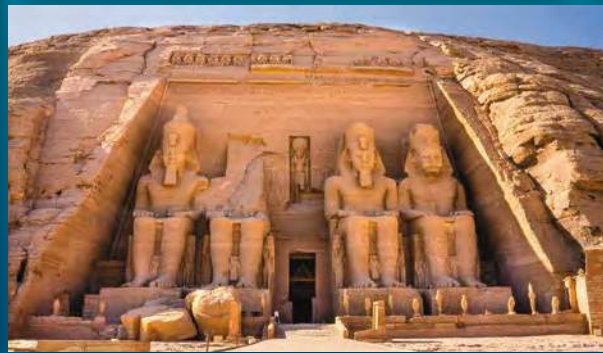


SMALL GROUP TOURS

AROUND THE GLOBE 2025-2026



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

bluedottravel.com.au

WELCOME

TO BLUE DOT TRAVEL

Travel is more than just moving from one place to another; it is an opportunity to explore this vast planet, connect with its people and marvel at its beauty. That's why we are committed to crafting journeys that are unique and thoughtfully designed.

In the pages of this brochure, you'll find a snapshot of the countries and itineraries that have inspired us for 2026. As always, we're excited to bring you our new tours to the most up-and-coming travel locations as well as some of our trusted favourites.

Without a doubt, it's the people who bring a destination to life, and we continue to foster our network of passionate travellers – our excellent local guides and Australian tour leaders, our in-country experts and dynamic team here in Sydney – and, of course, our like-minded loyal travellers. Thank you to all of you who are a part of this!

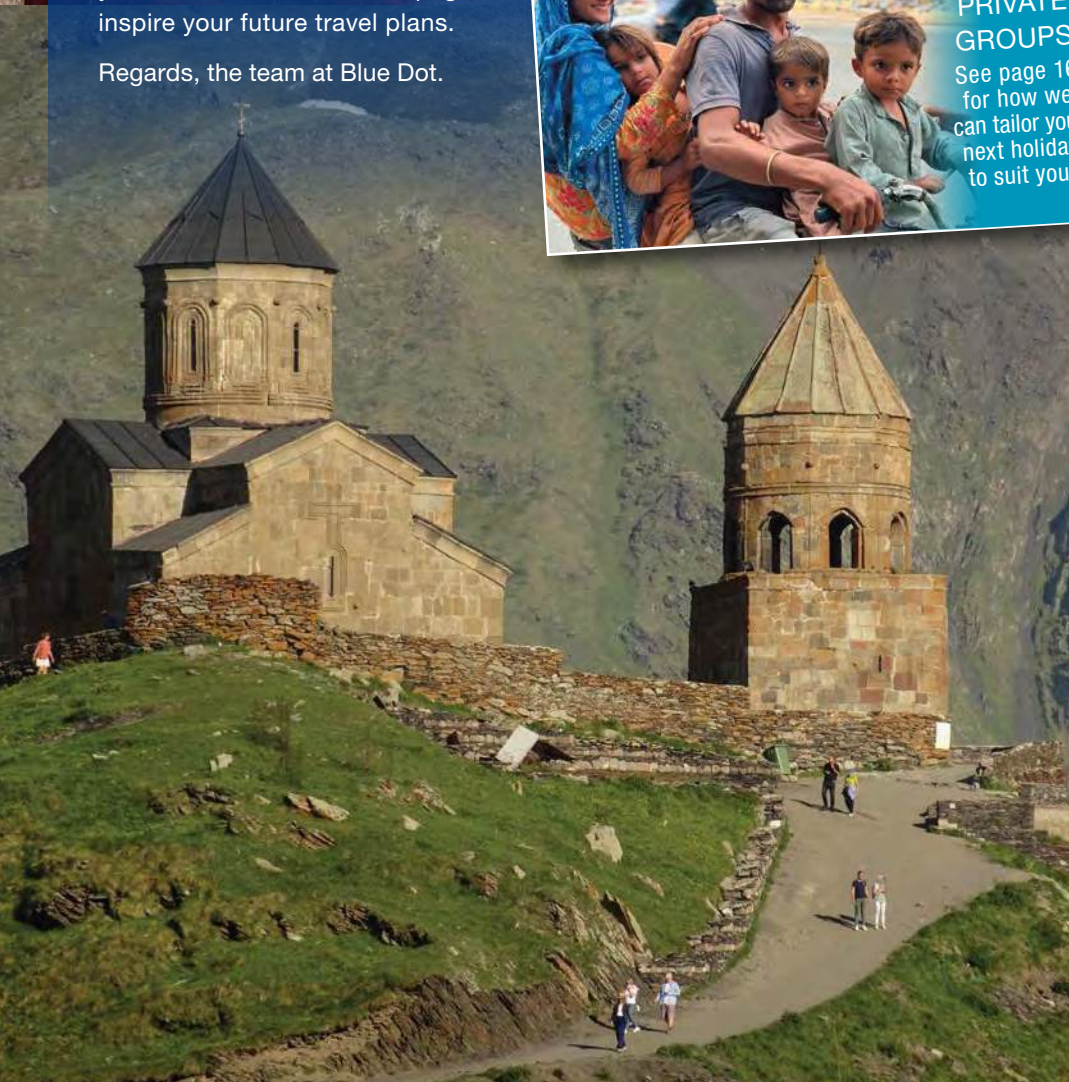
So settle down with a cuppa and your calendar, and let these pages inspire your future travel plans.

Regards, the team at Blue Dot.



FAMILY TOURS & PRIVATE GROUPS

See page 16 for how we can tailor your next holiday to suit you.



WHY TRAVEL WITH BLUE DOT?

- Our small-group format provides a more personal experience with customer numbers from 6 to 16, depending on the destination. The majority of our tours have an average of around 12 travellers.
- We avoid mainstream destinations. Rather, we prefer to explore lesser-travelled places and regions where the cultural experience is far more rewarding and where crowds are fewer.
- Blue Dot caters to mature-age travellers. We understand their needs & interests, as we ourselves fall into this category.
- Over two thirds of our customers have taken multiple tours with us. Plus, we have a very high level of referrals for which we are most grateful. This gives us immense satisfaction.
- 14 years of experience provides a vast network of local ground operators and excellent guides.
- An Australian tour leader travels with the group when we have 10 or more booked on any given tour. They will look after you and act as a go-between between travellers and in-country guides to maximise your comfort and well-being.
- When all inclusions are considered, we represent good old-fashioned value for money. We are very proud of the fact that over 95 per cent of our travellers rate us as “good” or “very good” for overall value.
- Tipping is included on all international small-group tours.
- Let us book your international flights with the group – or book them yourself – your call.

WANT A PRIVATE GROUP TOUR?

Talk to us about one of the 70 itineraries we offer for your family, friends and special milestones.

“Morocco in Detail was my first Blue Dot experience (and it definitely won't my last). I feel absolutely compelled to shout out my praise for the overall excellence of this company. Blue Dot is attention to detail, perfection all the way-based tour operator. Outstanding!” ADELLE, VICTORIA



RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Tourism is one of the most important and largest industries on the planet. It employs more people worldwide than any other, with millions of local families relying on tourism for their daily needs. As tourism becomes a truly global industry, we recognise our obligation to operate our tours responsibly and sustainably. We view this not only as an environmental issue but also as an economic and social one. Above all, we are committed to the well-being of the communities and the natural environment we are there to experience. We also believe that by following these policies, we can provide a more rewarding and interesting experience to you, our customers.



KEY TO OUR PHILOSOPHY:

- Our small groups have less impact on the local communities and the environments that we visit.
- Where possible, we believe in putting money directly into the communities that we visit by using locally owned and run accommodation and eating locally produced food.
- Our preference is to use locally owned partners in our destinations and utilise local guides and drivers.
- We endeavour to ensure that our practices help in the environmental conservation of the areas we visit.
- We review our itineraries to ensure that our included activities do not have a negative impact on animal welfare.
- We encourage our travellers to purchase from local suppliers and support social enterprises, local trade, arts and crafts.
- We advise our clients on how to respect the social, cultural and religious beliefs of local communities.



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

AT A GLANCE

OUR PLANNED TOURS



2025 Tours – July to December	Departs
Mongolia In-Depth with Naadam Festival, 23 days	JUL
Madagascar In Detail, 24 days	JUL
The Caucasus – Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia, 27 days	AUG
Corsica & Sardinia plus Malta Add-on, 26 days	SEP
The Balkan countries, 25 days	SEP
Sicily & the Aeolian Isles, 22 days	SEP
Brazil's Best (Pre-tour for Galapagos Islands), 13 days	NOV
Galapagos Expedition Cruise (Lindblad National Geographic), 10 days	NOV
Nagaland & India's Hornbill Festival, 20 days	NOV

2025

2026 Tours – January to December	Departs
Ethiopia with Timkat Festival, 25 days	JAN
Spectacular Sri Lanka, 15 days	FEB
The Big Cats of India, 19 days	FEB
The 5 Stans of Central Asia, 29 days	APR
Ancient Wonders of The Nile – Luxury River Cruise, 14 days	APR
Türkiye – A Cultural Gem, 17 days (4 day Istanbul Add-on)	APR
South Korea & Taiwan, 24 days	APR
Corsica & Sardinia, 20 days (plus Malta Add-on)	MAY
The Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia, 27 days	MAY
Iceland In-Depth, 12 days	JUN
Svalbard and the High Arctic with Quark Expeditions, 11 days	JUN
Stunning Scandinavia: Lapland, Finland, Sweden & Norway, 18 days	JUN
Uganda In-Depth, 16 days	JUL
Across the Nullarbor – WA to SA, 14 days	JUL
The Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia, 27 days	SEP
Corsica & Sardinia, 20 days (plus Malta Add-on)	SEP
Zambia, Malawi (plus Serengeti Add-on)	SEP
Pakistan & Northern India – Foothills of the Himalayas, 24 days	OCT
Japan in the Autumn, 21 days	OCT
Oman & Saudi Arabia, 17 days	NOV
Mexico & Cuba, 18 days	NOV

2026



We're always happy to hear your ideas for potential tours. We owe thanks to some of our regular travellers for some excellent tour ideas!



Please note that all tours are subject to change. Visit our website for the latest, detailed itineraries. Please refer to our terms and conditions before making a decision to travel.

ETHIOPIA

DEPARTS
JAN 2026

for the Timkat Festival



25 DAYS With its fabulous 3,000-year history, diverse peoples, vibrant culture, varied

wildlife and fauna, and magnificent scenery embracing every landform from high mountain plateaus to parched deserts, Ethiopia is a destination without peer. Add to this one of the finest climates in Africa ("thirteen months of sunshine!") and you have so many reasons to visit this incredible country.

Located in the northeast Horn of Africa, Ethiopia is the oldest nation in Africa. A country with one of the richest histories on the African continent, Ethiopia has extraordinary archaeological sites. In the North of the country are the seventeenth-century castles and the Imperial Compound of Gondar, the monasteries of Lake Tana and the thirteenth-century monolithic rock-hewn churches of King Lalibela in the Wollo Region – the Eighth Wonder of the World. In the East, the 1000-year-old city of Harar, with its 99 Mosques, is the fourth holiest city in Islam, after Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem.



Ethiopia is one of the largest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, covering over one million square kilometres. It has a variety of scenery, from the peaks of the Simien Mountains in the north to the deep Dalol depression in the west. The landscape is dominated by a volcanically formed central plateau, referred to as the Ethiopian Highlands, with an average altitude of 2,000 metres, including twenty peaks of 4,000 metres or higher. These Highlands form the source of four major river systems, the best known being the Blue Nile, which rises in Lake Tana in the northwest.

No trip to Ethiopia is complete without witnessing the remarkable Timkat ceremonies, celebrating the Baptism of Jesus. The colours are nothing short of spectacular, and it ranks as one of the world's greatest street festivals.



THE 5 STANS of Central Asia

DEPARTS
APR 2026

29 DAYS Central Asia, or "The Stans" as the region is known to we Westerners, is a vast land-locked region of Asia, ideal for travellers who want to experience one of the world's last great frontier lands. In Stalin's time, the area was known as Turkestan. Soon after Independence, these former Soviet Central Asian Republics, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan were defined as Central Asia. The Silk Road gave rise to unprecedented trade. Its brilliance and unique place in human history resulted from the interchange of ideas, innovations and philosophies amongst the very different peoples that used it. Our travels will encompass many historic places and other "story-book" destinations.



Wonderful monuments, some restored, some not; museums full of ancient artifacts; colourful bazaars, all combined with stunning landscapes, make this a memorable experience.

Uzbekistan has three standout historical places of interest – Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. All three are very special in their own way, and no trip to Uzbekistan is complete without seeing their mosques, colourful markets and city squares.

Turkmenistan is a wonderful mix of old and new. The ancient ruins of Merv & Nisa contrast the glistening streets of the ultra-modern capital Ashgabat.

The countryside of **Kyrgyzstan** is like a postcard at every turn. Snowcapped mountains with bright green fields in the foreground, yurts dotting the countryside, lakes, rivers and picturesque townships.

Kazakhstan is the world's ninth-biggest country and the most developed in the region. The capital, Almaty, retains a distinctly Russian feel and is a wonderful city to stroll and explore.

Tajikistan sits at the "roof of the world", high in the Pamir Mountain range. Its fascinating historical landscape is shaped by various civilisations that have left their mark, including Greek, Buddhist, Hindu, Zoroastrian and Islamic. With pockets of our itinerary rarely visited by tourists, you'll find warm and interested local people all along the way. Prepare your camera and your curiosity for this fascinating journey through history.



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

THE BIG CATS of India

DEPARTS FEB 2026

19 DAYS For wildlife-lovers, nothing is as alluring as the big cats of India. This journey takes us deep inside India's western wilderness. The region is highly diverse, with unique landscapes that are primarily dry and arid, dominated by the Thar Desert. Along with the desert are enchanting dry deciduous forests, shrubland, vast savanna grasslands and endless salt pans.

A huge variety of wildlife live here, including three of the Big Cats – the Asiatic Lion, Bengal Tiger and Indian Leopard. Interestingly we also have the opportunity to see four kinds of canids on this trip – Indian Wolf, Striped Hyena, Bengal Fox and Jackal. Along with these predators are other mammals such as the Asiatic Wildass, blackbuck, spotted deer, sambhar deer and many more.

Western India is also an essential destination on the Central Asian flyway and thousands of migratory birds congregate in the water bodies, making it an absolute goldmine for birders. The arid salt pans are dotted with lakes that are breeding grounds for flamingos, cranes and pelicans. A number of raptors are found here, including harriers, vultures, falcons and eagles. On a lucky day, we may chance upon the highly endangered Great Indian Bustard, a bird endemic to the country. Add to this, wonderful food, accommodation and interaction with the locals – what's not to love?



"Our recent Big Cats tour to India was a wonderful experience. Not only superb views of rare and elusive species but also great local guides, scenery, food, accommodation, and history. Highly recommended – particularly for nature lovers"
JENNY, VIC



This tour may be combined with our **Sri Lanka Tour**



SPECTACULAR SRI LANKA

DEPARTS FEB 2026



This tour may be combined with our **Big Cats of India Tour**.



15 DAYS Sri Lanka is an island nation in the Indian Ocean, separated from India by the Palk Strait. A very lush, tropical island sitting just north of the equator it is "almost" linked to India by a mostly underwater atoll called Adam's Bridge. For over 2,000 years, the island was ruled by a monarchy, which only ceased in 1972 with the appointment of a president. Sri Lanka's population of around 22 million – similar to our own – is multi-ethnic with four main groups. The largest, Sinhalese (mostly Buddhist) is followed by Tamils (mostly Hindu), Moors (with Arab origins) and Burghers, a mixed group of Portuguese and Dutch origin who are mainly Christians. Generally speaking, it is a poor country, but tourism is helping to change that. Apart from the tourist industry, its core source of income comes from tea exportations, spices, rubber textiles and petroleum refining. About 30% of the island is covered by forest and about 10% of this is national park. There are so many reasons to visit

this country – there is much to see and do. Even though it is a relatively small country, each region is quite different. The indigenous and colonial history is fascinating. The food is wonderful. The scenery is spectacular. Plus, the abundance of wildlife – one of the draw-cards for travellers – will take you by surprise. Visiting the national parks, and sometimes in the wild, you may spot sambar deer, Sri Lankan elephants, leopards, sloth bears, crocodiles, water buffalo and hundreds of bird species.

It's no wonder that a few years back, Lonely Planet rated this wonderful country as the "hottest travel destination on the planet", and they didn't mean the weather!



ANCIENT WONDERS OF THE NILE

A Luxury River Cruise

DEPARTS
APR 2026

NEW TOUR



14 DAYS Despite sitting adjacent to two large bodies of water – the Red Sea and the Mediterranean – Egypt is almost entirely a desert environment with the exception of areas on the Nile – the world’s longest river.

Cairo, the country’s capital with a population of over 22 million, has a fascinating history and was originally settled in 973 CE by an Islamic sect called the Fatimids. Its name means “the triumphant city”. Of course, history pre-dates this with the famous pyramids being built between 4,000 and 5,000 years ago.

Egypt has numerous archaeological sites of major significance, including the Valley of Kings, which is the resting place of the kingdom’s pharaohs.

The Pyramids of Giza need little introduction. Sitting on the outskirts of Cairo they are burial grounds for generations of pharaohs. Abu Simbel is a historic site comprising two massive rock-cut temples renowned for their colossal statues and intricate carvings, relocated to avoid submersion by the Aswan High Dam. Luxor Temple is a large complex located on the east bank of the Nile River in the city today known as Luxor and was constructed approximately 1400 BCE. The list goes on!



The country is highly indigenous in that 98% of all people, around 110 million – are original Egyptians with the vast majority being Sunni Muslims and Arabic is the main language. In conjunction with our local operators, Blue Dot is offering a wonderful tour of this fascinating country comprising of a cruise on the luxury MS Darakum, with some quality land components. Over 12 days, you’ll experience the very best that the country has to offer.

MS Darakum is the only five-star super deluxe Nile cruise operating the long cruise program in Aswan and Cairo. It offers an unforgettable journey while cruising through 7,000 years of history. It features special Moroccan-inspired design with 3 sun deck levels, cabins with two colour themes and large panoramic windows. The Movenpick MS Darakum enjoys a private dock in Luxor. She has less than 50 spacious and uniquely designed cabins and suites, all with private bathrooms, air



conditioning, bathtub, mini bars, hair dryers, Smart TV with Marine Satellite, free internet WIFI and a water purification system.

Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

TÜRKIYE

A Cultural Gem

DEPARTS
APR 2026

NEW
TOUR

PLUS
4-NIGHT
ISTANBUL
ADD-ON



17 DAYS Mention Türkiye to anyone who has travelled there, and more often than not, you'll get a very positive response. Blue Dot's tour starts in Istanbul and travels in an enormous circle taking in the best that this country has to offer – from large cities to small fishing villages, ancient townships and stunning coastlines.

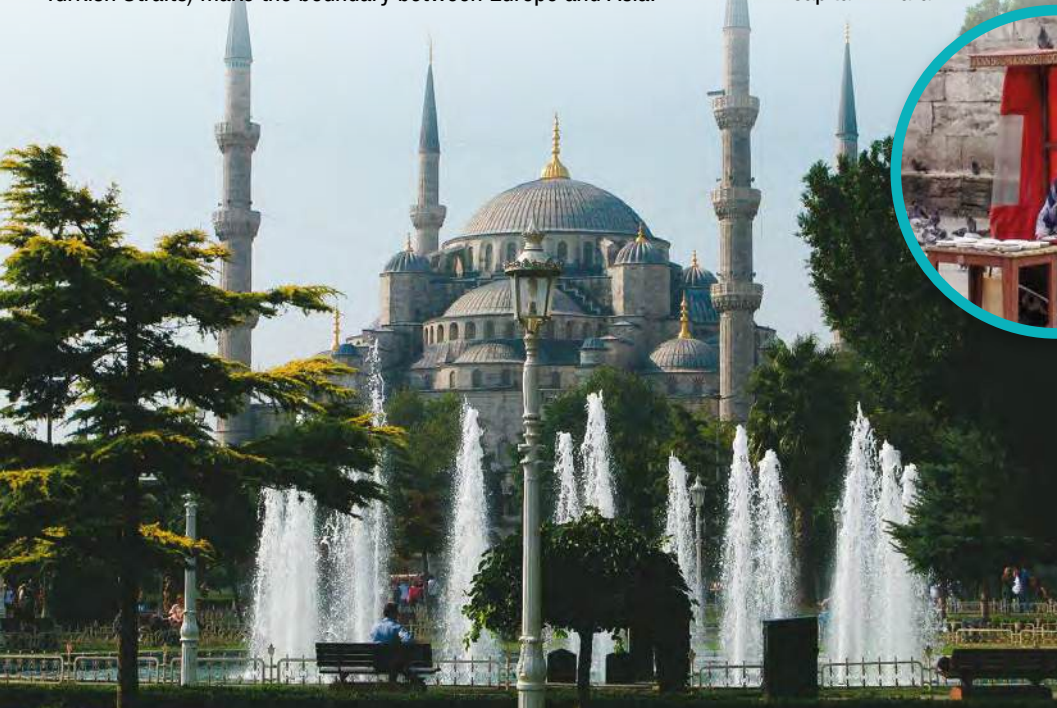
Türkiye has it all... history, unique culture, varied landscapes, architecture, food (with great tea and coffee) and a diverse group of friendly people. There is also a special kind of affinity between our two countries as a result of the history over the last 100 years and more.

Considered one of the most progressive countries in the region, Türkiye has a population of around 85 million. Its diversity is helped by the fact that eight countries border it. While most of the country is very cold in winter (especially the mountainous regions), summers can be very hot. Much of the population lives on or near the water. The Sea of Marmara, the famous Bosphorus and the Dardanelles (which together form the Turkish Straits) make the boundary between Europe and Asia.



Türkiye has a wonderful ancient cultural heritage. The Byzantine Empire was the Eastern Roman Empire of the Middle Ages (with no exact dates being identifiable). Today, we distinguish the Byzantines from the Romans via its Greek influence and Christianity. The country was once the centre of the Ottoman Empire (1299-1923), which, during its prime, covered three continents, including much of South Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Its capital, Constantinople (now Istanbul), was the centre of commerce and politics between the East and West for hundreds of years.

A young military officer named Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was involved in establishing the modern Republic of Türkiye. Although he died in 1938, he is very highly regarded across the country, even today, and you'll notice flags and posters bearing his image all over the country. Atatürk (meaning father of Turks) would be its first president. In short, he modernised Türkiye and helped it become the flourishing nation it is today. Even though the country is predominantly Muslim, Istanbul is a very modern city with a European flavour. On the streets, you'll see young people – men and women sipping coffee at the local cafe and shopping for Western brands. It has a population of around 12 million people, about three times that of Türkiye's capital Ankara.





DEPARTS
APR 2026

SOUTH KOREA & TAIWAN

24 DAYS For too long, South Korea and Taiwan have flown under the radar for travellers. At just 100,000 square km, **South Korea** is a small country that is easy to get around, and you can see a lot without spending long days on the road. Seoul is a very modern capital city with a population of around 10 million. While there is much to see and do in Seoul, you need to leave the capital to really see this wonderful country. Traditional villages, bustling modern cities, UNESCO-listed monasteries, lakes and waterfalls, coastal beauty and mountainous, lush countryside await. Rice paddies are evident on what appears to be every spare piece of flat land.

The subtropical island of **Taiwan** is also small, yet even with its population of 23 million, it doesn't feel crowded. Taiwan's indigenous tribes, of which there are ten officially recognised by today's government – are believed to have Polynesian ancestors, not Chinese. Having been ruled by the Dutch, Han Chinese and Japanese, Taiwan's culture is an interesting mix. Taipei, the modern, efficient capital, has wonderful food and café culture – if you like your dumplings, you've come to the right place! But there is so much more to offer in the way of food. Taiwan is known as the "Beautiful Isle"; towering sea cliffs, dramatic gorges, tropical forests and mountains are waiting to be discovered.

If you enjoy unique Asian culture, scenic views, friendly people, and exploring lesser visited places far away from the tourist crowds, this one may just be for you!



THE CAUCASUS

DEPARTS
MAY 2026
AND
SEP 2026

Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia



27 DAYS At the crossroads of Asia and Eastern Europe, between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, the Caucasus is a unique travel destination. Few tourists visit this fascinating region but those who do are struck by its beauty, culture and history.

Azerbaijan is a country boasting a history that dates back to prehistoric times and evidence of stone-age settlements. From the dynamic capital city of Baku to charming villages filled with stone buildings and cobblestone streets, to the ancient city Sheki, it is a country of contrasts. Azerbaijan was an important part of the Great Silk Route, and nowadays its economy is based on the abundance of oil and gas reserves. It is home to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed rock art site Gobustan and is the birthplace of the ancient Zoroastrian religion.

Georgia has an ancient culture and a unique alphabet found nowhere else in the world. Over the centuries all her neighbours have coveted over her land. Turks, Persians, Mongols, Arabia and the Russians have invaded and periodical civil war has also left its mark. But nowadays, it is a peaceful country becoming known for its quality wines and spectacular scenery. The capital, Tbilisi, has a modern European vibe, with cosy cafes, art galleries and theatres. Yet, leave the city and it may feel like travelling in medieval times, amongst palaces, castles, fortresses and rock-hewn villages. The UNESCO World Heritage-listed ancient capital Mtskheta sits at the confluence of the Aragvi River, and its 11th-century Svetitskhoveli Cathedral is where Christ's robe was buried.

Armenia is a very small country at less than half the size of our own Tasmania and with a population of less than 3 million. Once a part of the Soviet Union, independence was reclaimed in 1991. It is a very "indigenous" country with 98% of the population being and speaking Armenian. Tourism is growing as infrastructure and services improve. Like Georgia, the countryside is beautiful with the jewel being the alpine Lake Sevan at almost 2,000 metres above sea level – one of the largest freshwater alpine lakes in the world.



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

ICELAND In-Depth

DEPARTS JUN 2026

12 DAYS Discover the unparalleled beauty of Iceland – often dubbed the Land of Ice and Fire – a name that reflects the island’s dramatic natural landscapes shaped by ancient geothermal forces. Known for its volcanoes, glaciers, fjords, mountains, lava fields, waterfalls, and hot springs, Iceland is a land of extremes. The interior is a harsh, uninhabitable expanse of sand, mountains, and lava, but the coastal areas are a haven of breathtaking beauty.

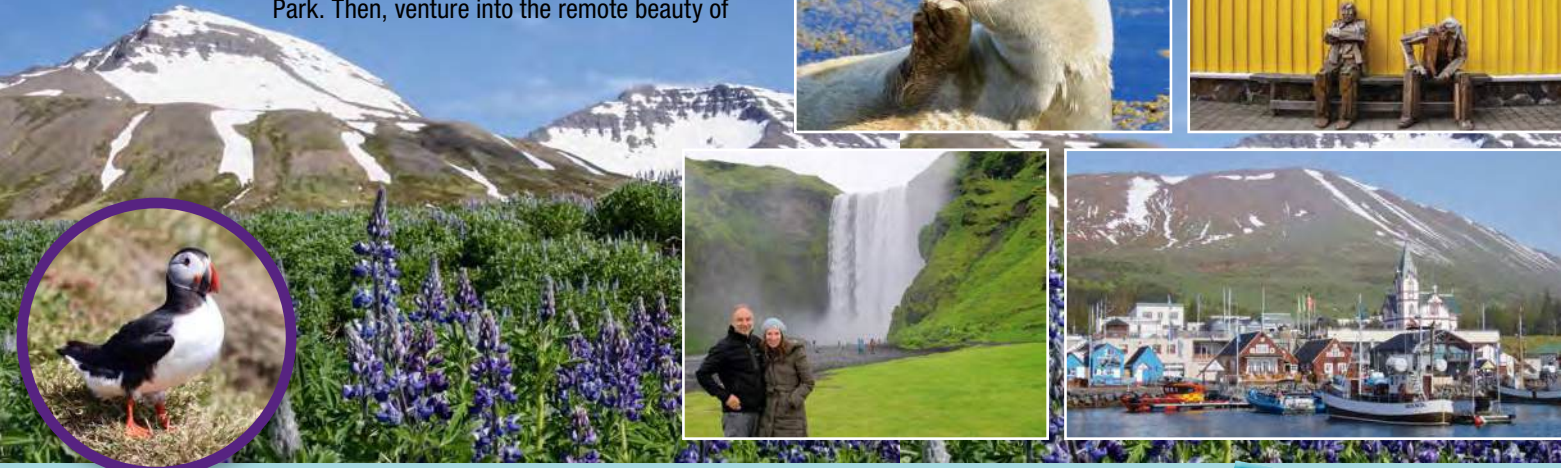
From its humble Nordic origins, Iceland has transformed into one of Europe’s foremost eco-paradises, home to the largest national park in the European Union, Vatnajökull.

We’ll guide you through all Iceland has to offer, on a land-based itinerary staying in character-filled local hotels in spectacular natural settings. Visit the well-known Icelandic sights; quirky Reykjavik, the nearby Blue Lagoon and the Golden Circle, which includes erupting geysers, the mighty Gullfoss waterfall, and the UNESCO-listed Þingvellir National Park. Then, venture into the remote beauty of

the Westfjords, a rugged and untouched region where jagged cliffs, dramatic fjords, and quaint fishing villages await. This area is perfect for those seeking solitude and adventure in one of the most unspoiled corners of Iceland.

Enjoy panoramic views of the wild landscapes and spot local wildlife such as seals, seabirds and whale watching in the Northern town of Akureyri. In the North-East, experience the volcanic landscapes that define much of Iceland’s geological identity. From black sand beaches to the smoking craters of active volcanoes, these dramatic terrains are perfect for adventurers seeking to witness nature’s raw power firsthand. Finally, visit East Fjords, a region less travelled but no less stunning, with its dramatic coastal scenery, picturesque fishing villages, and rugged mountains.

This tour offers the ultimate Icelandic experience, circumnavigating the island to showcase its varied natural wonders, wildlife encounters, and jaw-dropping landscapes.



SVALBARD & THE HIGH ARCTIC

with Quark Expeditions

DEPARTS JUN 2026
NEW TOUR

11 DAYS Enjoy the best of Svalbard, a world of endless daylight. A land where polar bear sightings will delight, guillemot cries echo from the sea cliffs, and beluga whales rise from the sea. Explore tundra adorned with wildflowers and search for arctic fox, or discover historic camps of explorers and hunters. Push through pack ice to find walrus and bearded seals, or simply enjoy the breathtakingly beautiful Norwegian fjords.

When you venture into the untouched wilds of the Arctic, you need a great team around you. The co-founders of Quark Expeditions took the first commercial travellers to the North Pole in 1991, the first-ever tourism transit of the Northeast Passage. That game-changing expedition put Quark Expeditions at the forefront of polar exploration, and now, over 30 years later, they remain the specialists in the Polar regions. Their expedition ships can take you to remote areas that large ships can’t reach, getting you off the beaten path and avoiding crowded shore landings. You’ll join

elite guides trained at Quark Academy and interact directly with world-class polar experts. These specialists create unforgettable Arctic experiences of a lifetime, generating goose-bump moments and connections with nature.

Quark’s newest ship, Ultramarine, is designed to go beyond the familiar and immerse you in the best the region has to offer. It offers the most spacious suites in its category, breathtaking public spaces, and more outdoor wildlife viewing spaces than other expedition ships its size. Its four embarkation points and sea-level Zodiac platforms make for efficient loading off the ship and opportunities for spontaneous off-ship adventures. Other unique features include a wrap-around viewing deck to take in the spectacular landscapes, spa and sauna with a view and the latest sustainability features.

We have partnered with Quark to bring you an exclusive package to the Arctic and our land-based tours to Iceland and Scandinavia run before & after the cruise.



STUNNING SCANDINAVIA

DEPARTS JUN 2026

NEW TOUR

Lapland, Finland, Sweden & Norway

18 DAYS Perched at the top of Europe, the Nordic nations of Finland, Sweden, and Norway are a quirky mix of cultures that live amidst some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world. These countries are known to be at the forefront of modern thinking, yet they hold fierce to their cultures and simple ways of life. Their remote location and sparse population make this trio an irresistible destination for travellers seeking tranquillity, tradition and the wild outdoors.

Finland is a country of contrasts, from vibrant and modern Helsinki to the serene wilderness above the Arctic Circle.

Long before the states drew borders to separate the Nordic countries, **Lapland** existed as a cultural and ethnic region. The Sámi call their territory "Sápmi" and have their own language, culture, and traditions. Today, it remains a united ancestral land covering four countries, and you'll explore the lakes, forests and local communities in Finland and Sweden.

Crossing into **Norway**, we would typically say, "Get your cameras ready," but the sheer beauty of nature here cannot be captured; it can only be experienced. From the colourful fishing villages of the Lofoten Islands, dwarfed by the towering granite peaks, to the achingly beautiful Geirangerfjord and Nærøfjord. Conventional roads are no match for this environment, and much of our travel is by boat and train, keeping us close to the scenery as it unfolds.

Steeped in history dating back to the 11th Century, the coastal cities of Trondheim, Bergen and Oslo are all fascinating in their own right. To add the final dust of magic to this enchanting region, you'll be travelling against the backdrop of the famed midnight sun. The surreal experience of a sunlit night means more time for exploring, and landscapes are cast in a continually changing glow. The atmosphere amongst locals is vibrant as they take advantage of the extra daylight, and it's contagious. Join us for an unforgettable journey where nature's beauty meets rich cultural heritage.



ACROSS THE NULLARBOR

DEPARTS JUL 2026

Western Australia to South Australia

14 DAYS Crossing the mighty Nullarbor is quite an experience. Vast, forbidding and raw, the land of 'no trees' is home to a plethora of limestone caves, soaring sea cliffs, and red sand desert interspersed with indigenous and pioneering history.

The Southwestern corner of Western Australia is a pocket of lush green forests, farmland, rivers and a rugged coastline contrasting the stark landscapes of the rest of the state. Fertile soils

provide foodies with the best fresh produce and world-class wineries, while its waters are rich with marine life. A fascinating colonial history weaves its way through the charming towns along our route, and this part of the itinerary has several fabulous scenic drives.

When we reach the west edge of South Australia, the landscape changes. The drive between Norseman in Western Australia and Ceduna on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula is around 13 hours,

a distance of 1,200 kilometres, so we'll have numerous stops along the way. We'll drive the world's longest straight bit of road, known as the 90 Mile Straight, 146.6km between Balladonia and Caiguna.

We are likely to meet a veritable host of characters. From the feral camels, kangaroos and wombats who call this desert home to the sunburnt holidaymakers, truckies, and adventure-seeking tourists on bikes, there'll be a smorgasbord of people watching on our journey. One thing is certain; we will surely be mesmerised by a thousand shimmering mirages. We'll also be able to watch whales and their calves frolic in the protected bays of the spectacular Great Australian Bight.



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

ZAMBIA & MALAWI

DEPARTS
SEP 2026

NEW
TOUR



16 DAYS Plus three-night luxury migration camp extension. **Zambia** is one of Southern Africa's lesser-travelled gems and is often referred to as the best-kept secret of Africa with its unspoilt national parks. While there are many national parks across the region, Zambia's offer a more raw experience than others. Once known as Northern Rhodesia, it offers visitors an authentic African experience complete with a variety of fascinating cultural activities and an abundance of indigenous wildlife. The South Luangwa National Park is one of the great places in Africa to experience the classic wildlife safari.

Dubbed the 'Warm Heart of Africa' for its good-natured charm, the tiny, landlocked country of **Malawi** in southeastern Africa is a famously hospitable little nation brimming with an abundance of culture for those few tourists who visit. Its exuberant landscape is a breathtaking natural kaleidoscope of verdant countryside, sweeping plateaux, soaring highlands, and river valleys. Game viewing at the reserves offer a chance to see crocodiles, lions, elephants, hippos and leopards. For the more culturally curious, browsing the many bustling markets, visiting traditional villages and digging into the treasure trove of the country's history will delight. This is an African itinerary, unlike the mainstream. You'll marvel at the wildlife and love the interaction with the locals.

Most adventurous travellers yearn to visit the famous **Serengeti** and witness the annual great migration of the wildebeest and Zebra. As an optional add-on to our wildlife and cultural experience to the lesser-travelled Zambia and Malawi, we are offering a three-night stay in the luxurious Laba Laba Migration Camp with twice daily safaris. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – something that will stay with you forever. Places are strictly limited on this wonderful adventure. Contact us today to reserve your place.

PLUS
3-NIGHT
SERENGETI
ADD-ON



UGANDA In-Depth

DEPARTS
JUL 2026



16 DAYS If you like close encounters with wildlife, friendly people and stunning scenery, Uganda might just be the best place to visit in all of Africa. In fact, this wonderful country offers the complete African wildlife experience with the added bonus of the gorillas and chimpanzees.

There are 10 national parks covering a significant percentage of the countryside. In the Northeast, you can spot the big cats, the savannah animals and an amazing variety of birdlife. Down west, you'll see a plethora of elephants, hippos, chimps and more. And then there's the mountain gorillas. There are around 880 of these majestic primates left in the wild, and you are assured of seeing them in their natural habitat on this tour. Put simply, Uganda offers a wildlife experience second to none.

However, it's not all about the wildlife. Churchill was right... Uganda is the pearl of Africa! With stunning scenery, much of the country is on a plateau that ascends to over 5,100 metres on Mount Stanley in the south – the 3rd highest peak in Africa. The landscape is a combination of jungle, grasslands and land that has been cleared for farming. Uganda shares Lake Victoria – the largest tropical lake in the world – as its eastern border with Kenya and Tanzania.

Travelling in Uganda is full of those moments when you feel yourself whispering "wow." You will be greatly rewarded by visiting. Not just for the gorillas but also for the people, the magnificent scenery and the culture.



PAKISTAN & NORTHERN INDIA

Foothills of the Himalayas

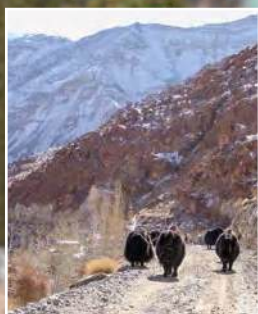
DEPARTS
OCT 2026
NEW
TOUR

24 DAYS In the lower elevation landscapes of the Himalayas, the world's loftiest mountain range, lies forested river valleys girded by majestic panoramas. From wildlife sanctuaries teeming with biodiversity to challenging mountain slopes, this region has many experiences to offer.

A journey through the Himalayan foothills brings together the region's cultural richness. Learn about **India's** freedom movement and the impact of her partition; trace the legacy of Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism; dive deep into India's ancient spiritual wisdom of yoga and meditation; and taste traditional flavours from the kitchens of the mountain folk.

Pakistan is home to some of the world's most spectacular mountain scenery, thriving cities, and colourful markets. A trip to this part of the world will excite even the worldliest of travellers. This tour combines extraordinary landscapes and fascinating historical sites with ample opportunity to embrace the region's warm hospitality and observe its rural life. Beyond its impressive collection of summits, many of which top out at over 7,000m, the region boasts a patchwork of colourful ethnic clans, remote mountain villages and some of the most visually spectacular countryside.

On this tour, you'll get to see it all as you travel on an in-depth journey from the plains through the mountains of the north, the Babusa Pass and Kaghan Valley to the high-altitude Deosai Plateau, the surreal landscapes of Skardu to the towering Nanga Parbat at Fairy Meadows and majestic Rakaposhi in Hunza; the forts of Baltit, Mastuj and Chitral to the otherworldly valleys of the Kalash. On this amazing journey along the Northwest Frontier, you will drive up from the capital, Islamabad, after witnessing the wonderful theatre of the Wagah border crossing.



CORSICA & SARDINIA

DEPARTS
MAY 2026
AND
SEP 2026
PLUS
5-DAY
MALTA
ADD-ON

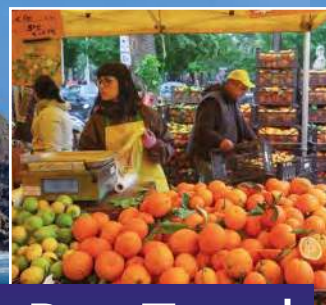
20 DAYS If year-round sunshine, 7,000 years of living history and the famous Mediterranean cuisine are your thing, then this trip should be on your bucket list. Discover these three wonderful Mediterranean Islands, each with its own unique culture.

Laid-back, rustic **Corsica** is French-governed with a captivating landscape. Its capital, Ajaccio, is the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte, and his ancestral home is used as a museum today. Like other Mediterranean islands, Corsica was visited, conquered, and highly influenced by many people from the ancient world. The Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Phoenicians, Genovese and Northern Africans all left their mark. France invaded and occupied in the mid 1700's. Far less developed than many islands in the Mediterranean, travellers come for the weather, the food and the glorious scenery.

Sardinia remains part of Italy but has fiercely retained its proud culture and character. With landscapes of rugged mountains balanced by placid bays, Sardinian inland towns are known for their capers, olives and pecorino sardo and the coastal towns have a rich tradition of shellfish and seafood. In rural parts, stone-walled Neolithic fortresses called Nuraghes can still be seen in the fields. The sea around this large Mediterranean Island is among the most beautiful and transparent in the world. The colour of the water on the Costa Smeralda has to be seen to be believed!

OPTIONAL 5 DAY EXTENSION The ex-British colony of **Malta** packs wonderful diversity into a small area. Comprising three small Islands – Malta, Gozo and Comino, which is uninhabited, it's a traveller's dream because you can take in everything within a small radius. Sample the architecture (both grand and quaint), a stunning fortified harbour, the rocky landscape, traditional hilltop towns, fishing villages, and an upbeat, lively capital city, all against the languid backdrop of the magnificent Mediterranean.

You will love the pace, the sights, the people, the food and the culture of these very special islands. Come join us on this spectacular Mediterranean experience!



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

OMAN & SAUDI ARABIA

DEPARTS
OCT 2026

NEW
TOUR



17 DAYS Travel to the birthplace of Islam on our fascinating small group tour to Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Oman is an independent sultanate on the Arabian peninsula. Covering a strategic location on the Arabian Sea, it was coveted by the great powers which came and went. In the late 1400's, the Portuguese occupied much of the territory, including the capital, Muscat. Almost 100 years later, The Ottomans drove them out and occupied the region for some 100 years. The Persians also came and went briefly. Since 1741, it has been self-governing. The country occupies just over 300,000 square km and has a population of over 4 million, with the overwhelming majority being of the Islamic faith. Oman is famous for breeding its Arabian horses. Muscat, Oman's port capital, sits on the Gulf of Oman, which is surrounded by mountains and desert. With a history dating back to antiquity, it mixes high-rises and upscale shopping malls with cliff-top landmarks such as the 16th-century Portuguese forts, Al Jalali and Mirani, looming over Muscat Harbour. Its modern, marble-clad Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, with 50m dome and prodigious Persian carpet, can accommodate 20,000 people.

Saudi Arabia is a culturally rich destination but remains off the tourist trail. It encompasses a vast expanse of arid desert and mountains. The second largest country in the Arab world (after Algeria), it is an enormous

2,150,000 square kilometres and the only nation with coastlines on the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. Home to Mecca and Medina, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the spiritual caretaker of the two holiest shrines in the Islamic world, a role it takes seriously. Staunchly traditional, the country's citizens are required by law to be Muslims. It is one of the few places on earth that has a 'religious' police force. Saudi Arabia is also a land with a vibrant cultural pedigree. Away from the glitz and glamour of its oil-rich, ostentatiously wealthy modern cities, the country is laden with World Heritage sites and remote mountain villages. Amongst the rock-hewn splendours of Madain Saleh, you can find Nabatean treasures on par with those at Petra. At the same time, the mud-brick ruins of Diriyah provide a fascinating insight into the origins of the Saud Dynasty. The mountains of the southwest are home to a surprising collection of traditional villages that still evoke echoes of the past, whilst the haunting ruins of Al Ula provide a chance to explore one of the most impressive ghost towns anywhere in the Middle East.

JAPAN in the Autumn

DEPARTS
OCT 2026



21 DAYS First time visitors are impressed by its green landscape and its mountains, which cover nearly three quarters of the country. It consists of several thousands of islands, of which Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku are the four largest.

Japan's rugged peaks, rocky coastlines, gorges, lakes, waterfalls and dense forests are breathtaking, but they put severe limits on liveable land. With seventy-five percent of the land unsuitable for habitation or cultivation the entire Japanese population of about 120 million live in an area roughly the size of Tasmania. This makes Japan one of the most populated countries in the world in terms of people per square kilometre. From the hi-tech speed and

efficiency of the bullet train which will whisk you to the serenity of Kyoto's zen gardens and temples from Tokyo in less than three hours, Japan offers a unique mix of the modern and the traditional. This tour includes the best of everything Japan has to offer. It is designed for both newcomers and those who wish to re-visit and follows a leisurely pace starting and ending in Tokyo.

Blue Dot's engaged style of travel means that we will give you every opportunity to meet Japanese people. The first thing you'll notice about the locals is how polite they are. The second thing you'll notice is that English is not commonly spoken or understood and as a result, there is a lot of bowing and

smiling without many words being spoken. Practice your "Ohayogozaimasu" (good morning) and "konichiwa" (good afternoon) as it will go a long way. We'll start and finish in Tokyo giving you ample time to enjoy this modern metropolis, a city of pulsating energy. In between you'll have the chance to experience the many different aspects which make Japan such a unique and fascinating country – including some lesser travelled gems.

MEXICO & CUBA

DEPARTS
NOV 2026

NEW
TOUR



18 DAYS Mexico is the world's largest Spanish-speaking country, and with around 130 million people, it ranks as the 11th most populous nation. Pre-Columbian Mexico dates to about 8,000 BC and is identified as one of five cradles of civilisation. It was home to many advanced Mesoamerican civilisations such as the Olmec, Toltec, Teotihuacan, Zapotec, Mayan, and Aztec people. The first contact with Europeans was in the early 16th century. In 1521, the Spanish Empire conquered and colonised the territory from its politically powerful base in Mexico-Tenochtitlan (part of Mexico City). Three centuries later, the territory became a nation-state following its recognition in 1821 after the Mexican War of Independence.

Mexicans are some of the friendliest people you'll ever meet,

and they are usually eager to share their wealth of history and abundant culture with travellers from other countries.

Our tour of Mexico starts in Mexico City and then moves southeast, taking in the UNESCO heritage sites of Monte Alban, the greatest of the Zapotec cities, Teotihuacan, the most sacred of the Aztec sites and the Mayan sites of Palenque, Uxmal and Chichen Itza. After travelling through the heartland, we will savour some wonderful Mexican food and music and reach the Yucatan Peninsula on the Caribbean coast.

Cuba is an archipelago of islands in the Caribbean. The island of Cuba is by far the largest, at approximately 110,000 square kilometres. It's also the most populated, with around 11 million inhabitants – over 2 million in the capital Havana. The first humans arrived in Cuba around 5,000 years ago from South America. In 1492,

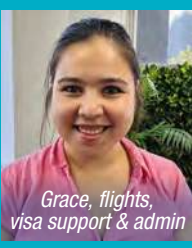
Christopher Columbus landed and claimed the islands for Spain. Small colonies were developed to search for gold; however, after minimal success, most turned to tobacco and sugar farming. The clichés of Cuba are a must-see – locals dancing the salsa, mambo and rumba, the men leisurely smoking their big fat cigars and drinking rum, plus reminders of revolutionary figure Che Guevara. Of course, the quintessential postcard of Cuba is the 1950's Buicks and Chevys – spotted all over the country.



"Our host was exceptionally professional at all times showing respect and thoughtfulness to the requests and expectations of the group. Well done to manage this with kindness and being friendly too! But needless to say, I always enjoy BDT – thanks for another great journey."
MARG, VICTORIA

MEET THE TEAM AT BLUE DOT

When we have 10 or more travellers on any international small group tour, we add a tour leader from Australia.



What an eclectic bunch we are. There is loads of travel experience amongst this group, all of whom are striving to ensure your travels go as smoothly as possible.

Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

COME TRAVEL WITH US

IN SMALL GROUPS, TO UNIQUE DESTINATIONS

"We can only reiterate our previous comments about our Australian Tour Host – Karen is a true asset to Blue Dot Travel. She epitomises the qualities required of a Tour Leader. She loves people and knows how to approach them, is kind, empathetic, knowledgeable, and a truly wonderful person!"

GAYLE & STEWART, NSW

"Enjoyed everything! The scenery, the walks, the cultural aspects. The sites of Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa and the Dambulla Cave Temple were absolutely breathtaking"

JOH, QUEENSLAND



FAMILY TOURS

As parents of well-travelled children, we know what kids want on a holiday. And we know what mum, dad and the grandparents want too.

Our family trips are designed to introduce younger travellers to new cultures and local experiences, with plenty of pockets of relaxation along the way. The best part for the adults... everything is taken care of for you! Hotels, transfers, guides, excursions and most meals have all been planned for you. You'll just have to pack and show up at the airport! These tours are suitable for school-aged children from primary through to early teens. It's also a fantastic experience for grandparents to share with their children and grandkids. Call or email us for information on our destinations.



PRIVATE GROUPS

Not everyone wants to go on a group tour – even if it's a small group.

That's why we offer our itineraries on a private group basis. So, if you have four or more people – family, friends or both – give us a call, and we'll help put together something very special. Over the years, we've managed numerous private tours for groups of friends and family. We have many wonderful destinations to choose from. Note, minimum traveller numbers apply depending on the destination.

EMAIL, MAIL OR BOTH!

We like to keep in touch with our travellers on a regular basis without bombarding you. If we have both street address and email contact details, we can keep you in the loop about special deals, invite you to our information and trivia events plus alert you if tours are filling. If you'd like to update any of your details drop us an email to kate@bluedottravel.com.au

For complete itineraries

visit bluedottravel.com.au

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