

PHIL HOFFMANN TRAVELTALK MAGAZINE

Phil Hoffmann  
travel

# TRAVEL

ISSUE 30



*echoes of antiquity*

GEMS OF JAPAN / LUXURY RIVER CRUISING  
CANADA & ALASKA

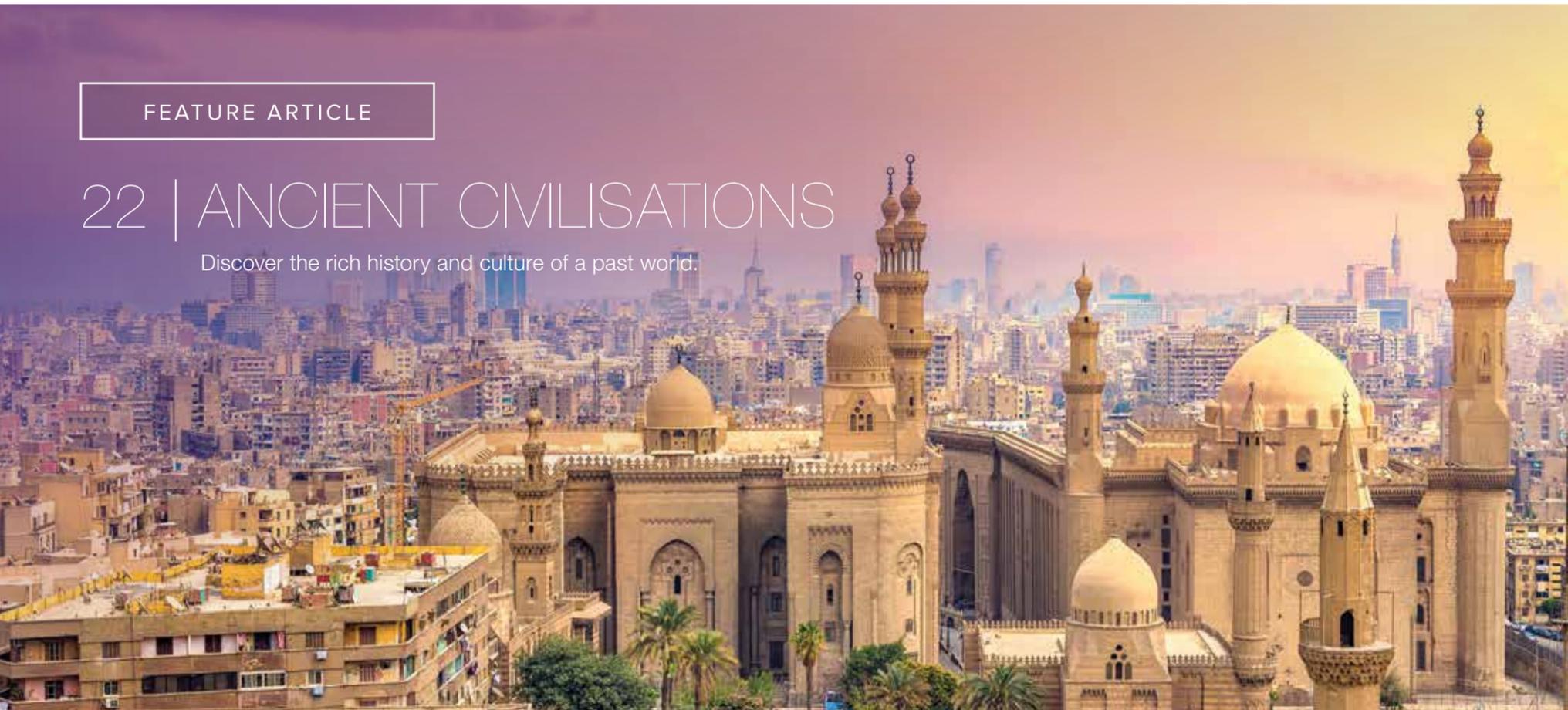
# WHAT'S INSIDE

## A WORD FROM PHIL & PETER

FEATURE ARTICLE

### 22 | ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

Discover the rich history and culture of a past world.



Dear traveller,

It has been such a privilege to reconnect people with the world since our borders reopened, with record numbers of travellers making up for lost time and exploring Australia and the world... and the excitement is contagious! Our desire to immerse ourselves into the destinations and cultures we have been missing and dreaming of has never been so strong, with many people travelling for longer and treating themselves to upgrades such as business class seats, upgraded cruise cabins and more inclusive touring to heighten their experience.

We've noticed a significant trend towards travellers making multiple bookings and booking far further in advance. Multi-generational travel is thriving, with families prioritising shared experiences. Top destinations include the UK, Europe, Canada, and Japan. Earlybird airfares for 2024 travel are available now, making it an ideal time to book. Our local treasures, such as the Ghan and Great Southern rail journeys, continue to spark a desire for discovery of our own backyard.

Exciting times are ahead at PHT. As travel demand surges, we're investing in our most valuable asset: our people. Our 'PHT Academy' in conjunction with recognised certification offers comprehensive training and support, ensuring clients receive top-notch advice in Australia. We're also creating career paths for passionate South Australians interested in travel.

If you haven't visited our 'Sky Deck' at our Glenelg Head Office, we invite you to attend one of our many events where we share travel stories, offer expert advice, and unveil amazing deals. Look out for the dates of our major Phil Hoffmann Travel Expos in October and February at the Adelaide Convention Centre. If we haven't had the opportunity to look after you before, we invite you to experience our experience and let our team take care of you, and if we have looked after you – thank you, and welcome back!

We invite you to enjoy this edition of Travel Talk, may it inspire you and lead to memories of a lifetime!

**Phil Hoffmann**  
Founder/Executive Director

**Peter Williams**  
Managing Director/CEO



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Visit [pht.com.au](http://pht.com.au) for the latest in travel deals, news, newly released products and upcoming events and seminars.



# PHT CONNECT

PEOPLE & PLACES



*Left:* Phil Hoffmann Travel staff gather to celebrate International Women's Day 2023.

*Below right:* Phil Hoffmann Travel Marketing Team celebrates at Phil Hoffmann Travel's End of Financial Year Party.



*Left:* Phil Hoffmann speaks at the Phil Hoffmann Travel Abercrombie & Kent event, held at Beerenberg in Hahndorf earlier this year.

*Below:* Key presenters at Phil Hoffmann Travel's Abercrombie & Kent event.



## EXPERIENCING THE ASHES

PETER WILLIAMS

*(Left)* The Ashes in 2023 was an extraordinary cricketing spectacle which I shared with my two eldest boys. Cheering the Aussies home for victory in the first and second tests with the 'Barmy Army' in full voice, creating an electric atmosphere, was an absolute thrill. The battle between fierce rivals England and Australia was intense and showcased remarkable talent, leaving fans on the edge of their seats. It was an unforgettable experience, celebrating the essence of cricket at its finest.



*Right:* PHT Staff Member, Kim Griffiths, escorts a group to Kangaroo Island.

*Below:* Melanie Wynne from Phil Hoffmann Travel on an Arctic cruise aboard Silversea's Silver Wind.



# EXOTIC • DREAM • UNIQUE

LATEST NEWS, TRAVEL TRENDS & INSIGHTS

## GREEK ISLANDS

# exotic



The Greek islands are an enchanting destination that combines ancient history, stunning landscapes, and vibrant island life. With each island consisting of its own unique charm and character, there is a Greek Island for every type of traveller. From the much-loved and ever romantic Santorini, known for its white-washed buildings and mesmerising sunsets, to the cosmopolitan Mykonos, famous for its vibrant nightlife and pristine beaches, the Greek islands offer a diverse range of experiences. Explore the ruins of ancient civilisations in Rhodes or Delos, soak up the sun on the golden sands of Crete or Zakynthos, and immerse yourself in the traditional way of life in Naxos or Paros. With their turquoise waters, picturesque villages, and warm hospitality, the Greek islands are a true Mediterranean paradise that captivates visitors with their timeless beauty and rich cultural heritage. From sailing the glistening waters of the Med, partying 'til the sun comes up, or indulging in the incredible delight of traditional Greek food, the Greek Islands are the idyllic holiday hotspot for those looking for their Mamma Mia moments.

### ARE THE GREEK ISLANDS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

Contact your nearest Phil Hoffmann Travel branch today or visit [pht.com.au](http://pht.com.au).



## HAWAII ESCAPE

From the moment you set foot in Hawaii, you'll undoubtedly be captivated by the vibrant colours, warm hospitality, and the soothing rhythm of the ocean. Whether you're exploring the stunning beaches, embarking on exhilarating hikes through lush rainforests, or discovering the rich cultural heritage, Hawaii offers a diverse range of activities for every traveller. Indulge in delicious local cuisine, immerse yourself in traditional Hawaiian customs, and bask in the natural beauty that surrounds you. Whether you're seeking relaxation or adventure, Hawaii is a destination that will leave you with lasting memories and a deep appreciation for its unique blend of nature, culture, and aloha spirit.

# unique

## MSC F1 GRAND PRIX

MSC Cruises and F1® have formulated the perfect partnership to bring you closer to the action. The Formula 1® Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2023 will see a thrilling season come to a close. The incredibly stylish MSC Virtuosa will be docked at Yas Marina throughout the weekend from 23-27 November, acting as the perfect base allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the Formula 1® action and remain fully relaxed and entertained away from the track.

MSC Cruises and Formula 1® have formulated an exclusive, all-in-one hospitality package, combining on-track excitement with a full program of themed activities available for when you are onboard the vessel, along with a full selection of restaurants, bars, leisure activities, kids clubs and entertainment

for the whole family. Included in every package is Wi-Fi access onboard the ship, half-board dining with breakfast and dinner, and free transfers to and from the Yas Marina Circuit from your ship.

All packages include a variety of choices to suit all preferences, from elegant cabins to deluxe suites. Already own a Grand Prix ticket? Book your cabin onboard MSC Virtuosa and comfortably reach the track with free transfers!

- Cabin Only Ticket – from \$1,240pp\*** (IR1 category)
- Cabin + F1® Ticket – from \$1,310pp\*** (IR2 category)
- Cabin + F1® Experience Ticket – from \$2,330pp\*** (BR2 category)

\*packages subject to availability



# EXPLORE • DISCOVER • IMMERSE

LATEST NEWS, TRAVEL TRENDS & INSIGHTS



ARCTIC

Exploring the Arctic region is a captivating and awe-inspiring adventure that takes you to one of the most extreme and pristine environments on Earth. As you venture into this icy wonderland, you'll encounter breathtaking landscapes of vast ice-covered seas, towering glaciers, and majestic snow-capped mountains. The Arctic is home to an abundance of unique wildlife, including polar bears, Arctic foxes, walrus, and seals, offering rare opportunities to observe these remarkable creatures in their natural habitat. Explorers can embark on thrilling

expeditions, navigating through frozen waterways by icebreaker or dog sled, witnessing the mesmerising Northern Lights dancing across the dark skies, and feeling the thrill of standing at the top of the world at the North Pole. Immersing oneself in the rich cultural heritage of the indigenous communities, such as the Inuit and Sami people, provides a deeper understanding of their resilience, wisdom, and traditional way of life in harmony with the harsh Arctic environment. However, it is important to approach an Arctic exploration with respect

and a commitment to sustainability, as this fragile ecosystem is highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change. Embarking on an Arctic expedition promises an unforgettable journey filled with unparalleled beauty, remarkable wildlife encounters, and a profound appreciation for the Earth's most remote and fragile regions.

**Explore the Arctic on a luxurious all inclusive 9 day exploration with Silversea from \$13,750\* pp twin share**



## immerse

### BIRDSVILLE

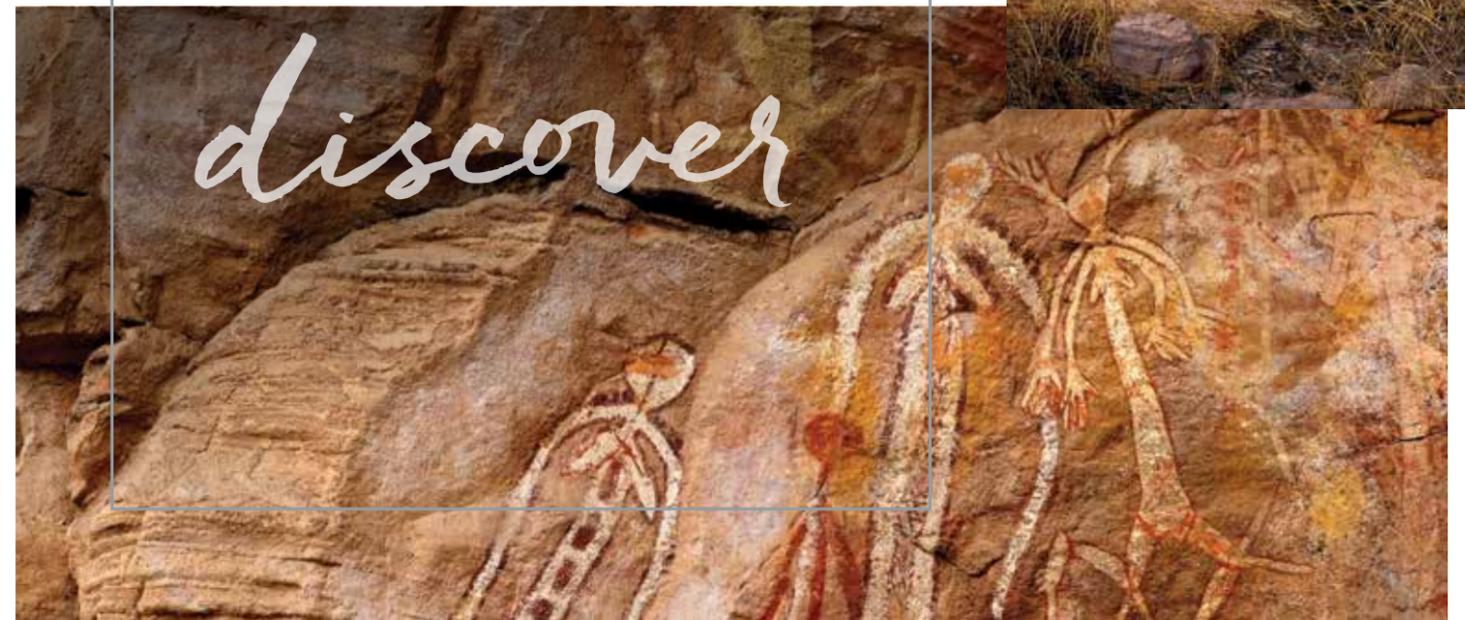
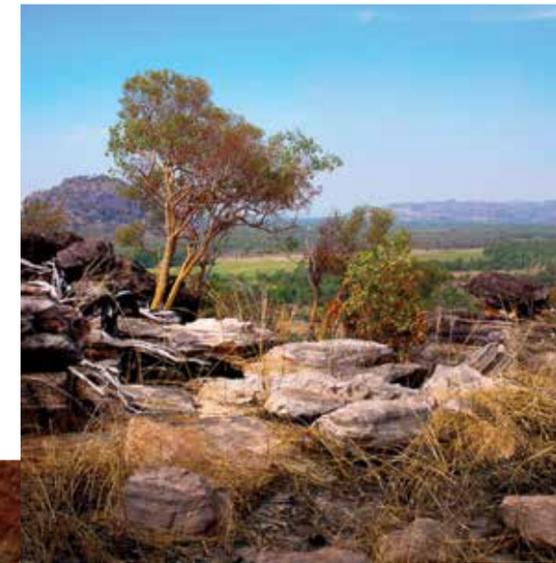
You'll find the amazing town of Birdsville, situated in Outback Queensland at the Eastern edge of the Simpson Desert. We took the road less travelled and met the locals of this small iconic outback town. The Birdsville Hotel, a destination in itself, offers warm hospitality and fascinating tales – you'll hear stories of the town's incredible history and encounter conversations you'll never forget. From here we found ourselves stomping our way up "Big Red" (original name Nappaneria), one of the largest sand dunes of the Simpson desert, from which we gazed at the beautiful channel country as well as watched sun beams on the red sand light up the sky as the sun sets. We left feeling like a true Aussie understanding life in the outback and uplifted by the town's 130+ year history.

*Rebecca Hampton, Product Coordinator PHT.*

### ARNHEM LAND

Arnhem Land, located in Australia's Northern Territory, is a vast and culturally rich region with deep roots in indigenous history. Spanning over 97,000 square kilometres, it is home to the Yolngu people, who have preserved their rich cultural traditions and spiritual beliefs for tens of thousands of years. The region's ancient rock art sites offer a captivating glimpse into the past, depicting stories and rituals connected to the land. Arnhem Land's diverse landscapes, including rugged coastlines, lush rainforests, and expansive wetlands, are of great significance to the Yolngu people, who have a profound spiritual connection to the land and its resources. Collaborating with local guides allows visitors to gain insight into the region's history, traditions, and natural wonders.

**Join Outback Spirit and become one of the few to uncover it's rich culture, pristine landscape and abundant wildlife on their 13 day Wilderness Adventure from Cairns to Darwin from \$12,495\* pp twin share.**





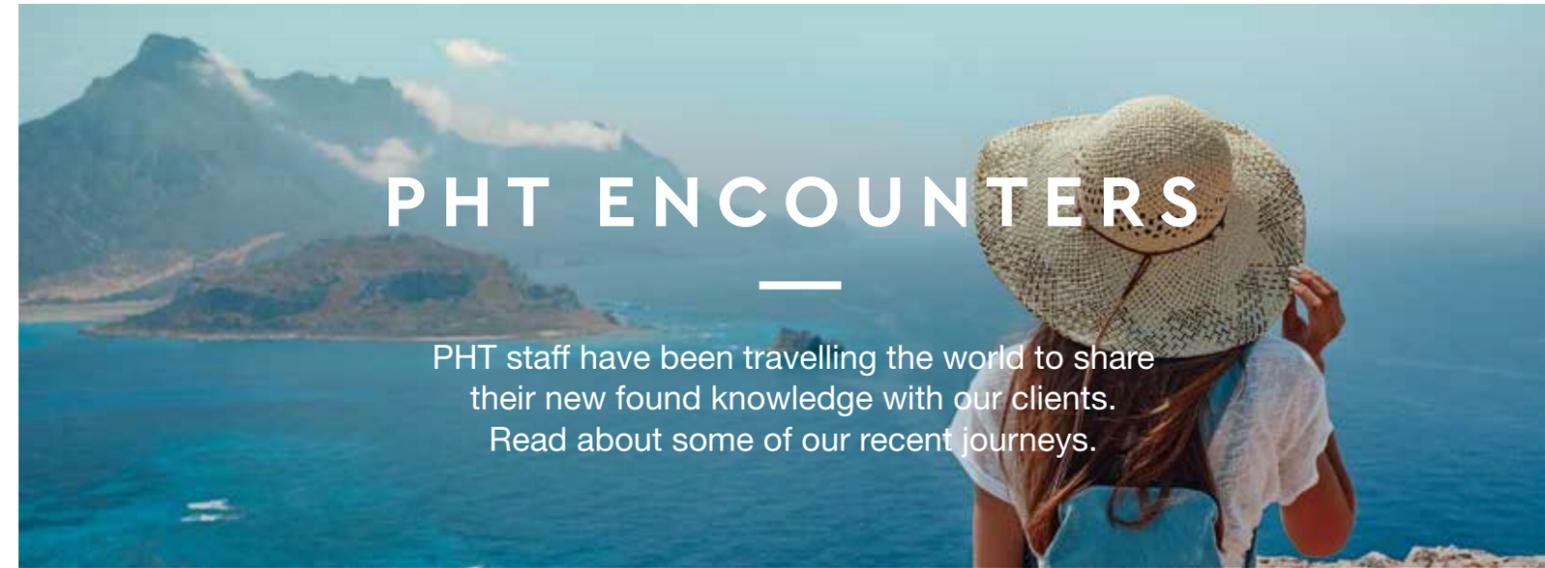
## DISCOVER NORFOLK ISLAND

A truly captivating destination tucked away in the South Pacific, Norfolk Island is a picturesque and unique island territory situated approximately 1,400 kilometres east of the Australian mainland, boasting stunning landscapes, lush green hills, dramatic cliffs, and pristine beaches offering a haven for nature enthusiasts. A self-governing territory of Australia, Norfolk Island is cherished for its laid-back lifestyle, friendly community, and a perfect blend of Australian and Polynesian cultures. Whether you want to lose yourself in a World Heritage-listed convict site in Kingston or immerse yourself in nature, Norfolk Island's isolation and distinct character make it a truly fascinating destination for travellers seeking an off-the-beaten-path experience.

Experience the wonder of Norfolk Island on a Phil Hoffmann Travel fully escorted journey. Including return flights from Adelaide\*, 7 nights' accommodation at the South Pacific Resort, transportation in a private air-conditioned coach, sightseeing, 18 meals, services of a professional driver and guide, welcome drink, a pre-departure function, AND one exclusive booking bonus! Choose between – \$50 off Andrews Airport Parking, \$50pp off the tour price, or one wheelaboard (valued at \$180) per booking!\*

**8 Day 'Discover Norfolk Island' Tour**  
Fully escorted from Adelaide by Kim Griffiths. Departing 5 February 2024.  
**From \$5,299\*** per person twin share or \$5,999\* sole occupancy.

Note: \*Departures from other capital cities available. \*\*Only one Exclusive Group Booking Bonus is offered per booking.



## 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.



**TARNIA BOYCE**  
TASMANIA

I recently returned from 4 nights in Western Tasmania a World Heritage-listed wilderness with rainforests, mountains and glacial valleys. Highlights included the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary for close encounters with native animals, a Gordon River heritage cruise, and Cradle Mountain. Tasmania's culinary adventure delighted with fresh seafood and local cheeses. Travel tip – Allow extra driving time for windy roads on a self-driven tour and at least 2 days at Cradle Mountain for walking tracks and wombat sightings. This journey left memories of nature's splendour, wildlife encounters, and culinary delights. I highly recommend this region to anyone seeking an escape into the untouched Australian wilderness.



**ANDREA MIRRA**  
TURKEY

I recently had an amazing tour of Turkey. We spent the morning on the Gallipoli Peninsula and explored historical cities including Pergamon, Ephesus, and Konya. Pamukkale's white calcium terraces and Cappadocia's captivating landscapes stood out. A hot air balloon ride in Cappadocia fulfilled a bucket list dream. In Istanbul, we visited Sultan Ahmed Mosque, Hagia Sophia (tip: visit after 8:00 pm to avoid crowds), and the Basilica Cistern. Before heading home, we enjoyed a 3-night stopover in Dubai, and enjoyed a Desert Safari (tip: opt for early morning departure to avoid heat). Turkey's history, landscapes and adventures made for an unforgettable journey.



**MICHELLE ASHCROFT**  
JAPAN

One of the cleanest, safest countries in the world, rich in culture, history and cuisine. I was not prepared for all that this stunning country had to offer and how deeply it would get under my skin.

On our guided tour with Luxury Gold we stayed in the best of hotels and locations. The highlights of Osaka and Tokyo are forever etched in our memories, as are the lessons and humility of Hiroshima and the imperial history of Kyoto and its Geisha's. We then went up north to the castle town of Sendai known for its amazing seafood and Oirase Gorge, with the most beautiful river valleys in Japan.

This beautiful country will no doubt leave you with a yearning to return.

**If you would like to find out more information about these destinations please contact Phil Hoffmann Travel on 1300 748 748**

Now we're  
*Sunset Seeking*



Now we're  
*Voyaging*

From serene, azure waters to vibrant coastal cityscapes, sail aboard our lady ships to sea the world The Virgin Way. And with luxurious inclusions on every voyage — like dining at 20+ eateries, entertainment, WiFi, essential drinks, tips, and unlimited group fitness classes — you're in for more than just smooth sailing to more than 100 destinations around the world.



CAIRO

*city stay guide*



**SEE & DO**

Set along the banks of the Nile River characterised by Roman, Arab and Ottoman architecture, Cairo is the capital of one of the world's most glorious empires, effortlessly blending ancient wonders with a modern atmosphere.

The Nile River flows through the city, offering breathtaking views and serene boat rides. Visit world-renowned museums home to countless treasures from pharaohs of old. From the awe-inspiring Giza Pyramids to the lively Khan el-Khalili bazaar, Cairo is an enchanting destination that captivates the senses.



**STAY & PLAY**

Situated on the northern end of Cairo's thoroughfare, offering views of the Nile and the Zamalek Island, it's hard to go past Fairmont Nile City, an oasis away from the bustling streets of Cairo. A glamorous retreat with Cairo's only 360-degree pool on the 25th floor, you'll also catch a glimpse of the pyramids in the distance. The Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza, located in Garden City on the banks of the Nile River, is an elegant oasis boasting modern design, luxurious furnishings and posh restaurants. Cafes, Egyptian Museum and Zamalek Island are all nearby.



**EAT & DRINK**

Cairo offers a culinary adventure with its diverse flavours and dining experiences. From traditional Egyptian street food to upscale international restaurants, the city caters to every palate. Indulge in mouth-watering falafel, koshari (a local delicacy), and succulent kebabs. Sip aromatic Egyptian tea or indulge in the famous Turkish coffee and don't miss the opportunity to visit vibrant juice bars. Cairo's dining scene promises a fusion of traditional and modern tastes that will tantalise your taste buds and leave an everlasting memory.



**NILE CRUISE**

Cruising the majestic Nile River is an unforgettable experience that unveils the city's beauty from a unique perspective. Drift along the tranquil waters, surrounded by lush green landscapes and iconic landmarks, admire the breathtaking views of ancient temples and villages along the riverbanks, and savour delicious meals onboard. As the sun sets, the Nile comes alive with enchanting lights and the sounds of traditional music. Immerse yourself in the timeless charm of Cairo as you embark on a Nile River Cruise.

# GRIZZLIES, GLACIERS, AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Canada certainly knows how to turn it on when it comes to natural wonders. It's home to the bluest of lakes, where glacial ice has crept down mountains over millennia, carving out deep valleys in its wake. Across the border, North America's Alaskan state promises wilderness adventure, packed with wildlife and natural wonder. Here are our top picks on where to find grizzlies, glaciers and more in Canada and Alaska's great outdoors with APT.

## CANADA'S ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Is there anything quite as magical as slipping through the countryside on a rail journey? Especially when it's exploring the Canadian Rockies' storybook scenery. Board the Rocky Mountaineer train, from Vancouver to Banff. Sit back in GoldLeaf cabin comfort and gaze at the views from your bi-level glass-dome carriage. Trackside you'll enjoy one-of-a-kind outlooks including Spiral Tunnels, Kicking Horse Canyon and Fraser Valley.



APT

LUXURY TRAVEL

## ATHABASCA GLACIER

Come face to face with Mt Robson's sheer beauty before travelling through the Canadian Rockies along the Icefields Pathway. Stop off to ride across the giant Athabasca Glacier on an Ice Explorer, experiencing what it's really like to skim over a glacier's surface. Continuing to Banff National Park, discover that the scenery is equally staggering in Jasper and Banff – especially at turquoise glacier-fed Lake Louise.

## WHISTLER

This year-round wonderland for outdoor enthusiasts offers every imaginable mountain thrill, from floatplane flights to skiing, biking to gondola rides. So, Whistler's Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre serves as a reminder and fascinating insight into the region's rich cultural heritage. This gallery showcases Whistler's two First Nations communities, here long before the ski slopes and snowcats arrived. Explore the centre's interpretive displays, learn about native produce and try local dishes.

## YELLOWKNIFE

A dark-sky preserve, remote Yellowknife is a city in Canada's Northwest Territories, perfectly placed for northern lights viewing. By night, sit outdoors in Aurora Village, rugged up on heated seats, skyward facing as the heavens dance and swirl above you. You can also enjoy dinner and entertainment in a private 'ViTeepee'. By day, dog sled over a frozen lake, strap on

a pair of snowshoes for guided walks on back trails, ride a snowmobile or ice fish. Rarely will you feel so at one with nature, and there's always a warm welcome on your return from each adventure. Why not find out for yourself on APT's 20 Day Intimate Rockies, Northern Lights and Alaska Cruise.

## GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK

Discover how Canada's heritage, mountains, glaciers and wildlife are just an introduction to the picturesque drama that unfolds when you board a cruise ship from Vancouver bound for Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park. Here, in the heart of Alaska's coastal wilderness, some 13,520 square kilometres of mountains, fjords and glaciers are a haven for wildlife from bears to whales, and clouds of seabirds, as your onboard guide will explain.

## DENALI NATIONAL PARK

A Tundra Wilderness Tour deep in Alaska's Denali National Park is the ideal opportunity to see grizzlies, moose, caribou, eagles and wolves in their natural habitat. With Mt Mckinley, North America's tallest peak at its centre, Denali's tundra interior shelters wildlife within its forests and along its riverbanks, where grizzlies are more frequently spotted. If the scenery isn't enough of a distraction, stay on the lookout for park wildlife, great and small, and revel in Denali's vast open spaces.

Canada and Alaska offer a winning combination of escapes to naturally blessed destinations. They're all the more enticing thanks to APT's travel styles and accommodation that work seamlessly with their environments, ensuring your Canada and Alaska journey is exceptional, as you explore these lands of grizzlies and glaciers.

## PHT'S PICK FOR YOU

APT's 22 day Rockies Odyssey & Alaska Cruise, Vancouver return, includes a visit to The Butchart Gardens before hours, a First Nations experience in Whistler, a visit to magnificent Lake Louise, meeting a Mountie in Banff, a rail journey aboard the Rocky Mountaineer in Goldleaf Service and a seven-night Holland America Line cruise through Alaska's Inside Passage.

## Prices start at \$17,995\* per person

with savings of up to \$2,600\* per couple, travel between April and September 2024.



# SELF DRIVE HOLIDAYS TASMANIA

Tasmanian Vacations make it easy to plan your Tasmanian self-drive holiday with their locally based consultants.

Their self drive Bed and Breakfast package is a great way to meet the locals and is one of the most popular self-drive holidays and as the name suggests breakfast is included!

Who better than a local host to let you in on the secrets to find the best seafood, or indulge in some local Tassie cheese and perhaps a cool climate pinot noir?

Choose from one of Tasmanian Vacations' popular holiday packages including accommodation and car hire or ask us to create a tailored touring holiday just for you. Book your trip with Phil Hoffmann Travel and benefit from the experience of the local experts at Tasmanian Vacations.

## GO NOW / SUGGESTED JOURNEY

**14 night Bed and Breakfast  
Self Drive Holiday around Tasmania**

**INCLUSIONS: 14 nights accommodation including breakfast  
• 14 days small auto rental vehicle • National Parks Pass**

**Priced from \$2,479\* per person twin share.**

Departs 1 October 2023 – 31 March 2023. \*Further conditions apply.  
Pricing based on travel from 1 October – 21 December 2023.



# EXPERIENCE COLLETTE SHADES OF IRELAND

Whether you're strolling through picturesque Georgian streets or sipping a pint at the fabled Guinness brewery, Dublin quickly has you hooked. A fun, convivial place in which to spend a few days, Ireland's capital is also the perfect springboard for a trip around the Emerald Isle, and on Collette's Shades of Ireland tour, you can expect awe-inspiring scenery, absorbing myths, legends, history, culture, and a memorable cast of characters, from your trusty coach driver and tour manager to charismatic local guides and fellow travellers.

After Dublin, Ireland's Ancient East soon captures your affection, both postcard-pretty Kilkenny, sprinkled with medieval churches, cafes and pubs, and Waterford, billed as Ireland's oldest city, founded in AD914. Discover its rich Viking heritage, world-renowned crystal factory and colourful street murals – painted by artists from Ireland and beyond.

Castles will also catch your eye throughout your travels. Some are in ruins, like the old fortress of Blarney, where you can kiss its legendary stone to attain the "gift of the gab", before savouring the stunning gardens, rife with bamboo, ferns and rhododendron. Other Irish castles have been impressively restored, including a "secret" one near Limerick where you can enjoy a medieval-style banquet and rollicking entertainment featuring toe-tapping Irish dance and music.

The Emerald Isle is blessed with natural beauty, and glorious, rolling green landscapes that unfurl through the coach windows.

See sublime countryside vistas on one side and sparkling coastlines on the other. This circuit has ample charming pitstops, including Waterville, a quaint coastal town where Charlie Chaplin used to holiday.

Next, hike atop the breath-taking and breezy Cliffs of Moher, a truly unforgettable experience. More serene is a boat trip along the lovely lakes of Killarney National Park, where you'll call in at a little island home to wild deer who graze around the relics of a 7th century abbey.

If 9 days isn't enough, consider the 12 day option venturing from the Republic of Ireland into Northern Ireland. Crossing the (unmanned) border, you'll stay at an Italianate lakeside resort, roam the astounding volcanic columns of Giant's Causeway, walk the 400-year-old city walls of Derry-Londonderry and round off the tour in Belfast, the provinces vibrant capital.

After taking in the superb Titanic exhibition, you'll have plenty of time to check out galleries, gift stores, restaurants and welcoming watering holes, where you'll reflect on your trip and raise a toast – Slainte! (cheers!) – to the ever-enchanting Emerald Isle.

## GO NOW / SUGGESTED JOURNEY

**SHADES OF IRELAND**

**9 day tour**

**Dublin to Kingscourt**

**Priced from \$3,599\* pp twin share.**

\*Conditions apply.





# Scenic Luxury

## RIVER CRUISES

The Scenic worldwide collection includes 5-star luxury river cruises in Europe and South East Asia and 6-star Scenic Eclipse ultra-luxury discovery yacht voyages across all seven continents. Scenic's truly all-inclusive philosophy ensures guests will be immersed in the most extraordinary destinations with everything taken care of. The Scenic Difference is in every detail, from unsurpassed dining experiences and premium beverages to seamless and enriching exploration of each destination.

With up to only 228 guests, Scenic offers an intimate small-ship cruise experience. Our world-class, custom-built ships enable unique access to small ports by river or sea. Guests enjoy an extensive range of all-inclusive dining, beverages and wellness

options on board, while immersive experiences await on shore with handcrafted Scenic Freechoice activities and our exclusive Scenic Enrich events program. Let us share some of our favourite river cruise itineraries with Scenic.

## FRENCH RIVER CRUISING

Great stories are born from unforgettable moments. With Scenic, you'll find it's more than an exquisite France river cruise; it's personalised experiences that will immerse you in unparalleled culture, cuisine and history.

Create lifelong memories as you taste and learn about Bordeaux's prized wines and exquisite truffles and master French cookery

in our exclusive onboard cooking school, Scenic Culinaire. Join your chef on a guided visit to a local farmers' market as you shop and taste the best your destination has to offer.

Step back in history as you visit the D-Day Landings sites in Normandy and the Somme Battlefield, paying your heartfelt respects to the brave heroes. Enjoy exclusive Scenic Enrich events from enchanting classical concerts at Avignon's Palais des Papes to private access to Bassins de Lumières, a contemporary art installation housed in a former WWII submarine base. Throughout your seamless journey, your custom-built Scenic Space-Ship offers the luxurious comforts of a 5-star hotel. Indulge in five world-class dining experiences with ingredients freshly sourced in your destination. Rejuvenate in the wellness centre, relax on the Sun Deck and take in incredible views from your private Scenic Sun Lounge as your butler pours your champagne. Scenic's world-class crew will ensure everything is taken care of, drawing from over 10 years of experience cruising French waterways and 15 years of exploring Europe's rivers.

## DANUBE IN DEPTH

A memorable discovery of the Danube

Originating deep in the Black Forest, the mighty Danube River flows through 10 countries before spilling into the Black Sea, with charming villages, ancient castles and storybook landscapes. Experience four countries during this enchanting river between Nuremberg and Budapest in truly all-inclusive luxury on your 5-star Scenic Space-Ship.

Be immersed in the rich culture, delve deeper into the staggering history and soak up the unforgettable scenery of the Danube on this nine-night itinerary, designed for guests to explore the river at a more leisurely pace and docking in the heart of quaint towns such as Bratislava, Linz and Passau. Be spoilt for choice when it comes to Scenic Freechoice excursions. Join cooking classes where you'll learn to make traditional bites such as Slovak dumplings and Austrian Linzertorte and taste authentic German beer or



Viennese wine. Take an e-bike through rolling countryside or wander through medieval castles by foot. Learn about the trials and tribulations of WWII, discover World Heritage-listed cities, and relax during an exclusive private classical music performance.

## JEWELS OF EUROPE

Europe's most spectacular river discovery

Discover Europe's majestic waterways with an all-inclusive 15-day cruise along the Rhine, Main & Danube from wonderful Amsterdam to beautiful Budapest.

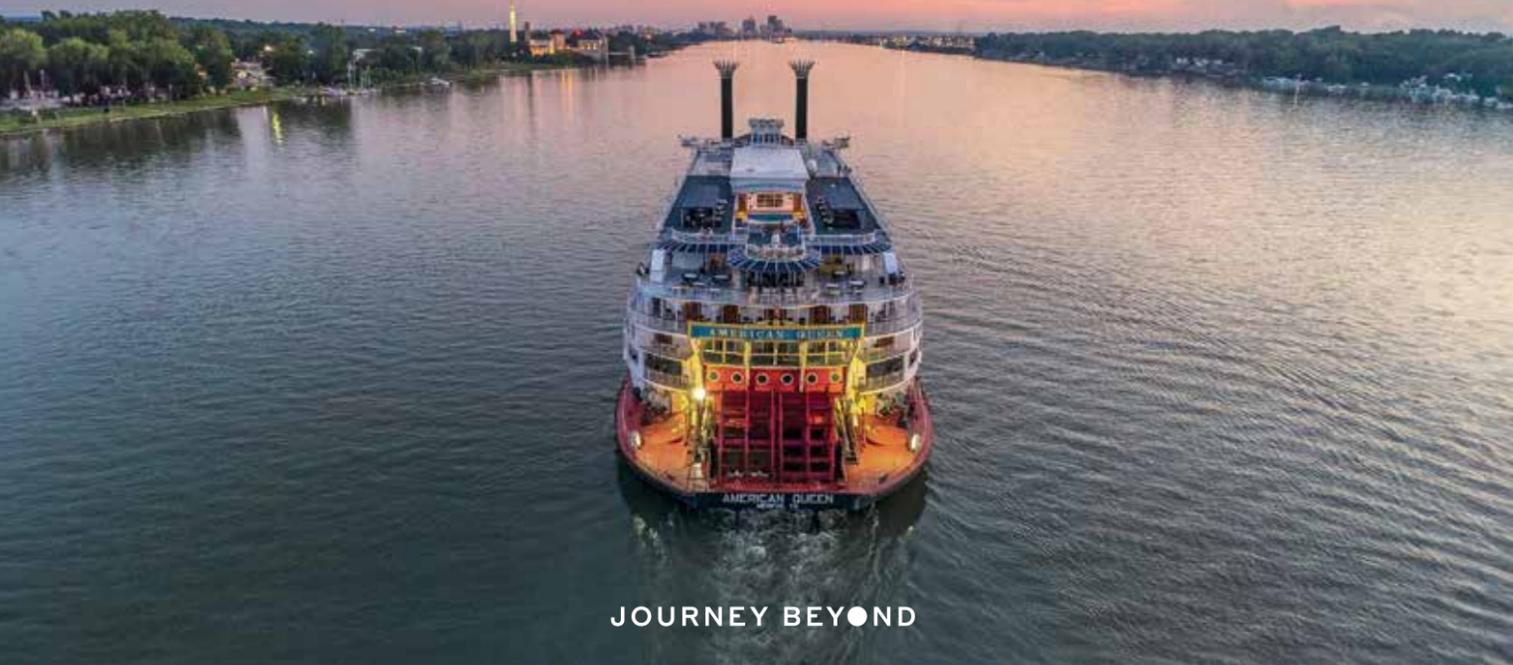
A region steeped in the history of ancient trade routes, today the rivers of the Rhine, Main and Danube meander through forested hillsides, idyllic vineyards and romantic towns.

Restored castles still stand watch from their position atop dramatic hilltops, just as they did in the days of feudal knights and land barons. However, today the sites of ancient battles and medieval skirmishes have been replaced by a tranquil countryside with thriving towns and villages. Elsewhere, romantic ruins echo with a timeless beauty and Gothic spires rise out of the picturesque communities nestled along the riverbanks. This journey will take you through the Europe of your imagination, full of wonder, recalling medieval jousts, cobbled streets and childhood fairy tales while creating memories that will last a lifetime.



AMERICAN QUEEN VOYAGES®

# MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRUISING



JOURNEY BEYOND

## ALL THIS & MORE INCLUDED

<b>PRE-CRUISE HOTEL STAY</b>  Pre-cruise hotel stay in Memphis including breakfast	<b>MEALS</b>  Acclaimed cuisine, using fresh, local ingredients	<b>BEVERAGES</b>  Beverages including beer, wine, spirits and non-alcoholic options	<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>  Daily live entertainment from award-winning performers	<b>SHORESIDE DISCOVERIES</b>  Excursions in every port, rich in culture and history
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## LOWER MISSISSIPPI | *Memphis to New Orleans*

☀️ 9 Days 🚢 American Queen or American Countess 📍 Explore Tennessee, Mississippi & Louisiana



American Queen Voyages takes you on a historic and luxurious adventure through America's heartland. Our iconic red paddlewheelers showcase the grandeur and old-world charm of river cruising with modern comforts, unique characteristics and the finest Southern cuisine. From the moment you step on board until your final farewell, you'll enjoy a more personalised experience and gracious hospitality, creating an unforgettable voyage that immerses you in the charm and generosity of the South.

### Highlights

- Visit Memphis, one of the most famous music destinations in the world, including Graceland and Beale Street
- Take a walk down the river or meander through the streets of Baton Rouge, a city steeped in history
- Visit our exclusive port at Nottoway, the largest standing pre-Civil War era mansion in the South
- Uncover the treasures of New Orleans as you explore the unique sites and attractions lining the historic streets
- Enjoy The Great Delta Music Experience in Cleveland, the birth place of the blues

\*T&C's apply



## MAREE'S TRIP WITH ABERCROMBIE & KENT TO SOUTH AMERICA

Two of our long term Norwood clients recently travelled with Abercrombie & Kent (A&K) on an awe-inspiring journey throughout South America. Read all about their experiences below.

Our recent travels with A&K allowed us to experience the indescribable landscapes and ancient archaeological sites of South America, where we embarked on a 3-week tailormade journey that took us to Mexico, Ecuador, Chile and Easter Island plus an awe-inspiring cruise through the Galapagos Islands.

On our travels, we were truly captivated by the charm of the walking tours led by A&K's knowledgeable guides. Each step we took unveiled a new surprise, and the guides had an incredible talent for bringing every destination to life.

The people we encountered along the way were warm and hospitable and we formed genuine connections. The rich and vibrant cultures we encountered left an indelible mark on our hearts. The weight of history that enveloped every corner, and the stories etched into the walls of ancient ruins, made us feel like we were truly travelling back through time. And of course, we can't forget the breathtaking scenery that greeted us at every turn, from picturesque landscapes to awe-inspiring vistas.

A&K expertly curated each day, ensuring a perfect balance of activities catered to our interests and preferences. And what truly stood out was their flexibility in accommodating our

needs, making adjustments on the go to ensure our comfort and satisfaction. One of the highlights of our journey was the exceptional guides and drivers. Having the same guide and driver throughout our stay in one place created a personal connection that enhanced our overall experience.

It allowed us to forge a deeper understanding of the local culture and build a genuine rapport with our guides, who became more than just our tour leaders but our friends. Their passion and dedication to their craft was truly inspiring.

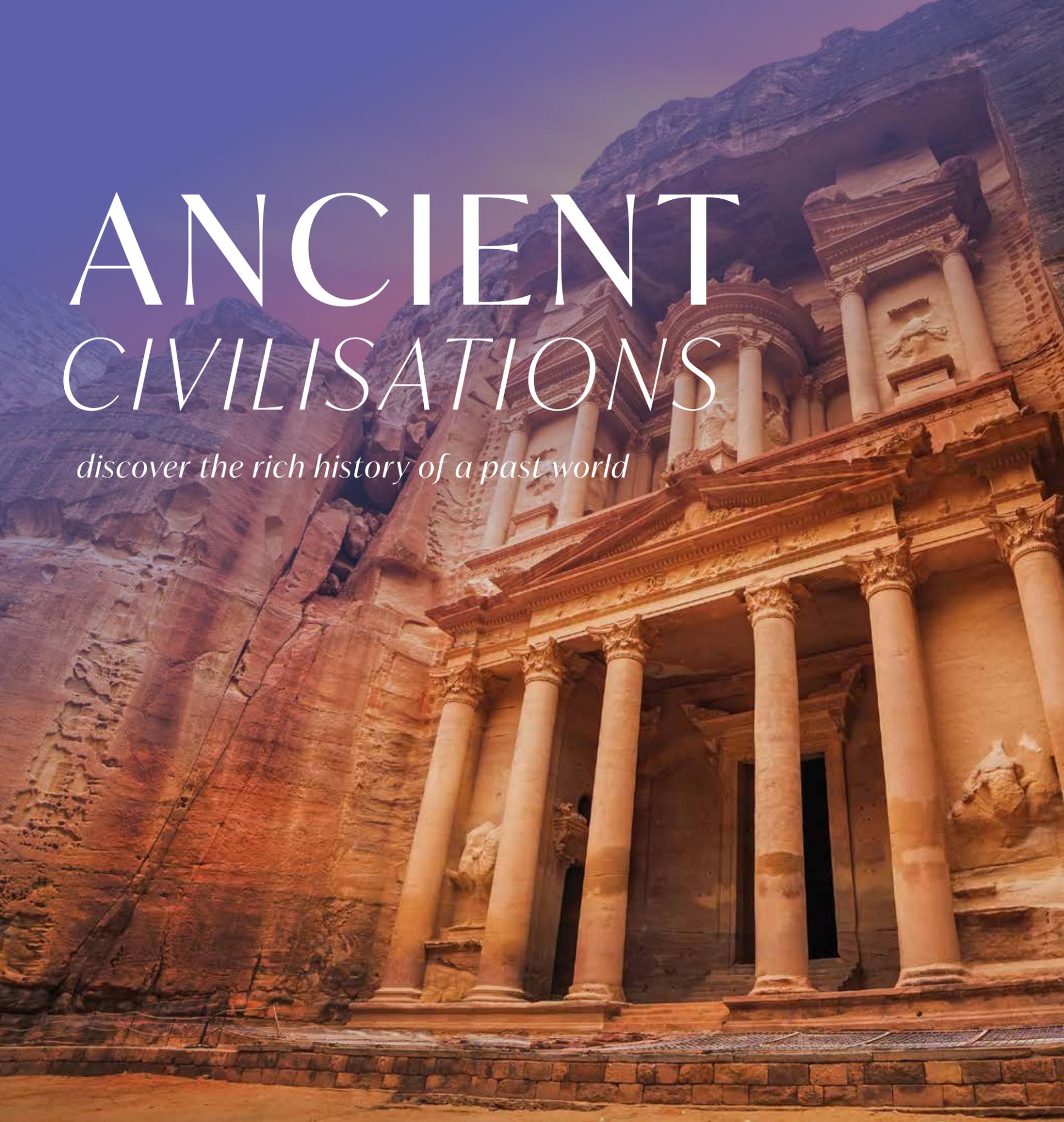
The accommodations arranged by A&K were simply marvellous. Luxurious hotels, charming boutique stays, every venue was carefully selected to enhance our journey, and the culinary experiences had were nothing short of extraordinary, introducing us to the flavours and delights of each region.

If there was one moment that truly put a cherry on top, it was the visit to the rose farm and hacienda outside Quito. The beauty of the surroundings, the fragrant scent of the flowers, and the warm hospitality we received made it a perfect and memorable experience. Another standout was our time in Rapa Nui, where the enigmatic moai statues and the mystical ambiance of the island transported us to another world. These moments were the epitome of A&K's commitment to creating unforgettable memories for their travellers.

[GO NOW / SUGGESTED JOURNEY](#)

**Make an in-branch appointment to discuss Tailor-Made Journeys with Abercrombie & Kent.**

Abercrombie & Kent



# ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

*discover the rich history of a past world*



## JORDAN

Jordan, a captivating country in the heart of the Middle East, offers a mesmerising blend of ancient wonders, diverse landscapes, and warm hospitality. Home to the legendary city of Petra, carved into rose-coloured rock, Jordan boasts a rich historical legacy that spans thousands of years. The magnificent ruins of Jerash, the awe-inspiring desert landscapes of Wadi Rum, and the biblical sites of Mount Nebo and Bethany Beyond the Jordan add to the country's allure. The capital city of Amman pulsates with a vibrant energy, where modernity seamlessly intertwines with traditional charm. The Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth, invites visitors to float effortlessly on its buoyant waters and indulge in therapeutic mud treatments. Jordan's warm and welcoming people, known for their hospitality, create an inviting atmosphere for travellers, while the tantalising flavours of Jordanian cuisine, such as mansaf and falafel, delight the palate. Whether exploring ancient ruins, venturing into the otherworldly landscapes of the desert, or immersing yourself in the cultural tapestry of vibrant markets, Jordan offers a captivating journey filled with unforgettable experiences.

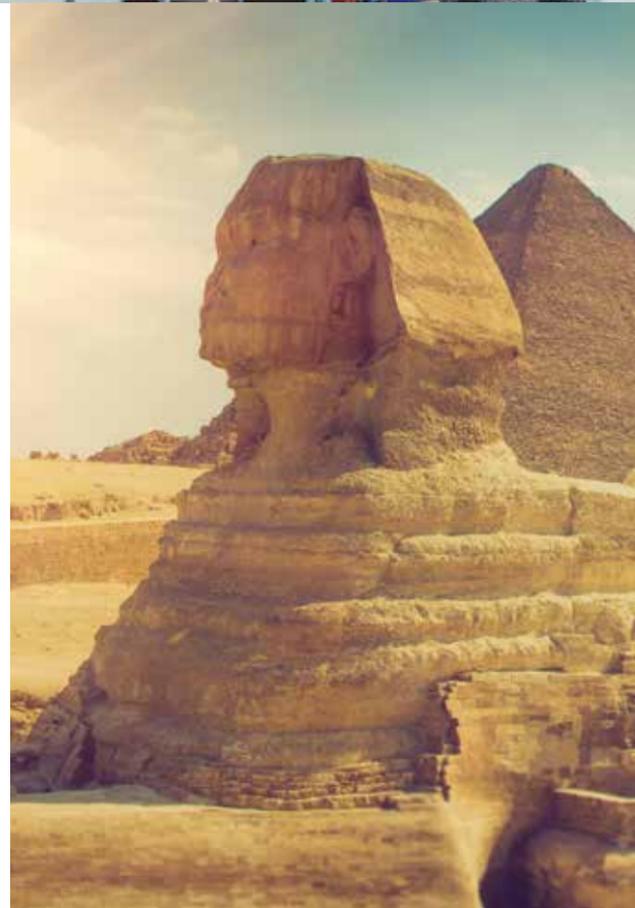
## ITALY

Italy, a land of timeless beauty and cultural richness, captivates visitors with its enchanting blend of history, art, and culinary delights. From the ancient ruins of Rome to the picturesque canals of Venice and the Renaissance masterpieces of Florence, Italy is a treasure trove of artistic and architectural wonders. The country's iconic landmarks, such as the Colosseum, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and the Vatican City, reflect its rich historical heritage. Beyond the cities, Italy's diverse landscapes unfold, offering breathtaking views of the rolling hills of Tuscany, the dramatic cliffs of the Amalfi Coast, and the stunning beauty of the Italian Lakes. Italian cuisine is celebrated worldwide, with its mouth-watering pasta, pizza, gelato, and exquisite wines delighting the palate. The warmth and passion of the Italian people, coupled with their zest for life and appreciation of la dolce vita, create an inviting and vibrant atmosphere. Whether indulging in art, history, gastronomy, or simply basking in the Mediterranean sun, Italy offers an unforgettable journey that leaves a lasting impression on every traveller.



## GREECE

Greece, a land of myth and legend, is a captivating country nestled in south-eastern Europe. Known as the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, and the Olympic Games, Greece holds a timeless allure that attracts travellers from around the world. Its historical treasures are abundant, from the magnificent ruins of Athens' Acropolis, crowned by the Parthenon, to the ancient city of Delphi and the iconic temple of Apollo. The Greek islands, scattered throughout the Aegean and Ionian Seas, offer a picturesque escape with their azure waters, whitewashed buildings, and charming villages. Santorini's stunning sunsets, Mykonos' vibrant nightlife, and Crete's rich mythology are just a taste of the island experiences Greece has to offer. The country's natural beauty extends beyond its coastlines, with rugged mountain ranges, pristine forests, and breathtaking landscapes like the Meteora monasteries perched atop towering rock formations. Greece's warm climate and delicious cuisine, featuring dishes like moussaka, souvlaki, and fresh seafood, further add to its allure. Whether you're drawn by its ancient history, awe-inspiring landscapes, or vibrant culture, Greece is a destination that will leave an everlasting mark on your soul.

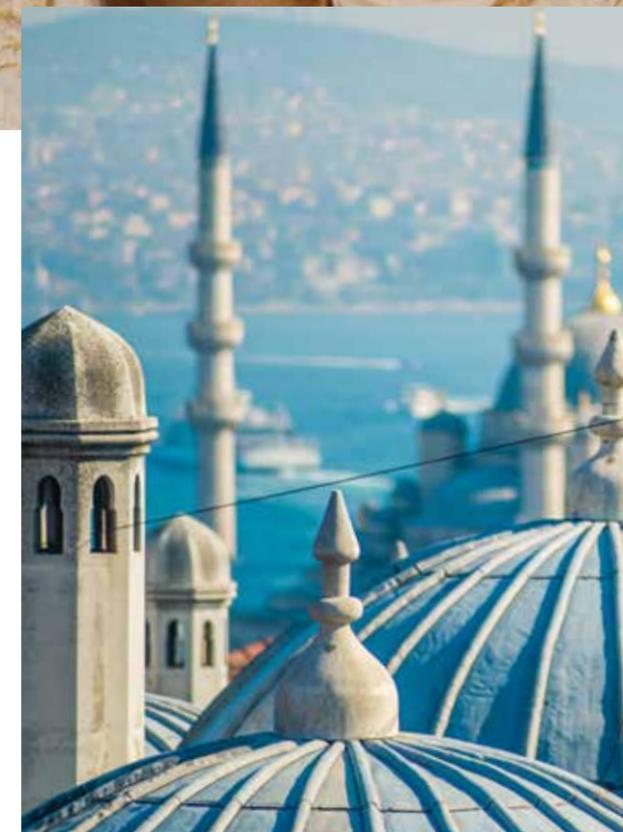


## TURKEY

Turkey, located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, is a fascinating country with a rich history, diverse culture, and breathtaking landscapes. With its vibrant cities, ancient ruins, and stunning natural wonders, Turkey offers a unique blend of modernity and tradition. Istanbul, the country's largest city, straddles two continents and showcases an incredible fusion of East and West, with its iconic landmarks like the Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque. Beyond the cityscape, Turkey boasts awe-inspiring sites such as the fairy chimneys of Cappadocia, the ancient city of Ephesus, and the pristine beaches along the Turquoise Coast. Turkish cuisine is renowned worldwide, offering tantalizing flavours of kebabs, baklava, and Turkish tea. From the warmth and hospitality of its people to the mesmerising blend of cultures and landscapes, Turkey truly captivates the senses and invites exploration.

## EGYPT

Egypt, an enthralling country in north-eastern Africa, is a land steeped in ancient wonders and timeless allure. With a history that spans over 5,000 years, Egypt is renowned for its majestic pyramids, mystical temples, and the iconic Nile River, which has been the lifeblood of the nation for centuries. The Great Pyramid of Giza, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, stands tall as a testament to the incredible engineering prowess of the ancient Egyptians. The sprawling city of Cairo, with its bustling markets and the awe-inspiring Egyptian Museum, offers a glimpse into the country's rich past. Beyond the historical treasures, Egypt boasts stunning landscapes, from the serene beauty of the Red Sea coast to the vastness of the Sahara Desert, where adventurous souls can embark on camel treks and explore ancient oases. Egypt's cultural heritage is also reflected in its vibrant traditions, colourful festivals, and flavourful cuisine, with dishes like koshari and falafel tantalising the taste buds. Whether unravelling the mysteries of ancient civilisation, diving into vibrant coral reefs, or cruising along the Nile, Egypt captivates travellers with its extraordinary blend of history, culture, and natural beauty.





# GEMS OF JAPAN

UNVEIL THE BEST OF ASIA ON  
A HOLLAND AMERICA LINE CRUISE

## FROM TOKYO TO THAILAND AND BEYOND

Begin your journey in Japan's one-of-a-kind capital of Tokyo — the world's largest urban area and your gateway to all things Asia. Holland America Line's 2023–2024 Asia season currently boasts 16 available departures from Japan, ranging from a 13-day jaunt to a 37-day journey. For those looking further ahead, the cruise giant's 2024–2025 Asia season offers 12 Japan departures ranging from a 14-day exploration to a 29-day North Pacific crossing.

## YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Fourteen of Holland America Line's 16 2023–2024 Asia itineraries departing from Japan sail on board Westerdam. This Vista Class beauty holds 1,964 guests and features enough world-class dining and entertainment venues to make it a destination all its own. Two 2024 Grand World Voyage segments departing from Japan take place onboard Zuiderdam — another Vista Class darling with a 1,964-guest capacity. All 12 of Holland America Line's 2024–2025

cruises originating in Japan sail on board Noordam. Another of the cruise line's Vista Class ships, it holds 1,972 guests and boasts dazzling décor and museum-quality artwork. No matter which Holland America Line ship you choose, your floating sanctuary is sure to be the perfect spot in which to rest, relax and ready yourself for your next Asia adventure.

## ONBOARD OFFERINGS

When you cruise with Holland America Line, you'll find everything from grab-and-go options and casual meals to exquisite fine dining. Enjoy regionally inspired cuisine made with locally sourced ingredients plus fresh seafood, pasta, desserts and more. You can even savour breakfast in bed or a late-night snack with the cruise line's included 24-hour room service.

When it comes to entertainment, Holland America Line has got you covered! Rock out to the classics at Rolling Stone Lounge, sing along to chart-topping hits at Billboard Onboard, or watch cutting-edge performances on the World Stage. During Days at Sea, explore your ship's duty-free shopping options,

try your luck in the Casino, or simply enjoy a recently released movie from the comfort of your stateroom or suite.

## SHORE EXCURSIONS

Discover gilded temples, quiet forests, bustling cities and unique cultural traditions on Holland America Line's in-depth shore excursions. Stroll the otherworldly gardens of Kyoto, gaze at the dazzling blend of nature and technology at Singapore's Gardens by the Bay. Experience the stoic silence of a Shinto shrine, streak through the countryside on board a bullet train, or sail the imposing islands and calming coves of Vietnam's Halong Bay. Immerse yourself in the fascinating histories, cultures, and landscapes of this vast and remarkable continent with Holland America Line.

## SUGGESTED JOURNEY

**Circle Japan** 14 day cruise aboard Noordam departs 13 October 2024 from \$2,859\* per person twin share.



# Q&A

WITH *Phil & Bianca*

*Phil & Bianca Hoffmann recently returned from an incredible journey through Croatia onboard Emerald's new luxury yacht, Emerald Azzurra.*

EMERALD AZZURRA

## WHAT WAS IT LIKE CRUISING ON EMERALD AZZURRA?

**Phil:** This luxury yacht experience exceeded expectations! It is beautifully finished and incorporates everything that you'd want on a luxury yacht. It was easy to board and access any part of the yacht at any time. Nothing was ever too much to ask of the staff either. I was incredibly impressed by their friendliness from the captain, to the officers and the kitchen staff. We were made to feel so welcome from the moment we stepped on board.

**Bianca:** Incredible! It felt like we were on our own personal super yacht with stunning décor, spacious rooms, delicious food, wonderful service, and the deck never felt too crowded. The highlight for me was cruising into stunning ports every day and being able to dock right in the centre of town due to the ship's smaller size. There were also so many 'pinch me' moments including sailing into Venice, sipping champagne on our balcony or at

the sky bar, and eating dinner as the sun set as we cruised out of stunning Croatian ports. I highly recommend this experience!

## WHO WOULD ENJOY CRUISING ON AZZURRA?

**Phil:** The yacht's inclusive design is designed for both the young and the young-at-heart to enjoy. Whether you seek exhilarating marine sports off its stern or simply wish to revel in the journey, there is no age limitation aboard this vessel.

**Bianca:** Emerald Azzurra is great for those looking for a small-ship cruising experience, due to its size and maximum capacity of just 100 passengers. It's great for first time cruises to whet your appetite and perfect for those looking for a splash of luxury without enduring the cost of having to charter your own personal yacht. It's also perfect for those that don't need big Broadway shows and entertainment, but those who appreciate good food, excellent service, and the ability to dock right in the centre of picturesque towns.

## WHERE DOES AZZURRA VENTURE TO?

**Phil & Bianca:** Our itinerary took us from Dubrovnik, to Korcula, Split, Hvar, Šibenik, and Krk before finishing our journey in Venice. In 2024 & 2025, Emerald Azzurra is set to venture even further, offering travellers the chance to explore diverse corners of the globe. From the enchanting Mediterranean and the picturesque Adriatic Sea to the tropical Caribbean, the captivating Central American region, and transatlantic crossings, Emerald Azzurra promises unforgettable experiences in various parts of the world. Whether you're drawn to the historical charm of Europe, the pristine beaches of the Caribbean, or the adventure of a transatlantic crossing, Emerald Azzurra's upcoming itineraries offer a wealth of possibilities for every kind of traveller.

**For more information on Emerald's luxury yacht cruises, contact your local Phil Hoffmann Travel branch.**

# VIKING CRUISES

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# NEW DESTINATIONS

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# TO EXPLORE

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Viking's award-winning fleet of over 80 river, ocean and expedition ships set the standard for modern cruising, offering discerning clients immersive and culturally enriching itineraries and experiences. Viking has reinvented ocean cruising and launched award-winning small ship voyages with a no kids, no casinos philosophy. Today, Viking are perfecting expedition voyages, with their new, state-of-the-art expedition ships and launching of the most modern ship on the Mississippi. After just 25 years, Viking now explores all seven continents of the world via the Earth's waterways across their cutting-edge river, ocean and expedition cruising categories.



## PARIS & D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

**12 days from London to Paris**

With departure dates running from March through November 2024, this special 12-day voyage from London to Paris will commemorate Operation Overlord and the historic battles of Normandy, which took place nearly 80 years ago and served as the catalyst for the liberation of Western Europe from German occupation.

Begin your journey in London to visit historic World War II sites—including the Churchill War Rooms, Bletchley Park and the Imperial War Museum. Then continue to Paris for your voyage along the Seine. Sail through Normandy, visiting D-Day sites including the Pegasus Memorial Museum and walk hallowed ground at Normandy's Commonwealth Cemetery and World War II beaches.

## RHINE & VIKING SHORES & FJORDS

**15-days from Bergen to Basel or vice versa**

Previously sold out, Viking have just released new 2025 sailings! Combining the best of award-winning river and ocean cruises into one seamless journey, this is a truly exceptional way to explore the world in comfort. Discover Nordic wonders by sea, then tour the highlights of the legendary Rhine River.

## TREASURES OF THE RHINE

**10 days from Amsterdam to Basel or vice versa**

Immerse yourself in this new winter river voyage along one of Europe's most famed rivers and experience Europe's rich culture. Discover the enchanting landscapes and rich cultures of the Middle Rhine, a UNESCO Site boasting turreted fortresses, grand cathedrals, medieval towns and stunning scenery. An ideal time to visit, winter offers smaller crowds, easier access to landmarks and extended stays in both Amsterdam and Basel.



## GRAND MISSISSIPPI

**22 days from New Orleans to St. Paul**

On this fascinating 22-day journey from New Orleans to St. Paul you'll delve into America's Civil War history in Louisiana, sample world-famous barbecue in Tennessee and visit Mark Twain's childhood home with its iconic white picket fence in Missouri. Unpack once and let Viking take care of the rest as you immerse yourself in the distinctive music, cuisine and history of this vibrant region.



## THE ARCTIC

**Three new itineraries exploring Canada & Greenland**

Debuting in July 2025! Explore the pristine wilderness of the Arctic with three new summer season voyages on state-of-the-art expedition ships. Ranging from 13 to 27 days, explore the polar north in Canada and Greenland, with two of the three voyages visiting the Canadian High Arctic. The 13-day Into the Northwest Passage itinerary, sails roundtrip from Nuuk, Greenland, while the 15-day Canada & Greenland Explorer itinerary sails between Toronto & Nuuk.

**Ask about our 28 night Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Beyond Exclusive Journey departing 29 June 2025 hosted by Mike Clark from \$20,495\*pp twin share – SAVE up to \$3,100\*pp with PHT!**

# TOP 12 travel tips FROM PHT

## 1 LISTEN UP!

While it may be tempting at the airport to put on your headphones and unwind during your travel, it's crucial to be attentive to important announcements concerning flight delays and gate changes which are often broadcast over the loudspeaker. Blocking out distractions, may cause you to miss these crucial updates. To prevent last-minute boarding stress, keep your headphones off during the final moments of transit. Stay informed and don't miss that flight!

## 2 UNDERSTAND YOUR CARRY ON

Check your carry-on luggage restrictions, especially if you have smaller internal flights once overseas. Every airline is different and often low-cost carriers have strict, lower weight restrictions than international carriers. The last thing you want is to be charged excess luggage upon check in. If you're unsure, you can always ask your travel agent.

## 3 TURN LEFT!

There is a higher statistical likelihood that people will naturally choose to turn right when selecting a queue. If you wish to sneakily avoid additional waiting times, opt for the left line instead. It's a simple yet effective strategy that may make a significant difference, especially in crowded places like airports, amusement parks, or popular tourist attractions.

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## 4 VISIT POPULAR ATTRACTIONS OUTSIDE OF PEAK TIMES

For very popular tourist attractions, consider rising early to beat the large crowds. For example, you can visit Trevi Fountain before 9am and you'll get your photo without anyone in the background. Alternatively, lunchtime can be a quieter period, as many tourists and tour groups head off to eat.

## 5 TALK TO THE LOCALS

The best travel advice and insider knowledge on what to see, do, and eat often comes from asking questions to locals. Asking "Where can we get the best coffee?", "Where is the best spot to see the sunrise?", or "What are the top three things you would show a friend from out of town?" can lead to invaluable insights, making your visit even more memorable. Remember to ask your travel agent for their insider tips too!

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## 6 PACK LESS

If you think you've packed enough, chances are you've packed too much. Be wise and leave some space for extras you'll likely acquire during your journey. Trust us – you'll be tempted to bring back souvenirs and new clothes, and you wouldn't want to part with your favourite pair of shoes to make room for them!

7

## 7 DON'T BE AFRAID TO TRAVEL ALONE

Embarking on a solo journey is a must for everyone, at least once in their lifetime. Throughout the experience, you'll discover valuable insights about yourself. Once you've taken that leap, you'll wonder why you were ever fearful in the beginning. Ask us about the PHT Solo Travellers Club.

8

## 8 PACK A SMALL FIRST-AID KIT

Stay in top form while on the road— pack Advil, Band-aids, rehydration sachets, allergy medicine, multi-vitamins, and anything else you might need! It's not only more convenient but also cost-effective to bring these items with you, rather than trying to navigate a foreign pharmacy. Just be sure to check in advance, as some countries have restrictions on certain over-the-counter prescription pills.

9

## 9 LEARN THE LANGUAGE BASICS!

Knowing how to say hello, good morning, thank you and please in the local language will go a long way with the locals. You can use google translate on your phone to communicate if their English is minimal. And remember... a smile speaks every language no matter where you are!

## 10 DON'T FORGET THE POWER BANK!

There's nothing worse than your phone running out of juice when you're in unfamiliar territory. Your phone is your lifeline for navigation, communication, and accessing important information. To avoid this situation, be sure to carry a portable charger or power bank with you during your travels. This way, you can recharge your devices on the go and stay connected when you need it most.

10

## 11 CULINARY EXPERIENCES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

We all envision ourselves sipping champagne with a view of the Eiffel Tower, or a Bellini in Piazza San Marco. Whilst these moments are unforgettable, some of the best restaurants and bars are usually a few streets back from the main tourist attractions – and they'll save you money and are often better value and quality! Chances are your experience will be more authentic as well.

11

## 12 DON'T FORGET TRAVEL INSURANCE

Unexpected travel experiences can be magical, others can be incredibly stressful and costly. Having travel insurance can be a lifesaver in handling holiday disruptions. From flight delays to unexpected emergencies, not having adequate coverage can lead to exorbitant expenses. Talk to PHT and we can ensure you have the right cover so you can travel with peace of mind.

12

## EXTRA HOT TIP TAKE PHOTOS ON YOUR IPHONE

These days smart phone quality is amazing, and your iphone or smart phone will time stamp the location and often your phone will prompt you with album memories and slide shows on trip anniversaries... meaning you can treasure and reflect on these memories for years to come.



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