

# GLOBE TROTTING

with Goway

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## Ida Pfeiffer: 1800's Globetrotter and World's First Bestselling Travel Writer

*It takes a special kind of person to choose the company of Batak cannibals over the well-heeled comforts of Austrian society, but Ida Pfeiffer was no ordinary globetrotter.*

By Christian Baines

In fact, she wasn't a globetrotter at all until middle age. Having raised two sons in an arranged marriage to a much older lawyer, 45-year old Ida, who had spent much of her life accepting disappointment, compromise, and mediocrity as part of her duty as an Austrian woman, decided to see the world. It was a decision

that harked back to her earliest years as a bona fide rebel. Growing up in a family of mostly brothers, Ida wore boys' clothes wherever possible, and received the same education, including rigorous physical activities.

Yet Ida's father also had some ideas about parenting that were considered... austere, even for mid nineteenth century Austria. Despite

encouraging his daughter's 'boy-ish' interests, he would often refuse his children's most benign requests without explanation. Little did he know he was preparing his daughter for travel through some of the most exotic and mysterious corners of the globe.

And prepared she was, in every way but financially. After paying



Ida Pfeiffer portrait, 1858

off her late husband's debts, Ida, by necessity, became one of world's first experts in budget travel. Her gender was another tedious barrier to her globetrotting, since it was frowned upon for a respectable woman of the time to travel the world on her own. Ida circumvented both problems by claiming to be embarking on a religious pilgrimage to Jerusalem. She then took the opportunity to explore Italy, Turkey, and much of the Middle East en route.

It was Ida's diary of that nine month trip that catapulted her to unintended fame, also netting her at least enough fortune to recoup the cost of her trip and start saving for the next. Though the ever-modest globetrotter published anonymously, Visit to the Holy Land, Egypt, and Italy enthralled readers with its tales of the pyramids at Giza, lessons in riding a dromedary, and unusually flattering (for the time) depictions of Turks, Arabs, and Bedouins, whom Ida appreciated for their apparent religious tolerance and hospitality.

Continued on page 3...

## On Track with Amazing Rail Journeys



On pages 8, 9 and 10 Globetrotting Magazine focuses on amazing rail journeys around the world that are available through Goway Travel. Above is the luxurious Eastern & Oriental Express travelling between Singapore and Bangkok.

## Nepal's Journey to Recovery

One year after the earthquake that devastated a nation, Nepal is offering visitors the chance to be part of something more than tourism.

Any Nepal visitor expecting a country devastated by the 2015 earthquakes is in for a big surprise. Not that the quakes didn't take their toll. On the contrary, the quake on April 25, killed over 8,000 people and left more than 3.5 million homeless, while an aftershock on May 12 killed over 200 more. But Nepal's rebound in the past year has been spectacular, driven by a renewed energy and a sense of optimism.

In 2016, Nepal is inviting tourists to be part of this remarkable recovery. Part of this is driven by necessity. Tourism accounts for almost 10% of Nepal's GDP, employing almost half a million people in the country. But it's also a chance for

visitors to be inspired by Nepal's resilience first hand, viewing its rich culture and heritage through that lens.

Most visitors start in Kathmandu, and many list the Nepalese capital among their favourite cities in the world. It's home to 7 UNESCO World Heritage monuments, including Durbar Square, Bhaktapur, and Patan. The work to renew these sites after the quake demonstrates the delicate balance Nepal must find between embracing its future and preserving the past.

To make it easier for visitors wanting to get the most out of today's Nepal, the Tourism Cares Recovery Fund for Nepal has created the Meaningful Travel Map of Nepal. This simple map, as seen below, highlights some of Nepal's familiar stars such as Chitwan National Park, and of course, the

Continued on page 10...

## Featured World City: Hangzhou



Oriental dragon boat and Leifeng Pagoda on West Lake, Hangzhou

In rapidly modernising China, Marco Polo's favourite city invites you to step back in time.

Praising Hangzhou as China's most beautiful city will invite fierce debate from nearby Suzhou. Still, the fact that an old Chinese saying compares both cities to paradise says a lot for this oasis of traditional Chinese culture, located just one hour by train from space-age Shanghai.

Continued on page 7...

## Do You Have a Globe # ?

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## Globetrotter and Bestselling Travel Writer

... Continued from page 1

She was less complimentary about Iceland, the subject of her second trip and book. Unlike the progressive, colourful, and clean Iceland that enchants travellers today, Ida's journal describes a country of – in her view – crude people and bland cuisine. She must have found in it some redeeming features however. She stayed for six months, also visiting Norway and Sweden before returning home with plant and rock samples for Europe's museums.

A woman with such adventurous appetites however would not be contained to Europe and its neighbours. In 1846, Ida set her sights on Brazil. Legend has it she told her children she was 'just stepping out for tea'... the tea must have been delicious, since it kept the globetrotter away from home for two and a half years.

Rio de Janeiro had by this time secured its reputation among Europeans as a city of unparalleled natural beauty. Ida, however, was never one to mince words. She was repelled by the city's filth and poverty, swiftly hiring a guide and trekking into the rainforest to meet the country's indigenous peoples. She fell in love with Brazil's rainforest almost immediately, praising its natural beauty, diversity, serenity. Her European Christian upbringing however, may have sabotaged her dealings with the Puri Indians, whom she derided as primitive and savage.

She was similarly appalled in Tahiti (two words rarely seen in the same sentence), where the carefree sexual values of the native women confronted the Austrian's staid,

conservative sensibilities. Ida's next destination was China, where a traditional cargo junk took her upriver from Portuguese-controlled Macao to Canton, the city now known as Guangzhou. China would be another culture to fall under her critical gaze and sharp pen, though this may have been a product of sheer nervousness. As a European woman visiting Canton alone, Ida would frequently dress in men's clothing for safety as she explored one of China's busiest and most important cities. One can only imagine what she'd make of today's forward-focused Guangzhou – or the ostentatious mega-resorts and casinos of Macao, for that matter!

Given her reactions to many of the native cultures she visited, it seems easy to deride the plucky and prickly Austrian as something of a bigot. Her love for her next destination however, comes as a surprise, especially given the impact its sensory overload still has on travelers today. Sure enough, Ida Pfeiffer loved India. She spent several months travelling through the country with almost no baggage, living on little more than bread, rice, and meals offered by kindly locals, with whom she often stayed. Travelling by boat, camel, ox cart, and sometimes on foot with only an Indian guide for company, she visited Kolkata, Agra, Allahabad, Delhi, Pune, Mumbai, and many other destinations. Judging by her writings, the journey disarmed many of her European biases as she partook in religious festivals, came to understand the caste system, and the role of India's women, to whom male European

travellers were usually denied access.

Continuing on to Baghdad (yes, it was a very different time) Ida joined a camel caravan, trekking 300 miles across the desert to Mosul and Tabriz in Persia, now modern day Iran. Her appearance stunned the local British consul, who did not believe it possible for a woman to travel alone without knowing the local languages. But Ida had also begun to miss the company of European Christians. She joined a caravan bound for Russia, but it was a detour that would make her think twice about her dismissal of what she had called 'heathen and infidel countries'. In Russia, she was arrested and detained under suspicion of being a spy, which left her yearning for the hospitality of the Arabs, Turks, Persians, and 'Hindoos.' At least critics could not accuse *A Lady's Voyage Round the World* of completely dismissing the natives without praise.

The book's publication raised Ida's profile to such heights that she was soon receiving invitations from Europeans around the world, along with offers of free transport from railroad and steamship companies. Ever determined to expand her experiences, Ida sailed from London to Cape Town before continuing on to Singapore and Borneo. She spent six months here, trekking through seemingly impenetrable rain forest, until she reached the feared Dyak tribe, who were known to Europeans only as ritual headhunters. Pfeiffer however came to regard the Dyaks as being 'above any of the races I have ever known,' praising their honesty, modesty, and good-naturedness. Though she hardly approved of their grisly rituals, she considered them no worse than the many 'deeds of treachery and murder' that filled Europe's history books. The Dyaks would abandon their headhunting practices in 1874, just 23 years later.

Ida's encounter with the Batak tribe



Ida Pfeiffer playing the piano at the court of Queen Pomare of Tahiti

of Sumatra (now part of Indonesia) would be more unsettling. Emboldened by her positive experience with the Dyaks, she sought out the cannibalistic Bataks, who had never before allowed a European into their territory (though several intrepid Europeans had snuck in, years prior). The Bataks' curiosity initially outweighed their hostility, and Ida was passed from tribe to tribe. Eventually, they decided the strange foreign woman would make good eating, a fate Ida only escaped by joking, in broken Batak, that she was too old and tough to chew. This amused the natives long enough for Ida to make her getaway unharmed. She became the first European to report on the Bataks with accuracy and detail.

The next stage of her journey, during which she sailed to San Francisco before exploring the Andes of South America, was less eventful. However it still filled the final pages of *A Lady's Second Journey Around the World*, which would become a bestseller. Ida was elected to the geographical societies of Berlin and Paris, though Great Britain refused her because she was a woman.

Ida's last trip took her once more to Africa, this time, to Madagascar. Sadly, her journalistic neutrality did not satisfy the suspicious eye of Queen Ranavalona, who arrested her on suspicion of aiding revolutionaries. Though Ida was eventually released, she had contracted a fatal tropical disease during her stay, and died in her native Vienna in 1858.

## Japan: Checking into Traditional Ryokan Inns

Travellers looking for a uniquely local style of accommodation in Japan have two main choices. Those travelling alone on a tight budget might want to satisfy their curiosity at an economical, if cosy, capsule hotel. Those who prefer a bit more space and comfort however, may opt for a few nights at a Ryokan, a traditional form of Japanese inn dating back to the Edo period (1603-1868).

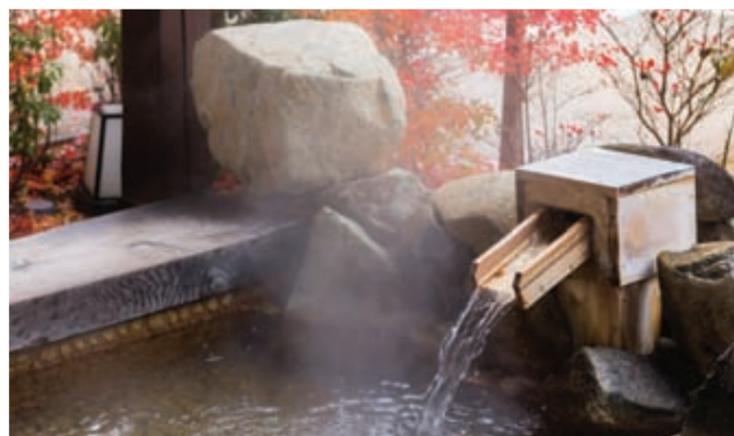
Ryokans embody many of the best qualities of Japanese hospitality. They are spotlessly clean, private, and usually offer superb Japanese meals. Some even give guests the option of adding Japanese cultural experiences such as a traditional tea ceremony. And at the end of a long day, many Ryokans offer guests a taste of the Japanese onsen experi-

ence, with steaming hot cedar bathing tubs, sometimes in secluded garden surrounds.

More than anything however, a Ryokan stay immerses the traveller in Japan's traditions, while offering every modern convenience. There are Ryokans to fit all budgets, and stays can be as simple, or as luxurious as the guest desires.

A typical Ryokan guest room features a tatami (reed matting) floor, sliding doors, and a comfortable futon for sleeping. Leave your shoes at the door (Travel tip for Japan? Slip-ons. Always.), close the paper doors behind you, and slip into a comfortable Yukata robe. Breakfast and dinner are typically brought to your room. As meticulous and artful as they are delicious, these meals can be unusual for those unused to Japanese cuisine, but they're also a great opportunity to discover just how varied Japanese food can be.

Just as varied are the Ryokans themselves, particularly in the city of Kyoto, where many visitors are seeking an immersion in old world Japan. They range from the purely functional to the thoroughly indulgent, offering fitting accommodation in this city of 1600 traditional temples and shrines. Some Ryokan packages will also include a day tour. While it's impossible to take in all Kyoto's sights in a day, such



Many Ryokans offer a Japanese onsen experience, with steaming cedar bathing tubs.

a trip will at least get things off to a good start. It can also save a lot of travel time, since popular sights such as Kinkaku-ji, the famous Golden Pavilion, the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest, Fushimi Inari Shrine, and Ginkaku-ji, the 'Silver' Pavilion, are quite some distance from the Gion district, where many Ryokans are found.

Touristy though it may seem, Gion is Kyoto's traditional entertainment district for locals as well. It's also wonderfully positioned, in walking distance of favourite temples such as Kiyomizu-dera, where the iconic balcony affords fantastic views of the city, and Chion-in, the heart of all things Buddhism in Kyoto. Chion-in is under renovation until 2019, but still open to visitors, and recommended if you are not pushed for time.

After a busy day's sightseeing, return to your Ryokan in Gion to freshen up before taking a twilight

stroll, around 5.30pm to 6pm. Why then? This is by far the best time to glimpse a Geisha (or Geiko, as they are known in Kyoto) hurrying to an appointment. While they have excited imaginations for these entertainers are not tourist attractions, so if you do see one disappearing up the street, or through the doorway of a secluded inn, consider yourself very fortunate.

Goway offers a 12-day Japan trip which includes ancient palaces and temples, to the neon covered skyscrapers of the modern city. A special feature is a visit to Tsumago, a Japanese medieval village dating back to the days of the Shogun, to stay in a Ryokan overnight. Prices start at CAD\$5150.

For more Japan travel ideas, request Goway's ASIA Travel Planner or visit [goway.com](http://goway.com) for more travel suggestions. Talk to your Travel Agent or Goway if you would like a customized travel quote for Japan.



A Ryokan is a traditional form of Japanese inn dating back to the Edo period

# The Cook Islands: Easy to reach. Easier to stay.

The Cook Islands have long been the quiet achievers of South Pacific travel. While Tahiti continues to be the by-word for 'tropical paradise,' and Fiji extends its warm 'BULA' welcome to countless tourists each year, the Cooks offer all the beauty, hospitality, and relaxation of the South Pacific in one laid-back package.



One Foot Island

With fifteen islands occupying less than a hundred square miles in land area dotted over almost 700,000 square miles of ocean, the Cook Islands are among the most widespread island territories in the world. There's also not a single square inch of land between the Cooks and Antarctica, so when you retreat to the Cooks, you're really getting away from it all!

Yet the modern conveniences are never far away. No destination in the South Pacific offers a shorter trip from the airport to the lagoon-side, so it takes no time at all to sink into vacation mode.

The entire circumference of Rarotonga can be circled by car in less than an hour, and be cycled comfortably in a day. That leaves plenty of time for lagoon and beach

activities including diving, snorkelling, and fishing, not to mention enjoying the famous hospitality of the Cook Islanders.

Best of all, the Cooks are easily reached. Air New Zealand flies directly from Los Angeles to Rarotonga, with connecting flights to Auckland and Sydney. This makes a stopover at the Cooks one of the easiest additions you can make to a Downunder itinerary. Take a few days break from the long flight to Australia or New Zealand, or visit all three of these very different faces of the South Pacific.

Looking beyond Rarotonga, there's Aitutaki, an island ringed by stunning natural beaches and coral reefs.

Snorkelling and boat trips are

a fixture here, but Aitutaki is also a great island to explore on-land. Perhaps take a scooter (the local transport of choice!) to visit 1500 year-old sacred meeting grounds and coral walled churches.

Reality TV fans may also recognise Aitutaki as one of Survivor's early settings. But don't worry. The tribe here is in no hurry to force you out! In fact, there's no hurry to do much of anything. The Cook Islands are famous for their combination of relaxed pace and smiling locals who are all too happy to share the less touristy treats. For example, it's one of the few



Kayaking at Pacific Resort, Aitutaki



The Cook Islands are accessible from North America or the South Pacific

destinations where we recommend that non-religious travellers attend a church service, for the music, the cultural experience, and the sheer fun!

The Cook Islands has a modern Polynesian culture, yet traditional ways of life are well preserved. Though some new technologies have been embraced and techniques have been refined over generations, you can still find tra-

ditional music in many parts of the island (remember what we said about going to church?) along with hand-woven, carved, or painted souvenirs. There's also possibly no better place on earth to buy black pearl jewellery than on the Cooks.

The Cook Islands are the ultimate laid-back holiday, so much so that they're increasingly popular for long-term stays. With lower accommodation costs – paid in New Zealand dollars – the Cooks are an ideal place to get away for a few weeks, months, or even longer. Simply rent an apartment at one of several resorts and guesthouses specialising in long-stays, and spend your days discovering the relaxed, yet vibrant lifestyle of the Cook Islands.

*The Cook Islands is an affordable escape: 15 day vacations from \$2699 CA. Includes roundtrip airfare from Vancouver, 12 nights at the boutique Sunset Resort, roundtrip transfers, 3 Day car hire, and a black pearl pendant.*

## TESTIMONIALS FROM GOWAY GLOBETROTTERS

### Amazing Morocco!

Our driver and guide in Morocco was wonderful. I was traveling with my daughter and he was so attentive and protective. We saw so many wonderful places, and the Riads we stayed in were amazing. Food was delicious, always freshly prepared. It was a trip of a lifetime and I fully recommend it! Thank you Goway!.

C. Scharf

### Best Trip Ever! (Peru)

In September my wife and I took a trip of a lifetime. We could not have done this trip without the help of Goway Travel. We were placed with wonderful, helpful and friendly people while in Cusco. From the moment we landed in Cusco up to when we left at the airport. The hotels we stayed in were absolutely great the people just outstanding. Our guides were extremely friendly. We were put in great hands which made our trip to Cusco-Machu Picchu a trip of a lifetime. Thank you!!!!

V. Carter

### Worry free travel (Tahiti)

I used points to get to my bucket list destination of Bora Bora and Goway made all the plans for hotel and transfers. It was a magical visit to Moorea before arriving in Bora Bora. All that was promised was delivered.

D. Doucette

### Amazing trip to Myanmar & Vietnam! (7th Goway trip)

This was our seventh Goway travel experience and it was marvellous. The guides that were arranged have been excellent. ...we will be going back and will certainly entrust the arrangements to Goway again. Thanks for wonderful memories!

S. Lalla

### "The World in One Country" Awesome! (South Africa)

The theme of our South Africa tour was "The World in One Country" and it could not have been more appropriate ... the hotels, provided meals, guides were five star ... no disappointment with sightings of the "Big5" on safari ... every item of the itinerary was fulfilled beyond expectation! The Swaziland's native dancing and singing presentation was perhaps the best "for tourists" performance ever experienced! We've utilized Goway's services previously and more than satisfied with them every time!

R. Bouchard

### New Zealand and Fiji Trip

My wife and I had a very enjoyable month trip to New Zealand and Fiji. Rental vehicles were ready when needed, side trips were on time and very interesting and most hotel accommodation was very good. We had very good weather everywhere and met lots of friendly people. The Fijians in particular were wonderful people even with the conditions they have had to endure. Thank you for your valuable assistance.

T & B Dunn

### A wonderful Safari (East Africa)

We traveled to Kenya and Tanzania at the end of November and the beginning of December for 12 days. Everything about the trip was fabulous and exceeded our expectations!

Our two guides were extremely knowledgeable about the animals and where to find them, were friendly and personable, spoke good English, and drove carefully when on the highways.

The accommodations were exotic lodges that were very comfortable, had fantastic views, were clean, and had helpful and friendly staff. The food was delicious, plentiful, and we had lots of choices. The weather was great. It rained only a couple

much sightseeing with a wonderfully knowledgeable local guide. He was so thoughtful and charming. If I ever decide to go on this type of trip again I would not hesitate to go with Goway.

P. Hughes



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It was perhaps the best "for tourists" performance ever experienced!

of times after we returned from our drives.

When we were in Kenya we shared the vehicle with a Canadian who had just as sharp eyes as our guide. He was delightful and very friendly. On our Tanzania leg we were by ourselves. Lastly, we were able to see so closely all the animals we came for and many more that we didn't even know about. I would recommend Goway to anyone who wanted to see these countries and the animals.

L & B Birdsey

### Jean Stillwell's Incredible India

Although I have travelled quite a bit, I have never been on an organized tour. I loved it - not having to think about anything except enjoying myself. We did so

much sightseeing with a wonderfully knowledgeable local guide. He was so thoughtful and charming. If I ever decide to go on this type of trip again I would not hesitate to go with Goway.

viewing deck. This was a big plus for us. The other highlight was snorkelling at the Great Barrier Reef. Seeing it was amazing.

Marjorie and Allan

### Journey of a lifetime (Cape to Cairo)

Cape to Cairo was a journey I will never forget. The accommodations, food, traveling companions, and food were all great. The guides, hosts, hostesses, and rangers on the trip were professional and very knowledgeable which added a lot to the trip.

S. Thomas

### Carefree travel Down Under (Solo Traveller)

I spent a month away in Christchurch, Sydney, Cairns and Bali Indonesia at Family Reunions, 2 birthdays and a wedding with a week in Bali as relaxation on the way home.

My travel plans went off without a hitch for air and tours in Sydney and Cairns.

As I travel alone I like feel comfortable that I have taken care of - with as much planning ahead of time so that I don't have any surprises along the way. Goway Travel ensured that I didn't need to be concerned for anything. Everything went off as planned.

P Wilkie

Read more testimonials from our Globetrotters at:

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# Beyond Bora Bora

By Bronwyn Hodge

There's no doubt the island of Bora Bora is famous for its overwater bungalows and postcard-perfect scenery. But it's only one of many islands to choose from when planning your vacation to The Islands of Tahiti. In February of this year, I had the unique opportunity to venture beyond the typical French Polynesia itinerary. I visited three lesser known, but spectacular islands: Huahine, Tikehau and Rangiroa.

These islands have been affectionately named the "Hidden Paradise Islands" probably because despite their beauty, they receive far fewer tourists than Bora Bora, Moorea, or Tahiti. To be honest, they're not all that "hidden." In fact, all 3 islands are very accessible (an Air Tahiti flight from Bora Bora to any of these islands takes about an hour). But they certainly are

marae (temples). You can also see centuries-old stone fish traps (still used today), plus the sacred blue-eyed eels. The excursion finishes off at Mahuti view point, which overlooks the magnificent lagoon of Huahine.

The island of **Tikehau**, an atoll surrounded by a coral reef, is special in that it has countless pink (and white) sand beaches. It's also home to abundant marine life, with an enormous population of colourful fish, plus an assortment of bird colonies (best seen on Bird Island), making it a snorkeler's or birdwatcher's haven. The location is picturesque, serene and totally secluded (in fact the population in Tikehau is about 400). The resort of choice is Tikehau Pearl Beach, which contains beautiful overwater bungalows and suites as well as beach bungalows. This resort can only be reached by the resort's shuttle boat. Unlike Bora Bora, no



Underwater marine life at Rangiroa

gems with a lot to offer. So here's why these islands should not be left out when planning your vacation to The Islands of Tahiti.

**Huahine** has earned the nickname, the "Garden Island" for its lush, dense, tropical vegetation. But it's not all green landscapes. Here you will find a stunning turquoise lagoon with a superb volcanic backdrop. One beautiful place to stay is Maitai Lapita Village Huahine. The property is set around a lake on an ancient archaeological site, and offers unique lake-side bungalows. A fun way to explore Huahine's



Maitai Lapita Village at Huahine

lagoon is by a guided tour in a motorized canoe that stops off at the best snorkelling spots. A picnic lunch is served on a beautiful motu (islet) where you sit at a table in the lagoon with your feet in the water. The island is also home to a fascinating ancient culture, and is dotted with 200 archaeological structures. Travellers can spend a day with an expert anthropologist who teaches visitors about Polynesian history, people and culture. This guide shows you the village where district chiefs once worshipped their ancestors at their

other resort is within sight as far as the eye can see.

In neighbouring **Rangiroa** (located 20 minutes by plane from Tikehau) you'll discover French Polynesia's best diving. Rangiroa is also known for being the second largest atoll in the world. The Hotel Kia Ora Resort and Spa blends traditional Polynesian and modern design and offers a choice of room: overwater bungalows, beach bungalows and pool villas. A top activity is to "shoot the pass" in Tiputa, a spot known for its amazing drift snorkelling. Another popular day tour takes you to the Blue Lagoon, which is actually a lagoon inside a lagoon. It has a natural aquarium only about 5 metres deep, perfect for snorkelling. The water here (as you can imagine) appears the most amazing shades of blue. And if you're done with water activities, you can sample a local Rosé; Rangiroa is also the only island that produces French Polynesian wine. You can also watch wild dolphins, which come out to play in the waves every day at sunset.

Remote, but accessible, the islands of Huahine, Tikehau, and Rangiroa offer a charming and enriching experience for the traveller who is willing to venture off the beaten path and experience an unspoiled island paradise. Expect an authentic Polynesian experience, with uncrowded beaches, pristine lagoons, and charming resorts. Furthermore, a vacation here tends to be more affordable than on one of the more popular islands.



Tikehau Pearl Beach Resort Overwater Bungalows



## The Best Places to Stay in The Islands of Tahiti

*Although visiting The Islands of Tahiti can be considered expensive, choosing the right accommodation can ease your budget woes. Nearly 90 percent of lodging options on the islands are stand-alone bungalows, which are part of the area's exquisite charm. Three options for accommodation typically exist, overwater, garden, and beach bungalows, and each comes with its own perks and price tags.*

### Extra Privacy at a Budget-Friendly Garden Bungalow

In general, most French Polynesian bungalows do not differ greatly in layout, style, or amenities within one resort. Prices are typically dictated by their site and proximity to the beach or lagoon. When cost is a consideration, garden bungalows, are usually the lead-in room category and may offer the most bang for your buck. As the name suggests, garden bungalows are usually surrounded by privacy hedges and stunning foliage. Some garden bungalows also feature a nearby plunge pool. Although garden bungalows may be off the beach, their secluded quality is attractive to many. They are also generally closer to the public resort facilities (lobby, restaurants, spa) than beach or overwater bungalows.

The island of Moorea is ideal for garden bungalows. Though a shallow lagoon surrounds the island – perfect for snorkeling and scuba diving – the inland area of Moorea features majestic mountain waterfalls and lush jungles. Home to gardens of hibiscus, exotic flowers, and colourful birds of paradise, the small island is ideal for exploring, and a garden bungalow will often open up its charms for less.

### Steps From Paradise at a Beachfront Bungalow

If a view is a must-have when choosing your French Polynesian resort, consider a beachfront bungalow. Generally less expensive than overwater bungalows, these bungalows provide beach proximity without the price tag of staying over the lagoon. They also afford ocean views, and some have their own private beach access.

If you desire a beachfront bungalow, consider an island such as Rangiroa or Tikehau. Both are



A garden pool bungalow is a great alternative to an overwater bungalow

excellent options. Rangiroa is actually a string of coral islets that encircle a jade-coloured lagoon, and its waters offer some of the world's best snorkeling. A hidden paradise, Tikehau features white and pink sand beaches, and many consider them to be the most beautiful in French Polynesia. For those searching for the secluded tropical beach experience, a beach bungalow settled on one of these islands may be the perfect lodging option.

### Splurging For An Exotic Overwater Bungalow

We highly recommend splurging on an overwater bungalow, even if just for one or two nights. Typically characterized by thatch roofs, and spacious private decks, overwater bungalows extend out from the beach over shallow lagoons. Connected by small piers, many overwater bungalows also feature a "Tahitian Television", which is a clear glass pane on the floor allow-

ing guests to watch colourful fish swim underneath. For more privacy, and the most unobstructed view, vacationers may wish to upgrade to an "end of pontoon" overwater bungalow, located at the end of a row.

Many French Polynesian islands offer overwater bungalows, but Bora Bora provides the most options, ranging mostly in 4- and 5-star resorts. Often considered the most romantic of the Pacific Islands, Bora Bora is famous for its multicoloured, turquoise lagoon and the dramatic Mount Otemanu that dominates the inland. Those looking for a luxurious, romantic getaway will find an overwater bungalow on Bora Bora an indulgence for the senses.

Though some may worry about the price tag of a French Polynesia vacation, a holiday in this Pacific paradise is usually manageable with the right information and planning.

### GETTING TO TAHITI WITH AIR TAHITI NUI

Air Tahiti Nui, with a route network linking the South Pacific to four continents, is the leading carrier to French Polynesia featuring daily non-stop service from Los Angeles. Air Tahiti Nui was named the "Best Airline in the South Pacific" by Global Traveler in 2011, 2012 and 2015, and selected as Readers Choice Award Recipient in 2011 by Conde Nast Traveler; it was also named one of the "World's Best" international airlines by Travel +Leisure in 2011 and 2012. The airline has headquarters in Papeete and operates from Faa'a International Airport on the island of Tahiti. The company was founded in 1996 and commenced flight operations in 1998.

In addition to its Los Angeles-Tahiti service, the airline also offers convenient onward travel to Japan as well as both New Zealand and Australia from its Papeete hub.



# Only in Scandinavia: Unlocking the Capitals of the North

Visitors to Northern Europe quickly discover why Norway, Sweden, and Denmark lead the world in innovation, sustainability, and happiness. Celebrating their rich past even as they focus on the future, Scandinavia's capital cities, Oslo, Stockholm, and Copenhagen are ideal spots for a cultural holiday, either linked together, or on their own.

Travellers to **Norway** may be pinning for the fjords, but it's impossible to ignore the art and history of Oslo. The Viking Ship Museum sets visitors' imaginations ablaze with its collection of swords, helmets and 9th century ships, while Vigeland Sculpture Park celebrates Gustav Vigeland's off-beat creativity with over 200 pieces on display. One of Norway's favourite sons, Edvard Munch gets his own museum, while his most famous creation, *The Scream*, is housed in the National Gallery. A perfect day in Oslo ends with a fine seafood dinner and a sip of aquavit, a potato-based liquor. That's if you're not taking in an evening fjord cruise, of course.

Getting out of the city, the famous Flåm Railroad is by far the most scenic route to the scenic coastal city of Bergen. Other nearby sights include Edvard Grieg's lakeside villa, and the spectacular Lysefjord, best seen from The Pulpit Rock, which juts out 1,900 feet above. All these are included on the Norway in a Nutshell tour.

In neighbouring **Sweden**, the city of Stockholm is built across fourteen islands in the beautiful Stockholm archipelago. The source of many of Scandinavia's best-known brands and icons, Stockholm celebrates them all within its medieval streets, cutting edge galleries, and museums embracing both the past and the

future. Visitors can take in the Vasa Museum, where the world's only preserved 17th century ship is on display. Right nearby is the open-air museum of Skansen, which recreates a taste of Sweden's past. If you're interested in a more recent retro trip, groove your way into ABBA: The Museum, where you can share the stage with holograms of Sweden's most famous musical export. Stockholm is just as spectacular from the water. In fact, a visit here isn't really complete without a boat tour to the island of Lovön, home to UNESCO World Heritage listed Drottningholm Palace. Then go on to Lidingö, and admire the home and work of sculptor Carl Milles at Millesgården.

An abundance of clichés seem to shroud Denmark's **Copenhagen**. You can certainly crowd around for a shot of the Little Mermaid (word to the wise, it's small and a little way out of the city centre, so perhaps check your expectations on this one), but be sure to allow plenty of time to discover just how this 'wonderful' city blends its 1,000-year history with a fierce appetite for innovation and good living. Release your inner 'big kid' at Tivoli Gardens. The world's second-oldest operating amusement park is a 19th century delight for all ages, and an easily reached 'must-do' while in Copenhagen. Shopoholics can get their fix on the pedestrian street of Strøget, where avant-garde



Top: Old Town Stockholm. Bottom: Oslo Opera House



Nyhavn Harbour, Copenhagen

and traditional boutiques meet, interspersed with an abundance of cafés. Design Museum Denmark will indulge your senses with the perfect blend of art and functionality, while Louisiana, a short train ride north of the city, has become one of the world's great modern art museums.

**Scandinavian Airlines** offers the most nonstop flights to the

Scandinavian capitals through seven gateways in the U.S.; with flights from New York (Newark), Chicago, Washington D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston and Miami starting September 2016. As a member of Star Alliance, SAS offers smooth connections from more than 50 cities through their partnership with United Airlines.



The Pulpit Rock  
Lysefjorden, Norway



Stockholm, Sweden



Copenhagen,  
Denmark

Photo: Jeppe Wikstrom

From design innovations to world-class cuisine, discover what you can experience

## ONLY IN SCANDINAVIA

A destination heralded for innovation and contemporary genius, yet firmly rooted within its historic landscape. Scandinavia summons reference to no other place. Norway, Denmark and Sweden offer breathtaking nature which blends effortlessly with its culture. Sublime beauty and an enlivening atmosphere exist at every turn, whether it's experienced within Norway's spectacular fjords, Stockholm's archipelago or along the streets of eco-friendly Copenhagen. Become enchanted with the Scandinavian way of life by discovering all three destinations.



### SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES

Scandinavian Airlines offers the most nonstop flights from the U.S. to Scandinavia, with flights from New York (Newark), Chicago, Washington D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston and Miami starting September.

[flysas.com/Scandinavia](http://flysas.com/Scandinavia)

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# Bangkok, Hong Kong & Singapore: Past, Present, and Future of Asia

Travellers who claim 'you don't go to Asia for the cities' are missing out. While they might not surround visitors with the timeless architecture of Europe, each Asian city has its own unique surprises, sights, flavours, experiences, and culture to be explored. In fact, Asia spoils for choice when it comes to city destinations, but three stand out as being easily accessible highlights.



The Royal Palace glows after dark

Simply put, there's nowhere on Earth like **Bangkok**, where the Royal Palace glows after dark, asserting its rightful place as Bangkok's centrepiece. Always frenetic and always changing, Bangkok is nonetheless a city with strong ties to Thailand's past. The much revered royal family may no longer live at the Royal Palace, but its grounds are a remarkable testament to centuries of Thai culture. The city's temples are equally impressive, particularly Wat Po, home to the country's largest reclining Buddha, and Wat Arun, whose tile mosaic comes alive after dark to light up the banks of the Chao Phraya River. Day trips also

put you in easy reach of the ruins of Ayutthaya, or the infamous bridge over the Kwai River. Back in the city, hit the streets for bargains in local markets, or taste your way through abundant street food options – two great Bangkok traditions that persist in the shadow of modern megamalls. And if you're still looking for entertainment after dark, the nightlife here might just be some of the best in Asia.

**Hong Kong** has always been at



Hong Kong has always been at a crossroads between China and the West

a crossroads between China and the West, the past and the future. Here in the present, it is Asia's finance capital, luring professionals from all over the world. But Hong Kong knows how to play as well, entertaining its guests with historic sights, a variety of cuisine that must be grazed to be believed, and a story unlike any other in Asia. At 315 towers (beating New York's 240), this is the skyscraper capital of the world, a fact very apparent from the

must-see view atop Victoria Peak. The other essential view of the skyline is from the water's edge in Kowloon, the best vantage point for the nightly 'Symphony of Lights' show. Old Hong Kong isn't too hard to track down. Enjoy a moment of quiet contemplation at Man Mo Temple in Sheung Wan, or Chi Lin Nunnery in Diamond Hill. Then take in the 360 degree panorama from the Ngong Ping Cable Car on your way to the Tian Tan Buddha. And if you have any downtime left, be forewarned – shopping in Hong Kong is a competitive sport!

Multicultural and eco-friendly **Singapore** is barreling towards the future in ways you might not expect. The space-age 'Supertrees' that dot Gardens by the Bay, for example, boast some serious forward-thinking innovations, including technology that mimics photosynthesis and collects rainwater for irrigation. They're also a part of the climate control system that maintains the Gardens' two observatories. Singaporean society is also proudly multicultural. Malays,



Merlion Fountain and Singapore Skyline

Chinese, Indians, and expats all contribute to the fabric of the city. Exploring neighbourhoods such as Chinatown, Little India, or Kampong Glam lets you experience this diversity first hand. Be sure to eat as you go! After Bangkok and Hong Kong, Singapore should absolutely not be left off your Asian degustation holiday. Once you've filled up on top notch hawker food, leave the city behind to explore one of the world's best Botanical Gardens, or the impressive range of eco-friendly exhibits at Singapore Zoo, or the neighbouring Night Safari.

Sample the highlights of these three cities with Goway's Asia Sampler - set at a comfortable pace with free time to explore the cities.

Or splurge on Goway's Gems of South East Asia offering hotels with luxury, comfort, style and character. For more information visit [www.goway.com](http://www.goway.com)

## Discovering Hangzhou

... Continued from page 1

While the Chinese have been enjoying the beauty of Hangzhou for centuries, western travellers are just beginning to discover this delightful city. An intrepid few managed to discover its charms much earlier. Marco Polo declared Hangzhou "the most beautiful and elegant city in the world" – and he was from Venice!

At just under 8.89 million people, Hangzhou is a small city by Chinese standards. It is nonetheless the capital of Zhejiang Province, and has played a significant role in China's culture and economy for centuries. Hangzhou is also noteworthy as the southern terminus of the Grand Canal, which originates in the country's capital, Beijing, and is the longest canal in the world. Completed in the 7th century, and now under UNESCO World Heritage listing, the Canal is testament to the historic importance of Hangzhou.

It isn't the city's most picturesque or famous aquatic feature however. That honour goes to West Lake, a UNESCO World Heritage composed of five sections, and sprinkled with beautiful temples,

pagodas, gardens, and artificial islands. Inspiring poets and painters from across Asia, West Lake's influence can be found in many gardens throughout China, as well as in Korea and Japan. Numerous legends shroud its shores, but the



Girls picking tea in Hangzhou

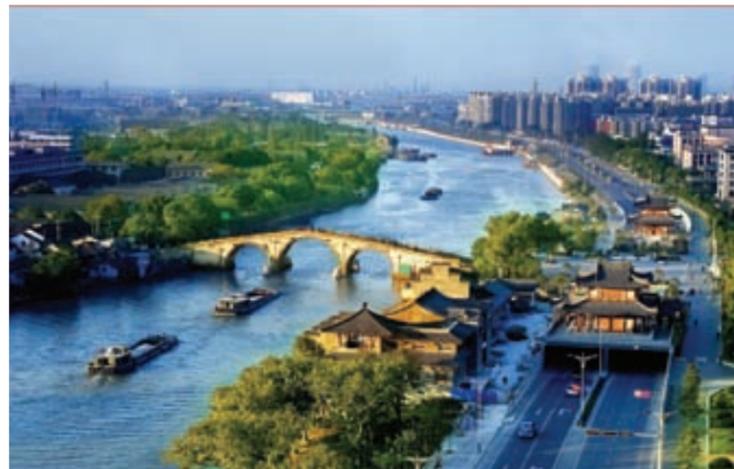
most notable is that of the white snake spirit Bai Suzhen, and the mortal, Xu Xian with whom she fell in love. When an evil monk imprisoned Xu Xian, Bai Suzhen fought with all her might to rescue her lover, only to be imprisoned under Leifeng Pagoda. The story has a happy ending, as Bai Suzhen's

son would rescue and reunite the couple years later, securing West Lake in legend as a place for young lovers for years to come.

As atmospheric as it is beautiful, West Lake lures travellers with a range of sights, some boasting particular beauty at certain times of day. Leifeng Pagoda, for instance, is particularly enchanting at dusk, as you'd expect from a structure sitting atop Evening Glow Mountain. An ideal day at West Lake starts at the Su Causeway, particularly in the Spring, when the path along the bridges is punctuated by willow and peach blossoms, while the lake's 'Twin Peaks' evoke mystery of a different sort as they disappear into the clouds. The area's most famous evening scene lies at the Three Pools Mirroring the Moon, where a series of uniquely cut lanterns cast a beautiful reflection upon the water.

There is of course much more to Hangzhou than West Lake, though one doesn't have to go far to find one of its other picturesque sights. Qinghefang Ancient Street is a carefully preserved slice of old Hangzhou that recalls the Southern Song Dynasty (around the 12th-13th centuries). In fact, many of the shops here are at least a century old, including Wanlong Ham Stack, Huqingyutang Pharmacy, Wang Xing Ji Fan Store, and many more. Unlike a lot of 'ancient streets' that are popular with tourists, Qinghefang has fought with great pride to retain its authenticity, and is one of the most unique shopping strips you can browse in Asia.

Both Hangzhou and nearby Suzhou are famous for the water towns that dot the surrounding landscape. Two popular trips from Hangzhou are Tangxi, and Xinye, where stone bridges cross the canals, connecting the striking white and grey houses and shops. These towns



Hangzhou is also noteworthy as the southern terminus of the Grand Canal, which originates in the country's capital, Beijing, and is the longest canal in the world.

have long flourished on the back of abundant rice farming, fishing, and silk production. For all their prosperity, they preserve a way of life that looks like it's been pulled right out of a Chinese ink drawing. But no drawing can capture the feel of weaving your own path through the laneways, narrow streets, and bridges of these towns, snapping pictures and immersing yourself in a serene, yet thriving side of life in China.

Tea and silk are still an economic staple of Hangzhou and the broader region today. Nowhere will you find out more about them than at their respective national museums in Hangzhou, sensibly called the China National Tea Museum, and the China National Silk Museum. The National Tea Museum is in fact the only museum of its type in China, so it carries a big responsibility to the country that first shared tea with the world! Discover the history of tea and make your way through to the Kaleidoscope Hall, which showcases over three hundred types of tea. The Museum itself carries the unique distinction of being enclosed not by walls, but by vegetation, for a truly unique experience. At the National Silk Museum, wrap yourself in the 5000-year-long history of silk in

China. Filled with well preserved relics, garments, weaving machinery, and other artefacts, the Museum puts the Silk Road in perspective for you, even including items excavated from the ancient route.

Of course, nobody will blame you for spending your time in Hangzhou simply wandering its beautifully manicured parks, intriguing laneways, and traditional restaurants and teahouses. This ancient city has been a Chinese treasure for centuries, and is now ready and eager to show foreigners all that it's about, particularly as it plays host to the G-20 summit in 2016, and the Asian Games in 2022.

Goway offers a 14 day China Odyssey journey that features Hangzhou. Prices start at CAD \$3529

G20 2016 CHINA



As atmospheric as it is beautiful, West Lake lures travellers with a range of sights

# On Track with Am

In a bygone era, travelling by train was a way of life. Now it can be considered as a relaxing, enjoyable experience. Train travel now offers the ability to take in passing vistas while eating, reading or just relaxing. Goway's selection of great train journeys on 4 continents vary from the simple to the luxurious depending on your style.

## The Ghan: Australia's Ultimate Outback



Relax with fellow travellers in the Outback Explorer Lounge

Two key features of the Australian outback are its mesmerising beauty, and its intimidating distances. Covering the sweeping expanse of the outback in 54 hours is The Ghan, the historic train service that links Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory, with Adelaide, the arts loving capital of South Australia.

Launching its first service in 1929, The Ghan covers almost 3000 kilometres in its current form, which has only been running in its entirety since 2004. Its name comes from the line's original nickname, The Afghan Express, so dubbed for the Afghan camel drivers who helped map Australia's vast, unknown interior in the 19th century. To this day, wild camels are one of the Outback's most common animal sightings.

The historic route starts in Darwin. When it comes to Australia's capital cities, this is as far off the 'beaten track' as it gets. Located right at the country's north,

Darwin is closer to Asia than it is to many parts of Australia, with a population just under 150,000. Yet the city is soaked with Australian history. It was the country's front line against the Japanese in World War 2, survived a devastating Christmas Day cyclone in 1974, which forced Australia's biggest ever airlift operation, and boasts an impressive history of aviation, with pioneers such as Amy Johnson, Amelia Earhart, Bert Hinkler, and Sir Charles Kingsford Smith each leaving their mark. The Australian Aviation Heritage Centre is located just eight kilometres outside the city, with displays including a B52 bomber.

The Ghan itself is one of Australia's greatest land journeys,

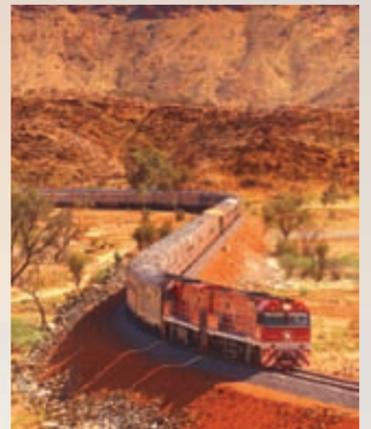
turning a trip into Australia's harshest deserts into an adventure through breath-taking scenery. This is definitely a leisure trip designed for travellers who want to experience the country, so even the most basic level of service is built for comfort and pleasure. The most popular level of service however is Gold, which offers you a private cabin, all-inclusive dining and beverages, and a variety of off train excursions. Gold Service guests receive all inclusive regionally inspired dining in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant and complimentary beverages in the Outback Explorer Lounge. Alternatively, you can really spoil yourself with Platinum Service that includes a cabin twice the size of Gold Service,

deluxe lounge seating, table, ottomans and full ensuite facilities as well as access to the Platinum Club, where you can enjoy 5 course dinners and a range of complimentary beverages.

As for those off train excursions, The Ghan Expedition provides some of the most exciting can be had from Alice Springs, the unofficial capital of Australia's outback. While you can't day trip to Uluru in all its splendour from here (it's a four hour drive away!), you can take a flight, take a walk around the Rock, enjoy lunch and spend time with a guide at some of the key sites. Tuck into an authentic bush barbecue, before enjoying the star-filled night sky of the Australian outback on return to Alice.

Thought 'The Alice' was out there? Say hello to Coober Pedy, reached via an excursion off The Ghan's route. This opal mining town is real 'frontier' Australia, to the point much of it is underground. The underground tunnels and caves in the area reveal surprises such as a Serbian Orthodox church dug from the rock. Of course, visitors can immerse themselves in the fascinating history of opal mining in the region, and pick up some beautiful, uniquely outback souvenirs.

The Ghan's final destination, Adelaide is Australia's festival city. Whether it's wine, food, theatre, or cabaret, Adelaide is a city in



The Ghan weaves through the Outback

love with good food and good art. In fact, it hosts the world's largest cabaret festival, attracting artists ranging from Australian up-and-comers, all the way up to Broadway legends such as Bernadette Peters. The rest of the calendar is packed with worthwhile events as well, but no matter the time of year, a trip into South Australia's wine regions, particularly the Barossa Valley or McLaren Vale, is a must. Be sure to sample the Shiraz, and allow time to enjoy the local flavours at the city's restaurants. Also popular is an overnight trip to Kangaroo Island, home to some fascinating geological formations, and a uniquely South Australian mix of wildlife.

The Ghan Expedition operates seasonally each year from Darwin to Adelaide over 4 days 3 nights. In 2016 there are 13 departures from 3 August to 26 October, with more departures planned for 2017. Ask your travel consultant for more details



Dining in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant Car is exclusive to Gold Service guests

## Tsar's Gold: The Trans-Siberian Adventure



Standard category cabin, Tsar's Gold Private Train

From Beijing to Moscow, one train transforms the world's greatest rail journey into one of the most luxurious.



Enjoy caviar tastings

With forty-four attendants, six chefs, a small army of expert guides, servers, engineers, a doctor, an onboard librarian, and even an accordion player onboard, the Tsar's Gold invites passengers to cross the world's largest country in unrivalled style.

The Trans-Siberian Railway is a bucket list staple for serious travelers and train buffs alike. Stretching an epic 7923 kilometres across eight time zones, it links Beijing and Moscow, making it the ultimate journey through Russia, Mongolia, and China. The Tsar's Gold is a Trans-Siberian option without peer. The service includes all meals, plus an extensive sightseeing itinerary that invites passengers to explore each stop in detail. It even begins with an airport pickup and transfer, before touring the most icon-



Your private train at lake Baikal

ic sights of Beijing (or Moscow, depending on the train's direction). Passengers even visit the Great Wall of China.

Aboard the Tsar's Gold, passengers will discover 'a veritable dacha on wheels.' The trip may be long,



but passengers pass the time enjoying the ultimate Russian immersion on wheels. Russian language classes, vodka and caviar tastings, and cultural performances including throat-singing concerts by traditional Buryat musicians are all

part of the Tsar's Gold experience. The train also weaves around the shores of Lake Baikal, a part of the original track no longer used by the everyday trains that cross the continent. That means some unique experiences, including a waterside barbecue, complete with Russian folk songs.

The Tsar's Gold operates exclusively as a summertime journey, departing between the months of May to September. Places sell out fast, but those who do secure a spot will have the option to extend their rail adventure to enchanting Saint Petersburg, or through China, to destinations such as Shanghai, Hangzhou, or Xi-An.

Travelling the Trans-Siberian Railway takes 15 days from Beijing or 16 days from Moscow and is priced from CAD \$11,925.

### SILK ROAD LUXURY TRAIN

Only a handful of globetrotters have travelled by land across Asia and Europe. Most of them have experienced the Trans-Siberia rail journey. There is however an alternative route to Moscow that takes you through the exotic sights of central Asia ... and it can be done enjoying the highest standards of luxury throughout the journey. But there is only one departure for this exclusive, all-inclusive itinerary for 21 days. It departs Beijing on September 23, 2016 and is priced from \$31,311 CAD. Full details of this very unique program are available at [goway.com](http://goway.com) under Asia Rail Journeys.

# Amazing Rail Journeys

... Continued next page



Commodore Cabin



Dining Car



Lounge Car

## Africa's Shongololo: Following the Millipede

It's said that when native Africans caught the first glimpse of trains in their land, they dubbed the strange contraptions Shongololo, meaning millipede. Today, that millipede takes passengers through some of the most beautiful countries on earth.

Recently acquired by Rovos Rail (Africa's most luxurious train), the Shongololo features en-suite cabins, and two dining cars that recall the splendour of a bygone era. Yet for all its luxury, the Shongololo is built for experiencing Africa. Its three distinct Africa journeys are designed to take passengers off

train, using a fleet of air-conditioned vehicles.

The Dune Express focuses on Namibia, including Etosha National Park (home to Africa's largest concentration of Cheetahs), Spitzkoppe, Cape Cross Seal Reserve, and Fish River Canyon, with the option to visit the Sossusvlei dunes or the Skeleton Coast. The Dune Express also includes the Au-grabies National Park in South Africa.

The Southern Cross is a classic journey. Setting out from Johannesburg, the train weaves its way through Swaziland, stop-

ping in Maputo, overlooking the Indian Ocean in Mozambique. Passengers can spot the Big 5 in Kruger National Park, before hitting the Panorama Route. Cross into Zimbabwe, and explore the relics of Great Zimbabwe, before tracking the big cats in Hwange National Park. The final stop on the trip is the mighty 'Smoke That Thunders,' Victoria Falls.

Prefer to focus on South Africa? The Good Hope travels between Pretoria and Cape Town. The route takes in Kruger National Park and the Panorama Route, before turning south to St Lucia Wetland Park. Stop in at the popular seaside town of Durban, and tour the battlefields of Spionkop. Then, it's all about the Garden Route, including Oudtshoorn, 'the Ostrich capital of the world,' finally ending in Cape Town, the beautiful Mother City at the foot of Table Mountain.



Shongololo carries its own touring vehicles

## Rovos Rail: Luxurious Track

Dubbed 'The Most Luxurious Train in the World,' Rovos Rail immerses passengers in the splendour of a bygone era, while still taking them to the heart of today's Africa.

Offering a choice of impeccable suites at three levels across its fleet of four trains, Rovos ensures a memorable experience for all its guests by offering common areas of incomparable luxury. With floor to ceiling windows and open-air balconies, observation cars allow full enjoyment of this beautiful landscape. Exquisite dining cars make dinner an elegant affair. With a mandatory dress code, pre-1940s style furnishings provide the perfect backdrop, as passengers enjoy Africa's finest wines and a range of traditional local dishes. Passengers needing time out from the adventure can relax in the smoke-free lounge car, or in the club car, where smokers can indulge without missing the scenery.

Travelling between South Africa and Tanzania, Rovos reaches a wide variety of destinations and sights in between, including Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. There are itineraries focused on particular regions or stand-out



Enjoy First Class service

attractions such as Victoria Falls. There are even two dedicated golfing safaris, though these include sightseeing off the fairways as well. Rovos trains are equipped for excursions to all the highlights along each route, including safari outings through some of Africa's most famous national parks and reserves.

The ultimate Rovos journey takes passengers from majestic Cape Town to Dar es Salaam, the largest city in Tanzania. It's an epic journey, traversing half the continent in absolute luxury, and a fitting partial fulfillment of Cecil Rhodes' dream to connect Africa from the Cape to Cairo. So fitting in fact that Goway's Ultimate Journey of a Lifetime - Cape to Cairo lets passengers experience Rovos Rail for this section of the adventure.



**ROYAL SUITE**  
(16 sq m in size or 172 sq ft). Each Royal suite takes up half a carriage, features its own private lounge area and full bathroom with Victorian bath and separate shower. Accommodates two people offering the option of twin or spacious double beds.

## Goway Founder Reflects On Ultimate Journey

A legend was born the day Cecil Rhodes proposed building a railway line from South Africa to Egypt in the 1890s. History hails Rhodes as the "classic empire builder." He envisioned a 'red line' of British dominions from North to South. Unfortunately Rhodes died and the railway was never completed. But his ambition lives on, and today, whilst they can't travel all the way by train, travellers can still make the journey.

Two years ago Goway, one of the world's leading travel companies, put together an itinerary which they now promote as the "Ultimate Journey of a Lifetime." They created a Cape to Cairo program that includes luxury rail travel, stays in some of the world's most luxurious accommodations, quintessential African experiences, including safaris and a gorilla trek, and the opportunity to tick at least 14 items off the classic Africa travel bucket list.

Goway's inaugural trip returned

in February. The journey cost singles US\$54,000 or US\$44,500 per twin (plus airfare and insurance). It was personally hosted by Goway's President Bruce Hodge and his wife Claire.

Here is an excerpt from Bruce's blog on the last day of their Ultimate trip:

### Our Journey of a Lifetime is Over!

After 32 days of travelling through 8 countries by luxury train, small planes, big planes, safari vehicles, buses, a river boat, a felucca, flying in helicopters, riding a horse and carriage ... our Journey of a Lifetime is over. We've stayed in amazing and luxurious accommodations, encountered mountain gorillas, viewed virtually every animal (except the leopard) and many birds in Africa. We've met important people and many, many lovely friendly locals who are extremely poor. We never felt unsafe or threatened in any way at any time - just the complete opposite. We felt wel-

come everywhere!

Our tour guides were all experienced and professional and taught us a lot of things we didn't know. Our drivers were amazing, navigating the streets and traffic of Cairo, the African bushland searching for and chasing game, or winding over high mountain roads in Ethiopia.

We saw some of the most stunning sights in the world such as Table Mountain, Victoria Falls, Ngorongoro Crater, the great Wildebeest Migration and the Pyramids

We've enjoyed amazing meals and wines (and beers), and several cultural performances. Our knowledge of trains has been enhanced and we learned the history of Southern Africa from Rhodes to Livingstone to Mugabe. As well we've learned that East Africa is the cradle of Mankind (they found "Lucy" in Ethiopia) and that human movement down the Nile River to the fertile river delta enabled Egypt to become the first civilization.

We had one day of rain - yet it's hard to remember when or where!

No-one got sick or had a fall. Personally my weak ankle got a workout on the gorilla trek (as did Bev and Greg's knees) and negotiating the steps at Lalibela - and only once did I detect a need to take Imodium!

We've travelled from Cape Town to Cairo - an adventure few people can brag about - and we did it in style.

We've shared an extraordinary

experience as friends and comrades for life.

Goway's next Cape to Cairo departure is on 28 September 2017, with more departures in the planning stage. It is priced from US\$44,500 per person twin share To maintain exclusivity as an ULTIMATE journey, less than 15 guests will participate. Full details for the trip are featured on [www.HOLIDAYSOALIFETIME.com](http://www.HOLIDAYSOALIFETIME.com).

For reservations and information, visit [www.goway.com](http://www.goway.com), or call 1-800-387-8850.



Bruce and Claire Hodge travelled from Cape Town to Cairo on Goway's inaugural Journey of a Lifetime. Milepost at Victoria Falls.



# Rail Ways to Go



In Asia High Speed Trains Clock Over 300 KM Per Hour  
... continued from page 9

Although this feature is about the Great Rail Journeys in the world (all of which are offered by Goway) readers should be aware that train travel in many parts of the world is a convenient and economical way to get around e.g. Australia, UK, Europe. Railway stations are usually right downtown and boarding procedures are easier than airports. Sometimes you can save on accommodation costs where sleeping berths are available on overnight journeys.

In **Australia**, as well as the legendary Ghan Outback Train, there are several options, the main ones being the Indian Pacific that travels ocean to ocean for four days and three nights between Sydney and Perth, and the Spirit of Queensland that journeys for 25 hours along the beautiful Queensland coast between Brisbane and Cairns.

In **Europe** most people have heard of the Eurail Pass. However, Europe's most famous train is the Venice Simplon Orient Express that travels in five star luxury for two days between London and Venice. The same train also travels from

Istanbul to Venice but there is only one annual departure (2Sep'16 and 1Sep'17). There are several Classic one day train experiences in Europe (e.g. Switzerland's Glacier Express). [www.goway.com](http://www.goway.com) has a European Rail section that features several inclusive independent touring itineraries from 5 to 9 days.

For the **British Isles** Goway offers two inclusive itineraries, 4 and 8 days in Scotland using the famed luxury Royal Scotsman train.

In Ireland the company offers inclusive itineraries for 5 and 7 days that include rail travel.

In **Asia** Goway offers 14 different itineraries that include rail travel. The renowned Eastern and Oriental Express (see front page picture) is a luxury train experience that travels between Singapore and Bangkok for 3 or 4 days.

In India the famed Palace on Wheels offers "the opportunity to live like the maharajas". The train travels on an amazing itinerary for 9 days, Delhi to Delhi. It however is not as luxurious as you would imagine. An alternative is the Royal Rajasthan that follows a similar itinerary for 8 days return

to Delhi and is Goway's recommended choice.

There are several programs in Japan that involve Bullet Train travel ... and in Taiwan too.

In China the company offers an 8 day introduction to Beijing and Shanghai where you travel between the two cities via high speed rail clocking over 300km per hour

Another China itinerary features the Tibet Express where you travel overnight from Xining to Lhasa on the highest railway in the world. A monitor tells you what altitude you are at. Accommodation is basic and has shared bathroom facilities. Goway can also arrange for you to join in Beijing.

Travellers to **South America** can enjoy a four day scenic train ride from Ecuador's highlands to lowlands - between Quito and Guayaquil, with a steam locomotive. The Devils Nose Railway Adventure is Ecuador's most famous train journey and is included in many Ecuador based programs.

Machu Picchu by train is the favored way to reach the famous ruins in Peru with a few styles of train journey on offer. One is the 5 star rail experience on board the Hiram Bingham train. Similarly you can travel through the Andes between Cusco on to Puno located on the shores of Lake Titicaca in comfort on the Andean Explorer train.



Flags of the United Kingdom



Scotland is a treasure trove

## The Many Faces of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

When you tell friends you're visiting the UK, they're sure to ask what part...and well they should! The United Kingdom is four distinct countries rolled into one, with some big regional differences within them. Simply board the train or fill up the car, and start exploring the many faces of the UK.



Punting in Oxford

treasures like Caernarfon Castle, the Snowdon region, Great Orme, and the Smallest House in Britain.

### Of Lakes and Midlands

Northern England is a world away from the South, but the small belt of cities between Liverpool and York make perfect multi-stop driving or train journey, and each has its own unique delights. Enjoy Beatles and maritime history in Liverpool. Indulge in the modern art and nightlife scene in Manchester, and immerse yourself in the medieval beauty of York. Just north of here however, you'll find the Lake District National Park, where you can experience outdoor England at its most delightful.

### Roaming the Highlands of Scotland

Scotland's national identity is so distinct from England's that many travellers take in the country on its own. Certainly there is Edinburgh, boasting its namesake castle, and a nonstop festival calendar. Loch Ness also continues to lure travellers intrigued by its legend and natural beauty, and there's definitely something to be said for a round of golf in the country that invented it. But Scotland is a treasure trove of hidden islands, remote villages and castles, many of which hide off the main shore. If you are missing civilisation, just return to Edinburgh, or its famously gritty, fun-loving and innovative neighbour, Glasgow.



Visiting the Giant's Causeway

### North of the (Irish) Wall

While Northern Ireland probably makes an easier addition to an Ireland trip, it is part of the UK that shouldn't be ignored. Now a fixture on the cinematic map thanks to its many appearances in Game of Thrones, the country's signature attraction is the Giant's Causeway, a spectacular coastal rock formation. Other natural landmarks include glacier cut valleys and an impressive array of coastal cliffs. Back in the city of Belfast, explore the grim but important legacy of the 20th century 'Troubles', as well as the story of the Titanic's construction, at the dockyards where the ill-fated ship was built.

For travel ideas to the U.K., visit [goway.com](http://goway.com).

### Down South Outside of London

You'll hear it from Britons and travellers alike. If you only visited London, you really didn't visit the UK. The capital is its own unique culture and society in many ways, meaning it doesn't really reflect what you'll find just outside its borders. Take a day trip to a favourite seaside resort like Brighton, or the famous university towns of Oxford and Cambridge, where you can walk in the footsteps of more British (and international) legends than we can possibly list here. Perhaps the best known attractions in the region however, lie to the west of London. The ancient city of Bath deserves at least a night's stop on your itinerary, where you can see the influence of the ancient Romans first hand. Meanwhile, though some travellers debate the value of visiting Stonehenge, it's an easy half day trip to say you've been.



Caernarfon Castle, Wales

### Exploring Wonderful Wales

One of the UK's most beautiful regions gets something of a short shift next to nearby Scotland or Ireland. But Wales is a completely unique society with its own quirks and charms, and many picturesque national parks. Doctor Who fans will not want to miss Cardiff, now home to The Doctor Who Experience. But Wales also contains

## THE 2016 MEANINGFUL TRAVEL MAP OF NEPAL

### 2016 IS A REMARKABLE TIME TO GO TO NEPAL.

In addition to its natural wonders, cultural treasures and hospitality, you can experience the inspiring rebound from the 2015 earthquake. Your 2016 trip will be especially meaningful for Nepal—and for you.



EACH FOOTSTEP HELPS THE 487,000 NEPALESI IN TOURISM AND THEIR FAMILIES, ACCOUNTING FOR ALMOST 10% OF GDP.



**REVEL IN KATHMANDU CULTURE.** The Kathmandu valley is home to 7 UNESCO World Heritage monuments, including Durbar Square, Bhaktapur and Patan. Immerse yourself in ancient wonders, and see how they are being renewed!

**HIT THE TRAILS.** Discover Nepal's 4500 km "Network of Extraordinary Journeys" from Everest to Annapurna, and especially the rebuilding and welcoming Langtang and Gorkha regions. [www.greathimalaya.com](http://www.greathimalaya.com)



**GET WILD & PRESERVE.** Visit Chitwan National Park, Nepal's second natural World Heritage Site after Everest.

**PAMPER YOURSELF FOR A PURPOSE.** Get a massage at Seeing Hands, a social enterprise managed and serviced by blind Nepalis. [www.seeinghandsnepal.org](http://www.seeinghandsnepal.org)



**GET A SPECIAL GLIMPSE INTO TODAY'S NEPAL.** Learn about children's issues and ethical tourism through May at "Wisdom Wednesdays" at a Thamel pub with guest speakers from NGOs, the US Embassy, and others. [www.nextgenerationnepal.org](http://www.nextgenerationnepal.org) Delve into the recovery, or discover the Rise of the Artisans and how legendary craftsmen are restoring Nepal's monuments, with Social Tours. [www.socialtours.com](http://www.socialtours.com)

# Nepal Recovery Journey

... continued from page 1

today's Nepal, the Tourism Cares Recovery Fund for Nepal has created the Meaningful Travel Map of Nepal. This simple map, as seen below, highlights some of Nepal's familiar stars such as Chitwan National Park, and of course, the Himalayas. But it also focuses on drawcards that help Nepal's future, including a blind massage program, Seeing Hands, and the work of programs such as Next Generation Nepal, and Social Tours, which involve tourists with the rebuild in ways that leave both traveller and country enriched.

Besides direct work with tourists, Tourism Cares has been working extensively behind the scenes in

Nepal over the past year, providing hospitality training and certification for 40 lodge and tea house owners and workers from Lantang, technology access and education for tourism businesses in Tuckhe, Mustang, and training for six visually impaired massage therapists at Seeing Hands Nepal.

With the help of our generous globetrotters, Goway was proud to help support Tourism Cares last year, in the wake of the Nepal quake. Tourism can be one of the most powerful recovery tools for a country in need, bringing not just money, but understanding, support, and ongoing opportunity for regions affected by disaster.

Nepal is a feature country in

Goway's ASIA Travel Planner. There are 14 different travel ideas at [goway.com](http://goway.com)

On April 16th of this year, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit Ecuador, just outside the coastal city of Muisne, killing over 500 people, including four Canadians and an American. While it's too early to tell what specific assistance the country may need in its recovery, continued support from tourism will greatly assist the region in getting back on its feet.



# Unwinding On Australia's Spectacular Coastline

Wishing you could call Australia home? A long stay on one of its beaches could be just the ticket. Sydney leaves many visitors wishing they could stay longer. But the city's high prices can be an obstacle to a leisurely extended visit. The gorgeous beaches however, don't stop at the city limits. Just to Sydney's north lies a long stretch of national parks, charming coastal towns, and picturesque beaches bound to reward any traveller with extra time to spend.



Mantra at Ettalong Beach is the newest destination added to Goway's Snowbird program. It is located on the Central Coast of New South Wales

A number of resort options make the New South Wales **Central Coast** a highly accessible long stay destination. Ettalong Beach, for example, is located an easy 90 minute drive from Sydney, and combines nature parks with beaches that are well suited for swimming. River cruises are another popular pursuit for visitors to the area, since the waterways of the Central Coast are lined with impressive scenery. Many parts of the waterways are sheltered from strong currents, making them a great option for young families. On the sporting side, holiday-makers who enjoy deep sea fishing and/or golf are well covered. The town even has its own seaside village market on weekends.

The Brisbane Water National Park is a natural playground too often missed by visitors to New South Wales. Spreading out just a few kilometres from Ettalong Beach, bounded by the Hawkesbury River and the Pacific Highway, this rugged, protected area supports charter vessels and ferries that offer scenic tours, fishing trips, and even whale watching in season.

Specialising in long-term accommodation, the Mantra Ettalong

Beach Resort offers studio, one, and two bedroom suites with ocean or inland views. An on-site day spa takes care of all guests' therapeutic and relaxation needs, and for those missing 'The Big Smoke', Sydney is just a 90 minute drive, or a 75 minute train journey from nearby Woy Woy station. Like most long stays, units are well equipped for self-catering. For those special nights out, Ettalong Beach offers a wide range of options, from simple eateries and pubs to more sophisticated dining, and ideal waterside picnic spots abound. You can also visit one of Australia's premier wine regions, the Hunter Valley, just 90 minutes drive to the north.

Of course, New South Wales doesn't have the monopoly on great Australian long-stay beach destinations. Many can be found in Southeast Queensland, just outside of Brisbane.

The **Gold Coast** is an Australian family getaway favourite, thanks to its variety of theme parks, picture perfect surf beaches, world class shopping and nightlife, and proximity to many national parks in the region, as well as a thriving boutique wine industry. For a long-stay, guests may prefer to leave the

busy hubs of Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach behind, instead settling into Coolangatta.

Though located within a half-hour drive of the busier, most touristy parts of the Coast, the beaches are quieter here, and the pace of life is more relaxed. Those also wanting to sample the beaches of New South Wales can literally walk to fulfil that goal. Coolangatta is one of two cities that line the state border, the other being Tweed Heads. Photos striking a dramatic cross-border pose (or handstand) are popular with visitors, but the so-called 'Twin Towns' also let you enjoy the best of both worlds, with beautiful local beaches on one side and wildlife-rich hinterland on the other. Getting there is easy too. Coolangatta is just a 75 minute drive from Brisbane airport, while Gold Coast airport is practically next door.

For an even more local beach experience, head north from Brisbane to the **Sunshine Coast**. Just an hour's drive from Brisbane Airport, the towns along this beautiful strip are generally smaller, and you're more likely to meet locals enjoying the beaches. There's also no shortage of attractions if you're planning to holiday with family, including world famous Australia Zoo. Formerly the home of late 'Crocodile Hunter' Steve Irwin, the zoo is today operated by his family, continuing a legacy of conservation through education. At the northern end of the coast, Noosa is a popular getaway, boasting what are arguably Southeast Queensland's most beautiful beaches.

Along the way, guests may want to stop in for a taste of one of Australia's favourite South Pacific destinations. Fiji has been luring Australians eager to explore a tropical island destination for decades. Its sundrenched shores and island culture are also a stark contrast to the beaches of New South Wales or Southeast Queensland, bringing a touch of diversity to any extended holiday. Fiji's destinations are diverse as well, from the resorts of Denarau on the main island of Viti Levu, to the family friendly Coral Coast, to the romantic Mamanuca Islands, and the remote Yasawas.

*Fiji Airways flies directly from Los Angeles, with connecting flights to Sydney and Brisbane, making the islands an easy stopover choice for anyone heading to Australia.*

*Goway offers 1 or 2 month long-stays that can be combined to create a longer trip. The Gold Coast starts from \$4289, Sunshine Coast from \$4199, or the Central Coast from \$4549.*

*Included in the price is international airfare from Vancouver, travel insurance are airport-resort transfers, and 28 nights in a fully self-contained apartment. For departures from other Canadian cities, from Calgary add \$200, Toronto / Ottawa / Montreal / Quebec add \$300, Victoria add \$456, Edmonton add \$477, Regina/Saskatoon add \$560, Halifax add \$1200.*



The kind of crowd you will come across in New Zealand in the spring or fall

## Choose New Zealand in the Fall or Spring

Spring and Fall might be the perfect seasons to travel to New Zealand. The seasons in New Zealand are the exact opposite to North America, and the climate is still temperate in the fall and spring. The "shoulder" seasons offer great value and fewer crowds. This enchanting 268,021 square kilometre nation is the perfect place to relax and enjoy incredible sweeping landscapes, inspired cuisine, fun adventure sports, and top-notch attractions. It's the perfect destination to visit on its own, or during a stopover en-route to the South Pacific islands.

There are no extreme temperatures in New Zealand, and weather throughout the country is generally mild throughout the year – both in the North Island and South Island – allowing for glorious days! In March, however, after the peak summer seasons of January and February have wound down, thinner crowds make hotel rooms and great restaurants cheaper and more accessible.

### Baby Lambs & Blooming Fruit Trees

New Zealand's spring comes in September, October, and November, and is a gorgeous time to visit! The countryside is lush and green, the fruit trees are in bloom, and adorable baby lambs bounce around the pastures. In Christchurch, bluebells and daffodils spring up, and Dunedin is coloured with vibrant rhododendrons. The days are warmer and daylight hours are longer.

Autumn spans March, April, and May. Some people think that this is the best time of year to enjoy a New Zealand vacation. The temperatures are pleasant, and even in April people are wearing summer clothes in the upper North Island. The most spectacular autumn colours can be found in Queenstown, Central Otago, and Christchurch. While Easter and April school holidays can get busy in some areas, the fall can be a lovely time to see dramatic fjords, spectacular glaciers, rugged mountains, and vast plains. After a day of exploration, you can spend the long evenings sipping Kiwi wines and craft beers.

### Perfect for Hiking

If you want to escape the busiest season on the trails, then the spring and fall months are great for hiking. It's a little cooler, a little quieter, and you're in for a treat because you will have most of the hiking trails to yourself. Choose from countless hiking trails around the eco-diverse nation and immerse yourself in its pristine wilderness.

### Epic Whale Watching

Sail the sparkling waters of the Hauraki Gulf, near Auckland, and

get up close and personal with dolphins and whales. Let on-board marine science researchers give you the inside scoop on these incredible sea mammals. Orca (Killer Whales) are often seen right in front of Auckland City, and playful wild dolphins love surfing the bow-wave of the boat!

### Live Like A Local

New Zealand is an amazing country to explore by self-drive. Roads are in great condition, and the North and South Islands are bursting with gorgeous scenery. Auckland is a great place to kick off a self-driving New Zealand tour. You can then make your way to Rotorua via Waitomo Caves, known for their beautiful glow worms, or Hobbiton, the film set used in the film, Lord of the Rings. Rotorua itself is a fascinating geothermal laboratory of bubbling mud pools, spouting geysers, and Maori heritage. Explore Napier, where 70 odd vineyards cover the surrounding hills, and stop in Wellington, the country's capital and home to its finest museums and a flourishing artistic scene. In the South Island, visit vibrant Queenstown and magnificent Lake Wakatipu. Take a trip to incredible Milford Sound, once described by Rudyard Kipling as the "Eighth Wonder of the World."

### Great Value

In spring and fall, prices are cheaper throughout New Zealand. Motorhome rentals cost a lot less, hotels offer discounts and value adds, coach tours are the best price of the year, and airfares are on sale. The famous Kiwi hospitality is on in full force, and lineups are shorter. Spring and fall are also great times to stopover in the South Pacific, with great weather in Fiji, the Cook Islands, and Tahiti.

*For New Zealand travel ideas, request Goway's popular DOWNUNDER Travel Planner or visit [goway.com](http://goway.com) for over 150 travel suggestions.*



View from the apartments at Centrepont on the Sunshine Coast.



Mantra Twin Towns on Australia's Gold Coast



Goway offers the largest range of road trip ideas in New Zealand

# Silky Oaks & Lizard Island



Silky Oaks overlooks Mossman Gorge in North Queensland

North Queensland ranks among Australia's most stunning destinations, and the Great Barrier Reef is undoubtedly its star attraction. But the islands of the Reef offer visitors their own surprises, as does the Mossman River region of the Daintree Rainforest. Two of Australia's most luxurious resorts showcase these regions at their best.

Located just fifteen minutes inland from Port Douglas, Silky Oaks Lodge invites guests into the rainforest. Situated right on the Mossman Gorge River, it offers a selection of luxurious treetop lodges built within the rainforest canopy. Guests can also dine at the Treehouse Restaurant, which offers intimate riverside dining, and a constantly rotating menu. A wide range of complimentary activities including canoeing, guided nature walks, swimming and snorkelling, cycling, tennis, and yoga, plus a range of optional activities, including cruises, scenic flights, and Aboriginal cultural experiences ensure this is

no ordinary luxury escape. Still, guests looking to unwind from an exciting day can enjoy a range of treatments at Healing Waters Spa.

Those looking to get away from it all might want to consider Lizard Island, Australia's northernmost resort. Located right on the Great Barrier Reef, this 40-suite oasis is

reachable only by private charter from Cairns. It is the only resort on the island, with access to 24 sandy beaches, and Lizard Island National Park. Lizard Island Resort also offers a wide range of complimentary activities including paddle skis, glass bottom boat trips, and even picnic hampers for those beachside lunches. Guests also have the option of dive courses, or even private diving, snorkelling, or fishing excursions.

Both Silky Oaks Lodge and Lizard Island Resort are members of Luxury Lodges of Australia, a network of exclusive luxury properties that showcase Australia at its most beautiful, while removing guests from the tourist crowds.

*Goway offers a 4 day Silky Oaks experience for \$951CAD. 4 days in Lizard Island starts from \$32751 CAD. Or Combine Lizard Island and Silky Oaks together with Park Hyatt Sydney and Longitude 131 at Ayers Rock to create a 12 day Ultimate Australia Itinerary from \$10273CAD*



Enjoy the sunset from the deck of your private villa at Lizard Island on Australia's Great Barrier Reef

## WORLD BEAT

### Study: Agents Save Clients Average \$452 Per Trip

New research from The American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) proves that travel agents save consumers time and money. Consumers report that travel agents save them an average \$452 per trip - and 4 hours of travel planning. Perhaps most importantly, consumers said that agents help them avoid costly mistakes.

The independent study was funded by Carnival Corporation and ASTA. ASTA's President & CEO Zane Kerby stated "At this point, consumers have tried it all. They've booked online, they've gone direct and they've used a travel agent. This study dispels the myth that booking direct with suppliers or spending hours online yourself gets you a better deal, or gives you a happier travel experience."

### Airport Pet Potty

New York's JFK Airport is now friends with commuting dogs and canines, recently introducing a pet potty at T4, decked out with fake grass and a red fire hydrant.

The single-stalled Pet Relief Area is aimed at providing four-legged friends with a private spot to go tinkle ahead of their jet-setting escape.

### Crocodile Dundee to boost Australian tourism

The 30th anniversary of the release of Crocodile Dundee is expected to provide a significant boost to tourism for Kakadu, in Australia's Northern Territory, where most of the film's Australian scenes were shot.

The film was released on 30 April 1986, and became an immediate success, with the film ultimately conquering the international market. Made for just over A\$8 million,

the film went on to gross some A\$400 million globally.

Crocodile Dundee showcased some of Kakadu's most spectacular landscapes including Ubirr, Nourlangie and Gunlom, along with the region's rich wildlife - particularly its saltwater crocodiles - and Aboriginal heritage.

To commemorate the anniversary, the first Kakadu Discovery Month was held in April, offering visitors a chance to explore some of the sites made famous by Crocodile Dundee.

### Build it...And it Will Rain

The United Arab Emirates has come up with a novel way to maximize rainfall to combat its arid desert climate - to build an artificial mountain. Currently it is in its first stages of planning.

Experts commented "We are still busy finalizing assimilation, so we are doing a spread of all kinds of heights, widths and locations (as we simultaneously) look at the local climatology."

The location for the mountain has not yet been determined as experts are still mulling different sites across the UAE.

### The Biggest Plane in The World Makes a Rare Flight

The Ukrainian cargo jet named "Mriya" is one of a kind. And on May 10 it began a rare journey, travelling over three continents to Perth, Australia.

The plane was developed in the 1980s to carry the Soviet version of the space shuttle on its back.

Its wingspan measures 290 feet (longer than five 53-foot semi-truck trailers set end-to-end). Its maximum total weight at takeoff: 640 tons (more than twice as heavy as the Statue of Liberty).

# Putting Australia Or New Zealand In Your Travel Plans...? You Should Be!

Dream no more, now is the perfect time to include Australia or New Zealand in your travel plans! Why? Market conditions are perfect to place them on your short list... here's why.



Outback Campfire (Australia)

**1) A favourable exchange** - As of this writing, comparing the North American CAD and USD to New Zealand's NZD you get a favorable exchange between 11% and 45%. For Australia, Canadian dollars are about equal, for American dollars; enjoy a favorable exchange of 30%. Simply put, everything is on sale up to 45%, compare that with the Euro!

**2) Cheaper airfares** - Many carriers have recently added service "Down Under": Air Canada, Air New Zealand, American, Hawaiian, Qantas, and Fiji Airways. More competition equals lower fares... depending on seasonality.

**3) The people** - They are warm and inviting, laid back and keen for lighthearted conversation over a cool libation at the corner pub. Maori and Aboriginal are proud cultures dating back over 40,000 years. Their traditions are rich for ethnic exploration; best of all, we

all speak the same language.

**4) The Destination** - Australia and New Zealand are well known as very safe destinations. There is so much to see, so much to do, especially if you are a first time "Down Under" traveler. Consider snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef, exploring the Outback and Uluru, and Sydney's Opera House and Darling Harbor area. In New Zealand, Milford Sound, Rotorua, and Lord of the Ring film sites. Enjoy different foods (try Barramundi and NZ lamb) lots of vineyards with tasty wines, great restaurants, and fun nightlife. Ready to go...?

For the first time traveler, an escorted program available through Goway Travel is perfect because you'll save time and money by focusing on the most iconic sites. Specifically, I would suggest an AAT Kings Tour. They are well known, very reputable, and literally "Bring Australia and New Zealand to life" offering a wide variety of engaging tours.

Consider AAT Kings' Tastes of Southern Australia (ESMA). Begin in Sydney... world class restaurants, great nightlife, and if you love beaches Manly or Bondi Beach is the place to be seen. Canberra

is upcoming, home of the government seat, with plenty of national history.... Next enjoy Melbourne's old world and artsy charms. For nature lovers, The Great Ocean Road and Kangaroo Island are iconic. Great Ocean Road includes the Twelve Apostles rock formations and pristine beach scenery. As the name suggests, Kangaroo Island offers interaction with wildlife and plenty of scenery. Lastly is the rolling hills of The Barossa; home to World Class vineyards, you'll taste award winning collections. Depart from Adelaide.

For the "looking for something different traveller", consider AAT's Outback Adventure (NAAD). Starting in Adelaide, join culinary experts and try local delights. Then it's on to Clare Valley vineyards and Flinders Ranges, for view of wildlife along the Wilpena Pound. You visit Coober Pedy "Australia's Opal Capital", then onto the Northern Territory visiting Uluru, (the large rock in the center of the country) Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) and Kings Canyon. These are great for hiking, and you witness a very photogenic sunrise! Learn about Aboriginal cultures; join a gourmet sunset BBQ for fabulous star gazing. Visit Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, home to thermal springs - it's a bit of a



Clockwise, from top: Fiordland National Park (New Zealand); AAT Kings Coach in Sydney (Australia); Gibbston Valley Winery (New Zealand); Touring the Red Centre

must do! Finally it's on to Kakadu National Park, made famous as the Crocodile Dundee movie film site. The tropical port of Darwin, home to WWII remnants is your depar-

ture point.

Contact your preferred Travel Agent, or Goway Travel at 888-469-2950. [www.goway.com](http://www.goway.com).

# Cape Town: 6 Memorable Adventures

At the base of majestic Table Mountain, Cape Town's natural beauty has earned it comparisons to the likes of San Francisco and Sydney, Australia. However, Cape Town enjoys a unique history, near perfect climate, and much lower prices, making it – we think – one of the best value city breaks in the world. In case you need more inspiration, here are six memorable experiences you can have on the Cape on your South Africa vacation.

## Table Mountain

The natural icon of the Mother City and a must-visit on any Cape Town tour, Table Mountain is one of the "New7Wonders of Nature." It'll provide a spectacular backdrop to many of your Cape Town photos, not to mention some superb views over the city itself. The easiest way to the top is the Table Mountain Cableway, and return tickets can be had for R240 (around US\$16). Alternatively, intrepid hikers can try the ascent via Platteklip Gorge, which takes about 2.5 hours. A range of other walks can be taken at the top, either with a guide, or on your own. You can also enjoy a meal, pick up a souvenir at the summit's shop, get your adrenaline pumping with some abseiling, or admire the sunset before you descend. Note that the Cableway does not operate in extreme weather conditions or high winds.



## Robben Island

Robben Island is an infamous name in South African history, housing political prisoners during the Apartheid era, most famously Nelson Mandela, and current President, Jacob Zuma. Cross Table Bay and meet one of the former prisoners, before a bus tour gives you an insight into the Island's past. While its Apartheid history is most apparent, Robben Island has been used as a prison, or as a maritime and army settlement for several hundred years, so there's a lot of history to discover on a half-day tour. The Murray's Bay Harbour precinct also offers its share of sights, including the Moturu Kramat shrine, and the Island's museum.



## Walk to Freedom

If you fancy a city tour with a strong cultural and historic focus, this walking tour is a must-do. It includes a sobering, but invaluable visit to the District Six Museum for a glimpse of Apartheid-era segregation, then continues to the Langa Township, the oldest housing scheme leftover from the regime. That history might seem at odds with the friendly residents you'll meet in the Township today, as you visit the vibrant local market, an arts centre, a traditional healer, a local B&B, and a crèche. But the



© Andrea Willmore/Shutterstock.com

road to lasting change is a long one, meaning Langa is still an active hub for Black African advocacy, and an important window onto these issues in modern South Africa.

## Explore the Peninsula

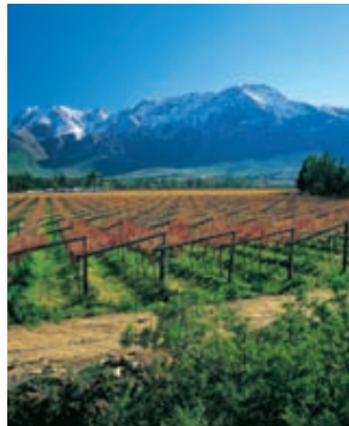
You'll need to go deeper into South Africa to find the big game, but the Cape offers some natural surprises of its own. Take a tour of the Peninsula to discover the expansive Cape Floral Kingdom, as well as the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, one of Cape Town's most famous attractions. This is also a great trip for history buffs, covering the naval port of Simon's Town, and Hout Bay's harbour. The natural beauty of the region isn't lost on locals either, and a wealthy few have made their homes along Millionaire's Paradise, a stretch of coast between Clifton and Camps Bay. Still, if it's wildlife you want to see, you might enjoy a cruise to Seal Island (at extra cost), or a visit to the penguin colony at Boulder's Beach.



## Cage Dive with Sharks

The wildlife sightings on the Cape don't stop at the shore, though you'll want a real sense of adventure and nerves of steel for what comes next! The waters of the Western Cape are notorious for their large population of Great White Sharks. Being submerged with these beautiful creatures (safely separated by steel bars) is one of the most memorable experiences you can have on your Cape Town trip. Cages are lowered into the water, carrying four or five intrepid animal lovers at a time, for about 20-minutes in close proximity with the sharks. The Great Whites also tend to stay close to the surface, meaning you can enjoy some great

sightings while you wait. Have your camera ready on a high shutter speed for those action shots when the sharks breach.



## Wineries

Blessed with what many consider to be "the perfect climate," South Africa has grown a thriving wine industry just to the east of Cape Town. A trip to the Winelands takes a full day, but even a wine beginner will find it well worthwhile. The vineyards roll over hills punctuated by towering rocky features such as the Helshoogte Mountain Pass. There are delightful towns to discover as well, including Franschhoek, and the university town of Stellenbosch. Topped off with a cellar tour, it's a delicious day of flavours and sightseeing that deserves a spot on your itinerary – or an overnight stay if you'd like to see and taste more.

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Game viewing experience in Kruger National Park

## Spotlight: Kruger

The remarkable Kruger National Park in South Africa is located in the country's north east region. It is not only the largest game reserve in the South Africa, but one of the largest in the world. How large? It is 360 kilometres/220 miles in length north to south, and its average width is 65 kilometres/40 miles. An interesting fact is that although the park borders Mozambique to the east and Zimbabwe to the north, animals are not, for the most part, restricted from roaming across borders into neighbouring game reserves.

### When is the best time to visit?

There is no bad time to visit Kruger National Park. In fact, it is fascinating to see the African bush in its various seasonal guises. The truth is you never know what you are going to see. In the summer months for instance, it gets very hot. The lush vegetation is all the more spectacular because of the rains. This means the foliage is denser, water is more abundant, and game is, therefore, more difficult to see. In the winter, the daytime temperatures are ideal but it certainly cools off at night and in the early morning. Game viewing is easier at this time in the dry season.

### Animals in Numbers

Statistically, and someone is counting, there are 147 species of animals and 114 species of reptiles. The first question is usually, "Will I see the Big Five?" Yes, in abundance. The term "Big Five" was actually coined by big-game hunters and refers to the five most difficult animals in Africa to hunt on foot – elephant, lion, leopard, rhino, and buffalo.

Kruger National Park has more species of large mammals than any other African game reserve. Among the number of species listed above, the most popular remain the rhino, elephant, hippopotamus, lion, cheetah, hyena, warthog, zebra, crocodile, giraffe, wildebeest, and many species of antelope.

Here are some figures to absorb. There are approximately 150,000 impala, 17,000 zebra, 11,000 elephants, 5,000 white rhino, 1500 lions, and 1000 leopards. No wonder Kruger is a natural choice for game viewing. Kruger also supports packs of the endangered African wild dog, of which there are thought to be only about 400 in the whole of South Africa.

### Let's Not Forget the Bird Watchers

Over 500 species of birds exist in Kruger National Park, and, of this number, around 250 are annual residents of the park. Some of the more commonly sighted are the African hoopoe, Natal spur-fowl, black crane, African jacana, crowned lapwing, three-banded

plover, white-headed vulture, green-backed heron, African spoonbill, goliath heron, martial eagle, kori bustard, and saddle-billed stork.

### Enjoying Game Viewing

Typically, game drives take place early morning, late afternoon, and at night. No one should miss out on a night drive as this is a time when it is possible to view carnivores hunting their prey. A very pleasant experience is to enjoy a "Sundowner". Imagine stopping somewhere remote in the bush as your ranger/guide pulls out a table and produces a range of drinks and snacks to be consumed al fresco.

### Walking Safaris are safe

Nothing will bring you closer to an African adventure quite like walking in Kruger National Park. You will walk with experienced guides and the aim of the walk is to learn and appreciate the intricate natural details that surround you. Yes, the guides carry rifles, but to this writer's knowledge, nothing untoward has ever happened during a walking safari.

### Combating Poaching in Kruger

Kruger's anti-poaching unit consists of 650 park game rangers. The park is equipped with two drones donated by RAF (Road Accident Fund), to augment its air space presence. Automated movement sensors relay intrusions along the Mozambique border to a control centre, in addition to a specialist dog unit that has been introduced. Buffer zones have been established along the border with Mozambique from where many poachers infiltrate the park. The number one target of poachers is the rhino – wanted for its horn. Also vulnerable is the elephant for its tusks.



Sabi Sabi, one of the many exclusive Game Lodges Goway offers

# 7 Ultimate Ecotourism Escapes

It would probably take volumes to write about all the ecotourism destinations in Central and South America, so let's just look at a selection of countries where ecotourism is deemed important.

## 1. Amazing Amazon Region

When speaking of South America, one can't ignore the Amazon. The Amazon rainforest, the largest rainforest on earth, is one of the wonders of the world due to its size, rich natural life, and biodiversity. The rainforest, located in the Amazon basin, is home to over two million different species of insects, more than 40,000 varieties of plants, and 1500 species of birds. It spans nine countries: Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana. Much of our food comes from the rainforests of the Amazon, such as bananas, black pepper, chocolate, coffee, corn, pineapple, rice, and tomatoes? One last fascinating fact; an estimated fifty tribes

native to the Amazon rainforest have never had any contact with the rest of the world.

## 2. Arenal Volcano National Park, Costa Rica

The Arenal Volcano National Park was the most active in Costa Rica. It was previously believed to be dormant until a major eruption in 1968. The park contains a volcano, Chato, whose crater contains a lagoon and has been inactive for around 3500 years. In and around the park are various lodges and hotels, some with their own hot springs and others focus on the wildlife of the area. The park is popular with birders as most of the 850 species identified in Costa Rica can be found within its borders. Animal species living within the park include white-faced capuchin monkeys, jaguar, deer, coati, and snakes.

Activities to consider include visiting hot springs, hiking, river rafting, kayaking, taking a Sky Tram

ride, and horseback riding. You can even attend a chocolate cooking class!

## 3. Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, Costa Rica

The cloud forests around Monteverde and nearby Santa Elena are among Costa Rica's premier destinations for everyone – from budget backpackers to affluent retirees. It was recently voted one of the "7 Wonders of Costa Rica" by the Costa Rican newspaper, La Nacion. It is a private nature reserve and in its midst, you will find an orchid garden, a butterfly garden, a bat jungle, and a coffee farm and cheese factory – both of which you can visit. You might like to join a guided walk through this unique tropical ecosystem. A wide range of animals live within the reserve including sloths, agouti, jaguars, and several types of monkeys. There are over 2500 plant species and tens of thousands of insect species residing here. Other activities include bird watching, horseback riding, boat rides, zip-lining, and a Sky Tram ride.

## 4. Iguassu Falls, Brazil and Argentina

Higher than Victoria Falls, which shares the Zimbabwe/Zambia border, and wider than Niagara Falls, it is not surprising that the thundering Iguassu Falls, with their dramatic panoramic views, are regarded as one of the world's most impressive natural wonders, and one of Brazil's top attractions. You must visit the 350 feet tall Devil's Throat and the surrounding National Park, which contains rare and endangered plant and animal species and

lush rainforest – ideal for hiking or horseback riding tours. You can also visit the Argentinean side of the Falls while staying on the Brazilian side (though you will need a visa to cross the border)

## 5. Patagonia, Argentina and Chile

Continuing south, we find ourselves in Patagonia, a vast region which takes up a fair amount of the south of Chile. The Torres del Paine National Park, one of Chile's largest and most important national parks, is an area of amazingly scenic beauty with glaciers, waterfalls, rivers, lakes, and lagoons. Plus, it includes a large portion of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. The terrain consists of steppe, shrubland, forest, and desert – providing a unique habitat for a large amount of wildlife. Activities include trekking, horseback riding, climbing, and fishing. There are eco-lodges in the region.

## 6. The Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

The extraordinary Galapagos Islands have to be one of nature's most important gifts to humanity. Totally unique, they consist of 127 islands and islets, 19 of which are volcanic and are located 1000 kilometres/620 miles off the coast of Ecuador. The UNESCO World Heritage organization calls it a "living museum and showcase of evolution". Human settlements are restricted to only 3% of the area on four of the largest islands.

Galapagos National Park, which controls 97% of the islands, enacts strict regulations concerning where people can go, what they can do,



and how many people can turn up in an one spot. A limited number of overnight boats are allowed to operate and each boat is equipped with a tracking device so that authorities can verify exactly who is going where at any given time. Tour companies are very much under the eye of park authorities and their plans and activities are largely not under their direct control. The general consensus is that the rules are there for good reason.

## 7. Perito Moreno, Argentina

In south west Argentina is the Glacier National Park, and the enormous Perito Moreno Glacier – considered one of the most important tourist attractions in the country due to its size and accessibility. It is said to be one of the only glaciers in the world that is still growing at about two to six feet per day! The glacier has a 5 kilometre/3.1-mile front and rises almost 60 metres/200 feet above sea level. Viewing platforms and trails make observation easy and pleasant. You can actually hike on the glacier to really get a feel for its majestic size and shape.



Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia Chile

## ORDER YOUR TRAVEL PLANNERS

Advertisement for Goway travel planners. The image shows several brochures: 'UK-EUROPE & THE MEDITERRANEAN', 'AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST', 'ASIA', 'CENTRAL SOUTH AMERICA', 'DOWNUNDER', and 'WORLD'S MOST IDYLIC ISLANDS'. A 'Goway AIRFARE CREDIT' badge is also visible. The text at the bottom of the ad reads: 'Over 2000 Great Travel Ideas' and 'All ideas featured in the travel planners above, and MORE, can be found on Goway's extensive website. As well, it is possible for you to search by any of the following travel ideas:'

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Amazon Pink River Dolphin

## SMILE CORNER

A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana and he sees a sign in front of a broken down shanty-style house: 'Talking Dog For Sale.' He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard.

The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

'You talk?' he asks.

'Yep,' the Lab replies.

After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says 'So, what's your story?'

The Lab looks up and says, 'Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so... I told the CIA.

In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping.'

'I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running...

But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down.

I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals.'

'I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired.'

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

'Ten dollars,' the guy says.

'Ten dollars? This dog is amazing!'

Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?'

'Because he talks a load of B.S. He's never been out of the yard'





At [www.goway.com/stopovers](http://www.goway.com/stopovers) you will find this map with hundreds of stopover ideas across the globe. Just point and click!

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1. In what city in Scandinavia will you find the Viking Ship Museum?
2. In what city in Scandinavia will you find the ABBA Museum?
3. In what city in Scandinavia will you find the famous Little Mermaid?
4. Marco Polo described this Chinese city as "the most beautiful and elegant city in the world".
5. The Royal Palace in this city in Asia "glows after dark".
6. This Asian city has always been a crossroads between China and the West.
7. Space age super trees dot the gardens by the bay in this Asian city.
8. The Amazon River spans 9 coun-

- tries in South America including Uruguay. True/False?
9. The UNESCO World Heritage organization calls this place "a living museum and showcase of evolution". Where is it?
10. Rudyard Kipling described this New Zealand destination as the "8th Wonder of the World".
11. Chitwau is a famous World Heritage Wildlife Park in what Asian country?
12. The Cook Islands are one of the best places in the world to buy black pearl jewelry. True/False
13. For the most part, Kruger Park (South Africa) animals are not restricted roaming across borders

- (Mozambique & Zimbabwe) and into neighboring game reserves. True/False
14. James Michener's mythical island of Bali Hai, Moorea is in which country?
15. A traditional Japanese Inn is called a ...
16. This train traverses a continent North to South to North. It is ...

All questions relate to articles in this edition of Globetrotting Magazine. We invite you to complete the interactive version of this quiz online at [www.goglobetrotting.com](http://www.goglobetrotting.com). All correct entries will be eligible to win a \$250 Goway Travel Voucher

**LATEST WINNERS**

**\$250 Goway Travel Voucher winners**

- **M. Bagwell** of Georgia identified the "Where in the World" photograph.
- **K. Mousseau** of New York identified "What Country Am I?"
- **J. Pillgrem** of Ontario won the "Spot the Difference" contest.
- **T. Tao** of British Columbia correctly completed the Globetrotting Knowledge Quiz.

We thank all participants and congratulate all winners.

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2. Name the area where the photograph below was taken.

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GOOD LUCK!



**What Country am I ?**



Clue: "Where in the World" photographs are featured on Goway's websites and/or in Goway Travel Planners.



**Last Issue Answers**

In our last edition the mystery photograph above was Torres del Paine National Park, in Chile's Patagonia region. The mystery country was Denmark

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**Which destinations are you interested in?**  
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 Australia      New Zealand      Latin America  
 Europe      South Pacific Islands

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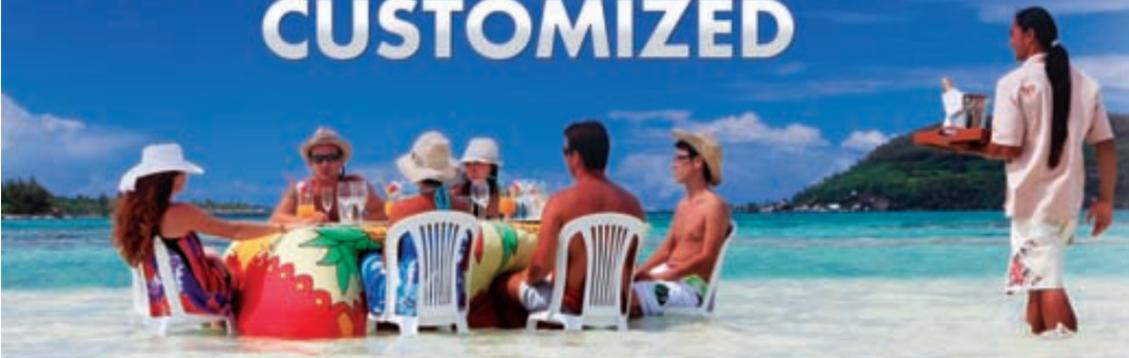


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