft drink, daily fresh fruit and bottled water.

**Stay** MV Summer - 7 nights

**DAY 8 SPLIT TO BOL AND HVAR**

Anchor's aweigh this morning for the departure to the charming island of Brač. Enjoy a swim stop at Zlatni Rat (Golden Cape) beach near the quaint fishing village of Bol. After lunch at the Pakleni Islands, cruise to the jet-set island of Hvar. The longest and sunniest island in the Adriatic, Hvar's interior hides abandoned ancient hamlets, craggy peaks, vineyards and the lavender fields that the island is famous for. Enjoy a short presentation on this natural product and tour of Hvar. Boasting plenty of lively restaurants, bars and cafes, there is no shortage of places to enjoy a drink or dinner tonight. Overnight in Port. (B, L)

**DAY 9 HVAR TO VIS**

Anchor's aweigh early this morning as we cruise towards the beautiful island of Biševo, to the magnificent Blue Cave\*. Continue to Vis—erstwhile strategic Yugoslav naval base, and today an island with a unique charm that harks back to a bygone era. Later, enjoy a tasting experience of white wine crafted from the distinct grape, Vugava, a varietal cultivated here since ancient times. Overnight in Port. (B,L)

\*- subject to weather conditions.

**DAY 10 VIS TO KORCULA**

Anchor's aweigh early this morning as we head towards the island of Korčula—birthplace of Marco Polo, rich in vineyards, olive groves, small villages, and harbouring a glorious Old Town which we'll explore on a guided walk. Overnight in Port. (B, L)

**DAY 11 KORCULA TO MLJET**

Cruising to seductive Mljet, consider a stroll on the famous salt lakes in stunning Mljet National Park for which entry is of course included or perhaps hire at own cost - a bike, scooter or kayak! (B,L)

**DAY 12 MJLET TO STON AND SLANO**

The enchanting village is our destination this morning. Mainland Slano is a peaceful, traditional fishing village and gateway to Ston, a fortified village famed for its oysters. After exploring the medieval ramparts, visit an oyster farm for shucked samples. Overnight in Port. (B,L)

**DAY 13 SLANO TO DUBROVNIK**

Anchor's aweigh early this morning as we cruise to Dubrovnik. Before reaching Gruz Harbor, we cruise alongside ancient city walls, enjoying an on-deck lunch. After docking, enjoy a guided walking tour. Tonight, enjoy a Captain's Farewell Dinner with live music and entertainment. (B,L,D)

**DAY 14 DUBROVNIK**

This morning after breakfast, disembark MV Summer. Enjoy a transfer to our hotel where we'll be staying for the next 3 nights. Our rooms will not be available until 3pm, but our luggage will be safely stored. With our Dubrovnik Card, enjoy the Old Town, 6 museums, 2 art galleries plus a cable car to the top of Mt Srd, for

stunning views of the Old Town encircled by massive 16th century stone walls and the beautiful Elaphiti Islands. Dubrovnik's well-preserved buildings range from baroque St. Blaise Church to Renaissance Sponza Palace and Gothic Rector's Palace, now a history museum. Paved with limestone, the pedestrianised Stradun (or Placa) is lined with shops and restaurants. Later transfer back to the hotel. (B)

**Stay** Hotel More or similar - 3 nights

**DAY 15 DUBROVNIK**

Today, enjoy a full day tour to neighboring Montenegro. Enjoy the Old Town of Kotor, a boat trip to a small island and afternoon swimming at Budva, renowned for its sandy beaches.(B,L)

**DAY 16 DUBROVNIK**

A day of leisure to enjoy more of beautiful Dubrovnik, with your Dubrovnik Card. (B)

**DAY 17 DUBROVNIK TO ADELAIDE**

Late this morning after breakfast, enjoy a transfer to the airport for the onward flight to Adelaide, via Dubai, arriving the evening of Day 18. (B)

# the five 'stans

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Escorted by  
Patricia Brougham

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$17,950\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$3,650\***

## WEATHER:

Autumn – comfortable temperatures.  
Average 20-30°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes
  - 25 nights moderate/first class accommodation
- Transport by coach, minivan, 4WD and Afrosiab train—Tashkent—Samarkand
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
  - 73 meals
- Mineral water (2 x .5l bottles daily)
  - All tips and gratuities
- Escorted from Adelaide
- Services of a professional English speaking tour director
- One-way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation
- Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, China, Turkmenistan visas

## 28 DAY TOUR • 8 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER 2019

Stretching from the Caspian Sea to the borders of western China, the five 'stans are the nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, crossroads of an intricate web of trading routes known for millennia as the Silk Road. Comprising a magical medieval blue-domed cities, saw-tooth mountains, kinetic bazaars, steppe grassland, desert, yurts, rock formations, fertile valleys and rivers, join a modern-day caravan on an epic adventure to a less-visited part of the planet. Shrouded in legend, romance and mystery, this journey promises to offer one of the richest travel experiences ever. A sell-out in 2018, secure your place in 2019.

### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO ALMATY

Fly from Adelaide to Almaty via Dubai.

### DAY 2 ALMATY

Arriving in Almaty this afternoon, transfer to the hotel for a well-deserved rest.

**Stay** Le Shera Park Inn—2 nights (D)

### DAY 3 ALMATY

Situated in the shadows of the Tian Shan Mountains, former capital – Almaty is the cultural and commercial hub of Kazakhstan. Explore Almaty. (B,L,D)

### DAYS 4-5 ALMATY TO CHON KEMIN VALLEY

On day 4, cross the border into Kyrgyzstan at Black River. Following the Chuy River, reach serene Chon Kemin, a valley flanked by snow-capped mountains. On day 5, watch a fantastic exhibition of

horsemanship by skilled Kyrgyz horsemen. Later, board a craft for two hours of fun on the fast-flowing Chon Kemin River.

**Stay** Ashu Guesthouse – 2 nights (2B,2L,2D)

### DAYS 6-8 CHON KEMIN VALLEY TO KARAKOL AND JETI OGUZ

On day 6, drive to the Cossack outpost of Karakol, skirting the north shore of Issyk Kul – the second largest alpine lake after Lake Titicaca. On day 7, travel to nearby Jeti Oguz to see the extraordinary formations of red sandstone cliffs known as the 'seven bulls'. Continue to the magnificent Oguz Valley glacier. Formerly known as Przewalski, the pretty town now called Karakol was once named after an intrepid 19th century explorer who also gave his name to the rare Przewalski's horse. On day 8, visit his memorial and an animal rehab centre.

**Stay** Hotel Tagaytay – 3 nights (3B,3L,3D)

### DAYS 9-10 KARAKOL TO BISHKEK AND ALMATY

On day 9, drive around the south shore of Issyk Kul Lake and continue to tree-lined Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, where on arrival, embark on a walking tour. On day 10, enjoy further exploration of the tsarist-planned city of Bishkek's sights, before returning to Almaty.

**Stay** Park Hotel Bishkek - 1 night and Shera Park Inn Almaty - 1 night (B,L,D)

### DAYS 11-12 ALMATY TO DUSHANBE

On day 11, fly to Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan. Totally unspoiled by tourism, this country is delightfully hospitable. On arrival, explore the fortress town of Hissar. On day 12, explore Dushanbe, a 'garden city', with its plantain and poplar-lined boulevards, plus large parks irrigated by canals and channels.

**Stay** Sheraton Hotel – 2 nights (2B,2L,2D)



**5**  
reasons  
to go

Follow the legendary Silk Route • Stay in cosy lakeside chalets at breathtaking Iskanderkul Lake • Samarkand - the 'Rome of the Orient' • Bukhara – and its buildings that span a millennia of history • The awesome spectacle of Darvaza gas crater

**DAY 13 DUSHANBE TO ISKANDERKUL LAKE**

Travel by 4WD vehicles high up into the Fann Mountains to Iskanderkul Lake. Enjoy lunch with a local family at Sary Tag, a village located beneath rugged mountain peaks punctuated by glaciers. Tonight, stay in lakeside chalets.

**Stay** Iskander Kul Turbaza (B,L,D)

**DAY 14 ISKANDER KUL LAKE TO KHUJAND**

Drive north, climbing high above the Zerafshan Valley. Descending to the edge of the fertile Fergana Valley lined with orchards and cotton fields, continue to Khujand – Tajikistan's second largest city through the 5-km long Shahrston Tunnel.

**Stay** Khujand Deluxe Hotel (B,L,D)

**DAYS 15-16 KHUJAND TO TASHKENT**

On day 15, explore the labyrinthine Khujand Bazaar before continuing via Oybek to Tashkent – renowned for its numerous mosques, the earliest written Koran, fountains, parks and tree-lined streets. On day 16, explore Tashkent.

**Stay** City Palace Hotel (2B,2L,2D)

**DAY 17 TASHKENT TO SAMARKAND**

Board the new high-speed train, the Afrosiab, for Samarkand. "We travel not for trafficking alone, by hotter winds our fiery hearts are fanned. For lust of knowing what should not be known we take the Golden Road to Samarkand". These final lines of James Elroy Flecker's 1913 poem "The Golden Journey to Samarkand" evoke the romance of Uzbekistan's glorious city.

**Stay** Hotel Grand Samarkand – 2 nights (2B,2L,2D)

**DAY 18 SAMARKAND**

Known as the 'Rome of the Orient', Samarkand was a flourishing city when Rome and Babylon were founded. Visit breathtaking Registan Square, where the finest of buildings in Asia dominates the most public place in Samarkand. Intricate tile-work and fluted cobalt tile domes provide a spectacular vista. Visit also Tamerlane's mausoleum, the observatory of Ulugbek and the Shahi-Zinda Necropolis.

**DAY 19 SAMARKAND TO BUKHARA**

Drive to Bukhara. Central Asia's holiest city, Bukhara has buildings

spanning a millennium of history. Most of Bukhara is an architectural preserve, full of minarets, a giant fortress and remnants of a once-vast market complex. Visit the 19th century Fayzulla Khodjaev house.

**Stay** Minorai-Kalon Hotel – 3 nights (3B,3L,3D)

**DAYS 20-21 BUKHARA**

Surrounded by the vast expanse of the Kyzyl Kum Desert, Bukhara still retains the atmosphere of an ancient Silk Road city. Over 2 days, explore Ark Fortress, the crumbling city wall and Samanid Mausoleum. Stroll through the warren of narrow medieval streets of the old city to the covered bazaar, various mosques and Labi Hauz pond.

**DAY 22 BUKHARA TO KHIVA**

Drive across the Kyzyl Kum Desert to Khiva. En route, look out for wild camels, and eagles soaring high above the sand dunes. The city of Khiva has retained its exotic image of a medieval oriental town thanks to the older province known as Ichan-Kala. See Khiva's famous architectural monuments.

**Stay** Orient Star (B,L,D)

**DAY 23 KHIVA TO DASHOGUZ AND DARVAZA**

Cross the border into Turkmenistan. Visit the fort at Dashoguz then continue to Darvaza gas crater, known as 'the door to hell'.

**Stay** To be advised – Darvaza (B,L,D)

**DAY 24-26 DARVAZA TO ASHGABAT**

On day 24, drive to Ashgabat. Enjoy a day at leisure. On day 25, visit the UNESCO-listed Nissa, which was capital of the Parthian Empire more than two millennia ago. Later visit the Turkmenbashi Mausoleum. Day 26, enjoy a city tour of Ashgabat, exploring the gleaming golden-domed capital with its marble buildings and impressive statues. Often described as the North Korea of Central Asia, Turkmenistan is a 'stan' like no other.

**Stay** Grand Turkmen Hotel – 2 nights (3B,3L,3D)

**DAY 27-28 ASHGABAT TO ADELAIDE**

Early morning of day 27, fly from Ashgabat via Dubai to Adelaide, arriving Adelaide on the evening of day 28.

# experience egypt

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Escorted by  
Anna Vickery

## 12 DAY TOUR • 15 SEPTEMBER – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

With sand-covered tombs, behemoth-sized pyramids and towering Pharaonic temples, Egypt brings out the explorer in all of us. In Luxor, visit the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut and the Valley of the Kings, where Tutankhamun's tomb was unearthed. See Tutankhamun's solid gold funerary mask in Cairo's Egyptian Museum. Hop off a Nile river cruiser to visit the temple at Kom Ombo and Esna Temple. In Aswan, enjoy a colonial high tea at the Old Cataract Hotel.

### TOUR COST PER PERSON

SOLO OCCUPANCY **\$6,929\***

TWIN SHARE **\$6,099\***

### WEATHER:

Summer – warm, bright days.  
Average 30-35°C

### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes.
- Flights Cairo-Aswan/ Luxor-Cairo
- 6 nights first class accommodation
  - 3 nights first class river cruiser accommodation
  - Travel by air-conditioned coach and riverboat
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
  - 21 meals (inc Afternoon Tea at the Old Cataract Hotel)
    - Luggage portorage
    - Escorted from Adelaide
- Services of a professional English speaking tour director
- One-way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

#### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO CAIRO

Fly from Adelaide to Cairo, via Dubai.

#### DAY 2 CAIRO

Enjoy an arrival transfer to our hotel. Please note, rooms will not be available until 3pm, although every effort will be made to have rooms available as soon as possible. Tonight, enjoy a River Nile dinner cruise with local entertainment including a belly dancer.

**Stay** Intercontinental Semiramis or similar – 3 nights (D)

#### DAY 3 CAIRO

Good morning Cairo! With a population of some 22 million, the African mega-city of Cairo is chaotic, but at the same time, beautiful and beguiling. Start with a visit to the Egyptian Museum. Housing the world's largest collection of Pharaonic antiquities,

witness the priceless treasures recovered from the tomb of boy King Tutankhamun by archaeologist Howard Carter. Continue to the Citadel to see the once glorious fortification and the Mosque of Mohamed Ali. Capping the day, enjoy lunch and opportunity to explore the alleyways of the Khan-el-Khalili Bazaar. Later tonight enjoy a welcome dinner. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 4 CAIRO

Today, discover the treasures at Giza Plateau and beyond, with a visit firstly to the mighty Pyramids – Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus and enigmatic Sphinx at Giza Plateau. Constructed from over 2.5 million limestone blocks it is thought to have taken more than 20 years to construct Cheops alone. Continue to Memphis, the first capital of ancient Egypt and Saqqara – purportedly home of the prototype to the Great Pyramids at Giza – that

of King Zoser's famous Step Pyramid. When Memphis was capital, Saqqara served as a vast necropolis. Today, Saqqara features numerous discovered tombs and pyramids. (B,L)

#### DAY 5 CAIRO TO ASWAN

This morning, fly south to Aswan. Sitting on a wide, languorous and beautiful section of the Nile, where the life-giving waters flow gently down from Lake Nasser around dramatic black-granite boulders and palm-studded islands, Aswan is easy on the eye. In ancient times its quarries provided the granite used for so many sculptures and obelisks including one of Queen Hatshepsut's which lies abandoned in the bedrock. Visit the Aswan High Dam and the granite quarries. Sail to Agilkia Island for a guided tour of Philae Temple. This afternoon, join the likes of Winston Churchill and Agatha Christie before you, with a colonial-style afternoon tea at the Old Cataract Hotel.

**Stay** Movenpick Aswan or similar (B,AT)



**5**  
reasons  
to go

The Pyramids at Giza Plateau • Afternoon tea at the Old Cataract Hotel • Cruising the River Nile • Luxor's Valley of the Kings, and the gargantuan Temple of Karnak • The Pharaonic treasures at the Egyptian Museum.

**DAY 6 ASWAN**

Consider an optional excursion by road to the famous rock-cut temple of King Ramses II, the Great Builder, at Abu Simbel (cost \$249pp). The excursion departs very early on day 6 and returns in time for our touring arrangements after breakfast today. Undertake a visit to a Nubian village and embark on a traditional Nile felucca sailing boat cruise. On conclusion of our tour, we transfer to our stylish Nile cruiser for embarkation.

**Stay** MS Nile Dolphin or similar – 3 nights (B,L,D)

**DAY 7 ASWAN TO KOM OMBO AND LUXOR**

Early this morning, set sail for Kom Ombo – a temple dedicated to the falcon-headed Horus and crocodile god, Sobek. Later dock at Edfu and visit Edfu Temple. Tonight, don traditional Egyptian galabeyas, for a fun-filled Egyptian dinner, as the ship sails north to Luxor. (B,L,D)

**DAY 8 LUXOR**

After breakfast, explore the treasures of the West Bank of the Nile where lies the necropolis of ancient Thebes. Stop for a photo of the Colossi of Memnon - two giant seated figures of Amenhotep III. In the nearby Valley of the Kings, visit some of the pharaohs tombs, then continue to the colonnaded temple of Queen Hatshepsut, one of the rare female pharaohs. (B,L,D)

**DAY 9 LUXOR TO CAIRO**

This morning, after disembarkation from the Nile cruiser, visit Luxor's East Bank for some further touring. Discover the gargantuan Karnak temple complex. Walk through the avenue of ram-headed sphinxes, past the statue of Rameses II, to the vast Hypostyle Hall, housing 134 giant decorated columns. Continue to Luxor Temple. Whilst the temple is less complex than Karnak, it is nonetheless impressive. In front

of the temple is the beginning of the Avenue of Sphinxes that ran all the way to the temples at Karnak 3km to the north, and which is now almost entirely excavated. Of the original pair of pink-granite obelisks that flanked the entrance, one remains while the other stands in the Place de la Concorde in Paris. Later, transfer to Luxor airport for the flight to Cairo.

**Stay** Intercontinental Semiramis or similar – 2 nights (B)

**DAY 10 CAIRO**

At the Dahshur necropolis, discover the Red Pyramid, largest of the three major pyramids located the royal necropolis of Dahshur outside Cairo. Named after its rusty reddish hue, it is the third largest Egyptian pyramid, after Cheops and Chephren at Giza Plateau, and believed to be ancient Egypt's first successful attempt at engineering a true smooth-sided pyramid. Later,

tour Coptic Cairo, the district's famous Hanging Church and also Ben Ezra Synagogue. According to local folklore, the synagogue is located on the site where baby Moses was found. Tonight enjoy a farewell dinner. (B,D)

**DAY 11 CAIRO TO ADELAIDE**

Morning at leisure. This afternoon, transfer to Cairo airport for the onward flight to Adelaide via Dubai, arriving on the evening of day 12. (B)

# discover persia

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Escorted by  
Jo McLaren

## 16 DAY TOUR • 21 SEPTEMBER – 6 OCTOBER 2019

With opulent mosques and palaces, crumbling ancient ruins, and locals eager to make your acquaintance - you may be surprised by Iran's hidden treasures and legendary hospitality. Be welcomed by the curious locals as they show you their land and their customs. Among Iran's stellar attractions are the long-dead city of Persepolis, Yazd – birthplace of Zoroastrianism, Shiraz and beautiful Esfahan. Discover a slice of paradise in Persian gardens, get an authentic experience mingling with the locals at the buzzing bazaars and try outstandingly delicious Persian food.

### TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$7,699\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$1,269\***

### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes
- 13 nights 3 star accommodation (with early check-in/late check-out—Tehran)
  - Travel by private air-conditioned bus
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
  - 17 meals
  - Luggage portorage
- Escorted from Adelaide
- Services of a professional English speaking tour director
- One-way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation
- Facilitation of Authorisation Code (for procurement of Tourist Visa - see conditions)

#### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO TEHRAN

Fly from Adelaide to Tehran, via Dubai.

#### DAY 2 TEHRAN

On arrival in Tehran later this morning, enjoy a transfer to our hotel for immediate early check-in, with the rest of the day to relax.

**Stay** Tehran Grand Hotel or similar – 2 nights

#### DAY 3 TEHRAN

Good morning Tehran! Enjoy a full day tour. Highlights include the opulent UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace, the treasure-filled National Museum, the Jewelry Museum with its impressive array of crown jewels and the Grand Bazaar of Tehran. (B)

#### DAY 4 TEHRAN TO KASHAN

Drive to Kashan, a merchant town known for its high-quality ceramics, silks, carpets and fine houses. Visit the lush Fin Garden - a historic and classical Persian garden. Stop also at Borujerdi House. Tonight, experience Iranian hospitality with a visit to a local home for dinner. (B,D)

**Stay** Parsi Hotel or similar

#### DAY 5 KASHAN TO YAZD

Continuing on the Silk Road to the UNESCO-listed city of Yazd, an en route stop is made at the old clay house town of Na'in and Aqda for a Persian lunch. Arriving into Yazd late this afternoon, a visit is made to a famous confectionery maker. The ancient, rustic desert city of Yazd was a major stop on the caravan routes to Central Asia during the Silk Road period. It's also known as the heart of the Zoroastrian religion, which dates back over 4,000 years and was the state religion before the arrival of Islam. (B,L)

**Stay** Dad Hotel or similar – 2 nights

#### DAY 6 YAZD

This morning, explore the UNESCO-listed Old City. Visit the Dolat Abad Garden and Amir Chakmaq complex, then walk through the narrow kuches (lanes). Later, visit two vestiges of Yazd's Zoroastrian heritage on a trip to the Fire Temple and the Towers of Silence. In the Zoroastrian religion, fire and water are agents of ritual purity. The fire in the Atashkadeh Fire Temple is said to have been continuously burning since 470 AD. The intriguing Towers of Silence are part of the Zoroastrian tradition of raised circular structures where the dead are laid out to be picked clean by scavenger birds. This evening, travel to the village of Taft for a simple dinner. (B,D)



**5**  
reasons  
to go

Explore the sprawling Sa'd Abad Palace, Museum complex and their 18 palaces • Explore the remains of Persepolis – onetime centre of the Persian Empire • Witness the Towers of Silence in Yazd • Visit the jewel in Persia's crown, the beautiful town of Esfahan • Enjoy a simple Persian meal amongst the scent of pomegranate and tamarind trees

**DAY 7 YAZD TO SHIRAZ**

On the 6 hour drive to Shiraz, en route stop at the ice-houses of Abarkuh. The Abarkuh Cyprus – a 4,500 year-old tree is the oldest in Iran. Evening at leisure in Shiraz. (B)

**Stay** Shiraz Royal Hotel or similar – 3 nights

**DAY 8 SHIRAZ**

Heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz is home to splendid gardens and exquisite mosques. On a guided walk, explore the evocative Vakil Bazaar and the Khan Citadel. This afternoon, visit the vast complex of Eram Garden. Following this, visit the tombs of Persian poets and literary juggernauts - Hafez and Sa'di. (B)

**DAY 9 SHIRAZ**

Enjoy a morning tour of Persepolis and Nagsh-e-Rostam. Built on the slopes of Mt Rahmat, UNESCO-listed Persepolis was intended as a showcase of the Achaemenid empire, designed to awe visitors with its scale and beauty. Over 150 years, the city was embellished with

the additions of subsequent kings. By the 4th century BC, Persepolis was an elaborate project of palaces, treasuries and necropolis, illustrating unsurpassed artistic excellence. Inevitably, the city attracted the envy of powerful rivals and in 330 BC it was all but razed to the ground by the armies of Alexander the Great. While the ruins we explore today merely hint at Persepolis' former glory, excavations in the 1930s have helped restore some of the features. (B)

**DAY 10 SHIRAZ TO ESFAHAN**

On the 6 hour drive to Esfahan, an en route stop is made at the archaeological site of Pasargadae, an ancient city built by Cyrus the Great that precedes Persepolis. Remains of day at leisure. (B)

**Stay** Sarfir Hotel or similar – 3 nights

**DAY 11 ESFAHAN**

Known as the jewel in Persia's crown, beautiful erstwhile capital Esfahan offers a profusion

of tree-lined boulevards, Persian gardens and important Islamic buildings giving it a stunning visual appeal. Embark on a walk through gargantuan Imam Square (second largest in the world). Rest of the day at leisure. (B)

**DAY 12 ESFAHAN**

Continue exploring Esfahan with a guided visit to Vank Cathedral, located in the Armenian quarter of the city, and where disciples are still allowed to practice their religion in peace. Esfahan also boasts a wonderful bazaar. Consider browsing for fabrics, spices, jewellery and other treasures. (B)

**DAY 13 ESFAHAN TO TEHRAN**

This morning, on the drive back to Tehran, an en route stop is made at Qom – Iran's second most holy city. Back in Tehran, visit the Abgineh Museum. Remains of day at leisure. (B)

**Stay** Tehran Grand Hotel or similar – 2 nights

**DAY 14 TEHRAN**

Explore more of Tehran today with a visit to the sprawling Sa'd Abad Palace and Museum – a 104-hectare complex which is home to 18 palaces, most of them converted into museums. Used as a royal summer residence during the Pahlavi period (from 1925-1979), before the monarchy was overthrown in the Revolution, the palaces offer a fascinating glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of the overthrown Shah of Iran. Later, continue to Tabiat Nature Bridge for some afternoon exploration. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner in Darband – a charming Tehrani suburb. (B, D)

**DAY 15 TEHRAN TO ADELAIDE**

Enjoy late check-out today, before our afternoon transfer to Tehran Iman Khomeini International Airport for the onward flight to Adelaide arriving on the evening of Day 16. (B)

# canberra floriade

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Escorted by  
Kim Manning

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

SOLO OCCUPANCY **\$3,399\***

TWIN SHARE **\$2,699\***

## WEATHER:

Spring – brisk mornings, and bright days. Average 15-20°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes
- 5 nights first class accommodation
- Travel by air-conditioned coach
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
  - 10 meals
  - Escorted from Adelaide
- Services of a professional English speaking driver/guide
- One-way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 6 DAY TOUR • 23 SEPTEMBER – 28 SEPTEMBER 2019

Developed in 1988 as a grand, one-off floral tribute to mark Australia's Bicentenary and Canberra's 75th anniversary, Floriade has become Canberra's most iconic annual tourism event and Australia's premier spring festival. Witness floral displays of more than a million planted bulbs and annuals and a diverse, ever-expanding program of music, cultural celebrations, food and wine, horticultural workshops and entertainment at Australia's premier spring festival. Plus enjoy some time in Sydney. Join us for the Canberra Floriade in September 2019.

### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO SYDNEY

Fly from Adelaide to Sydney. On arrival, enjoy a transfer to our hotel in Sydney. The remains of the day are at leisure, affording you the opportunity to enjoy the Harbor City your way. Perhaps explore the Rocks district, check out Bennelong Point and the Opera House or maybe head to Darling Harbor for a spot of discovery.

**Stay** Rydges World Square - 1 night

### DAY 2 SYDNEY TO CANBERRA

Travel through the rolling hills and verdant pastures of the Southern Highlands. Pause at historic Berrima to see its convict-era sandstone gaol, then visit Gold Creek Station to meet a local sheep grazer and enjoy a barbecue

lunch. Visit the summit of Mt. Ainslie in Canberra's National Park. From here, it's possible to take in the view of this unique city and surrounding mountain ranges. It's also a great spot to take a few photos. On arrival in Canberra—the nation's capital, visit the Australian War Memorial and hear an evocative lament before departing for our hotel.

After an extensive search, Australia's Capital became the site for the newly federated nation of Australia in 1908 by a Parliamentary ballot. The Indigenous peoples of this area have lived here for over 20,000 years. Since then the city has grown to become the proud home of the Australian story. The city's national museums and attractions hold and share the treasures of our nation. See our country and people through the eyes of our artists, and experience Australian character through sound and film, books and exhibitions. Celebrate Australia's proud

sporting achievements, delve into our political history, Indigenous culture and reflect on our young nation's experience on the international stage. It's all here in Canberra – the nation's capital. Get to know your fellow travellers over a shared dinner.

**Stay** Crowne Plaza Hotel – 2 nights (B,L,D)

### DAY 3 CANBERRA

Good morning Canberra! Today join a local guide for a tour of Parliament House - meeting place of Australia's Parliament. Opened on 9 May 1988 by Queen Elizabeth II, it cost more than AUD\$1.1 billion. Federal Parliament meetings were first held in Melbourne until 1927. Between 1927 and 1988, Australia's Parliament met in the Provisional Parliament House, which is now known as "Old Parliament House". Construction of Australia's permanent Parliament House was delayed while its location was scouted



## 5 reasons to go

Floriade – iconic floral event • Gold Creek station BBQ lunch • Tour Parliament House Canberra • 3 nights in Sydney • Sydney Harbor Captain Cook dinner cruise with views of the Opera House and famous Harbour Bridge

and debated. Construction of the new building began in 1981. The principal design of the structure is based on the shape of two boomerangs, topped by an 81-metre flagpole. Parliament House boasts some 4,700 rooms, with many areas open to the public. The main foyer features a marble staircase leading to the Great Hall, which has a large tapestry on display. The House of Representatives chamber is decorated green, while the Senate chamber features a red colour scheme. Between the two chambers is the Members' Hall, which has a water feature and is not open to the public. Meanwhile, the Ministerial Wing houses the office of the prime minister and other ministers. Continue to the Royal Mint. Opened in 1965 to coincide with the release of decimal currency in 1966, the Mint is the sole producer of Australian coinage. The Mint also produces medals for military and civilian honours including the Order of Australia. Bank notes,

on the other hand, are produced by Note Printing Australia in Melbourne. This afternoon, visit the National Arboretum Canberra. This interesting park offers many sweeping panoramic views over Canberra and beyond. It was created after the area was burned out in the Christmas 2001 and 2003 Canberra bushfires. The Himalayan Cedar forest lost around 30% of its trees, and the commercial Radiata Pine plantation was burned out, allowing the arboretum to be created. Filled now with ceremonial trees planted by visiting heads of state as well several pieces of monumental public art, it's a lovely space to visit. (B)

### DAY 4 CANBERRA TO SYDNEY

Enjoy a blooming marvellous morning, on an exploration of the gardens and floral displays at Canberra Floriade. With over one million bulbs and annuals, it's a sea of colour! Floriade is Australia's biggest celebration

of spring and a real Mecca for visitors. This iconic Canberra event set in Commonwealth Park runs for 30 days over the months of September and October and showcases one million flowers in bloom. A tremendously ecological and sustainable event, automatic irrigation is supplied with water sourced from Lake Burley Griffin, and a special Floriade soil is employed for use at Commonwealth Park. Canberra Floriade really does put our nation's capital at the forefront with this spectacular annual event that easily rivals other horticultural showcase events across the globe.

Later, at Cockington Green, view the miniature English Village before returning to Sydney.

Tonight, enjoy dinner at our hotel.

**Stay** Rydges World Square – 2 nights (B,L,D)

### DAY 5 SYDNEY

Enjoy a day at leisure to explore Sydney your way. Perhaps head to Manly, Bondi or Mosman.

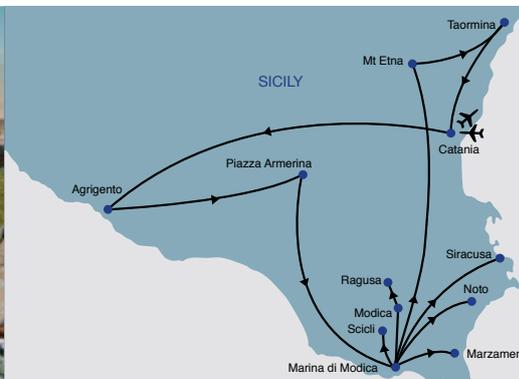
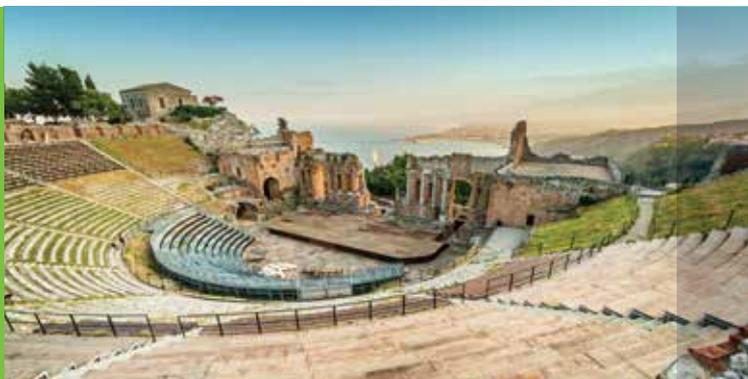
Tonight, board a Captain Cook boat for a Sunset dinner cruise. Glide past magnificent waterfront homes, and of course the legendary Harbor Bridge and Sydney Opera House. One of the 20th century's most famous and distinctive buildings, the Sydney Opera House was designed by Danish architect Jorn Utzon. The building was formally opened in 1973, after a gestation beginning with Utzon's 1957 selection as a winner of an international design competition. Sydney's other famous landmark – the Harbor Bridge, nick-named "The Coathanger" because of its arch-based design, was opened to traffic in 1932. (B,D)

### DAY 6 SYDNEY TO ADELAIDE

Today you will be transferred to Sydney airport for the onward flight to Adelaide. (B)

# simply sicily

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Hosted from Catania by  
Renato Di Stefano

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$6,999\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$1,430\***

## WEATHER:

Summer – clear, sunny  
days. Average 22-27°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 9 nights villa stay in Marina di Modica
- 1 night accommodation in Agrigento
- 2 nights' accommodation in Taormina
  - Travel by mini coach as per itinerary
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
  - Culinary art sessions with Renato
    - 26 meals including Continental breakfast daily, 7 lunches and 7 dinners (with limited wine\*)
  - Services of professional guides at selected locations
- Pre-departure function with antipasti and wine, tour documentation

\*Additional wine can be purchased. With prior notice given, catering arrangements can be made for those who are ovo-lacto, vegetarian diet or gluten intolerance.

**13 DAY TOUR • 23 SEP – 5 OCT 2019\***; **21 SEP – 3 OCT 2020\*\***  
\*connects to Tuscan Experience 7 – 21 Sep 2019\*; 5 to 19 Sep 2020\*\*

Seductively beautiful, Sicily has been luring visitors for centuries. Experience the unique legacy of the Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Saracens, Normans, crusading Knights of St. John, the Bourbons and Ottoman Turks, all on this stunning island of Sicily. Staying at a luxury sea front villa in Marina di Modica, discover ancient towns, churches, Roman ruins, a rumbling stratovolcano and the delectable layer-cake of Sicilian culinary influences in two amazing weeks.

### DAY 1 CATANIA TO AGRIGENTO

Meet at Catania airport, for the transfer at 11am to Agrigento. Later, discover the Valley of the Temples. This UNESCO-listed site is home to five ancient Greek temples dating from the 6th century BC. One of the most outstanding examples of Greater Greece art and architecture, Valley of the Temples represent some of the greatest ruins beyond the Hellenic world. Following a group dinner at a typical restaurant enjoy the beauty of the temples by night. (D)

**Stay** Agrigento – 1 night

### DAY 2 PIAZZA ARMERINA, MARINA DI MODICA

Travel from Agrigento to Piazza Armerina and visit Villa del Casale. This ancient

Roman villa is grandiose and particularly famous for its spectacular mosaic floors which almost completely adorn the villa floors like a singular masterpiece. After lunch, travel to the villa in Marina di Modica. (B,L,D)

**Stay** Marina di Modica – 9 nights

### DAY 3 MARINA DI MODICA AND ISPICA

Spend a relaxing day at the villa with lunch on the terrace followed by a leisurely walk to Marina di Modica. This evening, enjoy an aperitivo on the veranda before dining out in Ispica at the Torre Marabino restaurant (B,L,D)

### DAY 4 SIRACUSA

Travel to Siracusa, the most important city of Magna Grecia. Visit the archaeological park with its ancient Greek Theatre, Roman Amphitheatre and the Paradise Quarry with the ear of Diogenes, famous for its acoustic effects. A short distance away in Ortigia

- the old city, see the Temple of Apollo and the beautiful Piazza Archimede. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure before returning to the Villa. (B,D)

### DAY 5 MARINA DI MODICA AND POZZALLO

After a leisurely morning and delicious lunch on the verandah, the rest of the afternoon is free. Evening aperitivo by the pool is followed by dinner at a seaside restaurant (not included) in nearby Pozzallo. (B,L)

### DAY 6 NOTO AND MARZAMEMI

Following lunch at the villa, visit Baroque Noto and discover the beautiful churches and splendid palaces of the aristocracy. Enjoy some free time for gelato at the famous Caffè Sicilia before journeying to Marzamemi, an enchanting 17th century fishing village on the southern point of Sicily. Dinner (not included) at a typical seaside restaurant. (B,L)



**5**  
*reasons  
to go*

Stay at a seafront villa in Marina di Modica • Learn the art of Italian gastronomy in an idyllic setting • Explore the Valley of Temples – the planet’s largest archaeological site • Visit the Gambino winery on Mt Etna for a degustation lunch • Discover the Greek Theatre at Taormina – the most spectacular venue on earth.

**DAY 7 MARINA DI MODICA**

Sunday morning at leisure followed by a culinary art session with Renato. Sample a glass (or two) of local vino and indulge in the fruits of your labour at lunch. Later, enjoy an evening aperitivo on the terrace followed by dinner (not included) at a local restaurant. (B, L)

**DAY 8 SCICLI**

After a relaxing morning, travel to UNESCO-listed Scicli, a monumental baroque city. Scicli is one of the filming locations for the hit television series ‘Montalbano’, and viewers will enjoy spotting familiar scenes. The afternoon is at leisure with dinner at the villa. (B, D)

**DAY 9 RAGUSA AND MODICA**

Set amid rocky peaks, visit beautiful Ragusa Ibla with its tangle of narrow streets, steep staircases and Baroque palazzi. Walk to the churches and noble palaces. Later, discover atmospheric Modica with its steeply stacked medieval

centre and spectacular baroque cathedral. Visit also the oldest chocolate factory in Sicily before returning to the villa for dinner. (B,D)

**DAY 10 MARINA DI MODICA**

Enjoy the last day at the villa to relax, rest and prepare for the next morning departure. Enjoy a group lunch, evening aperitivo on the terrace and farewell dinner at the villa. (B, L, D)

**DAY 11 MT ETNA AND TAORMINA**

Bidding beautiful Marina di Modica farewell, travel towards the top of Mt Etna (3300m), the highest and most active volcano in Europe. Visit the Gambino winery on Mt Etna for a degustation lunch accompanied by some excellent wines. Proceed to the magical city of Taormina, renowned for the beauty of its monuments, elegant buildings and gardens and most importantly for the magnificent Greek theatre. Enjoy

the remainder of the day at leisure. (B, L) **Stay** Taormina – 2 nights

**DAY 12 TAORMINA**

A morning tour of Taormina concludes with a visit to the magnificent Greek theatre where the views of the coast and Mt. Etna are just fabulous. The rest of the day is at leisure. Join Renato for a farewell drink on the rooftop bar of the hotel. (B)

**DAY 13 TAORMINA TO CATANIA**

Farewell Taormina today with an 9am transfer to Catania airport. (B)

**ABOUT YOUR HOST  
RENATO DI STEFANO**

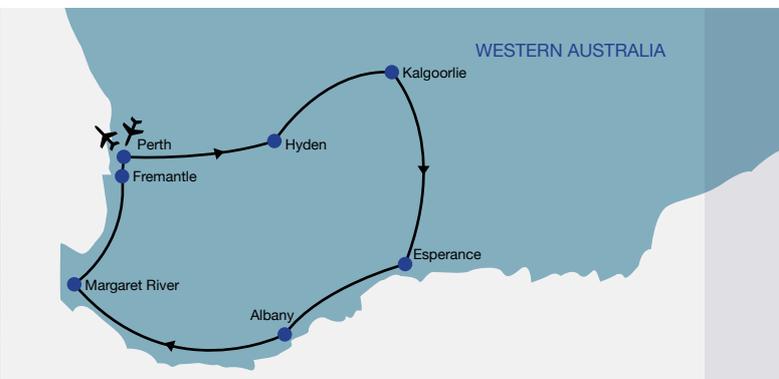
Renato has a passion for Italy, Italian food and the romantic Italian language. From an early age, under his Nonna’s guidance, Renato learned the correlation between choice, fresh ingredients (often gathered at local markets) and delicious meals. His childhood experiences together with the repertoire of tips and tricks learned while helping Nonna prepare family meals laid the foundations for Renato’s love of good food and traditional Italian cooking.

**ABOUT THE SETTING IN SICILY**

The Setting: An exclusive seafront villa with private swimming pool situated in the beautiful and small seaside resort of Marina di Modica on the southern coast of Sicily. Surrounded by a luxuriant garden, the prestigious property boasts large, well-equipped terraces with panoramic sea views. Furnished in contemporary style, the comfortable interior is divided into two separate buildings overlooking the large swimming pool and includes 9 air-conditioned bedrooms, eight luxurious bathroom, two kitchens, two living rooms and a lounge. The villa is situated not far from the UNESCO-listed centres of Modica, Scicli, Noto, Ragusa Ibla and near the ancient city of Syracuse.

# western australia wildflowers

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Escorted by  
Anne Ford

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

SOLO OCCUPANCY **\$6,199\***

TWIN SHARE **\$4,999\***

## WEATHER:

Spring – Warm and sunny, with wildflowers in bloom. Average 15-23°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes
  - 11 nights moderate/first class accommodation
- Travel by air-conditioned coach
  - Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
    - 19 meals
    - Luggage portorage
  - Escorted from Adelaide
  - Services of a professional English speaking driver/guide
- One way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 12 DAY TOUR • 17 OCTOBER – 28 OCTOBER 2019

City, outback, forests and coast, this trip has it all! Enjoy 3 nights in Perth before travelling to fascinating Wave Rock and through gold rush ghost towns to Kalgoorlie. Continue to picturesque Esperance and Cape Le Grand National Park and discover the area's white sandy beaches and crystal-clear water on the south coast. With highlights such as stunning Lucky Bay where kangaroos often laze, flora-rich Stirling Ranges National Park, the Valley of the Giants Treetop Walk with ancient Tingle Forest and the impressive Margaret River region, join us in 2019!

### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO PERTH

Fly from Adelaide to Perth. On arrival, enjoy a transfer to our hotel in Perth. The remains of the day are at leisure, affording you the opportunity to enjoy Perth your way.

**Stay** Travelodge Perth – 3 nights

### DAY 2 PERTH

Good morning Perth! Enjoy a day at leisure—a chance to explore Perth your way. Our hotel—the Travelodge Perth is centrally located in the heart of the city, close to major shopping precincts, Kings Park and the Swan River. Laid-back and liveable, Perth has wonderful weather, beautiful beaches and an easy-going character with big-city attractions set amongst relaxed, informal surrounds. It's a sophisticated, cosmopolitan city, with a

myriad of bars, restaurants and cultural activities. Perth's pristine parkland, nearby bush, and river and ocean beaches – along with a good public-transport system make the city's highlights all very accessible. Tonight, enjoy a twilight cruise on the Swan River. (B)

### DAY 3 PERTH

This afternoon, set off on a tour of Perth, visiting Kings Park and its delightful Botanic Garden. Rising above the Swan River on the city's western flank, the 400-hectare, bush-filled expanse of Kings Park is Perth's pride and joy. At the park's heart is the 17-hectare Botanic Garden, containing over 2000 plant species indigenous to WA and the Lotterywest Federation Walkway, a 620m path including a 222m-long glass-and-steel bridge that passes through the canopy of a stand of eucalypts. Tonight, enjoy the company of fellow travellers over dinner. (B,D)

### DAY 4 PERTH TO WAVE ROCK

Journey through the Golden Outback to Hyden. Join a local guide on a tour of Boddington Gold Mine, currently the continent's largest. Continue to iconic Wave Rock, a three-million-year-old natural rock formation, then take a short walk to discover the little-known Hippo's Yawn, another fascinating geological formation. Afterwards perhaps wander through the visitor centre's eclectic collection of lace and the largest collection of toy soldiers in the world, or even take a tour of Hyden Wildlife Park. Tonight, dine at the hotel.

**Stay** Wave Rock Motel, Hyden (B, D)

### DAY 5 WAVE ROCK TO KALGOORLIE

Embark on an exclusive farm tour this morning with a Wave Rock local, to hear about life in the Outback. Embrace the opportunity of helping to feed



## 5 reasons to go

Twilight cruise on the Swan River • Dine at Kalgoorlie's iconic Exchange Hotel • Cape Le Grand National Park • Valley of the Giants Treetop Walk • Vasse Virgin at Margaret River

the cattle, then you may choose to examine the property's private collection of vintage cars. Leaving Hyden, view from the lookout the famous Super Pit gold mine, which produces up to 850,000 ounces of gold annually. During springtime, it's possible to view dazzling wildflowers in bloom by the roadside. On arrival in Kalgoorlie, discover the character of this historic town on an orientation tour. Dine tonight at Kalgoorlie's iconic pub, the Exchange Hotel.

**Stay** Rydges Kalgoorlie (B,D)

### DAY 6 KALGOORLIE TO ESPERANCE

Visit Cape Le Grand National Park for breathtaking views of wild coastal scenery, rugged granite peaks and sweeping heathlands. Stop at awe-inspiring Thistle Cove to marvel at the dazzling white sand and crystal-clear blue water. At stunning Lucky Bay, kangaroos are often found lazing on the pristine beach!

**Stay** Comfort Inn Bay of Isles (B,D)

### DAY 7 ESPERANCE TO ALBANY

See the mysterious Pink Lake outside Esperance, and travel through Ravensthorpe and the Fitzgerald Biosphere to Bluff Knoll Lookout to witness the rugged beauty of flora-rich Stirling Ranges National Park. Continue to Albany, a town imbued with ANZAC history, and settle in to the hotel for the night.

**Stay** The Dog Rock Motel – 2 nights (B,D)

### DAY 8 ALBANY

This morning, take your time to explore this historic town. In 1914, 41,000 Australians and New Zealanders left Albany on their way to the WWI battlefields. This afternoon, visit the recently-inaugurated National ANZAC Centre. (B)

### DAY 9 ALBANY TO MARGARET RIVER

This morning, visit the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk and explore the canopy of the ancient tingle forest. Stop in Nannup at lunchtime with time to explore, then travel on to Cape

Leeuwin, where the Indian and Great Southern Oceans meet. Consider an optional guided tour to the top of the famous lighthouse before leaving for Margaret River, one of Australia's premier wine-growing regions.

**Stay** Quality Inn at Margaret River – 2 nights (B,D)

### DAY 10 MARGARET RIVER

Enjoy the chance to see fossils, stalactites and stalagmites in the impressive caves of the region. Margaret River is known not only for its fabulous wines but also for its fresh produce and boutique producers. At Vasse Virgin, learn about olive oil, taste gourmet produce, and sample a range of beauty preparations made from the oil of olives grown on the property. Continue to a local winery for wine-tastings and lunch. This afternoon, enjoy some free time to relax or explore the town of Margaret River. (B,L)

### DAY 11 MARGARET RIVER TO FREMANTLE

This morning, consider a stroll along Busselton Jetty, the popular holiday town on the

shores of Geographe Bay. On arrival in Fremantle, enjoy the afternoon to explore. Consider a visit to the colourful Fremantle Markets. There are 150 stalls under one roof and there is opportunity to purchase local arts and crafts and taste local delights. Enjoy dinner at the hotel with newfound friends.

**Stay** Esplanade Hotel Fremantle—by Rydges (B,D)

### DAY 12 FREMANTLE TO PERTH AND ADELAIDE

Join a local guide for a private tour of Fremantle Prison. From its convict origins in the 1850s until its closure as a maximum-security gaol in 1991, the entertaining guide will depict the lighter side of prison life. Later, transfer to the airport for the onward flight to Adelaide. (B)

# discover turkey

42



Escorted by  
Corey Enthoven

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

SOLO OCCUPANCY **\$5,999\***

TWIN SHARE **\$4,999\***

## WEATHER:

Autumn – clear, bright days.  
Ideal for sightseeing.  
Average 15-20°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes
- 12 nights first class accommodation
  - Travel by coach, motorboat and car ferry
  - Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
    - 25 meals
    - Luggage portorage
  - Escorted from Adelaide
  - Services of a professional English-speaking tour director
- One-way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour notes and booklet

## 15 DAY TOUR • 1-15 NOVEMBER 2019

When you set foot in Turkey, you'll be astonished by its beauty, history and gastronomy. In Istanbul, a city that straddles Europe and Asia, discover bazaars and haggle for carpets and kilims, enter harems and palaces and discover the striking Blue Mosque. Pay your respects at ANZAC Cove and Gallipoli; explore legendary Troy, the ruins of Pergamum and Ephesus. Explore Cappadocia – a region pocked with valleys full of fairy chimney rock formation and troglodyte cities, plus the modern-day capital – Ankara. And, to help contemplate Turkey's extraordinary history, consider a little relaxation at a hammam and allow life's worries to be scrubbed away.

### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO ISTANBUL

Fly from Adelaide to Istanbul, via Dubai.

### DAY 2 ISTANBUL

Welcome to Istanbul. Enjoy a transfer to the hotel. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner at the hotel.

**Stay** Grand Hyatt Istanbul – 3 nights (D)

### DAY 3 ISTANBUL

Good morning Istanbul! Officially founded by Emperor Constantine in AD326, Istanbul is the only city on earth that straddles both the Continents of Europe and Asia. Formally known as Constantinople, the city boasts an illustrious past and is positively studded and pocked with mosques, churches, underground cisterns, a hippodrome

(site of ancient chariot races), a hotel called the Pera Palace where Agatha Christie penned *Murder on the Orient Express*, a gargantuan bazaar, hundreds of restaurants, shops and ruins. Istanbul is quite literally a feast for the senses. Today, enjoy a beautiful overview of the city including a visit to the Blue Mosque, with its beautiful Iznik tiles and the Hippodrome where Roman chariot races were once held. Later, continue Karpali Carsi – aka the Grand Bazaar. An institution in Istanbul, it is one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world with 61 streets and over 4,000 shops.

### DAY 4 ISTANBUL

Visit and explore Hagia Sophia, once the biggest church in Christendom, and now a magnificent museum. Later, embark on a Bosphorus cruise. Travelling towards the old city

from close to the Black Sea, the scenery complements the grandeur of the Ottoman palaces and mansions.

### DAY 5 ISTANBUL TO CANAKKALE VIA GALLIPOLI AND ANZAC COVE

Drive along the shores of the Sea of Marmara to the Peninsula of Gelibolu—Gallipoli. It was here during WW1 that ANZAC and troops fought for nine disastrous months against the Turks to gain control of the Dardanelle Straits. Visit key sites such as Anzac Cove, Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair and the Turkish and Allied trenches. A 30-minute sea crossing to Canakkale takes us from Europe to Asia. Tonight, enjoy a lecture on the history of the Gallipoli Campaign by a local expert.

**Stay** Kolin Hotel (B,D)



## 5 reasons to go

Exotic Istanbul • Poignant Gallipoli seeing the beauty of ANZAC Cove and pay respects to our Diggers • The Arcadian Way in Ephesus – and the impressive Library of Celcus • Thermal pools at Pamukkale and discover Hierapolis above • Cappadocia – a region famed for its troglodyte dwellings and ancient underground cities.

### DAY 6 CANAKKALE TO TROY, PERGAMUM AND KUSADASI

Drive to Homer's legendary city of Troy, where archaeological excavation has established nine levels of habitation, including the great city captured in 1200BC by means of the legendary Trojan Horse. A huge replica of the horse stands beside the city's ancient walls. Continue to Pergamon, visit the Asklepion, an ancient therapeutic centre. Continue to lively, coastal Kusadasi.

**Stay** Charisma De Luxe Hotel – 2 nights (B,D)

### DAY 7 KUSADASI AND EPHEBUS

En route to Ephesus, visit the Archaeological Museum at Selcuk where many of the excavated artefacts of Ephesus are displayed. Visit the House of the Virgin Mary and tour the ruins of Ephesus. Walk the colonnaded Arcadian Way, see the splendid façade of the Library of Celsius and the vast Amphitheatre. Learn about the flavours of the region, with a cooking class and lunch at Bizem Ev. (B,L,D)

### DAY 8 KUSADASI TO PAMUKKALE

Follow the Maeander River Valley to Pamukkale, so full of twists and turns it actually gave us the word 'meander'! En route a stop is made at Buldan, famed for its textiles. With its dazzling chalk-white array of limestone terraces, Pamukkale offers you the chance to swim and relax in the hotel's thermal pools and spa facilities.

**Stay** Doga Thermal Health and Spa (B,L,D)

### DAY 9 PAMUKKALE TO HIERAPOLIS AND KONYA

This morning, visit the ancient Roman spa resort of Hierapolis, before continuing to pious Konya, erstwhile capital of the Anatolian Seljuk Empire and home to the mystical Whirling Dervish sect. Visit Mevlana Tekke, a beautiful museum and monument.

**Stay** Novotel Konya (B,D)

### DAY 10 KONYA TO CAPPADOCIA

See the Karataye Medrese and Ince Minaret before travelling across the fertile plains to Urgup, in the heart of Cappadocia. En

route, visit one of the best-preserved caravanserais in Antolia. Enjoy lunch at Uchisar Kadinel restaurant.

**Stay** Alfina Hotel Cappadocia – 2 nights (B,L,D)

### DAY 11 CAPPADOCIA

Cappadocia—a jewel in Turkey's illustrious crown. The utter improbability of the surreal landscapes of this region have to be witnessed to be believed. Whole troglodyte villages including churches and fortresses have been hewn from the soft porous rock and the landscape has been whipped into dozens of fairy chimney sculptures. In Goreme, explore volcanic landscapes and rock-hewn churches, and in the Pasabag Valley drink in scenery dotted with mushroom-shaped 'fairy chimneys' and troglodyte dwellings, and explore the underground city of Ozkonak. Stop at a Turkish carpet centre, experience Turkish hospitality at the home of a legendary local Fatma Teyze (Aunt Fatma). Enjoy dinner, followed by a cultural night at a 13th century Seljuk caravanserai, where we'll bear

witness to a spectacular Sema ceremony of Whirling Dervishes – devout followers of Sufism. (B,D)

### DAY 12 CAPPADOCIA TO ANKARA

Learn about pottery production in Avanos, before continuing to Ankara – the modern capital of Turkey. Visit the Hittite Museum and Anit Kabir – the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk – Turkey's great modern leader.

**Stay** Hilton Ankara (B,D)

### DAY 13 ANKARA TO ISTANBUL

Continue through the Turkish countryside to Istanbul. Later, visit the fabulous Topkapi Palace, a walled city perched above the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn. Tonight, enjoy a celebration dinner at a local restaurant.

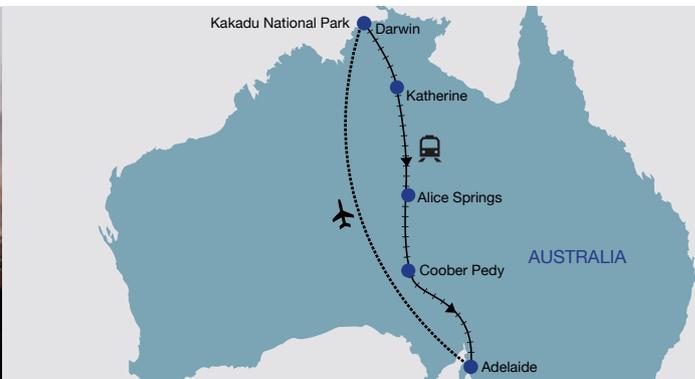
**Stay** Grand Hyatt Istanbul (B,D)

### DAY 14 ISTANBUL TO ADELAIDE

Today, transfer to Istanbul airport for the flight to Adelaide, arriving on day 15. (B)

# northern territory and the ghan

44



Escorted by  
Kim Griffiths

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

SOLO OCCUPANCY **\$5,099\***

TWIN SHARE **\$4,899\***

### WEATHER:

Winter – bright, chilly days. Average 7-10°C

### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- One-way economy class flight from Adelaide to Darwin
- 4 nights first class accommodation
  - 2 nights aboard The Ghan from Darwin to Adelaide
  - Travel by train, air-conditioned coach and bus
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees (including off-train excursions)
  - 12 meals (inc all beverages aboard The Ghan)
    - Luggage porterage\*
    - Escorted from Adelaide
- Services of a professional driver/guides
  - One-way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 7 DAY TOUR • 2-8 NOVEMBER 2019

Join us on this epic journey from Adelaide to the Top End and back. Enjoy four nights exploring Darwin and Kakadu passing major river systems and wetland regions. Then board the Ghan and for 2 nights admire the ever-changing landscape from Darwin, to Katherine, Alice Springs and finally South Australia. One of the world's great rail journeys, The Ghan has been traversing the heart of Australia for more than eighty years. Discover the vast and remote interior on a stunning 2,979 kilometre journey. Surrounded by extraordinary landscapes, enjoy an odyssey of discovery in relaxation, comfort and style.

### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO DARWIN

Fly from Adelaide to the Top End – Darwin, arriving later this morning. Transfer to hotel for check-in\*. Australia's only tropical capital city, Darwin gazes out confidently across the Timor Sea. The city is closer to Borobudur than Bondi and certainly feels a little removed from the rest of Australia. Despite its remoteness, cosmopolitan Darwin – a city of more than 50 nationalities more than makes up for this with plenty to offer visitors. From the sparkling harbour and WWII history to the city's Asian-influenced food, colourful outdoor markets, innovative museums, galleries showcasing the region's rich Indigenous art and tropical

outdoor lifestyle, Darwin is an adventurers' paradise. Nature is well and truly part of Darwin's backyard – the famous national parks of Kakadu and Litchfield are only a few hours' drive away. As a matter of fact, we'll be headed to Kakadu the day after tomorrow!

Tonight, enjoy a sunset cruise with Territory-style buffet dinner onboard. (D)

**Stay** Vibe Hotel Darwin  
Waterfront 2 nights

*\*Note – our rooms will be available for check-in after 2pm today, however the hotel will store our luggage in the meantime, so we can head out and explore, if desired.*

### DAY 2 DARWIN

Enjoy a morning free to do as you please. This afternoon enjoy a comprehensive tour of Darwin. See the lush Botanic Gardens and

the Chinese Temple, which was rebuilt after being demolished by Cyclone Tracy in 1974. See the East Point Military Precinct, Stokes Hill Wharf area, the Mooring Basin and Darwin Aviation Museum. There is also time to explore the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, whose collections encompass Aboriginal art, visual arts and more. (B)

### DAY 3 DARWIN TO KAKADU

From Darwin, travel along the Arnhem Highway, passing major river systems and wetland regions, into Kakadu National Park. Located 257 km east of Darwin, Kakadu covers 20,000 sq km of landscape varying from rocky escarpment that is home to historic Aboriginal rock art dating back thousands of years, to wildlife-abundant floodplains. Visit Warradjan Cultural Centre



**5**  
reasons  
to go

Darwin a city of great markets, eateries and sights • Kakadu National Park - an enormous, biodiverse nature reserve • Nourlangie – a pristine site featuring Aboriginal cultural rock art and previous dwelling shelters • A town like Alice – come and discover this famous outback town • The Ghan – experience the romanticism of a grand journey by train.

to view the informative displays depicting the traditions of the Aboriginal people in Kakadu. Embark on a guided cruise of Yellow Water Billabong. Search for saltwater crocodiles and the colourful range of birdlife for which this region is renowned. After lunch, stop at Nourlangie, and embark on a walk to view the rock art galleries. (B,L)

**Stay** Aurora Kakadu

**DAY 4 KAKADU TO DARWIN**

This morning, explore the World Heritage Area of Ubirr, with opportunity to climb up through the ancient Aboriginal rock art galleries, believed to be 20,000 years old, to the lookout for the view over the surrounding wetlands. Join the Guluyambi Cruise along the East Alligator River. An Aboriginal guide will provide an insight into their culture, including local mythology, the river's abundant food chain, as well as bush survival skills. With special permission of the local people, relish a trip ashore

in Arnhem Land. Visit Bowali Visitor Centre before returning to Darwin. (L)

**DAY 5 DARWIN TO KATHERINE AND ALICE SPRINGS**

Transfer to Darwin Rail Terminal to step aboard The Ghan. The Ghan is an epic train ride – an odyssey of discovery through the interior of Terra Australis. Connecting the capital cities of Darwin and Adelaide, the crash of the tropical Timor Sea and the Southern, via umber mountain ranges, unusual rock formations, rainforest and red desert, the railway has existed in its present form since 2004. Enjoy Gold service with gourmet meals, beverages and exciting off-train excursions. Gold Twin Cabins feature a private en suite and upper and lower sleeping berths that convert to a three-seater lounge by day, whilst Gold Single Cabins feature a compact sleeper cabin with a bed that converts to a seat by day, private vanity, with shared

shower/toilet facilities located at the end of the carriage.

Once you're comfortably settled in your cabin, as the train winds its way through the lush, green, tropical north it's time for a five-star lunch with fine wines in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant.

Arriving into Katherine, enjoy the first included Off Train Excursion. Enjoy a leisurely cruise on the Katherine River gazing in wonder at towering sandstone cliffs. Alternatively, gain an insight into the culture and ways of the traditional owners of Nitmiluk, the Jawoyn people, with an exclusive cultural experience. Back on board, enjoy dinner as the sun sets over the outback. (B,L,D)

**DAY 6 ALICE SPRINGS TO ADELAIDE**

Wake up to a new view outside your window, in a world which feels a million miles from home. An outback sunrise could be one of the most spectacular you'll ever see, setting the tone for the day ahead. After a sumptuous

breakfast, arrive in Alice Springs ready for some exploration on an included Off Train Excursion, taking in the delights of this famous outback town. A morning in Alice Springs gives you ample opportunity to visit the town landmarks, get up close and personal with Australia's incredible flora and fauna or explore Alice at your own leisure. At this point you may choose to upgrade your excursion with the ultimate outback experience; an intimate scenic fixed wing flight over Mount Gillen (additional cost). This evening you will be treated to an amazing showcase of outback stars in Manguri, a remote town around 40kms from Coober Pedy.

(B,L,D)

**DAY 7 ADELAIDE**

Continuing to Adelaide, enjoy brunch. (Brunch)

# europa christmas markets

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Escorted by  
Clare O'Neill

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$7,999\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$1,499\***

## WEATHER:

Winter – bright, chilly days. Average 7-10°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes.
- 14 nights first class accommodation
- Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach with Wi-Fi and cross-Channel ferry
  - Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
    - 20 meals
    - Luggage portorage\*
    - Escorted from Adelaide
    - Services of a professional English-speaking tour leader
  - One-way home to airport transfer
    - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 17 DAY TOUR • 4-20 DECEMBER 2019

Known as Christkindlmarkt, the tradition of European Christmas markets dates to the middle ages. On this tour, we'll explore the best of central Europe's festive market scene in vibrant Vienna, beautiful Salzburg, Munich, Nuremberg, Rothenberg and Cologne. Selling everything from fortification in the shape of Glühwein, roasted chestnuts, spicy gingerbread and bratwurst to handcrafted wooden toys, pottery, gifts and Christmas decorations, Christkindlmarkt is quite unlike anything you'll have seen before. This journey combines not only the joy of the yuletide season but showcases the beauty of Europe and one of the world's great cities – London on an ultimate 3-night stop.

### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO VIENNA

Fly from Adelaide to Vienna, via Dubai.

### DAY 2 VIENNA

On arrival in Vienna early this afternoon, enjoy a transfer to our hotel, with the rest of the day to relax. Later, enjoy a Welcome Dinner followed by an evening orientation drive. (D)

**Stay** Rate Hotel Wien Stadt Halle\* – 2 nights

*\*Porterage unavailable at this hotel*

### DAY 3 VIENNA

Good morning Vienna! Explore the Ring Strasse during a festive sightseeing tour of Vienna. With a guide, explore the Homburg Palace - former home of the Habsburgs. See the Imperial Apartments, Silver chamber and Size Museum. See also

the Parliament, City Hall and the grand State Opera House. Feeding into the Christmas spirit, feast on delicious gingerbread and Glühwein on an afternoon visit to the enchanting Christkindlmarkt featuring stalls piled high with handcrafted toys, seasonal gifts and tasty festive fare. (B)

### DAY 4 VIENNA TO SALZBURG AND INNSBRUCK

Drive along the scenic Danube Valley to the birthplace of Mozart - the beautiful city of Salzburg. On a guided walking tour discover the beautifully manicured Mirabell Gardens and the Old City. Continuing to Innsbruck, enjoy dinner tonight at the hotel. (B,D)

**Stay** Bon Alpina Hotel

### DAY 5 INNSBRUCK TO MUNICH

Journeying from Austria to Germany, travel through alpine

landscapes to Munich, the capital of Bavaria. Munich is the heart of Bavaria and it's fuelled by some of the best food and drink in the country. Tonight, enjoy a selection of traditional Bavarian dishes in a typical local restaurant and absorb the atmosphere of a real Bavarian beer hall. (B,D)

**Stay** Sheraton Westpark Hotel Munich – 3 nights

### DAY 6 MUNICH

Good morning Munich! Embark on an orientation tour of arguably one of Germany's liveliest cities.

Embrace the festive cheer in Marienplatz with its impressive Town Hall and the ornate Glockenspiel. Then, spend the rest of the day savouring the sights, sounds and smells of Munich's Christmas Market – a dazzling display of twinkling lights, carols and a magnificent Christmas tree. (B)

### DAY 7 MUNICH

A day to enjoy Munich your way. Alternatively, consider an optional



**5**  
*reasons  
to go*

European winter Yuletide season and the famous Christmas markets • Vienna – with Sacher Torte and Viennese coffee! • Salzburg – Mozart’s birthplace and home of the Mozartkugeln – a chocolate, nougat and marzipan bliss ball • Medieval, cobble-stoned Bruges – it’s lace and Belgian chocolate shops • Vibrant London - a legendary city.

excursion to the Disneyesque – Schloss Neuschwanstein, built as a castle retreat for King Ludwig II. (BB)

**DAY 8 MUNICH TO NUREMBERG**

Travel to Nuremberg, considered to have the most splendid Christmas Markets in Europe and known for its unique law that only traditional Christmas artefacts are allowed for sale. On an orientation tour, see the mighty castle ramparts and St. Sebald’s Cathedral. Next stop is the famous Christkindlesmarkt where sweet gingerbread hearts hang from the stalls and the famous Zwetschgenmännle prune men pose in all their Christmas splendour. Dine tonight at the hotel. (B,D)

**Stay** Congress Hotel Mercure Nuremberg an der Messe

**DAY 9 NUREMBERG TO ROTHENBERG AND FRANKFURT OFFENBACH**

Fairy-tale Bavarian landscapes line the journey to the medieval walled town of Rothenberg. On arrival, enjoy an orientation walk, with a stroll through the

narrow lanes of Rothenberg’s medieval centre. Spend some time shopping for gifts at the Christmas Market before visiting a local cafe for a tasting of ‘Schneeballen’, a snowball shaped crispy pastry. Continue to Frankfurt, with opportunity to see the city’s dynamic centre and medieval Römerplatz on an orientation tour. (B)

**Stay** Frankfurt Offenbach – hotel TBA

**DAY 10 FRANKFURT OFFENBACH – RHINE CRUISING - COLOGNE**

Embark on a leisurely cruise along the mighty Rhine past fairy-tale castles and vineyard-clad hills. Enjoy a lunch with locals (subject to availability). Later learn about the feudal history of the region on a visit to a 13th-century castle perched high above the Rhine valley. Continue to Cologne, cultural capital of the Rhineland. (B,L)

**Stay** Leonardo Royal Hotel Cologne Stadtwald – 2 nights

**DAY 11 COLOGNE**

Good morning Cologne! View the spectacular Gothic spires

of the lofty Cologne Cathedral, surrounded by the festive Christmas Market stalls. Spend the rest of the day at leisure in this historical city. (B)

**DAY 12 COLOGNE TO BRUSSELS AND BRUGES**

Travelling to Brussels in Belgium, stop and admire the Atomium, designed for the 1958 Brussels World’s Fair, the exquisite Grand Place – lined with fine shops and chocolatiers and the Manneken Pis. Continuing to the medieval village of Bruges, embark on an enjoyable walking tour of this picture-perfect canal city. Belgium is renowned for its beer – so much so that it is UNESCO heritage listed. This status affords us a perfect excuse to sample a selection of Belgian beers. (B)

**Stay** Golden Tulip De Medici Hotel Bruges

**DAY 13 BRUGES TO LONDON**

Enjoy the morning to lap up the Christmas joy in delightful Bruges. Later, travel to the coast and board the ferry at Calais to cross the English Channel to Dover. Late today, arrive at the

hotel in central London – home for the next three nights. (B)

**Stay** Park Plaza Riverbank – 3 nights

**DAY 14 LONDON**

Ease into London’s energetic pace before embarking on an included half-day sightseeing tour featuring Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey. See the stately Changing of the Guard before the sightseeing tour finishes in central London. The rest of the day is free for you to further explore London your way. We’ve included a London Transport one-day travel card to make it extra easy to get around this amazing city. (B)

**DAY 15 LONDON**

Enjoy a full day at leisure to hunt for Christmas presents over the festive season and enjoy London your way. Tonight, enjoy a Farewell Dinner filled with festive cheer and all the trimmings. (B,D)

**DAY 16 LONDON TO ADELAIDE**

This morning, transfer to London Heathrow airport for the flight to Adelaide, via Dubai, arriving on the evening of day 17. (B)

# in search of the northern lights



Hosted from Tilbury to Bergen by Phil Hoffmann

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$7,695\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **POA**

## WEATHER:

Winter – bright, chilly days. Average 2-4°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 12 nights aboard the Viking Star
  - Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
    - 35 meals
  - One complimentary shore excursion in every port
- Beer, wine and soft drinks with onboard lunch and dinner
  - 24 hour specialty teas, coffees and water
  - 24 hour room service
  - Luggage portorage
- Hosted from Tilbury to Bergen
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 13 DAY CRUISE • 3-15 FEBRUARY 2020

Join Phil aboard the luxurious Viking Star and cruise from London along the spectacular Norwegian coast. Experience a land where dawn and twilight merge on the edges of the long Arctic night. Cruising far north in Norway's winter, witness what few others see: wondrous snow-dusted landscapes, cities hushed in slumber and the luminous aurora borealis dancing in the sky. Sami legends, a sled dog ride and mysterious rock carvings bring you close to your destination. Join us on this truly extraordinary cruise.

### DAY 1 TILBURY

In Tilbury, a historic town on the north bank of the Thames River, board the Viking Star.

**Stay** Viking Star – 12 nights (D)

### DAY 2 CRUISE THE NORTH SEA

From Viking settlement and medieval trade to international war and modern-day oil production, some of the continent's most pivotal moments have unfolded on the North Sea. Learn more about this body of water during an enriching lecture. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3 STAVANGER

From the heart of the Old Town where the ship berths, spend the morning and early afternoon exploring. Start in the old quarter - Gamle Stavanger, which has Europe's highest concentration of wooden buildings from the 17th and

18th centuries. Consider a cruise along the Lysefjord to see the famous Preikestolen, or Pulpit Rock, which juts out nearly 2,000 feet above and is one of Norway's most famous natural attractions. Offshore oil drilling is an important industry for the local economy, and the award-winning Norwegian Petroleum Museum tells the story of the dangers faced in extracting this precious fuel. While ashore, don't forget to indulge in waffles with cream and sweet jams with a steaming cup of hot tea. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4 CRUISE THE NORWEGIAN SEA

A relaxing day at sea. Spend the day enjoying the amenities of the elegant ship. Indulge in Nordic-inspired treatments at The Spa or find inner calm with some yoga on the Sports Deck. (B,L,D)

### DAY 5 BODØ

Bodø lies just north of the Arctic Circle, and was rebuilt after its destruction in World War II. On an included tour, see the Customs House, Norwegian Aviation Museum and Gothic Bodø Cathedral with its ten glorious tapestries from Nordlund and detached steeple with church bells that ring out over the town every hour. Rønvikfjellet Mountain affords magnificent views over the area. (B,L,D)

### DAY 6 TROMSØ

Enjoy the setting of Tromsø's historic centre, spread over a scenic island surrounded by snowcapped peaks. On an included tour along heated sidewalks, installed to keep the snow at bay, admire the blend of wooden structures and neoclassical buildings. See the stunning Arctic Cathedral with its striking triangular shape,



**5**  
*reasons  
to go*

Explore Stavanger's old quarter wooden buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries • The views from atop Rønvikfjellet mountain • The Arctic Cathedral in Tromsø • The stunning shores of Altafjord, Alta • Bergen - Encircled by majestic mountains, fjords and glaciers, Bergen is home to Viking sagas.

the city's most recognizable symbol. In winter, the spectacular surroundings can be explored by sled, pulled by reindeer or dogs. Learn about this long-held wintertime tradition at the Tromsø Wilderness Centre, home to more than 100 huskies. (B,L,D)

**DAY 7 TROMSØ**

Enjoy another day in Tromsø. Perhaps set off into Norway's pristine wilderness on a glacier trek in the Alps. Alternately, learn about the aurora borealis and the indigenous cultures of northern Norway from experts at the Tromsø University Museum. Or pay a visit to the world's northernmost brewery. (B,L,D)

**DAY 8 ALTA**

Resting on the stunning shores of Altafjord, Alta is the gateway to some of Europe's most magnificent natural beauty. Its frequent clear skies make it an ideal locale from which to view the northern lights. In Alta, fascinating rock carvings tell stories of primitive cultures; you may view them, as well as fascinating exhibits on salmon fishing and the Northern Lights,

at the excellent Alta Museum. Consider visiting the nearby Sami community of Máze for an authentic lunch of local dishes and an exciting ride in a reindeer-drawn sleigh. (B,L,D)

**DAY 9 ALTA**

Enjoy another day in Alta. Explore the town at your own pace, perhaps visiting the Northern Lights Cathedral. Admire its fascinating steeple designed to resemble a flame and enjoy the ethereal strains of its organ. Or venture to the spectacular Sautso, a canyon carved over millennia by the Alta River. At 7.5 miles long and up to 1,380 feet deep, it is the largest in Northern Europe. (B,L,D)

**DAY 10 NARVIK**

Home to a former Viking settlement, Narvik is situated on the innermost shores of the Ofotfjorden. The small town enjoys a dramatic backdrop, encircled by mountains in every direction and the glacier that spills right to the water's edge. During a visit, learn how the ice-free port helped the town prosper

as an exporter of Swedish iron ore. At the Polar Park, view some of the residents of the far north, including Arctic wolves. Perhaps also enjoy the wilderness during a sleigh ride or meet the native Sami people. (B,L,D)

**DAY 11 CRUISE THE NORWEGIAN SEA**

During a day cruising the Norwegian Sea, delve into the Nordic-inspired amenities of the ship, maybe indulge in a traditional Norwegian waffle at Mamsen's gourmet deli. (B,L,D)

**DAY 12 BERGEN**

Encircled by majestic mountains, fjords and glaciers, Bergen was home to Viking sagas. With the ship berthed next to Bryggen wharf - a UNESCO Site, easily stroll along its waterfront. See the beautiful 18th-century wooden houses, and visit the Hanseatic Museum on an included tour.

Perhaps take an excursion to Troldhaugen, the home of Edvard Grieg, Norway's famous composer. Gain an insider's view of Norway's shipbuilding culture and fish farming industry on an optional excursion. (B,L,D)

**DAY 13 BERGEN**

Awake in Bergen on disembarkation day. If you wish, you may explore more with Viking: Stay on in this fascinating old mercantile city, visit Norway's cosmopolitan capital of Oslo or journey to Iceland. (B)

**WANT TO ADD FINLAND AND SWEDEN TO YOUR VOYAGE?**

**This tour connects to Phil's hosted tour:**

**Nordic Winter Adventure**  
10 days, Bergen to Stockholm – departing 15 February 2020 (further details on pages 50-51)

# nordic winter adventure

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Hosted from Bergen to Stockholm by Phil Hoffmann

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$11,999\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$4,799\***

## WEATHER:

Winter – bright, chilly days. Average 1-5°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Economy Class flights Oslo to Rovaniemi & Rovaniemi to Stockholm including taxes
  - 9 nights first class accommodation
- Travel by air-conditioned coach, rail
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
  - 9 meals
  - Luggage portorage
  - Hosted from Bergen
- Services of a professional English speaking tour director
- Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 10 DAY TOUR • 15-24 FEBRUARY 2020

Join Phil on a journey to discover some of the best natural highlights and historic cities that Scandinavia has to offer. Ride the Flåm railway, considered to be one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world, and one of the steepest! Discover the town of Rovaniemi, the traditional home of Santa Claus, and try your hand at snow-shoeing through an alpine forest and ice-fishing. Explore the historical charms and modern architecture of Bergen, Oslo and Stockholm on guided tours in a region where the old and new exist seamlessly side-by-side.

### DAY 1 BERGEN

Meet your tour manager this afternoon at the hotel.

**Stay** Norge by Scandic\*

### DAY 2 BERGEN

Today enjoy a guided walking tour of the city, visiting the iconic old town known as Bryggen, the popular fish market and exploring this beautiful town. The rest of the day is free to explore Norway's second largest city and perhaps sample the local cuisine.

**Stay** Norge by Scandic\* (B)

### DAY 3 BERGEN TO OSLO

Take a morning train from Bergen to the mountain town of Voss. Depart Voss and enjoy one of the world's most scenic rail journeys on a full day 'Norway in a Nutshell' sightseeing tour. Superb waterfalls line the road as the coach weaves its way down the valley to Gudvangen (alternate route to Gudvangen in winter). Take a ferry through the narrow Naeroy Fjord and ascend the Flåm Valley by electric train, a marvel of railway engineering. Enjoy the journey across the roof of Norway through magnificent landscapes of farmland, forests and glacier-capped mountains, before arriving into Oslo.

**Stay** The Thief\* (B)

### DAY 4 OSLO

After a leisurely breakfast enjoy a 3 hour city tour of Oslo including The Vigeland Park with its 200 sculptures, a visit to Holmenkollen ski jump – home of the annual Ski Festival since 1892 and site of the 1952 Winter Olympics - for a fantastic view over the city and a walk at the Opera House. The Opera House won the culture award at the World Architecture Festival in Barcelona in October 2008, and the 2009 European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture. The afternoon is at leisure to explore the city.

**Stay** The Thief\* (B)



**5**  
reasons  
to go

Ride the historic Flåm Railway, one of the most scenic journeys in the world • Discover bijoux Oslo - home of Gustav Vigeland Park • Enjoy traditional activities like snow-shoeing through an alpine forest and ice-fishing • Stay in Rovaniemi in Finnish Lapland, the official home of Santa Claus! • With a little luck, catch a glimpse of the stunning Northern Lights.

**DAY 5 OSLO TO ROVANIEMI**

Transfer to Oslo airport for a flight to Rovaniemi, the capital of Finnish Lapland and official hometown of Santa Claus, an urban oasis amidst the Arctic Wilderness. It is where culture, wild activities and fairy tales come together. Tonight experience the magic of the northern nature. Drive through the beautiful, winter landscape by head-lit snowmobile before stopping for a break in the middle of the pitch-dark forest (based on shared snowmobile). While the guide makes a camp fire, listen to the stories and facts about the Northern Lights. Enjoy a Lappish snack break and barbeque sausages on the fire while observing the skies above. With good luck, catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights.

**Stay** Snowman World Glass Resort\* (B)

**DAY 6 ROVANIEMI**

Today experience two traditional Scandinavian activities - ice fishing and snow-shoeing. Travel through snowy forests to capture the true feeling of the Arctic in the northern woods, to a small wilderness frozen lake. Experience the silence and beauty of wintry forests on a snowshoe hike before trying traditional ice fishing. Savour a break by an open fire and enjoy some snacks while the only sound audible is the sough of the forest and the campfire.

In the afternoon enjoy a wintertime safari with a team of huskies. The barking of enthusiastic dogs offers a welcome to the farm. Before departing on the journey, instructions will be given on how to control the sleds, which will be ridden in pairs. You may swap places at the halfway point. The head musher will talk about the life and training of these Arctic

animals and offer the chance to take some great photos.

**Stay** Snowman World Glass Resort\* (B)

**DAY 7 ROAVNIEMI TO STOCKHOLM**

Transfer to the airport for a flight to the capital of Sweden, Stockholm. On arrival transfer to the hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

**Stay** Grand Hotel Stockholm\* (B)

**DAY 8 STOCKHOLM**

Embark on a tour of Stockholm, visiting the Old Town (Gamla Stan), located on a small island and with narrow stone streets and old buildings, such as the Royal Palace – home to the King and other members of the Royal Family, and the Royal Opera – constructed in 1892.

**Stay** Grand Hotel Stockholm\* (B)

**DAY 9 STOCKHOLM**

This morning walk a short distance to the pier for a public guided boat tour of the Stockholm archipelago, a cluster of some 30,000 islands, skerries and rocks, the largest archipelago in Sweden, and the second largest in the Baltic Sea. The afternoon is at leisure to explore the city.

**Stay** Grand Hotel Stockholm\* (B)

**DAY 10 STOCKHOLM**

Our Scandinavian adventure finishes after breakfast with a transfer to the airport.

*\* or similar hotel*

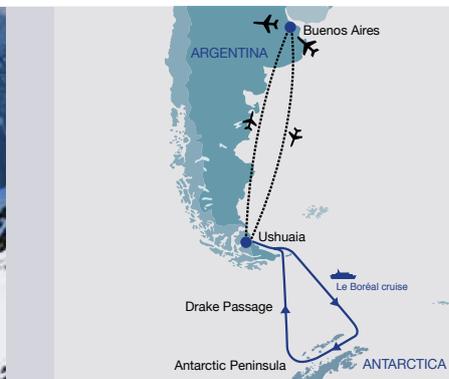
**WANT TO SEE MORE OF THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS?**

**Why not join Phil on his Viking Ocean cruise!**

**In Search of the Northern Lights** 13 days, Cruise London to Bergen – departing 3 February 2020 (further details on pages 48-49).

# classic antarctica

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Escorted by  
Julie Williams

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$19,095\***

SOLO OCCUPANCY **\$26,795\***

*\*depicted pricing based on  
a Prestige Stateroom, deck 4.  
Other pricing on application.*

## WEATHER:

Summer – nearly 24 hours  
of daylight. Average  
10 degrees°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Economy Class flights including taxes
  - 4 nights luxury accommodation
    - 10-night luxury cruise onboard the Le Boréal
  - Buenos Aires to Ushuaia Economy Class return flights including taxes
    - 34 meals (and complimentary beverages onboard your cruise)
    - Return airport transfers, portage and tipping
    - Escorted from Adelaide
  - APT Tour Director & Expedition Team
    - One-way home to airport transfer
      - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 15 DAY TOUR • 13-27 FEBRUARY 2020

There are some travel experiences which words cannot adequately describe, and a trip to Antarctica is certainly one of them. The vastness of its beaches and the immensity of its ice shelves reinforce the beautiful supremacy of nature. The wealth of distinct animals with their own unique means of survival, is certain to delight. The tales of Antarctic explorers and scientists – both past and present – are absolutely captivating. The best way to truly experience the untouched essence of this intriguing land is aboard a Small Ship Expedition Cruise.

### DAY 1 BUENOS AIRES

On arrival in the Argentinian capital, you'll be met and transferred to the hotel. After settling in, enjoy Welcome Drinks.

**Stay** Buenos Aires, Park Hyatt – 3 nights

### DAY 2 BUENOS AIRES.

Enjoy a tour of Buenos Aires before visiting the city's oldest barrio (district).

Explore La Boca's colourful houses and picturesque pedestrian street, the Caminito; drive along one of the widest avenues in the world, Avenida 9 de Julio; pass the parks, gardens and tree-lined streets of Palermo; and visit La Recoleta Cemetery. Enjoy dinner and a lively tango show. (B,D)

### DAY 3 BUENOS AIRES.

This morning after breakfast, embark on your chosen activity. Perhaps head to the island town of Tigre and enjoy a cruise over the waterways of the Paraná Delta. Alternatively, explore the extraordinary history of the city's vibrant street art culture, or take a behind-the-scenes soccer tour. (B)

### DAY 4 USHUAIA, EMBARK SHIP

Fly to Ushuaia and transfer to the luxury expedition ship, Le Boréal. Be greeted by your Expedition Leader and a team of expert naturalist guides. Settle in before enjoying the Captain's Welcome Dinner. Afterwards, head to the deck to take in the stunning scenery of the Beagle Channel.

**Stay** Le Boréal - 10 nights (B,D).

### Le Boréal

Le Boreal features elegant design and innovative state-of-the-art marine technology. The vessel boasts a convenient and sensible layout, with three elevators. She offers a single seating dining room, al fresco dining, an outdoor heated pool, and a modern lecture facility and theatre, as well as an ample and comfortable gathering area and library. A full-service salon, steam rooms, spa and fitness centre complete the amenities.

All Suites and the majority of the Staterooms feature two twin beds which can be converted into one queen-size bed, a private bathroom with shower (some with bathtub), international direct dial telephone, satellite flat screen television, DVD/CD, iPod dock with speakers, wireless Internet access, safe, minibar, full-length closets, writing desk/dressing table, hair dryer, duvet and plush terry cloth robes.



**5**  
reasons  
to go

Get up close to gentoo, chinstrap and Adelie penguins and Weddell, crabeater, leopard and Antarctic fur seals • visit a deserted whaling station • Send a postcard from a scientific research station with a rare Antarctica postage stamp • see whales surfacing as you explore by Zodiac • Tierra del Fuego National Park in Argentina.

International and local cuisine is served in the stylish, spacious Dining Room in unassigned seating; alfresco in the casual indoor-outdoor Grill Restaurant on Deck 6, available at select times; or from 24-hour Room Service. Continental breakfast, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea, a three-course dinner and a late-evening snack are served daily. Complimentary wine and beer are served at lunch and dinner. Additionally, bar service is available on the Sun Deck. Public areas have been designed to accommodate passenger numbers exceeding the ship's capacity to ensure guests can enjoy an inviting, spacious ambiance. The state-of-the-art theatre is the perfect venue for lectures, cultural performances and film screenings. There is a library, beauty salon and an Internet salon offering Internet access and computer stations for personal use.

**DAY 5 DRAKE PASSAGE**  
Sail across the Drake Passage, one of the great travel milestones. Learn all about the adventures ahead as you participate in a range of informative, interactive and entertaining presentations on the wildlife, history and geology of Antarctica delivered by your expert Expedition Team. (B,L,D)

**DAYS 6-12 ANTARCTIC PENINSULA**  
On arrival in Antarctica, the itinerary becomes flexible in order to maximise discovery of this enchanting world of ice and water. Each day on the cruise, enjoy morning and afternoon Zodiac rides. Visit penguin rookeries, seal colonies, and keep an eye out for the orcas, humpback and minke whales that frequent these waters. Head to Deception Island, an active volcano and once home to a whaling station. You may also get the opportunity to stop at the Port Lockroy scientific base. From here, send a postcard with a rare Antarctic stamp! (B,L,D)

**DAY 13 DRAKE PASSAGE.**  
Return across the Drake Passage towards the Argentinian city of Ushuaia, keeping an eye out for whales, dolphins and albatross. (B,L,D)

**DAY 14 DISEMBARK SHIP, USHUAIA, BUENOS AIRES**  
Today, disembark the ship in Ushuaia and take a tour of Tierra del Fuego National Park. Later travel to the airport for the included flight to Buenos Aires.

On arrival, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel.  
**Stay** Buenos Aires, Park Hyatt. (B)

**DAY 15 DEPART BUENOS AIRES**  
The journey ends with a transfer to Buenos Aires airport for your onward flight. (B)

**WANT TO SEE MORE OF SOUTH AMERICA?**

Uncover the colours of South America on an extended land journey across this captivating continent. Home to diverse cultures and arresting landscapes, South America is the perfect addition to an Antarctica expedition cruise. Talk to your travel consultant today! Extended itinerary options:

**Brazil Highlights with Antarctica cruise**, 20 days, Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Aires - departing 8 February 2020

**Spirit of Peru with Antarctica Cruise**, 22 days, Lima to Buenos Aires - departing 8 February 2020

**South American Discovery with Antarctica Cruise**, 27 days, Lima to Rio de Janeiro - departing 8 February 2020

# northern spain and portugal

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Escorted by  
Corey Enthoven

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$9,299\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$1,499\***

## WEATHER:

Spring – clear, cool days.  
Average 17-20° C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes.
- 18 nights first class accommodation
  - Travel by private air-conditioned coach
  - Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
    - 29 meals
    - Luggage portorage
  - Gratuities for tour director, driver and local guides
  - Escorted from Adelaide
  - Services of a professional English speaking tour director
- One-way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 20 DAY TOUR • 1-20 MARCH 2020

Brimming with cultural, historical, culinary and artistic delights, embark upon a classic exploration of the Iberian Peninsula. Discover some of Antoni Gaudí's enigmatic creations in Barcelona, such as Parc Guell and the unfinished Sagrada Família. Travel through northern Spain and cities like Pamplona, home of the infamous Running of the Bulls, and Bilbao to visit the ultra-modern Guggenheim Museum. In Portugal visit Porto and the Douro Valley to try some port from its historical home, discover some of the history behind Portugal's intrepid seafarers in Lisbon, and take some time out to relax on the stunning shorelines of the southern Algarve Region.

### DAY 1 DEPART ADELAIDE

Depart Adelaide for Barcelona, via Dubai

### DAY 2 ARRIVE BARCELONA

Welcome to Barcelona! Tonight enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant, followed by a drive to see the city's iconic sights.

**Stay** AC Hotel Som Marriott Barcelona\* – 2 nights (D)

### DAY 3 BARCELONA

Visit the unfinished La Sagrada Família before visiting Plaça de Catalunya and the Christopher Columbus monument. Visit Gaudí's Park Guell before spending the rest of the day on your own to explore the city's enchanting barrios. (B)

### DAY 4 BARCELONA TO PAMPLONA

Travel to Pamplona and enjoy a walking tour. See the ancient

walls with views over the city, old town and cathedral, before retracing the steps of the famous 'Running of the Bulls'. Tonight, savour tapas and sangria at a historic café.

**Stay** Abba Reino de Navarra Hotel\* (B,D)

### DAY 5 PAMPLONA – SAN SEBASTIAN – BILBAO – SANTANDER

Travel to San Sebastián and see Bahía de la Concha beach, or stroll along Calle 31 de Agosto in the Old Town. Next stop is Bilbao. Visit the modern Guggenheim Museum, designed by talented architect Frank Gehry. Arrive in Santander this evening.

**Stay** Santemar Hotel Santander\* - 2 nights (B)

### DAY 6 SANTANDER

Day at leisure in Santander. Relax on the shores of one of the beaches or amble through the charming Old Town. (B)

### DAY 7 SANTANDER – PICOS DE EUROPA – COVADONGA – OVIEDO

Travel through the Picos de Europa mountains and visit the grotto of 'Our Lady of Covadonga', a famous pilgrimage site and basilica made from the marble of the surrounding hills. Arrive into Oviedo and enjoy dinner and cider tasting with the Castañón family at their Cider Mill.

**Stay** Ayre Hotel Oviedo (B,D)

### DAY 8 OVIEDO – CABO VIDIO – SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Stop for amazing views at the Asturian fishing village of Cabo Vidio before arriving into Santiago de Compostela. Walk the last 2km of the famous Camino Trail to learn more about this famous pilgrimage. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant to sample local Galician cuisine.

**Stay** Gran Hotel\* - 2 nights (B,D)



## 5 reasons to go

Explore Barcelona and the architecture of Gaudi at the Sagrada Familia and Parc Guell • Visit Pamplona, home of the Running of the Bulls, and Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao • Walk a section of the Camino Trail and learn about the pilgrimage • Enjoy Porto and the Douro Valley • Relax amid the stunning landscapes and shores of Southern Portugal.

### DAY 9 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Enjoy a guide's insights into the 'Way of Saint James' and why thousands attempt the life-changing pilgrimage annually. Visit the vast cathedral, reputed to be the final resting place of Saint James the Great, and the Praza do Obradoiro. (B)

### DAY 10 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA – GUIMARAES – PORTO

Stop in Guimarães for views of its 10th-century castle before arriving in the World Heritage City of Porto. Dinner at the hotel.

**Stay** Crowne Plaza Hotel Porto\* - 3 nights (B,D)

### DAY 11 PORTO

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Porto to see Baroque churches, and along the winding lanes that tumble down towards the Douro. See the bridges that span the river and the Gothic Church of St. Francis. Visit the Stock Exchange Palace with its Arabian Hall inspired by Granada's Alhambra. This evening enjoy a leisurely

cruise along the Douro River before a meal in the Medieval Ribeira Quarter. (B,D)

### DAY 12 DOURO VALLEY EXCURSION

Stop in Peso da Régua, a sprawling riverside town famed for production port wine. Later visit two wine estates to sample locally produced wine. Visit an olive oil museum before lunch in the village of Regua. Cruise down the Douro River and delight in the beautiful surroundings before returning to Porto. (B,L)

### DAY 13 PORTO – COIMBRA – TOMAR – FATIMA

Travel to Tomar and visit the Convent of Christ, originally built as a Templar stronghold in the 12th century. Arrive into Fátima, with dinner at the hotel.

**Stay** Fatima Hotel\* (B,D)

### DAY 14 FATIMA – BATALHA – LISBON

This morning rub shoulders with millions of Catholic pilgrims at Fátima, where three young shepherds saw the apparition of the Virgin. Stop at the monastery

of Batalha, the best example of late Gothic architecture in Portugal. Visit the medieval walled city of Obidos before arriving into Lisbon.

**Stay** Olisippo Marques de Sa Hotel\* - 2 nights (B)

### DAY 15 LISBON

See the Monument to the Discoveries and the Belém Tower, built to commemorate Vasco da Gama's expedition. Tour the Hieronymite Monastery, a testament to 15th century Manueline architecture. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Portuguese dinner amidst the heart-wrenching, melancholic sounds of the Fado. (B,D)

### DAY 16 LISBON – ALGARVE REGION

Drive south towards the Serra da Arrábida Mountains and to the pastures of the Alentejo. Enjoy lunch at a stud ranch where Lusitano horses were once reared at the pleasure of King João VI in the 18th century. Continue further south to the Algarve Region

**Stay** Hotel Vila Gale Ampalius\* - 2 nights (B,L)

### DAY 17 ALGARVE REGION

Enjoy a coastal drive along the Sagres Peninsula. End the excursion with a visit to Lagos, once home to Henry the Navigator. Tonight, enjoy a local restaurant dinner. (B,D)

### DAY 18 ALGARVE TO LISBON

This morning return to Lisbon and enjoy free time before a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

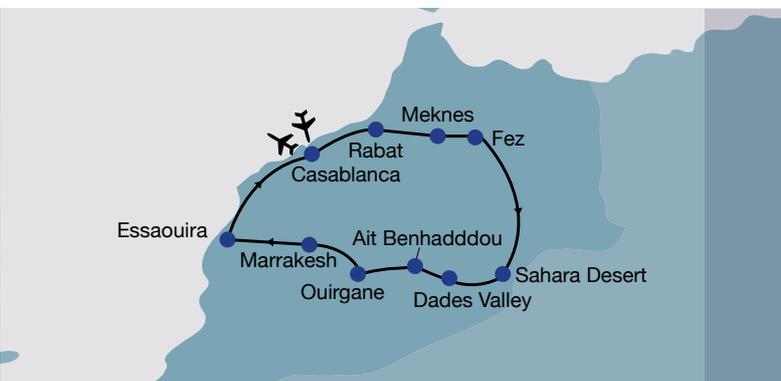
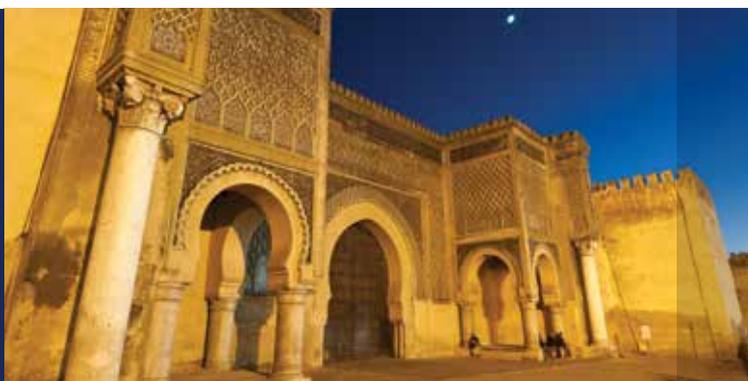
**Stay** Olisippo Marques de Sa Hotel\* (B,D)

### DAY 19 DEPART LISBON

Transfer to the airport for the flights to Adelaide, arriving on day 20. (B)

# experience morocco

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Escorted by  
Phil Hoffmann Travel

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$5,849\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$999\***

## WEATHER:

Spring – bright, sunny days. Average 25-30°C

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes
- 13 nights first class hotel and riad accommodation, 1 night desert camp (with facilities)
  - Travel by minicoach
- Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
  - 23 meals
  - Luggage portorage
- Escorted from Adelaide
- Services of a professional English speaking tour director
  - One way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function tour documentation

## 18 DAY TOUR • 23 MARCH – 9 APRIL 2020

Play it again, Sam. Morocco is a gateway to Africa, and a country of dizzying diversity. Discover epic mountain ranges, ancient cities and medinas, sweeping deserts and a mixed Berber and Arab population. Feel it in the bustle of the crowded souqs and taste it in every aromatic tajine. It's floating in the air above the High Atlas Mountains and it's caught in the grains of the endless Sahara. It's a vibrancy, an urgency, an assault on the senses. It is the essence of Morocco. High on spice and adventure, our experience begins in legendary Casablanca.

### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO CASABLANCA

Fly from Adelaide to Casablanca via Dubai.

### DAY 2 CASABLANCA

Welcome to Morocco! Enjoy a transfer to the hotel with time to relax for the rest of the day and evening. Casablanca is perhaps most famous for the film bearing its name. The city's handsome Mauresque buildings, which meld French-colonial design and traditional Moroccan style, are worthy of exploration.

**Stay** Hotel Barcelo or similar

### DAY 3 CASABLANCA TO RABAT AND MEKNES

This morning discover the massive edifice of the Mosque of Hassan II, second only in size to the great mosque at Mecca, with a capacity for 25,000

worshippers. Leaving the city, head north along the coast to elegant Rabat – capital of Morocco, first Imperial city and home to numerous fine ancient Arab monuments. Explore the walled quarter known as the Kasbah des Oudaïas. Continue to Meknes – erstwhile capital.

**Stay** Tafilalet or similar (B)

### DAY 4 MEKNES TO VOLUBILIS AND FEZ

This morning discover the charming streets of Imperial Meknes' medina – the old walled section of the city lined with elaborately decorated buildings and a bustling old souk. At UNESCO-listed Volubilis – the foremost Roman site in Morocco, discover this one-time provincial capital, along with the fantastic mostly intact mosaics along the Decumanus Maximus. In Fez, enjoy the balance of the day at leisure.

**Stay** Riad Myr or similar – 2 nights (B)

### DAY 5 FEZ

Fez is the spiritual and cultural heart of Morocco; vibrant, noisy, fascinating and overwhelming – a visual and pungent feast for the senses with a huge, well-preserved medieval old city. Today head into the old city, arguably the world's most fascinating and confounding old city. Walk through the twisting streets and alleyways, and explore the specialty sections that divide the souk such as the tanneries. Tonight, enjoy a memorable dinner – the signature salty and sweet pastilla. (B,D)

### DAY 6 FEZ TO MIDELT

Drive inland to the High Atlas Mountains through a variety of spectacular scenery to the elevated market town of Midelt. Consider a leisurely mountain hike with astonishing views.

**Stay** Hotel Taddart or similar (B,D)



airfare included



# 5 reasons to go

Discover Fez – one of the planet’s most incredible cities • Comfortable camping and a camel ride in the Sahara • Learn the tea-making secrets of the Berbers • Travel on the ‘road of 1,000 kasbahs’ to Ait Benhaddou • Djemaa El-Fna, Marrakesh’s main square.

## DAY 7 MIDELT TO SAHARA DESERT

Enjoy a relaxing morning, before a drive through barren mountainsides and fertile valleys to isolated Merzouga. With a backdrop of stunningly lofty orange-coloured Erg Chebbi sand dunes, embark on a sunset camel ride to the edge of the Sahara. Tonight, camp out in traditional style. Enjoy an evening around a camp fire with dinner and Bedouin entertainment.

*Notes: The camp is set up for private use of our group. Enjoy the comfort of private tents with private shower and WC, proper size dressed beds, coffee table and chairs.*

**Stay** Desert camp (B,D)

## DAY 8 SAHARA DESERT TO TODRA GORGE, DADES AND M’GOUN VALLEYS

Enjoy a real Lawrence of Arabia moment this morning with a sunrise camel ride across the desert. Driving to the spectacular Todra Gorge, embark on a walk. Continue to the beautiful Dades Valley before arriving at M’Goun.

**Stay** Hotel Kasbah Chems or similar – 2 nights (B,D)

## DAY 9 M’GOUN VALLEY

Enjoy a full-day walk (basic level of fitness required) in the remarkable M’goun Valley. Accompanied by a local guide, walk a trail that undulates slightly here and there, passing Berber villages and meeting local people. Learn the tea making secrets of Berbers with a local family. (B,D)

## DAY 10 M’GOUN VALEY TO AIT BENHADDOU

On the fabled ‘Road of 1,000 Kasbahs’, discover Skoura Oasis - home to several kasbahs. Perched on a hilltop and almost unchanged since the 11th century, UNESCO-listed Ait Benhaddou – a fortified village studded with kasbahs is one of Morocco’s most iconic sites – boasting a long list of film location credits. Enjoy a walk through the winding streets of the old town.

**Stay** Riad Maktoub or similar (B,D)

## DAY 11 AIT BENHADDOU TO OUIRGANE

Driving through the Atlas Mountains, our destination is the pretty Berber village of

Ouirgane, nestled in the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains in the heart of the Toubkal National Park - a great place for scenic walks and bird twitching.

**Stay** Auberge Chez Momo or similar (B,D)

## DAY 12 OUIRGANE TO MARRAKESH

Through the Atlas, continue to ancient and exotic Marrakesh, Winston Churchill’s fave holiday spot. Checking into a beautiful riad, enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Consider exploring Djemaa El-Fna Square in the old quarter, with its palm readers, acrobats, camels and snake charmers.

**Stay** Hamdane – 2 nights (B)

## DAY 13 MARRAKESH

Enjoy a morning tour of the old medina, through the bustling souks. Highlights include the Bahia Palace, Marrakech Museum, Koutoubia Mosque and Djemaa El-Fna Square. Rest of the day at leisure. (B,D)

## DAY 14 MARRAKESH TO ESSAOUIRA

Once home to sizeable British and Jewish populations, with a charm that has seduced people like Orson Welles and Jimi Hendrix, the laid-back fishing town of Essaouira boasts a bustling medina, tiny alleyways, pungent souks and a beautiful stretch of beach. Enjoy a day at leisure here.

**Stay** Riad Maison du Sud or similar (B,D)

## DAY 15 ESSAOUIRA TO CASABLANCA

En route to Casablanca, stop at coastal Oualidia, known for Moroccan oysters.

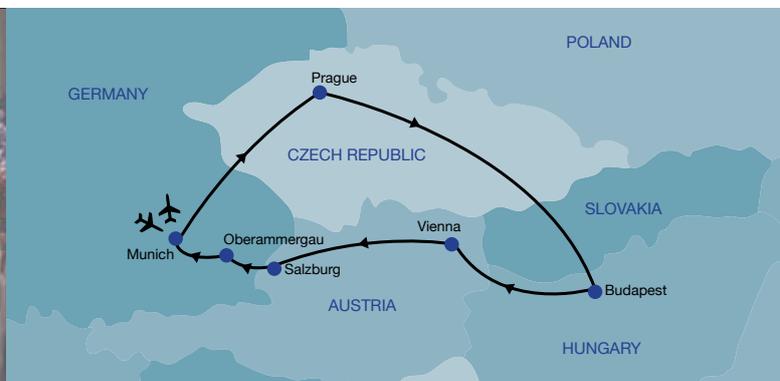
**Stay** Hotel Barcelo or similar (B)

## DAY 16-18 CASABLANCA TO DUBAI AND ADELAIDE

Late this morning, transfer to Casablanca Mohammed V International Airport, for the flight to Dubai. Overnight at a hotel in Dubai before the onward flight to Adelaide, arriving evening of day 18. (B)

# imperial europe with oberammergau passion play

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Escorted by  
Phil Hoffmann Travel

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE **\$8,899\***

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **\$1,399\***

### WEATHER:

Summer – bright, sunny days. Average 20-30°C

### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights from Adelaide including taxes
- 11 nights first class accommodation
- Travel by air-conditioned coach
  - Sightseeing per itinerary with entry fees
- Category 2 Tickets for the 2020 Passion Play in Oberammergau
  - 17 meals
  - Luggage portorage
- Escorted by Phil Hoffmann Travel
  - Services of a professional English speaking tour director
- One-way home to airport transfer
  - Pre-departure function, tour documentation

## 14 DAY TOUR • 4 JULY – 17 JULY 2020

In 2020, the Bavarian village of Oberammergau is giving you the chance to experience the Passion Play. Miss this extraordinary performance by the villagers of Oberammergau and you'll have to wait another ten years! Starting in Munich, journey through Europe's imperial riverside capitals: stand in front of Prague's 15th century Astronomical Clock, explore both sides of the 'Pearl of the Danube' in Budapest, stroll the elegant boulevards of Vienna, visit Salzburg - the birthplace of Mozart, discover the beauty of the Wachau Valley and attend an inspired and moving performance of the Passion Play, performed only every 10 years in Oberammergau, a small town nestled in the heart of the Bavarian Alps.

### DAY 1 ADELAIDE TO MUNICH

Fly from Adelaide to Munich, via Dubai.

### DAY 2 MUNICH

Welcome to Munich, capital of Bavaria. Home of the Oktoberfest, BMW and lederhosen. Munich city life centres around the Marienplatz with its fascinating Glockenspiel clock. Enjoy an arrival transfer to the hotel. Later, enjoy a short orientation tour of this delightful German city. Tonight, enjoy a Welcome Reception. (WR)

**Stay** Munich - 2 nights

### DAY 3 MUNICH TO REGENSBURG & PRAGUE

This morning visit Regensburg, an unspoilt medieval gem en route to the Czech Republic. Cross the border to exciting Prague, home for the next two nights. (B)

**Stay** Prague - 2 nights

### DAY 4 PRAGUE TO BRATISLAVA AND BUDAPEST

A beautiful city of gleaming gilded spires and a unique blend of Gothic, Renaissance and baroque architecture, Prague is culturally spectacular. Prague has prospered since the fall of Communism and its newfound status and affluence is evident during our guided sightseeing tour of the city. View the impressive St. Vitus' Cathedral in the grounds of the 1,000 year old Prague Castle. Cross the river on a walking tour to the Old Town Square to see the Astronomical Clock. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

### DAY 5 PRAGUE TO BRATISLAVA AND BUDAPEST

Visit the bijoux Slovak capital Bratislava with its eclectic Gothic, Baroque and Art Deco architecture. Entering Hungary, later arrive in Budapest. (B)

**Stay** Budapest - 2 nights

### DAY 6 BUDAPEST

Budapest is grandeur on the Danube. Architecturally, the city is a treasure trove, with an abundance of Baroque, Neoclassical and Art Nouveau buildings, though, actually Budapest has a fin de siècle feel to it, for it was then, during the capital's 'golden age' in the late 19th century, that most of what is seen today was built. Embark on a sightseeing tour featuring views of the famous Chain Bridge, the UNESCO-listed Castle Hill district and a visit to the Fisherman's Bastion. From there enjoy superb views across the Parliament and Danube below. Tonight, enjoy a dinner of Hungarian specialties at a local restaurant. (B, D)

### DAY 7 BUDAPEST TO GYOR AND VIENNA

Cross the Transdanubia region to Győr. Stroll through this quaint city which stands at the confluence of three rivers and features charming Baroque architecture. Later arrive in imperial Vienna. (B)

**Stay** Vienna - 2 nights



## 5 reasons to go

A 'once-in-a-lifetime' event at Oberammergau • Discover Munich in the heart of Bavaria • Explore Prague and see the Astronomical Clock • Visit Salzburg – birthplace of Mozart • Discover the beauty of the Wachau Valley

### DAY 8 VIENNA

Good morning Vienna! As the former HQ of the Hapsburg Empire, the Austrian capital has a flabbergasting stash of cultural and art treasures. Taking in some of Vienna's trophy sights, admire the Hofburg Palace - former winter residence of the Habsburg Dynasty. See the grand State Opera House and the Ringstrasse, a beautiful sweeping boulevard built in the 19th century to replace the city walls. View St. Stephen's Cathedral, its ornate roof bearing the imperial emblem of the Habsburgs. Rest of day at leisure. (B)

### DAY 9 VIENNA TO WACHAU VALLEY AND SALZBURG

See the UNESCO-designated Wachau Valley, one of the most beautiful river valleys in Europe. See the magnificent Melk Abbey—a masterpiece of Baroque architecture, before reaching Salzburg 'alive with the sound of music'. Embark on a walking tour of this musical city. Be sure to stock up on chocolate Mozartkugeln! Dine tonight at the hotel. (B,D)

**Stay** Salzburg - 1 night

### DAY 10 SALZBURG TO INNSBRUCK AND OBERAMMERGAU

Visit Innsbruck in the Austrian Tirol famous for its spectacular scenery. See the famous Golden Roof and enjoy free time to explore this interesting town. Later travel to the picturesque town of Oberammergau where the Passion Play will be performed. This evening dine at the hotel. (B,D)

**Stay** Ettal or Garmisch - Partenkirchen region - 2 nights

### DAY 11 OBERAMMERGAU

The origins of the Passion Play date back to 1633, when residents of Oberammergau in Bavaria, Germany vowed that if God spared them from the Bubonic plague ravaging the region, they would produce a play thereafter for all time depicting a staging of Jesus Christ's passion, covering the short final period of his life from his visit to Jerusalem and leading to his crucifixion. The play was first performed in 1634, and is now performed repeatedly over the course of 5 months during

every year ending in zero. The production involves over 2,000 performers, musicians and stage technicians, all residents of the village. Enjoy the unique atmosphere in town before taking your premium seat (Ticket Category 2) for an inspired and moving performance of the Passion Play this afternoon. Dine at a local restaurant this evening before experiencing the captivating second half of this unique event as night falls. (B,D)

### DAY 12 OBERAMMERGAU TO MUNICH

Travel through alpine scenery back to Munich. Tonight, enjoy a Farewell Dinner. (B,D)

**Stay** Munich - 1 night

### DAY 13 MUNICH TO ADELAIDE

Late this morning after breakfast, enjoy a transfer to the airport for the onward flight to Adelaide, via Dubai, arriving the evening of day 14. (B)

### OBERAMMERGAU ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Pricing for 'Imperial Europe with Oberammergau' is indicative and subject to change. Final pricing will be confirmed by late 2019. If the overall price increases by more than 17%, guests are eligible to cancel without penalty. If the trip price decreases, guests will be entitled to the lower trip price.

Named accommodation will be detailed after pricing is finalised in late 2019.

No single/solo room accommodation is available during the Oberammergau region stay. Guests will be accommodated in twin share accommodation during the Oberammergau region stay, where passengers will be matched with same gender and similar age.

Any deposits paid towards the tour are non-refundable, regardless of the date of cancellation. The sole exception to this, is if the overall price increases by more than 17%, guests are eligible to cancel without penalty.

# taste of italy in south australia



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Escorted by  
Renato Di Stefano

## TOUR COST PER PERSON

TWIN SHARE  
(with private bathroom) **\$589\***

## WEATHER:

Aussie Winter and Spring  
– a chance to snug up in Pt Elliot  
with good food and wine!

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 2 nights first class accommodation
  - 5 meals including 2 Continental breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 dinners
    - Selected wines\* with meals
- Souvenir apron – yours to take home
  - Culinary art sessions including pasta making
- \*\* Natale Italiano a Luglio – Christmas in July departure!

\*Additional wine can be purchased

*With prior notice given, catering arrangements can be made for those with an ovo-lacto vegetarian diet or gluten intolerance.*

3 DAY TOUR • 3-5 MAY; 19-21 JUL ; 25-27 OCT 2019

Enjoy a taste of Italy with your host, Renato Di Stefano at the impressive Waverley Estate, located on the beautiful Fleurieu Peninsula at Port Elliot. Engage in culinary art sessions including proper pasta making with Renato, the skills for which you'll be able to replicate back home. There's plenty of ways to enjoy a weekend, but none more relaxing than one which offers the perfect marriage of great food, wine and good company.

5  
reasons  
to go

Stay at the historic and impressive Waverley Estate • Learn the art of Italian gastronomy in an idyllic setting • Discover the beauty of the Fleurieu Peninsula • Enjoy 'Natale Italiano a Luglio' – Christmas in July – 19 July 2019 • Enjoy mouth-wateringly delicious Italian food

## THE SETTING

Nestled amongst towering gums, Kalamata olive trees and petit Verdot vines across four acres of spacious ground, Waverley Estate is beautifully located just an hour south of Adelaide, on the spectacular Fleurieu Peninsula at Port Elliot, one of the most charming seaside towns in South Australia, and minutes from Horseshoe Bay, its loveliest beach. Well-appointed premium accommodation decorated in a distinctive French Provencal style and lifestyle facilities including a solar heated swimming pool, lawn tennis court, Petanque lawns and barbecue/picnic areas, combine to create the perfect weekend bolthole.

## ABOUT YOUR HOST RENATO DI STEFANO

Renato has a passion for Italy, Italian food and the romantic Italian language. From an early age, under his Nonna's guidance, Renato learned the correlation between choice, fresh ingredients (often gathered at local markets) and delicious meals. His childhood experiences together with the repertoire of tips and tricks learned while helping Nonna prepare family meals laid the foundations for Renato's love of good food and traditional Italian cooking.



# SHANGHAI 2019

EVENT // TOUR PACKAGES

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# terms and conditions

**Accommodation:** We use hotels of an international 3 and 4-star (and sometimes 5-star) standard (where depicted) throughout our programs. Even in the far-flung regions of The Five' Stans or Iran we choose our accommodation with an eye to traditional architecture, good service, friendly staff, good cuisine and centrality to attractions – or 'best in region'. Aboard ships, cabin category is detailed within our pricing panels. Upgrades are permitted at additional cost.

**Airfares:** Many of our Fully Escorted programs, where detailed under 'inclusions' include group airfares. Look out also for the logo 'airfares included' where relevant. Electing to take advantage of our group airfare inclusive pricing ensures that you travel with the tour escort, that the group airfare is guaranteed and that if the tour for whatever reason is cancelled, you will then be accorded a full refund. Where a group airfare is included, electing to purchase flights independent of the group flight arrangements is permissible. However, in event you elect to have flight tickets issued for your journey, and the Phil Hoffmann Fully Escorted program is cancelled if minimum numbers are not met, any claim for out of pocket expenses due to ticket reissue/cancellation is borne by the traveller. It is recommended one purchase travel insurance in advance of making any major airfare purchase.

**Amendments/changes:** A fee of \$100 per amendment will be charged for any reservation changes after your booking is confirmed, unless change increases the value of your booking. This fee is in addition to any charges levied by the land operators.

**Baggage:** The free baggage allowance on flights is strictly limited to one piece, usually 20 or 30kgs of check-in luggage (on some internal flights – luggage may be restricted to under 20kg) per person for economy class passengers. Hand luggage is restricted to 1 piece per person weighing less than 7kg. Airlines may charge you for baggage in excess of these allowances, which will be at passenger's expense. Whilst on tour one main bag and 1 piece of hand luggage per person is allowed.

**Beijing to St Petersburg:** As there is a large degree of travel aboard trains and no portage is provided, participants are urged to travel with a soft-sided bag (preferably a backpack that can be comfortably worn through train stations in the absence of baggage trolleys) and a day backpack that can be squashed into the cavity underneath the banquette bed or in the baggage cavity above the door aboard the train.

**Discover Japan:** When travelling on the Nozomi bullet train, due to lack of luggage space on the train, main luggage will be transferred by a baggage company from Tokyo to Kyoto. You will however be able to take a piece of hand luggage— wheeled or carryall aboard the train. It is recommended that any requisites you may need during this journey are packed in this hand luggage

**Booking Forms & Booking Conditions:** You are required to complete some forms when booking which provide essential information we require to process your booking. Your consultant will provide you with all relevant forms. Please ensure you read these booking conditions in conjunction with the Phil Hoffmann Travel 'Schedule of Professionalism' booking conditions.

**Cancellations:** Cancellations of firm bookings will be subject to loss of original deposit paid plus any progress payment required by the supplier. This is in addition to any charges imposed by Suppliers involved in operation of the tour. Therefore, the cancellation fee may be up

to the total cost for land and/or airfares. Cancelled bookings are non-transferable. Please also refer to the Booking Conditions in our current APT Fully Escorted Journeys programs for Europe, Russia, Canada & Alaska.

**Children:** Participants must be over the age of 15.

**Dress Codes and Local Laws:** Discover Persia: There are strong Islamic codes of dress and behaviour in Iran. Women are legally required to wear loose-fitting clothing which covers the arms and legs, a coat and headscarf always when in public. Men must not wear shorts or sleeveless T-shirts.

While perhaps legal in some countries, the following activities are illegal in Iran:

- Homosexual acts for both men and women - more information: LGBTI travellers
- Failing to adhere to required dress standards
- Close contact between unmarried men and women (non-Muslims or Muslim)
- Being in a de facto relationship
- Importing alcohol, pornography, pork products or short-wave radios
- Importing printed or recorded Western material (including that of a religious nature)

**Excursions:** Croatia and the Adriatic: Blue Cave - On the island of Bisevo, a visit is proposed to the Blue Cave. The visit to the cave is dependent upon local weather conditions. As the excursion is often cancelled, we have elected to make the visit that of an optional one. That way, participants will only pay if the excursion is to proceed to the Blue Cave. The cost of the excursion is EUR12pp.

**Extensions/stopovers:** An amendment fee of \$100 per person will apply for any changes to group flight arrangements (where included). You may also need to pay any applicable additional taxes, for example if electing to exit from an alternate city to that of the final departure city.

**Fitness:** (To be read in conjunction with paragraphs 'Medical Advice' and 'Tour Participation'). Ours are active holidays, where average to medium fitness levels are a requirement. Walking, stair-climbing and standing around for lengthy periods are unavoidable aspects of every tour. They should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but they are not suitable for those who need support or are low on stamina. On many tours there is a lot of walking on streets that may be steep or poorly paved, in addition to embarking and disembarking coaches several times a day.

Our tours are also group events. If you have a medical condition or a disability which may affect your holiday or necessitate special arrangements being made for you, please discuss these with us before booking – or, if the condition develops or changes subsequently, as soon as possible before departure. We therefore ask people wishing to join a tour to complete a Medical & Fitness to Travel form, to ensure the holiday can be enjoyed by you, the traveller and fellow travellers. By signing the booking form, you are stating that you have an adequate level of fitness. If during the tour it transpires you are not adequately fit, you may either elect or be asked to opt out of certain visits, for which no compensation would be due. Alternate entertainment would also be at your own expense.

Tours do vary in their level of exertion. Please refer to the Fitness Rating for each of our tours. There may also be uneven ground, some steps and walking on steep inclines.

**Insurance:** Insurance is compulsory for cover against loss of deposit and loss of airfares, personal accident, medical cover etc. If you have an ongoing medical condition you may be required to complete a pre-existing medical form. If you are over 70 years of age, you are required to complete a senior's medical form. Your consultant will provide all details.

**Medical advice:** (To be read in conjunction with paragraphs 'Fitness' and 'Tour Participation'). It is prudent to seek professional medical advice before travelling. We recommend seeking advice from a Doctor who specialises in travel medicine. Travellers must meet Phil Hoffmann Travel's 'Medical & Fitness to Travel form' standards to participate. This form must be completed at time of booking. You are also required to provide a 'next of kin/emergency contact'. It is your responsibility to ensure that the next of kin/emergency contact is aware of your travel plans, since they may be called upon in the event of an emergency involving you.

Completion of our 'Medical & Fitness to Travel' form may also be in addition to additional forms that our supplier(s) may ask as a condition of carriage to be completed. As our tour escort on each tour will be acting to ensure the cohesion and enjoyment of the group, it must be understood the tour escort's duties cannot extend to constant chaperoning of individual participants. On review of the medical information PHT may be deemed it necessary to seek further information or discuss the suitability of the tour with you, this may lead to exclusion from the tour.

**Minimum Numbers:** All tours featured in this brochure are subject to a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 40 of passengers booking and travelling together (except - 'Magnificent Europe, Panoramic Rockies & Alaskan Cruise, Russia Waterways where minimum is 32, maximum is 40 passengers OR The Five 'Stans where minimum is 15, maximum is 25 passengers OR Imperial Europe with Oberammergau Passion Play where minimum is 25 passengers). Phil Hoffmann Travel reserves the right to increase the tour price or cancel the tour should the numbers travelling not meet the required minimum. The Tour Escort travels when minimum numbers are reached.

**Not included on tour:** Airfares (see under 'TOUR INCLUSIONS' if airfare is included), travel insurance; tips and gratuities for non-group arrangements; tips for Travel director, coach driver, local guides (except where detailed as included), ship crew and cabin staff; items of a personal nature e.g. drinks, laundry, phone calls, meals other than those indicated, additional sightseeing, optional tours or ship shore excursions; extensions/stopovers/ amendments (if applicable); additional flight cost from other cities (please contact us for applicable costings), arrival and departure transfers when not travelling on group flight packages; departure transfer if outside Adelaide metro area and greater than a value of \$60 per person. Not all suburbs are covered, but a departure transfer can be booked from outer-lying areas for example – Aldinga Beach, Gawler and the like for an additional surcharge. Please check with your PHT consultant for details.



**Passport & Visas:** It is necessary for all passengers to be in possession of a valid passport which has at least 6 months' validity beyond your return into Australia. In addition to the below, tourist visae are required for visitation to – Canada, China, Egypt and USA.

**Beijing to St Petersburg:** Requirement - 4 blank pages to accommodate visae and relevant entry/exit stamps. Australian passport holders require Tourist visae for entry into China, Mongolia and Russia. Necessary cover letters including a Letter of Invitation for Russian authorities will be provided by Phil Hoffmann Travel to you in time for visa procurement. Please understand the process will take around 6-8 weeks to procure all necessary visae in advance of travel.

**Discover Persia:** Australian passport holders require a Tourist visae for entry into the Islamic Republic of Iran. Please understand the process will take around 8 weeks to procure the necessary visae in advance of travel. You will need to allow sufficient time for this and plan any other travel around your Iran trip accordingly. Iranian Tourist visas are issued in a two-step process and this will differ according to your nationality.

1. An authorisation code for your visa must be issued by the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. A visa for your passport must then be obtained at an Iranian Embassy once the authorisation code has been issued. If travelling to Iran, entry will be denied if your passport contains evidence of entry into Israel. A new passport would be required for entry into the Islamic Republic. If you travel to Iran, under current U.S. laws, you will become ineligible to enter the United States under the visa waiver program. To enter the United States you must obtain a 10-year visa by attending a consulate appointment.

**The Five 'Stans:** Requirement - 6 blank pages to accommodate visae and relevant entry/exit stamps. Please understand the process will take around 6-8 weeks to procure the necessary visae in advance of travel. You will need to allow sufficient time for this and plan any other travel around your Five 'Stans trip accordingly.

Your PHT consultant will assist you with the application and procurement process for tourist visae.

**Price alterations:** Tour prices specified are based on current airfares, taxes and land arrangement tariffs, therefore they may be subject to alteration with or without prior notice until final payment date, which is between 100 – 140 days prior to tour commencement date.

**Imperial Europe with Oberammergau:** Final pricing for 'Imperial Europe with Oberammergau' will be confirmed by late 2019. If the overall price increases by more than 17%, guests are eligible to cancel without penalty. If the trip price decreases, guests will be entitled to the lower trip price.

**Refunds/credits:** No refund is available in respect of any sightseeing tours, accommodation, meals or any other services not utilised or required during the tour. No refund is available for cancellations after the tour has commenced. Credit offers cannot be refunded or taken as cash.

**Reservations:** A deposit (per person) of \$400 for all tour programs, except a deposit (per person) of \$200 – 'Taste of Italy in South Australia', \$400 + Princess cruise deposit – 'Japan Discovery'; \$400 initial and then progress payment of \$300 30 days later. 'Imperial

Europe with Oberammergau'; \$800 – 'Croatia and the Adriatic'; \$1000 and then a progress payment of \$2000 at a later date (as advised on your invoice. Further, deposit protection is an available option on this range of APT programs, at a cost of \$95pp. This however must be paid at time of initial deposit and cannot be added at a later date.) - 'Magnificent Europe, Panoramic Rockies & Alaskan Cruise, Russia Waterways'; \$1500 – 'Beijing to St Petersburg'; \$3000 – 'The Five 'Stans'.

Deposit is required within 7 days of confirmation of your booking. The balance is due no later than 100-140 days prior to official tour commencement date (as indicated on your invoice) and excepting 'Imperial Europe with Oberammergau' – see further below. If a booking is made after this date, the full tour price is due at the time of confirmation. Prices are subject to change at any time until full payment has been received for entire group and tickets have been issued.

**Imperial Europe with Oberammergau:** Balance of payment is due 15 September 2019.

**Responsibility:** Phil Hoffmann Travel reserves the right to alter or omit any part of the itinerary or change of reservation, features and/or means of conveyance without any notice and for any reason whatsoever. Phil Hoffmann Travel does not accept liability for failure on the part of transportation companies, hotel contractors and other principals whose responsibility is confined to their own operations. Phil Hoffmann Travel reserves the right to alter hotels used should the necessity arise. The transportation companies or firms shall be exempt from all liabilities in respect of any detention, delay, loss, damage, sickness or injury and by whomsoever ever caused and whatever kind occurring of or to the passenger at any time when the passenger is not on board a conveyance used or operated by the transportation companies or firms. We reserve the right to take any reasonable action should your health, actions or behaviour impinge on the rights, welfare or enjoyment of other passengers. Phil Hoffmann Travel reserve the right to cancel or withdraw any person as a member of the tour at any time. All ticket coupons and orders are furnished and issued subject in all respects to those terms and conditions under which the means of transportation or other services provided thereby are offered or supplied by the owners, operators, public carriers, management agents or agents.

**Single supplement:** Beijing to St Petersburg: Payment of single supplement will grant a room for sole use in all locations except at Terej National Park in ger accommodation, at the chalet in Listvyanka (Lake Baikal) and aboard the train (2-berth cabin), where accommodation shall be on a share-twin basis. Aboard the train, all our tour participants will be accommodated in 2-berth cabins or 4-berth cabins—booked for our use by 2 tour passengers maximum. Every effort is made to ensure single travellers of the same sex share a train cabin, though this cannot always be guaranteed.

**Supplier:** Phil Hoffmann Travel contracts with professional ground operators (suppliers) to deliver the itinerary and inclusions as advised. Dependent upon local conditions, we reserve the right to change our supplier(s) at any time.

**Tour Changes:** We endeavour to provide an accurate itinerary however, local operators, hotels and airlines sometimes change arrangements and our itinerary would then be adjusted to suit however, the same standard will always be used.

**Tour Director/Tour Leader/Tour Leader-Driver:** On most of our touring programs, there is a local tour director/tour leader/tour leader-driver (semantics determines the title).

**Tour Escort:** Tour escort travels when minimum numbers are met.

**Tour Participation:** (To be read in conjunction with paragraphs 'Fitness' and 'Medical Advice'). Tour participants agree to accept the authority and decisions of Phil Hoffmann Travel's employees and appointed tour escorts, tour leaders/tour directors and suppliers whilst on tour with Phil Hoffmann Travel. If in the opinion of such persons the health, level of fitness or conduct of a client at any time, before or after departure, appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable or happy progress of a tour (or cruise), the client may be excluded from all or part of the tour or cruise without refund or recompense. In the case of ill-health Phil Hoffmann Travel may make such arrangements as it sees fit to recover the costs thereof from the client. If a client commits an illegal act the client may be automatically excluded from the tour or cruise and Phil Hoffmann Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them.

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

**Twin Share Room Match Policy:** If you elect to travel twin-share on one of our Solo Traveller Club tours, we'll do everything possible to match you with a same-sex traveller. If this is not possible, you would be required to pay the relevant single supplement. In the event of a cancellation for a twin share room match, the travelling passenger may be required to pay for a single room supplement cost, which will not be covered under their travel insurance policy. Similarly, if a traveller decides whilst travelling that they do not want to share any longer, they will be required to pay the full cost for a single room.

**Discover Persia:** Visitors should note that a man and woman cannot share a room unless they can prove they are married. Although Westerners are generally exempt from this rule, it makes sense to carry a copy of your marriage certificate just in case.

**Imperial Europe with Oberammergau:** If travelling on our 'Imperial Europe with Oberammergau Passion Play' as a single traveller, due to the scarcity of sole use rooms, you will be accorded same-sex twin share accommodation in Oberammergau region.

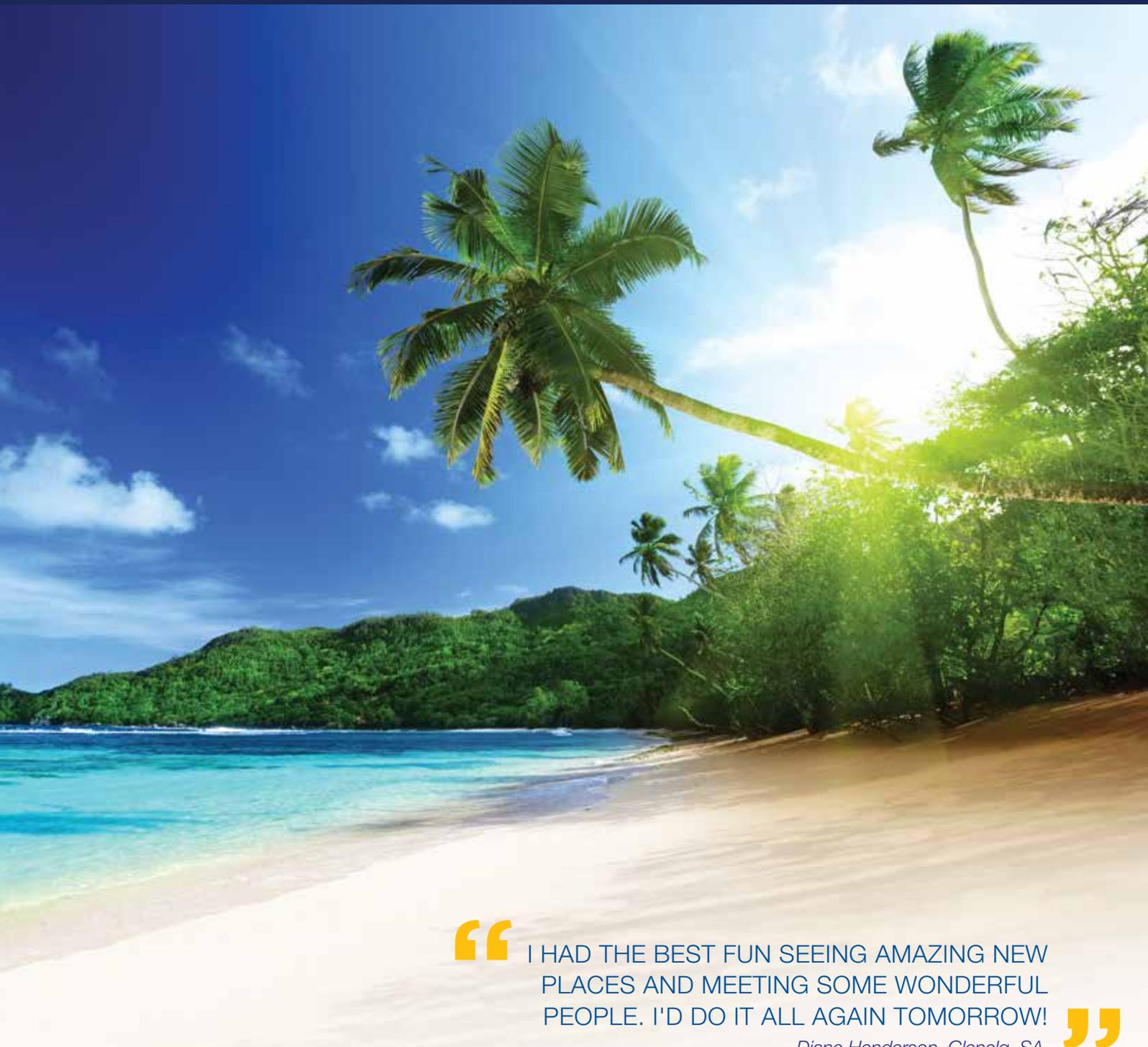
The Phil Hoffmann Travel Schedule of Professionalism applies. E&OE. Brochure produced: **January 2019**

Phil Hoffmann  
travel



<b>Adelaide</b> 12 Pirie St 8113 8700	<b>Barossa Valley</b> 41A Murray St 8562 3411	<b>Gawler</b> 1/105 Murray St 8523 0055	<b>Glenelg</b> Cnr Jetty & Brighton Rd 8350 5700	<b>Hyde Park</b> 82 King William Rd 8272 2166	<b>Modbury</b> Tea Tree Plus 8122 7110	<b>Norwood</b> 3/89 The Parade 8366 5600	<b>Semaphore</b> 64B Semaphore Rd 8449 7333	<b>Stirling</b> 15/51 Mt Barker Rd 8131 4400	<b>Victor Harbor</b> Cnr Ocean & Coral St 8551 3000
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“

I HAD THE BEST FUN SEEING AMAZING NEW PLACES AND MEETING SOME WONDERFUL PEOPLE. I'D DO IT ALL AGAIN TOMORROW!

”

– Diane Henderson, Glenelg, SA