

# Inspired.

Issue 38. March - May 2020



Travels that  
will have  
your heart  
racing

Find your  
perfect group  
adventure

Sail the icy  
seas of  
Norway

Meet Africa's  
Big Five  
on safari

Uncover the  
secrets of  
Ancient Egypt



**TravelManagers**  
As individual as you are

Where will your next adventure lead?

# Welcome to Inspired



It's the feeling you get when you're heading off on the back roads, when you're harnessed in and about to make the jump, or when you're on safari and up close with one of the Big Five. It's these heart racing moments and unforgettable experiences that keep us seeking new adventures.

In this issue of inspired we explore where your adventurous spirit can take you. From the natural wonders of Norway to wildlife encounters in India and South Africa, delving into the rich past of Egypt and Cambodia or ziplining in Costa Rica.

We hope these journeys inspire your next big adventure.

The TravelManagers Team

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**Adventurous. The way travel should be**  
Unique experiences from across the globe

Cover: Bengal tiger

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**We give you travel tools:**

With the TravelManagers app, you have access to your full itinerary at your fingertips, with features such as a currency converter, maps, weather, booking sightseeing tours, guides and more. Plus, it's an easy way to contact your personal travel manager while you're travelling.

Accreditation Scheme (ATAS) and Cruise Lines International Association Australasia (CLIA). Booking through a personal travel manager means your money is in safe hands, because all client funds must be deposited into an audited client trust account. Plus, TravelManagers' holds Trust Account Fidelity Risk Insurance for even great assurance.

**You're in reputable hands:**

TravelManagers Australia is a member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA), the International Air and Transport Association (IATA), AFTA Travel

**We're here for you:**

Your personal travel manager can come to your home or office, or meet you at a café if you prefer, to discuss your travel needs. Or if you'd rather, can discuss and arrange

everything by phone and email. And as no two trips are the same, if something unexpected happens while you're away, your personal travel manager is available after hours to help sort everything out.

If you'd like to discuss ideas for your next holiday adventure, contact your personal travel manager or search [travelmanagers.com.au/ptm-search](https://travelmanagers.com.au/ptm-search).

## Personal service at its finest

Whether you need to travel to the ends of the earth for business, want to trek in South America or cruise the Scandinavian fjords on a boutique small ship, your personal travel manager will save you time and take away the stress by planning and organising everything for you. Leaving you the only task of feeling reassured and excited about your journey.

**We have experience:**

With an average of 20 years' travel industry experience, each personal travel manager has a wealth of knowledge to provide you inspiration, guide you in your choices, and most importantly give you the right advice.

They use their extensive knowledge and personal travel experience to find accommodation that's right for you, on budget and where you want it to be. They'll recommend tours or cruises that deliver the experience you're after and then match the best connecting flights. They can also book you car hire, train tickets or attraction passes and so much more, for a complete itinerary. Plus, they know the terms and conditions to make sure you don't get

caught out like some people have when they've booked direct online.

**We know travel:**

As well as a wealth of travel experience, some personal travel managers also specialise in particular types of travel such as bespoke touring, small ship cruising, snow holidays, destination weddings or are specialists in a destination. Their specialities are listed on their website at [travelmanagers.com.au](https://travelmanagers.com.au).

**We have history:**

Part of the House of Travel Group, TravelManagers Australia Pty Ltd is a network of over 600 home-based mobile personal travel managers. Since first opening in New Zealand in 1986 and its arrival in Australia in 2007, House of Travel has grown into the largest independent travel company in Australasia.

**We'll save you time and money:**

We all know time is money, and when you realise how much time your personal travel manager will save you in researching and creating your bespoke itinerary, you'll

know you're already ahead. And as TravelManagers has strong relationships with hundreds of reputable airlines, wholesalers and tour operators across the world, your personal travel manager has access to very competitive rates and provides exceptional value. And importantly, as independent operators, personal travel managers will only recommend operators that they believe provide the right solution for you.



## Discovering your personal sense of adventure

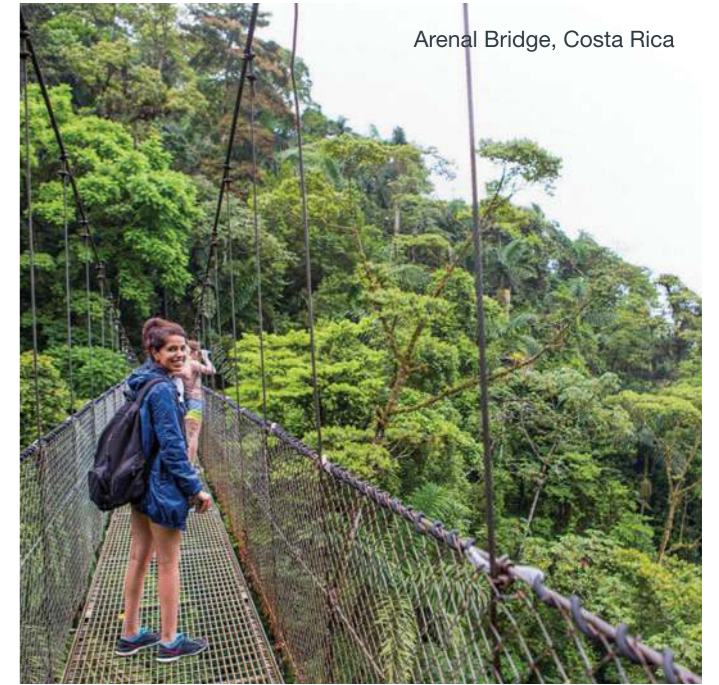


Tubing on the Celeste River, Costa Rica

Desert camel journey, Morocco



Arenal Bridge, Costa Rica



What does adventure look like to you? Is it breaking a sweat while cycling through sleepy Vietnamese villages? Or exploring the caves and beaches of Hong Kong's uninhabited islands in a kayak? Perhaps it's the idea of exploring the great ruins of Mexico's Chichen Itza. It could be sharing a home-cooked, traditional Croatian meal with new friends. Whatever it looks like, there's an adventure holiday to suit everyone. All you need to do is pick a destination.

### Water-based escapades

Maybe you feel that a holiday is incomplete without snorkelling, rafting, kayaking or canoeing in the mix. If so, Central America should be on your wish list. You could try white-water rafting down Pacuare River in Costa Rica in search of monkeys, toucans and jaguars, learn to surf in El Salvador at the beachside village of El Tunco or dive into the deep blue cenotes outside Tulum in Mexico. Wherever you choose, Central America is a haven for both outdoor adventurers and those that want to immerse themselves in the local culture.

### Adventures on two wheels

If you'd rather throw on a pair of lycra shorts instead of your swimmers, an adventure on two-wheels could be a great option for you. Ride through the highland tea plantations and lush green jungles of Sri Lanka, feast on delicious Vietnamese cuisine after conquering Hai Van (Ocean Cloud) Pass, or spend the night in a 400-year-old fort in Rajasthan. The beauty of a cycling adventure with Intrepid Travel is that you'll steer away from the busy

roads and bustling crowds, guided by expert locals who just happen to be expert cyclists. All you need to do is jump in the saddle, and you're in for a two-wheeled adventure you'll never forget.

### Taking the path less travelled

Every journey begins with a single step – and maybe your style of adventure involves hiking and trekking your way along some of the world's greatest trails. Watch the flamingos preen as you hike the windswept trails of Patagonia, marvel at the mist-shrouded peaks of the Inca Trail en route to Machu Picchu or hike the picturesque valley that leads to the Andean village of Chugchilan in Ecuador. Joining a guided hiking tour means you can focus on putting one foot in front of the other and enjoying the scenery.

### Adventures to the ice

There's something alluring and magical about the vast white expanses of the northern and southern extremes of our planet. An expedition cruise to the Arctic or Antarctica allows you the thrill of setting foot on some of the world's most remote terrain and witnessing brilliant natural phenomena. State of the art polar vessels mean you'll travel in much greater comfort than the early explorers, but experiences like exploring iceberg studded bays by Zodiac and coming face to face with a gentoo penguin still offer plenty of excitement.

### Adventures of the culinary kind

Adventure travel doesn't always have to be a high-octane experience: you can also satisfy your culinary curiosity by exploring the world on the basis of one plate at

a time. Bottle your own wine in Spain, embark on a quest for the perfect kebab in Istanbul or dust your hands with flour and learn how to make traditional pastries in Macedonia. Bon Appetit indeed.

### Adventures of all shapes and sizes

Over the past 31 years, Intrepid Travel has grown into the world's largest small-group adventure company. With rewarding experiences and big adventures in every corner of the world, the toughest part is choosing where to go! So, what are you waiting for? It's time for adventure, the Intrepid way.

For great deals on these and many more Intrepid adventures, visit [travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers](http://travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers) or ask your personal travel manager for details.



Ziplining in Monteverde, Costa Rica



## A tryst with Royal Bengal tigers

India is a fantastic destination for adventure travellers, offering a heady combination of rich heritage, colourful culture, exotic wildlife and amazing festivals. If you’re looking for an unforgettable wildlife encounter during your time here, tiger spotting is quite possibly the ultimate addition to your itinerary.

Royal Bengal tigers, also known as Indian tigers, make up for about half of all tigers in the wild. Despite their relatively large population, they are still considered to be

an endangered species, with a current population of about 2,500 tigers across India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. Thankfully, many conservation projects are in place, allowing you to visit them in the tropical rainforests, marshes and tall grasslands where they live.

One of the best ways to see this magnificent striped feline in the wild is by 4x4 jeep safari. The following are some of India’s finest national reserves and parks in which you’re likely to see the tigers in their natural habitat.

### Ranthambore National Park

Covering 1,334 square kilometres in northern India’s Rajasthan province, Ranthambore is one of the country’s largest and most famous national parks. As one of the best tiger reserves in the country, you’ll be spoiled with countless incredible action shots as the tigers play, sleep, run and bathe in the comfort of their natural home. The park is also home to leopards, sloth bears, hyenas, Indian foxes, jackals and crocodiles, and its three beautiful lakes are a popular spot to stake out, waiting for wildlife to congregate, drink and hunt.



for the barasingha, an endangered species of deer which is only found here.

### Tadoba National Park

Known as “The Jewel of Vidharba”, Tadoba National Park is located in the north-eastern part of the Indian state of Maharashtra. As well as tigers, you may be lucky enough to see chital, sambar, barking deer, chausinga, the gaur, nilgai, sloth bears, wild dogs, elusive hyenas, wild boars and leopards going about their daily business.

### Exploring the Indian Subcontinent

Travel Sapphire, established in 2004, is a young and dynamic destination management company that specialises in inbound travel, wildlife, business events travel, cruise holidays, and adventure tours within the Subcontinent (namely India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Tibet and Maldives). They offer a highly personalised service, and will work with you and your personal travel manager to create unique and adventurous holidays.

For Travel Sapphire deals, visit [travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers](https://travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers) or ask your personal travel manager for details.



### Bandhavgarh National Park

Keep your eyes peeled when you visit Bandhavgarh National Park - this wildlife sanctuary in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh is blessed with the highest density of tigers in the region. With a core area of over 100 square kilometres, the park is home to more than 50 tigers. You can also feast your eyes on a wide variety of deer in form of chital (spotted deer), sambar, barking deer, nilgai, four horned antelope, and other animals such as Indian bison, wild dog, leopard, blue bull, Indian fox and bear.

### Kanha National Park

As you move through the forests of picturesque Kanha National Park, it’s easy to picture yourself as a character in Rudyard Kipling’s, ‘The Jungle Book’: the park served as inspiration for the famous 19th century collection of stories. Today, you can have your own Jungle Book experience, watching as resident wildlife including tigers, chital, gaur, three-striped palm squirrel, common langur, jackal, striped hyena, leopard, mouse deer, chinkara and sambar deer stalk through the large, open meadows. Keep an eye out



# In search of the Northern Lights



Reindeer sledding at Camp Tamok, Tromsø, Norway

With some of the happiest locals in the world and stunningly unique natural wonders, Norway is a picturesque winter escape sure to delight and inspire. For those in search of the more adventurous side of this Scandinavian gem, a journey along its long, fjord-studded coastline during the icy, dark winter months is a must. Northern Norway is one of the best places in the world for those hoping to witness the luminous Aurora Borealis dancing in the sky, but there are plenty of other rewarding escapades to enjoy during a winter cruise here as well.

### Tromsø — “Gateway to the Arctic”

Located 400 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle, Tromsø is paradise for the adventurous traveller, particularly during winter. In fact, the city was the launch pad

for several notable Arctic expeditions, including some led by Roald Amundsen. Tromsø’s seemingly untouched wilderness offers the ultimate opportunity for a scenic husky-drawn sled ride or an invigorating snowshoe hike. On a clear evening between September and March, it is also the ideal vantage point for observing the mysterious Aurora Borealis swirling above you — an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

### Breathtaking Bergen

Once the capital city of Norway, Bergen was founded in 1070 AD and features countless historic sites including the medieval King Haakon’s Hall, Rosenkrantz Tower, a bustling fish market and the picturesque wooden buildings of Bryggen — a UNESCO World Heritage site.

For a bird’s-eye view of this spectacular city and its surrounding pristine fjords,

you can ascend Mt. Fløyen via funicular railway and gaze out from the summit, a toe-tingling 984 feet above sea level — or if you’re seeking an extra dose of adventure, you might prefer the excitement of a panoramic helicopter ride instead.

### The Magic of Narvik

Situated on the innermost shores of the Ofotfjorden, Narvik is a former Viking settlement which is encircled by mountains, fjords and glaciers in every direction. By day, you can speed across the Arctic tundra on an exciting snowmobile tour and by night you can refresh and recharge by sharing a delicious meal with a Sami family in their traditional lavvu. The icy town is home to the northernmost wildlife park in the world where you will get to see wolves, lynx, elk, reindeer, mountain foxes and badgers up close — a rare experience to see native creatures only seen in the arctic. Just past the outskirts of Narvik, you will be met with breathtaking scenery of the fjords and mountains surrounding Narvikfjellet ski resort, allowing you to enjoy the thrill of the wind in your face as you ski through the fresh, powdery slopes and absorb the stunning, crisp atmosphere that surrounds you.

### Explore Norway with the Experts

Viking’s founder, Torstein Hagen, hails from Norway, which is why the cruise line’s bespoke Scandinavian itineraries are so comprehensive. The company’s Nordic heritage is reflected almost everywhere you look on board its award-winning ships, and each itinerary is designed to help you explore and engage with each destination through its history, traditions, cuisine and customs. Plus, their fares include just about everything you could ever need — from onboard meals, beverages and Wi-Fi to a complimentary shore excursion in every port of call.

For a Norwegian winter in luxury with Viking Cruises, visit [travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers](http://travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers) or ask your personal travel manager for details.



View of the Northern Lights in Tromsø, Norway



Western Cape panorama with the Twelve Apostles

# Freeing your adventurous spirit in South Africa

You’re never far from your next adventure in South Africa. From raw wildlife moments to the world’s highest bridge bungee jump, the Rainbow Nation has so much to offer the thrill-seeking traveller.

## Wildlife and safari

Adventures of the ‘Big Five’ kind are a must-do for anyone fascinated by wildlife and animal conservation. Kruger National Park is the largest and most well-recognised of South Africa’s game parks, plus there are hundreds of game lodges right around the country, in every province, each catering to a range of travellers, budgets and interests. As well as early morning and late afternoon game drives, many lodges also offer walking safaris and even horseback adventure safaris.

## Active adventures

From hiking trails in Tsitsikamma National Park in the Eastern Cape to hot air ballooning near Sun City in the North West, excitement is always on the menu. Get your adrenaline pumping by rafting down the Orange River in the Northern Cape, abseiling down Oribi Gorge in

KwaZulu-Natal, or taking a running jump and paragliding off Cape Town’s famous Signal Hill.

## Sun-soaked coastal escapades

With over 2,700 kilometres of coastline, South Africa offers plenty of excitement both above and below the water. If you’re feeling daring, you can get up close and personal with a great white shark, separated by a shark cage of course. No less thrilling is the experience of being surrounded by hundreds of dolphins – plus a few Southern Right whales - off the coast of Port Elizabeth. At Boulders Beach, just outside Cape Town, you can check out the famous, and very cheeky, African penguins as they go about their daily routine.

## Surrounded by breathtaking scenery

Sometimes it’s the dramatic landscapes of South Africa that take your breath away, even when you’re sitting still. If you’re visiting Kruger National Park or Sabi Sands Game Reserve, add a couple of days to explore the magnificent Panorama Route and Blyde River Canyon Nature



Abseiling down Oribi Gorge, KwaZulu-Natal

Reserve. A side trip from Durban to the Drakensberg Mountains provides a chance to relax and reconnect with nature, and in Cape Town, a climb up Table Mountain is a must. Reward your efforts with a trip to the beautiful Cape Winelands region, including Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl, where adventures of the culinary variety await.

## Walk in the footsteps of an icon

Marvel at the inspiring story of Nelson Mandela as you follow his life, from his birthplace in the Eastern Cape to his former home in Soweto and the tiny prison cell he occupied on Robben Island off the coast of Cape Town. As you make your way through the corridors of Robben Island, you are transported to a time in South African history where the country reached a turning point. Standing in the prison cell that housed Nelson Mandela for so many years brings to heart the emotional story of the South African struggle for democracy and equality. A trip to Robben Island is a bittersweet experience but is a must do for anyone visiting Cape Town.

From luxury wine tours to adrenaline-filled safaris; from 3-course dinners with wine at \$35AUD per head to unique culinary experiences, South Africa is a fantastic



Soweto cycling tour

adventure holiday destination for couples, families and solo travellers alike. And with daily flights from Perth, six flights per week from Sydney to Johannesburg, and easy connections from all major Australian cities, this enriching destination is an easy trip away. So come and meet South Africa and experience a whole new adventure.

For the latest South Africa travel deals, visit [travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers](http://travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers) or ask your personal travel manager for details.



Hot air balloon ride, North West province

# A grand kiwi adventure



Milford Sound

There are few countries that do adventure travel quite like New Zealand. From tip to toe, the country is bursting with stunning natural scenery, adrenaline-filled activities, mouth-watering food and fascinating history and culture. So grab your walking shoes and get ready for a thrilling coach holiday adventure, taking you on an epic journey through some of New Zealand’s most exciting destinations.

### Stargazing amongst the fjords

Majestic Milford Sound in New Zealand’s South Island showcases some of nature’s best, with breathtaking fjords and dramatic mountain peaks; carved by glaciers during the ice ages and described as the ‘eighth

wonder of the world’. As you spend a night on board the Milford Mariner, you will cruise through the majestic scenery of Milford Sound with commentary by a specialist nature guide, taking in the fjord’s spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife, before marvelling at the stars when night falls.

### Rotorua: an adult’s playground

A tour through Rotorua will see you indulging in the fresh air and New Zealand’s striking natural beauty, with the option to descend into restorative mud pools where the discomfort of joint and muscle pain – and acne-prone skin – will wash away. The evening brings with it promises of enticing food and exceptional hospitality as you are served a delicious traditional hangi feast followed by an

enthraling Maori performance. And if you’re looking for a bit more excitement, then riding the luge – resembling a go-cart combined with a toboggan – is a great way to satisfy your need for speed.

### It was a hobbit-hole, and that meant comfort

“I’m going on an adventure!” Thus, spoke Bilbo Baggins as he set off from Hobbiton on his Unexpected Journey. Embark on your own Hobbit adventure where it all began, at the Hobbiton™ Movie Set in the North Island’s Waikato region. You won’t encounter any perilous dragons or light-fingered creatures named Gollum, but you will discover how this beautiful piece of farmland became The Shire from Middle Earth. As you enjoy a buffet lunch at the Green Dragon Inn, soak in your surroundings and you may just feel like you’ve been transported to another world.

### Natural beauty abounds

The top of New Zealand’s South Island offers so much for those who enjoy the outdoors, food and wine, and are keen to get off the main roads and experience some of New Zealand’s native wildlife and natural beauty. Test your nerves by crossing a simple swing bridge across Hokitika Gorge, look for rare Hector’s dolphins and other marine life on a nature harbour cruise from the historic French village, Akaroa, and experience life on the ice in the Antarctic Centre’s Storm Dome.

### Make it a grand adventure

Experience some of these adventures on selected Grand Pacific Tours coach holidays. As the New Zealand coach holiday specialist, they offer a comprehensive range of all-inclusive, great value coach holidays. Five styles of touring and a selection of itineraries to suit all budgets and interests ensure that your holiday will be filled with memories to last a lifetime.

For Grand Pacific Tours deals, visit [travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers](http://travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers) or ask your personal travel manager for details.



Rotorua geyser



Hokitika Gorge



Find your inner movie buff at the Hobbiton™ Movie Set



The Pyramids of Giza, Egypt

# Unearthing Egypt’s great treasures

With a history that needs no introduction, a wealth of architectural gems and stunning sandy beaches, Egypt has long welcomed Australian travellers eager to witness its grandeur: from the mighty Pyramids of Giza to the shimmering River Nile and the sprawling metropolis of Cairo. A trip to Egypt is more than just a holiday, it’s a journey over 5,000 years into the past.

## Exploring the Land of the Pharaohs

The Boy King Tutankhamun. The conqueror Ramses II. The formidable Queen Hatshepsut. Egyptian history is liberally scattered with famous figures, as is the country itself with many monuments and ruins dedicated to them. Egypt is unique in the sheer level of historical attractions on offer, and your time here can be as adventurous as you choose. See the Pyramids of Giza with a camel

as your chaperone, explore the tomb-strewn Valley of the Kings in Luxor, take a backstreets tour of Cairo, or follow in the footsteps of archaeologists at the Necropolis of Saqqara.

## Cruise through the Nile

As the longest river in Africa, the Nile is the lifeblood of the continent. No adventure to Egypt is complete without taking to this famous waterway aboard a traditional

felucca, a small wind-powered vessel which has sailed the Nile for hundreds of years. With swimming and sunbathing opportunities aplenty, sit back and relax as you take in Egypt’s riverside highlights, from small local villages to the impressive symmetrical temple of Kom Ombo.

## Adventure beneath the waves

Delving into thousands of years of history can be tiring work, so it’s a good job Egypt offers crystal clear waters and white sand beaches for travellers in search of a few days of relaxation after their adventure. The resort town of Hurghada is a hub for water-sports, and what better way to end your trip than learning to scuba dive or snorkelling along the wildlife-rich coral reef of Giftun Island?

## Abu Simbel Sun Festival

If you’re looking for something a little different, head to the majestic temples of Abu Simbel on the 22nd of February or October. The Abu Simbel Sun Festival celebrates the day of ascension and the birthday of King Ramses II. It’s marked by the perfect alignment of the rising sun with the temple’s inner sanctum, illuminating the entire site in a dazzling display. An early start is rewarded with a carnival atmosphere, as Egyptians and



travellers alike gather to watch this bi-annual event unfold.

## Getting to the heart of Ancient Egypt

With more than 20 years’ experience, On The Go Tours are specialists in operating guided group tours to Egypt. With a range of well-priced trips including tours for adventure-minded families, Abu Simbel Sun Festival departures and combination holidays with Jordan, Turkey and Israel,

On The Go Tours will work with your personal travel manager to find the perfect tour to match your budget and timeframe, allowing you to see Egypt in the way that suits you.

For On The Go Tours deals, visit [travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers](http://travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers) or ask your personal travel manager for details.



Luxor Temple





Angkor temple gala dinner

# Meandering on the Mekong



Oudong Temple, Cambodia

In Southeast Asia, water is life: a symbol of renewal and purification. The Mekong – meaning “mother of rivers” – is the spiritual and physical lifeline of the region. Meandering for 4,350 kilometres from Tibet to the South China Sea, the river supports more than 70 million inhabitants in six different countries – China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

From Cambodia to its sprawling delta, known to the Vietnamese people as Nine Dragons, is where river life is at its most intense, with 23.5 million people in the delta alone dependent on the trade and life-giving biodiversity that this vital artery sustains.

A river cruise along the lower reaches of the Mekong can be a life changing experience that reveals the vibrancy, colour and history of this fascinating destination.

## Stories of the past

Delve into Cambodia’s history and see the past through a new lens as you uncover the country’s fascinating yet poignant past. Just over 14km from the main city

you will find the killing fields of Choeung Ek, one of thousands of locations where the communist party killed 1.7 million Cambodians during the late 1970s. Sites such as Siam Reap’s Landmine Museum offers a broader view of the impact of war, educating visitors on the decades of conflict Cambodia has endured, and the lasting effects that still plague the country today.

## Gutsy culinary experiences

Vietnam and Cambodia are renowned for their cuisine, which focuses on the use of fresh ingredients, with flavours that dance on your tongue. Head down to one of the local food markets and go for gold – will you try fried white crickets? Duck embryo? Perhaps a simple pork and rice dish is more your style? Just let your taste buds lead the way. For a more educational cooking experience, try a hands-on Khmer cooking demonstration, where you’ll learn to prepare a variety of classic Cambodian dishes. Yum!

## Adventurous experiences amid exceptional landscapes

Natural wonders are always a treat but seeing the World Heritage listed majesty of Halong Bay is sure to take your breath

away. Its stunning turquoise waters and towering limestone karsts make for the perfect photo op, especially at sunrise and sunset. In contrast, the bustling activity in Tonle Sap and Cho Gao Canal puts you right in the middle of Cambodia and Vietnam’s fishing industries, where observing the busy scenes will give you a fascinating glimpse into the day-to-day life of the locals.

## Hull, hoof and wheel

It’s always a joy when the transport during your travels is just as much of an experience as the destination itself. From sailing through floating markets on a traditional sampan, taking an ox cart ride through a local village near Kampong Tralach to riding on a tuk tuk through the markets of Siem Reap, you’ll be wishing the distance from A to B was a little bit longer each and every time.

## A luxury river cruise to dazzle your senses

Make 2020 your year to experience the adventure and culture of Southeast Asia first-hand, on a Scenic five-star, all-inclusive, luxury river cruise. The boutique ships are designed to deliver the most indulgent, all-inclusive holiday, while introducing you to the diverse cultures, great food and, rich history and natural wonders of Vietnam. Complex and at times challenging, a visit to these tropical climes will enrich and intrigue, creating memories that will linger long after you have returned.



Angkor Wat, Cambodia

For Scenic river cruise deals, visit [travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers](https://travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers) or ask your personal travel manager for details.



Waikiki Beach, Honolulu

# Chasing the Hawaiian sunset

The spirit and soul of Hawaiʻi can be felt as soon as you touch down in this island paradise. Cruise through the vibrant blue waters as you set out to explore the culture, sights and local flavours of its unique ports including Honolulu (Oʻahu), Kahului (Maui), Hilo (Big Island), Kona (Big Island) and Nāwiliwili (Kauaʻi).



A traditional Lūʻau, Maui

With so much to see and do, there's plenty to ignite your sense of adventure. Sink your toes in a black-sand beach before a trek to the top of Haleakalā – Maui's massive volcano. Take a road trip along the scenic Hana Highway with its thrilling cliffs and waterfalls, and as the sun sets, prepare for unforgettable stargazing well past midnight.

## Honolulu, Oʻahu

The big, blue Pacific and stunning Koʻolau mountains serve as a dramatic setting for Hawaiʻi's largest city. Hike up Diamond Head for spectacular views of the island, or learn about the history of Pearl Harbour in a tour of USS *Arizona* and USS *Missouri*. The Waikiki neighbourhood, famous for its iconic crescent, palm-lined beach, is the hotspot for dining, nightlife and shopping.

## Kahului, Maui

A surplus of natural beauty and the genuine hospitality of its people have cemented Maui as Hawaiʻi's second most popular island. Play one of the world's most beautiful golf courses or plant yourself on a pristine beach and delight in

the breathtaking sight of whales breaching offshore. Put on your swimmers and hop aboard a catamaran to Molokini crater, one of the top ten snorkel sites in the world and home to more than 250 species of fish.

## Hilo, Big Island

The entire city of Hilo is like one giant greenhouse with spectacular tropical flowers at every turn. Drive the 18-kilometre rim of Kilauea Volcano and marvel at the dramatic lava formations of Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park; or stroll through Liliuokalani Gardens, the largest ornamental Japanese garden outside of Japan. At the majestic Akaka Falls, water cascades more than 120 metres into a pool below.

## Kona, Big Island

Kona offers the quintessential Hawaiʻi experience. Sunny, warm weather and crystal blue waters entice visitors to partake in a variety of surfside fun. Snorkel amongst a kaleidoscope of tropical marine life. Take a surfing lesson, a kayaking trip or head out to deeper waters for some deep-sea fishing. The town is also known

for its rich blends of Kona coffee, and a stop at a Kona coffee house gives you a chance to sip the flavourful brew.

## Nāwiliwili, Kauaʻi

Kauaʻi is best known for its hiking trails and emerald mountain ranges. Embrace the local culture by attending a lūʻau, an essential part of the Hawaiian experience, and explore Waimea Canyon, one of the island's most dramatic attractions with its colourful volcanic gorges. On your journey back to Honolulu, take a moment to bask in the dramatic views of the Nā Pali Coast.

## Cruise 4 islands in 7 days with NCL

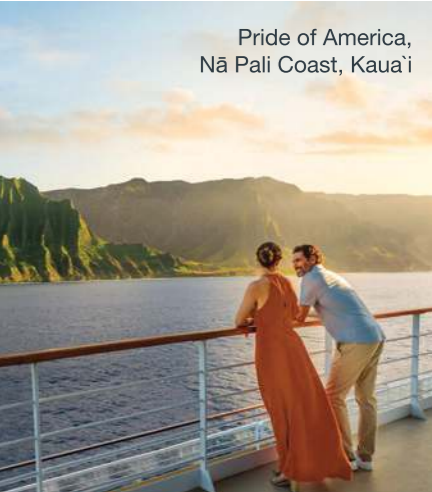
NCL is the only cruise line to sail round-trip from Honolulu year-round, departing every Saturday. With nearly 100 hours in port, overnight stays in Maui and Kauaʻi

and no sea days, there's no better way to see the beauty of Hawaiʻi. While on board *Pride of America*, head to Mandara Spa to relax after a long day in port; dip in the pool or visit the theatre and enjoy a Broadway-style production. With up to 15 dining options and 9 bars and lounges, raise a toast with a glass of sparkling and Pink's Champagne Bar or enjoy a Mai Tai at Waikiki Bar. Discover paradise for yourself as you watch stunning vistas sweep past your balcony, cruising from one Hawaiian Island to the next.

For NCL deals, visit [travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers](https://travelmanagers.com.au/specialoffers) or ask your personal travel manager for details.



Nā Pali Coast, Kauaʻi



Pride of America, Nā Pali Coast, Kauaʻi



Sea turtle, Kona



Pride of America, Kona

# Top travel tips



Your personal travel manager has the insider information to make your next holiday your best yet!



### Set sail in Croatia

Imagine sailing on your own private yacht with a dedicated skipper, stopping for a leisurely swim in crystal clear waters or for a gourmet picnic on a deserted island beach, with freshly caught seafood and locally produced wine and olives. As the sun sets, dock into an island port for dinner and cocktails at a local restaurant within an old walled town before retiring for the evening in your cabin.

After breakfast the next morning, set sail again, heading to the next Island for yet another adventure. This isn't a fairy tale, it's a typical day sailing in Croatia.

Croatia is quickly becoming the Mediterranean go to for sailing and cruising holidays, maximising the beauty of the thousands of islands dotting the Dalmatian Coast. Depending on your budget there are various options available from chartering your own private yacht with a skipper to joining a small group tour sharing the yacht with other like-minded travellers. Regardless of which one you choose, you're in for an island adventure like no other.

Frances Cream, Personal Travel Manager, Queensland



### Let your senses run wild in India

India is everything you think it is and so much more. Crowded, chaotic, colourful, enchanting, maddening, spiritual and an assault to the senses. It's in your face so just go with the flow and enjoy the greatest show on earth.

Be prepared for the masses of people, the smell of street food, the endless noise from the crowds and roads; but also some of the most peaceful and culturally grand landscapes you won't see anywhere else. Did I mention the vast range of veggie dishes and curries bound to please the most ardent carnivore?

India is mostly about the people who inhabit it; they're kind, genuine and passionate. Be prepared to have your photo taken with them everywhere you go - you'll feel like a bona-fide Bollywood celebrity.

Attractions and festivals dot the yearly calendar and none are done with more passion and exuberance than Holi Fest; a street celebration of colour and happiness. With New and Old Delhi and its culinary delights to the magical Taj Mahal. The problem with India is I didn't want to miss out.

Natalie Miller, Personal Travel Manager, New South Wales



### Basking in the great outdoors in Alaska

Alaska is a unique gem, with an ample amount of outdoor activities to enjoy. Whether you like to go ice glacier hiking, white water rafting, bear watching or dog sledding, Alaska has something for the adrenaline junkies, the relaxation seekers and everyone in between.

The best part is that each activity showcases Alaska's breathtaking backcountry. My favourite is kayaking as you feel part of the seascape, gliding alongside otters and seals with whales nearby and bald eagles overhead. Most operators offer solo or double kayaks and a choice of long and short tours so you can tailor your activity to suit you.

Alaska is cruising. A small cruise ship not only gets you to all the major hot spots, but can also sneak into the small coves and inlets away from the crowds. My clients simply love the adventure-based shore excursions and off ship activities small cruise ships offer.

Why not do a combination tour? Filling your day with more than one activity is the best way to maximise time and minimise decision making. You are going to need a little longer than planned when visiting Alaska!

Bev Edwards, Personal Travel Manager, Victoria



### South America – endless adventure

With an entire continent at your fingertips, the possibilities for your very own South American adventure are endless.

Experience the untamed Amazon, desert scapes of Atacama, or the ancient trails and ruins of civilisations past, but don't neglect the lesser travelled corners of the continent where the adventure may simply be the journey.

For those who prefer treks to tracks, the glacial fjords of Patagonia may be your calling. South America's southern tip is a hiker's paradise and offers a range of life-affirming adventures from day treks to more challenging journeys through this alluring landscape.

If you prefer your footsteps to follow ancient paths, the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu is one of life's bucket list adventures.

For a portal into some of the world's most stunning cities, such as Rio de Janeiro or Buenos Aires, try the more audacious traveller's tip of grabbing local transport to the end of the line and back.

Like so many counties, the reward of learning some local lingo opens the continent beyond the vistas and into local life, food and culture.

Karen Christie, Personal Travel Manager, Queensland



### Hit the slopes in Japan

There are over 500 ski resorts in Japan. If you're a seasoned traveller and looking for one that is less known to international travellers, Echigo Yuzawa, a ski town in Niigata, is only 70 minutes by bullet train from Tokyo. The snow resort, Gala Yuzawa, is connected directly from the station, so you can arrive without any ski gear and return to your Tokyo hotel on the same day. The area is popular with Japanese skiers, which means it's crowded on the weekend but quieter throughout the week.

Echigo Yuzawa is a historical onsen (hot spring) village, so most Japanese ryokans have an indoor/outdoor hot spring spa; great to soak your tired body in after a day of skiing. Niigata is also known for its famous Koshihikari brand of Japanese rice. And of course, where they produce quality rice, there is also good Japanese sake. Actually, the first thing you find at Echigo Yuzawa station is Ponshukan, a Japanese sake tasting counter (where it's only 500 yen for 5 sake tasting cups).

Snowshoe tours, a night buggy and snow mobile experience are also available in the area.

Rika Rosewarne, Personal Travel Manager, New South Wales



### Cycle, hike or walk New Zealand

New Zealand is the perfect spot for an adventure holiday at any time of the year, with plenty of activities to keep you busy. Whether you're looking for something a little easier like a walk, cycle or hike, all the way through to bungee jumping, skiing and heli-skiing, all levels of fitness and ability are catered for.

There are many paths available from short walks for all fitness levels to multi day hikes.

New Zealand's cycle trails are some of the best in the world. The 23 Great Rides of New Zealand Cycle Trails provide options for recreational cyclists through to serious mountain bikers. Along the way there is amazing scenery, arts and culture and wonderful food and wine to reward yourself with.

Getting out onto the water is also another great option. From high energy rafting adventures through to the more leisurely paced paddle boarding and kayaking.

Winter sports are possibly one of the most popular activities. Why not try something a little different on your next trip and do some snowshoeing or heli-skiing.

Andrea Friend, Personal Travel Manager, Victoria



### Safaris and surfing in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is renowned for its beautiful beaches, curries, people, temples, culture and wildlife, but there is also something for every adrenaline junkie!

Sri Lanka boasts some of the world's best surfing beaches. With different seasonal patterns on the east and south west sides; when one coast is choppy, the other is calm. The most famous surfing areas are Hikkaduwa and Unawatuna in the southwest, Weligama in the south and Arugam Bay in the east.

A visit to Yala or Wilpattu national parks is a must for wildlife, photography and bird lovers. On a game drive at dawn, or at dusk, you'll see animals at their most active. A safari jeep tour to find a herd of elephants or to spot a leopard is a must-do.

Embarking on a tough, 200m climb up the ancient fortress, Sigiriya Rock, is well worth it, as you are rewarded with 360-degree views of the countryside.

Finally, take a boat tour through the picturesque Madi River's mangroves to Cinnamon Island, and get your feet pedicured in a fish spa!

Nicole Edgar, Personal Travel Manager, Victoria



### Venture into the jungle in Central America

Central America, that diverse string of countries linking the USA and South America. Whether you're travelling in a chicken bus, climbing volcanoes, uncovering ancient Mayan ruins, or exploring the world's second largest coral reef, Central America is the perfect adventure vacay, and here are just a few reasons why.

Caye Caulker, Belize: The jumping off platform to the coral reef and therefore home to great snorkelling and scuba diving. But what about taking a dip with reef sharks? Yep, all in a day's play.

Tikal, Guatemala: The granddaddy of all Mayan ruins, set against a stunning jungle backdrop with the local howler monkeys providing the soundtrack.

Ometepe, Nicaragua: An island formed from two volcanoes that seem to rise from the lake that surrounds them. The ferry ride across the lake is an adventure in itself.

Monteverde, Costa Rica: A long bus ride over winding gravel roads delivers you to where cloud forests and rain forests meet, and hummingbirds whir busily. The perfect setting for zip line adventures from above, below, and within the canopy.

Michelle Magee, Personal Travel Manager, Victoria

# Adventurous. The way travel should be

Travelling is always an adventure, but what makes it truly special is when you get out of your comfort zone and try something new. The activities below are just some of the many unique experiences on offer around the world. We hope they inspire you to undertake a daring journey you've never considered before!



**1** Embark on a frosty journey south and be rewarded with breathtaking scenery and a front row seat to observe the many creatures that call Antarctica home. As you wind through the towering glaciers and icy waters, keep a look out for penguins, seals and whales as they saunter – or sleep – nearby.



**2** Cappadocia is a region in the Turkish countryside, most famous for the astonishingly beautiful Göreme valley. From the heights of a hot air balloon, you have an extensive view of the mysterious rock formations containing whole troglodyte villages, subterranean churches and fortresses carved from the soft porous rock.



**3** 90 minutes from Hobart you will find the Tasman Peninsula, home to the Three Capes walk, a coastal track which takes you through dramatic, cliffside landscapes and the untouched Australian wilderness. Feel the rush of adrenaline as you stand on top of the tallest sea cliffs in Australia and look out to the endless ocean beyond.



**4** The shimanami kaido cycling course is a 70 kilometre route in western Japan spanning six small islands from Onomichi to Imabari. Perfect for beginners, the track takes you through quaint suburban streets and long coastal roads so you can connect with the locals and enjoy spectacular water views as you ride.

For more details, please ask your personal travel manager.