

SMALL GROUP TOURS

AROUND THE GLOBE 2027



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

bluedottravel.com.au

WELCOME TO BLUE DOT TRAVEL

2026 marks our 15th year running Blue Dot Travel. Kate and Brett started the business with a view to specialising in small groups to unique destinations around the globe, and this “reason-for-being” has not changed. We remain a family-run, boutique-style travel operator, providing tailored travel experiences for our regular customers and those new to us.

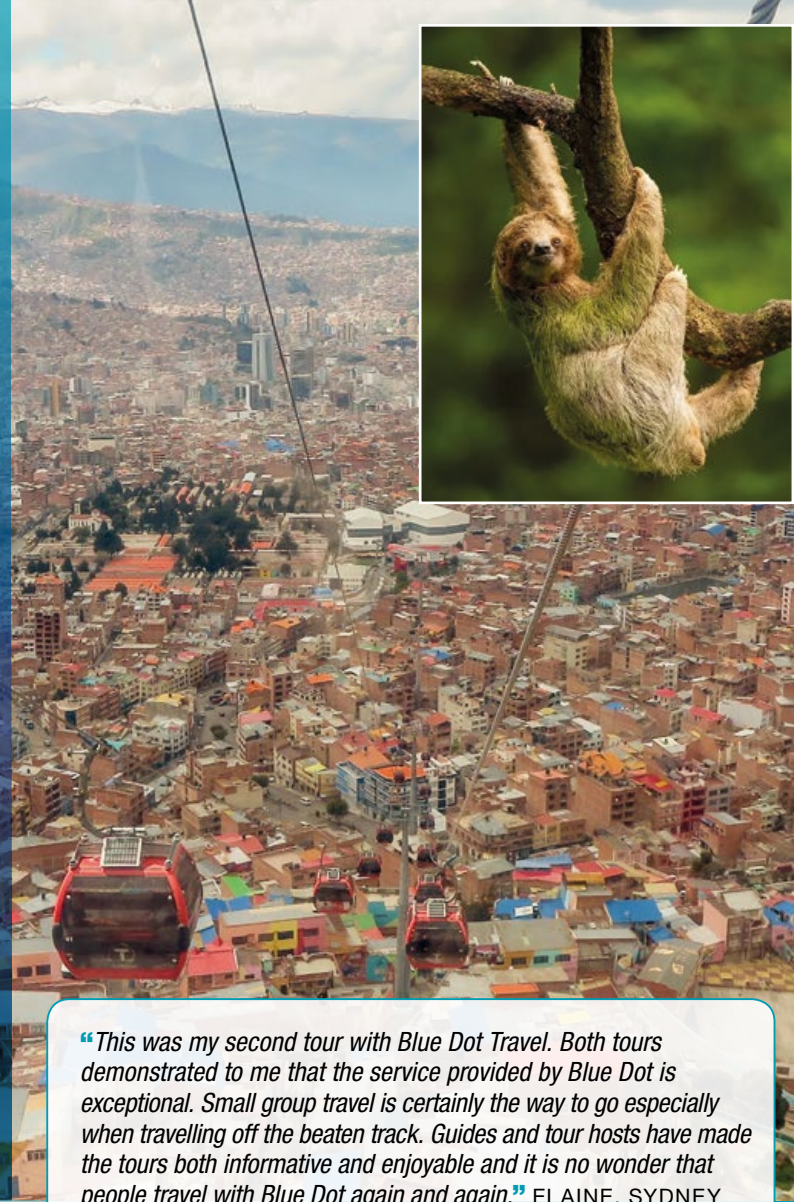
What has changed is the number of tours we take each year (now around 35 or more with double departures and private groups), new destinations we travel to, some of the faces both in our office and on tour, and the way we do things using new technologies. It’s been a great ride, and we are just as excited about the next phase.

Our 2027 program is a fabulous mix of all things travel. If you love wildlife, majestic landscapes, mixing it with locals, trying different foods, or just absorbing new cultures, there are many options to choose from. We’re excited to bring you some fascinating new small-group tours to up-and-coming travel destinations, as well as some of our trusted favourites.

So, 15 years since inception, a big shout out to our wonderful customers, the fabulous team in the office, our regular and new tour leaders travelling around the globe, plus our guides and folks at the destination management companies we work with. Like most businesses, it’s all about the people.

Enjoy the read, and let these pages spark inspiration for your future travel adventures.

Regards, the team at Blue Dot.



“This was my second tour with Blue Dot Travel. Both tours demonstrated to me that the service provided by Blue Dot is exceptional. Small group travel is certainly the way to go especially when travelling off the beaten track. Guides and tour hosts have made the tours both informative and enjoyable and it is no wonder that people travel with Blue Dot again and again.” ELAINE, SYDNEY

MEET THE TEAM AT BLUE DOT

What an eclectic bunch we are. There are many experienced travellers amongst us, all striving to ensure your travels go as smoothly as possible.



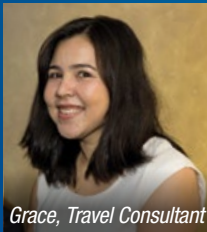
When we have 10 or more travellers on any international small group tour, we add a tour leader from Australia.



Brett & Kate, owners & travel tragics



Olivia, General Manager



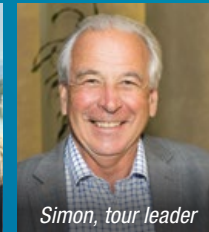
Grace, Travel Consultant



Brod & Joanne, tour leaders



Karen, tour leader



Simon, tour leader



Gordon, tour leader



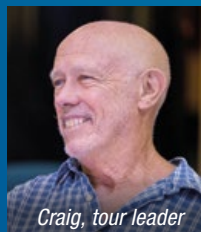
Bill, tour leader



Jayme, tour leader



Steve, tour leader



Craig, tour leader



Sid, tour leader

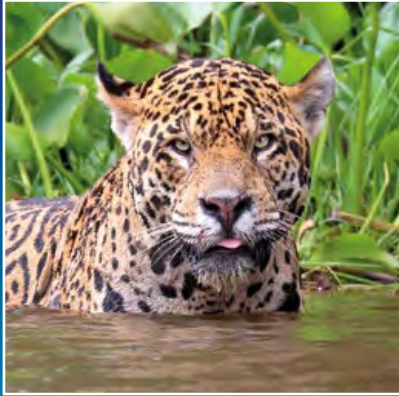


Rami, tour leader



Peter, tour leader

WHY TRAVEL WITH BLUE DOT?



- Our small-group format provides a more personal experience with customer numbers from 4 to 16, depending on the destination. The majority of our tours have an average of 12 travellers.
- We avoid mainstream destinations. Rather, we prefer to explore lesser-travelled places and regions where the cultural experience is far more rewarding & where crowds are fewer.
- Blue Dot caters to mature-age travellers. We understand their needs and 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.
- We cater to the needs of solo travellers and understand their requirements.
- 15 years of experience provide a vast network of local ground operators & 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 around 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.

“My trip with friends was fantastic!!! We all had a wonderful time!!! It was fun, interesting and very educational...couldn't have been better!!!”
MARLENE, SYDNEY



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 depend on destination.

“The Med tour was a fascinating glimpse of countries and cultures I had not seen before. The tour machinery ran smoothly. The other guests were great travel companions!” PHIL, SYDNEY



SOLO TRAVELLERS

WE WELCOME SOLO TRAVELLERS – in fact, over half of our clients are solo travellers. We understand it can be daunting to travel on your own, and we bring solo travellers together to share the camaraderie of an unforgettable adventure.

You can confidently join our groups, knowing that your travel will be inclusive and that safety is our highest priority. You'll be fully supported by our team both before and during your travels, so that you can relax and enjoy yourself in places that might be challenging to access on your own.

Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

AT A GLANCE

OUR PLANNED TOURS

ETHIOPIA

DEPARTS
JAN 2027

for the Timkat Festival

2026 Tours – June to December

Tours	Departs
Iceland In-Depth	JUN
Svalbard Arctic Cruise with Quark	JUN
Norway, Finland, Sweden & Lapland	JUN
Across the Nullarbor: West Australia to South Australia	JUL
The Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia	SEP
Corsica & Sardinia (Plus Malta Add-On)	SEP
Northern India & Pakistan – Foothills of the Himalayas	OCT
Japan in Autumn	OCT
Oman & Saudi Arabia	NOV
Mexico & Cuba	NOV

2027 Tours – January to December

Tours	Departs
Ethiopia for the Timkat Festival	JAN
Stunning Sri Lanka	FEB
The Desert Trails of Rajasthan	FEB
Central America: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador & Nicaragua	FEB
Chasing the Northern Lights: Finland, Norway & Sweden	FEB
Morocco In-Depth (Plus Tunisia Add-On)	APR
The Five Stans of Central Asia (repeats in September)	APR
Cyprus, Crete & Rhodes	APR
Baltic Discovery: Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania (Plus Finland Add-On)	MAY
Classic African Safari: South Africa, Namibia, Botswana & Zimbabwe	MAY
The Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia (repeats in Sept)	MAY
Mongolia with Naadam Festival	JUL
Madagascar	AUG
Alaska by Land & by Sea	SEP
Corsica & Sardinia (Plus Malta Add-On)	SEP
The Five Stans of Central Asia (also in April)	SEP
The Balkans: Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Serbia, Nth Macedonia, Bosnia, Kosovo & Albania	SEP
The Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia (also in May)	SEP
Bulgaria & Romania	OCT
The Pantanal (Wetlands) Plus Brazil or Argentina Add-On	OCT
Japan in Autumn	OCT
Bangladesh & Bhutan	NOV
Southern India's Traditions & Treasures	NOV
West Africa: Ghana, Togo, Benin & Senegal	NOV
Galapagos Islands Expedition with National Geographic Lindblad (Plus Brazil or Argentina Add-On)	NOV

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.

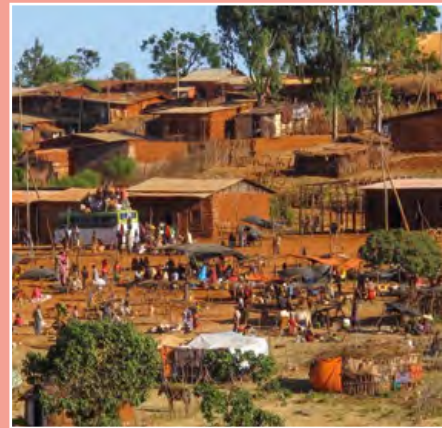
We're always happy to hear your ideas for potential tours.

Don't hesitate to put these forward to us. We owe thanks to some of our regular travellers for some existing tour ideas!

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 ("13 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. 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.



STUNNING SRI LANKA

DEPARTS FEB 2027

14 DAYS From golden beaches to fields of coconut palms, vibrant cities to peaceful villages – this tiny island is packed with

beauty, culture, and fantastic food. Sri Lanka's indigenous and colonial history is fascinating, with fantastic ancient temples to explore. The abundance of wildlife is a major highlight – elephants, monkeys, and hundreds of bird species are often seen in the wild, while the national parks offer the chance to spot leopards, sloth bears, sambar deer and more.

We'll take you to the heart of the island, not just the tourist spots. Our expert local guide has been running our tours for years and knows all the hidden gems. Join us to explore one of Asia's most underrated treasures.



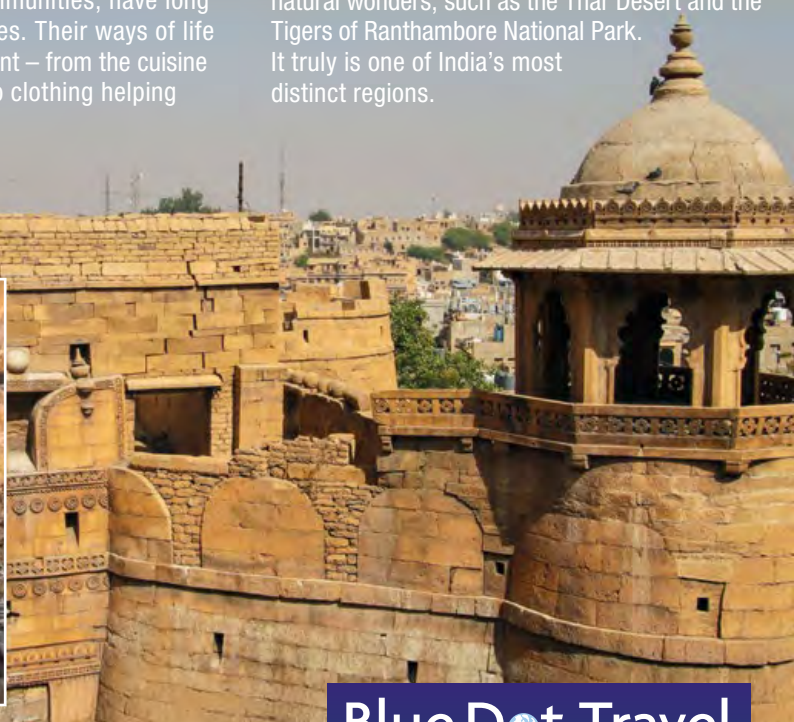
THE DESERT TRAILS of Rajasthan

DEPARTS FEB 2027

21 DAYS On the western part of this fascinating country, the desert state of Rajasthan brims with heritage, from its beautiful palaces and historic forts to the regal painted mansions, or "Havelis", where we stay. The desert folk, with lineages of royalty intermingled with rustic communities, have long endured the land's adversities. Their ways of life evolved in the arid environment – from the cuisine using the desert plant life, to clothing helping

them stand against dunes, and from the folk music that sings of water and wells, to the dance forms that mimic the desert wildlife.

We'll explore key sites like Jaisalmer and Jodhpur, and the painted havelis of Shekhawat, giving you insight into the legacy of Rajasthan's rulers and merchants, while also offering a glimpse into daily life in villages and towns across the region. This region is home to spectacular natural wonders, such as the Thar Desert and the Tigers of Ranthambore National Park. It truly is one of India's most distinct regions.



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CENTRAL AMERICA

DEPARTS
FEB 2027

Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua

24 DAYS Four countries... similar, but different. **Nicaragua** is the largest of the Central American countries by land size. Colonised on the Pacific coast by the Spanish and on the Atlantic coast by the British. Add African-Caribbean influence to indigenous peoples, and you have a melting pot of cultures. The country has a growing tourism industry, and now is a good time to visit, as it is in its infancy and you can experience genuine culture.

By contrast, **El Salvador** is Central America's smallest country by land size and the only country in the region without a coastline on the Atlantic/Caribbean side. It is a very mountainous country and part of the Pacific Rim of Fire. Spanish explorers were the first Europeans to visit and began changing the lives of the indigenous Pipil Indians forever in the mid-1500s.

Honduras is a predominantly Roman Catholic country also ruled by Spain from the 16th Century. After Independence in 1830, it was briefly annexed to Mexico, and by mid-1900s, it was ruled, ever so corruptly, by the military generals of the army. The country welcomed the US army during the Contra War of its neighbours during the 1980s and was spared most of the turbulence that the others experienced.

Guatemala is unlike the other countries of the region. Its population is over 65% indigenous Maya Indians. There is evidence of human settlement from around 10,000 years BCE; however, the country is well known as the heart of Mayan culture, which existed from around 1,600 years ago.



NEW
TOUR

CHASING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

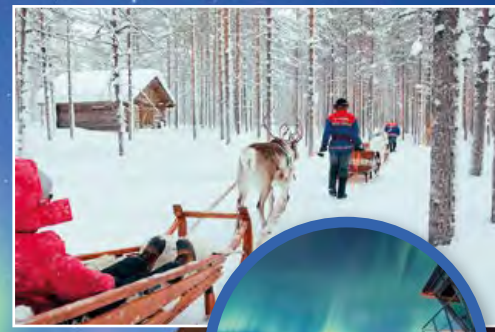
DEPARTS
FEB 2027

Finland, Norway & Sweden

18 DAYS Journey to Europe's remote, wild North on a small group tour designed to showcase the very best of winter in Scandinavia. This region is renowned for one of nature's most breathtaking phenomena: the Northern Lights, also known as the Aurora Borealis.

Experiencing the Northern Lights is on most people's bucket list. Ride the Flåm Railway past snowy peaks, frozen waterfalls, and UNESCO-listed fjords to the colourful town of Bergen, steeped in Hanseatic history. Board the Hurtigruten ship, which has connected Norway's coastal communities since 1893, and sail through jaw-dropping scenery to the tip of the continent at Kirkenes. Cross into Finland's pristine Lapland, where Sámi culture and Arctic wildlife await. Drive

a team of huskies across frozen trails, meet gentle reindeer, and join a moonlit snowmobile tour in search of the aurora borealis. Join us on this once-in-a-lifetime small group tour through Lapland and Scandinavia and experience the magic of winter.



DEPARTS
APR 2027

MOROCCO In-Depth

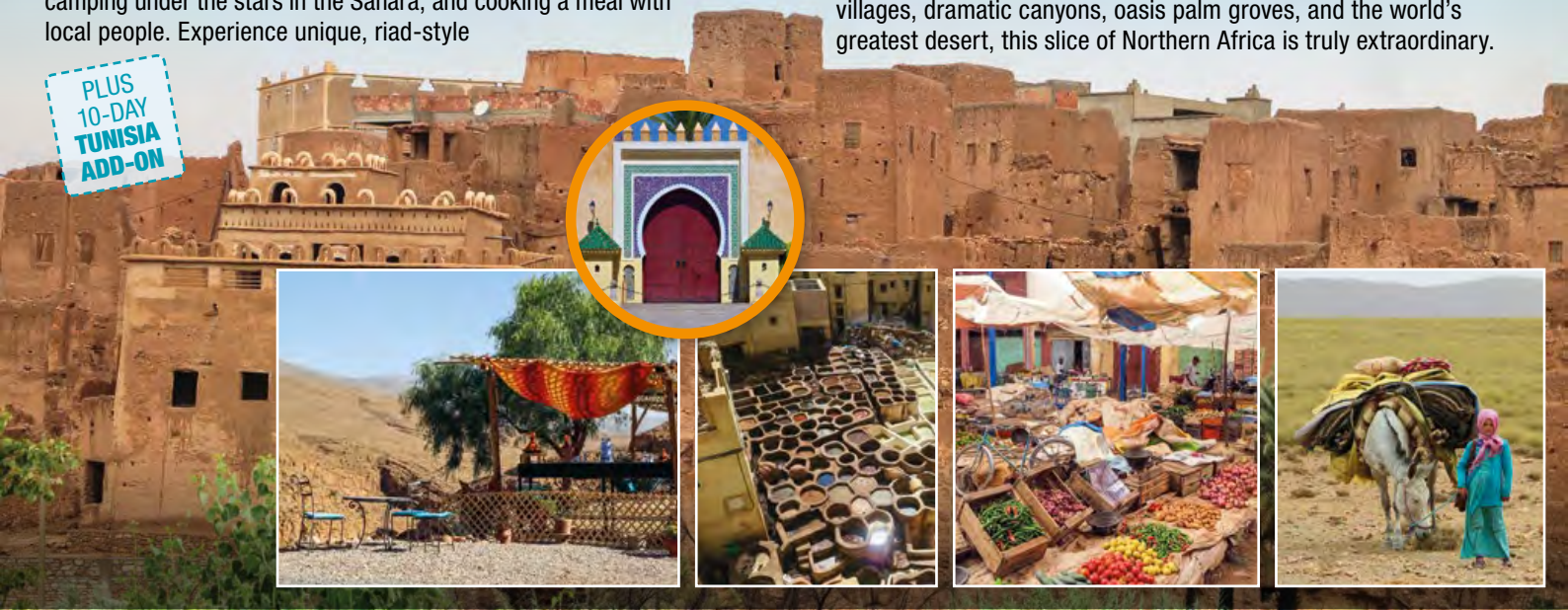
20 DAYS Mountains, deserts, and ancient cities make **Morocco** endlessly diverse, but it's the warmth of its people that our travellers remember most. Morocco has been home to the Berbers since the Paleolithic age and has been shaped over centuries by Romans, Arabs, and, most recently, the French. This layered history shows in every detail – from Islamic mosques and madrassahs to art-deco facades, and locals fluent in both French and Arabic.

You'll experience iconic moments like wandering Marrakech's lively souks, Chefchaouen's blue-washed streets and the chaotic local culture of Fes. But we also take you beyond, to the remote villages of the Atlas Mountains, camping under the stars in the Sahara, and cooking a meal with local people. Experience unique, riad-style

PLUS
10-DAY
TUNISIA
ADD-ON

accommodation, where tiled courtyards and carved woodwork offer calm just steps away from the bustle of the medina.

Framed by the sparkling Mediterranean, **Tunisia** is a small country packed with history and natural beauty. Tunisia has been home to a diverse range of cultures, from Berbers to Romans to Arabs. Each has left its distinct mark, from the troglodyte houses carved directly into sandstone, to Roman monuments such as El Djem's huge amphitheatre, to museums showcasing magnificent mosaics, to beautiful Islamic buildings such as Kairouan's ancient mosque, which played a key role in the Islamisation of North Africa. With charming villages, dramatic canyons, oasis palm groves, and the world's greatest desert, this slice of Northern Africa is truly extraordinary.



THE 5 STANS OF CENTRAL ASIA

DEPARTS
APR &
SEP 2027

Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan & Kazakhstan

30 DAYS Central Asia is a vast, landlocked region ideal for travellers who want to experience one of the world's last great frontiers. The Silk Road was a network of Eurasian trade routes spanning 6,400 km, linking East to West, and fostering the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures that shaped human history. Now, the five former Soviet Central Asian Republics – Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan – are collectively known as "The Stans" and carry this legacy.

Uzbekistan shines with some of the world's most celebrated Islamic architecture. Walking through Registan Square in Samarkand, the old town of Bukhara, and Khiva's walled city is like exploring open-air museums of mosaics, domes, and minarets.

Turkmenistan is a wonderful mix of old and new. The ancient ruins of Merv and Nisa contrast with 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.

Tajikistan has a fascinating historical landscape that is shaped by various civilisations that have left their mark, including Greek, Buddhist, Hindu, Zoroastrian and Islamic.

Kazakhstan, the most modern country, retains a distinctly Russian feel, and its capital, Almaty, is wonderful to explore. Prepare your camera and your curiosity for this fascinating journey through history.



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

CYPRUS, CRETE & RHODES

DEPARTS
APR 2027



21 DAYS The story of **Cyprus'** tumultuous past is told through its historic sites, Roman ruins, multifaceted museums, and dusty urban streets. This ease of accessibility is highlighted in Paphos, where one of the most important archaeological sites sprawls like an ancient theme park next to a tourist resort. Experience the intrinsically different Greek and Turkish societies of modern Cyprus with its fractured identity, a passionate people and culture, and beautiful landscape and lifestyle.

There is something undeniably artistic in the way the landscape of **Crete** unfolds, from the sun-drenched beaches in the north to rugged canyons spilling into the cove-studded south coast. In between the valleys, villages are cradled in the landscape, and the gorges have a cave where Zeus was born. Crete's natural beauty is equalled only by the richness of its history. The island is the birthplace of the first advanced society on European soil, the Minoans, who ruled over much of the Aegean some 4,000 years ago. You'll find vestiges of this mysterious civilisation all over Crete, including the famous "Palace of Knossos" and the legend of the labyrinth of King Minos and the slaying of the Minotaur by Theseus to save the king's daughter, Ariadne.

Rhodes is rightly celebrated for the splendour of its medieval architecture and evocative old town, and it is generally considered one of the most beautiful of the Greek Islands. The crusader Knights of St John (1309-1522) called Rhodes home after their expulsion from the Holy Land, and it is their legacy of massive castles and the old town that we enjoy today. Here, according to legend, stood the Colossus of Rhodes, a bronze statue of Helios, the Sun-God, erected in 290 BC, standing astride the harbour entrance and one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.



BALTIC DISCOVERY

DEPARTS
MAY 2027

Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania

PLUS
7-NIGHT
FINLAND
ADD-ON

15 DAYS Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania may share a Baltic coastline and a layered past, but each offers its own tradition, culture, and style. Their capitals – Hanseatic Tallinn, Jugendstil Riga and Baroque Vilnius are among Europe's best-preserved medieval centres with red-tiled rooftops, domed churches, and castle spires shaping their skylines.

Estonians have a deep love of music – accordion and flute players perform on street corners, and massed choirs of 20,000 voices gather for their national song festivals.

Compact **Latvia** is made for the slow life – easy to explore yet rich in history, from centuries-old castles to forest-fringed lakes. Its capital, Riga, is a visual feast, home to one of the world's finest collections of Art Nouveau architecture and a UNESCO-listed Old Town. Beyond the city, the country opens into a sparsely populated wilderness of pine forests, wetlands, and quiet walking trails.

At its height in the 15th century, **Lithuania** was one of the largest empires in Europe. This rich history has left a legacy of 3,719 cultural monuments – including villages, manors, castles, and churches – now protected by the state. Its architecture reflects a blend of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and Bohemian styles, with the capital, Vilnius, standing as a striking showcase of them all.



Add-On a 7-day tour of Southern Finland's most authentic places

Quiet gems and local favourites from the pristine wilderness of Lake Saimaa and Nuuksio National Park to the UNESCO-listed wooden buildings of Rauma and the charming city of Turku.



CLASSIC AFRICAN SAFARI

South Africa, Namibia,
Botswana & Zimbabwe

DEPARTS
MAY 2027

NEW
TOUR



25 DAYS The itinerary, starting in Cape Town, **South Africa**, is designed to provide a snapshot of Africa's wildlife at its best. Step into pristine wilderness where wildlife roams free, and the landscapes feel untouched.

Botswana is famed for its Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that transforms into a wildlife haven each year. Glide silently in a traditional mokoro canoe past elephants and hippos, or explore Chobe National Park – home to Africa's largest elephant herds.

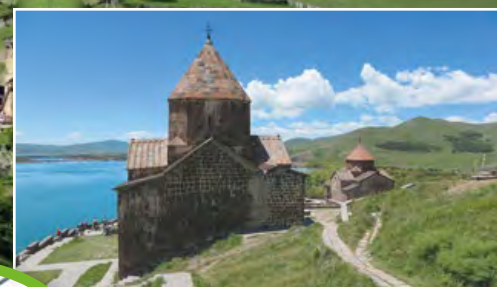
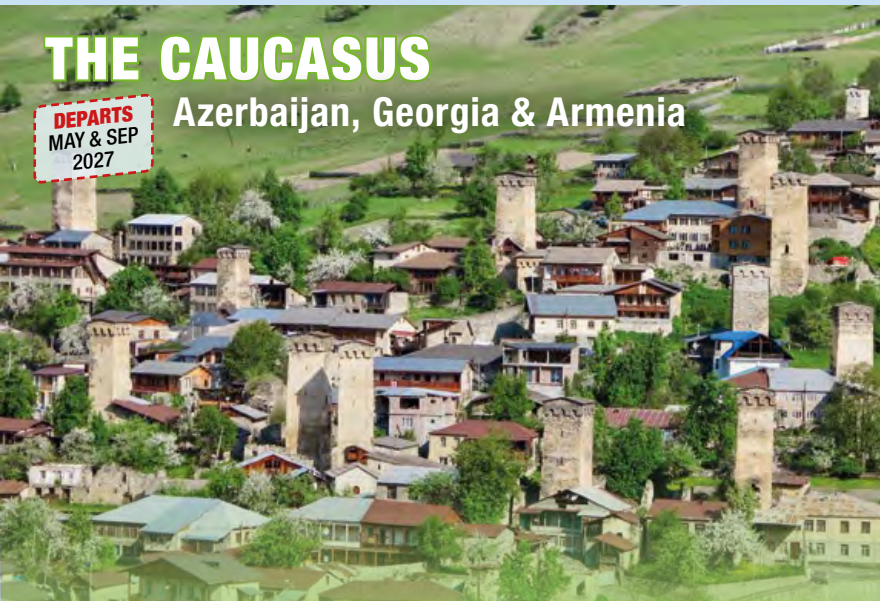
In **Namibia**, the desert and wildlife collide. The stark beauty sets it apart: rolling red dunes, shimmering salt pans, and rugged coastlines. Etosha National Park is alive with elephants, lions, giraffes, and oryx gathered at waterholes – ideal for those who love taking photos.

Zimbabwe offers some of Africa's most rewarding safaris, where wildlife encounters are matched only by the country's warm hospitality. Hwange National Park teems with elephants, lions, and wild dogs, while Mana Pools provides thrilling walking safaris along the Zambezi River. A visit wouldn't be complete without the roar of Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

THE CAUCASUS

Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia

DEPARTS
MAY & SEP
2027



27 DAYS At the crossroads of Asia and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus is a fascinating region few travellers explore. Those who do are struck by its beauty, culture and history. On this trip, you'll pass snow-capped mountains, glaciers and gorges, dine with local families, and explore rock-hewn villages, mosques and UNESCO World Heritage-listed monasteries and churches.

Azerbaijan is a land of striking contrasts, from the vibrant capital Baku to the historic charm of Sheki. Its rich history stretches back to prehistoric times, as evidenced by Stone Age human settlements but it's modern economy thrives on its abundant oil reserves. Baku's skyline resembles a vision of the future, with sleek glass towers and innovative architecture.

Georgia's mix of natural beauty, medieval history and warm hospitality makes it one of our travellers' favourite destinations. The capital, Tbilisi, has a modern European vibe, cosy cafes, art galleries and theatres. Yet, leaving the city feels like travelling in medieval times, amongst palaces, castles, and rock-hewn villages. Lesser-travelled **Armenia** is a country rooted in tradition and hospitality, with dramatic landscapes from high-altitude lakes to forested national parks. You'll meet warm-hearted locals in its smaller villages, then be swept up in Yerevan's atmosphere, with its wide boulevards, Soviet-era architecture and lively café culture. The Caucasus is an unspoiled tourism region, and now is the time to visit!



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

MONGOLIA

with Naadam Festival

DEPARTS
JUL 2027

20 DAYS A trip through the Land of the Sapphire Blue Sky is a truly unique experience. If you're looking for a five-star type, cushy, comfortable holiday, then Mongolia is probably not for you. Mongolia is a land of extremes. If you want to get off the beaten track, Mongolia is unmatched in its wild beauty and rawness. In three weeks, you will get a wonderful taste of what this country has to offer. What you will experience, hear, taste and see will engage all of your senses.

Mongolia is one of the world's least developed and least populated countries. With a population of only 3.3 million, roughly half of the country's population is packed into the capital, Ulaanbaatar. Outside of that, the populations of Mongolia's largest "cities" remain in the tens of thousands, with many still living traditional nomadic lifestyles as herders. Horses and horse culture play a large role in daily and national life in Mongolia. It is traditionally said that "A Mongol without a horse is like a bird without wings." The country has a horse population of more than 3.5 million, which exceeds its

human population. On the road, it can take hours of driving before you pass a tiny ger community, a local on horseback, or even another vehicle. Yet in between, you are blessed with views of a countryside so dramatic that it will be indelibly imprinted on your memory.

From the stark Gobi, incredible rock formations and magnificence of Khogoryn Els in the south, to the crystal blue lakes and rushing clear rivers of the north, Mongolia will delight you with its fascinating culture and stunning beauty.



MADAGASCAR

DEPARTS
AUG 2027

25 DAYS Madagascar, 400km off the East coast of Africa, is the world's fourth largest island (excluding Australia), a fragment of Gondwanaland left behind when the ancient landmass split to form the continents of Africa, India and Australia; it stretches 1600km from north to south and is 650km across at its widest point. The most astonishing thing about the island is its flora and fauna, found nowhere else in the world. The island has been referred to as "nature's design laboratory" because of the many unique creatures and vegetation, some of which are quite primitive. The terrain ranges from tropical rainforest to desert, from high, stony plateaus to lush green islands, with many unique geological and geographical formations.

Madagascar has a range of unique animals and plants that have evolved here, separated from the rest of the world. The most notable are the Lemurs of which nearly 30 are described. For the bird watcher, there are over 250 species of which 106 are endemic, whilst for lovers of reptiles, most of the world's chameleons are found here; in fact, the country is nearly as well known for its chameleon population as for its lemurs.

The first inhabitants were Malay Polynesians who crossed the Indian Ocean in large canoes from Indonesia and South East Asia. These early settlers mixed with later arrivals, including African, Arab, Indian, and Portuguese traders and French colonials, forming the current 18 official tribes, collectively termed the Malagasy. French is the official language and is spoken in all but



DEPARTS
SEP 2027

ALASKA by Land & by Sea

NEW
TOUR



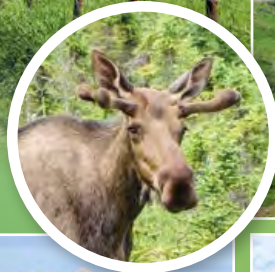
Scenic drives, wildlife safaris, and backcountry hikes reveal the grandeur of Alaska's untouched interior. The Inside Passage offers a classic cruise route, weaving past glaciers, fjords, and forested islands dotted with coastal communities like Juneau and Sitka.



Whether kayaking alongside glaciers, flying over mountain ranges, snapping as many photos as you can of the bears, or simply soaking in the silence of a wild landscape, Alaska promises discovery at every turn. It is not just a place to visit – it is an experience of scale, solitude, and wonder that stays with travellers long after the journey ends. Blue Dot has prepared the ultimate itinerary for the destination they call The Last Frontier, with an independent small-ship cruise and land-based tour. Join the cruise, join the land tour, or join both.

23 DAYS Travelling through Alaska is to step into a world of epic wilderness, where towering mountains, endless forests, and icy fjords create one of Earth's most dramatic landscapes. Known as The Last Frontier, Alaska offers a rare chance to experience raw nature at its most awe-inspiring.

The Kenai Peninsula dazzles with turquoise lakes, rugged coastline, and the chance to spot whales, sea otters, and puffins. Cruise through Kenai Fjords National Park, where tidewater glaciers calve into the sea and wildlife thrives in abundance.



CORSICA & SARDINIA

DEPARTS
SEP 2027

PLUS
6-DAYS
MALTA
ADD-ON

20 DAYS Come and discover these 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-1700s.

Sardinia remains part of Italy but has fiercely retained its proud culture and character. With 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!

The former British colony of **Malta** packs a wealth of 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.



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

DEPARTS
SEP 2027

THE BALKANS In-Depth

26 DAYS The Balkans is a sprawling peninsula which derives its name from the Turkish word meaning 'a chain of wooded mountains'. Those mountains are the Balkans, a region where farming first reached Europe in the Neolithic era. To the west is the Adriatic Sea, with the Mediterranean Sea to the south and the Black Sea to the east. It is perhaps easier to think of the Balkan States as "South-eastern Europe". Wholly or partially on the peninsula, the region comprises many fascinating countries.

Our tour includes eight of them: **Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Slovenia, and Serbia.**

Their polyglot nature has been forged in turn by the Greeks, Romans and Slavs, and even fell part of the Ottoman Empire in the 16th Century. A genuine cultural crossroads, the Balkan region was where Orthodoxy met Christianity, and Christianity met Islam. While many of these names have been synonymous with political turmoil in modern history (Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo in 1914, sparking the First World War), the current reality is a collection of countries and cultures now relishing their own identities and enjoying a resurgence of interaction with the outside world.

Continue your travels with our **Romania & Bulgaria tour**, (see below) which runs directly after.

16-DAY
ROMANIA & BULGARIA
ADD-ON



DEPARTS
OCT 2027

ROMANIA & BULGARIA

16 DAYS These two countries offer everything we love about Europe: gorgeous historic buildings, amazing natural landscapes, excellent food and wine, with far fewer tourists.

Romania's pristine mountain landscapes and wonderful medieval towns seem to have stepped out of time. The picturesque Carpathian Mountains

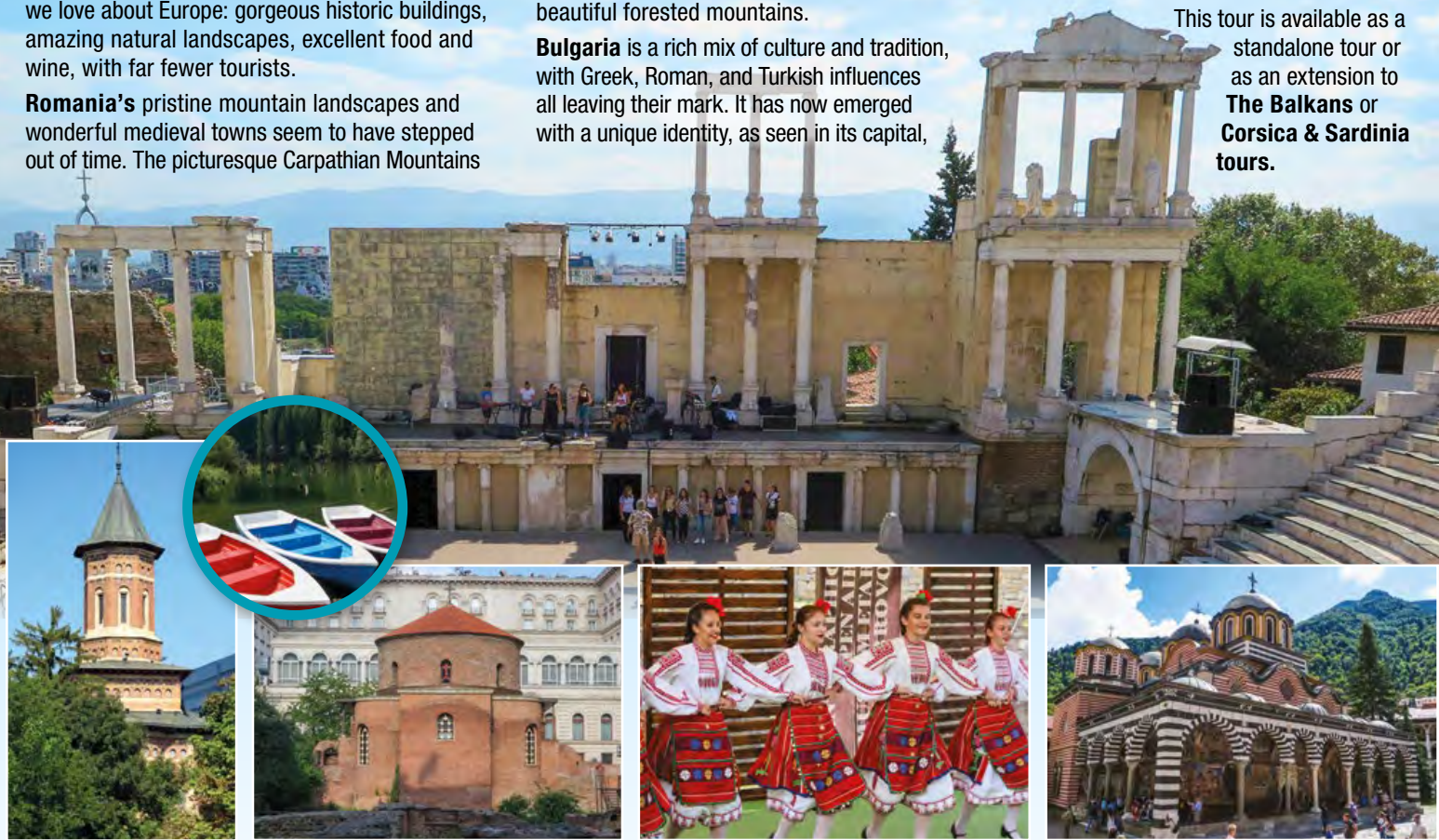
well known for its castles, churches and beautiful forested mountains.

Bulgaria is a rich mix of culture and tradition, with Greek, Roman, and Turkish influences all leaving their mark. It has now emerged with a unique identity, as seen in its capital,

occupy the centre of the country, while the Transylvania region is

Sofia, which blends ancient history with vibrant modern culture. It boasts 9 UNESCO-listed World Heritage sites and one of Europe's oldest cities, the charming Plovdiv.

This tour is available as a standalone tour or as an extension to **The Balkans** or **Corsica & Sardinia** tours.



DEPARTS
OCT 2027

THE PANTANAL

World's Largest Wetlands

NEW
TOUR



10 DAYS This journey takes you into one of South America's most iconic and contrasting landscapes – the world's most extensive wetlands. It is full of wildlife and natural wonders in places where few travellers tread.

The Pantanal region stretches across nearly 200,000 square kilometres – a vast mosaic of rivers, lagoons, and floodplains where wildlife thrives on a scale found nowhere else. Located in the upper Paraguay River basin, the Pantanal straddles the borders of Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay, with 80 per cent in Brazil.

The Brazilian Pantanal is an area brimming with life, and its floodplains create a unique ecosystem that annually hosts an extraordinary concentration of flora and fauna. As a destination, the Pantanal's wildlife is simply spectacular, comparable with the dense animal populations of Africa. The wetland provides a habitat for more than 650 bird species, including cormorants, egrets, herons, hyacinth macaws, ibis, jabiru storks and roseate spoonbills.

We have carefully chosen two lodges that offer the best opportunities for wildlife viewing, including capybaras, caimans, giant anteaters, giant otters, and the jaguar. Due to an abundance of prey, the Pantanal's jaguars are the largest in the Americas and exhibit unique behaviours. With such abundant biodiversity, there is always something to observe, even when relaxing on the veranda of your lodge.



PLUS 14-DAY
ARGENTINA
OR 14 DAY
BRAZIL
ADD-ON

Continue your exploration of Latin America with our Best of ARGENTINA or BRAZIL Add-On tours.

Offered as post-tour extensions to our Pantanal tour (or as a standalone tour), both Brazil and Argentina provide a wonderful mix of cultural diversity and stunning landscapes. Each is a 14 day snapshot designed to provide you with the best these two South American gems offer.

See our website for tour details.

DEPARTS
OCT 2027

JAPAN

in the Autumn



19 DAYS First-time visitors are impressed by its green landscape and the mountains that cover nearly three-quarters of the country. The country, which is roughly half the size of NSW consists of several thousand 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 livable land. With seventy-five per cent of the land unsuitable for habitation or cultivation, the entire Japanese population of about 125 million live in an area roughly the size of Tasmania. This makes Japan one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

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 revisit and follows a leisurely pace starting and ending in Tokyo giving you ample time to enjoy this modern metropolis, a city of pulsating energy.

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Go somewhere different

DEPARTS
NOV 2027

BANGLADESH & BHUTAN

27 DAYS Bangladesh, the Land of Bengal, is a South Asian country marked by lush greenery and many waterways. It is one of the most densely populated countries on the planet, with over 150 million inhabitants living in a fascinating way with their environment.

About half the country's total area is no higher than 10m above sea level, which has led to a unique river-based way of life. The Ganges and Brahmaputra are the two main rivers of Bangladesh, carrying tonnes of silt from the mighty Himalayas. Apart from these two rivers, there are hundreds more comprising a very wide and complex river system. Bangladesh is home to the largest mangrove forest in the world, the Sundarbans, best explored as the locals do – by boat. The hilly areas of the North and South-east are lush green landscapes of terraced tea plantations, occupied by smaller tribal groups.

The Kingdom of **Bhutan**, known to the locals as Druk Yul, the Land of

the Thunder Dragon, is a small landlocked nation in the Himalayas. Mainly due to its physical location, Bhutan was never colonised or conquered and retains its strong sense of national identity. Nearly three quarters of the country is covered in forest. Its highest peak, Kulu Kangri, is over 7,500 metres. The country's population is very small at just 700,000. Most are Bhote Buddhists and ethnic Nepalese. The Taktsang monastery (known as Tiger's Nest) is the country's best-known icon, but there are many more highlights on offer.

While Bhutan may be one of the least developed societies, it may just be one of the happiest. The Gross National Happiness philosophy developed by the ruler King Jigme Singye Wangchuk measures the well-being and happiness of the people, rather than material wealth measurements.



NEW
TOUR



DEPARTS
NOV 2027

SOUTHERN INDIA'S

Traditions & Treasures

23 DAYS Travelling through Southern India is an immersion into a land of rich traditions, lush landscapes, and timeless heritage. From the palm-fringed backwaters of Kerala to the vibrant temple towns of Tamil Nadu, this region offers a tapestry of experiences that engage all the senses. In Kerala, glide along tranquil waterways in a traditional houseboat, framed by coconut palms and village life unfolding on the banks. Venture inland to where spice plantations, tea gardens, and wildlife

sanctuaries promise fragrant walks and encounters with wildlife. You'll be in awe of the ancient temples – intricately carved marvels that echo with centuries of devotion. Explore a plethora of varied landscapes, regal palaces and bustling markets.

Southern India is also a culinary paradise, where fragrant curries, dosas, and fresh seafood reflect

the region's diversity. With its warm hospitality, deep spirituality, and natural beauty, travelling to this region is both enriching and unforgettable.



DEPARTS
NOV 2027

WEST AFRICA

Ghana, Togo,
Benin & Senegal



24 DAYS The Republic of **Ghana** is an economic success and the most politically stable country in the region. It was the first Sub-Saharan country to gain independence from a European power, separating from Britain in 1957, and UNESCO-listed buildings from this period remain. The capital city, Accra, sits on the South Atlantic Ocean and is a mix of modern glass and steel facades, with sleepy villages on the outskirts.

Togo is a tiny country, smaller than Tasmania, with a population of around 6 million. The capital, Lome, sits on the coast with about one third of the country's people. Togoland was originally part of Ghana; however, the Germans colonised it in the late 1800s. In the 1920s, the League of Nations partitioned this region between France and the

UK/Britain, with France taking over what is now called Togo. Despite its colonial history, ancient traditions remain, making it a fascinating melting pot of cultures.

Bordering Togo to the East is **Benin**, also located on the Gulf of Guinea. It was known as the Kingdom of Dahomey until the late 1800s. The French colonised Benin in the early 1900s; however, it became independent in 1960. Benin is the ideal travel destination, with its world heritage-listed mini-fortified castles and fascinating Voodoo history.

Senegal is a land of contrast and one of the West's culturally diverse countries. Its combination of African and French cultures provides a mix of sophistication and rawness. Its slave past is evident, with many monuments dotting the nation.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

DEPARTS
NOV 2027

Expedition with National
Geographic Lindblad

PLUS 14-DAY
ARGENTINA
OR 14 DAY
BRAZIL
PRE-TOUR
OPTIONS
SEE PAGE 13



10 DAYS Few destinations are more iconic than the Galapagos Islands, which loosely translated means "giant turtles". Blue Dot has managed to secure a limited number of cabins with the best-equipped adventure cruise operator in the region – Lindblad National Geographic.

Sailing on National Geographic Endeavour II, this 10-day once-in-a-lifetime expedition cruise will show you the very best of this magical archipelago.

You'll see all kinds of wildlife, including giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies, playful penguins, Darwin's finches, charismatic sea lions, and a whole lot more. You'll walk amongst the wildlife unfazed by your presence. Marvel at the huge colonies of sea iguanas and witness the plethora of nesting seabirds. Take an adventure by sea kayak, paddleboard, glass bottom boat or zodiac. Snorkel in the Galapagos Marine Reserve with the friendly sea lions, turtles, and plenty of colourful fish and keep an eye out for penguins who'll zoom by at what seems like a

thousand miles an hour. If you have ever contemplated visiting these islands, this is the opportunity!

Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different

COME TRAVEL WITH US

IN SMALL GROUPS, TO UNIQUE DESTINATIONS

“What a great range of culture, landscapes and connecting with history this tour offered. I only wish we could have kept going! Blue Dot have gone above and beyond to offer a wonderful journey to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. These destinations were on my bucket list for years, and the tour went well above my expectations. I look forward to more tours with Blue Dot.”

PHILIPPA, NORTH COAST NSW



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 clients.



KEY TO OUR PHILOSOPHY:

- Our small groups have a lesser impact on the local communities and environments 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 support environmental conservation in the areas we visit.
- We review our itineraries to ensure that our included activities do not negatively impact animal welfare.
- We encourage our travellers to purchase from local suppliers and support social enterprises, local trade, arts & crafts.
- We advise our clients on how to respect the social, cultural and religious beliefs of local communities.



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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