

PHIL HOFFMANN TRAVELTALK MAGAZINE

Phil Hoffmann
travel

TRAVEL

ISSUE SPRING '19

Amazing Alaska

**FALL IN LOVE WITH IRELAND / OUR FAVOURITE HOTELS
TIMELESS TURKEY**

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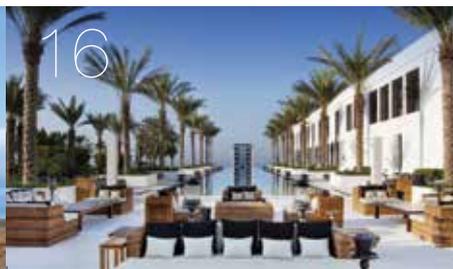
One of the oldest civilisations on the planet, a land of opulent mosques and palaces, crumbling ancient ruins and locals eager to make your acquaintance.



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FALL IN LOVE WITH IRELAND

One of the most charming country's in the world, Ireland captures the heart of all who visit her.



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The largest state in the United States of America, everything Alaska does is in epic proportions.

A WORD FROM PHIL



With the pressures of everyday living, we all need the prospect of a fabulous, stress-free holiday to look forward to! In this issue we'll be showcasing some incredible destinations including Turkey, Alaska, Ireland and more to hopefully whet your appetite.

Multi-generational holidays are one of the fastest growing trends today. To mark my wife's milestone birthday we recently took our children and six grandchildren to Fiji. It was everything we had hoped for and more! We stayed at Nanuku, an Auberge boutique resort with luxury villas and residences located right on the beachfront, offering pristine waters, authentic cultural experiences, the freshest pacific rim cuisine, and a kids club all offered with that famous Fijian hospitality. We can tailor an enriching experience for any occasion that is best shared with loved ones.

Many travellers have a love affair with Vietnam, ranking it as one of the most popular South East Asia countries to visit for family and adventure travel alike. In May, I visited Ho Chi Minh City for the Helloworld Travel Managers Conference and was blown away by the growth of the city. Despite this, it still retains its heritage and culture. A constant hive of activity, it's a city of contrasts as ancient temples stand overshadowed by towering skyscrapers and designer malls reside alongside bustling street markets. A Vespa scooter tour is a must!

Turkey is starting to make great strides. The return of cruise ships visiting its major ports has instilled a renewed sense of confidence in the stability of Turkey, with travellers once again eager to experience this amazing country, often labelled as the "Cradle of Civilization".

With international tourist arrivals growing by 300% since 2012, Japan is one of 2019's hottest destinations and one that appeals to all ages. We're seeing an increase in the number of itineraries offered by the major cruise lines visiting Japanese ports, to keep up with this demand. Also note that Japan will host the Rugby World Cup in late September to early November 2019 and the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020.

Do enjoy our latest edition of Travel Talk. Please don't hesitate to contact your Phil Hoffmann Travel Consultant if you're wanting more information about anything featured here. Happy Travels.

 Phil Hoffmann AM,
Founder and Managing Director



Visit pht.com.au for the latest in travel deals, news, newly released products and upcoming events and seminars.



PHT CONNECT

PEOPLE & PLACES

ALL CORNERS OF THE GLOBE

Right: Phil and Alison Hoffmann enjoying Cuba's finest Rum and cigars at the IBEROSTAR Parque Central in Old Havana, Cuba.

Below: Christa Kinnear enjoying the beauty of Zermatt and the Matterhorn on our recent 'Springtime in Switzerland' tour.

Below right: Julie and Darren Bray in the heart of the Canadian Rockies on our recent 'Panoramic Rockies & Alaska cruise' tour.





SPECIAL MOMENTS

Above: PHT Group travellers getting up close and personal on our recent ‘Springtime in Switzerland’ tour.

Above right: Phil Hoffmann Travel Senior Management at the recent Helloworld Owner Manager’s Conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where Mark Nicholson won State Manager of the Year for 2019.

Right: Phil Hoffmann Travel staff eagerly awaiting the opening of World Travel Fest.



Right: Phil Hoffmann Travel staff and our local PHT crew at Jiangwan Stadium, Shanghai, China in readiness for the showcase AFL game.

ICONIC • UNIQUE • EXOTIC

LATEST NEWS, TRAVEL TRENDS & INSIGHTS

IN SEARCH OF THE **NORTHERN LIGHTS**

iconic

Join Phil Hoffmann aboard the luxurious Viking Star as you cruise from the London port of Tilbury and along the spectacular Norwegian coast. From Viking settlements and medieval trade to modern-day oil production, some of the continent's most pivotal moments have unfolded on the North Sea, which you'll learn about. Spend time exploring Stavanger, with its charming Old Town featuring Europe's highest concentration of wooden buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries. 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. Enjoy the setting of Tromsø's historic centre, spread over a scenic island surrounded by snow-capped peaks, and see the stunning Arctic Cathedral with its striking triangular shape - the city's most recognizable symbol. Resting on the stunning shores of Altafjord, Alta is 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. 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. At the Polar Park, view

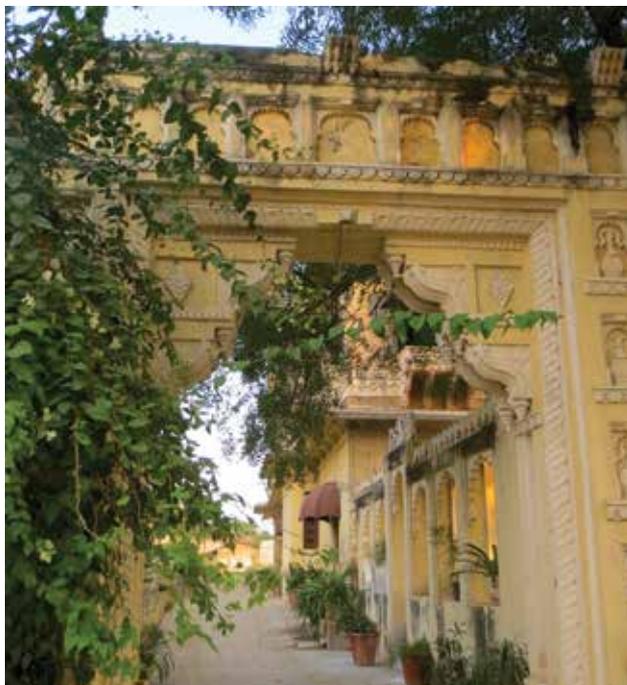
some of the residents of the far north, including Arctic wolves. Encircled by majestic mountains, fjords and glaciers, Bergen was home to Viking sagas and it's here you'll conclude this trip of a lifetime.

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. **Departing 3 February 2020.** Prices from \$7695pp twin share.



UNIQUE ICELAND

Mother Nature has provided Iceland with its biggest tourist attraction – its unspoiled and otherworldly scenery. With a landscape that appears warped, contorted and bulging with jagged mountains and smouldering volcanoes, across the country you'll find cascading waterfalls, steaming hot springs, vast lava fields, desert plateaus, glaciers and iceberg-filled lagoons. In contrast to summer's midnight sun, visit between October and April and you'll be rewarded with the northern lights, a magical kaleidoscope in the sky and an upside to the long, dark winter days.



exotic

RAVLA KHEMPUR

Best known as The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel featured in the popular movie of the same name, Ravla Khempur is a charming hotel located in the heart of Mewar, India. 'Ravla' in Rajasthan refers to the home of the village chieftain and in earlier days, was the focal point of the whole village. A charming heritage hotel, it was built in 1628 and features 12 character-filled guestrooms. A haven for the horse lover, the onsite stables house high pedigree horses which you can hire to explore the local area. **10 day Best Exotic Marigold Hotel tour from \$2,645*pp.**

EXPLORE • DREAM • DISCOVER

LATEST NEWS, TRAVEL TRENDS & INSIGHTS



One of the best wildlife destinations in Africa, Botswana has the continent's greatest concentration of elephants, notoriously large lions, abundant birdlife and everything in between.

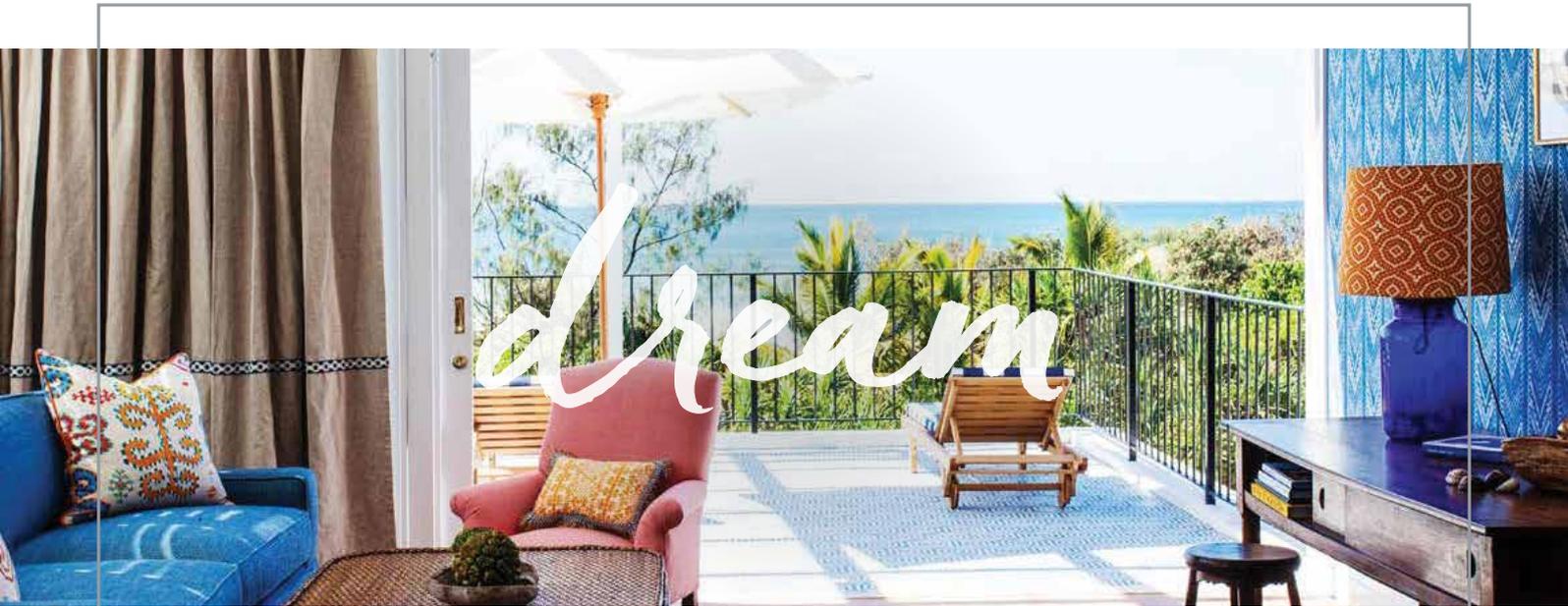
Thanks to wealth derived from cattle, diamonds and tourism, it's relatively well-off by African standards and enjoys a good level of infrastructure. A predominantly flat country, Botswana is home to rolling grasslands and large salt pans. A land-locked country situated in southern Africa, Botswana borders South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, it covers an area of 581,730 square kilometres – about the size of France.

Chobe National Park is home to Botswana's largest variety of wildlife, supported by the Chobe River thriving with crocodiles, hippos and countless water birds. In the north, where rainfall is high, woodlands dominate and the popular wetland habitats that the country is famous for support the many animal species in the area. The Okavango Delta is one such wetland that attracts tourists as one of Africa's most iconic landscapes. Situated deep within the Kalahari Basin, the Okavango Delta, often referred to as the 'jewel' of the Kalahari, offers the heart-stopping excitement of big game viewing, the supreme tranquillity and serenity of an untouched delta, and breathtaking scenes

of natural beauty. Studded with islands, the largest inland delta in the world is famous for its tremendous variety of birdlife and wildlife including lions, leopards, elephants, buffalo, hippos and rhinos to name a few.

Offering a large variety of accommodation, from camping grounds to budget guesthouses, to luxury lodges and safari camps, Botswana has something for everyone. Game viewing is usually at its best during the dry season, in winter from May to August and in the spring from September and October, when the animals congregate near rivers, waterholes and pools.

Contact Phil Hoffmann Travel to find out how you can discover Botswana.



HALCYON HOUSE | NSW

Recently named as “Best Hotels in the World 2019” winner on Conde Nast’s Gold List, Halcyon House is a luxuriously elegant property located beachfront in Cabarita Beach in northern New South Wales. Each of the 19 guest rooms and two two-bedroom suites are meticulously decorated and feature antique furniture, luxurious king-sized beds and a private balcony or terrace. Onsite experiences available include morning yoga on the beach, fine dining at the Paper Daisy Restaurant, a pampering treatment in Halcyon Spa or a Halcyon Signature Beach Picnic. Recapture the tranquil, carefree days of Australian summers passed at Halcyon House.



discover

SOUTH AMERICA BY PRIVATE JET

Take a journey of the utmost convenience as you discover ultimate South America by private jet. Travelling with Captain’s Choice over 23 days, witness both the wildest places on earth and the insatiable Latin American appetite for ‘la Vida’ Diving headfirst into Argentina, dine within secret closed-door restaurants, call in on Iguassu Falls for lunch before continuing to Rio de Janeiro. Ride in a classic 1950s Chevrolet in Cuba, witness the wonder of the Panama Canal, marvel in awe on the Galapagos Islands before you conclude with plenty of time to explore the mystery of Machu Picchu and the enigmatic Easter Island.



group
tour

NORTHERN SPAIN & PORTUGAL

The Phil Hoffmann Travel Escorted Journeys Collection features tours to all corners of the globe, fully escorted from Adelaide. Here is our latest tour release.

Brimming with cultural, historical, culinary and artistic delights, explore the Iberian Peninsula and discover some of Antoni Gaudi's enigmatic creations in Barcelona including Parc Guell and Sagrada Familia. Travel through northern Spain and cities like Pamplona, home of the infamous

Running of the Bulls, and Bilbao to visit the Guggenheim Museum. In Portugal, sample port in Porto and the Douro Valley, discover 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.

20 day 'Northern Spain & Portugal' tour

Fully Escorted from Adelaide by Corey Enthoven.

Departing on 1 March 2020, and **priced from**

\$9,299* per person twin share.

PHT ENCOUNTERS

PHT staff have been travelling the world to share their new found knowledge with our clients. Read about some of our recent journeys.



BELINDA VAN THOLEN
JAPAN

Over Easter, I hosted a cruise on Holland America Line's MS Westerdam to Japan where we were lucky enough to see the cherry blossoms in full bloom. Westerdam is a beautiful ship and the food and service onboard were excellent. Japan in Spring is completely magical – full bloom Hanami is something that everyone should experience at least once in their lifetime! The grounds of Hirosaki Castle are a must visit for the best blooms – I felt like I was in a fairy-tale. Add in the gentle nature of the Japanese people, the delicious food and the cleanest country you will ever visit and Japan makes for the perfect place to explore.

Contact Belinda at the Glenelg Branch
8350 5700 / belindavt@pht.com.au



CLARE O'NEILL
GREECE

In April I joined Insight Vacations on an incredible journey through Greece. We started in Athens, enjoying the Plaka, and of course the Acropolis, for some stunning views over the city. We then set off to the seaside town of Napflion with its gorgeous shopping streets and hillside houses. From there, we headed through the Peloponnese Mountains to Olympia to visit the ancient site of the Olympics. Here we also experienced a traditional Greek cooking class, paired with some wine and dancing! There was no better way to end our time in Greece then to discover the island of Mykonos, exploring the shore front, Little Venice and enjoying the sunset.

Contact Clare at the Semaphore Branch
8449 7333 / clareo@pht.com.au



JOANNE PENSON
EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE

In April I was lucky enough to join six colleagues from Phil Hoffmann Travel as we experienced a European river cruise with APT from Budapest in Hungary to Nuremberg in Germany. The eight-day trip certainly opened my eyes to the enjoyable type of immersive cruising APT offer. Every day we arrived in a different port, each one providing a range of cultural, social and educational experiences. In addition to the luxurious 5-star lifestyle of the Concerto Class cruise, other highlights offered included lunch on The Royal Empress Train in Budapest, a superb wine tasting experience in historic Dürnstein and a wonderful recital by the Mozart Boys' Choir in Vienna. I would highly recommend this unique and unforgettable experience.

Contact Joanne at the Hyde Park Branch
8272 2166 / joannep@pht.com.au

Live Free

APT

LUXURY TRAVEL



Canada & Alaska 2020

PANORAMIC ROCKIES & ALASKA CRUISE 23 days Victoria to Vancouver

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Enjoy breathtaking scenery on a two-day Rocky Mountaineer rail journey in GoldLeaf Service • Guaranteed Lakeview Room at Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise • Spot bears on a Blue River Safari • Meet a Mountie in Banff • Visit The Butchart Gardens before hours and enjoy breakfast • 7-night Inside Passage cruise in a guaranteed verandah featuring Glacier Bay National Park.

PHT EXCLUSIVE: FlyOver Canada experience, 3 night stay in Banff, Airport lounge access in VancouverTM.

Departs: 29 May; 12 Jun; 7 Aug, 4 Sep 2020

From \$16,745* pp twin share



COMPANION FLY FREE INC TAXES*

CANADA: Offers are valid until 30 Nov 2019, unless sold out prior. SEE: aptouring.com.au/SpecialDeals for full conditions. Prices are per person (pp), A.I.D, twin share and includes port charges. Prices are correct as at 28 Jun 2019. Prices based on UT23PHT 4 September 2020 departure. Companion Fly Free includes economy class airfare, including taxes and government charges up to the value of \$220 for one person when two passengers travel together on the same flights and APT tour. Once companion fly free is sold out, superdeal will revert to companion fly free must pay taxes. -Airport lounge access available on return flight only. A limited number of SuperDeal offers are available on all itineraries. Limited suites/staterooms/rooms on set departures and subject to availability. Offers may be withdrawn at any time. Only one SuperDeal Offer per person applies and cannot be combined with any other offer. Surcharges may apply if variations are made to airline routings. Airline schedules are subject to change without notice and APT is not liable for any additional costs incurred due to airline schedule changes. All air is ticketed upon receipt of the first deposit. Any changes made after ticketing may incur an amendment and/or cancellation fee and, in some cases, tickets are non-refundable. Air taxes vary for each departure point and routing of airline and are subject to change. Fuel surcharges are subject to change and an additional fuel surcharge may apply. Note that frequent flyer miles/points may not be awarded on all airfares. PHT FULLY ESCORTED: Based on minimum numbers for the tour to escort to travel from Adelaide. Booking conditions and the Phil Hoffmann Travel Schedule of Professionalism applies. E&OE

HO CHI MINH CITY

city stay guide



SEE & DO

Ho Chi Minh City is a thriving modern city and the economic powerhouse of the country. Beyond the bright neon lights and manic buzzing of millions of motorbikes, you can still experience the Vietnam of old, down its twisting alleyways and in the kind demeanour of the locals. Here you'll discover a hotchpotch of wide tree-lined boulevards, grand French colonial architecture, contemporary glass skyscrapers, pastel-coloured low rises and enchanting Chinese heritage buildings.



STAY & PLAY

After a busy day exploring the Reunification Palace – likened to a time capsule frozen in 1975, the Notre Dame Cathedral and the beautiful Central Post Office building, you'll need somewhere to return where you can rest and rejuvenate. Opened in 1959, Caravelle Hotel is the leading 5-star hotel in Ho Chi Minh, combining French and Vietnamese architecture. One of the city's most iconic hotels, Rex Hotel Saigon is a charming colonial style 4-star hotel located a 15-minute walk away from the moving War Remnants Museum. The Hotel Nikko Saigon is a 5-star luxury hotel that offers an oasis of calm in the busy city.



EAT & DRINK

Vietnam is a foodie's heaven! Blessed with restaurants serving a combination of Chinese, French and local Vietnamese cuisine, there are no shortage of fabulous dining options. Quan An Ngon in District 1 is popular with expats and locals alike and the perfect place to try local cuisine. Lemongrass is a fine dining restaurant serving delectable Vietnamese dishes presented with French Flair. La Cuisine is unashamedly classic French cuisine, serving many traditional dishes. Housing lively street bars and pubs, cheap eats, live music and a causal ambience, Pham Ngu Lao Street is a popular place to enjoy nightlife and local street food.



SHOP

Wander along the city's historic Dong Khoi Street, home to many of the finest French colonial buildings and fashion boutiques. Buy local handicrafts, art and souvenirs at the bustling Ben Thanh Market. For an authentic experience of the sights, sounds and smells of a local market, visit the vibrant Binh Tay Market in Chinatown. The luxurious Vincom Center is Ho Chi Minh's largest shopping mall with over 250 shops selling high street brands, homewares and clothing from international fashion houses. Saigon Square is a two-storey wholesale fashion mall that is perfect for bargain hunters. Despite price tags on most items, be prepared to haggle!



fall in love with IRELAND

Ireland is a leprechaun-sized country with an enviable reputation. Across the globe, the Emerald isle is famous for its impossibly beautiful evergreen landscapes dotted with churches and black sheep, lyrical pubs brimming with hospitality, a drink called Guinness that is good for you and cities that celebrate oysters, music and beautiful crystal. The Irish are renowned for their welcome. ‘Cead mile failte’ in English means ‘a hundred thousand welcomes’. Come to Ireland.

While there’s no shortage of quaint villages, picturesque towns and breathtaking landscapes, Ireland is as popular for its spectacular scenery as it is for its friendly locals and entertaining pub culture. The local is a great place to experience authentic Irish hospitality and great craic with traditional music, dancing and food.

Dublin is an ancient city rich with history and bursting with personality. Cutting through the heart of the city is the River Liffey. Water from the river was once a vital ingredient in Guinness. Today, Ireland’s number one tourist attraction is the Guinness Storehouse. Discover the Dublin of yesteryear with its many well-

preserved old buildings. Trinity College is Ireland’s premier university and its prime attraction is the magnificent Book of Kells – an illuminated manuscript created by monks around 800 AD.

Lively Galway is an arty, bohemian city and cultural centre with a high student population. Originally formed from a small fishing village, in 1232 it became a walled medieval town after being captured by the Anglo Normans. Some sections of this wall can still be seen today. It’s also one of the few Irish cities where you will hear Irish spoken on the streets.

Explore the impressive mountains, scenic lakes and expansive grasslands, woodlands, heaths and bogs of the Connemara National Park. Visit Ireland’s most romantic castle, the magnificent Kylemore Abbey and learn about its fascinating history.

Burren National Park is a rocky, barren and windswept area made up of limestone plateau. It features evidence of life 5,000 years ago with many megalithic tombs. Breathtaking at any time of year, the dramatic Cliffs of Moher in County Clare are Ireland’s most visited natural attraction, stretching along the Atlantic Coast. Visit the nearby village of Doolin, a charming little place where you can enjoy a pint of Guinness and some traditional Irish music.

County Kerry is a beautiful region steeped in myth and legend. Within it lays the town of Killarney - gateway to the scenic Ring of Kerry – sitting at the edge of the stunning Killarney National Park. The Ring of Kerry



is one of the most beautiful areas in Ireland, and a photographer's paradise. The winding drive features imposing mountains dotted with farmhouses, untouched coastline, colourful fishing villages and ancient stone forts, ogham stones and standing stones.

Drive around the spectacular Dingle Peninsula to the picturesque fishing town of Dingle, and witness typically Irish landscape of outstanding natural beauty, with a patchwork of rolling green hills, ocean-battered cliffs and quaint harbours.

In County Limerick you'll find the picture-perfect village of Adare. With centuries old thatched cottages, medieval monasteries and ruins, and the magnificent Adare Manor – a 19th century manor house on the banks of the River Maigue.

Blarney Castle in County Cork is one of Ireland's most visited castles, dating back to the 15th century. Famous for the Blarney Stone, legend says that if you kiss this stone, you will be blessed with the gift of eternal eloquence. The views from the top of the castle are spectacular. County Cork is also home to the picture-postcard pretty harbour town of Kinsale, with delightful scenery and its undisputed role as the foodie capital of Ireland.

Dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries, the Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary is a collection of formidable medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone, with picturesque views out over the countryside. For lovers of Waterford Crystal, a visit to County Waterford and a tour of the famous glass factory is a must.

Contact Phil Hoffmann Travel to find out how you can discover Ireland.



INSIDER'S GUIDE: **OUR FAVOURITE HOTELS**

PHT staff reveal their favourite hotels
around the world.



HEAD OF MARKETING
MICHELLE MICKAN

The Chedi
Muscat, Oman

Rising up like a garden oasis amidst the majestic Al Hajar Mountains and the serene waters of the Gulf of Oman, The Chedi is a stunning property offering true luxury in Arabia. The elegant “Asian-Zen” atmosphere takes your breath away with its understated beauty. A 5-star beachfront hotel, it's located just 15 minutes from Muscat International Airport. Everything about The Chedi is spectacular, from the spacious rooms to the service, the gardens, the spa – but the highlight is the gorgeous 103-metre long pool.

BRANCH MANAGER
GEORGINA NUNN

The Westin Kuala Lumpur
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Located right in the middle of Kuala Lumpur's bustling Golden Triangle, this 5-star hotel has everything you need right at its doorstep. There's access to shopping malls and the city's vibrant nightlife as well as KLCC Park and the business district. The highlight for me though was the breakfast. By far the best breakfast buffet I have ever seen, this gastronomic extravaganza is spread across five rooms. With an enormous choice, you won't leave hungry.



MANAGING DIRECTOR
PHIL HOFFMANN

The Fairmont Peace Hotel
Shanghai, China

Popular with dignitaries and celebrities, this beautiful, iconic hotel provides unbelievable service - from the moment they collect you from the airport, throughout your stay to when you leave. The staff go well beyond expectation and make the experience next level with their attention to detail. Head to the balcony with a cocktail at 7pm when the spectacular lights of the Bund come on or listen to one of the oldest jazz bands in the world in the Jazz Bar.





RECEPTIONIST
MICHELE DAVY

Hougoumont Hotel Fremantle, Western Australia

Hougoumont is a delightful minimalist, boutique hotel purpose built using innovative sea container construction that makes it unique. Situated in an excellent location in the heart of Fremantle, it's an easy walk from the train station but off the main street so it's nice and quiet. They offer unlimited complimentary fruit and bottled water in the Lobby Lounge and complimentary wine and a generous platter of hors d'oeuvres are available between 5pm and 6pm every night.

TRAVEL & CRUISE CONSULTANT
CALLIOPE ZACHAROYANNIS

Hotel Grande Bretagne Athens, Greece

From the moment you enter the spectacular lobby, it's like stepping back in time as you find yourself surrounded by neoclassical elegance. An oasis from the summer heat and buzz of Athens, the location is second to none. Situated in Syntagma Square, it's next door to the parliament with the popular Evzones, known fondly as the pompom men. Breakfast on the rooftop garden overlooking the Parthenon, as it greets another day in its ancient existence, is a truly special experience.



ASSISTANT MANAGER
JACKIE POOL

The Rubens at the Palace London, England

Overlooking Buckingham Palace, this hotel has the traditional English service you would expect from a luxury hotel in London. A 5-star boutique hotel that is part of the Red Carnation group of hotels, it's in a prime location with rooms that look over the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace. Every room is decorated differently with elegant and worldly furnishings. Their impeccable service standards mean you're warmly greeted by the doorman and welcomed back into the hotel after a day of sightseeing.

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER
DARIAN FOOT

Courtyard Anaheim ThemePark Entrance California, USA

Only a few years old, this hotel is a 5-minute walk to the entry point of Disneyland and California Adventure Park, and is a good, value-for-money 4-star plus hotel. The Starbucks in the lobby is extremely convenient for a quick morning breakfast. There's a water park consisting of two water slides and a heap of water activities, keeping the young and young at heart refreshed after a big day. Lead in rooms have 2 double beds and 2 bunks – great for large families.



AMAZING ALASKA

The largest state in the United States of America, everything Alaska does is in epic proportions. With glaciers bigger than some US states, and national parks larger than whole nations, raw, untouched wilderness is Alaska's best attraction.

A Russian colony from 1744 until it was bought by the USA in 1867 for a price of \$7.2 million or 2 cents per acre, Alaska was considered a territory until it became the 49th state of the USA in 1959. However its real history dates back much further, to the Upper Paleolithic period (around 14,000BC), then population by Alaska Native groups.

Home to spectacular glaciers, bubbling hot springs, desolate ice fields and the tallest mountain in North America - Alaska is a nature lover's delight. Explore the state's many national parks, look for bears, or watch the northern lights ripple across the night sky. At any time of year, a trip to Alaska offers some of the most unforgettable experiences.



DENALI

Once known as Mount McKinley, Denali, meaning "the great one", is North America's highest peak at 6,168-metres high and visible from hundreds of miles away. Majestic Denali towers over Denali National Park, where wild moose, bears, wolves and other northern animals roam. From here you can take a Dog Sledding and Kennel Tour – a highlight for all who do it – and where you'll meet real Iditarod mushers and their champion dogs.



SKAGWAY

A once booming but lawless frontier town during the Klondike Gold Rush, echoes of Skagway's mining past can be found all over the fascinating town. History buffs can visit the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park or ride a train on the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad.

JUNEAU

Juneau first came into prominence when in 1880 prospectors, Joe Juneau and Richard Harris came across gold nuggets the size of beans. Now the capital of Alaska, Juneau today is best known for its spectacular glaciers and breathtaking views of mountains and water. Take a flightseeing tour over the massive Juneau Icefield for unforgettable. Observe frolicking whales between April and November or from late June to October, witness the incredible salmon run.

KETCHIKAN

Known for its strong Native heritage, you can see the world's oldest collection of totem poles at the Totem Heritage Centre or experience the rich living culture of the Tlingit's as they welcome you into their village at the Saxman Native Village.

GLACIER BAY AND THE INSIDE PASSAGE

Above everything else Alaska has to offer, the real reason most people travel here is to experience the pristine beauty of the glacier strewn Glacier Bay National Park and Inside Passage. Enjoy an in-depth exploration of Mother Nature at her best with close-up views of the dramatic scenery, abundant wildlife and calving glaciers



encompassed in the steep and narrow Tracy Arm Fjord, extending over 30 miles long with nearly a quarter of the area covered in ice. Glacier Bay encompasses some of the world's most amazing scenery and wilderness, with snow-capped mountains, emerald green forests, spectacular glaciers and visible wildlife in its element in this pristine environment.

To tick Alaska off your bucket list, contact your nearest Phil Hoffmann Travel branch.

ANCHORAGE

Anchorage is Alaska's largest city and a modern city surrounded by spectacular wilderness. Visitors can learn about the natural history and the Native Alaskan culture in the Alaska Native Heritage Centre and the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. Climb 2,300 feet above sea level in the Mt Alyeska Tram to a viewing deck with sprawling views of hanging glaciers, towering mountains, expanses of evergreen and glistening streams. Portage Glacier, a giant wall of ice, is one of Alaska's most popular attractions while Prince William Sound boasts more tidewater glaciers than anywhere else in North America.

KENAI

From Anchorage, it's an easy trip to the Kenai Peninsula, nicknamed "Alaska's playground". A haven for outdoor activities such as fishing, gold panning and hiking, this region boasts breathtaking scenery. The town of Seward is also the location of Mile 0 of the historic Iditarod Trail. Famous Kenai Fjords National Park is home to Harding Icefield, Exit Glacier, Bear Glacier and other stunning natural sights.

TIMELESS TURKEY



A melting pot that includes influences by the Romans, the Greeks, the Arabs and the Persians, in Turkey you'll discover an intriguing blend of cultures that in combination, make it one of the most fascinating country's in the world.



Sitting in a unique geographic location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, from the Mediterranean coastline of the south, to the mountainous region of the east, Turkey is bound by the Black Sea in the north while merging with Greece and Bulgaria in the west.

Turkey is a potent combination of living history, natural wonders, world-class beaches and mouth-watering cuisine. A rich and tumultuous history has left countless battlegrounds, neoclassical ruins, ancient treasures, and stunning churches and mosques to be explored. Its coastal landscapes offer a formidable blend of pine-clad mountains and warm azure seas while its gastronomic traditions make it one of the world's culinary heavyweights. What's more, the people are friendly and welcoming, particularly to Australian's.

The generous exchange rate makes Turkey one of Europe's best value holiday options and cements Turkey's long-held position as a hot spot to travel. The world's largest open-air museum, Turkey is a landscape dotted with memories of some of history's most significant moments. From the ruins of Homer's legendary city of Troy to the impressive ruins of Ephesus, the vibrant city of Istanbul to the capital of Ankara, ancient Turkey is as old as the soul and deserves to be savoured without hurry.

The magical beauty of Cappadocia, with its fairy chimneys, underground cities and unique moonscape set in the stark Anatolian plains is topped only by an awe-inspiring balloon ride over this remarkable landscape. Full of otherworldly natural sites, Bronze Age homes are carved into valley walls which were later used by early Christians seeking refuge.

Famous for its brilliantly white calcite terraces overrunning with hot, milky-blue waters, the dramatic travertines of Pamukkale are a must-see if visiting Turkey. Also known as Cotton Castle, the spectacular hot springs were discovered in ancient times and can still be experienced today, though these days, they've limited the pools you can only dip your feet in, rather than bathe in, to aid in preserving these unique structures. Visit the nearby Archaeological Museum and the Roman ruins of Hierapolis where you can enjoy a dip in the warm waters of the Antique Pool, complete with marble columns and plinths.



A beautiful resort destination, Antalya is also a gateway to the southern Mediterranean region known as the Turquoise Coast, aptly named for the glittering turquoise coloured waters that gently lap against the coastline. Hadrian's Gates were built into the city walls of Antalya after Emperor Hadrian's visit in 130AD. The areas surrounding Antalya contain some incredible historic sites including the ancient city of Demre. Fascinating rock-hewn Lycian tombs carved into the cliffs here are called the ruins of Roman Myra, which also feature a well-preserved theatre.

Demre is also home to the original Father Christmas – a 4th century Bishop called St Nicholas who lived and worked in the town. His legendary good deeds earned him his Sainthood and the story of Santa Claus was born. Day trips to the east of Antalya include Perge, once inhabited by Hittites around 1500BC and offering an impressive snapshot of the past. Nearby Aspendos is home to the best-preserved Roman theatre on the Mediterranean that is still used today.

The achingly beautiful coastal towns of Fethiye, Kaş, Ölüdeniz and Bodrum are perfect for relaxing, fishing, diving and cooling off in

the pristine waters of the Mediterranean Sea. Indulge in a traditional Gulet cruise along the coastline, calling in on secluded bays and beaches or hike through the ghost village of Kayakoy. Located between Marmaris and Fethiye is the quaint, laid-back town of Dalyan, popular with tourists for its tranquil waterways and the impressive Kings' Tombs of ancient Kaunos, hewn into the cliffs. They are particularly magnificent as the sun sets across them, casting off a golden glow as they reflect perfectly in the still water of the river below.

For Australian's, Gallipoli is particularly significant as a place where one reflects on sacrifices made many years ago. A visit to the Gallipoli Peninsula is a visit to the scene of one of the bloodiest campaigns in World War I, in which the Anzac soldiers laid down their lives. You can't help but be moved as you stand there and imagine what those young men went through as they fought for the freedom we now enjoy. Lone Pine Cemetery, Johnston's Jolly (trenches and tunnels), The Nek and Ariburnu Memorial are all sites as important to visit as Anzac Cove with a tour being the best way to get a full understanding of what happened on that fateful day in 1915.



Most day tours to Gallipoli will also include a visit to the ancient city of Troy - home to the Trojan horse and the legendary story of Achilles as told by Homer. A fascinating place with a 4,000-year history, archaeologists have not only revealed layers of ancient cities, but excavations and research have led to the discovery that the region has been inhabited for 8,000 years or so.

Perhaps one of Turkey's most popular attractions are the impressive ruins of Ephesus, located near the historical city of Selçuk. Formerly an ancient Greek city on the coast of Ionia, Ephesus's settlement history can be traced back as far as the seventh millennium BCE. Excavations and conservation over the past 150 years have revealed grand monuments of the Roman Imperial period lining the old processional way through the ancient city including the splendid façade of the Library of Celsus and the colonnaded Arcadian Way. You can almost imagine togacled Romans strolling the streets and hear the clapping of horse hooves on the marble ground as you breathe in the history of this magical place. Little remains of the famous Temple of Artemis, which drew pilgrims from all around the Mediterranean until this was eclipsed by the Christian pilgrimage to the Church of Mary and the Basilica of St. John, which stands over the believed burial site of John the Apostle, both located in Ephesus.

No visit to Turkey is complete without a visit to one of its many bazaars, markets or carpet shops. The most popular is Istanbul's Grand Bazaar, perfect for picking up a souvenir or two including spices, jewellery, Turkish delight, coffee, kilims and carpets, leather items and more – all under the one roof.

While the heat in the peak of summer can be challenging in some parts of Turkey, its geographical location means its climatic conditions are quite temperate, enjoying average temperatures in the low to mid 20s. Having said that, the mountain and central regions can reach minus temperatures, with snow fall in winter not uncommon.



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MEET UNIWORLD'S GUIDING VISIONARY BEA TOLLMAN

A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE AND HOSPITALITY

Bea Tollman, founder of Uniworld's sister brand, Red Carnation Hotels, has brought passion, poise and personalisation into everything she does, including Uniworld's very own boutique river cruise collection. Her personal touches can be found in every aspect of your river cruise experience - from the distinct design schemes of their ships to the recipes you'll enjoy onboard, as well as the genuine concern and attentiveness you'll receive from the staff and crew.

While each of Uniworld's ships is unique, what guests delight in most is constant - the spirit of hospitality with which they are welcomed onboard, from the time they're welcomed at the airport until the moment they disembark, taking with them memories of a lifetime.

To truly understand that spirit - and what makes a Uniworld cruise so special - you need to meet Bea Tollman, the creative mind behind Uniworld's one-of-a-kind floating boutique hotel experience. Her story is sure to inspire, and just like her food, is always better when shared.

IT MUST BE DELICIOUS

Bea's hands-on approach and attention to detail took root in the kitchen. Her culinary career was founded on a temporary solution. She remarks, "The idea was that I would help my husband out at the beginning with his first hotel before going on to teach, but I ended up staying in the kitchen for 15 years."

And it's no wonder! Bea's food dazzled the guests. With each passing dinner service, Bea watched patrons finish their meals with a smile. On asking to speak to the chef, they'd learn that the culinary feats and epicurean delights came from none other than a self-taught 22-year-old woman. Bea began to revel in the world of fine dining, and as the hotels grew, so did her number of recipes and her love for the industry. Since then, her food has become a cornerstone of Red Carnation Hotels and Uniworld River Cruises alike.

"I have learnt much along the way, but one particularly important golden rule is to always seek out the freshest seasonal ingredients, no matter where you are," says Bea.

You can choose a ship to match your personality, an itinerary to reflect your travel style or a combination of both on your Uniworld river cruise. Plus, take advantage of the most all-inclusive luxury river cruise line offer for voyages in 2020.

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Photo Credit James Taylor

Queen Elizabeth will return to Australia for an unparalleled 118 days over the 2020-21 summer, headlining Cunard's biggest ever Australian season.

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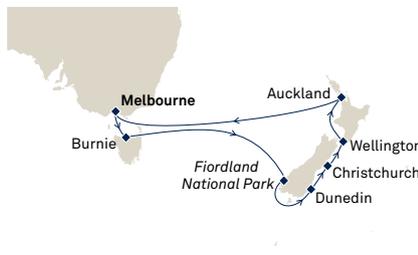
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14 nights

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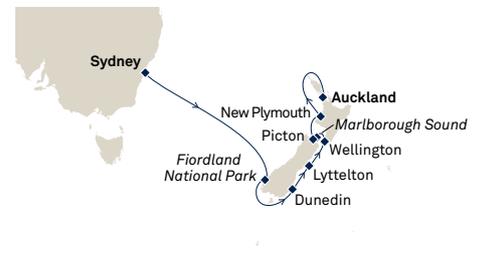
\$3,999

per person twin share*

QUEEN ELIZABETH

New Zealand
12 nights

15 - 27 Jan 2021 ♦ Q104



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\$3,699

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VOYAGER OF THE SEAS

A NEW WAVE OF THRILLS

Adventures in the South Pacific will take on a whole new meaning with the highly anticipated arrival of Voyager of the Seas this summer. Royal Caribbean International has revealed a USD\$97 million new look with a line-up of features for the region's debut amplified ship. Beginning October 21, the ship will set sail on a series of 3- to 5-night Southeast Asia itineraries, followed by a season down under with 9- to 12-night South Pacific cruises from Sydney, starting on November 30.

"We're thrilled to welcome Voyager back to Sydney where holidaymakers can step onboard for a holiday of a lifetime with its new bold adventures and exhilarating features. From pulse-raising adventures down The Perfect Storm or going head to head at Battle for Planet Z laser tag – both firsts for the Australian market – to unwinding in the brand new Vitality Spa, Voyager of the Seas offers unforgettable experiences for the whole family," says Susan Bonner, Managing Director for Royal Caribbean International Australia and New Zealand.

The Perfect Storm waterslides duo – Typhoon and Cyclone – raise the stakes with three-stories of heart-pumping twists and turns. The can't-miss attraction joins returning favourites, including the FlowRider surf simulator, rock-climbing wall and mini-golf.

Making its debut on Voyager of the Seas, Battle for Planet Z laser tag has quickly become a staple on Royal Caribbean ships. The glow-in-the-dark adventure in Studio B takes place in a universe of the distant future as two groups of thrill seekers – aliens and robots – go head to head to claim the last planet of a far-flung galaxy.

Younger guests, from babies to teens, will enjoy a top-to-bottom redesign of their dedicated spaces. A fresh take on the award-winning Adventure Ocean, for kids of 3 to 12 years old, brings a modern, free-play approach to a new, open layout. A first on Voyager, a nursery for babies and tots will open its doors, while 3- to 5-year-olds have an area created just for them. Teens are in for an exclusive, updated hangout along with the addition of a laidback outdoor deck.

Holidaymakers looking to relax and recharge are in for a treat at the Vitality Spa and Fitness Centre. Enhanced and relocated to the aft of the ship, guests who opt to cool down poolside can look forward to a refreshed Solarium for all-day, adults-only tranquil vibes.

More highlights include 72 new interior and balcony staterooms, a Suite Lounge and outdoor area – exclusively for guests in Grand Suites and above; and the Diamond Lounge for members of Royal Caribbean's Crown & Anchor Society loyalty program. The reimagined ship will also feature the new Royal Caribbean mobile app where travellers can check in for their cruise holiday, and once on board, explore and plan daily activities, view onboard expenses, and more.

Voyager of the Seas will be the fourth ship reimagined as part of the Royal Amplified fleet modernisation effort built on research and guest feedback. The cruise line's investment of more than \$1 billion spans 10 ships in four years and touches every facet of the guest experience.





ADVENTURE
WORLD
TRAVEL

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF INCAS

No one is immune to the ancient beauty of Peru's most famous ruins. But, as Alison O'Loughlin discovers, there's more than one way to explore **MACHU PICCHU**.

Untouched for centuries, this is a mountain shrouded in mystery. Machu Picchu is one of the world's most recognisable landmarks – the remnants of a lost civilisation – and it's certainly towards the top of most people's travel bucket lists.

It's difficult to miss the Inca legacy when you're visiting Peru. From bright yellow Inca Cola, the Peruvian soft drink of choice, to the ancient agricultural terraces and huge stone structures carved into the side of lush mountains, this civilisation left behind a lasting impression. None of the remnants, however, are as distinctive as Machu Picchu. To this day, archaeologists and historians are still uncovering much of the detail of the rituals and day-to-day existence of the Incas, but this mountain citadel is far more accessible than you might have imagined.

I knew you could trek the Inca Trail and spend four days crossing mountain passes, traipsing through the Sacred Valley of the Incas, and camping by the Urubamba River, which winds its way through the valley. It sounds idyllic –

like a rite of passage for anyone possessed of an intrepid spirit. But my journey to Machu Picchu wouldn't be retracing the footsteps of the Incas. Instead it would begin in the quaint town of Ollantaytambo, where we would board a train to transport us on a picturesque 90-minute rail journey.

Located within the embrace of the Sacred Valley, Ollantaytambo is not only a gateway to travellers on their way to Machu Picchu, but also has its own Inca legacy. Originally a royal estate, the town has some of the oldest continuously occupied dwellings in South America. Tumbling terraces, elaborate waterworks and impressive storehouses cling to the side of the steep hills, which were used as a defence against Spanish attacks from Cusco.

The town seems to doze in the late afternoon sun. Long shadows are cast across vast stone structures running up the mountainside. From the top of the terraces, the vista is amazing, with the modern town stretching out across the valley floor. The railway line to Machu Picchu snakes alongside the Urubamba River, disappearing into the mountains in the distance.

At sunrise the next day, the train station looks as though it would be more at home at Disneyland than here in the valley. We join a small crowd milling about the platform and gathering proof of their journey as they pose for smartphone photos in front of the blue and gold livery of the Vistadome trains. The journey, when we begin, is smooth, the only interruption coming from the smiling Peru Rail attendants



who deliver a morning snack of sandwiches and coca tea to our seats.

In no time we arrive in Aguas Calientes. Souvenir vendors selling alpaca wool beanies and beautiful silver jewellery uncover their wares and chat among themselves as we cross the footbridge over a bubbling stream. As a coach takes us the final kilometres up the mountain to Machu Picchu, I try to catch a glimpse of the mountain hiding the citadel.

Inside the entrance gate, we follow our guide Celina along a stone path, pausing when she stops to chat about the history of the Incas and their legacy. "I first came here in 1979 with my father, who was an historian," she says with great pride. "Since then I have been here more than 40 times, and each time it has been different."

We finally round the bend of the path that brings us face to face with the main attraction, and it is breathtaking. Terraces stretch up into low cloud hovering around the mountain peak behind us. In the distance, we spy the Sun Gate, where weary travellers emerge from their four-day trek. It seems astonishing these ruins were only rediscovered by Hiram Bingham in 1911. Until then they'd been surrounded by thick cloud forest and were known to only a handful of locals living in a nearby valley. In the years since, restoration work has attempted to return the site to its original condition.

As we sit and take in the vista, people the size of ants scale the ancient stone stairs of Huayna Picchu, which means 'young peak' in the Quechua language. Only 400 people each day are allowed to ascend the towering peak, but we decide the view from where we sit is spectacular anyway. As we stare, llamas wander in and out of people's photographs.

We explore the vast ruins, from the artisan workshops to the Temples of the Sun and Moon, as the shadows lengthen. As the area surrounding Machu Picchu is within a protected park, there's only one hotel on the site itself, the luxurious Sanctuary Lodge, which offers rooms with a view over the ruins and the chance to explore after the last bus has gone. All too soon, we have to begin the return journey to Ollantaytambo. Maybe next time.



DISCOVER MACHU PICCHU BY RAIL 6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS



DEPARTS Daily

TRAVEL STYLE Tailor-made

HIGHLIGHTS

- Take in the scenery of the Sacred Valley from the comfort of a train
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INCLUSIONS

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FROM AU\$2,209*

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HIGHLIGHTS

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INCLUSIONS

BONUS DINNER, FOLKLORIC SHOW & COOKING CLASS WORTH \$185PP

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DEPARTS Sundays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

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HIGHLIGHTS

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- One of the world's most famous treks

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Three nights camping and one night hotel accommodation, most meals, guide, kitchen crew, camping equipment, sleeping bags, portage and rail journey Aguas Calientes/Cusco.

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1 MARCH
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& PORTUGAL
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23 MARCH
EXPERIENCE
MOROCCO
18 DAYS • flights + tour
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5 MARCH
EXOTIC
ARABIA
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5 MARCH
OUTBACK
AND MILDURA
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3 MAY
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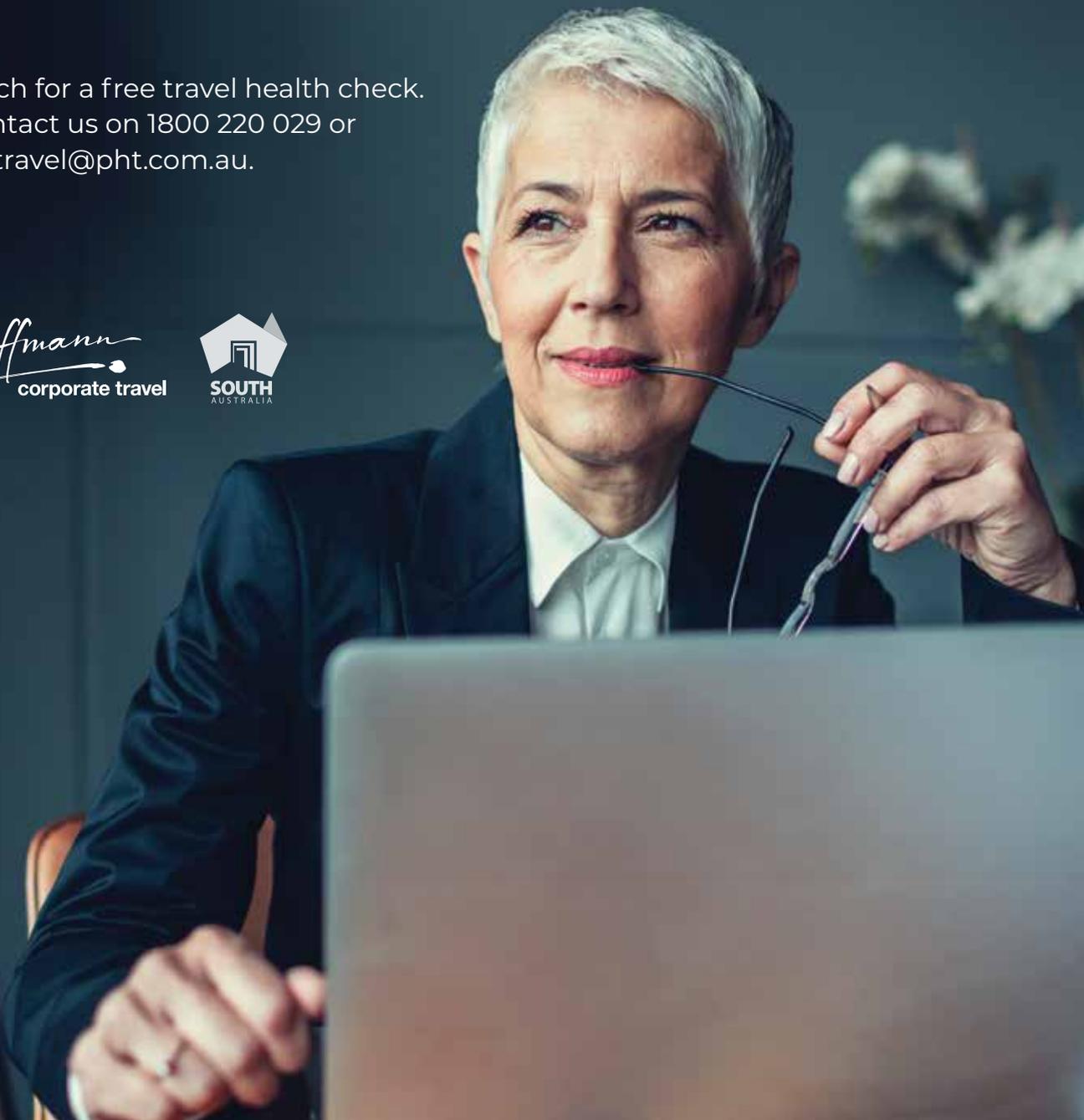
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THE ADRIATIC
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