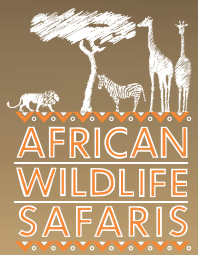


NATURAL FOCUS



THE TALKING DRUM

2019 – Volume 2



- NATURAL FOCUS

ANTARCTICA & THE ARCTIC
CANADA & ALASKA
INDIA, SRI LANKA, NEPAL & BHUTAN
SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA



AFRICA
INDIAN OCEAN
NORTH AFRICA
THE MIDDLE EAST

- AFRICAN WILDLIFE SAFARIS



INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEYS

Welcome to Volume 2 of our Newsletter for 2019. In this edition we look back at some of our team's recent adventures to some of our sensational destinations, including Botswana and Kenya. We also feature some truly special properties and cruises from all around the globe, such as South Africa's Grootbos Private Nature Reserve and a new luxury cruise that ventures into the pristine Indonesian Archipelago.

A major focus in this newsletter is Africa. We showcase wildlife-rich Sabi Sabi in South Africa, tantalizing Tanzania and an interview with CEO Steve Cameron on the future of the Serengeti National Park. Sri Lanka and the outstanding Resplendent Ceylon properties are also showcased, along with insights from one of our destination specialists, Jess Hamilton, who recently returned from the 'tear drop' island paradise.

Antarctica remains an increasingly popular destination and we feature a special air cruise with Quark Expeditions, leaders in polar travel for decades. Their 'Fly the Drake' itinerary departs from Punta Arenas in Chile by air to King George Island where the cruise commences. This avoids the potentially rough two or more days crossing of the Drake Passage.

We also focus on some of Canada and Alaska's wilderness lodges that offer a diverse and exclusive

experience. Katmai Wilderness Lodge has sensational brown bear viewing whilst Spirit Bear Lodge is home to the unique Spirit Bear, a white subspecies of the black bear. A double-page feature on the remote Northwest Territories highlights the thrilling northern lights experience at Blachford Lake Lodge and introduces the unique opportunity to travel alongside Canada's caribou migration by snowmobile.

We hope this newsletter will inspire you to travel to our wilderness destinations in the future.



Stephen Cameron Sara Cameron

Stephen and Sara Cameron - Founders

2020 BROCHURES

For information on the release of our brochures, refer to the enclosed reply paid coupon. Or download them at africanwildlifesafaris.com.au



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FEATURES

- 5 CONSERVATION UPDATE**
Supported Projects 2019
- 6 TREASURES OF TANZANIA**
Safari memoirs
- 8 SERENGETI SHALL NOT DIE**
Saving Tanzania's wildlife
- 9 SANCTUARY RETREATS**
Luxury in Tanzania
- 10 UNFORGETTABLE KENYA**
AWS Team Travels
- 12 SABI SABI - SOUTH AFRICA**
Wild at Heart
- 14 GROOTBOS - SOUTH AFRICA**
The Secret Cellar
- 16 BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE**
Season of Plenty
- 18 BOTSWANA**
The Kalahari & Beyond
- 19 AFRICA ESCORTED SMALL GROUP JOURNEY**
Ultimate Africa 2020
- 20 INDIA - PERSONAL JOURNEYS**
Royal Rajasthan
- 22 SUBLIME SRI LANKA**
Serene Ceylon
- 23 AQUA EXPEDITIONS**
Sailing new destinations
- 24 PURE PERU**
With Belmond Hotels
- 25 POSEIDON EXPEDITIONS**
Antarctic Solar Eclipse 2021
- 26 LEADERS OF THE POLES**
Quark Expeditions
- 28 SMALL SHIP CRUISING**
The World of UnCruise
- 30 ASTOUNDING ALASKA**
Bears of Katmai
- 31 DESTINATION CANADA**
Showcasing British Columbia, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Rocky Mountaineer

DRUMBEAT
NEW OUT OF AFRICA



SERENITY AND SPACE

Set amidst floodplains and glistening waterways in Botswana's pristine Khwai Private Reserve is Natural Selection's Tuludi Camp. The 7 sophisticated treehouse style rooms were designed with serenity and space in mind and boast their own private plunge pool and sunken seating area.



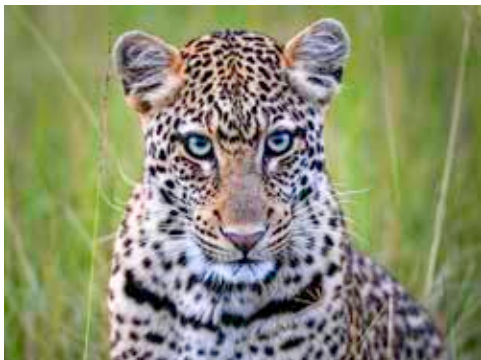
FINE BUSH EXPERIENCE

The latest addition to the Thornybush Collection, Saseka Tented Camp is in the Thornybush Nature Reserve bordering South Africa's Kruger National Park. Meaning 'beautiful' in the local Tsonga dialect, the camp features just 8 spacious rooms with outdoor showers and large private decks.



UNCOVERING THE WILD

Wilderness Safaris' newest property Magashi Camp is located in Rwanda's phenomenally diverse Akagera National Park. Boasting picturesque savannah, lakes and beautiful mountains it is perhaps the most scenic landscape in East Africa, home to hippo, lion, leopard and over 520 bird species.



PURE BREATHTAKING LUXURY

On the edge of Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park Singita Kwitonda Lodge is designed with respect to its remarkable location. Singita is committed to rehabilitating and increasing the biological integrity of the land, to help increase the home-range of the endangered mountain gorillas.

THE LAST ELEPHANTS

Inspired by the Great Elephant Census of 2016, which found a 30% loss in Elephant numbers in the last decade alone, this remarkable book features over 250 full colour photos, and offers profiles and preservation plans to combat the threats facing these incredible mammals. Available for just \$66 (inc GST ex postage) \$25 of each book sold will go directly to help fund conservation. To purchase please email info@awsnfs.com or call us on 1300 363 302.



REMEMBER TO BOOK EARLY

We specialise in small, boutique lodges and wild destinations - as such, space is often limited. Please ensure you book early to avoid disappointment.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We love to know how your trip went and we warmly welcome your feedback. Send us an email, photos or even videos of the places you saw and the animals you encountered. Alternatively search for us on the web and leave us a Google review. We may publish this information in our brochure or on our websites social media channels with your permission.



CONSERVATION UPDATE

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC AUCTION
THE RESULTS

In February this year we hosted a wildlife photographic auction where we invited clients to help raise money for the conservation of Kenya's Masai Mara ecosystem. We are proud to announce that a total of AUD\$10,237.15 was raised from the event and donated to the Angama Mara Foundation. We still have a few images for sale via our website. And remember, all proceeds go towards helping conservation.

For available images see: aws.travel/photo-exhibition/



WILD TIGER CENSUS INDIA

The results are in from the All India Tiger Census 2019 which highlights that tigers are worth far more alive than dead. In fantastic news, tiger numbers are up 33% to just under 3000 individuals. This has come about largely thanks to tourism and the outstanding job done by park officials and rangers every single day. The flow on effect is an increase in rural education and greater job opportunities for locals.

OFFSET YOUR FLIGHTS

We all love to travel but you can reduce your impact on our planet by offsetting your greenhouse gas emissions from your flights. CarboniNeutral use the funds raised through donations and carbon offsets to plant native trees on degraded land in Australia. The fund has planted over 5.4 million trees in 160 sites since 2001. For more information visit their website: <https://cnf.com.au>.



CarboniNeutral
CHARITABLE FUND

As a business that revolves around our planet's most unique environments, we are committed to protecting these vital wilderness areas for future generations. Every client who books with us has the opportunity to donate \$10 (or more) per person which we then match dollar for dollar. We don't charge an administration fee, so every cent goes towards a project we support.

VICTORIA FALLS ANTI-POACHING UNIT (VFAPU)

In the first half of 2019 we have donated USD\$4376.91 to the VFAPU, who are dedicated to the conservation of wildlife near the waterfall. Established in 1999 the team has removed more than 18,800 snares and spends a considerable amount of time educating local communities.

RAINCOAST CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

We donated CAD\$3,713.38 to the Raincoast Conservation Foundation, a team of conservationists and scientists who actively work with communities using peer-reviewed scientific literature to inspire change and protect British Columbia's wilderness areas.



TREASURES OF TANZANIA

Our General Manager Anne-Marie (Annie) Zambelli was captivated by Tanzania's wildlife on her visit there in May. Here she reflects on what she describes as a surreal experience while encountering Africa's big cats, baobab trees and changing landscapes.

BIG CATS AND BAOBABS

"I woke to the sound of a new day with dawn light casting shadows into the valley below. We are in Tarangire National Park, one of the country's lesser known parks and home to huge herds of elephants and giant baobab trees. During our all-day game drive we are treated to several families of playful elephants, giraffes and antelopes galore, along with a huge

herd of grazing buffalo. Back at the lodge as the sun sets it's time to relax with a gin & tonic and toast Tarangire!

Continuing through changing landscapes we reach the southern plains of the Serengeti. Late rains mean there are still plenty of wildebeest, plus young calves feeding on new grass. We see our first big cats – a young female cheetah chasing down a herd of antelope, and the famous Marsh pride of lions with 7 adorable cubs. The next day we saw six cheetahs and the following day five different leopards including a small cub.

Visiting Tanzania in low season has its advantages as there are fewer vehicles (for most of our big cat sightings we were alone) and substantial savings on fabulous accommodation."



One of the important elements of any safari is where you stay and on this trip I experienced three camps from the Lemala collection. With properties in Arusha, Tarangire, Ngorongoro and the Serengeti, Lemala has the northern safari circuit covered.

Their camps are small and more intimate and offer superior and stylish accommodation in some of the best locations. Mpingo Ridge in Tarangire sits on the top of the escarpment and has undoubtedly one of

the best views I have seen in Africa while Lemala's classic camp in Ngorongoro Crater is hidden in the forested rim perfectly positioned and only a short drive from the crater floor. On the eastern side of central Serengeti is the contemporary Nanyukie Tented Camp, the newest member of the portfolio. What made the camps so special was the staff – from the managers to waiters, chefs, housekeepers, gardeners, Askaris (night watchmen) and guides we met along the way. All performed their roles as best as they could and always with a smile. That is the spirit of Lemala.



SERENGETI

SHALL NOT DIE



Africa faces many challenges to protect its unique flora and fauna. In 1950, Bernhard and Michael Grzimek published “Serengeti Shall Not Die”, a book that created awareness about these issues.

What’s changed since then and how do we protect one of Africa’s greatest treasures? Here’s what AWS CEO Steve Cameron had to say:



“The first time I travelled through the Serengeti was January 9th, 1981. I drove by myself and during the course of the drive I saw one car, which is very different to what you see today. Now, there is a far greater human presence.

Grzimek raised the awareness of what the Serengeti means, and his observation is a very compelling one. Since then many people have been involved in trying to ensure that the Serengeti will always support huge numbers of wildlife.

The numbers of wildebeest and zebra always fluctuates depending on drought, poaching and disease. The main influence moving forward is human encroachment into these areas, which will make it difficult for animals to migrate as they once did. It is something we are already seeing to the north in Kenya’s adjacent Masai Mara where fences are being erected for farming.

This will have a major impact on wildlife, conservation and on the future of places like the Serengeti. We should never take these areas for granted and the fact is we must always work to preserve them.

One of the most important factors is tourism. If people don’t visit the Serengeti, who’s going to pay for it’s survival? All wildlife areas have to support themselves, as they need a viable income stream and that is generated by tourism”.

BUSH LUXURY WITH SANCTUARY RETREATS

A luxury safari operator Sanctuary Retreats has created authentic experiences for over 20 years. Their extensive portfolio of outstanding camps and lodges are situated in pristine locations extending the length of the African continent, including four properties in Tanzania.

Located in the remote southern Serengeti, guests at Sanctuary Kusini are treated to exceptional and essentially private game viewing. The camp is positioned

on the migration path, with January to March the ideal time to witness the wildebeest calving season.

Built in the evocative style of pioneering explorers Kichakani Serengeti Camp follows the annual wildebeest and zebra migration in two locations. Located in the south from November to March and the north between June to November the camp provides the perfect option for those wishing to see the great migration.



Sanctuary Swala Camp



Sanctuary Ngorongoro Crater Camp

In a secluded region of Tarangire National Park Sanctuary Swala Camp nestles amongst giant acacia trees. Elephant sightings are frequent as these peaceful giants walk amongst the picturesque landscape filled with baobab trees.

Sanctuary Ngorongoro Crater Camp is enviably located close by to the access road that leads down to the crater floor. Less travel time means a later start with the best chance to see predator activity in the early morning.



UNFORGETTABLE KENYA

In May this year AWS Destination Specialist Jess Hamilton and Marketing Manager Rolf Huber both had the chance to experience some of Kenya's prime gameviewing areas for the first time.



Jess recalls the excitement of her first time on safari in Kenya.

"There is nothing quite like being on safari in Africa, and my first trip to Kenya was truly unforgettable.

From watching enthusiastic elephant calves playing in the stunning Samburu National Reserve, to seeing the sunrise over the famous Masai Mara from our hot air balloon, each day had something special to offer.

I'll never forget the first time I saw a lion in the wild; a beautiful lioness on the hunt one morning in Samburu. She was completely unfazed as she sat down in front of our vehicle.

That feeling of exhilaration combined with a complete sense of calm as we watched in silence is hard to describe, and one that I became more and more familiar with as the days went on".



Rolf also explored Kenya's beautiful Samburu and Masai Mara game reserves and was in awe of its wildlife and people.

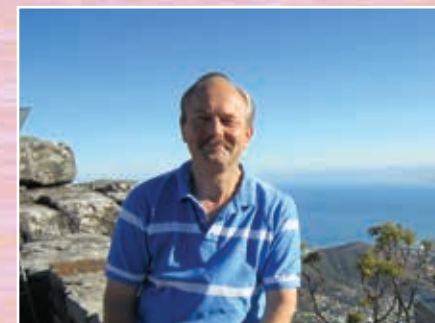
"Having never visited Kenya before, I was excited to experience all this amazing country had to offer. The semi-arid Samburu Game Reserve left a lasting impression on me. The contrast of the red earth and the green doum palm groves with the scenic mountains as a backdrop was incredibly beautiful.

The wildlife was the another highlight, seeing the unique long-necked gerenuk (also known as the giraffe gazelle) and the Somali ostrich with its blue thighs were two species I'd never seen before.

The vast plains of the Masai Mara didn't disappoint either. During my stay I experienced incredible gameviewing,

but it was also the interaction with the local Masai people, many of whom still lead their traditional nomadic lifestyle, that was a personal highlight.

The Mara is also one of the best places to enjoy a hot air balloon safari. Seeing the mottled landscape and wildlife from the air was an experience worth waking up at 4:30am for!"



Twiga Tours, our highly respected Kenyan operator has been creating memorable wildlife safaris to some of the country's best wildlife areas since 1980. Their methods have remained consistent focusing on personalised tailor-made itineraries providing the highest quality of service.

Company CEO, Minaz Manji, from time-to-time still welcomes guests to his home, popping a bottle of champagne and sharing a meal with his family, listening to clients' stories and experiences first hand.

Safaris are led by highly-trained driver/guides in premium 4WD land cruisers with pop-up roof hatches (for close-up gameviewing and photography) that cater for a maximum of 6 guests.

With a range of comfortable safari lodges and camps, expert staff and a fleet of custom-designed vehicles, clients can expect personal itineraries to suit their every travel need.

For more information on a Kenya safari, contact one of our Africa specialists on 1300 363 302.



Observing wildlife in its natural habitat, listening to the sounds around you, smelling the scent of the bush and “touching” the wilderness lightly, can be a soul stirring experience.

Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve in South Africa is a pristine wilderness with a biodiverse habitat supporting a myriad of species. It forms part of the *Greater Kruger National Park* allowing for an uninterrupted flow of wildlife.

The reserve has four award-winning five star lodges which are all very distinct in character and atmosphere. All are accredited as *National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World* and epitomise style, comfort and opulence. Sabi Sabi's genuine hospitality and regard for excellence create an unforgettable experience for their guests.

Forty years of conservation at Sabi Sabi has allowed people to get close to the animals, as they don't associate the presence of humans with stress or discomfort. The incredible Field

Guide and Shangaan Tracker teams are highly trained and passionate individuals who communicate to guests the important role we play in the natural environment; how it all fits into conservation and ultimately the bigger picture.

Very recently two new born leopard cubs were spotted on the reserve and they are learning to climb trees and become stealthy hunters under the watchful eye of their mother. However, Sabi Sabi's safari etiquette is to allow them to get used to their surroundings before game drive vehicles can take guests closer – maybe even close enough for their piercing golden-green eyes to meet yours.

WILD AT HEART

SABI SABI

PRIVATE GAME RESERVE – SOUTH AFRICA
ESTABLISHED 1979
40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
UNIQUE LODGES
OF THE WORLD™

A safari is about losing yourself in the moment and absorbing what you are experiencing. It is not always about the big sightings, but also about getting to know the small things. A walking safari with your guide opens up an entirely new world as the ground you walk on literally comes to life while you examine the vegetation, miniscule insects, lizards, birds and frogs. You become part of the landscape and understand that you are part of something amazing that needs to be protected for future generations.

On foot or in a game drive vehicle, a Sabi Sabi safari experience is unsurpassed.



GROOTBOS

—THE SECRET CELLAR—

A five-star luxury experience in a pristine, untouched landscape, Grootbos Private Nature Reserve is an unparalleled food, wine and nature destination.

Situated close to the tip of southern Africa, this renowned eco-lodge and reserve is located in the heart of an award winning boutique wine region. The complex terroir and mild ocean winds have been crafted into fine wines by the passionate local winemakers, achieving distinguished examples of Pinot Noir, Chenin and Sauvignon Blanc.

Grootbos' passion for wine has been translated into the careful curation of a maturation cellar, compiled over a decade of purchasing from the prestigious Cape Wine Makers Guild and the Nederburg Wine Auctions. This collection features the very best selection of wines from the region.

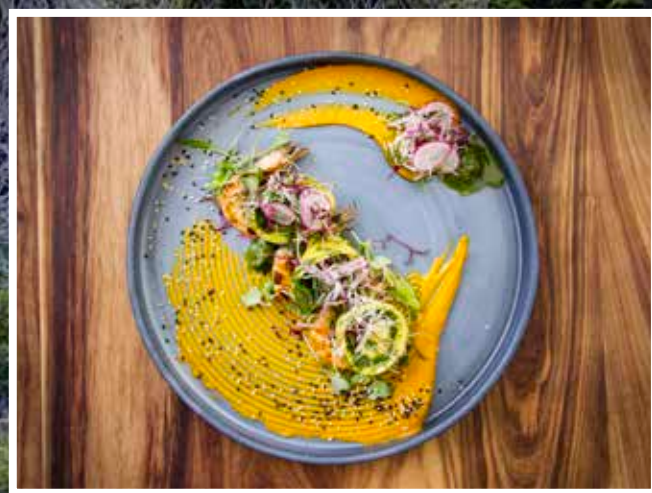
Notable wines include the Newton Johnson Sea Dragon Pinot Noir (2015) and Grootbos' very own the 'Last Syrah' (2015). The 'Last Syrah' is a Paul Cluver block of Syrah bought and made exclusively for Grootbos.



Understanding that it is fine food and wine together that enhance the dining experience, Grootbos has developed their wine and culinary vision in tandem. Contemporary, innovative menus feature the freshest locally sourced organic ingredients, with dedicated Grootbos sommeliers and wine stewards at hand to guide guests, matching local flavours with the region's wines.

This is best experienced with the 6-course wine pairing dinner in the atmospheric Grootbos wine cellar. Or guests can head out and explore the region's wineries with a Grootbos sommelier, and experience the wine culture of the region first-hand with access to the cellars, vineyards and winemakers.

The Grootbos 5 star experience also includes a collection of curated outdoor activities, from whale watching and marine wildlife cruises in beautiful Walker Bay, to botanical safaris, bird watching, hiking, horse riding and fat bike tours on the sand dunes.



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
UNIQUE LODGES
OF THE WORLD™

Summer in southern Africa is a season of plenty, when afternoon storms bring life-giving rain to the dusty plains and there is an explosion of new life.

The bush is transformed into a green and leafy paradise, with vibrant floral displays and a kaleidoscope of colours. It's peak season for birding, with some bird species in full, spectacular breeding plumage. Many of the plains game like wildebeest, hartebeest, zebra and impala give birth, and predators take advantage of the abundance of young prey.

Normally arid areas like the Kalahari are transformed with fields of flowers; grass sprouts in the ancient river valleys and fossil pans provide food for large concentrations of springbok and oryx. Warthog families can be seen with young piglets in tow, and young ostrich chicks keep up with their long-legged parents.

Temperatures during this time are very pleasant, without October's oppressive heat, nor winter's cold nights and mornings.

Being outside the busy dry season, and the peak holiday season for Europe and the US, the summer months of November through to April (apart from Christmas/New Year) mean quieter camps and well-priced safari packages.

Wilderness Safaris' stunning portfolio of safari camps offer an exclusive and immersive experience in pristine wilderness areas, like Botswana's Okavango Delta, the Linyanti and the Kalahari. Those camps with access to permanent water feature boating and mokoro excursions in search of water-adapted red lechwe and prolific bird life.

Likewise in Zimbabwe's famous Hwange National Park their camps have access to the incomparable Ngamo Plains which

teem with wildebeest, zebra, giraffe and eland, and sometimes roan or sable antelope. Other big game include buffalo, elephant lion and leopard.

Very attractive rates are an added incentive for a summer safari. We're talking about top quality lodges and camps in the best game areas, including twice daily safari excursions by open 4WD vehicles, highly qualified guides, all meals, drinks and laundry. Many camps offer guided walks with an armed guide, bush picnics, sundowner drinks and some have plunge pools for cooling off in the midday heat. Welcoming and professional staff are always on hand to ensure your comfort, safety and enjoyment.

These are life-changing journeys through southern Africa's most beautiful wilderness. Please contact our destination specialists for a personalised safari package.



BEYOND THE KALAHARI

African Wildlife Safaris copywriter James Cameron visited wildlife-rich Botswana in June this year, exploring the unique Kalahari Desert and the oasis paradise of the Okavango Delta on a mobile safari:

"Staying at quirky Jack's Camp I was completely blown away by the wonders of the Kalahari. Each day offered a totally different experience; cycling through herds of wildebeest, quad biking the open desert landscapes or enjoying a sumptuous dinner under the sparkling night sky.

The unique desert-adapted animals are just as fantastic to see. Witnessing an aardwolf and a porcupine on a night drive

was a definite highlight, whilst getting up close and personal to a 'mob' of meerkat going about their daily business was truly special.

Heading north by light aircraft to the Okavango Delta's Moremi Game Reserve I was shocked at how dry the landscape was. With little rain over the previous few months the conditions made for exceptional gameviewing.

Letaka Safaris 10-day fully-serviced mobile safari was a very intimate experience. There were just two other Australians on the tour which took us from the Moremi to the renowned Chobe National Park.

Outnumbered by the staff, the level of service I experienced was extraordinary. The three camp staff Vicks, Paka and Alec were terrific, always ready with drink in hand when we returned from our many fantastic game drives.

Our very experienced and witty guide Bate made it a safari of a lifetime. Having worked as a ranger, he knew every spoor, animal call or footprint we came across.

I'll never forget one night when a very cheeky honey badger came sneaking into camp to raid our kitchen. He waddled right past us as we were playing cards at the table!"



AWS PRESENTS ULTIMATE AFRICA

EXCLUSIVE SMALL GROUP SAFARI TO
BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE
16 NOVEMBER 2020



We are thrilled to announce that our Botswana 'guru' Anne-Marie Zambelli will once again be leading a small group tour to this most sought after safari destination. Annie lived and worked in Botswana in the 1990's and considers it her second home. A wildlife aficionado she knows many of Africa's prime wildlife areas and safari camps intimately.

This special departure has been chosen to coincide with the summer Season of Plenty (also see pages 16 & 17) when the bush is lush and green, the flowers are blooming, the birds are in full plumage and the antelope are calving. It is also designed to take advantage of summer

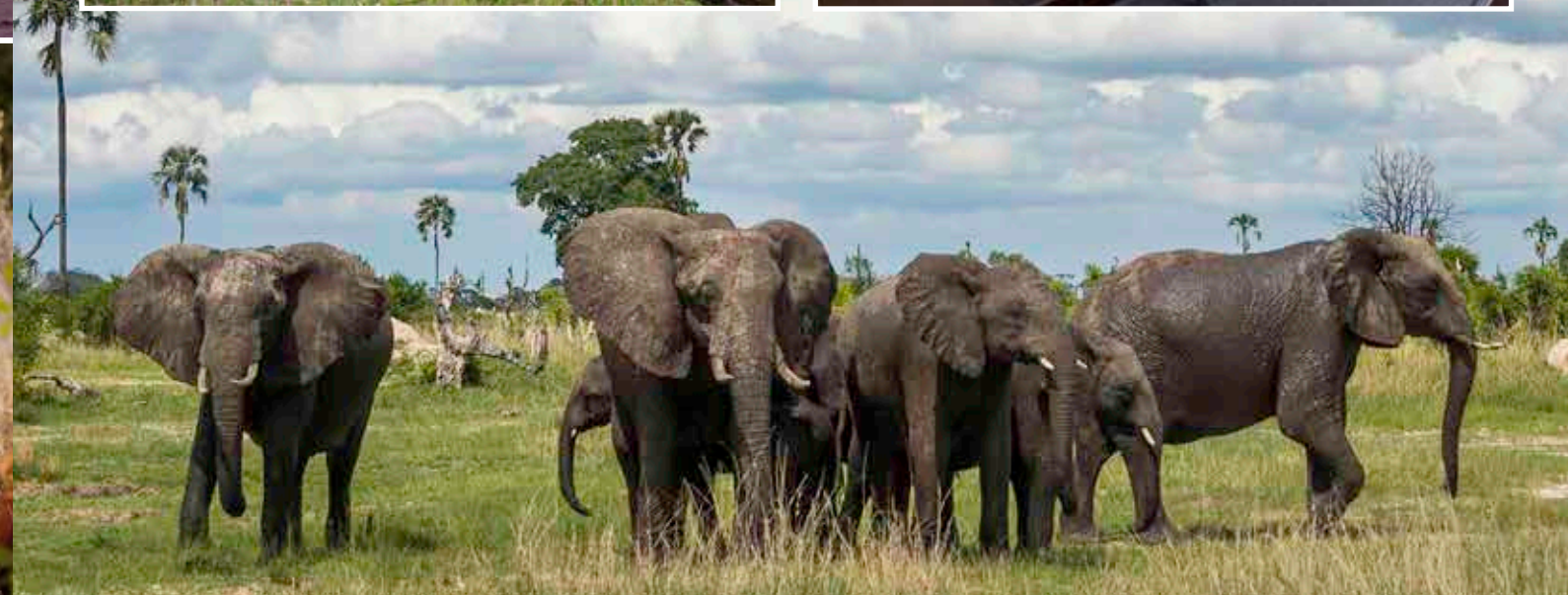
season pricing, offering great savings on top of the range safari camps like Chitabe and Kings Pool in Botswana and Elephant Camp and Linkwasha in Zimbabwe.

This fabulous 14 day/13 night itinerary commences in Maun, a quaint frontier town at the edge of Botswana's famous Okavango Delta, and finishes in Victoria Falls Zimbabwe. Everything is included: light aircraft transfers, full board accommodation, all drinks (premium brands excluded), game drives in open 4WD vehicle, park fees, laundry and gratuities. Only your international flights are not included.

All this for just AUD\$ 22,950 per person twin share. Single travellers on request.



Please note that places are strictly limited as there are only 8 rooms in total – maximum group size 16. For more information please call Anne-Marie on 1300 363 302 or (03) 9249 3705.



PERSONAL JOURNEYS

THE RICHES OF RAJASTHAN

Like a rare and richly textured tapestry India is a unique mosaic of different cultures, religions, architecture and landscapes. Any journey to this fascinating country will be memorable, but preferably for all the right reasons. So rather than selecting a pre-packed tour with inflexible dates, or an online deal with out-of-season offers, we work with you to help you create your own personal journey.

See India your way with a private, luxury vehicle and private driver guide. Choose your own departure dates and hotels, and bespoke experiences just for you. India has some of the most splendid hotels in the world, from luxury palaces and historic houses to fine boutique retreats, so why stay in a bland chain hotel? Where you stay is part of your overall experience and can be richly rewarding.

Our destination specialists have an in-depth knowledge of the region which can help take the stress out of holiday planning. Plus you have the confidence that you'll be booking with a reputable, accredited travel company with 35 years experience.



PALACES AND FORTS OF RAJASTHAN

This 14 day itinerary departs from Delhi and takes in the glories of royal Rajasthan with its stunning palaces, ancient walled cities and medieval fortresses.

You will visit Agra and the dazzling Taj Mahal, a jewel of Mughal architecture built from luminous white marble. Explore romantic Jaipur with its elaborate Palace of Winds, and the former fortress of the Rajput kings – the 16th century Amber Fort. Discover the incredibly well preserved 'lost city' of Fatehpur Sikri, built in 1570. Visit lavish havelis (mansions) and the imposing Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur. Wander through the walled city of Bikaner and the narrow streets of medieval Jaisalmer. The tour ends in picturesque Udaipur, city of lakes and white marble palaces.

This tour is based on two or more passengers in a private vehicle with your own driver, and local expert guides provided in each city. We have a fabulous range of accommodation to choose from, including palace hotels and havelis. Single travellers can be catered for.

Please contact our experienced consultants for prices and full itinerary. 1300 363 302



SRI LANKA

A WARM WELCOME



"Visiting Sri Lanka for the first time I was astounded by the diverse scenery, culture and history of this idyllic country. It was a joy to explore the Dambulla Caves and the famous Sigiriya Rock, which was a personal highlight for me. The renowned Temple of the Tooth was both fascinating and beautiful to see locals at prayer. After recent events I was surprised (and happy) to see so many people traveling, particularly families. The vibe was one of peace and relaxation".

Jess Hamilton is one of Natural Focus' top destination specialists for India and Sri Lanka.



SERENE CEYLON

For such a small country, Sri Lanka is rich in culture, historic architecture, sublime scenery, wildlife and stunning coastlines. It is best explored staying at Resplendent Ceylon's boutique properties, with a private vehicle and English-speaking driver who assists with every aspect of your journey.

The beautiful Dambulla Caves offer an insight into Buddhist culture whilst a climb to the top of Sigiriya Rock reveals ancient ruins and magnificent views.

Sri Lanka's most iconic region, the land of tea, boasts rolling hills of green plantations at every turn. For the ultimate experience stay at Ceylon Tea Trails where personalised service and old-world charm abound.

Enjoy an authentic safari at the uniquely designed Wild Coast Tented Lodge at Yala National Park, famous for its leopard. Complete your journey relaxing by the sea at luxurious Cape Weligama. Staying at some of Sri Lanka's finest luxury resorts, what's not to love?

For a personalised journey to Sri Lanka or more information on our 12-night Serene Ceylon itinerary please contact Jess on 1300 363 302.



Ceylon Tea Trails



Wild Coast Tented Lodge



AQUA EXPEDITIONS
LUXURY RIVER & YACHT CRUISES

SAILING TO NEW DESTINATIONS

AQUA NERA - PERUVIAN AMAZON

In October 2020 Aqua Expeditions will expand their fleet of luxury ships in the Amazon with the release of the Aqua Nera. The vessel will feature 20 spacious designer suites that convey a sense of the Amazon's tranquility and elegance, whilst guests can expect expert naturalist guides, exceptional service and Amazon inspired cuisine.

DISCOVER INDONESIA'S HIDDEN PARADISE

A luxury river and yacht cruise line Aqua Expeditions offers adventurous expedition cruising to some of the world's most pristine environments. Starting out in the Peruvian Amazon over 12 years ago the company has since expanded into South East Asia.

In November this year, the Aqua Blu, a sophisticated long-range explorer yacht will commence navigating the breathtaking wonders of the Indonesian Archipelago, home to some of the world's most biodiverse marine habitats.

Discover the beauty of the World Heritage listed Komodo National Park, and search for the legendary Komodo dragon. The natural beauty of Komodo's Pink Beach, which gets its colour

from pigments produced by microscopic creatures, is also a marvel to witness. The coral-rich waters surrounding the beach offer outstanding snorkelling and scuba diving opportunities.

Explore the remnants of the Ambon and Spice Islands colonial past. Cruise the turquoise waters surrounding the islands of Raja Ampat a treasure trove of more than 1,300 species of tropical marine fish.

A diverse range of daily excursions led by highly experienced guides are offered, exploring picturesque fishing villages, historic sites, beautiful waterfalls, pristine beaches and scuba diving or snorkelling hotspots.

To book your luxury cruise contact us on 1300 363 302.



Artist Impression © Aqua Expeditions



EXCLUSIVE PERU WITH —BELMOND—

With its time-honoured traditions, vibrant cultures and wild landscapes Peru is a travel lover's dream. Belmond, a curator of sophisticated experiences has created an exclusive route to captivate travellers, beginning in the country's vibrant capital Lima.



Belmond Miraflores Park overlooks the Pacific Ocean where guests can feast on stunning sea views from their rooms and thrilling cuisine in the acclaimed restaurant.

Journey to Cusco where close to the Plaza De Armas lies beautiful Belmond Hotel Monasterio, a former monastery. The enchanting opera show at El Tupay restaurant is an unforgettable experience.

Nearby is Belmond Palacio Nazarenas once an ancient palace and convent. Guests are invited to relax by the serene pool and sample the finest gastronomy in the city.

Linking Cusco to Lake Titicaca and Arequipa is the Belmond Andean Explorer, South America's first luxury sleeper train. Savor elegant accommodation and sumptuous cuisine as you traverse the Andes.

Next, discover the lush grasslands and glorious mountain views of the Sacred Valley at Belmond Hotel Rio Sagrado. This hidden gem is a secret spot among travel connoisseurs. From here, board the luxurious Belmond Hiram Bingham train to renowned Machu Picchu while being treated to the best in Peruvian fare, music, and dancing.

Experience the ancient citadel at Belmond Sanctuary Lodge. The only hotel adjacent to the sacred Inca site where guests enjoy views of majestic Huayna Picchu before wandering the famous ruins.

The final stop is Belmond Las Casitas. Set in the awe-inspiring Colca Canyon. Relax in private hot tubs with spellbinding views and explore scenic trails by horseback.

Exhilarating and enriching: this is Peru discovered Belmond-style.



Signature Suite © Belmond Palacio Nazarenas

2021 SOLAR ECLIPSE IN ANTARCTICA

On Saturday, 4 December 2021 Antarctica will play host to a rare cosmic event – a Total Solar Eclipse – and Poseidon Expeditions' Sea Spirit will be there to witness it.

A Total Solar Eclipse only happens when the moon completely covers the sun, casting a dark shadow on the Earth. Using sophisticated charts, detailed meteorological forecasts (and a little luck) this voyage gives you the chance to see this rare event in one of the most unique locations on the planet.



Embark on this once-in-a-lifetime voyage which combines the chance to see this cosmic wonder with the fascinating Falkland Islands, renowned South Georgia and the beautiful Antarctic Peninsula.

Walk across the unspoilt beaches of South Georgia including wildlife-rich Salisbury Plain where King Penguins, elephant seals and fur seals jostle for space. Marvel at the breathtaking vistas of the Antarctic Peninsula that act as a backdrop to iconic penguin rookeries.

Departs Ushuaia, Argentina 20 Nov 2021. Contact us for details on 1300 363 302.

SEA SPIRIT

A first-class polar vessel the Sea Spirit provides luxury, spacious accommodation for a maximum of 114 passengers. Expect exceptional service, expert staff and insightful lectures in the state-of-the-art presentation lounge. The vessel's open bridge policy allows guests to talk with the Captain and view these unique polar landscapes from a special angle.

SPECIAL GUEST DR. PAUL SUTTER

Complementing Poseidon's exceptional team of experts on this voyage is science guru and Astrophysicist Paul Sutter. As well as being a successful author and publisher of over 50 scientific articles, Paul is the Chief Scientist at the Centre of Science & Industry in Columbus, Ohio and his expertise is unparalleled.



FLY THE DRAKE

LEADERS OF THE POLES

For over 30 years Quark Expeditions has led the way in Polar exploration in both the Arctic and Antarctica. Every voyage is accompanied by a highly experienced expedition team which is the best in the business. These seasoned Polar veterans are qualified marine biologists, ecologists, geologists, ornithologists and glaciologists, many of whom have completed PHD studies in their field.

Quark Expeditions has one of the highest guide-to-guest ratios amongst Antarctic operators. Guests can expect expert guidance on their voyage of a lifetime and the chance to mingle with some of the most interesting people on the planet.

Not only leaders onboard, Quark Expeditions' highly-trained polar staff lead an outstanding range of "off the beaten track" adventures including:

- **Stand-up paddleboards and sea-kayaks:** for exploring in between icebergs and getting up close to glaciers.
- **Snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing and mountaineering:** for exciting on-shore excursions.
- **Camping:** for overnighting on the Antarctic pack-ice.
- **Heli-hiking and heli-skiing:** two new activities available exclusively on the Ultramarine. These thrilling activities let you experience more remote regions of the continent that are rarely explored.



For many, Antarctica is a lifetime travel goal and visiting the continent is no longer as daunting as it once seemed. In the last 15 years tourism to the 7th continent has flourished. One of the reasons is that you can now fly there saving traveller's valuable time and avoiding potential sea-sickness, crossing what is regarded as one of the roughest sections of ocean in the world – The Drake Passage.

Quark Expeditions operate 8 and 11 day 'air-cruises' flying from Punta Arenas in Chile to Antarctica's King George Island. This doesn't mean that you no longer get to enjoy the exciting experiences of an Antarctic cruise. On arrival, you are then transferred to a waiting vessel to begin exploring the beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Their two exceptional expedition ships offer state-of-the-art amenities and comfort. Accommodating just 128 passengers, the Ocean Adventurer underwent a major refurbishment in June 2017 and boasts engines that minimises its carbon footprint. Set to sail in November 2019 the World Explorer will be one of the finest ocean-going vessels in the Polar regions, even featuring a wellness centre and gym. Both vessels carry enough zodiacs for all passengers to disembark at any one time, giving you more time in the Antarctic wilderness.



The Leader in Polar Adventures



ULTRAMARINE

Quark Expedition's newest state-of-the-art vessel, coming in November 2020, will change the face of polar tourism. Ultra-luxurious, the Ultramarine will feature spa-inspired bathrooms, sauna, gym, and two "Ready-rooms" specifically designed for returning from excursions. Sea-kayaks, paddleboards and ski equipment will be available for optional activities whilst the vessel has two helicopters operating on dual helipads for flight-see excursions.



Artist impression © Quark Expeditions

UNCruise DEFINES ADVENTURE

"Small ships, BIG adventures. For over 20 years UnCruise has defined their Un-ness - engaging with unique destinations, locals and fellow travellers. How will you define yours?"

ADVENTURE - Their name and passion. Uncover playgrounds that offer the richest, wildest experiences by hiking, paddling, interacting with locals and more. It's all included, and there's something for everyone.

ENTERTAINMENT - There's never a dull moment on an UnCruise. Witness seals popping their heads up above the waterline or at 3am marvel at a northern lights spectacle. Your kayak is your seat and the still waters the stage.

IMMERSIVE - Cycle to vineyards and indulge in exquisite tastes and flavours. Hold a sea star in your hand or swim in a waterfall on a hike in Hawaii's ancient Halawa Valley. Your senses are awake and engaged, all day, every day.

INCLUSIVE - Excursions, adventure equipment, transfers, all food and beverages (alcohol too), even heart-tugging photos from your trip are included. Truly no hidden costs. That's inclusive.

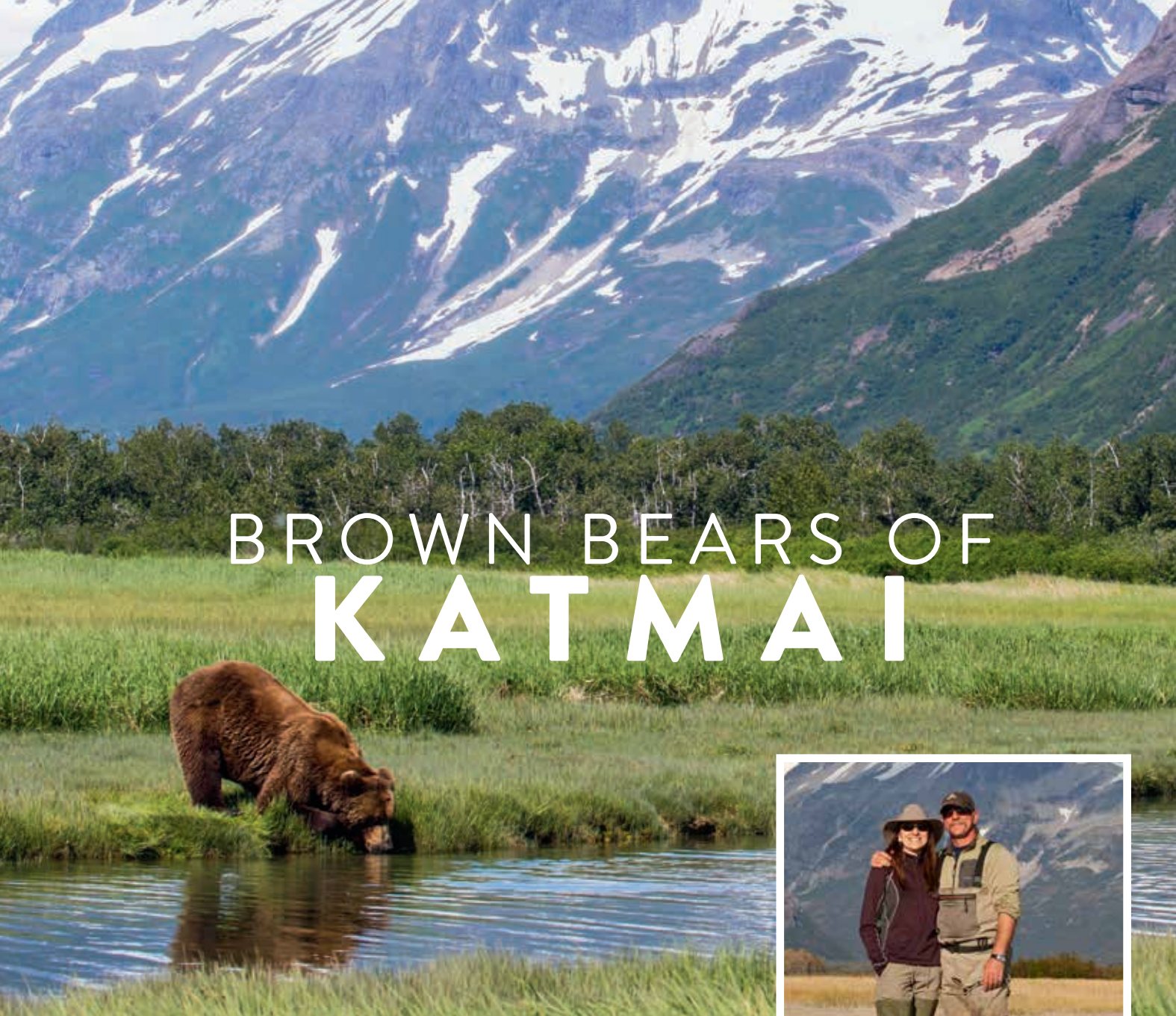
PORT OF CALL - Unusual and uncrowded, each excursion brings a new experience. Whether it's a deserted island with a sloping shore or stepping out of the skiff in rubber boots, you are instantly immersed in your surroundings.

REMOTE - Relax on your own private beach or explore an old growth forest where the only trails are from wildlife. Tangled mangroves opening into an Embera tribe's village, these places are so tucked away they are only accessible by small vessels.

SMALL SHIPS - Accommodating just 22-90 guests, get to know your travel comrades quickly, and yet there's always a quiet corner or empty space on the bow to scout for wildlife and take it all in.

For further information on the full range of UnCruise adventures and current early booking specials, please call us today on 1300 363 302.





BROWN BEARS OF KATMAI



"Katmai provided exactly what we went there for; Bears! Perry, the head guide, is highly experienced and knows many of the bears by sight. We saw bears every day, on foot and up close on multiple occasions" - Michael King



Magnificent Katmai National Park in Alaska is home to the world's largest concentration of grizzly bears – approximately 2,200 – and the best place to see them is at Katmai Wilderness Lodge. This remote, but comfortable eco lodge hugs the shore of Kukak Bay, and families of bears roam the meadows and coastal flats right outside the lodge.

The lodge is managed by Perry and Angela Mollan who love welcoming visitors and sharing their knowledge of the flora and fauna. Perry is a fourth generation Alaskan and he and Angela have lived and worked in the park for many years. They even got married here. They and other experienced guides take guests on daily excursions by boat or on foot to look for bears. With 42 different mammal species in the park visitors may also see seals, sea otters, fox and possibly wolves and whales.

With a maximum of 12 guests at the lodge you are unlikely to see any other people in the area, making this an intimate and unique wilderness experience.

FOR ALL SEASONS CANADA



To see Canada your way contact us on 1300 363 302.

Long renowned for its stunning scenery and impressive wildlife, Canada has much more to offer. From gourmet country lodges to sophisticated cities, a thriving foodie scene and top class wineries, this beautiful country has something for everyone.

An easy non-stop flight wings you to landscapes worlds away from Australia's "wide brown land": glistening glaciers, dense forests and jaw-dropping mountains. Take a luxury train or self-drive on excellent roads through the famous Rockies or picturesque east coast villages.

Four distinct seasons each offer something special. In spring bears awake from their winter sleep and feast on berries and grasses. As the days warm up flowers bloom in the meadows and outdoor adventures are underway. Fall is a blaze of colour and winter is the time for skiing, dog sledding and the shimmering Northern Lights.

Canada is renowned for its fresh produce, and a 200,000 km coastline means bountiful seafood, to be washed down with local wines or artisanal beers. There's been a resurgence in indigenous foods, and a multicultural population means a variety of cuisines, from French pastries to Arctic game.

SPIRIT BEARS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

SUPR.
NATURAL
BRITISH
COLUMBIA
CANADA

SPIRIT BEAR FACTS

Home: Great Bear Rainforest
Current population: 50-150 bears
Height: 60-90cm at the shoulder
Length: 120-190 cm
Weight: Between 80 – 200 kg
Lifespan: 20 - 25 years
Food: Omnivorous. Eats grass, fruit, nuts, insects, fish.

British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest is a place of beauty and mystery, with towering thousand year old trees, moss covered glades, wolves that swim and fish, and black bears that are white.

Called Spirit Bears or Kermode bears, these rare creatures are a white variant of the North American black bear. Both parents must carry a copy of the mutated gene for their offspring to be white. They have always been protected by Indigenous

peoples who have never hunted them and even refrained from speaking of them to hunters and fur trappers.

According to the Kitasoo/Xai'xais, the creator Raven made the Spirit Bear to remind them of a time when the land was covered in ice and that the people should be thankful for the lush and bountiful land of today.

Along with grizzly and black bears, one of the best places to find these

magnificent animals is at Spirit Bear Lodge in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. This comfortable and cosy lodge is owned and operated by Indigenous people, and offers exclusive access to some of the special Spirit Bear viewing areas in the recently created Spirit Bear Conservancy.

We eagerly await the arrival of an IMAX movie about the Great Bear Rainforest, narrated by Canadian actor Ryan Reynolds which should reach Australia early in 2020. We will keep you posted.

POLAR BEARS

OF CHURCHILL



Each year in October and November, huge numbers of polar bears gather on the shores of Canada's Hudson Bay near the tiny town of Churchill, Manitoba. This annual congregation occurs when the bears are waiting for the lake to freeze, so they may venture out onto the ice to hunt for seals.

During this narrow window, Natural Focus offers exciting tundra based tours to see these magnificent animals. There are three styles of tours to choose from; adventurer, enthusiast and specialist ranging from 3 to 5 nights in length. These tours explore the pristine Arctic tundra landscape in search of bears

aboard a Tundra Buggy, a specifically-designed all-terrain vehicle.

The vehicles allow for safe and up-close viewing of the world's largest carnivore. These heated buggies have opening windows providing exceptional photographic opportunities. We strongly recommend the 5 night program, as a pre and post tour night in Winnipeg is included.

Also available is the purpose-built Tundra Buggy Lodge, consisting of dining, lounge and sleeping units. This "lodge-on-wheels" offers guests more time out on the tundra, and features open-air decks and informative evening lectures.

All tours start in the capital city of Winnipeg with its many attractions including the fantastic Manitoba Museum, housing over 2.5 million artefacts spanning 12,000 years in its archaeological collection alone.

For more information on our polar bear tours, please contact our Canada specialists on 1300 363 302.



BLACHFORD LAKE LODGE

CHASING THE LIGHTS

Canada's Northwest Territories touches the Arctic Ocean and boasts towering mountains with waterfalls twice the height of Niagara Falls and skies that illuminate through the night with the magic of Aurora Borealis.

Here wildlife far outnumbers humans, yet the people you meet are a part of the experience with great stories to share, rich in history, tradition and music.

Yellowknife is where visitors flock to view the famed Aurora Borealis. Due to the city's location (directly beneath the auroral oval), the lights are visible here more than anywhere else on earth.

There are two Aurora seasons in Yellowknife; August and September provide autumn temperatures, whilst winter (December to March) is when the night sky becomes crystal clear and temperatures drop below freezing.

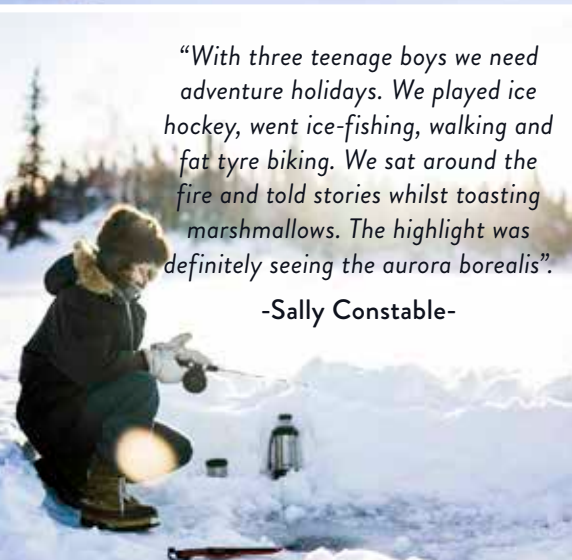
For travellers seeking an off the grid experience, Blachford Lake Lodge offers a fly-in, fly-out personalised experience. Only 20 minutes from Yellowknife by scenic flight, stay in comfortable, private cabins and enjoy a wide array of daily activities including viewing the northern lights from your doorstep.

SPECTACULAR
NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES



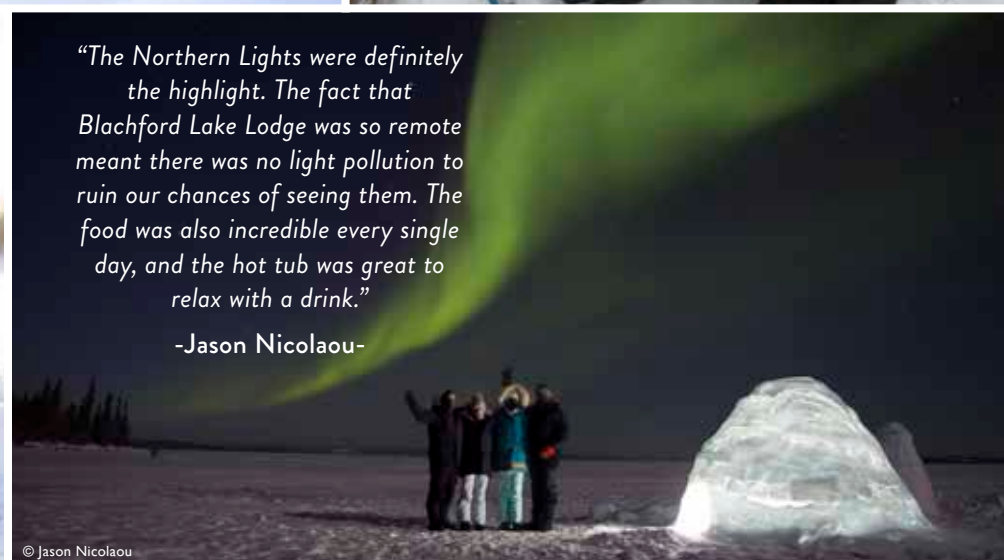
"With three teenage boys we need adventure holidays. We played ice hockey, went ice-fishing, walking and fat tyre biking. We sat around the fire and told stories whilst toasting marshmallows. The highlight was definitely seeing the aurora borealis".

-Sally Constable-



"The Northern Lights were definitely the highlight. The fact that Blachford Lake Lodge was so remote meant there was no light pollution to ruin our chances of seeing them. The food was also incredible every single day, and the hot tub was great to relax with a drink."

-Jason Nicolaou-



A COOL MIGRATION

FOLLOWING CANADA'S CARIBOU

Crossing the Arctic Circle above Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories takes visitors on another journey beyond wonder or imagination, venturing into the remote communities of Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. Here in this isolated winter wonderland experience a plethora of guided adventures that range from dipping your toes into the Arctic Ocean to snowmobiling alongside a migrating caribou herd.

Between January and May, a 3000 strong herd of caribou migrates through the region to its summer calving grounds. Natural Focus offers a unique 4 day Arctic adventure, following the caribou herd by snowmobile through pristine tundra landscapes. Spend one night in a true Arctic setting, nestled in an igloo with warm sleeping bags, caribou hides and ambient lighting.

Travel along the Mackenzie Valley Highway completed in November 2017, and explore the remote community of Tuktoyaktuk. This is the only road in Canada that leads to the Arctic Ocean. Local guides share their stories and history, pointing out landmarks and introducing guests to cultural tastings and locally sourced food from the traditional Inuvialuit people.

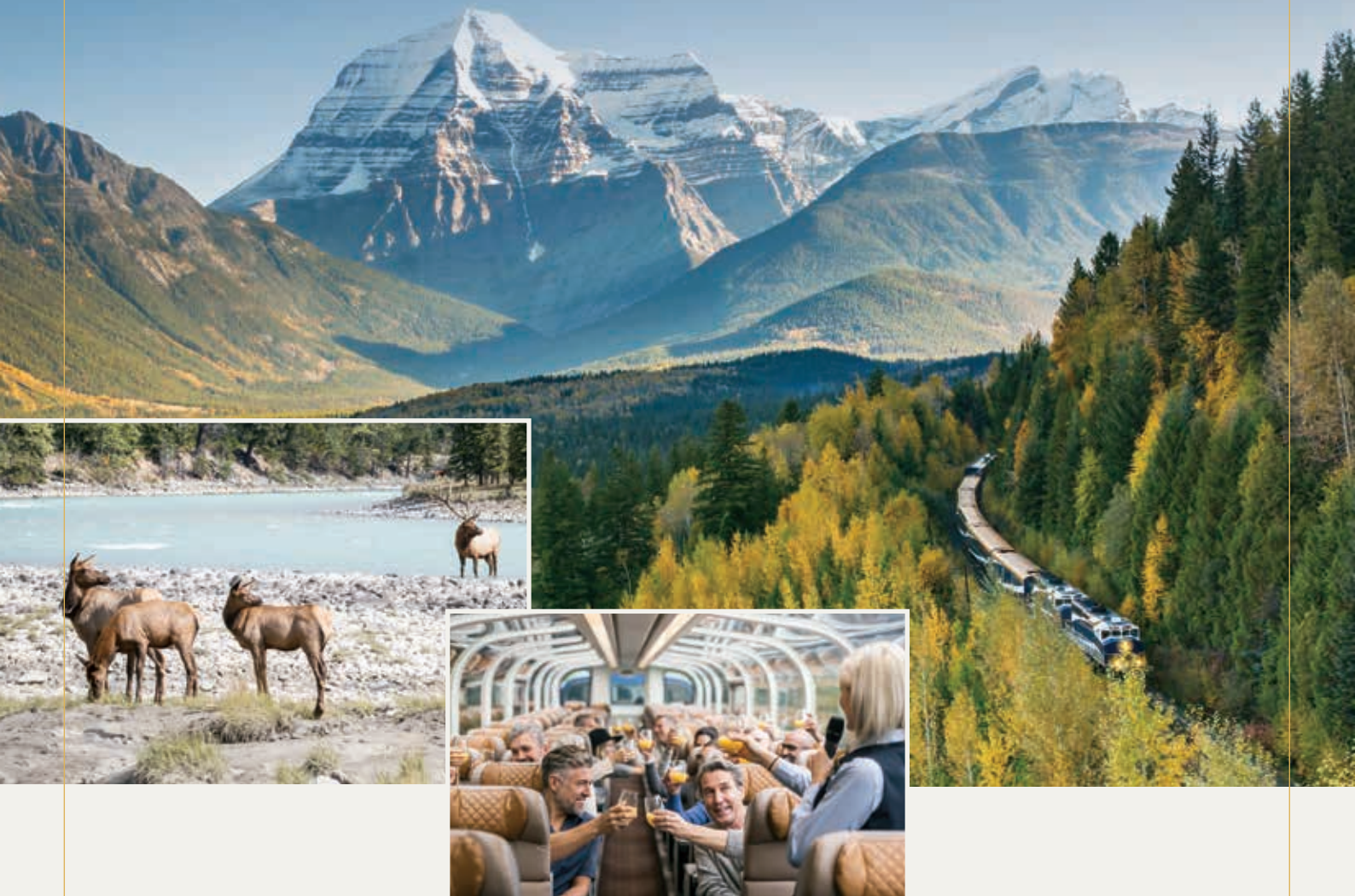
For more information please call our Canada specialists on 1300 363 302.





ROCKY MOUNTAINEER®

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SEE
THE CANADIAN ROCKIES IN LUXURY—
AND THAT'S ONBOARD ROCKY MOUNTAINEER.



Join us onboard Rocky Mountaineer and embark on an awe-inspiring rail journey as you travel through the Canadian Rockies. With impeccable service, exquisite cuisine, and stunning scenery, this isn't just a luxury trip—it's a life-changing journey that leaves tracks across the soul.

For more information please contact Natural Focus
on 1300 363 302 or visit www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au

ALL ABOARD AMAZING