

DESTINATION ADVENTURE TRAVEL

GOING WITH THE KNOWING

Adventure tours led by internationally renowned experts

Adventure travel is more than just a vacation with a bit of hiking or a distant glimpse at some exotic animal. According to the Adventure Travel Trade Assn., to qualify as true adventure travel, your trip must have at least two of these three components: a physical activity, a cultural exchange or interaction, and engagement with nature.

That calls for some serious expertise. Be it a 4x4 off-roading tour led by a professional rally driver, a small-group mountain trek guided by an esteemed explorer or a cruise enriched by lectures from a lauded academic and author, the best way to adventure is in the hands of a renowned expert. Here are some intriguing adventure trips helmed by internationally recognized specialists.

National Geographic Adventures offers a variety of imaginative adventures, which typically include meeting with NatGeo experts in the field. For example, its nine-day “Sweden: Dogsledding to the Icehotel” trip features Camilla Hansen, the program officer of National Geographic’s Global Exploration Fund-Northern Europe. WMore than 90% of participants in Explore’s “Northern Lights” experience have witnessed the spectacular Aurora Borealis, in large part thanks to the Icelandic locations hand-picked by astronomer Andrew Green. This novel adventure includes visiting lava fields and enjoying the geothermal waters of the Blue Lagoon.

Combining exotic guided dives with enlightening workshops and talks, Dive Worldwide’s expert-led small-group holidays create uniquely three-dimensional memories. Travel to Bali with award-winning underwater photographer Jane Morgan or to the Philippines with marine biologist Richard Smith. Or explore the remote

Galapagos Islands with resident naturalist and whale shark expert Jonathan Green.

Perhaps the most complete Rwanda and Uganda nature trip available, Journeys International’s “Primates and Parrots” itinerary is led by expert naturalist and trained ornithologist Paul Tamwenya. Tamwenya’s keen vision and extensive experience are crucial to this 14-day opportunity for birding, photography, and gorilla and chimp viewing.

Motoguides connects adventurers with guided motorcycle trips worldwide. Its 17-day “Bolivian Amazonia” odyssey traverses Bolivia’s breathtaking highlands and sweltering Amazon basin on “roads” that often challenge that description, and through mud, sand, dust and seemingly endless river crossings — all the more reason to trust in ultra-experienced guide Maarten Munnik, author of “100,000 Miles of Solitude.”

For thrill seekers who prefer four (or even 4x4) wheels, Israel-based Tripology Adventures designs expert-led self-drive adventure tours in places as far flung as Namibia and the Pyrenees. Tripology’s recent program through central Greece, “From Athens to the Pindus,” was helmed by seasoned guide and local nine-time rally champion Nikos Manolis.

South Africa’s Apex Predators specializes in eco-friendly small-group



A Ugandan mountain gorilla from the Primates and Parrots tour

Journeys International

expeditions including not-for-the-fainthearted shark cage diving with founders Chris and Monique Fallows. The couple have facilitated (and even hosted) shark documentaries for the likes of the Discovery Channel, BBC and National Geographic.

Tour operator Remote Lands boasts Jamling Tenzing Norgay (son of sherpa Tenzing Norgay, one of the first two climbers to reach the summit of Mount Everest), as a guide for its Himalayan hiking and trekking trips, while its “Borneo & Beyond” itinerary includes a meeting with Birute Galdikas, one of the world’s foremost orangutan experts.

Renowned explorer, writer and archeologist Peter Frost — a celebrated Peru expert who discovered the Inca and pre-Inca site of Qoriwayrachina while leading a National Geographic Society-sponsored expedition — has been among the guides on Paragon Expeditions’ eight-day “Inca Trail to Machu Picchu” tour, which also includes a private lecture with PhD ethnomusicologist and cultural expert Holly Wissler.

Also in Peru, Aracari Travel is offering

a five-day luxury Amazon lecture cruise with John Hemming, director of the Royal Geographic Society for over 20 years and one of the world’s foremost authorities and authors on the Incas and indigenous peoples of Amazonia.

Mountain Travel Sobek recently announced its new “Adventure Weeks” programs, which allow travelers to experience the company’s famously rich experiences in just one week. The first of its “Discovering Burma” Adventure Weeks, beginning Nov. 10, is a special trip with company co-founder, author and TV host Richard Bangs.

Founded last year by University of Michigan glaciochemist Sarah Aciego and New Hampshire photographer Mindy Cambiar, Big Chill Adventures designs exotic, photography-focused escapes to Greenland, Iceland, the Canadian Rockies and Alaska — many of which they lead themselves. Aciego has led multiple scientific expeditions to these regions (and to Antarctica) and written about them for more than 20 publications.

—PAUL ROGERS
Content Solutions Writer

MORE ADVENTURE TRAVEL



Telluride

When it comes to outdoor adventure, there’s nowhere else like Telluride. Our charming downtown serves as the perfect home base for exciting excursions. Try fly-fishing, go horseback riding or hike to breathtaking waterfalls. After, dine at one of our many incredible restaurants and see why Telluride was rated one of the top American cities for foodies in Condé Nast Traveler. Fly direct to Telluride (MT) from LAX on Allegiant from \$86.



Villa del Palmar at the Islands of Loreto

Explore your adventurous side with a whale watching tour and a stay in a Deluxe Studio suite at Villa del Palmar at the Islands of Loreto, Baja’s first “million star” resort. Get up close and personal with up to seven species of majestic whales, with options to visit Magdalena Bay or the Sea of Cortez, also known as the “Aquarium of the World.” Call 800-790-4187 and mention Whale Adventure options or email reservaciones.vdpl@vgloreto.com.

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