



WorldwideQuest

EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL SINCE 1970

Private Journeys

Tailored itineraries
for independent travellers.



Choose a Private Journey

Imagine a trip filled with all the things you most like to do, that gets you together with informative and congenial guides and hosts to show you the sites, presents the perfect accommodation and the best meals, and runs without a hitch. With a Worldwide Quest Private Journey, you have the same attention to detail, logistical expertise, and flair of our small group tours, expertly designed especially for you, as a couple, a family, or a group of friends.

We plan a completely hand-tailored itinerary to suit your exact specifications. We discuss, create and arrange your trip exactly the way you want – the perfect combination of impeccable planning and the flexibility to move at your own pace. Spend time doing exactly what you want with special access to interesting people and remarkable experiences.

A Private Journey...

- 🐾 Suits your time-frame.
- 🐾 Meets your budget.
- 🐾 Focuses on your interests.

Our destinations reward dedicated advanced planning, and with all the logistics well in place, you'll benefit from support on the ground. Our local hosts provide seamless service by attending to all the administrative details, expertly guiding your experiences and giving you insider's advice on local events, great restaurants, and more.

Our Private Journey team headed up by Lewie and Sara is here for you. From our first conversation, through every step of planning, and every moment of your trip, we're here for you.



Lewie Gonsalves



Laurielle Penny



Why Worldwide Quest?

- We've been crafting trips to some of the world's most remote locations for over 40 years.
- We have access to a 'little black book' of incredible people all over the world.
- Most of our travellers come to us from referrals or are repeat travellers, which we feel reflects well on the quality of our travel arrangements and service.

Why do you need us?

- The planning process for trips to places like India, Borneo, and Namibia takes time and know-how.
- Our expertise will ensure that you make the most of every day of your trip.
- While you're making the most of every day, we'll be making sure your onward arrangements are worry-free.

What are the costs and benefits?

- We work with your budget to create your trip.
- You tell us what's most important to you – the right balance between time and money, a certain style of accommodation, access to a remote location – and we'll build around that.
- Your preferences determine the price.

In the next few pages you will find a sampling of destinations and experiences we've recently created for our travellers. **We hope you'll be inspired to create your Private Journey to be the trip of a lifetime.**



India

India enthralls, mystifies, and intoxicates its visitors. Through our deep connections with the country (several of our Toronto team hail from the subcontinent and several more are regular travellers) we create our signature travel experiences.

If you're considering a first trip and want to do it right, we'll work with you to design the ideal introduction.

“ We would encourage you to consider visiting India and to leave your preconceived ideas of India in your luggage. Come with an open heart and non-judgmental eyes and I know you will be touched beyond belief as we have been.”
– L.H., Edmonton, AB

Throughout your trip, you'll:

- 🌀 Be hosted full time by our congenial private drivers who unobtrusively hold your hand every step of the way
- 🌀 Explore each destination with expert guides who know how to avoid the queues at the Taj Mahal and show you the quiet squares in the blue city of Jodhpur
- 🌀 Be welcomed at a family dinner with our friends in Jaipur
- 🌀 Meet the chef and learn to make your new favourite dish
- 🌀 Stay in carefully selected accommodation – whether you prefer Western-style comfort, over-the-top palace luxury, or a beautifully restored heritage inn

If you're a long time India enthusiast, you'll be happy to know that we can:

- 🌀 Team you up with a top-notch naturalist for an exceptional safari experience
- 🌀 Introduce you to the curator of Ahmedabad's Calico Textile Museum
- 🌀 Take you on a tuk-tuk food safari to Madurai's fabulous outdoor food stalls
- 🌀 Set up a meeting with women involved in education for girls
- 🌀 Get you the best table at the most charming lakeside restaurant in Udaipur

Here's one Private Journey
to India we've recently created:

Romance in North India

A COUPLE RENEWS THEIR VOWS, WITH 1500 NEW FRIENDS...



This well-travelled couple were ready to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary with flair. And where better than India, famously the country of fabulous festivals. Starting from a tour around Delhi with a glamorous Bollywood actor, the happy couple was whisked away by Mercedes sedan to explore Rajasthan. They started off with an insider's tour of the Taj Mahal at sunset, celebrated Holi at a family home, and were expertly and unobtrusively accompanied at the epic spectacle of the Pushkar Camel Fair.

Their signature moment? An invitation to join a traditional wedding celebration in the village of Narlai. When we learned that a young couple was celebrating their wedding next door to where our couple was staying a restored heritage inn, we asked if they could take the occasion to renew their vows. A happy and enthusiastic 'accha' (great!)... and the couple was warmly welcomed to the 1500-person wedding party.

Our Hotel Picks

SELECTED WITH LOCATION AND CHARM IN MIND...



The Palais de Mahe in Pondicherry was designed with the approval of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural heritage. Carefully curated and very personal... It's an au courant take on Franco-Indian culture from its white and mustard façade to its elegant guestrooms. Cool, airy high ceilings, traditional roof beams, electric fans, fuss-free elegance, and a lap pool for a reviving dip. Fusion cuisine – fresh fish of course and lots of light vegetarian dishes – served at the open-air rooftop restaurant.



In a sleepy yet spectacular Rajasthani village is a marvelous heritage resort. **Rawla Narlai** was once a hunting lodge of Jodhpur's Royal family, now transformed into a stunning, stylish boutique hotel. Rooms are an idiosyncratic mix of frescoed walls, hand block printed linens, and hand woven rugs.



India's Hidden Architectural Gems

Stepwells first appeared in India around the 3rd Century C.E. as a way to guarantee a year-round water supply particularly in arid Rajasthan. Over the centuries, construction evolved so that by the 12th Century, these wells were complex feats of engineering as well as spectacular works of architecture embellished with sculptures and friezes. These beautiful but hidden structures can often be found beside popular sites such as the Taj Mahal in Agra as well as in smaller villages across Rajasthan and Gujarat.



Rajender the Magnificent

A surprisingly affordable perk of your trip to India is the luxury of your own private car and driver whisking you along your chosen route. Rajender has been one of our hosts for over a decade, driving our travellers across Rajasthan. Indefatigable, enthusiastic, and intimately familiar with every stretch of road, Rajender will introduce you to the authentic, out-of-the-way places – creating those unexpected and oh-so-special signature moments.



South East Asia

Easily enjoyed together because of their geographic proximity and convenient air and land connections, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos form a vibrant tapestry of contrasting yet complimentary experiences. In addition to the iconic sites of Angkor Wat, Halong Bay, and the temples of Bagan, it is still possible to venture off the tourist track to create signature moments.

“ The trip was amazing overall...Our guide Wah Wah was exceptional and all the drivers were wonderful. ”
– G.H. and L.B., Victoria, BC

If you're doing the highlights:

- 🌀 Do the foodie tour in Hanoi with an expat who's set up his own restaurant in the city
- 🌀 Enjoy a champagne breakfast in a hot air balloon over the Plains of Bagan
- 🌀 Visit the hill tribes in super scenic Sapa
- 🌀 Take the luxury overnight cruise on the Irrawaddy River
- 🌀 Give the elephants a bath at an elephant sanctuary

If you're delving into one country, you'll want to:

- 🌀 Whizz around Saigon on the back of a Vespa, like the locals do
- 🌀 Cycle the backroads and waterways of Ben Tre, deep in the heart of the Mekong Delta
- 🌀 Meet a French historian in Phnom Penh who's documenting the country's traditions
- 🌀 Join a photographer to perfect your photos of Angkor Wat
- 🌀 Cast away your troubles by releasing handmade floats at Thailand's Loy Krathong Festival

Here's one **Private Journey to South East Asia** we've recently created:

Trails of Indochina

CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIP IN A THREE-COUNTRY TRIP...



Three couples celebrating twenty years of friendship gave us the mandate to set up a special trip to South East Asia that would reflect each of their personal passions.

The architect enjoyed a special pre-dawn visit with a cultural preservationist at the Ananda Temple in Bagan. The foodie relished the cooking class with Madame Vy in Hoi An. The yoga devotee got everyone up early to donate alms to the saffron-robed monks in the morning ceremony in Luang Prabang. The sailor steered the exclusively chartered yacht through the islands of Halong Bay. The artist was invited to a gallery opening in Hanoi to meet contemporary Vietnamese artists.

The successful trip was celebrated with a surprise picnic set in the shade of a remote Angkor temple deep in the jungle. And the accountant pronounced the trip to be excellent value.

Our Hotel Picks

SELECTED WITH LOCATION AND CHARM IN MIND...



Hotel Metropole, Hanoi

The owners have done a magnificent job of preserving the old-school colonial charm of Hanoi's signature historic hotel while adding luxurious touches. This is where you want to be; right in the middle of the city and following in the footsteps of Noel Coward and Somerset Maugham.



The Hotel at Tharabar Gate, Bagan

Location, location, location... A ten-minute walk from this favourite hotel takes you to the Ananda Pagoda, one of the most impressive temples of Bagan – perfect for guaranteeing that sunrise photo. We like the choice of open-air restaurants set up just across the street – enjoy a great meal in the company of locals. Rooms are spacious and set up in villas winding through the luxuriant gardens where the large shaded pool offers a welcome respite from a full day exploring the temples.





Take a Cruise

River cruises are a wonderful way to slow down and get to know the villages of Southeast Asia's waterways.

The **Mekong River** can be explored over three, four, or seven nights. The longer route takes you from the Delta south of Ho Chi Minh City to Tonle Sap Lake near Siem Reap while shorter cruises concentrate on segments of the iconic river. For sheer luxury, we like the Aqua Mekong; 20 designer suites, an upper deck pool, and fabulous cuisine plus private tenders for expert-guided shore excursions to serene Buddhist temples and stilted villages.

On Burma's **Irrawaddy River**, we like the Pandaw ships, each one hand-finished in brass and teak by traditional craftsmen – the ultra-shallow draft means we get to remote areas, a real treat in Burma. The fleet offers from one- to seven-night cruises and are exceptional value for money.





Sara's tip:
Keeping a tradition alive

'Tak Bat' is a Buddhist morning alms-giving practice in Luang Prabang. It's an important way for monks to maintain their vows and for Buddhist people to practice their faith and gain merit for the afterlife. You'll see hundreds of saffron-robed monks moving silently through the streets in the very early morning collecting offerings of food.

How should you experience this beautiful tradition? Observe in silence, keep your head lower than the monks, and photograph from a distance (no flash please!). If you would like to participate, our guide will prepare the rice for you to give.



Africa

A wildlife bonanza, astonishing scenery, and endless horizons are just the beginning of a trip to Africa. The classic safari can be designed for game viewing, for jaw-dropping photography, for cultural immersion, or for active pursuits such as canoeing and walking. From family friendly, to budget, to maximum luxury, there's a range of options as vast as the continent.

“ Exceeded my expectations. The best trip ever! We love unique interesting accommodation. Can't wait for our next trip.”
– S.M., Edmonton, AB

A safari is probably on every traveller's wish list. Here are a few of our signature safari moments:

- 🦏 Gazing into the Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest unbroken volcanic caldera
- 🦏 Being woken up in your tent by the distant, yet powerful, roar of a lion
- 🦏 Hot air ballooning over the Masai Mara – go at dawn during the wildebeest migration
- 🦏 Watch swimming elephants in Botswana's far north
- 🦏 Climb Sossusvlei's magnificent sand dunes

Beyond wildlife, there's plenty to enjoy:

- 🦏 Accomplish a life goal with a fully supported Kilimanjaro Climb
- 🦏 Meander the winding streets of Fez's medina
- 🦏 Hike Morocco's Atlas Mountains
- 🦏 Watch the world's largest stretch of falling water at Victoria Falls
- 🦏 Take in the sun set from Cape Town's Table Mountain

We recently planned a safari for a multi-generational family:

How to plan a family safari

BRINGING EVERYONE TOGETHER FOR A MEMORABLE VACATION...



These active grandparents wanted a very special 'S.K.I' holiday and decided to spend their kids' inheritance (well, part of it) on their kids (and grandkids!). With grandkids aged 13, 16, and 18, they wanted an active, inspiring, educational adventure.

We created a Kenya and Tanzania safari that took them to the Serengeti for the Great Migration. They observed every one of Africa's "Big Five", caught the glint in the eye of an African wild cat on a night safari, slept in a lodge on the edge of the Ngorongoro and in a tented camp in the heart of the Serengeti, and met with researchers at the Serengeti Wildlife Research Centre. As they sipped a sundowner at a waterhole, watching game in numbers and variety come down for a drink, the whole family knew this was a moment they would remember forever.

Our safari camp picks:

SELECTED WITH LOCATION AND CHARM IN MIND...



Serengeti Safari Camp

Every year this little camp covers hundreds of miles, moving every couple of months on a route following the route the wildebeest herds have taken for centuries. This is where you come for your migration fix. The camp is comfortable, but not about luxury for its own sake. We applaud their environmentally sustainable tourism!



Sausage Tree Camp is set in a stunning, pristine location along the Zambezi River – all the game without all the people! It's a favourite of ours because it strikes the perfect balance in creating a civilized approach to a true bush experience. It sleeps just 16 guests; the tents are spaced along the Zambezi River allowing the elephants to amble in between. Knowledgeable guides take you on game drives in Zambia's unspoiled wilderness, on walking safaris, and out on a river cruiser to enjoy a floating sundowner to view the most amazing sunsets.



Gorilla Trekking Uganda

The Bwindi Impenetrable Forest wins our prize for the most evocative place name. Tucked away in the south-western corner of Uganda, the forest is home to our favourite adventure lodge and a handful of “habituated” gorillas. An hour or two of hiking in dense, primeval forest with our guide will bring you in face-to-face encounters with silverbacks, blackbacks, females and youngsters. Only eight visitors are allowed per gorilla group each day, with an hour to sit and watch these beautiful animals on their home turf.

Female Mountain Gorilla



In Black and White (or White and Black?)

Justin Peter, who heads up our Quest Nature Tours team, would like you to look out for three distinct species of zebra while on your African safari. The Plains Zebra is found from Ethiopia to South Africa; it's the prototypical "safari zebra" featured on television. There are five subspecies; those in the far south have a shadow striping effect on the rump. Grévy's Zebra is indigenous to Kenya and the Horn of Africa; its belly is conspicuously white and the rest of its coat is adorned with a higher density of stripes with the neck stripes consistently broader than those on the rest of the body. The third and least well-known is the Cape Mountain Zebra found in western Namibia and the Cape. It's distinguished by a dewlap on the neck's lower surface and a "grid iron" pattern of cross-wise stripes forming a triangle above the rump.



Plains Zebra



South America

The variety of landscapes in South America boggles the mind. From Andean peaks to Amazonian rainforests, from Patagonian glaciers to Uyuni's vast, shimmering salt flats, South America offers a dazzling array of natural wonders. The human environment of living and ancient cultures is equally captivating; iconic Inca ruins, colonial treasures, colourful markets, vibrant cityscapes, and everywhere the rhythms of salsa, samba, tango, and folk music...

“As you well know, this experience is one of a kind – diverse, unique, mind-blowing and very special. We had a truly amazing time and the itinerary couldn't have been better. (...) Suffice to say, I am most grateful for all that Worldwide Quest put together on my/our behalf and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for letting me live out my dream in the enchanted islands of the Galapagos.”

– J.B., Toronto, ON

Peaks and heights include:

- 🌀 Visiting Chile's Paranal observatory to stargaze in the world's clearest skies
- 🌀 Searching for condors in Peru's Colca Canyon
- 🌀 Watching glaciers calve off the Perito Moreno Glacier
- 🌀 Driving across the Andes from Chile into Argentina
- 🌀 Experiencing the sheer power of water at Iguazu Falls

There are amazing activities at sea level too:

- 🌀 Charter a private yacht for a family trip to the Galapagos Islands
- 🌀 Take in the Amazon, by river cruiser or from your eco lodge
- 🌀 Explore the awe-inspiring desert-like landscapes of Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni
- 🌀 Check out Buenos Aires' private access restaurants and secret speakeasies
- 🌀 Stay out of the rain in the driest place on earth – Atacama Desert

And Central America, too:

Ladies Who Lunch

AND HIKE, AND SURF, AND EXPLORE...



A group of extraordinary women asked us to design a ten-day getaway to celebrate a significant life success. Costa Rica was the choice for a life-affirming adventure.

The first night saw our ladies recovering from the flight at a spa resort overlooking the Central Valley. A stay in the shadow of the Arenal Volcano included a hike over the lava flow trail refreshed by a swim in the cool lagoon under the waterfall. They glided through the Monteverde Cloud Forest on the Sky Trek zip line and spotted Capuchin Monkeys, sloths, and colourful birds in a walk with an expert naturalist at Manuel Antonio National Park. Surfing lessons on the white sand Pacific beach was the perfect finale. *Pura vida!*

Our Hotel Picks

SELECTED WITH LOCATION AND CHARM IN MIND...



Legado Mitico, Salta, Argentina

We love hotels that speak to place. At this favourite, instead of numbers, each room is distinguished by a beloved character or cultural group; a cowhide wall-piece hangs behind the bed in the Gaucho room; a framed bow and arrow decorates the Wichi room... Once the mansion of a Patrician family, the manor house is an indulgent mix of luxury hotel and museum – totally Argentinian.



Tierra Patagonia Hotel

Escape to one of the last great remote areas in the world. Enormous windows look out to the lakes and peaks of Torres del Paine National Park inviting you to explore with guided hikes or try your luck at fly-fishing for salmon. The spectacular wood clad building is immersed in its landscape; furnishings and textiles are hand made by Chilean craftspeople. It's our choice for active relaxation...

Perito Moreno Glacier



Design your own adventure on a walking trail to Machu Picchu

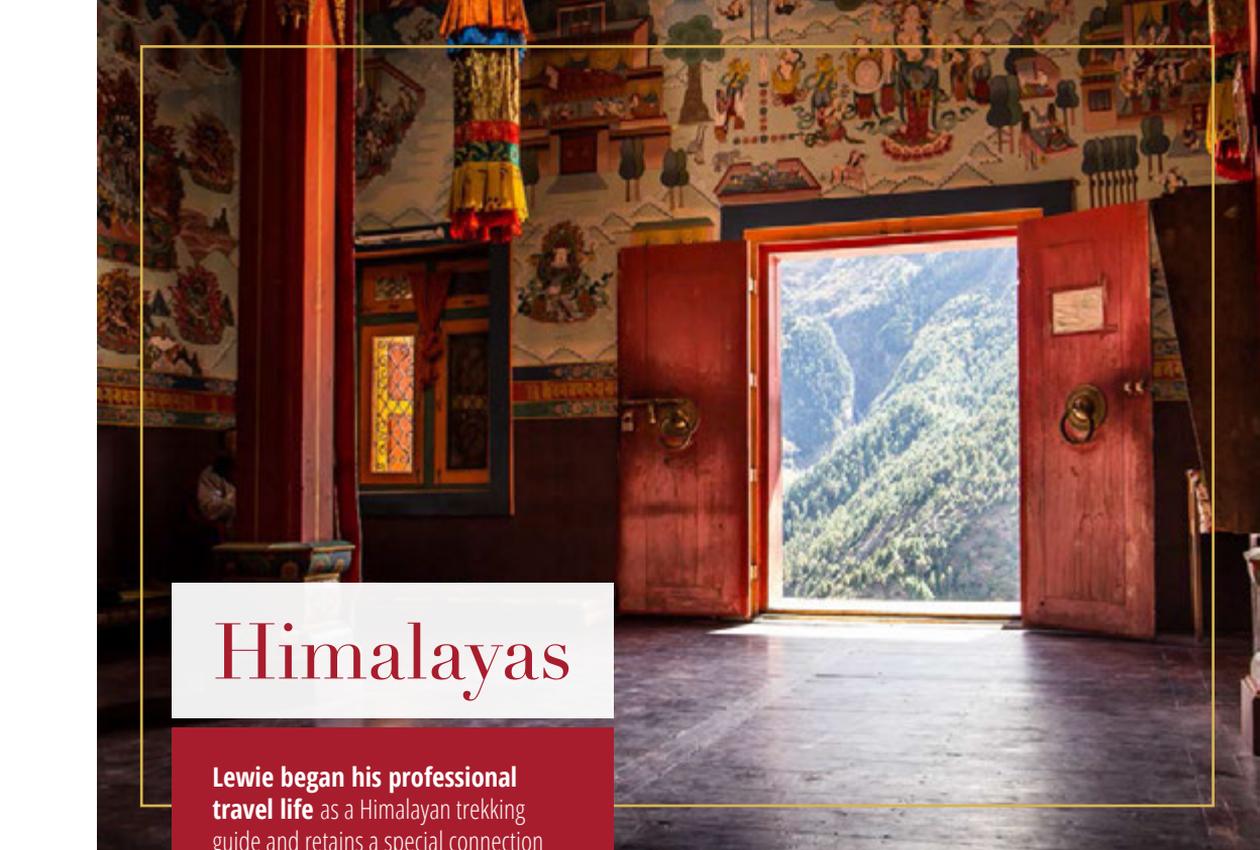
This is a fully flexible itinerary, with a menu of a-la-carte, active and cultural activities, perfect for enjoying the scenic beauty of this remote area and the remarkable Andean cultures. Choose a five- or seven-day route; each day, you and your guide will decide on a choice of daily hikes along highland trails, visits to fascinating archaeological sites, browsing in bustling markets, or meeting traditional communities. You'll stay in beautiful mountain lodges and enjoy locally-inspired gourmet cuisine throughout.

Machu Picchu summit



Traveling the Wine Roads of Mendoza and Salta

If you've enjoyed Napa, Sonoma, or the Okanagan, you're ready for some of the world's best Malbecs in the some of the world's most spectacular scenery. The snow-dusted high Andes are the dramatic backdrop to a route taking in some 80 wineries. Our sommelier/guide and driver will take you to the state-of-the-art wineries for tastings and meals – Chef Lucas Bustos' five course pairing menu at Ruca Malen is a favourite. Further north, wilder, less polished, and more remote, the area around Salta offers a taste of high-altitude terroir, lost in time villages, and luxurious wine lodges.



Himalayas

Lewie began his professional travel life as a Himalayan trekking guide and retains a special connection with this magical part of the world that he visits every year. He'll help you find that perfect hiking trail (there's one for every level of activity), create an itinerary that takes you to the world-class artistic and architectural heritage in the ancient kingdoms of Patan and Bhaktapur in the Kathmandu Valley, or enjoy some of the seasonal festivals that celebrate Buddhist culture in Bhutan's fortress-monasteries.

“ The trip had a good balance of culture and politics of the different countries. The local guides were enthusiastic and passionate about their countries. The experiences were once in a lifetime and the trip was probably the best we have ever taken.”
– F.W., Winnipeg, MB

Above the clouds:

- 🌀 Capture the view on a scenic flight over Mt. Everest
- 🌀 Enjoy the heat of dishes cooked with lots of chillies
- 🌀 Explore Lhasa, the 'Place of the Gods'
- 🌀 Observe supernatural Lake Manasarovar under a full moon
- 🌀 Trek to Mt. Everest base camp to photograph the world's most spectacular mountain scenery

And on the ground:

- 🌀 Visit artisan textile and timber studios in medieval Bhaktapur
- 🌀 Take a brightly painted *doonga* (boat) around Phewa Tal Laketo spot birdlife
- 🌀 Join in a Tshechu Festival to witness religious mask dances, receive blessings, and socialize
- 🌀 Look for the elusive snow leopard on a pack-animal supported trek
- 🌀 Visit Lhasa's Jokhang Temple through the crowds of yak-butter-spooning pilgrims



Climb your own Everest

You don't need to be a mountaineer to experience an Everest high. We have a panoramic trek that offers superb views of the world's highest peaks, including Everest, Lhotse, Thamserku, and Ama Dablam.

This easy and enjoyable trek does not require any special training or previous experience, other than being in good physical condition, having a love of walking, and a flexible spirit to enjoy village life. On the trek, you can go at your own pace with plenty of time to rest and acclimatize to a maximum altitude of 3875m. at Tengboche Monastery. We think this is the ideal way to experience the majesty of these mountains.



Dwarika Resort, Nepal

Drawing on ancient Hindu scriptures, Buddhist medicine, and traditional Himalayan knowledge, this heritage resort is one of our favourite places to restore body and soul.

The 360-degree panoramas of the Himalayas are breathtaking. Inside, every material (except for the incredibly comfortable mattresses) has been locally sourced with special attention to preserving local Newa heritage. According to the 'Pancha Kosha' the soul is enveloped in five layers: the physical, air, mind, intellect, and bliss. Each of these is stimulated and nurtured at this stunning resort.



Preserving Buddhist Art in Bhutan

Thangkas are sacred scroll paintings used in Buddhist rituals and meditation. They are rendered in mineral pigments using hair-thin brushes and represent Buddhist deities and scenes of religious instruction. They are believed to offer the viewer protection, healing, and enlightenment, and can be viewed in fortress monasteries across the country. Preserving ancient artistic traditions is very much a part of the plan at our favourite hotel in Bhutan, the Zhiwa Ling Hotel: a work of art itself; constructed, carved, and painted by Bhutanese artisans.

Bengal Tiger



And Beyond...

There likely isn't a part of the world our team hasn't visited, so please do challenge us with your own wish list of 'must-see' places.

Here are a few of our favourite trending destinations:



Indonesia

WHERE LIFE AND DEATH EXIST SIDE BY SIDE

Beyond Bali's beautiful beaches and Ubud's stunning batiks and cuisine, Indonesia is home to vibrant tribal cultures. In the Tana Toraja region, people live in tall, boat-shaped houses constructed in palm groves among the rice paddies. They save up all their lives for funerals which can cost thousands of dollars, denominated in buffaloes. Life size carved wood effigies guard the tombs of the upper class dead, set in hanging graves in the steep cliffs. Wulan, our partner in Indonesia, arranges for our travellers to attend the grand funeral ceremonies.



Japan

THE FAMILY THAT DRUMS TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER...

How do you keep the interest of three active teens and expose them to a fresh cultural perspective? This family of five wanted to experience a completely different part of the world in a way that would keep them active every step of the way. We designed a trip to Japan that got them cycling around Tokyo's Bay Area, visiting a sumo stables to take part in 'asa geiko' (morning training), and learning to make sushi with an expert chef. They hiked to the summit of Mt. Hikajuro, kayaked around Miyajima Island, and cycled between Kyoto's spectacular temples. Their signature moment? A taiko drumming class that let them feel the rhythm of Japanese life.



Sri Lanka

SPECTACULAR AND AFFORDABLE

With eight Unesco World Heritage site packed into just 65,000 km², Sri Lanka punches over its weight with an assortment of over-2000-year old sites. Add to that dazzling white beaches, verdant tea plantations, leopards and elephants and delightful colonial towns and you have an unbeatable spot for your next trip. We love the cuisine (sweet and savoury rotis) and the great new restored heritage inns – we'll make sure you visit the Colombo home of the celebrated architect Geoffrey Bawa, who coined a tropical modernism style based on Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic traditional and colonial influences.



And Canada too!

SARA'S TIPS



Lonely Planet just pronounced Canada to the 'top country' in the "Best in Travel 2017" roster and a destination "you can't afford to miss". Our Private Journey planner Sara Feeny's two favourite Canadian destinations are Churchill, Manitoba for the Polar Bears and British Columbia's Pacific Coast for the ancient cultures and stunning wildlife of the Gwaii Haanas National Park and Great Bear Rainforest. What a great way to celebrate Canada's 150th – give Sara a call for all the details.

Talk to the Experts

START PLANNING TODAY.

Toll-free **1-800-387-1483** / Local **416-633-5666**

Email us at **travel@worldwidequest.com**

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