



Cultures revered, landscapes exposed and histories influential.

We reclaim the knowledge of our past, where shifting sands divulge astounding ancestry. Disarmed by holy seas, jungle vines and the beginnings of mankind, we set our sights on self-discovery beyond anything we have ever known. Are you prepared for what we may find?

Captain's Choice Journeys saved for a select few

OUR COLLECTION OF RARE EXPERIENCES

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The World of Captain's Choice

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Rajasthan & the Maharajas' Express A Pilgrimage Across the Land of Kings

Heart of Ancient Japan Tradition, Tea Ceremonies and a Rising Sun

Safaris & Spices of Sri Lanka In Search of Leopards, Elephants and Epicurean Delights



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Captain's Choice Journeys saved for a select few

THE WORLD OF CAPTAIN'S CHOICE



Welcome to a world where every day is an exploration of the unique.

Where wishes are brought to life in twos and threes. Where we collect stories as often as we collect photos. Where tasting and hearing is as important as seeing.

And where gracious living and adventure happen side-by-side.

This is a world of life-enriching journeys saved only for a select few.





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Captain's Choice

Journeys saved for a select few

EVERYTHING HAS BEEN CONSIDERED & INCLUDED



Sometimes travelling can be a chore, distracting you from the fascinating places you are in. That's why everything mundane has been moved behind the scenes. You will never have to carry a map, luggage, small change for tips or bargain for a taxi fare. There are no hidden costs. Everything is included – flights and other travel arrangements, luxurious accommodation, travel insurance, all dining and drinks, and even sightseeing trips – including those by helicopter or horseback. We've considered every aspect of your journey, right down to roads too rough to drive across (we call upon a private helicopter instead). Even the Your World experiences within your itinerary and internet access when available are included.

With our Valet Luggage service, we treat your luggage as preciously as we would our own. Simply pack your bags and we pick them up, making sure that they arrive safely at your next hotel. We also provide home-to-airport-to-home transfers. And just in case, a doctor travels with us.

PERCEPTIVE SERVICE

Handpicked for their uncanny ability to anticipate your needs, Captain's Choice World Hosts are the ultimate travel companions. Your World Hosts are made up of a Tour Manager, Tour Hosts, English-speaking local guides and experts including conservationists and anthropologists.







Captain's Choice Journeys saved for a select few

DESIGNED FOR DAILY DISCOVERIES



An adventure with Captain's Choice is never a mere list of places or activities to cross off. Long before a destination is presented to you, we fully immerse overselves in it. The moment you take that first step, you will immediately realise that each destination has been selected for the authenticity, distinctiveness and delight that it brings. Whether it's seeing Sri Lanka's greatest elephant migration, or marvelling over ancient architectural feats of Ethiopia.

THE GOOD LIFE

It is well understood that much of your travel experience is about where you stay and where you dine. This is why Captain's Choice have chosen benchmarks of luxury. You might find yourself one night sleeping in a lake-bound palace. The next, in a former caravansary for silk traders.

Basking in a sunrise breakfast at the Taj Mahal or uncovering the secret to drinking Iranian tea like a local. We've sampled every meal and beverage in the hope that you'll discover a connection to cultures through your taste buds.

YOUR WORLD EXPERIENCES

Your invitation to rare and amazing things other travellers only ever dare dream of, we've curated an exclusive collection of experiences. Unique to every Captain's Choice journey, we call these occasions Your World.



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Captain's Choice
Journeys saved for a select few

A JOURNEY THAT IS TRULY YOUR OWN



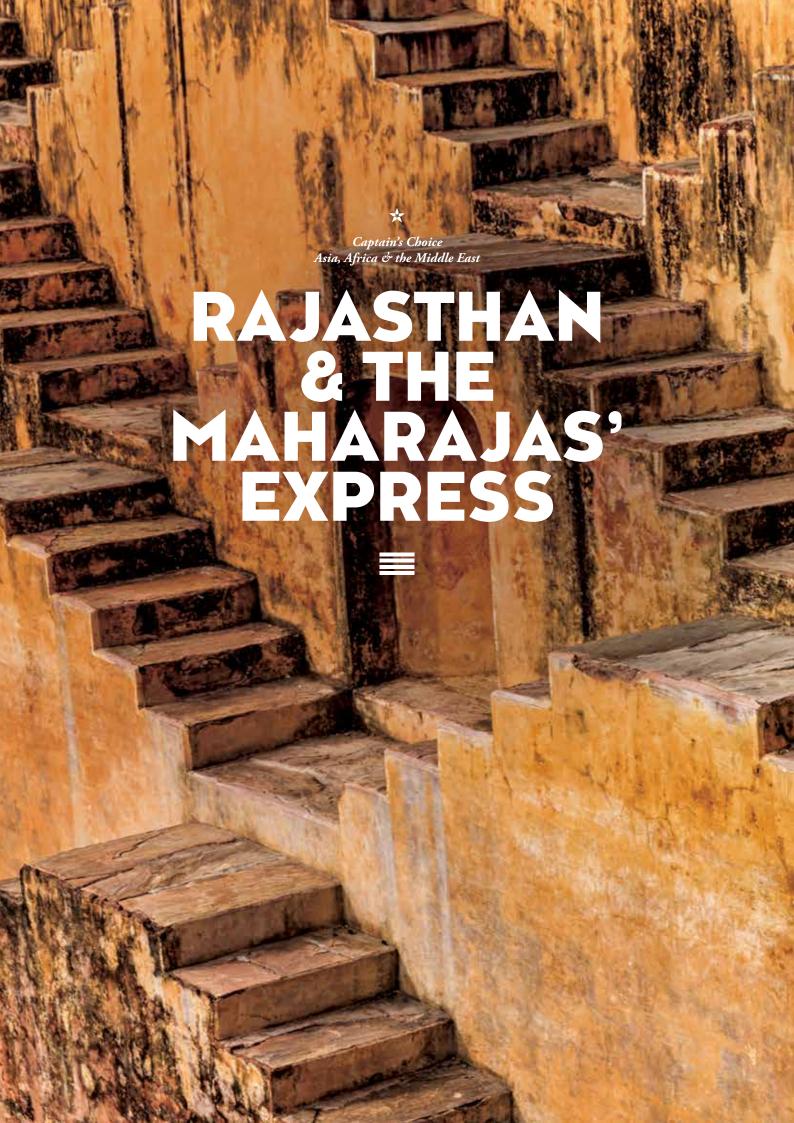
TRAVEL WITH A SMALL PARTY

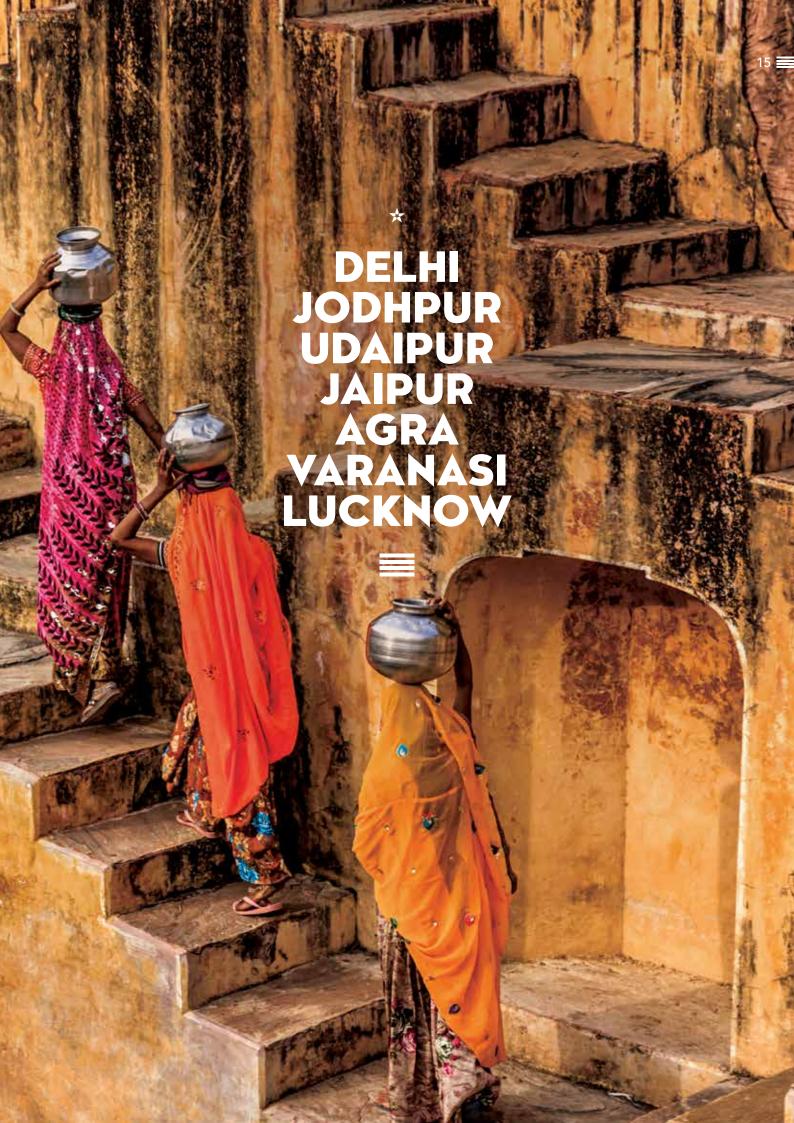
Captain's Choice groups are deliberately kept small. You travel in numbers that exceed a standard dinner party but not so many that you get lost in the crowd. With a group size normally around 24 guests, it is very much an exclusive club where the like-minded come together to share their seldom-typical experiences.

SOLO TRAVELLERS WELCOME

Those who travel with Captain's Choice are remarkably easygoing; meeting new friends is a breeze. To make it even easier, at the start of each journey a Welcome Reception is held for solo travellers to meet and mingle over drinks and the adventures to come. Throughout the journey, our naturally engaging World Hosts love to chat or share a meal, but are empathetic enough to know when you want some time alone.







☆ Captain's Choice Asia, Africa & the Middle East

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOURNEY

RAJASTHAN & THE MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS

16 Days - 3 March to 18 March 2018

There's something in the air. Something salty, something sweet, and something else that you can't quite put your finger on. A banquet of unfamiliar for the senses.

Against an erratic background, purposeful cries battle the peachy hues of a silent sunset, and the tinkle of copper bangles ricochets through an ocean of movement. Take it in – one unknown at a time.

This exploration is reserved for only 36 fortunate travellers.





DEPART AUSTRALIA, ARRIVE DELHI (INDIA)

Day 1 – Saturday 3 March

The ambience of India can hardly be any more perplexing. An utter feast for the senses, curious travellers have long been caught in a helpless love affair with market stalls and copper pots of freshly brewed chai. After our flight, we're chaperoned through the mayhem of Delhi to our hotel. The Taj Palace allows for tranquil respite – a contrast to the bustling streets just beyond the walls.

DELHI

Day 2 – Sunday 4 March

Two worlds await. Old Delhi and New. The quintessential divergence of culture permeates between a pleasant harmony of modern cafes and ancient architecture. One foot in front of the other, we approach the differences with an inquisitive touch. This evening, we come together for a sumptuous Welcome Dinner.

DELHI, JODHPUR

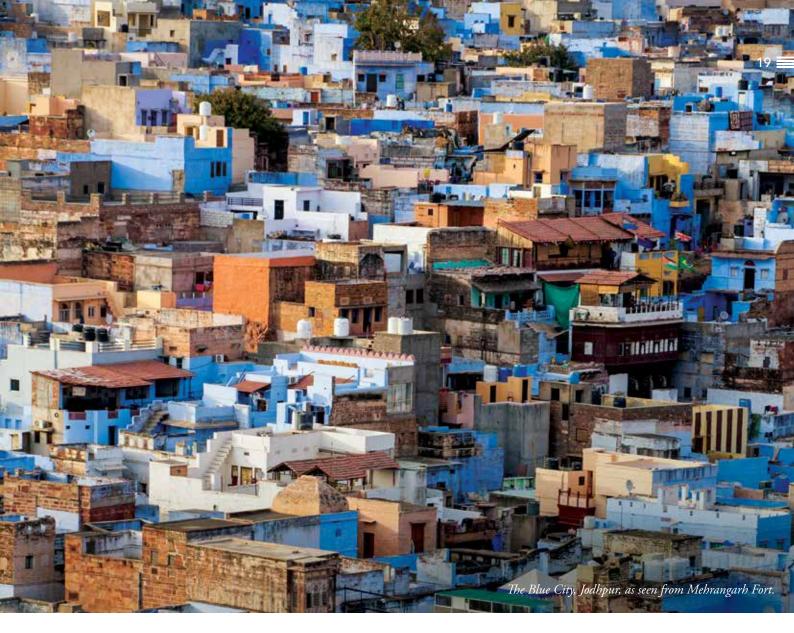
Day 3 – Monday 5 March

Perhaps wander the streets of New Delhi this morning. An early afternoon flight whisks us to Jodhpur where we transfer to the Taj Umaid Bhawan Palace. This evening, choose from a hand-picked selection of restaurants.

JODHPUR

Day 4 – Tuesday 6 March

This morning, inspiration and sandalwood incense entice us out of bed. An ocean of cerulean rooftops, the Blue City of Jodhpur is a true architectural treasure. Rising from the rocky hilltop, Mehrangarh Fort casts a gaze upon the city. Continue to the Jaswant Thada memorial – the peaceful cenotaph provides a haven in commemoration of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II. This afternoon is set aside for relaxation or exploration on your own terms. Perhaps roam the labyrinth of streets or escape the hubbub with a poolside cocktail at our hotel.



RANAKPUR, UDAIPUR

Day 5 – Wednesday 7 March

This morning, a visit to the Jain Temple of Ranakpur illuminates deep religious and historic significance. Built in the 15th century, the complex of temples is structured with four doorways leading to the chambers and main hall where an image of Adinath is shown to symbolise the spiritual teacher's quest along the four paths of Jainism. After an enlightening tour, we enjoy lunch amid the locals.

From here, our journey continues to Udaipur, where we rest our heads for two nights at the unique and luxurious Taj Lake Palace.

UDAIPUR

Day 6 – Thursday 8 March

Built under the order of several kings, enter the sprawling City Palace this morning. A curious assortment of European, Medieval and Chinese architecture abounds. We later visit Saheliyon Ki Bari, a delightful ornamental garden originally built for the enjoyment of the royal ladies. Spend the afternoon as you so please, or choose to embark on the following Your World experience:

★ Cruise the waters of Lake Pichola in the shadow of the Aravalli Ranges.

JAIPUR

Day 7 – Friday 9 March

From blue to pink, we trace the spectrum to Jaipur. Surrounded by seven gates, the Pink City is a chaotic palette of rosy sandstone buildings commissioned by the Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh in 1727. Befitting the noble air of the city, we check into the Rambagh Palace. Originally a royal guesthouse, we delve into the luxurious lifestyle of those who boarded here before us.

The day culminates in an opulent dinner, served in the palatial grounds of our hotel. We feast upon the lavish combination of cuisine and vistas.

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A prime subject of the arts since its first stone was set, the Taj Mahal has long captivated romantics. Sir Edwin Arnold, an English poet, described the spectacle as "not a piece of architecture, as other buildings are, but the proud passion of an emperor's love wrought in living stones."



JAIPUR

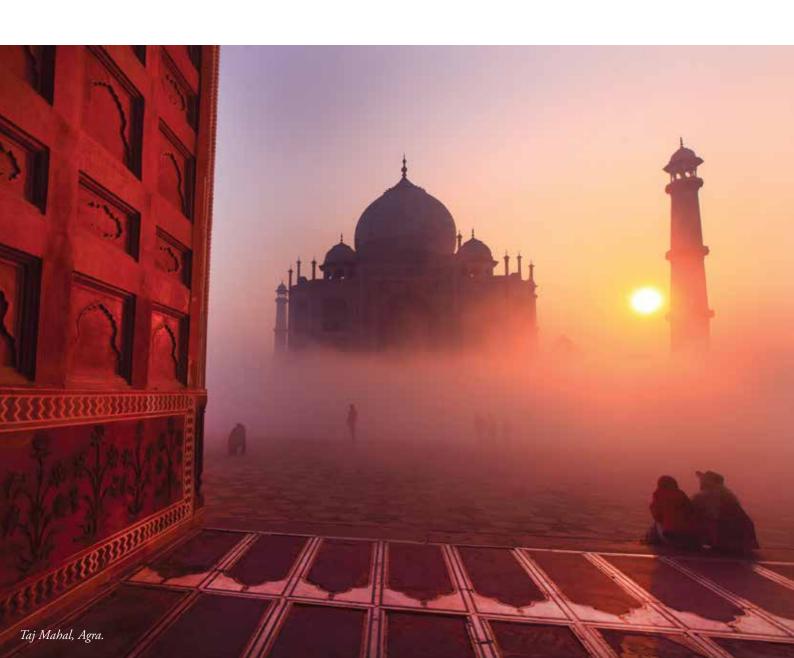
Day 8 – Saturday 10 March

This morning commences with a visit to the Amber Fort. After tracing the exquisite inlay, we continue to the Hawa Mahal. Here, at the Palace of the Winds, we are met by a towering facade. Like a veil through time, we can almost see the ladies of the court concealed behind precious lace. Later this afternoon, venture to the World Heritage-listed Jantar Mantar.

EMBARK MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS

Day 9 – Sunday 11 March

Take this morning at your own pace. It's early afternoon when sounds of the Maharajas' Express can be heard along the iron railway. Become familiar with the fourteen carriages, each named after precious stones, and after settling into your appointed cabin, dress for dinner – an elaborate affair befitting our first night aboard.



RANTHAMBORE, FATEHPUR SIKRI

Day 10 - Monday 12 March

Our train rolls through the clear night. By the time we pull into the station, sleepy tigers are stretching stiff paws. We embark on an early morning game drive at Ranthambore National Park before enjoying lunch back on board. The abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri looms ever closer. Fleeting scenery begs a linger. A ghost city of royal proportions, the town was built after the Emperor Akbar caught wind of a prophecy predicting the birth of an heir to the throne. When it came true, the Emperor declared Fatehpur Sikri to be his new capital. These days, however, the city is merely a desolate remain of its former grandeur.

AGRA, GWALIOR

Day 11 - Tuesday 13 March

It would be almost unforgivable to visit India without seeing the Taj Mahal. The marble declaration of love deserves to be appreciated on only the most indulgent scale – toast its beauty over a champagne breakfast in the light of the morning sun. Rejoin the Maharajas' Express, arriving in Gwalior just in time for lunch at Usha Kiran Palace. Afterwards, visit Gwalior Fort. An appropriate close to the afternoon offers high tea at the Jai Vilas Palace.

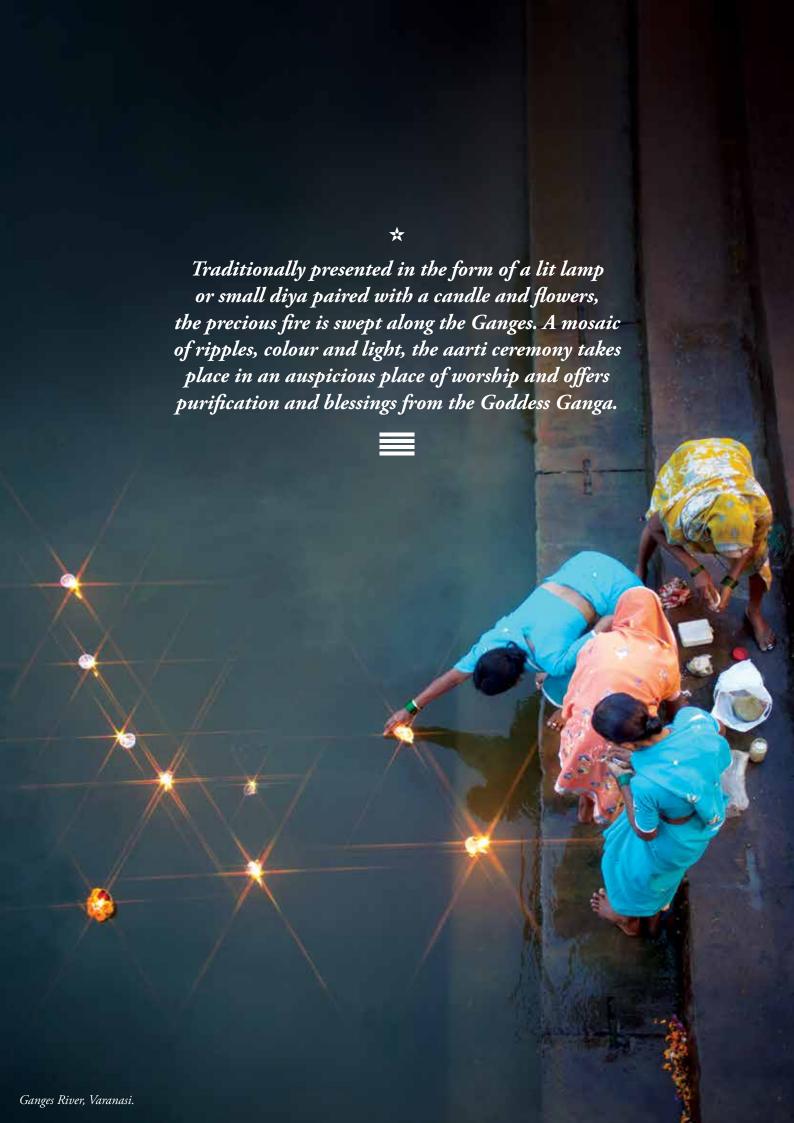
ORCHHA, KHAJURAHO

Day 12 - Wednesday 14 March

We begin our day's adventure at Jahangir Mahal, completed in 1598. As we roam the halls, we hear the footfall of elephants – ancient steps echoing the war. You'll notice that the building's doorways and framework are large enough to accommodate these creatures.

Our train continues to Khajuraho. Second only to Paris in the fight to claim itself as the city of love, we touch on the fascinating collection of aphrodisiac temples. These rare buildings house some of the most provocative (in more ways than one) samples of temple art that can be found in the world.





VARANASI

Day 13 – Thursday 15 March

Overnight, we are delivered to the holy city of Varanasi. Worship is ritual and the mundane intricacies of everyday are treasures to travellers' eyes. Visit Sarnath, where Buddha gave sermon to his first disciples, explore the ruins of an ancient monastery at Dhamek Stupa and observe the delicate practice of silk weaving. This evening, embark on a cruise along the Ganges bearing witness to an evening aarti, a Hindu ceremony of light which takes place on the steps of the river.

LUCKNOW

Day 14 - Friday 16 March

As today is our last complete day in India, exploration has been prepared on a grand scale. We uncover the streets of Lucknow before visiting the City of Nawabs and the capital of Uttar Pradesh. Afterwards, visit the gateway, Rumi Darwaza. Imposing yet delicate,

the structure is almost identical in design to a gateway that can be found in ancient Constantinople. Continue to the Bara Imambara shrine.

DISEMBARK MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS

Day 15 – Saturday 17 March

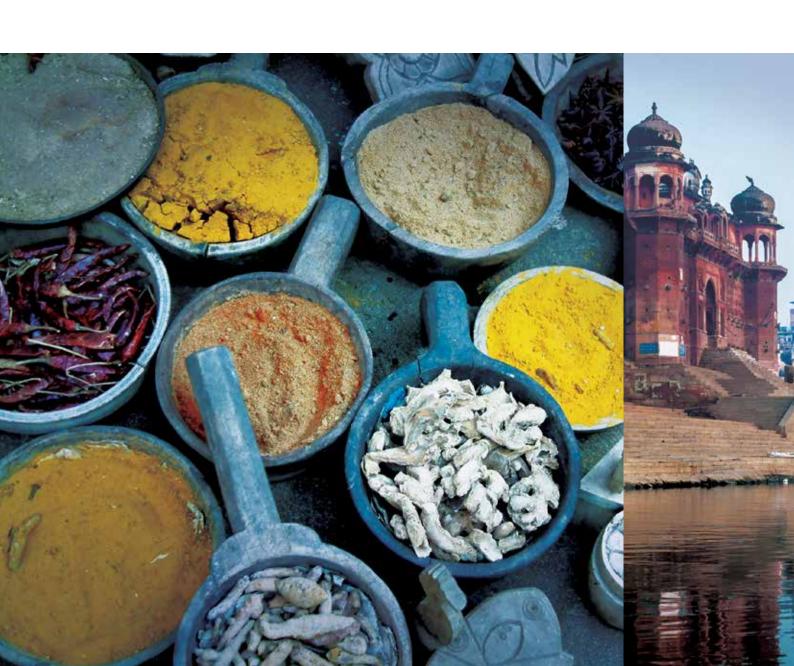
In true Captain's Choice style, your belongings will be taken care of behind the scenes, conveniently appearing at the Taj Palace Hotel in Delhi. Both lunch and dinner will be served at our hotel before we board an evening flight.

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Day 16 - Sunday 18 March

Touch down in Australia this morning.

■ Extend Your World with a post-tour option to Bhutan – see pages 26-27 for further details.





TAJ PALACE, DELHI

Offering a treasured respite from the hustle and bustle of Delhi, the Taj Palace is spread out over six acres of lush gardens in the heart of the city. The hotel has hosted many notable guests, from princes to heads of state, as well as catering to countless prominent conferences and grand weddings. The grounds are also home to several multi-award-winning fine-dining restaurants specialising in Vietnamese, Continental, European and Indian cuisines.

TAJ LAKE PALACE, UDAIPUR

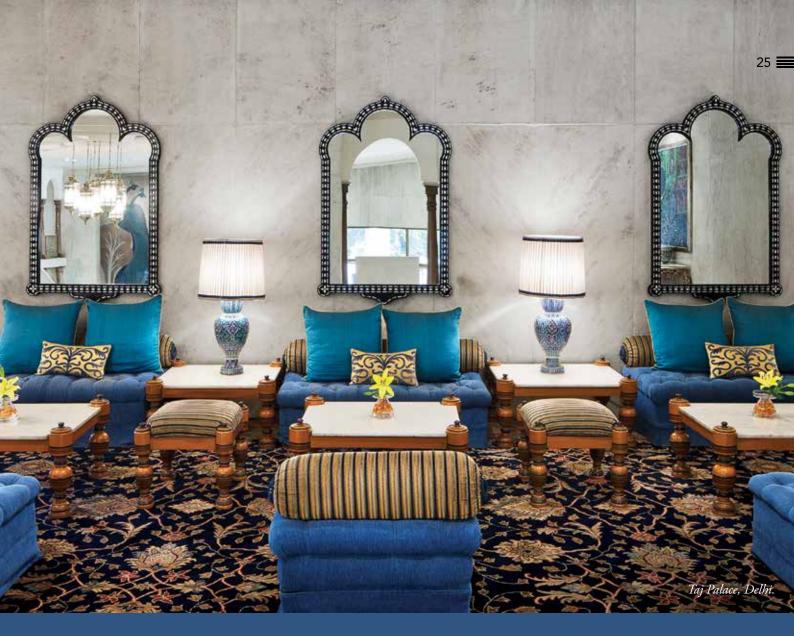
While the waters of Lake Pichola lap the white marble walls of Taj Lake Palace, contemplate its history of Maharanas, Hollywood and grand soirees. Built in 1746 by Maharana Jagat Singh II of Udaipur, the originally named Jag Niwas served the purpose of a private pleasure palace after the prince was caught frolicking at moonlight picnics with ladies of the court. Years later, after being restored to its former glory, this incredible palace was made famous to the masses when it appeared in the James Bond film, Octopussy.

RAMBAGH PALACE, JAIPUR

Since it was built in 1835, the Rambagh Palace has been used for a number of colourful occasions. From home to the queen's favourite handmaiden to the royal guesthouse and hunting lodge, and as the residence of the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II and his queen. Wonderfully restored in recent times, the palace has retained its original splendour. Admire its hand-carved marble latticework, sandstone balustrades and elaborate Mughal Gardens.

MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS

Redefining luxury rail travel, the Maharajas' Express is considered the finest train in India – fit only for the highest order of nobles. Reclaim the elegance of a bygone era, tangling and twining through the country's rich history. On board, lose yourself in the scenery through panoramic windows and dine in one of two restaurants offering a refined selection of local cuisine and complimentary beverages throughout.



JOURNEY FARES

16 Days – Rajasthan & the Maharajas' Express

Fares are based on a Deluxe Cabin on board the Maharajas' Express.

| With Flights | per person, twin share |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Economy Class | \$27,600 |
| Business Class | \$32,000 |
| First Class | \$35,900 |

Fares are in Australian dollars and include Singapore Airlines flights from Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. Prices from other cities available on request. All regional flights are in Economy Class with strict luggage restrictions.

| Land Only | per person, twin share |
|-----------|------------------------|
| | \$26,200 |

Guests join in Delhi for overnight accommodation on Day 1 and depart Delhi after dinner on Day 15.

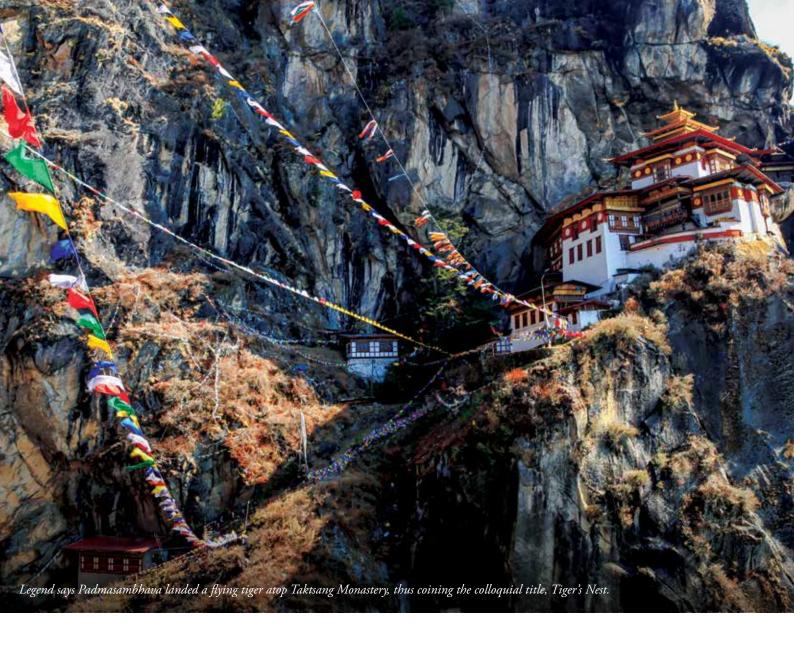
| Rail Upgrades | add per person, twin share |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Junior Suite | \$5,200 |
| Suite | \$11,650 |

| Solo Supplements | add per person |
|------------------|----------------|
| Deluxe Cabin | \$10,500 |

Includes supplements for single hotel rooms. Solo availability at above price is limited. Junior Suite, Suite and Presidential Suite upgrade prices available on request.

Learn more about your luxurious train on page 129.

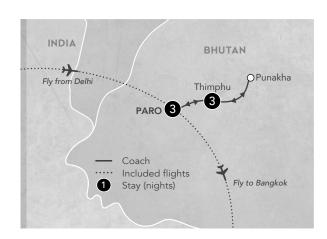
This journey is reserved for a group of just 36 guests.



EXTEND YOUR WORLD

BHUTAN POST-TOUR

8 Days - 17 March to 24 March 2018



DELHI (INDIA)

Saturday 17 March

Relax at the Taj Palace with anticipation building.

DELHI, THIMPHU (BHUTAN)

Sunday 18 March

Embark on a flight to Bhutan, land of the Thunder Dragon and Kingdom of the Clouds. We arrive in Paro and continue to the Taj Tashi Hotel in Thimphu.

THIMPHU

Monday 19 March

Far from your average tourist hot-spots, we invite you to experience this untouched world at a leisurely pace akin to true Bhutanese living. This evening relax among the fine hand-painted murals of clouds – a common subject of Bhutanese artwork – that adorn our hotel's walls.



WANGDUE PHODRANG, PUNAKHA

Tuesday 20 March

Embark on a drive over Dochula Pass, and onwards to Wangdue Phodrang. Trace our steps back down Punakha Valley and visit the Punakha Dzong – the crowning place of all of Bhutan's kings, before returning to Thimpu.

THIMPHU, PARO

Wednesday 21 March

Pause upon arrival into Paro, experiencing local tradition at the national museum and with an authentic archery match.

PARO

Thursday 22 March

Bhutan's most photographed icon is a spectacle to behold. Blossoming along the cliffside, a hike to the Taktsang Monastery is well worth the early morning rise.

PARO

Friday 23 March

Spend today discovering Paro and its distinct rural lifestyle.

DEPART PARO

Saturday 24 March

Leave the landscapes of Bhutan in our wake. We travel to Bangkok and onwards to Australia.

POST-TOUR JOURNEY FARES

| Per person, twin share | \$10,500 |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Sala supplement | \$2 100 |

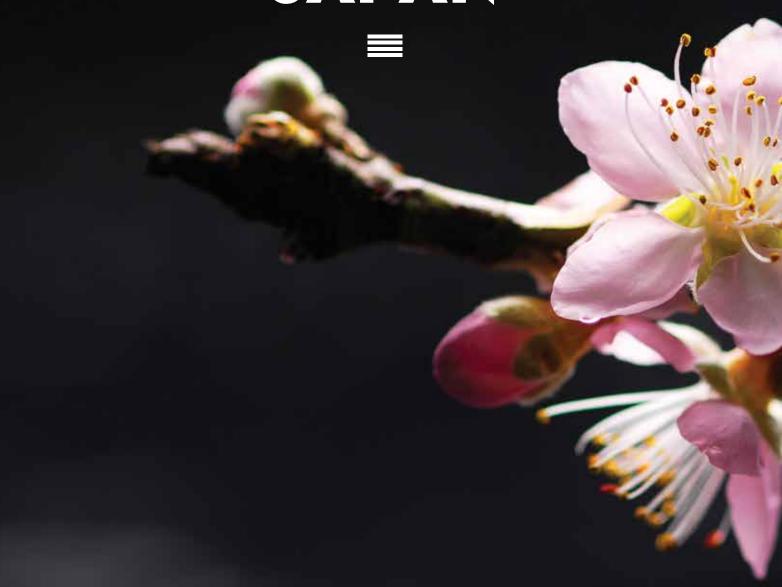
When you Extend Your World with Captain's Choice, our dedicated World Hosts accompany you every step of the way.

All flights associated with the post-tour extension are in economy class with strict luggage restrictions.

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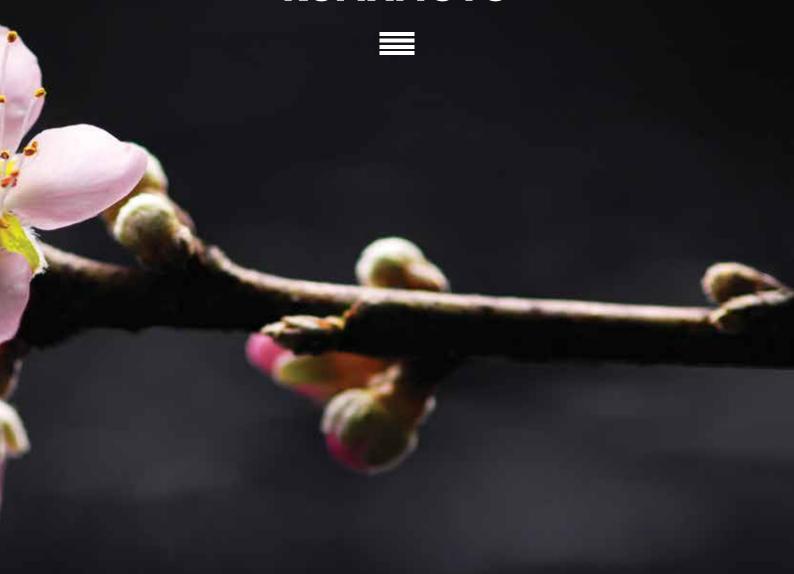
Captain's Choice Asia, Africa & the Middle East

HEART OF ANCIENT JAPAN



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TOKYO KANAZAWA TAKAYAMA KYOTO NARA HIROSHIMA MIYAJIMA KUMAMOTO



Captain's Choice Asia, Africa & the Middle East

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOURNEY

HEART OF ANCIENT JAPAN

17 Days – 21 March to 6 April 2018

Tracing the footsteps of samurai and geisha gone by, we stumble into the seldom-seen world of ancient Japan. Teapot-sized bonsai are trained to perfection and the warm steam of an onsen sighs gentle whirlpools into the air. Ducking around the corner of a tiny wooden house, we spy the heels of a geisha. Her rose-dusted kimono grazes cobblestones; fallen cherry blossoms flickering in her wake. Join a group of just 24 travellers on a fascinating exploration designed for the prosperous cherry blossom season.



— Coach

··· Included flights

1 Stay (nights)





DEPART AUSTRALIA, ARRIVE TOKYO (JAPAN)

Day 1 – Wednesday 21 March

We set our sights on Shinto shrines and blushing blossoms. Fascinating religion and the fickle nature of fleeting beauty dance together in anticipation. City lights blink to life, welcoming our flight and the evening. We touch down and check in to the Palace Hotel Tokyo.

TOKYO

Day 2 – Thursday 22 March

Waking amid the sprawling skyline of Tokyo, you might like to enjoy this morning on your own schedule. This afternoon, embark on your first Your World experience.

* Stroll through the Emperor of Japan's gardens at the Imperial Palace.

Indulging in a tantalising Welcome Dinner, we become acquainted with fellow travellers and the futuristic capital.

TOKYO

Day 3 – Friday 23 March

Today we discover the pleasures of Tokyo on a short boat cruise. Beginning at Hamarikyu Garden, uncover traditional Edo period design and admire the striking juxtaposition of classic and modern vistas. Afterwards, skirt the river to Asakusa Kannon Temple.

This afternoon, you might like to join us for another Your World experience.

 Brush up on local history at the Edo Museum which documents Tokyo's rise as the modern capital of today.

A fine dining experience awaits you tonight.

TOKYO, HAKONE

Day 4 – Saturday 24 March

First climbed by an anonymous monk in 663, Mt Fuji is a deeply spiritual destination. Along paths strewn with Shinto shrines, over 200,000 locals and foreigners conquer the summit every year. For those who practice the Shinto religion, the mountain is a place of worship for the goddess Sengen-sama and a representation of the divine spirit of nature.

Of course, we won't ask you to strain yourself with the climb. Stunning from afar, absorb the true character of the site from a more reserved position. Drive to Hakone where we will join a boat ride from Hakonemachi to Togendai. On the clearest of days, viewing the peak can be a sanctified experience. Enjoy the spectacle from a cable car ride to Oowakudani. Returning to Tokyo, a choice of fine restaurants rounds out the evening.

KANAZAWA, TAKAYAMA

Day 5 – Sunday 25 March

Board a bullet train and shoot towards Kanazawa. Enjoy a bento box on board, sampling traditional Japanese lunch foods and watching as thatched rooftops whip past windows.

Meaning 'Garden of Six Attributes', Kenroku-en celebrates the theory that there are six essential elements required for the perfect garden. Later, explore the gated Nagamachi Samurai Houses and discover craft-work of the past at a local museum. Following the footfall of classic Japan, we are guided to Takayama where we make our home at Hotel Associa Takayama Resort. Drink in mountainous views and sink beneath steaming waters of the open-air onsen.

TAKAYAMA

Day 6 – Monday 26 March

Soil is brushed off vegetables, trinkets don every second stall and with a stream of resilient locals, the Miyagawa morning markets are in full swing. Walk along San Machi Street, wooden houses of ebony and umber lining the way, and cross unlikely paths with craftsman exhibiting their traditional skills. Later, we journey to a village preserved in time – World Heritage-listed Shirakawago.

TAKAYAMA, KYOTO

Day 7 – Tuesday 27 March

A former capital that's home to elusive geisha and quietly smoking teahouses, Kyoto is the wiser brother to its more flamboyant siblings, Tokyo and Osaka. The city's elegance becomes apparent as we delve into revered temples and sacred sites, including Kinkakuji Temple and the Old Imperial Palace. Stroll the streets of the city's renowned Gion district, keeping your eyes peeled for geisha who are known to frequent the area.

Join our World Hosts this evening at one of their favourite local eateries or, you may choose to dine at our home for the following four nights, Kyoto Hotel Okura.

KYOTO, NARA

Day 8 – Wednesday 28 March

Shinto shrines pepper our path and a fifteen-foot-tall Buddha statue watches over the city. Visit the Todaiji Temple. Naturally, we continue to the Deer Park and then to Kasuga Shrine, where lanterns hang from crimson beams and stone pillars. A final visit to the Fushimi Inari Shrine closes our time in Nara.

Later, travel back to Kyoto. This evening we will be treated to an exclusive Cherry Blossom dance performance. While we don't want to spoil the surprise, we can disclose that dinner afterwards will certainly be one to remember.



KYOTO

Day 9 – Thursday 29 March

Today is spent exploring the cultural and historic heart of the country. Venture to Nijo Castle and embark on the Philosopher's Walk. Admire astounding views from the wooden stage at Kiyomizu-dera before visiting the tranquil Zen Gardens.

This afternoon, choose from two equally enthralling Your World opportunities.

- ★ Join us for an authentic cooking class and sample the distinctive flavours of Japan.
- ★ Embark on a tour of the Nishiki markets, known to locals as Kyoto's Pantry.

This evening, select from tantalising Japanese cuisine. For those who would prefer a more familiar meal of Western food, we're pleased to accommodate you.

KYOTO

Day 10 - Friday 30 March

The treasures of Kyoto are seldom thrust upon a brightly lit stage. More often than not, the true riches of this city are found in its deeply rooted connection to the country's culture and history.

Today, Your World is alight with artistic experiences that take you one step further into this unique land.

- Learn the intricacies of blending and brewing at a traditional tea ceremony.
- ★ Don silk and sashes in a Kimono-tying lesson. Learn the art of wrapping, and the techniques used to signify different traditional events.
- ★ Discover the time-worn art of calligraphy. Brush to paper, the practice is not as easy as it first looks!

Of course, if you would prefer to spend the afternoon on your own schedule, that is always respected too.



KYOTO, HIROSHIMA

Day 11 – Saturday 31 March

We travel by bullet train to Hiroshima this morning. A mosaic of miniature paper cranes speckle Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. We pay our respects here and also at the skeletal remains of Hiroshima's former Industrial Promotion Hall, the A-Bomb Dome.

Later this evening, we dine like locals. Hiroshima's unofficial regional dish, okonomiyaki, is otherwise known as Japanese cabbage pancake. Streets and alleyways are sprinkled with hundreds of grills that showcase this unlikely cuisine.

MIYAJIMA

Day 12 - Sunday 1 April

A quiet sanctuary, the vermilion torii gate floats just out of reach. Miyajima, just a touch away from the rest of the world, is a gateway to ancient times. We travel to the island's shores today and admire the Itsukushima Shrine. A Shinto monument that dates back to the 12th century, this iconic torii gate is best viewed at high tide – and since we spend a full day on the island, we're sure to sneak a glimpse of it eerily floating above the surface.

Enjoy time to explore the island on your own schedule. Perhaps sample the local speciality, momiji manju (sweet maple leaf-shaped cakes), or take a stroll through the shrine's fascinating prayer hall.

HAKATA, KUMAMOTO

Day 13 - Monday 2 April

Venture to Kumamoto today, pausing en route in Hakata to discover the ceramic district of Arita. Delve into the region's history of pottery at the Kyushu Ceramic Museum. Delicate porcelain and terracotta decorate aged walls. This evening we put our feet up, drink in hand, and cherish the airy vistas. At our final port of call, Hotel Nikko Kumamoto, the revered Kumamoto Castle and clear mountain ranges can be spied from our windows.





KAGOSHIMA

Day 14 - Tuesday 3 April

Kagoshima rests in the shadow of Sakurajima Volcano. The town turns a blind eye to the mountain's frequent winks of ash, grey and silver flakes dancing across the bay. Visit the traditional garden of Iso-Teien and continue to Shoko Shuseikan. Return to Kumamoto the same way we arrived – by bullet train of course.

KUMAMOTO

Day 15 – Wednesday 4 April

We explore Kumamoto today, visiting the Kumamoto Castle – dustings of pink and ivory blossoms fluttering into view. Explore the exterior renowned for its fine hanami, flower viewing, and afterward, touch on Suizenji Park and its elaborate garden which features a miniature replica of Mt Fuji. Later, we are able to view the ranges surrounding Mt Aso, Japan's largest active volcano. As it's our last evening together, we celebrate with a Farewell Dinner.

KUMAMOTO, DEPART TOKYO

Day 16 – Thursday 5 April

This morning is yours for personal reflection. Enjoy a private moment of peace, or squeeze in some last minute sightseeing. This afternoon, we fly back to Tokyo and join our final flight.

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Day 17 – Friday 6 April

Touch down in Australia this morning, bidding farewell to the Land of the Rising Sun. Contemplate your favourite cultural encounters from this journey before recapping them for family and friends.

■ Extend Your World with a post-tour option and explore the profound contrasts of South and North Korea – see pages 38-41 for further details.



PALACE HOTEL TOKYO

With panoramic views of the striking Imperial Palace gardens, there's hardly a more relaxing way to be welcomed into Japan. Arriving in Tokyo as the evening sets in, you might like to pamper yourself at the hotel's renowned spa, featuring refined wellness experiences and therapies.

HOTEL ASSOCIA TAKAYAMA RESORT

Towering mountain peaks of the Japanese Alps command the vistas from the Hotel Associa Takayama Resort. Relax and unwind in the soothing waters of a Japanese onsen with spectacular nature views.

HOTEL NIKKO KUMAMOTO

Hotel Nikko Kumamoto is ideally situated near one of the most impressive castles in Japan, Kumamoto Castle. Though housing interior damage from a recent earthquake, the exterior of Kumamoto Castle maintains its grandeur. Further in the distance, the ranges around Mt Aso provide the perfect backdrop for this serene hotel.

JOURNEY FARES

17 Days – Heart of Ancient Japan

| With Flights | per person, twin share |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Economy Class | \$24,450 |
| Business Class | \$28,310 |

Fares are in Australian dollars and include Qantas flights from Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. Prices from other cities are available on request.

| Land Only | per person, twin share |
|-----------|------------------------|
| | \$23,450 |

Guests join the tour at Palace Hotel Tokyo for overnight on Day 1 and depart Haneda Airport in Tokyo on Day 16.

| Solo Supplement | add per person |
|-----------------|----------------|
| | \$5,000 |

Includes supplements for single hotel rooms. Solo availability at the above price is limited.

This journey is reserved for a group of just 24 guests.





SOUTH & NORTH KOREA POST-TOUR

11 Days - 5 April to 15 April 2018



SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA)

Thursday 5 April

Arrive in Seoul this morning. This afternoon, you're at liberty to step out and explore the city at your own pace. Perhaps take the opportunity to wander buzzing streets and familiarise yourself with this fascinating city.

Be introduced to South Korean cuisine this evening with a special gastronomic excursion within the comfort of the Westin Chosun Hotel.

SEOUL

Friday 6 April

Touch on the delicate intricacies of Seoul. Explore sites including Gyeongbokgung Palace and its iconic bridge to the past, and the National Folk Museum. The flighty natures of human lifestyle and expression are reflected through both the museum's architectural design and its



many cultural artefacts. Perhaps you may elect to relax at your own leisure this afternoon, or enjoy the following Your World experience:

★ Carve and cook your way through the art of Korean cuisine, experiencing the riches of culture through regional foods.

SEOUL

Saturday 7 April

Choose between two immersive Your World schedules today, tying off our time in South Korea.

- ★ Visit the southern Demilitarised Zone dividing the two Koreas, in consideration of our upcoming adventures to the north.
- ★ Discover cultural classes in shaman faith and seasonal customs at the Korean Folk Village.

*

Built by Emperor Gojong in 1873, the Hyangwonjeong Pavilion, is arguably South Korea's most photographed icon. Crossing the iconic bridge during spring, we see the hexagonal building perfectly reflected against the still lake water, a truly humbling experience.





PYONGYANG (NORTH KOREA)

Sunday 8 April

We open our eyes to a world unlike any other. Bid farewell to South Korea and embark on an enlightening journey. With direct flights not permitted between Seoul and Pyongyang, we transfer to Beijing for our flight into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Transferring to our hotel, we pay our respects at the statues of The Great Leader (Kim II Sung) and his son on Mansudae Hill. We may even have the chance to witness the Pyongyang Marathon, which our journey happily coincides with.

PYONGYANG

Monday 9 April

Today we visit Mangyongdae Native House, the birthplace of Kim II Sung. We also pay visits to the world's deepest underground rail system at Pyongyang Metro, and explore many sites including the Paradise Department Store, Kumsusan Palace of the Sun and Folklore Park.

PYONGYANG

Tuesday 10 April

Beginning at the Paeksong Revolutionary Site we weave through history today. Continue to the Anguk Buddhist Temple. Greeted by arms over 500 years old, the branches of locust and lace-bark pine trees stretch before us. Watch local snacks being made at the Provisions Production Factory, before lunching in one of the town's most distinguished restaurants. Later, visit the Kim Jong Suk Higher Middle School for gifted children.

PYONGYANG

Wednesday 11 April

Admire the astounding Juche Tower. Blazing flame atop, the spectacle is made with over 25,000 granite blocks that represent every day of Kim II Sung's life until his 70th birthday. Continue to the War Victory Monuments, the Monument to Party Foundation, Mansudae Art Studio, War Museum and Pyongyang Film Studios.



KAESONG

Thursday 12 April

Perhaps for the second time, but now from a northern perspective, we visit the Demilitarised Zone where our guide details the history of the Korean War. This afternoon we also view the Concrete Wall and tour Koryo Museum.

NAMPO

Friday 13 April

Journey to Nampo today, visiting the city's orphanage. Returning to Pyongyang, we pay visits to the Kangso Mineral Water Factory and Chonsamri Co-operative Farm.

PYONGYANG

Saturday 14 April

Delicate jade-coloured tiles, the ornate pillars and structure of the Grand People's Study House, await today. Wander

the dual public library and university. Later, we have the opportunity to visit the Korean Central Art Gallery and the Foreign Language Book Shop.

DEPART PYONGYANG

Sunday 15 April

Our flight to Beijing and on to Hong Kong offers time to reflect on the revelations to which we have been privy.

POST-TOUR JOURNEY FARES

| Per person, twin share | \$12,900 |
|------------------------|----------|
| Solo supplement | \$1,700 |

When you Extend Your World with Captain's Choice, our dedicated World Hosts accompany you every step of the way.

All flights associated with the post-tour extension are in economy class with strict luggage restrictions.



Captain's Choice Asia, Africa & the Middle East

SAFARIS & SPICES OF SRILANKA





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COLOMBO KANDALAMA SIGIRIYA POLONNARUWA KANDY NUWARA ELIYA YALA NATIONAL PARK GALLE







☆ Captain's Choice Asia, Africa & the Middle East

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOURNEY

SAFARIS & SPICES OF SRI LANKA

15 Days - 23 August to 6 September 2018

Experience sensory overload on this unique journey with distinct culinary zing. Encounter leopards and sloth bears on safari and rattle through tea plantations by rail. Stay amidst colonial opulence, marvel at the migratory habits of elephants and feast on sweet and spicy giant lagoon crab. We travel as the royal family does, by helicopter of course, on this exclusive journey for no more than 24 guests.







DEPART AUSTRALIA

Day 1 – Thursday 23 August

Leaving Australia today, we fly across the Indian Ocean with our sights set on Colombo.

ARRIVE COLOMBO (SRI LANKA)

Day 2 – Friday 24 August

Landing in Colombo just after midnight, the timeless grandeur of the Galle Face Hotel is apparent even at this hour.

Basking in our exceptional location right on the shores of the Indian Ocean, the morning is ours to rest. Later after a tour of Sri Lanka's capital, we dine at the culinary hotspot, the Ministry of Crab. Owned by former Sri Lankan cricketers, Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara, this restaurant celebrates the country's prized crustaceans, the giant Lagoon Crabs.

COLOMBO, DAMBULLA, KANDALAMA

Day 3 – Saturday 25 August

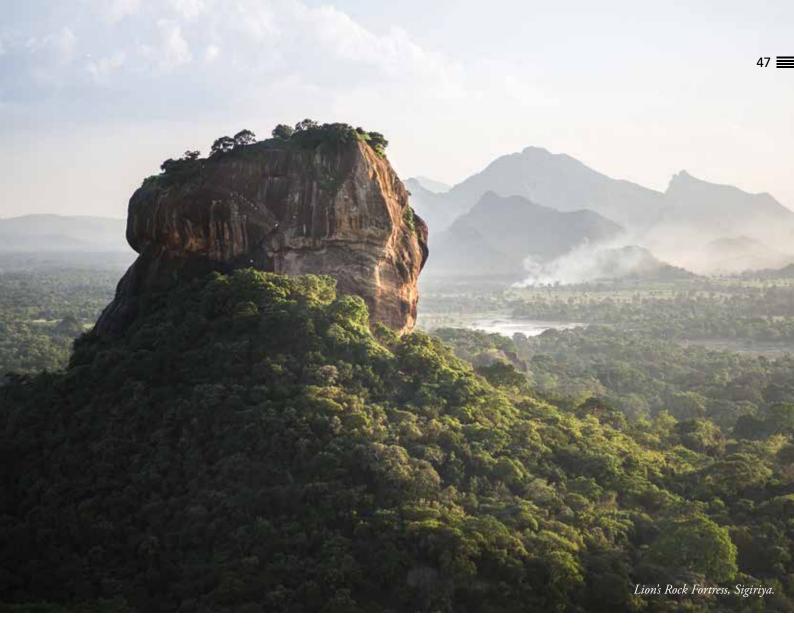
Excitement builds this morning as we make our way to Colombo Air Force base, where a helicopter is waiting to whisk us away to Dambulla. Once on the ground, we visit the World Heritage-listed Dambulla Cave Temple complex, which has drawn pilgrims and preachers for more than two centuries.

Our home for the next three nights is the Heritance Kandalama Resort. Served inside one of the region's famous caves, our gourmet discovery begins this evening as dinner is illuminated by woodwind music and flickering candles.

SIGIRIYA

Day 4 – Sunday 26 August

Our hotel overlooks what is often described as the eighth wonder of the world – the rock fortress of Sigiriya. After a morning tour we will enjoy lunch at Sigiriya Village Hotel.



You may then like to return to Heritance Kandamala Resort to relax or choose from a Your World activity.

- * Perhaps discover more of the sights around Sigiriya on a guided tour by bicycle or boat.
- ★ Enjoy a spa treatment, pampering body and soul with traditional therapies and techniques.

A distinguished seven-course meal awaits this evening at the Royal Banquets.

POLONNARUWA

Day 5 - Monday 27 August

This morning we visit the ancient city of Polonnaruwa where a guide will show us how people lived and society functioned in this former kingdom.

This afternoon is set aside for a truly spectacular occurrence. On a Jeep safari with conservationist, Chitral Jayatilleke, see hundreds of elephants descend on Minneriya National Park in a wildlife spectacle known as The Gathering.

KANDALAMA, KANDY

Day 6 – Tuesday 28 August

We visit a spice garden in Matale, where we're taught to identify the flavours of cinnamon, cardamom and cloves. Crossing the hills to Kandy, we check into the tropical oasis, Earls Regency Hotel, for a two-night stay. Afterwards, pay a visit to the Temple of the Buddha's Tooth and experience a Hindu puja ceremony where prayers are offered to a god or spirit through song.

KANDY

Day 7 – Wednesday 29 August

Following breakfast, a tuk tuk takes us to the local markets where we are free to browse wares. Later, learn the refined art of cooking Sri Lankan cuisine at the Kendyan Manor as we prepare traditional curries over firewood, with age-old tools and methods. At Peradeniya Botanical Gardens this afternoon, a walk with a professor of botany awaits before dinner.

KANDY, NUWARA ELIYA

Day 8 – Thursday 30 August

To the station! We travel in style on the Viceroy II, a private vintage carriage attached to the public train travelling to Nanu Oya, the heart of Sri Lanka's tea country, and enjoy lunch on board.

Upon arrival we head for the Heritance Tea Factory, located near the British colonial town of Nuwara Eliya, for a two-night stay. After unpacking and settling in, enjoy an evening of high tea at the renowned factory.

NUWARA ELIYA

Day 9 - Friday 31 August

Often referred to as Sri Lanka's Little England, Nuwara Eliya showcases architecture that spans the Georgian and Queen Anne eras. This evening, dine at the intimate and unique Carriage Restaurant, boasting fine regional ingredients in a truly remarkable setting.

YALA NATIONAL PARK

Day 10 - Saturday 1 September

This morning we travel to Cinnamon Wild, our resort bordering Yala National Park. Expect to be greeted by a conspiracy of grey lemurs. As night falls, the calls of park residents provide an exhilarating soundtrack to dinner.

YALA NATIONAL PARK

Day 11 – Sunday 2 September

Today we find ourselves on safari deep in the vast woodland and open grasslands of Yala National Park, which has the highest density of leopards in the world. To optimise our chances of spotting as many species of animals, birds and reptiles as possible, we have booked two special Jeep safaris. One sets off in the morning and the other this afternoon, with time to relax in between.

Fingers crossed there will be plenty of photos to compare at our barbecue dinner by the pool this evening.







YALA, GALLE

Day 12 – Monday 3 September

Buckle up for another chopper ride today. Boarding our privately chartered aircraft at Yala Army Base, we fly over the jungle and coast to Koggala, near Galle. Of course, if you would prefer to remain planted on the ground, a road option is also available.

En route to The Fortress Resort & Spa, we stop to see the spectacle of stilt fishermen. After lunch, spend the afternoon on your own schedule.

GALLE

Day 13 – Tuesday 4 September

Today, explore Galle through the art of prose with a local story teller. Painting tales of history and colonial life with a thought-provoking stroke, we will gain an expert insight into the custom.

DEPART GALLE

Day 14 – Wednesday 5 September

Farewell Galle today and return to Colombo. Since we understand that you may like to spend some time freshening up and preparing for our journey home, we've arranged for you to have a private room at the Galle Face Hotel. Retire here before dinner, or choose to embark on a final Your World experience.

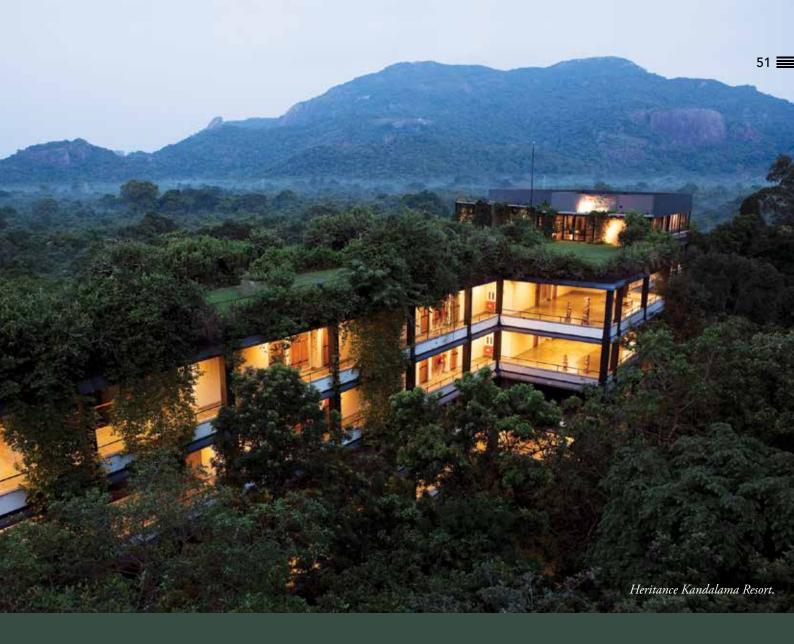
 \star Take a city sightseeing or guided shopping tour.

Before transferring to the airport for your flight home, enjoy a special Farewell Dinner at The 1864 Restaurant.

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Day 15 – Thursday 6 September

Relax on board your flight and contemplate the various places that we've encountered. While we may be back at home, the colours, culture and tastes of Sri Lanka will remain with us long after our return.



HERITANCE KANDALAMA RESORT

Commune with nature in this lush, hillside resort overlooking the rock fortress of Sigiriya. Ease into a peculiar world of indulgence where spa treatments are standard and monkeys guard the entrance to an illuminated cave – the perfect place for pre-dinner drinks.

HERITANCE TEA FACTORY, NUWARA ELIYA

You would expect the scent of tea to still hang heavy in the air of a hotel room that once served as the tea factory's withering loft. Before conversion to stately accommodation, leaves were spread to dry in these well-lit and airy retreats.

THE FORTRESS RESORT & SPA, GALLE

Styled after the Dutch Fort, The Fortress Resort & Spa indulges in oceanic views and a curious combination of Portuguese and indigenous influences. Relax among the elegant furnishings, relishing in the final days of our journey.

JOURNEY FARES

15 Days – Safaris & Spices of Sri Lanka

| With Flights | per person, twin share |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Economy Class | \$14,300 |
| Business Class | \$18,700 |
| First Class | \$21,400 |

Fares are in Australian dollars and include Singapore Airlines flights from Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. Prices from other cities are available on request.

| Land Only | per person, twin share |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| | \$12,900 |
| Guests join on Day 2 and depart of | on Day 14, in Colombo. |

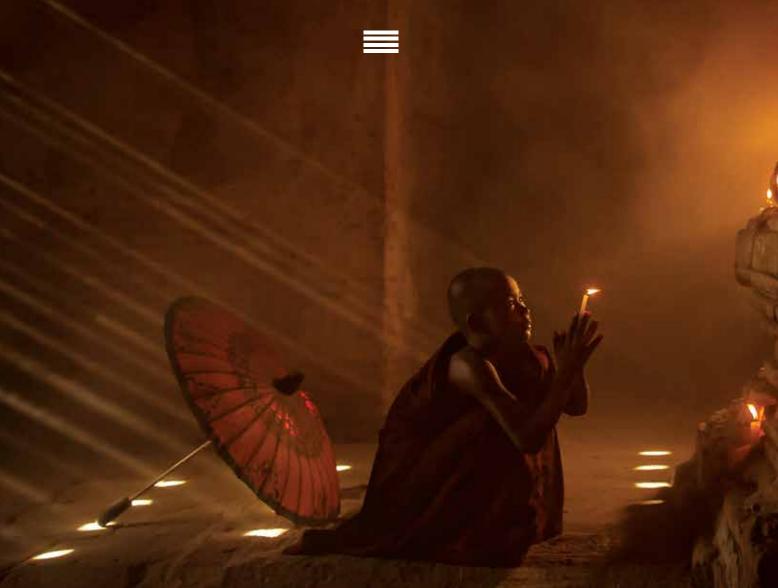
Includes supplements for single hotel rooms. Solo availability at the above price is limited.

This journey is reserved for a group of just 24 guests.



Captain's Choice Asia, Africa & the Middle East

BURMA & THE GORGES OF THE BHAMO





Captain's Choice Asia, Africa & the Middle East

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOURNEY

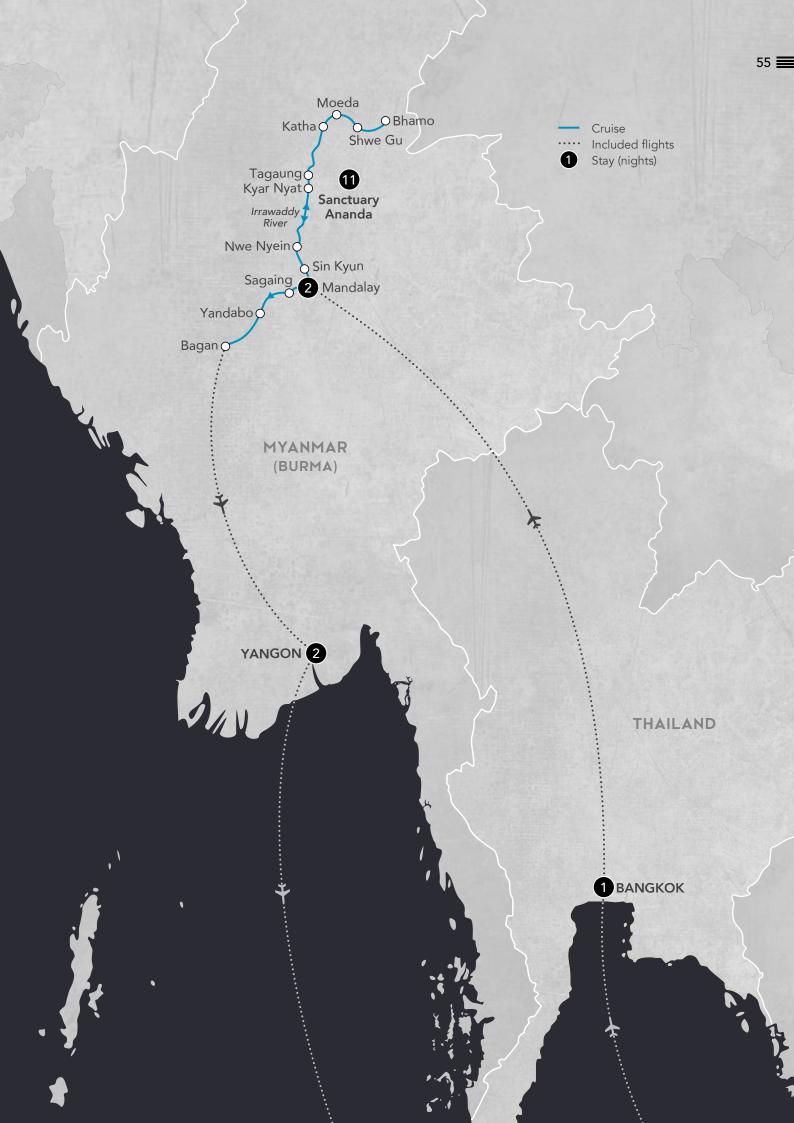
BURMA & THE GORGES OF THE BHAMO

18 Days - 20 August to 6 September 2018

The rarely navigated reaches of the Upper Irrawaddy River are flanked by steep gorge walls with echo-chamber acoustics, amplifying each screech and squawk from the treetops above. Deep in remote central Myanmar, riverside villages are unmoved by the chatter of the outside world, and buffered by tropical forests that appear untouched but for the occasional pagoda.

Welcome aboard our privately chartered ship, Sanctuary Ananda. With only 36 travellers on board, we chart a course across sites rarely glimpsed by the western world.







DEPART AUSTRALIA, ARRIVE BANGKOK (THAILAND)

Day 1 – Monday 20 August

Anticipation is high, as it always is, when travelling to a remote location. We take an afternoon flight to Bangok and break our journey with an overnight stay at the Novotel Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport.

MANDALAY (MYANMAR)

Day 2 – Tuesday 21 August

On the wings of a short flight to central Myanmar, we find ourselves in Mandalay. Visit the Shwekyin Kyaung Monastery and observe the novice monks. Renowned for their remarkable discipline, the monks here attend to the finest details including the symmetrical stacking of sandals before prayer. This evening before dinner, the auspicious nature of this monastery is brought to light as we receive an authentic blessing for prosperity and spiritual security in the face of our journey.

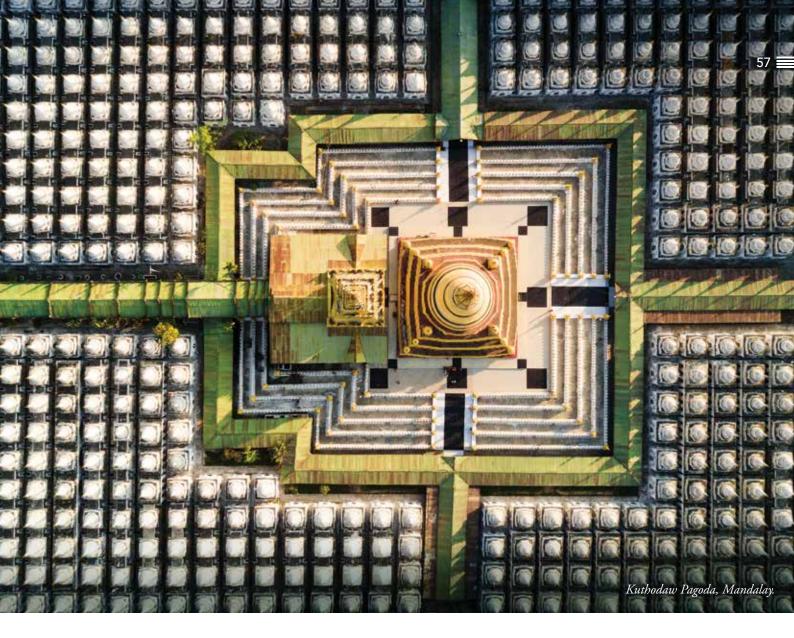
We linger a while upon the evening. A special Welcome Dinner and puppet show at the Mya Nanda Restaurant awaits before we rest at the Rupar Mandalar Resort.

MANDALAY, SAGAING

Day 3 – Wednesday 22 August

Embark on an exploration of Sagaing. Emerald hills topped with silver and gold pagodas, Sagaing is home to Buddhist monasteries, nunneries and a monastic hospital. Observe the hallowed skyline from Soon Oo Ponya Shin Pagoda on Sagaing Hill.

The Shwenandaw Monastery is the last building remaining of what was once the Mandalay Palace. Upon returning to Mandalay, examine its intricately carved panels that depict Jataka tales – stories concerning the previous incarnations of Buddha. After visiting Kuthodaw Pagoda, we enjoy sunset from a prime vantage point. On board a local boat, become familiar with the frills of cruising as glasses are raised in celebration.



EMBARK SANCTUARY ANANDA

Day 4 – Thursday 23 August

Board the Sanctuary Ananda this morning. While most river ships head south, our captain will point the bow in a northerly direction. We spend the day acquainting ourselves with life on the Irrawaddy. Later, there will be a reception of drinks and canapes followed by a lavish Welcome Dinner on board.

NWE NYEIN

Day 5 – Friday 24 August

In the charming pottery village of Nwe Nyein, watch craftsmen create beautiful pots as they work potters' wheels with their legs. Back on board, we learn about Burmese traditions such as sarong tying and make-up techniques. The remainder of the day is spent travelling through soul-stirring riverscapes to Kyar Nyat, where the Sanctuary Ananda will dock for the night.

TAGAUNG

Day 6 – Saturday 25 August

Arriving in the ancient walled town of Tagaung, fascinating archaeological sites dating back to the Pyu Dynasty await our discovery. We continue our voyage upriver toward the town of Katha, aiming for an early morning arrival. An evening lecture, held on board, on Myanmar's history is sure to be an enlightening affair.

KATHA, SHWE GU

Day 7 – Sunday 26 August

The languid current guiding our path, a morning meditation session is held on the Sun Deck. At the same time, intricacies of Burmese cuisine are enlightened by our chef.

In Katha, tuk tuks ferry us to the colonial splendour of the former British Club, which was used as a literary retreat by George Orwell when writing Burmese Days.



CRUISING THE IRRAWADDY RIVER

Day 8 – Monday 27 August

Easing into a day on board, we cruise to the most northern navigable point of the river for a ship of this size, setting our sights on Bhamo. We are deep in the tropics when we pass the famous Parrot's Head statue. It is said that if the beak of this bird-shaped rocky outcrop is touching the water, the river is too high to navigate. Before delving into dinner, enjoy a traditional Kachin dance performance.

BHAMO, MOEDA

Day 9 - Tuesday 28 August

In the bustling market town of Bhamo, we explore the Shwe Kyi Na pagoda and historic Catholic churches. Turning the Sanctuary Ananda back, and cruising in a southerly direction now, we see the peculiar practice of pachyderms and people working together harmoniously at an elephant logging camp in the village of Moeda.

KYAR NYAT

Day 10 – Wednesday 29 August

Though standing on your private balcony is an ideal way to take in the ever-changing river scenes, perhaps you'd like to make the experience even more otherworldly with a morning meditation session on the Sun Deck.

We revisit the small village of Kyar Nyat, alighting in the afternoon. Teased by exotic scents that waft from nearby food stalls, village life continues to its own rhythm.

SIN KYUN

Day 11 - Thursday 30 August

It's an honour to pass time with the humble villagers of Sink Kyun, predominantly farmers and hatmakers. The village of around 1,000 people has received philanthropic help from the guests of Sanctuary Ananda, which includes a library and a house for an English teacher. Our arrival is welcomed, therefore, with much delight.



SAGAING

Day 12 – Friday 31 August

We cruise by the monumental temple of Mingun, followed by an afternoon visit to Amarapura, or the City of Immortals, where we are serenaded by the clickety clack of weavers' looms at a textile workshop. Over the darkening U Bein Bridge, the longest teak bridge in the world, we bear witness to a spectacular sunset.

A marionette show plays out on board tonight allowing us great insight into the Myanmar of the 18th century.

YANDABO

Day 13 – Saturday 1 September

As we close in on Bagan, riverside monuments become increasingly grander. We see Mahamuni Pagoda and Shwenandaw Monastery, where hundreds of age-old marble slabs inscribed with Buddhist texts comprise what some historians consider the biggest book in the world.

BAGAN

Day 14 – Sunday 2 September

Arriving in Bagan, we visit the Nyaung U market and the great golden Shwezigon Pagoda. At the 1091-built Ananda Temple, we find ourselves astounded by legend that tells the story of a king, so enthralled by the original structure, that he executed the architects after its inception.

The day's finale is a quiet moment on the terraces of the Pyathatgyi Temple, awash in a sunset glow.

DISEMBARK SANCTUARY ANANDA

Day 15 – Monday 3 September

Bidding farewell to the cheerful crew of the Sanctuary Ananda in Bagan, we board a morning flight to Yangon, where the Governor's Residence Hotel awaits. Spend the afternoon on your own personal schedule, delving into the city's striking cultural scene.



YANGON

Day 16 - Tuesday 4 September

Today is set aside for an epic immersion into discovery. Seldom visited by travellers, the Kalaywa Tawya Monastery offers us a glimpse into the daily details of novice monks, our visit coinciding as it does with the monks' meal time.

Within the Reclining Buddha Pagoda, we cast our eyes over an enclosure devoted to the study of Buddhist manuscripts as well as a collection of effigies. The glittering domes of the Shwedagon Pagoda round off our sightseeing, before we prepare for a four-course Farewell Dinner at Le Planteur restaurant.

DEPART YANGON

Day 17 – Wednesday 5 September

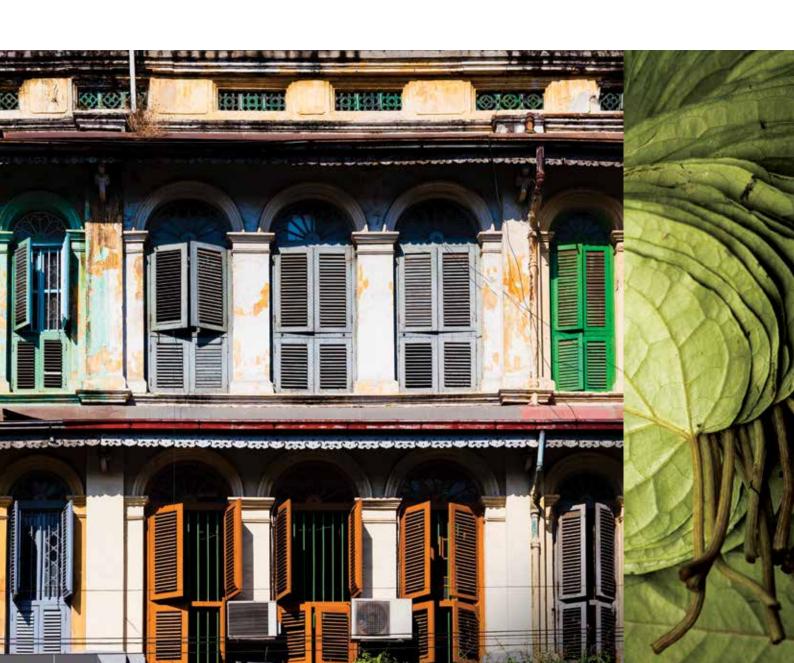
Thanks to our evening flight, we are graced with more time in Yangon. Spend the day at the National Museum and investigate the Musmeah Yeshua, the city's last remaining synagogue. Of course, you may otherwise prefer to wander at leisure. Afterwards, we visit Bogyoke Aung San Market which houses standard household goods as well as antique heirlooms and produce that, while exotic to us, is common fare for locals.

Later this afternoon, transfer to the airport where we board our onward flight.

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Day 18 – Thursday 6 September

Arrive home today. We realise how far removed, not just in distance, but in cultural tradition and practices, Australia is from the land we have just traversed.





NOVOTEL BANGKOK SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT

Masters of the short-term visit, there's no finer hotel to pause at en route to Mandalay than the Novotel Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport. Arriving in the evening, rest among the contemporary Thai artworks and prepare to embark on the first leg of our Myanmar journey bright and early the following morning.

THE RUPAR MANDALAR RESORT, MANDALAY

Arrested by teak wood and natural landscapes, the ambience of the Rupar Mandalar Resort is a truly authentic way to experience Myanmar's distinct environment. Over 4.4 acres of natural vegetation, the resort was crafted by a team of award-winning designers and showcases exotic flora and a skyline marked by emerald growth. From the private balcony of your Premier Suite, you're in prime position to survey the surrounds.

SANCTUARY ANANDA

Few travellers dare dream of chartering a course along the Upper Irrawaddy River. Aboard our privately chartered ship, Sanctuary Ananda, we do just that. Of course, even though we're discovering the country's quietest waters, there's no compromise in services and amenities. On board, a spa offers a variety of authentic treatments, cuisine features ingredients sourced daily from local villages, and early morning meditation allows us to reflect upon the wondrous regions we cross.

GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE HOTEL, YANGON

A magical close to our journey, we stay among the lotus pools and carefully manicured lawns of this boutique hotel set within Yangon's embassy quarter. With an extremely high staff-to-guest ratio, your every need will be attended to in the most lively manner. After days spent learning about the city's fascinating culture and history, prepare to retire to the carved teak panels and silk bedding of your private suite.



JOURNEY FARES

18 Days – Burma & the Gorges of the Bhamo

Fares are based on a Superior Suite aboard the Sanctuary Ananda.

| With Flights | per person, twin share |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Economy Class | \$12,000 |
| Business Class | \$15,900 |

Fares are in Australian dollars and include Thai Airways flights from Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. Prices from other cities available on request.

| Cruise & Land Only | per person, twin share |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| | \$10,800 |

Guests join the tour in Mandalay on Day 2 and depart Yangon on Day 17 after touring.

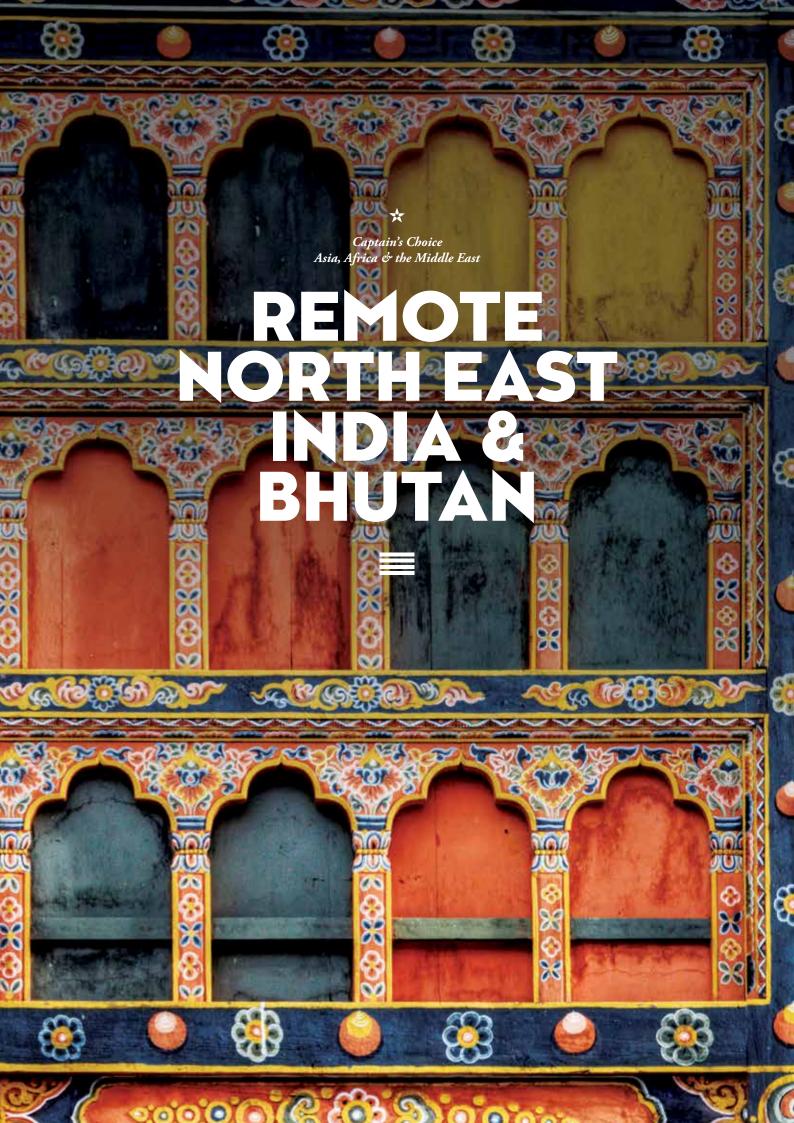
| Cruise Upgrades | add per person, twin share |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Deluxe Suite (Bagan Deck) | \$1,300 |
| Deluxe Suite (Mandalay Deck) | \$2,200 |
| Luxury Suite | \$3,800 |
| Owners Suite | \$6,100 |
| | |
| Sala Supplaments | add nor norcon |

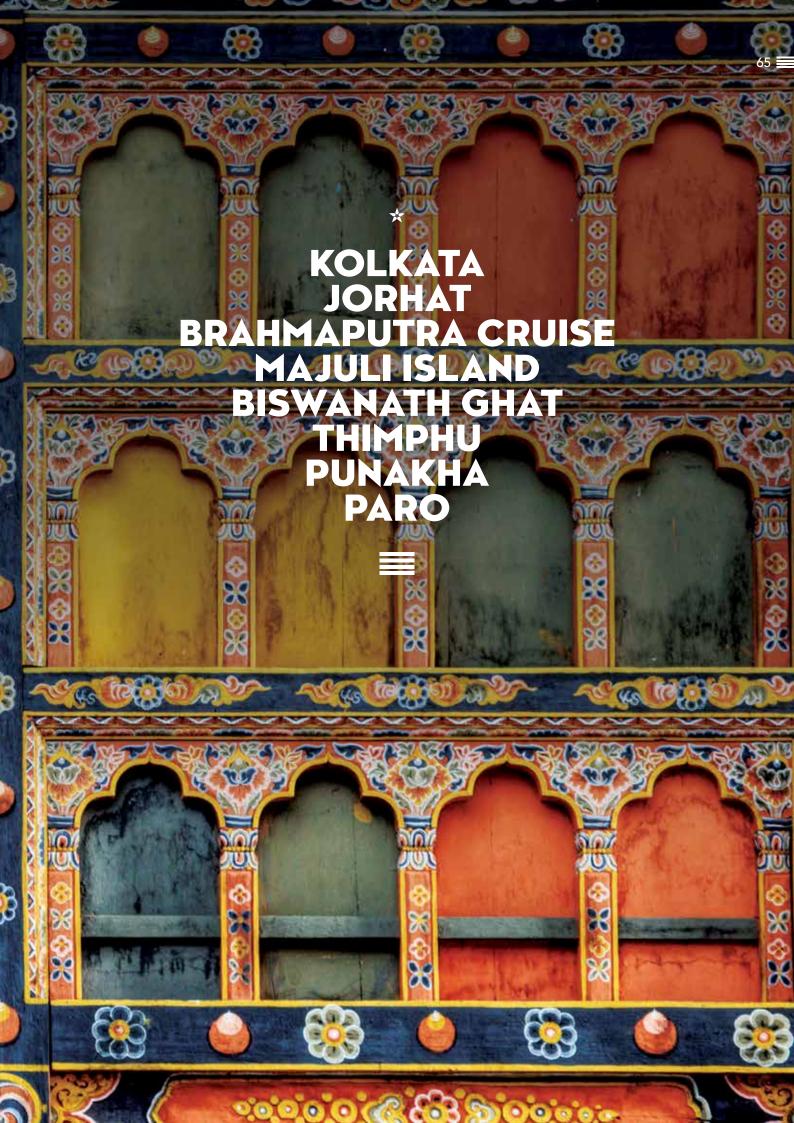
......\$1,500

Includes supplements for single hotel rooms. Solo availability at the above price is limited. Solo Supplement listed is for a Suite on board Sanctuary Ananda. Prices for other suites available on request.

Learn more about your luxurious ship on pages 126-127.

This journey is reserved for a group of just 36 guests.







Biswanath Ghat O Kaziranga National Park

MV Mahabaahu

Guwahati O Umananda Island

INDIA

☆ Captain's Choice

Asia, Africa & the Middle East

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOURNEY

REMOTE NORTH EAST INDIA & BHUTAN

18 Days – 27 December 2018 to 13 January 2019

Sprawling cities and untouched cultures meet. On board the MV Mahabaahu, cruise the waters between striking monasteries that rival the roaring hum of traffic and allow yourself to become enticed by the holy grounds on which these countries are graced. As we push aside silken shawls, banyan branches and everything we thought we already knew, we break through the unknown. You'll be travelling with a group of only 24 Captain's Choice guests, discovering India and Bhutan as few have seen before.



DEPART AUSTRALIA, ARRIVE KOLKATA (INDIA)

Day 1 – Thursday 27 December 2018

After transiting Bangkok, we arrive in Kolkata as evening descends. The urban sprawl glows bright in the steamy heat of the night as we make our way to the Taj Bengal.

KOLKATA

Day 2 – Friday 28 December

Kolkata, playfully known as the City of Joy, pulses with vibrancy. We enjoy our first taste of Bengali cuisine during lunch before delving beneath Kolkata's surface. Handpulled rickshaws trundle through streets bustling with rogue cows and daring motorists, forced to manoeuvre around them. We visit the Victoria Memorial, and St Paul's Cathedral, then pay homage to Mother Teresa at the former temple of Nirmal Hriday and Sishu Bhawan Centre. A Welcome Dinner this evening takes place at our hotel.

KOLKATA

Day 3 – Saturday 29 December

As Kolkata stirs to another day, we rumble through the city along the oldest operating tram network in Asia. We're occupied by the varied exhibitions at the Indian Museum, then transit Howrah Bridge. Brace yourself for the bedlam of Mallick Ghat Flower Market. Petals and garlands of bright blooms adorn a heady pathway through some 2,000 stalls. Our final stop is Kalighat Kali Temple, a grand edifice dedicated to the goddess Kali.

EMBARK MV MAHABAAHU

Day 4 – Sunday 30 December

Heading for the northeastern state of Assam, we fly into Jorhat and transfer to Naemati Ghat where we are welcomed aboard the MV Mahabaahu. Over high tea, onboard experts recount the intricacies of Assam's revered tea ceremony. As the sun slides beneath the Brahmaputra River, the first of many dinners is served.



SIBSAGAR

Day 5 – Monday 31 December

Sibsagar, translated as 'the ocean of Lord Shiva', is strewn with ruins of the ancient Ahoms. Eager to explore, at Talatal Ghar our guide takes us back to a time when wrestling bouts and buffalo fights regaled royals and their guests. We then gaze to the top of Shiva Dol. A lunch of traditional Assamese fare awaits us at a tea estate. This evening we celebrate with a toast towards the New Year. Resolutions are made over an ostentatious dinner and we turn towards the exciting new horizons.

MAJULI ISLAND

Day 6 - Tuesday 1 January 2019

Having arrived at Majuli Island before daybreak, we invite you to start 2019 with a Your World experience.

* Join a swamp-side bird walk in search of owls, orioles, changeable hawk-eagles, adjutant storks and more.

Once on the island, we are whisked to a 15th-century satra, a monastery that preserves a form of Hinduism known as Vaishnavism. Here, colour and music collide in a cultural performance featuring local singers and dancers. In Kamalabari Satra, we meet the local priests before sailing for a Mishing village where women are renowned for their expertise in handloom weaving.

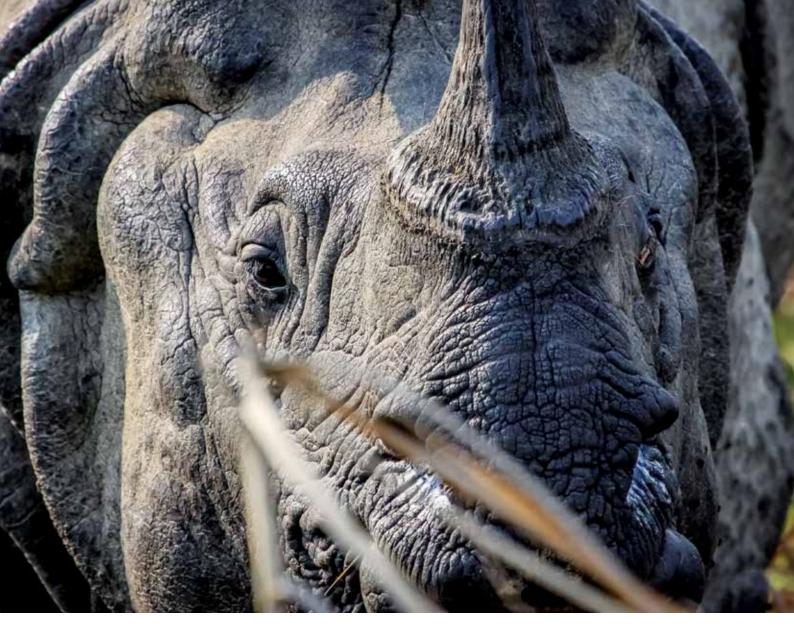
The sky begins to darken and stars shimmer above us. We dock on a deserted island and while away the evening on the beach in front of a bonfire.

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Day 7 – Wednesday 2 January

We edge into the eastern realms of Kaziranga National Park. Lush, green and on the World Heritage-list, it's home to two-thirds of the world's Indian rhinoceros. A boat safari on small vessels gets us close to local wildlife.

Later, an onboard chef reveals secrets of Assamese cuisine and local spice blends during a demonstration.



BISWANATH GHAT

Day 8 – Thursday 3 January

Ambling through the village of Biswanath Ghat, we visit a Shiva temple and spend time exploring on our own terms. A short drive leads us to our next port of call, a tea estate where we can stretch our legs and observe workers pruning the bushes. We learn how Assam tea is produced and relish a freshly brewed cup. En route back to the ship, we call in at The Assam Co-operative Jute Mill.

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Day 9 – Friday 4 January

It's back to Kaziranga today where an early morning Jeep safari increases our chances of encountering its star species. But it's not all about the rhino. The park is also home to as many as 180 different species of mammal including elephants, deer, bison and Bengal tigers. We relax during breakfast at a resort in Kaziranga then drive to Bagori on the Western Range of the national park.

Here, our safari continues. Our open-top Jeep heads for watering holes, known locally as beels, hoping to catch sight of elephants and their young. Perhaps, despite their shyness, even a tiger.

UMANANDA ISLAND

Day 10 – Saturday 5 January

Breaking up a full day of sailing, we drop anchor at an island occupied predominantly by Bengali Muslims. Meet the locals and learn about their traditional farming practices. Also stop at Umananda Island, known as 'Peacock Island'. It is the smallest inhabited island in the world and home to one of the most endangered species of primates, the golden langur. These notoriously hostile creatures are only found in certain areas of western Assam and the neighbouring Black Mountains of Bhutan. We step ashore and make our way to the Kamakhya Temple.

Tonight's Alvida Bhoj, a Farewell Dinner, promises to be a festive affair, with a traditional toast raised to our crew and their gracious Assamese hospitality.



DISEMBARK MV MAHABAAHU

Day 11 – Sunday 6 January

Back on land in Guwahati, we say goodbye to India and head for Bhutan on a morning flight that whisks us into the Himalayas. Landing in Paro, we drive to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital, sprawled across the western slopes of the Wang Chuu River valley. We pause at Buddha Point on the way to our hotel, the Taj Tashi.

THIMPHU

Day 12 - Monday 7 January

A city tour reveals a distinct lack of traffic as we take in the sights of Thimphu. Highlights include the National Library and the Institute for Zorig Chusum. After lunch at our hotel we spend time at the King's Memorial Chorten. Before the day's end, we call upon Tashichhodzong, a monastery and fortress that houses the Bhutanese government, as well as the offices of the king.

PUNAKHA

Day 13 – Tuesday 8 January

Eyes locked on the landscapes, we ascend Dochula Pass into the lush Punakha Valley. Foamy white waterfalls froth from the crevices and 108 memorial chortens (shrines) perch precariously from mountainsides that nudge the clouds. We visit Punakha Dzong, the palace of great happiness and bliss and take a gentle walking excursion through rice fields to the Fertility Temple.

PARO

Day 14 – Wednesday 9 January

As mist lifts from mountains, we drive to Paro, winding through the skyscraping peaks. This is a community that exists in harmony with its surroundings. After checking in to our home for the next three nights, the Zhiwa Ling Hotel, we enjoy a friendly archery match. Archery is the national sport of Bhutan and competitions are held regularly in most villages.



Though Bhutan is one of the poorest nations on the planet, its people are among the happiest, enjoying a simple life in a kingdom where prosperity is measured not by Gross Domestic Product but by the Gross National Happiness of its people.



PARO

Day 15 – Thursday 10 January

Taktsang Monastery is arguably Bhutan's most photographed icon. Mushrooming from a cliffside, the spectacular structure, also known as the Tiger's Nest, is well worth the early morning hike. As we walk, the haze around us lifts and strands of colourful prayer flags flutter in the cool breeze. In the afternoon we head for 7th-century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the kingdom's oldest and most sacred shrines.

PARO

Day 16 - Friday 11 January

Among turning prayer wheels and a rainbow ripple of flags, we stop and inhale the serenity of Rinpung Dzong. Constructed in 1646, the complex houses the monastic body of Paro. Our next stop is the former watch tower of Ta Dzong, now home to the national museum.

Paro's valleys are embellished with clusters of colourful farm houses, traditionally built without a single nail. On an afternoon visit to a nearby village, our understanding of rural Bhutanese life is further enhanced.

DEPART PARO

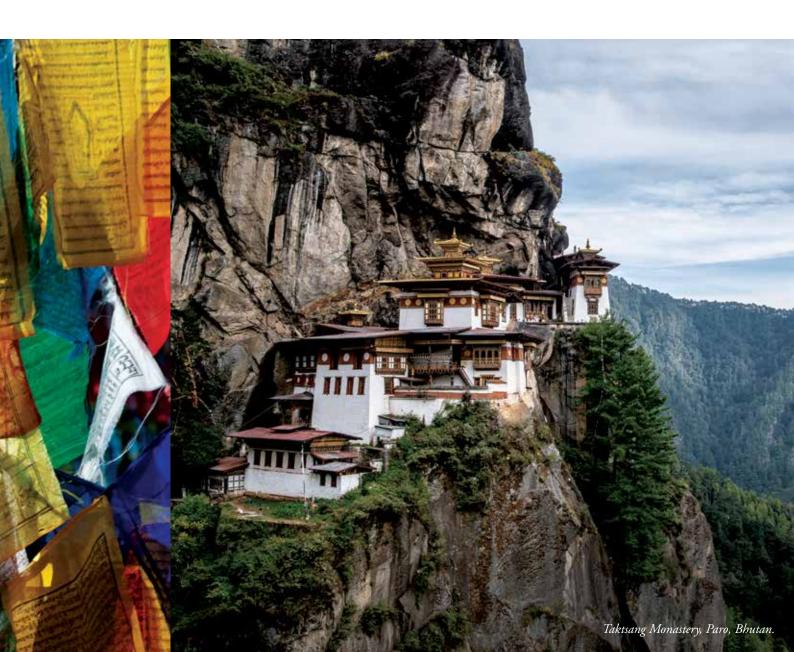
Day 17 - Saturday 12 January

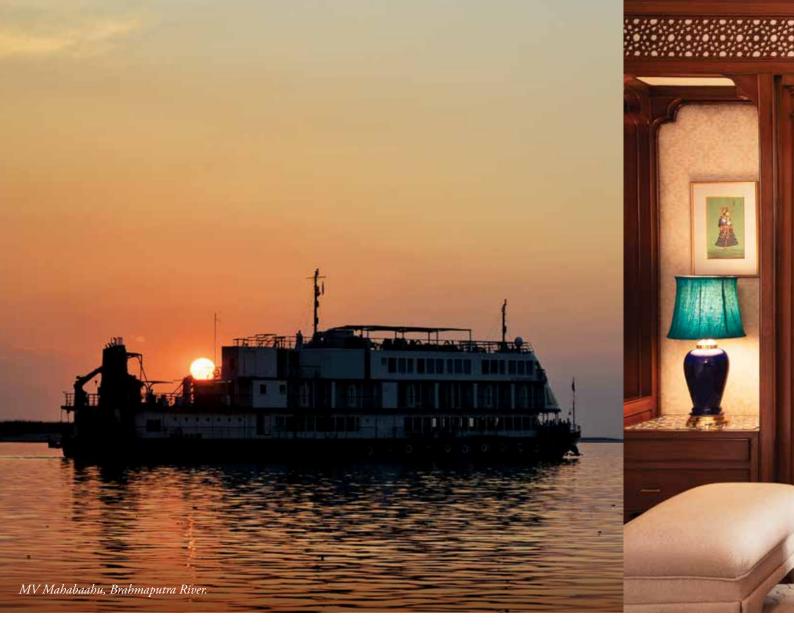
Farewelling a world beautifully lost in its own traditions and culture, we depart Paro on an early afternoon flight to Bangkok.

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Day 18 – Sunday 13 January

We touch down in Australia early this afternoon. Having broken down barriers to some of the most remote regions of the world, we are vastly enriched by our time abroad.





TAJ BENGAL, KOLKATA

When staying in the City of Joy, there is not a more fitting hotel than the Taj Bengal. After touching down, why not enjoy a wellness treatment at the fitness centre or spa or just wander the beautiful grounds and become acquainted with our new home. With the stunning Kolkata skyline in the distance and lush flora abundant on the hotel's expansive premises, it's impossible to think of a reason not to be joyful.

MV MAHABAAHU

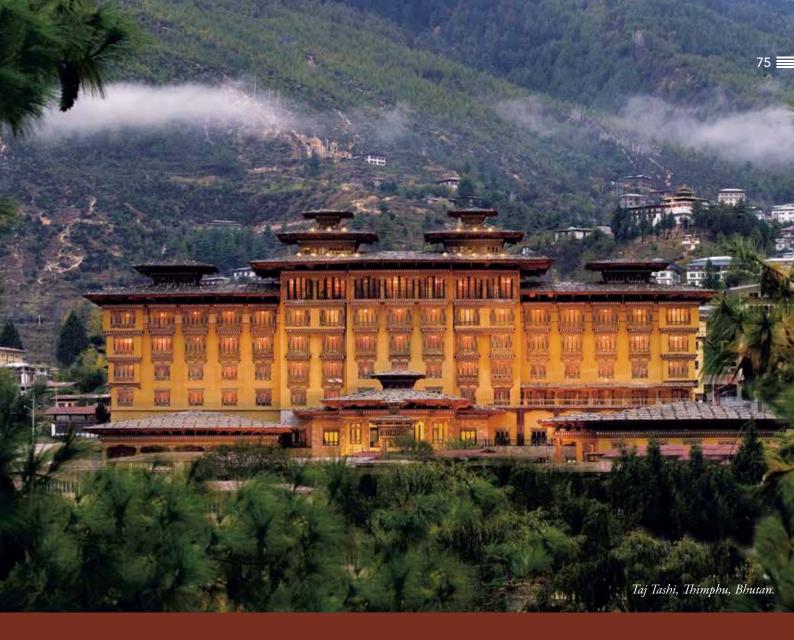
Cruising along the Brahmaputra River, we have happened upon an astonishing method of animal observation. From your cabin's window or the ship's panoramic Sun Deck, we are able to peek at India's wildlife in their natural home. Maybe we'll see a tiger stretching its paws or a mother elephant guiding its young. Grab your binoculars and a drink topped with exotic fruit – we're settling in right here for the day.

TAJ TASHI, THIMPHU

Nestled in the heart of the Thimphu Valley lies the incredible Taj Tashi. Immerse yourself in the Kingdom of Bhutan as you experience an enchanting blend of Dzong architecture, modern design and hand-drawn Buddhist murals. Most strikingly, you may notice a series of clouds masking the walls as they are a common subject of Bhutanese art. From your comfortable suite, fall into the arresting landscapes adorned with monasteries.

ZHIWA LING HOTEL, PARO

Set at the foot of the stunning Paro valley, Zhiwa Ling Hotel is the first wholly Bhutanese-owned five-star hotel in the country. From intricate hand-carvings throughout the rooms to the innovative Swedish under-floor heating, the union of Bhutanese culture and 21st-century comforts is most advantageous.



JOURNEY FARES

18 Days – Remote North East India & Bhutan

Fares are based on a Superior Cabin (without Private Balcony) aboard the MV Mahabaahu.

| With Flights | per person, twin share |
|---|---|
| | \$20,450 \$23,550 |
| Fares are in Australian dollars flights from Sydney, Melbour other cities available on requ | s and include Thai Airways ne or Brisbane. Prices from |
| Cruise & Land Only | per person, twin share |

Guests join the tour in Kolkata for overnight accommodation on Day 1 and depart Bangkok airport on Day 17.

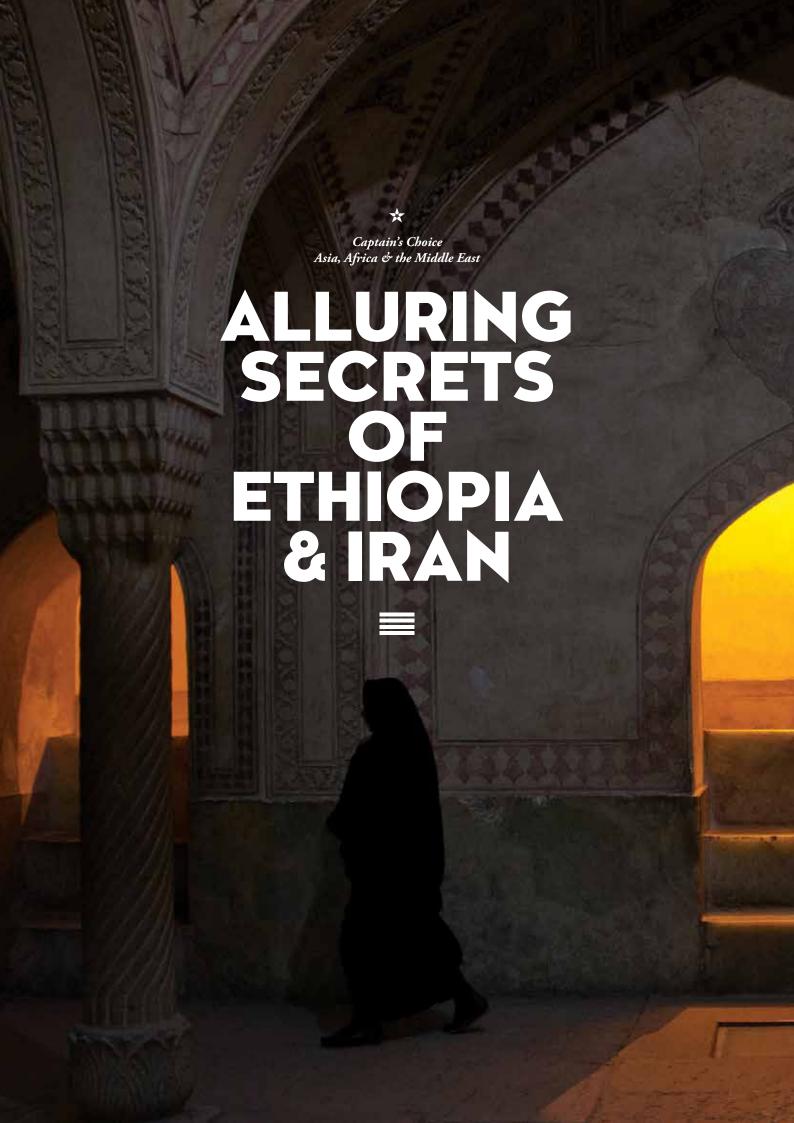
| Cruise Upgrades | add per person, twin share |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Superior Cabin (with Private Balco | ny)\$700 |
| Superior Suite | \$2,000 |

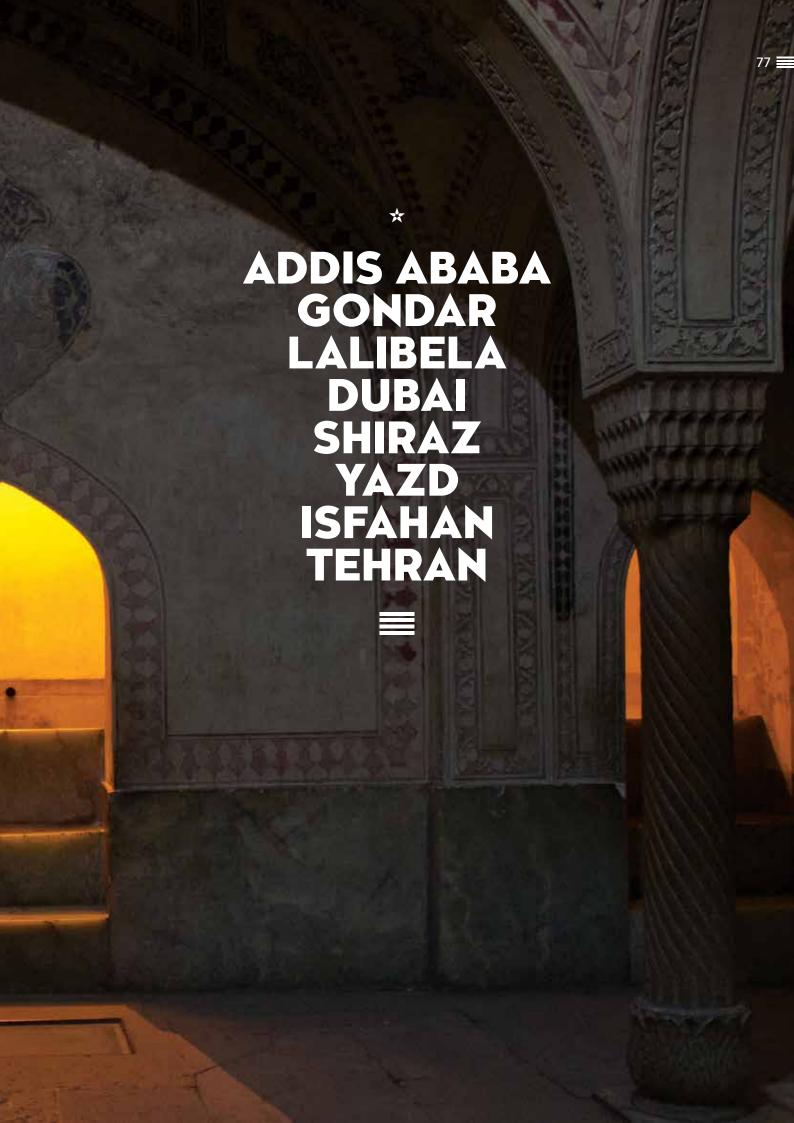
| Solo Supplements | add per person |
|--|----------------|
| Superior Cabin (without Private Balcony) | \$5,700 |
| Superior Cabin (with Private Balcony) | \$6,950 |
| Superior Suite | \$10,000 |

Includes supplements for single hotel rooms. Solo availability at the above prices are limited.

Learn more about your river ship on page 128.

This journey is reserved for a group of just 24 guests.





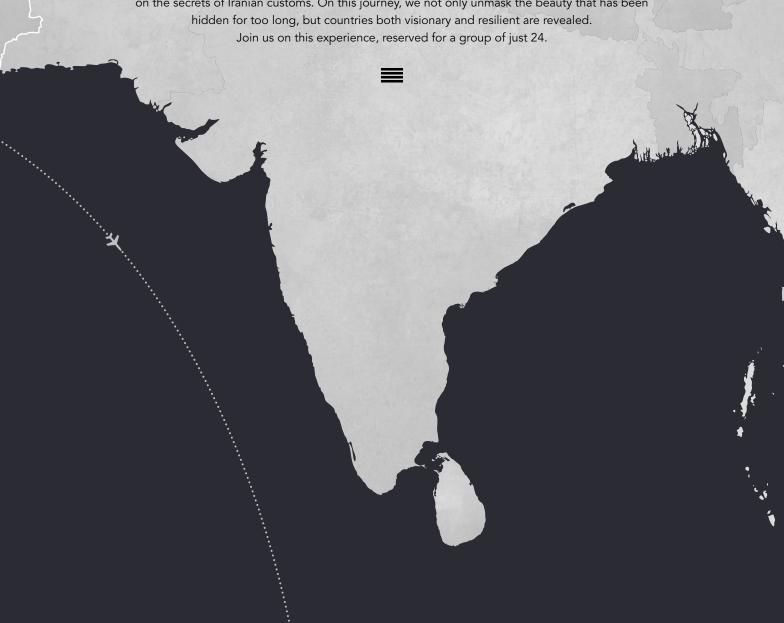


AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOURNEY

ALLURING SECRETS OF ETHIOPIA & IRAN

22 Days - 7 April to 28 April 2018

Travelling across lands more synonymous with famine and struggle than culture and historic significance, we seek an origin story never before disclosed. Extraordinary feats of ancient architecture confound us. The very beginning of mankind is exposed. And we lift a veil on the secrets of Iranian customs. On this journey, we not only unmask the beauty that has been hidden for too long, but countries both visionary and resilient are revealed.





DEPART AUSTRALIA

Day 1 – Saturday 7 April

Seeking a world that only a rare few have been fortunate enough to discover, we head for the mystique of Ethiopia.

ARRIVE ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA)

Day 2 – Sunday 8 April

Against warm air and strikingly clear skies, there's an alluring caress that pulls us towards the capital this morning. The exotic nature of Addis Ababa attracts all things curious, including us. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner.

ADDIS ABABA

Day 3 – Monday 9 April

This morning, drive to Mt Entoto where exquisite views of the capital and surrounding countryside are revealed. Continue to the churches of Mariam and the Archangel Raguel before exploring the National Archaeological Museum. Home to the 3.2 million year-old skeleton, Lucy, the museum's most acclaimed exhibition enlightened great forward thinking within the theory of evolution. Lucy has the first documented example of the modern human pelvis, reorientated for upright walking so as to free our hands and conserve energy for the growth of our brains.

Before dinner this evening, we visit the Fistula Hospital where we bear witness to the charity work of doctors.

BAHIR DAR

Day 4 - Tuesday 10 April

Transported from the bustling cityscape of Addis Ababa, the classic Ethiopian surrounds of Bahir Dar could not provide a sharper contrast. This afternoon, admire Blue Nile Falls. A natural treasure of Bahir Dar, smouldering mist rises with each ferocious plummet. We continue to the former Palace of Emperor Haile Selassie. Watching over the Blue Nile, jacarandas line the palace's path. Relaxation commences at the Kuriftu Resort and Spa.



BAHIR DAR, GONDAR

Day 5 – Wednesday 11 April

The surface of Lake Tana is scattered with religious fragments. On its 37 islands, ancient churches and monasteries hide. Discovering them by boat, local fishermen paddle alongside us in narrow papyrus canoes. Inside some of the monasteries, we may peek at the remains of Ethiopian Emperors by candlelight. This afternoon we continue to Gondar, and make our home at the Mayleko Lodge for two nights.

GONDAR

Day 6 - Thursday 12 April

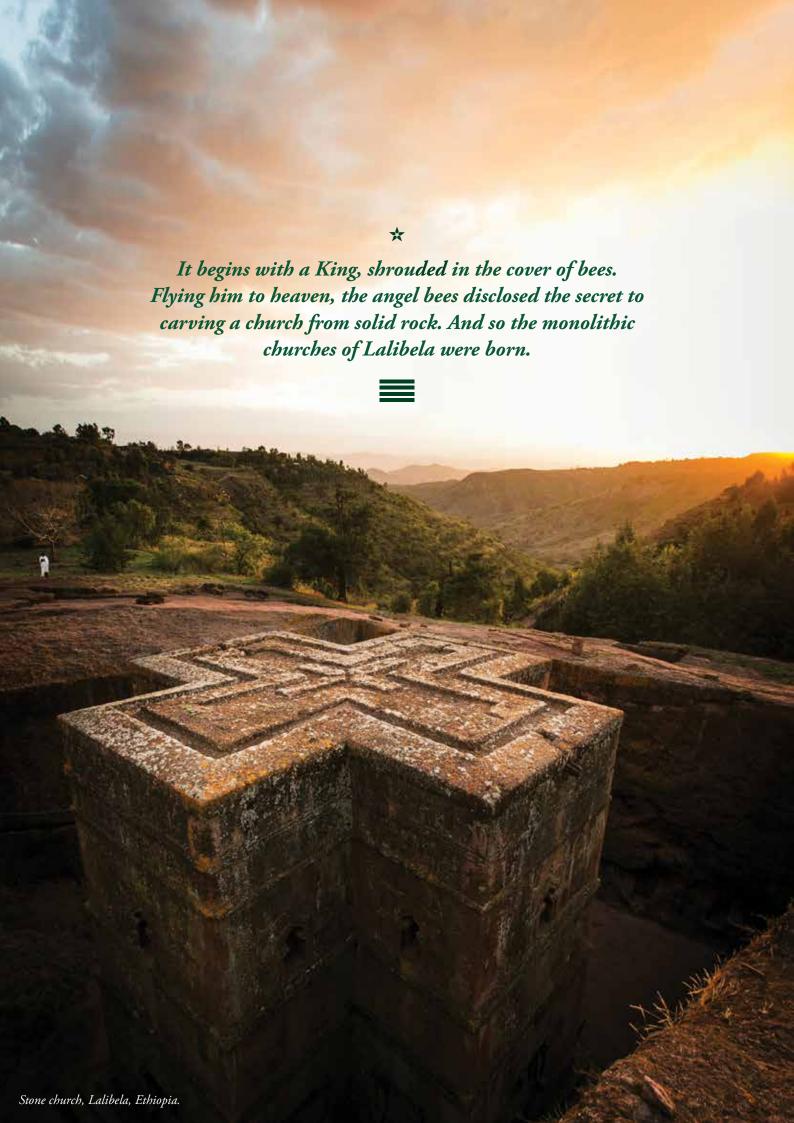
Once the capital of Ethiopia for nearly 200 years, Gondar welcomes us early this morning and introduces itself through a tour of its major historical sites. We visit the fascinating 17th century castles and palaces where we have the chance to wander amid stone walls at leisure. Among many, we visit Castle Fasiladas. At Tikmat this afternoon, we witness worshippers plunging into the water, re-enacting the baptism of Christ. Before returning to our hotel, we will also see the mural-covered walls of Debre Berhan Selassie and experience authentic Ethiopian azmari music performed by a pair of minstrels.

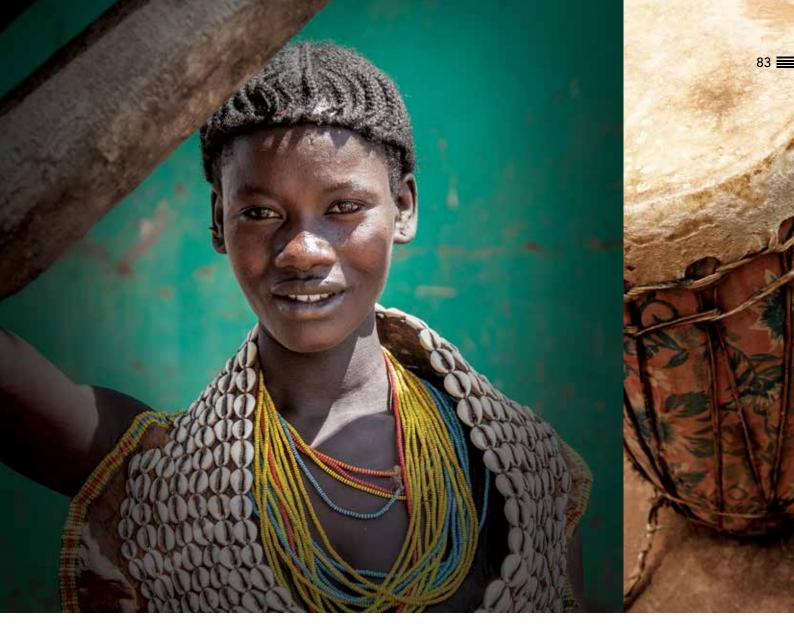
LALIBELA

Day 7 - Friday 13 April

Carved by hammer, chisel and – so legend goes – the slight touch of angels at night, today the 13th century rock-hewn churches of Lalibela await. These 11 buildings were commissioned by King Lalibela after a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Or after having a private word with angels (legend and history recount the story differently to this day). Each structure has been excavated by hand, and is under the perpetual watch of an Orthodox priest.

We explore the site, set against a backdrop of astounding mountain ranges, then retire to the Mountain View Hotel.





LALIBELA

Day 8 - Saturday 14 April

After breakfast, choose from these Your World experiences:

- ★ Set off by mule or on foot to encounter the clifftop Churchof Asheton Maryam.
- ★ Explore the cave church of Neakuto Leab.

Embarking on a 4WD adventure, uncover the Axumite cave church of Yemrehanna Kristos. The olive-wood panels on which the church stands seemingly float above moory grounds. Vervet monkeys may be spied in acacia trees.

AKSUM

Day 9 - Sunday 15 April

Continuing our path along the historic route, we venture to our final Ethiopian destination. Aksum only reveals that which she wants us to know, and today we pry open the enigma's hidden secrets, wandering off the beaten track.

In the wrecks, relics and ruins, stone stelaes divulge ancient tales through the voice of inscriptions dating back over 1,600 years.

We retire tonight to the Yared Zema International Hotel.

DUBAI (UNITED ARAB EMIRATES)

Day 10 - Monday 16 April

Today we farewell Ethiopia, enjoying a short flight to Addis Ababa and onward to Dubai where we check into our hotel, the Grand Hyatt Dubai.

DUBAI, SHIRAZ (IRAN)

Day 11 - Tuesday 17 April

Join a morning flight to Shiraz in Iran and spend this afternoon on your own schedule. We dive into the city's intricacies until the sun casts a chalky tinge over vast plains. Enjoy three nights at the Homa Hotel.

SHIRAZ

Day 12 – Wednesday 18 April

History told from brittle parchment and not the fingertip of a tourist in sight. Iran is in a league of its own. We spend our afternoon amongst the kaleidoscope of colour that filters through the stain glass windows of Nasir ol Molk Mosque. A wondrous reflection of fragmented hues envelop the building.

PERSEPOLIS

Day 13 - Thursday 19 April

The Achaemenid Dynasty, the first Persian empire, was the largest the ancient world had ever seen, stretching from Turkey to Egypt, and even touching on Asia. Our day begins with a trip to Persepolis. Meaning 'City of the Persians', we become acquainted with the original seat of government during the Achaemenid Empire. Later we return to Shiraz and perhaps venture to the bazaar or enjoy a quiet afternoon for reflection.

PASARGADAE, YAZD

Day 14 – Friday 20 April

Today, our exploration begins in Pasargadae. Set against the plain of Dashte Morghab, we delve into this fascinating archaeological site as we please.

Those among us who relish the refreshing breeze on a scorching day will simply adore the ingenious buildings of Yazd, designed to trap the quietest draft and direct fresh air to stuffy dwellings below. During our time in the desert town, we stay cool and refreshed at the Safaiyeh Hotel.

YAZD

Day 15 – Saturday 21 April

The road less travelled tempts us today as we immerse ourselves in one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions, Zoroastrianism. Beginning with an expedition of one of the Towers of Silence, we continue to the Zoroastrian Fire Temple to gain a rare glimpse into the religion.



A primary symbol of the belief, fire, we are told represents God's light and wisdom. We also have the opportunity to see a flame said to have been burning for over 1,500 years.

NA'IN, ISFAHAN

Day 16 – Sunday 22 April

Sometimes the most fascinating sights are those you least expect to encounter. Today we embark on an overland journey to Na'in. Once known best for its ceramic handiwork, the desert town is now renowned for carefully crafted carpets and camel-wool cloaks. Continue this afternoon to Isfahan, where we stay at the Abbasi Hotel.

ISFAHAN

Day 17 - Monday 23 April

Mosques adorned with delicate frescoes. Glistening ceramics against a backdrop of tender, leafy avenues. The pride of Persia shines, a rich visual feast.

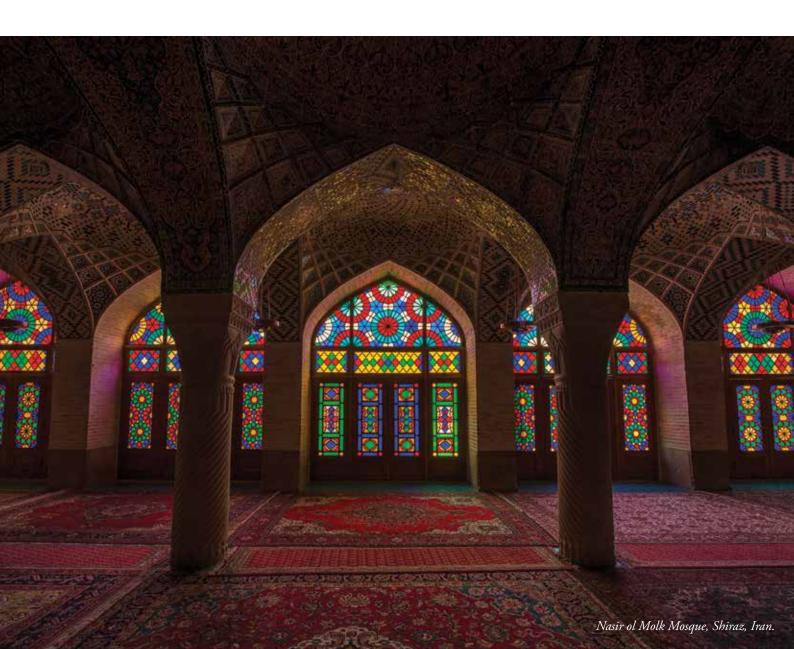
Visit Naqsh-e Jahan Square. Meaning 'pattern of the world', the square owes much of its brilliance to the surrounding buildings and mosques. Stroll at leisure before crowds flock to the promenade. Absorb the lively air of the afternoon with fierce bargaining at the Qesarieh Bazaar. The thick husk of pomegranates wait to be cracked open, revealing tiny arils of sweet juice inside.

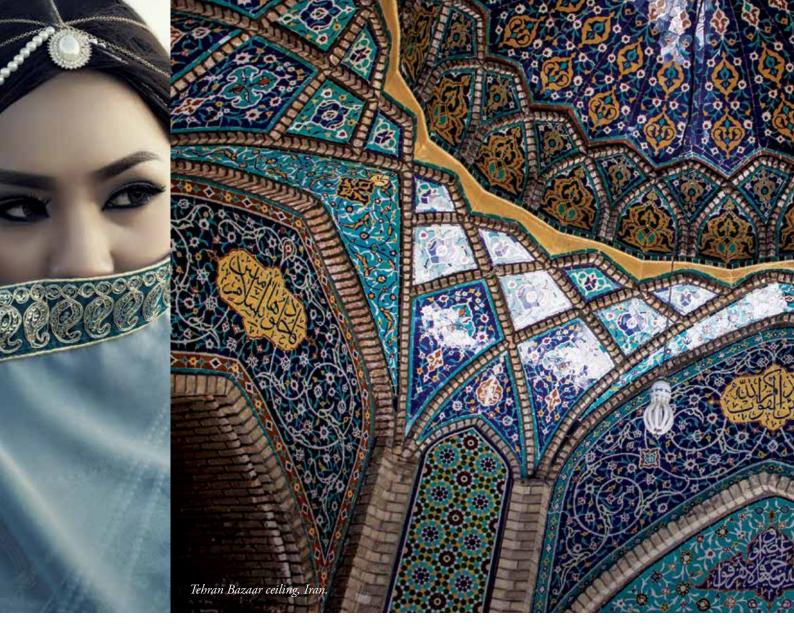
Casting a sweet spell, Iranian music dances with spirals of steaming tea. Ancient Persia is but the close of our eyes away.

ISFAHAN

Day 18 – Tuesday 24 April

We take a step closer to the heart of Iran with a visit to the Masjed-e Jameh, also called the Friday Mosque. Dominated by four prayer halls, each Iwan is designed to reflect the era in which it was constructed, the result of which being a fascinating echo of religious architecture spanning 1,000 years. We also touch on Chehel Satun Palace and Hasht Behesht, a 17th century pavilion.





TEHRAN

Day 19 – Wednesday 25 April

Heading for Tehran, we have reached the final leg of our journey. En route to the capital, we pass through Natanz and Kashan. Here, charming oases play with our appetite for the exotic. For our last two evenings, we unwind at the five-star Espinas International Hotel.

TEHRAN

Day 20 – Thursday 26 April

The sun rises over Tehran on our last day of discovery. Flecks of sunlight illuminate hand-painted tiles and heavenly gardens at the former residence of Iran's last Royal Family. Later, we have the opportunity to visit the National Archaeological Museum.

Over dinner this evening, celebrate all that we have experienced. Share colourful tales with fellow travellers and raise a glass (of tea, of course!) to our intrepid journey.

TEHRAN, DEPART DUBAI

Day 21 – Friday 27 April

Our bags brimming with copper trinkets and irreplaceable memories, we fly to Dubai and meet our connecting flight bound for home.

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Day 22 – Saturday 28 April

We arrive early this morning on home soil and bid farewell to new friends.

Please note: while Ethiopia and Iran are incredible places to visit, hotels, coaches and restaurants won't always meet a luxurious standard. Captain's Choice uses the best available options, but understand that things won't be like they are in Australia or Western Europe.



SHERATON ADDIS, ADDIS ABABA

A hallmark in grandeur, the Sheraton Addis provides the ideal place of inception for a truly inspired journey. Be welcomed into Ethiopia and the beginning of our discovery by towering fountains and rare flora.

KURIFTU RESORT & SPA, BAHIR DAR

Sharing sands with the largest lake in Ethiopia, Kuriftu Resort & Spa offers large, refined cottages made of stone and wood, filled with stylish and artistic furnishings. Owned and operated by locals, relish the luxury knowing you're also supporting a local Ethiopian business.

ABBASI HOTEL, ISFAHAN

Built around 300 years ago during the reign of King Sultan Husayn of Safavid, this hotel complex was originally used as a caravansary to provide lodging for travellers. Although it's been renovated since, the original style remains well intact. Take a walk through the central courtyard before retiring to your room as the day ends.

JOURNEY FARES

22 Days – Alluring Secrets of Ethiopia & Iran

| With Flights | per person, twin share |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Economy Class | \$22,700 |
| Business Class | \$30,000 |
| First Class | \$36,200 |

Fares are in Australian dollars and include Emirates flights from Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. Prices from other cities available on request. All internal flights are in Economy Class with strict luggage restrictions.

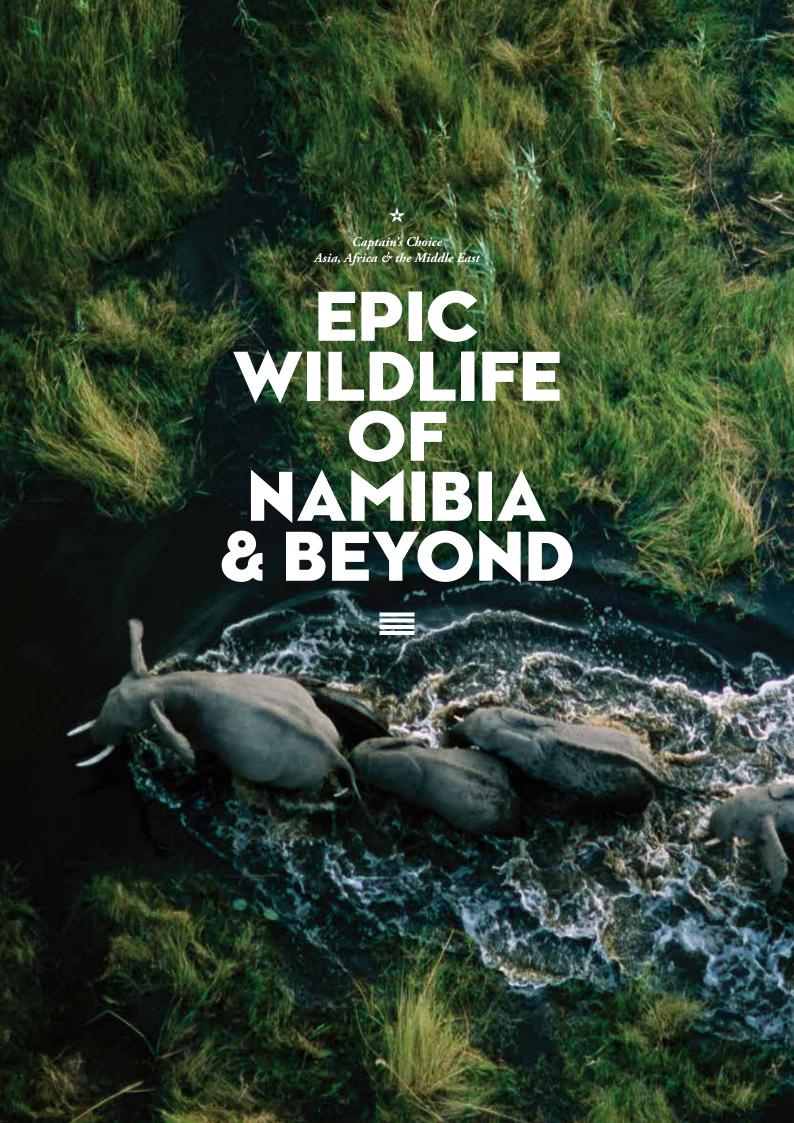
| Land Only | per person, twin share |
|-----------|------------------------|
| | \$20.200 |

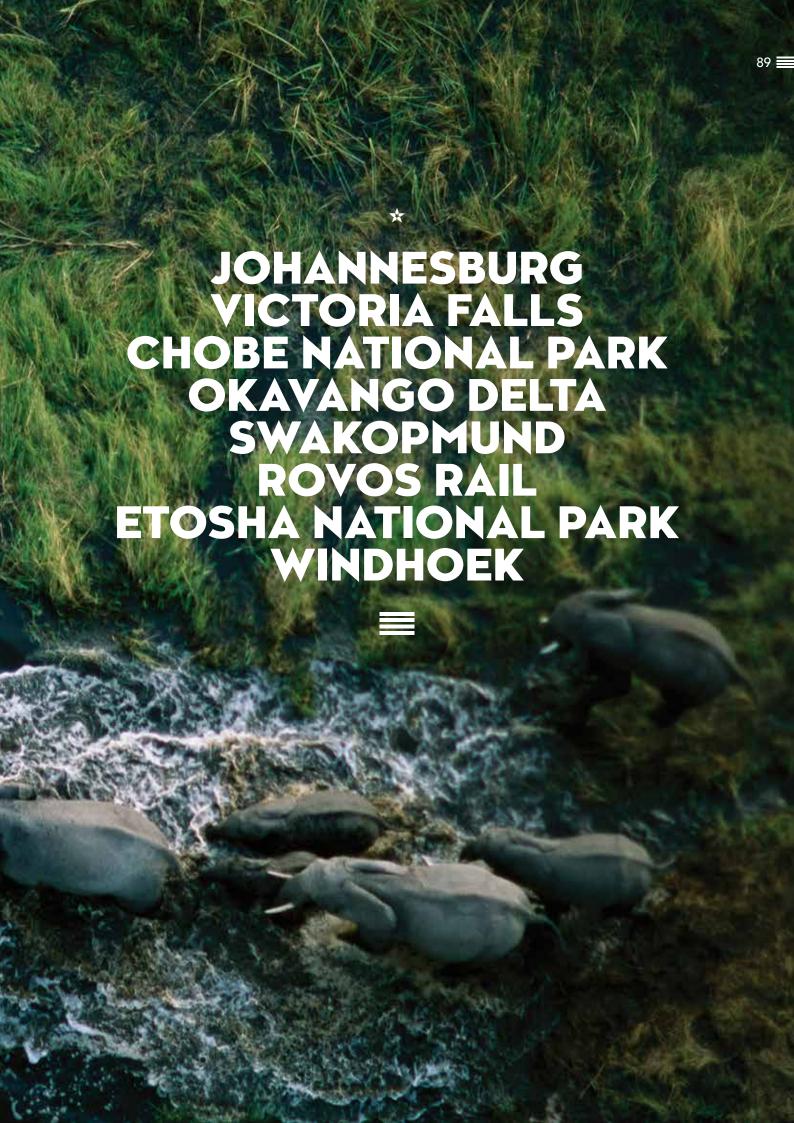
Guests join the tour in Addis Ababa on Day 2 and depart at Dubai Airport on Day 21.

| Solo Supplements | add per person |
|------------------|----------------|
| | |

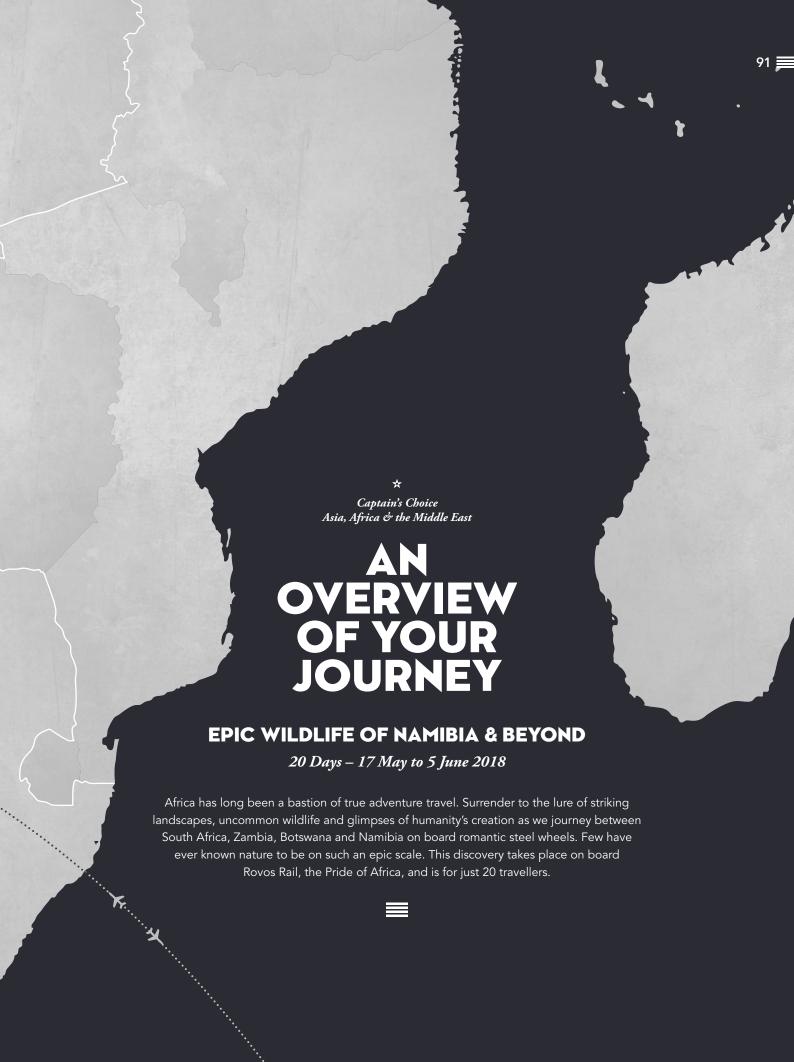
Includes supplements for single hotel rooms. Solo availability at the above price is limited.

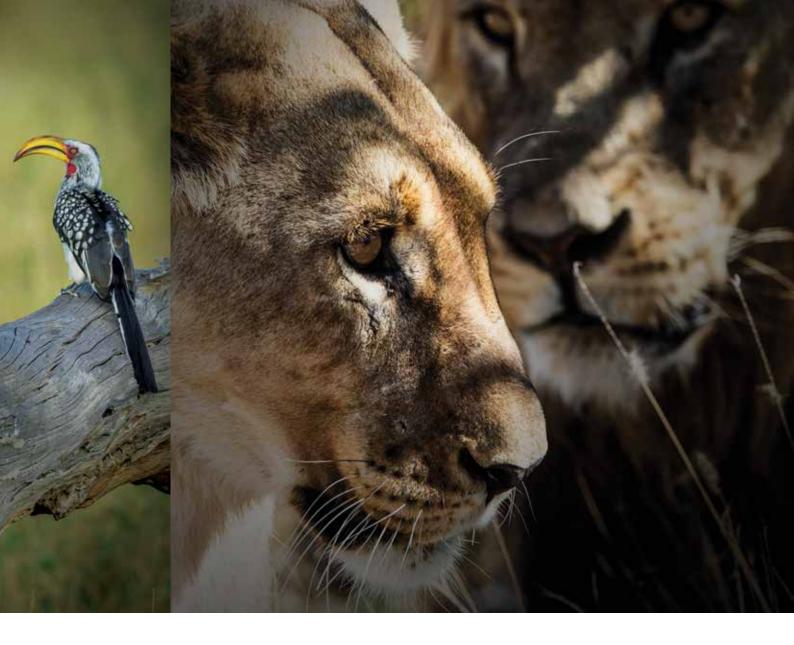
This journey is reserved for a group of just 24 guests.











DEPART AUSTRALIA, ARRIVE JOHANNESBURG (SOUTH AFRICA)

Day 1 – Thursday 17 May

Bound for the game parks of southern Africa, we hop on a mid-morning flight to Johannesburg. At The Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff, we are sheltered well away from common commotion.

JOHANNESBURG

Day 2 – Friday 18 May

Our welcome into Africa could not be more insightful. Enjoy a tour of Johannesburg, embracing the vast plains and endless skyline that mark our temporary home.

This afternoon, take a moment of private reflection or enjoy the very first Your World experience.

★ Tour the township of Soweto.

VICTORIA FALLS (ZAMBIA)

Day 3 – Saturday 19 May

At Livingstone, gateway to Victoria Falls, we fall into the embrace of the colonial-style Royal Livingstone Hotel, where we'll spend two nights.

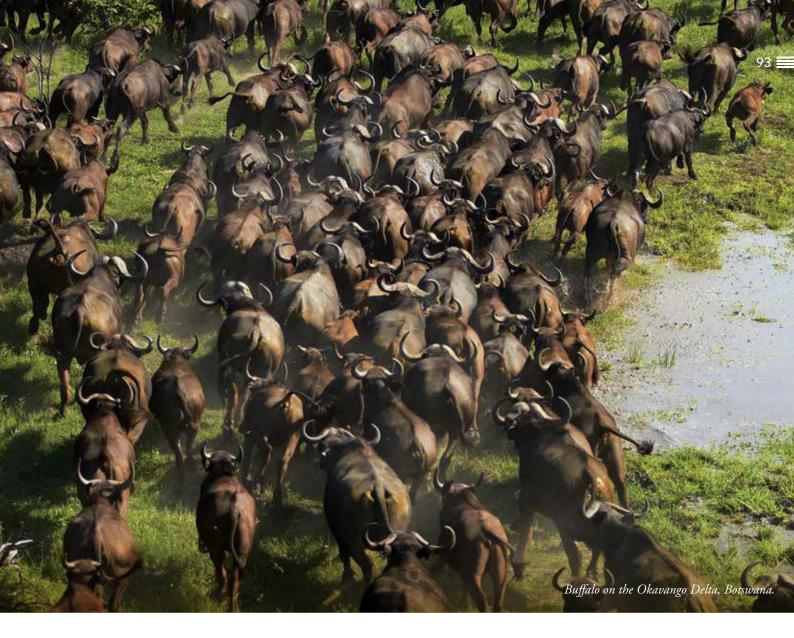
VICTORIA FALLS

Day 4 – Sunday 20 May

Doctor Livingstone, the first European to see Victoria Falls, named his discovery in honour of his monarch, Queen Victoria. However, it is also known by its indigenous name, Mosi-oa-Tunya – 'the smoke that thunders'.

The remainder of the afternoon is spent on your own terms or with a Your World experience.

★ Take a helicopter flight for a stunning bird's-eye view of the powerful falls.



CHOBE NATIONAL PARK (BOTSWANA)

Day 5 – Monday 21 May

In the dry season, elephants flock to the Chobe River in unimaginable numbers, making it one of the best places to view these gentle giants. Propped perfectly beside the riverside, we arrive at the Chobe Chilwero.

We cannot yet dream of rest – the waterways are too enticing. It's time to head out on our first river safari. Cruising in the warm glow of sunset, we secure front-row seats to the pageantry of Africa at sundown. Families of hippos wallow in the river as elephants slosh towards the water's edge to drink, bathe and play.

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Day 6 – Tuesday 22 May

We take to open-air 4WDs and travel away from the banks of the river, listening for branches snapping – it usually means elephants are nearby.

Back at our lodge, the afternoon unfolds as we please. Kick back and enjoy the view of the Chobe River from your terrace or join our Your World experience.

★ Set off on another game drive, either by 4WD or boat.

OKAVANGO DELTA

Day 7 – Wednesday 23 May

Fed by flood water from the Angolan Highlands, the Okavango Delta fans out across the country like slender veins, forming an intricate web of palm-fringed channels, lagoons and lush islands. Take a private charter directly into the heart of the Okavango Delta.

Upon arrival we are transferred to the Khwai River Lodge overlooking Moremi Reserve, the first wildlife area to be set aside by tribal people rather than colonial powers. Tonight's dinner is served in a delightful outdoor setting embraced by bushland. Under the setting sun, the delta's hushed water is blanketed in crimson radiance.

太

Meaning 'great white place'
in the language of the Ovambo tribe, the
Etosha salt pan is the largest on the continent.
Once a great lake, the rivers that fed the basin
have been diverted over time, leaving only
the salt bed; cracked and dry
yet flourishing with life.





OKAVANGO DELTA

Day 8 & 9 – Thursday 24 to Friday 25 May

Travellers regard the Okavango Delta as one of the most beautiful natural areas of the continent. If safari dreaming has brought you here, the game viewing will exceed your wildest imaginings. We search for wildlife each morning and in the late afternoon, open-air 4WDs taking us along the island's floodplains. Leopards stalk through thick thorn scrub. Hippos bellow from faraway lagoons.

SWAKOPMUND (NAMIBIA)

Day 10 - Saturday 26 May

A journey by air lands us along the wind-swept Skeleton Coast. Countless ship wrecks shrouded in dense ocean fogs give this haunting place its name. We have this afternoon to spend at Swakopmund, a typical Hans town built by the Germans, where banks of sand rush to meet the thundering waves of the Atlantic Ocean. We overnight at the Swakopmund Hotel.

EMBARK ROVOS RAIL

Day 11 – Sunday 27 May

In South Africa and Namibia, raw treasures are known to hide off the beaten track; unpolished and often otherworldly in their beauty. From the elegance of our Deluxe Suite on board Rovos Rail, Africa unfolds before our eyes. We stake our claim on a wing-backed chair and contemplate what life must have been like during the heyday of steam locomotion.

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Day 12 – Monday 28 May

From the peaceful solitude of Rovos Rail we arrive in Tsumeb to explore Etosha National Park. Nestled between camel thorn and mopani trees, Mokuti Etosha Lodge welcomes us. After lunch, we head out on our first game drive. Etosha is one of the few places that the endangered black rhino resides, almost unaffected by poaching. It will be a privilege to spy the wrinkly creatures.

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Day 13 – Tuesday 29 May

Amongst the changing colours of the early morning, we set off in 4WDs. Parched and cracked, the shimmering surface of the saline desert creates an eerie effect, the animals seemingly floating in pools. Game viewing in Etosha is certainly a unique experience. We return to our train and continue the journey south.

WINDHOEK, SOSSUSYLEI

Day 14 – Wednesday 30 May

Classic steel wheels deliver us to Windhoek where our light aircraft is awaiting to carry us to Sossusvlei. Transfer to Namib-Naukluft National Park, and retreat to the luxury of Sossusvlei Lodge. On an afternoon drive, we sail up and down the ancient dunes, among the highest in the world. Back at the lodge, a bush dinner is served al fresco within the atmospheric confines of our lodge's private reserve.

SOSSUSVLEI, WINDHOEK

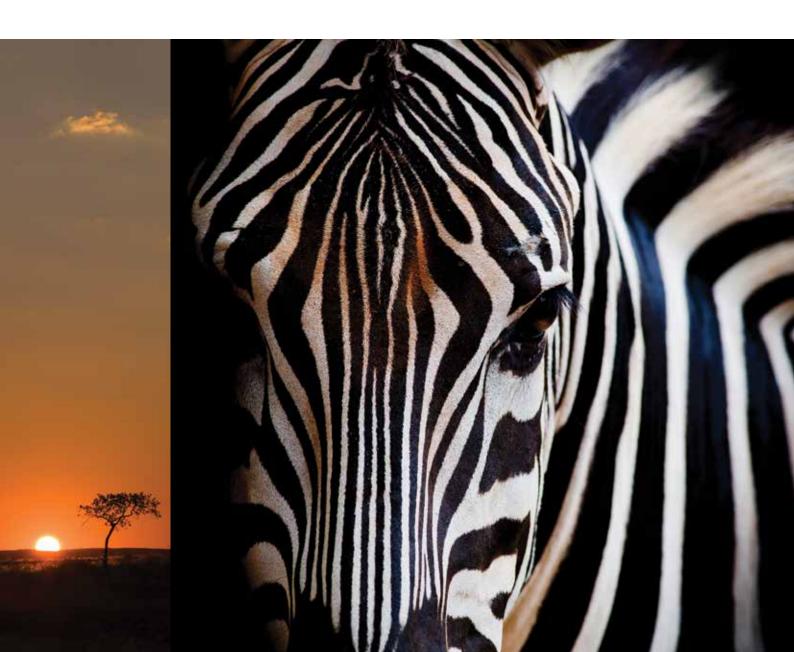
Day 15 – Thursday 31 May

The orange dunes of Sossusvlei burn so deep they appear lit from within. We embark on a 4WD desert excursion to experience this illuminating display. After a return flight from the coast to Windhoek, it's back to our noble train in time for lunch and an afternoon spent relaxing to the rhythm of the rail.

KEETMANSHOOP, FISH RIVER CANYON

Day 16 – Friday 1 June

This morning we discover the settlement of Keetmanshoop and learn of its German heritage. Later, a detour takes us out to the Quiver Tree Forest and we consider the formations at Giant's Playground before continuing on to Fish River Canyon. Almost 1.5 billion years of geological history stretches out before us. Peer over the expanse in search of baboons, rock dassies, ground squirrel and tiny klipspringers.



UPINGTON (SOUTH AFRICA)

Day 17 – Saturday 2 June

Upington is wild at its very core. Shrouded in stories of diamond smugglers and horse rustlers, highway robberies and ruthless fortune-seekers, we come to grips with this frontier town during a stroll along Date Palm Avenue.

KIMBERLEY

Day 18 – Sunday 3 June

A cloud of fuchsia materialises on the edge of a shallow lake, as if conjured by the wave of a magic wand. Our train edges ever closer and we clamber towards the windows hoping to see flamingos dancing a fantastical ballet.

We roll into Kimberley, a mining town cloaked in tales of diamonds. The De Beer name is synonymous with the city, home to one of the world's most successful diamond mines. We tour the city, the Big Hole and the Mine Museum before retiring to our train.

DISEMBARK ROVOS RAIL, DEPART JOHANNESBURG

Day 19 – Monday 4 June

Our journey draws to an end in Pretoria today and we take a coach to Johannesburg where our flight is waiting, ready to whisk us home.

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Day 20 – Tuesday 5 June

Ever so reluctantly, we land on home soil this morning, brimming with memories and tales – unsure of which we should recount first.



FOUR SEASONS HOTEL THE WESTCLIFF, JOHANNESBURG

Almost a village, tightly bound by courtyards and terraces, Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff presents a remarkable reception into Africa. Prepare for our daily discoveries with a steaming mug of coffee on your private balcony or ground-floor garden, welcoming the sounds and smells of South Africa's bustling capital.

CHOBE CHILWERO, CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Ideals of Africa bring about images of elephants frolicking in quiet riverbeds, and Chobe Chilwero is the true embodiment of this vision. Home to the largest elephant population in the world, spying these gentle giants becomes such a common affair that you'll begin to associate them not with the exotic savannahs of Africa, but rather, with your morning cup of coffee.

KHWAI RIVER LODGE, OKAVANGO DELTA

An oasis within the Okavango Delta, Moremi Wildlife Reserve was the first wildlife area to be protected by tribal people rather than colonial powers. From our private suites at the Khwai River Lodge, we are offered the perfect vantage point for viewing migratory animals.

ROVOS RAIL

Not all game drives have to be on four wheels. As the Pride of Africa tumbles and turns, we are granted the rare opportunity to traverse the natural wonderland that of Namibia and Southern Africa. Crank open the Lounge Car windows and peek outside – you never know, there just might be a playful creature peeping back.



JOURNEY FARES

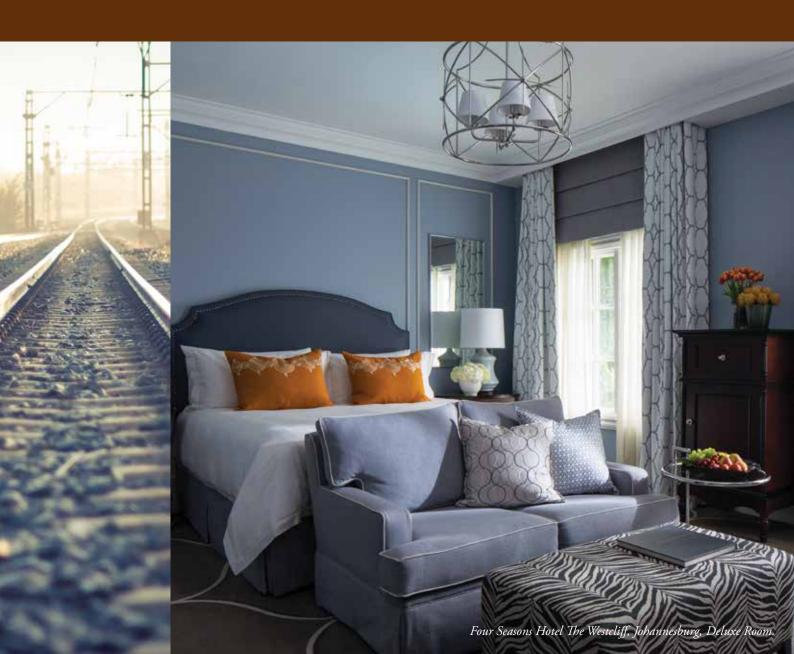
20 Days – Epic Wildlife of Namibia & Beyond

Fares are based on a Deluxe Suite aboard Rovos Rail.

| With Flights | per person, twin share |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Economy Class | \$28,600 |
| Premium Economy Class | \$29,300 |
| Business Class | \$33,400 |

Fares are in Australian dollars and include Qantas flights from Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. Prices from other cities available on request.

| Land Only | per person, twin share\$26,500 |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Guests join the tour in Johannesburg for dinner on Day 1 and depart Johannesburg at the airport on Day 19. | |
| Solo Supplements | add per person |
| | \$8,000 |
| Includes supplements for single hotel rooms. Solo availability at the above prices are limited. | |
| Learn more about your luxurious train on page 130. | |
| This journey is reserved for a group of just 20 guests. | |







...... Rail Included flights Stay (nights) RUSSIA MOS
International management of the state 3 MOSCOW KAZAKHSTAN UZBEKISTAN Bukhara O Samarkand TURKMENISTAN Ashgabat Merv Mashhad O"" Sarakhs IRAN Shiraz O Persepolis Mahan O Mahan O Rayen

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Captain's Choice Asia, Africa & the Middle East

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOURNEY

FOLLOWING TRACKS OF THE SILK ROAD & PERSIA

22 Days - 22 March to 12 April 2018

A mosaic of mysterious beauty and a multitude of sacred sites will be revealed to those prepared to lift the veil on the world's oldest trade route. Tracing tracks of textiles, spice and grain, colourful history becomes another ware on offer. Alongside the Golden Eagle, a desert breeze lifts crimson sand into a mirage, and ahead lay horizons of biblical proportions. Become one of the few to touch on this region's past – we've secured this journey for only 24 guests.





DEPART AUSTRALIA

Day 1 – Thursday 22 March

Imagining we are aboard a magic carpet (Persian of course) intricately woven with silken threads, we wing our way across the star-studded sky to Russia's capital.

ARRIVE MOSCOW (RUSSIA)

Day 2 – Friday 23 March

Arriving on a spring afternoon, we approach the city's imperial skyline. Onion domed roofs and gilded turrets are a welcome decoration in our sights.

Making our way to The Ritz-Carlton, our resplendent home for the next three nights, we may find time to take a sneak peak of our dazzling new neighbourhood from the roof-top terrace, which overlooks Red Square and the Kremlin. A Welcome Dinner in the hotel's restaurant sets the scene for the pleasures that lie ahead.

MOSCOW

Day 3 – Saturday 24 March

In Moscow, all roads lead to Red Square. This legendary plaza is where we begin our full day of exploration, paying respects at Lenin's Mausoleum before seeking Russia's artistic soul at the Tretyakov Gallery. Deep in pursuit of the aesthetically pleasing, venture underground on the Moscow Metro where each station is bedecked with marble and chandeliers.

Seeds of brilliance and dissent have germinated at Moscow State University since the 18th century. Answer the call for higher learning before taking time out for contemplation at Peace and Gorky parks. The afternoon takes us back towards the splendid spires of St Basil's Cathedral, where, like true Muscovites, we partake in a vodka and caviar tasting.

MOSCOW

Day 4 – Sunday 25 March

A collection of 10 of the world's most exquisite Faberge Eggs is housed in the Kremlin Armoury. Before the popular museum opens to the public, the ornate creations along with countless artistic and military treasures of the Tsars are available exclusively to us for a private viewing.

This afternoon is free for you to enjoy at leisure, or choose from a Your World experience.

- ★ Visit Sergiev Posad, spiritual home of the Russian Orthodox Church.
- ★ Theatre lovers won't want to pass up the chance to step behind the curtains of the Bolshoi.

EMBARK GOLDEN EAGLE

Day 5 – Monday 26 March

We are introduced to the trappings of luxury rail travel before we even board the Golden Eagle. The scene for the next leg of our journey is set in the Imperial Waiting Room in Kazansky Station, where our departure is celebrated with canapes and a glass of Russian bubbly.

Soon we are greeting the Golden Eagle, smoke billowing from the steam locomotive in a most romantic fashion. Board amidst much fanfare and become acquainted with the timeless ambience of this grand dame of the tracks, our rolling residence for the following fortnight.

Ahead of us lies a journey of almost 10,000 kilometres across seldom travelled realms. Venturing towards Tehran, the history and civilisations that exist along this ancient trade route will be revealed to us.

ARAL KARAKUM DESERT (KAZAKHSTAN)

Day 6 - Tuesday 27 March

We spend our first full day aboard Golden Eagle indulging in fine dining and discovering the splendid facilities and experiences available. It's tempting to simply gaze wistfully out the windows, for mile after mesmerising mile reveals the arid landscape of the Aral Karakum Desert.

BAIKONUR

Day 7 - Wednesday 28 March

The Golden Eagle rolls to a halt today in the Kazakhstan town of Baikonur. The Baikonur Cosmodrome continues to be leased from Kazakhstan by the Russian Federation, and gaining access is tricky for the average visitor. Captain's Choice, however, have secured a special pass to tour the Soviet-era space launch facility. Prepare for lift off.

TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)

Day 8 – Thursday 29 March

The scholarly secrets of the Silk Road will be articulated this morning during an onboard history lecture. Having learned about the origins and importance of some of the trading posts we visit during this epic journey, our minds are abuzz with fresh facts and newfound knowledge.

After lunch, our train arrives into the Uzbekistan city, Tashkent, where we disembark for further enlightenment with a visit to the Museum of Applied Arts and the Railway Museum. Further explorations will reveal how Tashkent has evolved from its Soviet-style roots into a thriving, modern metropolis.



SAMARKAND

Day 9 – Friday 30 March

One of Central Asia's longest inhabited cities, Samarkand, marks the crossroads of Eastern and Western cultures. These days described as the Paris of the Muslim World, the city's grand mosques reflect its tradition as a mecca of ancient arts and craft.

We explore the grand architecture at Bibi Khanym Mosque, Ulugh Beg Observatory and The Registan, where a dinner of traditional cuisine is accompanied by views of the illuminated square.

BUKHARA

Day 10 - Saturday 31 March

Having followed the tracks through the Kyzylkum Desert, the oasis city of Bukhara awaits us early this morning. The World Heritage-listed city dates back more than 2,500 years.

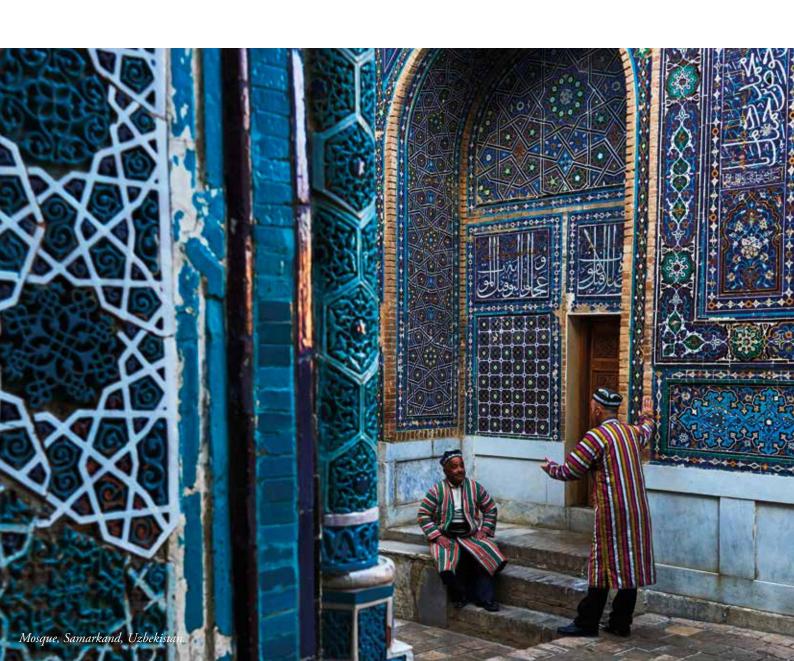
Appreciate the city's history and grandeur with a visit to The Ark, the fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara who ruled in earlier times. Just outside the city, the Palace of the Moon and Stars (the last Emir's summer residence), holds magnificent celestial significance.

KHIVA

Day 11 - Sunday 1 April

We arrive at an ancient intersection of the Silk Road where pre-Christian travellers from Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia would have greeted each other, rested and traded curious wares.

Some stayed on, and the dusty desert crossroads became a camp, a village, then emerged as the prosperous walled town of Khiva. In the ornate mosques, bazaars and minarets, the remnants of its former glory prevail. The rustic beauty and unattainable air of mystery that remains today is simply spellbinding.



ASHGABAT (TURKMENISTAN)

Day 12 - Monday 2 April

Our journey through the Stans continues, delivering us to the shimmering town of Ashgabat in Turkmenistan. Located between the desert and the Kopet Dag mountain range, Ashgabat was completely redesigned in 1948 after being levelled by an earthquake.

Today's Ashhgabat glows, particularly at dawn and dusk, as it lays claim to having the largest number of marble buildings of any city in the world – 543 to be exact. We discover cultural curiosities with a visit to the National Museum before a trip to the Kipchak Mosque.

MERV

Day 13 - Tuesday 3 April

As the Golden Eagle rolls in to outskirts of the oncemighty city of Merv, our thoughts are taken back to the late 18th century, when, for a brief moment in history, this was the largest city in the world. Whilst London, Paris and New York continued to prosper, Merv met its downfall in 1794, when the Emir of Bukhara destroyed the people's major water source. Arriving in the town of Sarakhs this evening, the Golden Eagle pauses in preparation for the standard gauge tracks of Iran.

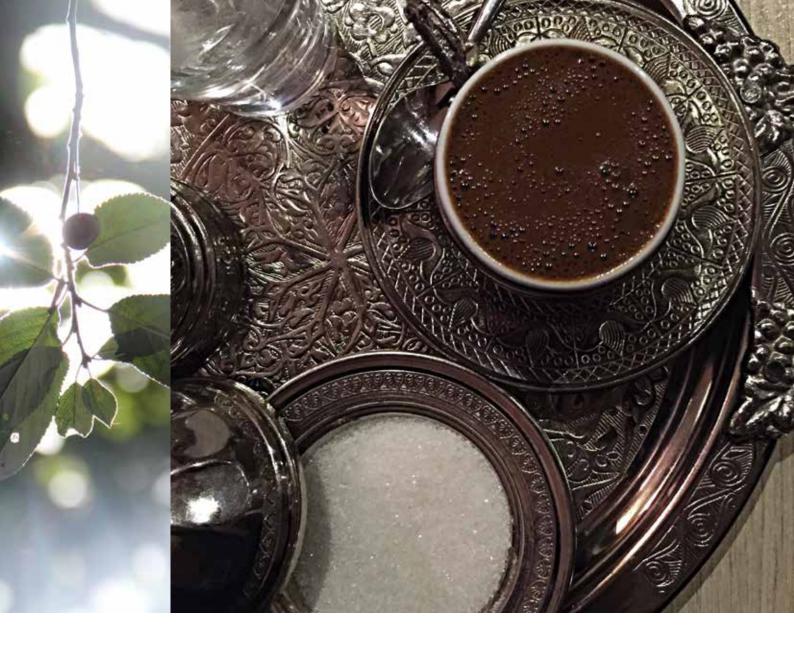
MASHHAD (IRAN)

Day 14 – Wednesday 4 April

Our arrival into the Persian realm is heralded by a call to prayer floating on a burnished sunrise. In Iran's holiest, and second most populous city, Mashhad, we alight our carriages eagerly knowing the entire day is set aside for us to indulge our whims and curiosities.

Our first stop is the Imman Reza Shrine complex, considered the heart and soul of Iran. After exploring, leave the pilgrims behind and continue on to the Mausoleum of Nadir Shah before learning about the life and works of the father of Persian Literature, Ferdowsi, during a visit to his splendid tomb.





MAHAN, RAYEN

Day 15 - Thursday 5 April

Since the 15th century, Mahan has received a steady stream of pilgrims, their sights set on the shrine dedicated to the Iranian poet and mystic, Shah Nematollah Vali. Take to the gardens and courtyards before arriving in Rayen, set under the gaze of Mt Hexar. Arg-e Rayen is the town's ancient adobe citadel and we've time to appreciate it during our exploration of the bazaar and governor's complex.

YAZD

Day 16 – Friday 6 April

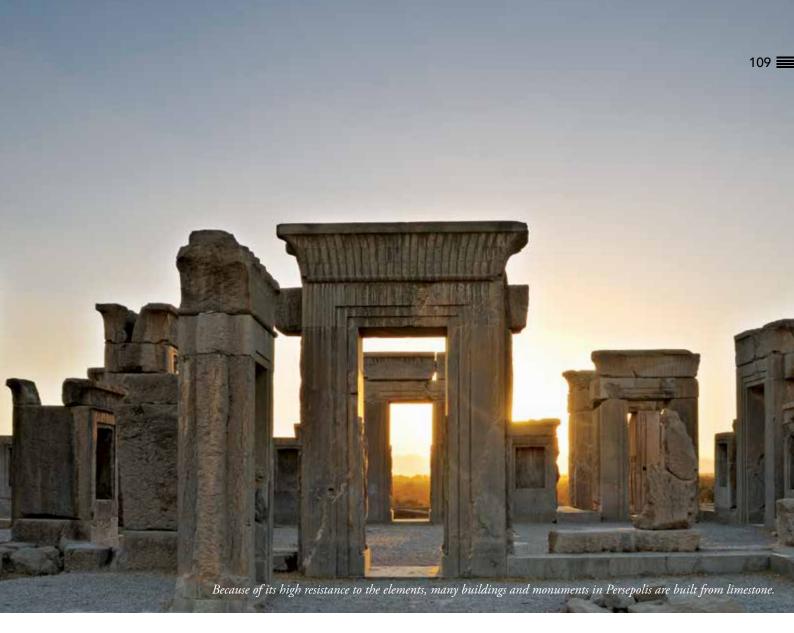
Rolling on, we reach the ancient desert city of Yazd where Persian architecture has withstood the ages and the elements. Sometimes Yazd is referred to as the city of windcatchers because of a design feature of the buildings' roofs which traps even the smallest of drafts and directs the cooler air into the dwellings below.

We visit the Zoroastrian Fire Temple, where the flame has been burning for almost 1,500 years. Next stop is the Amir Chakhmaq complex which curiously combines a mosque, a bathhouse and a confectioners. A defining feature of Iranian mosques is the tall and intricately embellished entryway, known as pishtaq. With lace-like mosaics spiralling around twin minarets, the Friday Mosque is no exception.

ISFAHAN

Day 17 – Saturday 7 April

This morning is spent discovering Isfahan's shrines and other holy sites including Chehel Sotoun Palace and Vank Cathedral. The impressive expanse of Naghsh-e Jahan is second in size only to Tiananmen Square in Beijing. A stroll here takes us through the shadows of the Ali Qapu Palace, among other buildings. Our day concludes with a visit to Qeisarieh Bazaar where exotic trinkets may be bargained for.



PERSEPOLIS, SHIRAZ

Day 18 – Sunday 8 April

The might of the First Persian Empire is on display at Persepolis, one of the most important sites of the ancient world. The ruins seen here today provide incredible insight into what the city would have been like under Darius the Great back in 522BC. Carved into a tall cliff face, the royal tombs of Naqsh-e Rstam are so large they can be seen them rising from the horizon as we travel north. On arrival in Shiraz, a tour will breathe life into the Hafez Tomb and Quran Gate.

DISEMBARK GOLDEN EAGLE

Day 19 – Monday 9 April

Disembarking the Golden Eagle in Tehran, farewell the crew and head off for the five-star Espinas International Hotel where we'll stay the next two nights. The curtain may have closed on our rail adventure but we are keen to explore this city of startling contrasts.

TEHRAN

Day 20 - Tuesday 10 April

After the museum closures and looting of the 1979 revolution, Tehran, Iran's cultural hub, set out to rebuild its former glory. A tour through the city takes us to the Treasury of National Jewels. Later, the World Heritage-listed Golestan Palace complex represents a vastly different kind of elegance to the royal residences of Europe.

DEPART TEHRAN

Day 21 – Wednesday 11 April

Transferring to the airport this morning, our minds are a patchwork of deserts, bazaars and the sounds of Iran.

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Day 22 - Thursday 12 April

We touch down in Australia this morning.

THE RITZ-CARLTON, MOSCOW

From the grand staircase that sweeps through the lobby to the striking 19th-century Imperialist Russian-style decor, The Ritz-Carlton perfectly captures the essence of this vastly beautiful nation. Fresh off our flight, we are welcomed into the regal nature of Russia on a scale we could not have imagined. Look out from the roof-top terrace to the iconic Red Square and Kremlin as you savour this quintessentially Russian residence.

GOLDEN EAGLE

Renowned world-wide for unparalleled service and amenities, be welcomed aboard the Golden Eagle for 14 nights. Devour the cinematic landscapes from your picture window and puzzle over the lives of those who roamed these towns before you. Traverse cities known for their fascinating histories in the utmost comfort of your personal air-conditioned cabin. You may even like to take the time to enjoy a Russian language lesson or history lecture hosted by an expert on board.

ESPINAS INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, TEHRAN

After weeks following the footsteps of traders gone by, we find blissful comfort in the Espinas International Hotel. Ideally located in the heart of Tehran, there's hardly a more appropriate location from which to discover the local life and customs of Iran. Over two evenings we become acquainted with the hotel's elaborate chandeliers and archways – an almost royal farewell.

Please note: while the countries visited on this tour are incredible to visit, hotels, coaches and restaurants won't always meet a luxurious standard. Captain's Choice uses the best available options, but understand that things won't be like they are in Australia or Western Europe.



JOURNEY FARES

22 Days – Following Tracks of the Silk Road & Persia

Fares are based on a Silver Class Cabin on board the Golden Eagle.

| With Flights | per person, twin share |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Economy Class | \$33,100 |
| Business Class | \$39,900 |
| First Class | \$45,400 |

Fares are in Australian dollars and include Emirates Airlines flights from Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. Prices from other cities available on request.

| Land Only | per person, twin share |
|-----------|------------------------|
| | \$31,000 |

Guests join the tour in Moscow for dinner on Day 2 and depart Tehran after breakfast on Day 21.

| Rail Upgrades | add per person, twin share |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Gold Class Cabin | |
| Solo Supplements | add per person |
| Silver Class Cabin | \$13,500 |

Includes supplements for single hotel rooms. Solo availability at the above prices are limited.

Learn more about your luxurious train on page 131.

This journey is reserved for a group of just 24 guests.





Captain's Choice Asia, Africa & the Middle East

ANCIENT & BOLY LANDS





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PETRA THE DEAD SEA JERUSALEM THE SEA OF GALILEE TEL AVIV LARNACA PAPHOS LIMASSOL





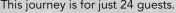
Captain's Choice Asia, Africa & the Middle East

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOURNEY

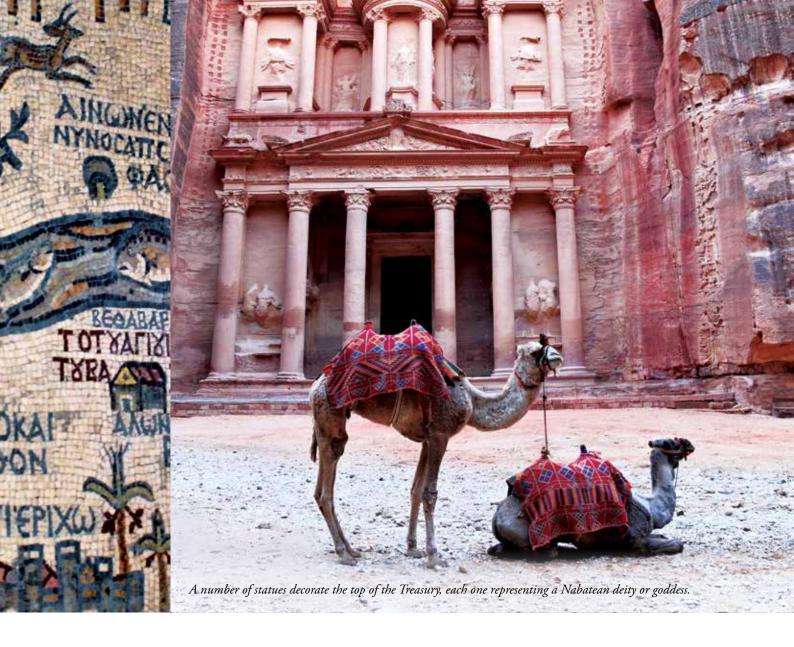
ANCIENT & HOLY LANDS

21 Days - 11 October to 31 October 2018

This is where ancient history is brought to life. Shimmering Mediterranean waters lap the shores of city streets and whispers of fact and fiction beckon us. Ships of the desert journey through a wonderland of crimson dust, and cities echo with the call to prayer. This is a land where civilisations were formed and holy scriptures were written. Where powerful convictions will humble today's visitors. This journey is for just 24 guests.







DEPART AUSTRALIA

Day 1 – Thursday 11 October

Bound for desert sands and a delectably aromatic breeze, we begin our ancient and holy journey. Readying ourselves for tomorrow's arrival, imagine the intoxicating cities that eagerly await discovery.

ARRIVE AMMAN, PETRA (JORDAN)

Day 2 – Friday 12 October

As our feet touch down on Middle Eastern lands, we're whisked away to the Lost City. Once home to some 30,000 people, the golden sands of Petra were left without footprints for more than 600 years. It wasn't until 1812 that a chance meeting with Swiss explorer Jean Louis Burckhardt reintroduced Petra to the world. Cherish two nights at the luxurious Movenpick Resort Petra, where the magnificent metropolis lies just moments away. This evening, a Welcome Dinner gives us the opportunity to meet our fellow travellers.

PETRA

Day 3 – Saturday 13 October

As if created by a bolt of lightening, the Siq's dramatic walls provoke anticipation and summon an intrepid spirit. Mere footsteps away, the Treasury, Petra's most famous facade, awaits. Gaze upon elegant remains of antiquity, and cast your mind back to the days when hustle and bustle was the norm.

Further within these ancient walls, see the Street of Facades, Royal Tombs, Pharaoh's Castle and the incredible Monastery. Sitting atop 800 steps, the climb to Petra's largest rock-cut structure is not for the faint hearted, but is undoubtedly worth the effort. Its name may perplex because it was built in the third century BC as a tomb and was later used as a temple. Crosses etched into the internal walls reveal that the Byzantines used it as a church in later years.

Whether explored by horseback or foot, this spectacular carved city will soak into your memory.



WADI RUM, JORDAN VALLEY

Day 4 – Sunday 14 October

On a fascinating Jeep expedition, see incredible carvings of human figures holding bows and arrows and an array of Nabatean rock inscriptions. Working up an appetite not only for discovery, we enjoy lunch at a desert camp.

The Kempinski Hotel Ishtar in the Jordan Valley awaits for a two-night stay. Set on the banks of the Dead Sea, we're afforded private access to the hallowed waters.

JERASH, MADABA

Day 5 - Monday 15 October

Before we find ourselves astounded with an array of options for dinner, choose a Your World experience.

- ★ Explore the ancient Roman remains of Jerash.
- ★ See the striking 6th-century mosaics of Madaba and pay a visit to Mt Nebo.

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The Nabataean people not only carved the magnificent buildings, temples and tombs of Petra, they also developed a brilliant canal, dam and reservoir system by collecting and preserving stores of water. This ability to harbour water allowed Petra to become a hub for travelling merchants as it provided a desert oasis along their travels.



JERUSALEM (ISRAEL)

Day 6 - Tuesday 16 October

Like a fine red wine, our next destination is complex, full of character and aged to perfection. Eyes on pilgrim lands and ancient treasures, we make tracks along the King Hussein Bridge to Israel.

We are introduced to the capital with a visit to the City of David, where one of the site's chief archaeologists exclusively details to us the story of Jerusalem. We enjoy five nights at the iconic King David Hotel – a lodging nearly 100 years old and crafted from beautiful pink quartz.

JERUSALEM

Day 7 - Wednesday 17 October

Our day begins with a visit to Judaism's most holy site, the Temple Mount. With a tumultuous history, the area remains controversial to this day and is carved between Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths. Jews have claimed the Western Wall, also known as the Wailing Wall – a title bestowed on it by foreign observers when they heard the despairing sounds of Jewish prayer. Returning to our hotel, we stop at Mt Zion and the room of the Last Supper.

JERUSALEM

Day 8 - Thursday 18 October

Stepping lightly on hallowed ground where gnarled branches bear bitter fruits, we visit the Garden of Gethsemane near the foot of the Mount of Olives, known as a place where Jesus frequented with his disciples. Later this morning, enter the walled Old City of Jerusalem before travelling along the Via Dolorosa, also known as the Way of Sorrows. Upon arrival we visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Garden Tomb.

Presented with a biblical menu at Eucalyptus restaurant, we savour traditional Israeli flavours with a twist, specially prepared by world-class local chefs. Walking off the banquet, we make our way to a sound and light show that spectacularly demonstrates the history of Jerusalem.



MASADA

Day 9 – Friday 19 October

After a free morning, we travel to the Great Rift Valley – a trench so monumental astronauts say it is one of the most significant physical details on the planet. Later, we ride a cable car to the desert fortress of Masada. As dusk falls on another day, we enjoy dinner with a perfect view overlooking the Dead Sea. Raise a glass (why not two?) to the shimmering lights of Jordan.

JERUSALEM, BETHLEHEM

Day 10 – Saturday 20 October

Today we prepare for a sobering reminder of Israel's more recent past with visits to the main museum, the Avenue of the Righteous and the Children's Memorial at Yad Vashem. Taking a step further back in time at the Israel Museum, we discover a range of archaeological finds including the enigmatic Dead Sea Scrolls. After lunch, we venture to Bethlehem.

Become immersed in the history and spirituality as we explore the sites of Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity, as well as the monasteries of the Shepherds' Fields.

BETH SHEAN, NAZARETH, ROSH PINA, SEA OF GALILEE

Day 11 - Sunday 21 October

Conquered by Egyptians, claimed by Romans and captured by Arabs – Beth Shean has quite a story. Together we walk the path of pharaohs, kings and caliphs, uncovering the remnants of this ancient city. Later, Israel's Middle Eastern charm is on display in its largest Arab city, Nazareth. While here, perhaps take the opportunity to submerge yourself in the Jordan River at Yardenit, where it is believed that Jesus was baptised.

St Peter's fish, caught fresh from the Sea of Galilee, tantalises our palates this afternoon at an exquisite lunch affair. Continue directly to the source as we sail upon the famous sea before ascending the Galilee Mountains en route to Rosh Pina where we stay at the Mizpe Hayamim.





GOLAN HEIGHTS

Day 12 - Monday 22 October

A panorama of history is unveiled today on our ascent to Israel's mountainous region. Take in vistas of Tabgha, Capernau and the Mount of Beatitudes, where it is said that Jesus delivered his most famous teachings, the Sermon on the Mount.

As we approach the plateau of the Golan Heights, its magnificence is swiftly revealed. Born from volcanic eruptions millions of years ago, it has since become an essential source of desert water, and today provides a third of Israel's supply.

Journeying east and the woodlands of Banias Nature Reserve are soon before us. Winding along picturesque pathways, we discover falls, springs and ancient ruins, before climbing the volcanic cone of Mt Bental for breathtaking views.

ROSH PINA, TEL AVIV

Day 13 – Tuesday 23 October

Leaving the past in the past, ancient worlds make wayfor a modern metropolis. With Tel Aviv in our sights, we deviate to the deep blue waters of the Mediterranean Coast. Here, a cable car ride takes us past the beautiful grottos and caves within the sheer white cliff face of Rosh Hanikra.

As sunlight dissolves into the sea, our journey continues along the coast to the ancient city of Akko and the Bahai Gardens in Haifa. Perfectly groomed flowerbeds and hedges pepper our gravel path. Perhaps make your way the golden-domed Shrine of the Báb. Lunch is served at Daliat El Carmel before a tour of ancient Caesarea, the Roman capital of Israel.

Later, an Israeli archaeologist shares insight into the Holy Land before we admire the Latin American art of the Ralli Museum and then arrive in Tel Aviv. Tonight we enjoy an authentic sampling dinner at Market Kitchen before retiring for the evening at the Hilton Tel Aviv.

TEL AVIV

Day 14 – Wednesday 24 October

Bathed in Mediterannean sunshine, hummus-infused aromas linger in the air, and Bauhaus-era buildings paint the city ivory. Tel Aviv is a vibrant metropolis that is quick to charm.

Today we explore Israel's second-largest city with a visit to Independence Hall and the Palmach Museum to uncover the nation's intriguing history. Under the careful eye of head chef Jonathan Roshfeld, Herbert Samuel serves a sensory feast this evening. We dine on regional fusion dishes that you won't find anywhere else in the world.

TEL AVIV, LIMASSOL (CYPRUS)

Day 15 - Thursday 25 October

With a new morning comes a new country and of course, new adventures. We bid farewell to Israel and fly to an island split in two – imbued as it is with Greek and Turkish influences. Touching down in Larnaca, we transfer to Cyprus' lively city of Limassol and the independently owned Four Seasons Hotel. Over the coming five nights, this residence will serve as the perfect base for discovery.

NICOSIA, KYRENIA

Day 16 - Friday 26 October

This morning we are at liberty to explore the island's capital of Nicosia before travelling further north.

Divided since Turkish forces invaded the north in 1974, a green line still exists as a border between the north and south. We consider ourselves lucky to cross over to the harbour town of Kyrenia en route to the beautiful 12th-century Bellapais Abbey. Nestled at the foot of the Besparmak mountains, this monastic masterpiece will charm you with Italian frescos and coastline views.

LARNACA, FAMAGUSTA

Day 17 – Saturday 27 October

Awake this morning for a leisurely stroll along the palmlined promenade of Larnaca to the Byzantine Church of St Lazarus. Of course, if you would rather remain nestled in bed with a steaming mug of tea, you're more than welcome to do so.

Today's exploits take us to the seaside town of Famagusta. Here, we learn about the 12th-century Kingdom of Salamis while wandering amid crumbling colonnades, marble baths and elaborate mosaics in what remains of Cyprus' most important pre-Christian city. Heading back to our hotel, we pass by the heavily guarded Ghost City of Varosha. Abandoned by man and reclaimed by nature, Varosha stands as an eerie reminder of Cyprus' past.

PAPHOS

Day 18 – Sunday 28 October

Our daily discovery begins in Paphos, believed to be the birthplace of Aphrodite. The Roman mosaics found within the city's House of Dionysus are truly remarkable – depictions of panther-drawn chariots and eagles carrying the weight of the moon decorate our vision.

Travelling onwards to the St Neophytos Monastery and Tomb of the Kings, distinguished cultural masterpieces await. We also touch on Paphos' harbour area, dotted with tiny freckles of fishing boats, before returning to Limassol this evening.



LIMASSOL

Day 19 – Monday 29 October

Nurturing a sense of discovery, we delve into the intricacies of Limassol during our final full day. Explore the old market and medieval castle where, according to history, Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre before crowning her the Queen of England in 1191. We continue to the ancient site of Kourion and visit the theatre and House of Eustolious, with the opportunity to walk to clifftop view ruins if the mood should strike you.

At the Omodhos village, as rich in culture and history as it is in views, we visit the Monastery of the Holy Cross where, over the centuries, eclectic trinkets have made their way for safekeeping. Among these treasures, the skull of Apostle Philip and the remains of 26 saints are said to reside.

LIMASSOL, DEPART LARNACA

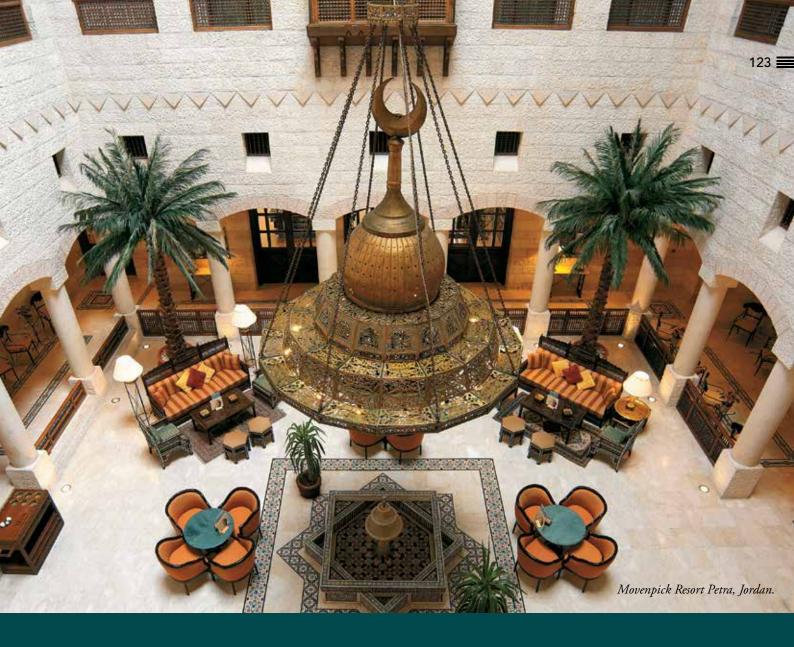
Day 20 - Tuesday 30 October

After weeks of immersion into some of the world's most enchanting cultures, you deserve a quiet moment of reflection to yourself. Bathe in the sunshine of Limassol on one of the city's many beautiful beaches or enjoy the morning among the fine amenities of our hotel. Later, we will transfer to Larnaca International Airport for our flight back to Australia via Dubai.

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Day 21 – Wednesday 31 October

We arrive home today with new world insights, knowledge and experiences rarely had by others.



MOVENPICK RESORT PETRA

Moments away from the entrance of Petra, the Movenpick Resort Petra offers elegant Middle Eastern style through its use of natural stone and handcrafted wood. Lay your head down as night falls, knowing that just in the distance, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World awaits.

KEMPINSKI HOTEL ISHTAR DEAD SEA

The Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea welcomes you to the lowest place on earth. Each room is but a stones throw away from the vast salty waters of the Dead Sea. And with private access from the hotel, you can take a dip in the buoyant waters away from the crowds.

MIZPE HAYAMIM, ROSH PINA

Looking out to the Golan Heights and the Sea of Galilee, the Mizpe Hayamim offers a tranquil escape. Surrounded by forests and majestic gardens, as well as an organic farm, orchards and flowing streams, it's an ideal place to sit amid the pristine nature and absorb the serenity.

JOURNEY FARES

21 Days - Ancient & Holy Lands

| With Flights | per person, twin share |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Economy Class | \$23,500 |
| Business Class | \$31,300 |
| First Class | \$35,800 |

Fares are in Australian dollars and include Emirates flights from Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. Prices from other cities available on request. All regional flights are in Economy Class with strict luggage restrictions.

| Land Only | per person, twin share |
|-----------|------------------------|
| | \$21,300 |

Join in Petra on Day 2 and depart Limassol on Day 20.

| Solo Supplement | add per person |
|-----------------|----------------|
| | \$6.200 |

Includes supplements for single hotel rooms. Solo availability at the above price is limited.

This journey is reserved for a group of just 24 guests.

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Captain's Choice Journeys saved for a select few

MODES OF TRAVEL AS DISTINCT AS THEIR DESTINATIONS

How we travel is an integral part of any great journey. It doesn't matter whether it's by road, rail, water or air, with Captain's Choice, you'll know that each mode of travel has been carefully chosen for historical and cultural significance, along with an unsurpassed attention to the finer details of adventure. We're always testing the wheels, pinching the leather and sampling the views – handpicking only the most regal entrance into each region.







SANCTUARY ANANDA

Burma & the Gorges of the Bhamo

Cruise the northern reaches of the Upper Irrawaddy River and, over 12 days, discover Myanmar's closely guarded secrets. Amid warmly lit lanterns and an elegantly styled interior, no more than 36 travellers will join this privately charted cruise, which is exclusive to Captain's Choice guests. Savour meals prepared by some of the finest chefs in Myanmar and touch on the curious local customs of the country's far north – a region rarely visited by even the most intrepid travellers.



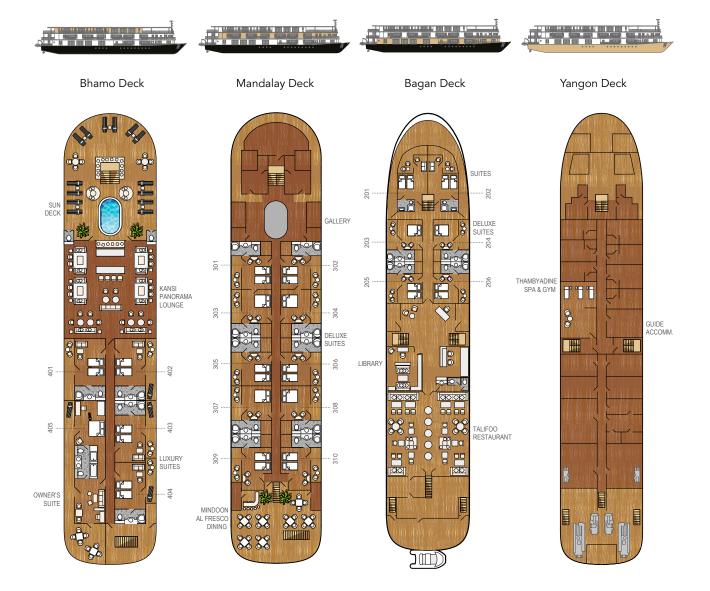
Deluxe Suite

Privacy, whether it be in a personal living area or outside on your suite's spacious balcony, is a true value on board. Showcasing original Burmese design, each suite is fitted with silks and polished teak to celebrate the country's rich connection to the arts.



Luxury Suite

Superior in size to the Deluxe Suite by over 13 square feet, Luxury Suites are large enough to accommodate an expansive indoor seating area. And, of course, with only four of these suites available, there is even further attention paid to your personal preferences, including early morning tea and coffee delivered directly to your door, and complimentary laundry services.



Onboard Oasis

'Ananda', meaning the highest state of happiness in local dialect, is an appropriate title for a ship that offers such refined relaxation and spa services. Take a moment to unwind in the onboard spa, delving into the art of tranquillity and meditation through the throng of traditional therapies and treatments that are available.

Dining

Sourcing local ingredients during our daily market visits, onboard chefs craft a menu that praises the country's iconic flavours. With a fusion of fragrant lemongrass and sweet chilli, meals blend the finest aspects of Chinese, Thai and Indian cuisines, whether you're dining al fresco or in the ship's Talifao restaurant.







MV MAHABAAHU

Remote North East India & Bhutan

While at first glance this vessel may appear a little plain, inside she is sure to surprise. Personally tried and tested by the founder and director of Captain's Choice, Phil Asker, the MV Mahabaahu offers the foremost comfort, services and dining available. During your time on board, enjoy expansive views for seven nights as you drift along the blissful Brahmaputra River, keeping your eyes peeled for single-horned rhinos, elephants, wild buffaloes and tigers.





Superior Cabins & Suites

All cabins are donned with Assamese decor and silk. Superior Cabins offer an ensuite and panoramic glass windows, nine of which lead to a private balcony. For true indulgence, the MV Mahabaahu's Superior Suites measure at over 280 square feet, a substantial 80 square feet more than Superior Cabins.

Amenities & Public Spaces

Enjoy traditional cooking demonstrations on board, and relish striking views from the Sun Deck bar with an elaborate cocktail in hand. With a high guest to public space ratio, cruising on board the MV Mahabaahu is akin to relaxing in a fine hotel.



MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS

Rajasthan & the Maharajas' Express

Modelled after the stately splendour of India's great rulers, the Maharajas' Express has redefined the art of rail travel. Over the course of a six-night journey, you'll live among regal surrounds just as the Maharajas once did. During the era of Raj, many Maharajas possessed a personal carriage for important occasions. Inspired by this unashamed opulence, the carriages of the Maharajas' Express, each named after a precious gem stone, perfectly fuse rich rail heritage with new-age luxuries.

Deluxe Cabins & Suites

The Deluxe Suite, offering double or twin beds, is also equipped with a personal safe and television. Junior Suites and Suites are spacious enough to also accommodate a writing desk, while the grand Presidential Suite features a separate living area and two bedrooms. Each guest carriage is serviced by a personal butler.

Mayur Mahal Restaurant

This fine dining carriage boasts cuisine fit for the highest of India's nobility. Tender meats and saffron rice soaked up with a piece of warm naan – these are the true tastes of India. Of course, if you need a hand easing in to the exotic flavours, the onboard chefs are always pleased to offer a western alternative.







ROVOS RAIL

Epic Wildlife of Namibia & Beyond

On a six-night discovery across Namibia and South Africa, watch a mesmerising panorama unfold through the expansive windows of the Pride of Africa. Relaxing in the wood-paneled Lounge Cars, celebrate the opulence of yesteryear as we travel across untamed savannahs and desert lands. The dining cars, lounges and private suites each reflect the glamour of the golden age of travel, and have been fastidiously maintained to the standards you would expect when travelling with Captain's Choice.



Deluxe Suites

Rovos Rail's Deluxe Suites feature either twin or double beds and boast both a sitting area and private ensuite bathroom. While on board, you'll enjoy the train's original fittings and ambient wood panels.



Lounge Cars

With their plush leather sofas and wingback chairs, the two onboard Lounge Cars allow for opulent relaxation. Sit back and slide open a window – the earthy smells and sounds of Africa roll alongside steel wheels.



GOLDEN EAGLE

Following Tracks of the Silk Road & Persia

Following a route rarely travelled, embark on a 15-day discovery from Moscow to Tehran, tracing one of ancient civilisation's most important trading routes, the Silk Road. In our cosy yet lavish rolling home, become a part of the ever-changing landscapes that glide past our windows – after all, the finest hotels don't simply offer a stunning view; they offer hundreds. In the Bar Lounge Car, amid red velvet couches and handcrafted mouldings, sample distinctive vodkas as this unseen world is revealed.

Cabins & Suites

Silver and Gold Class cabins on board the Golden Eagle provide a picture window, private ensuite and air conditioning, with the extra 17 square feet of the Gold Class Cabin an obvious benefit. The Imperial Suite boasts a king-size bed, two large picture windows and included laundry service.

Bar Lounge Car & Restaurant Car

Providing the perfect respite from a day of discovery, the Bar Lounge Car will serve an array of cultural activities including Russian language lessons and history lectures hosted by expert speakers. Meanwhile the Restaurant Car serves dishes inspired by the different countries we visit.





Captain's Choice Journeys saved for a select few

TAKE A LITTLE GIVE A LOT

The more of the world we see, the more we meet those who deserve support for the community projects they lead. By hiring local guides in each destination, we ensure that what you spend is directly funnelled back into the community. And by working with Rotary International, we are able to help projects most in need. Together with donations from travellers like you, we have given over \$3 million to health, hunger, humanity and educational projects including Hogar San José Orphanage in Peru, Ethiopia's Hamlin Fistula Hospital, The Foundation of Goodness in Sri Lanka and building numerous schools and classrooms across Cambodia, Madagascar, Tanzania and Kenya. If you'd like to help, please speak to one of your World Hosts on your journey.











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