SteppesTravel

Expert-Led Cultural Group Tours

BEYOND THE ORDINARY
We are recognised as one of the leading specialists in cultural and historical small group tours. Our aim is to offer:

- Tours that go ‘beyond the ordinary’ and access sites not typically open to the public
- Average group size of just eight to ten people offering a more intimate, personalised and relaxed atmosphere
- An enviable pool of Tour Lecturers and Experts carefully selected based on their knowledge, companionship and personality
- We pride ourselves on offering a diverse range of small group tours. From classic itineraries including Greece and India to newer tours including Saudi Arabia and Armenia and Georgia.

We look forward to you joining us...

Justin Wateridge
Managing Director

## 2018 Expert-led Cultural Group Tours Calendar & Contents

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India: Deccan Odyssey Rail Journey

**WITH MIHIR BOSE**

In the company of award-winning journalist and author Mihir Bose, journey on board the Deccan Odyssey train to see the splendours of India’s rich history and culture.

Visit the historic monuments of Bijapur and see Hindu and Jain architecture and the holy shrines of Aihole and Pattadakal. Hampi’s 14th century Vijayanagara Empire was said to rival Rome and still holds a surprising number of temples and fine carvings.

Discover Nizami culture in Hyderabad and see the iconic UNESCO World Heritage Site and carved cave reliefs at Ajanta.

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**DEPARTURE: 16th - 25th February 2018**

10 days from £6,195 PP excluding flights

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® START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
The prospect of travelling in the footsteps of Richard Burton, T. E. Lawrence and Wilfred Thesiger is a tantalising one. Having found a reliable partner on the ground and an exceptional western leader with the knowledge and experience required to give insight into the kingdom we are excited to offer this group tour again, following a successful tour in 2017. There are few places left that can be said to represent the last frontier of tourism. Follow your curiosity and put experience before prejudgment.

Peter Harrigan has lived and worked in Saudi Arabia for over 30 years and is author of the book Riyadh: Heritage and Vision. Peter is a board member of the Saudi British Society and has led alumni tours to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States for Stanford and University of Washington, as well as Steppes Travel.

DEPARTURES: 18th - 28th February 2018 / 2nd - 12th November 2018
11 days from £5,795 PP excluding flights

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In partnership with Telegraph Tours

Iran: Luxury Train Journey

WITH MICHAEL PORTILLO

Join Michael Portillo for an exceptional journey on board the Golden Eagle train through one of the world’s most beguiling countries. You can expect elegant surroundings and fine dining as you travel across this remarkable country.

Traverse desert landscapes and discover the rich culture and heritage. Visit fascinating architectural sites including the ancient ruins of Persepolis, the rose city of Shiraz and the World Heritage Site of Isfahan, home to some of the most impressive Islamic architecture in the world.

DEPARTURE: 8th - 21st April 2018
15 days from £10,999 PP excluding flights

START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
Rich in manpower and natural resources, the ancient Kingdom of Macedonia provided the foundations for the outstanding expansionist successes of Alexander the Great and his father, Philip II. At one point Alexander’s vast empire stretched to the Indus River, helping to spread a Hellenistic culture awash with art, architecture and academia. Travel to Stageira, the birthplace of Aristotle and the ruins of Philippi founded by Philip. See the Grotto of the Nymphs, where Alexander studied under Aristotle as a boy and the sanctuary of Dion, dedicated to Zeus. Visit the wonderfully-preserved Royal Cemetery at Vergina, final resting place of Alexander’s father and marvel at the array of ancient treasures housed in Thessaloniki’s archaeological museum.

Following a degree in Classics and Archaeology, Carolyn has lectured in Ancient History and Mythology at Queen Mary College.

**DEPARTURE: 28th April - 5th May 2018**
8 days from £2,795 PP excluding flights

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Uzbekistan: Beyond the Oxus
WITH CHRIS ASLAN ALEXANDER

Delight in the architecture and culture of the fabled Silk Road cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. This tour takes in the art, crafts and historical sites, accompanied by expert, Chris Aslan Alexander who will help bring the region to life. With its dazzling array of mosques, madrasas, tombs and tales of Tamerlane reflecting the depth of its history, Uzbekistan is the perfect introduction to the Central Asian Plateau.

Chris travelled to Uzbekistan in 1998 to work on content for a guidebook. He was adopted by a local family and fell in love with the country, staying for seven years. Chris has led many Steppes tours in this region, has an impressive knowledge of both local culture and history and speaks fluent Uzbek.

DEPARTURE: 28th April - 8th May 2018
11 days from £2,715 PP excluding flights

START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
The Kingdom of Mustang is perched on the border with Tibet and for many years was closed to foreign visitors. Hence, the region is one of the last bastions of undisturbed, living Tibetan culture.

This group tour combines travelling by jeep and on foot through Mustang’s fascinating villages, alongside Buddhist shrines and temples and in the shadows of the iconic Himalayas. A key factor contributing to the success of our Upper Mustang walking and jeep safari is the skill, courtesy and experience of our tour expert, Nima Lama. Nima and his crew members know this area better than most and give close attention to every detail of the trip, to ensure a safe, comfortable, fun and fulfilling adventure.

**DEPARTURE: 29th April - 13th May 2018**
15 days from £3,975 PP excluding flights

**START YOUR JOURNEY** 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
Armenia & Georgia: The Caucasian Silk Route

WITH IAN COLVIN

Explore hilltop monasteries and fortresses.  
Highlights include Yerevan, Borjomi, Kazbegi and Tbilisi.  
Ian’s expert knowledge of this region will bring alive its history.

Beginning in the shadow of Mount Ararat, travel from the world famous illuminated manuscripts in Yerevan to the staggering religious architecture of Sanahin and Haghpat. En route visit the pilgrimage site of Echmiadzin and the vast mountain lake of Sevan with its ever-changing colours and shades of blue.

Crossing over into Georgia, land of Jason and the Argonauts, discover dramatic, unspoilt scenery peppered with fascinating historical and religious sites. Spend time amidst the beautiful alpine scenery of Kazbegi where Tsminda Sameba Church sits in its hilltop location beneath the towering peaks of Mount Kazbek. From Tbilisi’s Metekhi Citadel to the rock-cut monasteries of Gareja, explore Georgia’s magnificent art and architecture. Ian Colvin is a historian and researcher at the University of Cambridge who works on the South Caucasus and Byzantium. He speaks and reads Georgian.

DEPARTURES: 3rd - 15th May 2018
13 days from £3,595 PP excluding flights

START YOUR JOURNEY 0333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
The Moorish civilization of the cities of Andalucia was one of the most sophisticated of the Middle Ages. It is through this history that it is possible to see great art and architecture of both Islamic and Christian traditions side by side. Our group tour focuses on Islamic Geometric patterns in three main cities: Seville, Cordoba and Granada.

Starting in the beautiful city of Seville, explore the Alcázar castle complex, continue onto Cordoba, visiting the Mezquita, before finishing in Granada, spending ample time at the Alhambra.

Learn about the history of geometric patterns in these regions with the expert guidance of Eric Broug, who studies and lectures in the History of Islamic Art and Architecture.

**DEPARTURE: 13th - 20th May 2018**
8 days from £3,995 PP excluding flights

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This tour explores Albania’s lesser known sites, including rock-cut tombs, quarries full of inscriptions and a Bronze Age site overlooking the sea. Combining Illyrian cities like Amantia with Roman towns such as Hadrianopolis, the tour also takes in the natural beauty of rural Albania. We have also included a visit to Butrint – one of Albania’s better known sites.

Following a degree in Classics and Archaeology, Carolyn lectured in Ancient History and Mythology at Queen Mary College. Her research into the Illyrian kingdoms has led to this innovative itinerary.

**DEPARTURE:** 1st - 9th June 2018
9 days from £1,595 PP excluding flights

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England: Rural Life in the Cotswolds

WITH FERGUS BEELEY & LEE McCALLUM

An invitation to rub shoulders with British nobility and to enjoy private and exclusive access to some of England’s most auspicious stately homes, gardens and events. Staying at exceptional heritage hotels, explore hidden Cotswold villages, take a tour of Bath, discover HRH Prince Charles’ gardens at Highgrove and learn to fly-fish at Heale House.

Fergus Beeley has spent the last 25 years making wildlife films with Sir David Attenborough. He lives on the Badminton Estate and knows many of the Cotswolds’ most interesting people and places. Lee McCallum will guide the first few days, drawing on his love of the Cotswolds’ quirkiness and his connections with local, rural life. Between Fergus and Lee, there are few places in the Cotswolds they don’t know about.

**Exclusive access to Badminton House, home to the 11th Duke of Beaufort.**
**Visit some of the Cotswolds’ most beautiful villages.**
**Take a polo lesson and watch a cup final polo match in Cirencester.**

DEPARTURE: **21st - 28th June 2018**
8 days from £3,395 PP excluding flights

**START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@stepestravel.com**
Explore the fascinating, yet rarely visited pre-Inca archaeological sites of northern Peru. See the Moche artefacts from Sipan, adobe pyramids at Tucume and, concealed in northern Peru’s cloud forest, discover the citadel of Kuelap, a huge stone fortress that rivals Machu Picchu in scale and grandeur but without the crowds. Trek in the Cordillera Blanca mountains and visit the UNESCO archaeological site of Chavin which dates back to 1200BC.

Hugh Thomson is a writer and filmmaker whose first book, ‘The White Rock: An Exploration of the Inca Heartland’, was created after twenty years of exploring Peru. Hugh went on to publish ‘Cochineal Red’, which focuses primarily on the pre-Inca civilisations of the north.

DEPARTURE: 29th June - 11th July 2018
13 days from £4,495 PP excluding flights

START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
Gain a fascinating insight into the culture and traditions of China’s minority tribes in a part of the country far removed from the trappings of modern China. Visit Tibet’s revered Labrang Monastery and famous Buddhist philosophy school, experience the hospitality of a Mongol nomadic family and spend time at a Shaman festival.

Much of the emphasis on this trip will be on textiles, learning about traditional weaving techniques and discovering the meaning of the varied and historic costumes still worn by the local people in Qinghai. Gina specialises in Southwest China and the Tibetan Cultural Region and has collected and documented the textiles of this region. Gina’s significant collection of over fifty Chinese textiles was acquired by the British Museum and the National Museums Liverpool.

**DEPARTURE: 17th July - 2nd August 2018**
17 days from £3,495 PP excluding flights

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Colombia: Amazon, Andes & Archaeology

WITH JUAN ORTIZ

Ceremonial statues, tombs and burial mounds at San Agustin.
River trip in the Amazon basin to see ancient wall paintings.
Walk in Tayrona National Park to visit archaeological ruins of Pueblito.

It is an historic time for Colombia. As peace accords are signed and previously inaccessible areas of the country are opening up for travel, join us on this ground-breaking tour to discover the historic highlights of Colombia. Explore remote archaeological sites in the Andes, Amazon and northern tropical forests to see exquisite stone sculptures, paintings and tombs and to learn about indigenous cultures from a selection of specialist archaeologists and anthropologists.

Juan Ortiz will host this group and introduce you to an impressive line-up of Colombia’s leading experts who will be joining the group locally.

DEPARTURE: 25th August - 6th September 2018
13 days from £5,295 PP excluding flights

START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
Explore and learn about the most significant paleolithic art caves of northern Spain, all of them UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Insightful visits to actual sites, replicas and complementary museums provide a comprehensive experience of the art, which spans some 30,000 years. Understand the archaeology of each site, gaining insight into this fascinating period of the human story, which marks the dawn of art and symbolic communication.

Charles Schwalbe was born and lives in Cantabria, in the heart of the Paleolithic art cave area of northern Spain. He has been leading tours of the caves for nearly a decade. He has accumulated hundreds of hours exploring and learning about them, including first-hand experience in caves closed to the general public. He is a native speaker of both Spanish and English.

**DEPARTURE:** 3rd - 10th September 2018
8 days from £3,795 PP excluding flights

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Armenia & Iran: Median Empire to Modern Day

WITH WILLIAM TAYLOR

Two countries with contrasting religions and cultures yet a singular hospitality and charm.

Cultural, historical and religious treasures of Yerevan, Dzoraget, Tabriz, Kermanshah, Persepolis and Shiraz.

Insight from expert William Taylor.

Armenia and Iran are so culturally rich, with intriguing ancient histories, monuments and beautiful landscapes that combining them into one trip is irresistible. Not only a fascinating combination for the first-time visitor, this expert-led group tour also provides a deeper insight to those returning to the area. Our new group tour will do much to highlight the differences but also the similarities between the different religions of each country, illustrating how religion has influenced the people, the culture and the architecture of Armenia and Iran.

William is a writer and broadcaster on the Islamic World and Orthodox Churches. An inveterate traveller, William has lectured and travelled extensively throughout the Caucasus region, Balkans, Middle East and Central Asia. He speaks Syriac, Arabic and Turkish. He has been leading very successful Steppes Travel tours for many years.

DEPARTURE: 7th - 22nd September 2018

16 days from £5,895 PP excluding flights

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Georgia: Walking Through the Caucasus

WITH PETER NASMYTH

Take guided tours of Georgia’s ancient capital, Tbilisi, before leaving the city behind to explore the rural settlement of Kazbegi, surrounded by impressive mountains, fascinating villages and home to beautiful churches. Walk through Khada Gorge, amidst medieval watchtowers, waterfalls, dense forests and rivers and take a picnic lunch in the alpine meadows of Borjomi-Kharagauli Park in the lesser Caucasus. Travelling through the Caucasus by foot and by 4x4, accompanied by an expert guide, will provide genuine insight into the history, architecture and rural lifestyle of many Georgians.

Peter is a writer and journalist who has been travelling in the Caucasus for the past 13 years, writing on the area for most major UK newspapers as well as the Washington Post.

DEPARTURE: 6th - 18th September 2018
13 days from £2,995 PP excluding flights

START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
Rising to prominence under the Achaemenid dynasty, rulers of the largest pre-Roman empire, Iran’s culture and architecture has flourished ever since. Visit Shiraz, the cultural capital of Iran, and discover Yadz, a city designed around desert life. Explore the site of ancient Persepolis before visiting the rock-cut tombs of the Achaemenid kings. Finally travel on to Isfahan - the beautiful creation of Shah Abbas - and visit the magnificent Imam Square, arguably one of the wonders of the Islamic world.

Sylvie has led trips to Iran for Steppes for many years, and has written at length about the region in travel articles and guidebooks. Having travelled extensively in the Middle East, Sylvie then went to Iran, and fell totally under the spell of the country.

**DEPARTURE:** 6th - 20th September 2018
14 days from £4,995 PP excluding flights
Discover the splendour of the Tsars with Katya Galitzine, with a focus on some of the jewels and treasures of pre-revolutionary Russia. Explore some of the vaults within the Hermitage and uncover exceptional gems and marvel at the riches of Russia at the Mining Institute. See the fantastic private collection of Fabergé eggs in the new Museum at the Shuvalov Palace, showcasing a collection of over 1,500 pieces.

Katya Galitzine has a family name that is one of the oldest in Russian history and is a direct descendant of Catherine the Great.

**DEPARTURE:** 25th - 30th September 2018
6 days from £2,495 PP excluding flights

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India: Classic Rajasthan
WITH ARUN PRATAP SINGH MANOHAR

A perfect introduction to the north of India. Accompany Indian history and culture scholar, Arun on a journey through the royal cities of Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur. Experience Rajasthani life in the rural communities, learn from museum curators and renowned individuals on a variety of topics, including contemporary and modern art, Sufism, polo, local cuisine and temple ceremonies.

Arun lectures in academic establishments and is a published features writer. He was born and educated in Rajasthan. His background, insider knowledge and insights make him an excellent interpreter of Indian customs and cultures.

DEPARTURE: 7th - 18th October 2018
12 days from £5,325 PP excluding flights

START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
Peru: Textiles of the Sacred Valley
WITH JOHN ALFREDO DAVIS BENAVIDES

Learn more about the Peruvian culture through the eyes of textile tradition. Visit the highlights of southern Peru including Machu Picchu, Cusco, the Sacred Valley and Lake Titicaca and enjoy a deep immersion in the traditions, folklore and way of life of the Andean people. Meet Accha Alta, Chinchero and Pitumarca communities, each with their own weaving designs, techniques and stories. Participate in hands-on workshops of dyeing and weaving.

John Alfredo Davis Benavides was born in Peru, has an education in Fine Arts and a lifelong interest in the revival and promotion of Peruvian folk art and textiles. He has written many books and articles on the preservation of Peruvian textiles and has travelled extensively through Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru, leading textile tours.

DEPARTURE: 19th - 28th October 2018
10 days from £4,750 PP excluding flights

START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
Oman: Ancient Magan to the Frankincense Lands

WITH CARL PHILLIPS

Spend a night under the stars at Wahiba sands in the superb Canvas Club Desert camp.

Visit local communities in the Hajar Mountains with an understanding of the Omani culture from expert Carl Phillips.

Discover coastal Salalah and the ruins of Al Balid.

Visit the major highlights of Oman and along the way unveil some of the country’s best kept secrets. Starting in Muscat, travel into the mountains of Al Hamra and Nizwa. Continue into the desert in Wahiba sands spending a night dining under the stars. Return to the coastal area known for its turtles before ending in Salalah. This group trip to Oman is designed to uplift, educate, delight the senses, titillate the taste buds and send you home with a warm heart and lasting memories.

Carl has worked extensively in the Middle East specialising in the archaeology of Arabia, he offers an excellent view of the region’s politics, culture and history.

DEPARTURE: 11th - 22nd November 2018
12 days from £5,295 PP excluding flights

START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
Saudi Arabia & Jordan: Empires of the Nabatean

WITH PETER HARRIGAN

Follow in the footsteps of the Nabateans, with Steppes’ expert host, Peter Harrigan, on a fascinating journey between Petra and Mad‘ain Saleh. The route between these two remarkable sites was one of Arabia’s most prolific trading routes during the first millennia. Steeped in history, and home to some of the world’s earliest settlements, both Saudi Arabia and Jordan are a treasure trove for curious travellers with an interest in ancient cultures.

Peter Harrigan has lived and worked in Saudi Arabia for over 30 years and is author of the book Riyadh: Heritage and Vision. Peter is a board member of the Saudi British Society and has led alumni tours to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States for Stanford and University of Washington, as well as Steppes Travel.

DEPARTURE: 19th Nov - 4th December 2018
9 days from £4,895 PP excluding flights

START YOUR JOURNEY 0333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
Myanmar: The Trail of the Ancestors

WITH ZARA FLEMING

See the pagodas of Bagan and Inle Lake. | Explore the less visited Mon state with remote tribal communities such as Mon, Karen and the Palanung people. | Watch the sun set over Golden Rock.

This tour combines off the beaten track adventure, remote communities and some of Myanmar’s true highlights to provide a unique journey through this most fascinating of countries. The itinerary is designed to allow time to meet the people, sample the cuisine and discover the quieter more traditional corners of the land of the golden pagodas.

Zara is an independent art consultant, researcher, cataloguer and exhibition curator with specialist knowledge of Buddhist art. She currently lectures at the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies and delivers talks for museums, universities, and Asian art societies.

DEPARTURE: 19th November - 4th December 2018
16 days from £4,395 PP excluding flights

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Christmas Tours to:
Russia, Italy & Georgia

WITH LOCAL GUIDES

Celebrate the festive season in style with a short break to one of our European cities.

All our Christmas tours will be accompanied by an English speaking guide throughout to enrich your experience.
If you would like to spend longer then speak to one of our Travel Experts to extend your time away.

Book early for 2018 to secure your place.

Russia - Christmas in St Petersburg
22nd - 26th December 2018
5 days from £1,695 PP

Italy - Christmas in Florence
22nd - 26th December 2018
5 days from £1,995 PP

Georgia - Christmas in Tbilisi
23rd - 28th December 2018
6 days from £1,495 PP

DEPARTURES: December 2018
All pricing excluding flights.

START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
In addition to our cultural tours, we are recognised as one of the UK’s leading specialists in wildlife small group tours. Our aim is to offer an exceptional wildlife experience working with our enviable pool of Tour Experts and conservation partners. Please contact us for a copy of our Wildlife Tours Brochure or see our website for our full portfolio of tours.

**ELEPHANTS OF SAMBURU**
Take walks and game drives in Samburu escorted by Saba Douglas-Hamilton and Elephant Watch’s Samburu guides. Meet researchers from Save The Elephants who will introduce you to the resident elephant herd.

*Accompanied by Saba Douglas-Hamilton. 17th - 24th January 2018*  
*From £7,295 PP*  

**SPITSBERGEN**
Join professional wildlife photographer Sue Flood and marine biologist Monty Halls. Both wildlife and photographic opportunities abound with key species such as polar bears, beluga whales and the Arctic fox.

*In partnership with Telegraph Tours*  
*Accompanied by Monty Halls & Sue Flood. 7th - 18th July 2018*  
*From £6,450 PP*  

**AMAZON CRUISE**
Join explorer Benedict Allen and travel deep into the Ecuadorian Amazon. Meet three distinct indigenous communities and explore the wildlife-rich sanctuaries of Cuyabeno and Yasuni.

*In partnership with Telegraph Tours*  
*Accompanied by Benedict Allen. 10th - 19th August 2018*  
*From £4,850 PP*  

**VIEW ALL OF OUR NEW WILDLIFE TOURS ONLINE**  
[STEPPESTRAVEL.COM/WILDLIFE-GROUP-TOURS](http://STEPPESTRAVEL.COM/WILDLIFE-GROUP-TOURS)  

**FIND OUT MORE:** [WILDLIFE@STEPPESTRAVEL.COM](mailto:WILDLIFE@STEPPESTRAVEL.COM)
BAJA

WHALE WATCHING

Board the expedition vessel Searcher for the best whale-watching trip in the world. Art Taylor has over thirty years experience and Jo Ruxton offers insight into ocean conservation.

In partnership with New Scientist

Accompanied by Art Taylor & Jo Ruxton.
22nd Jan - 4th Feb 2018
From £4,895 PP*

GALAPAGOS

PHOTOGRAPHIC CRUISE

May is the perfect time to see the bizarre courtship displays of the blue-footed boobies and sea turtles and marine iguanas hatching. Visit nine islands with plenty of time for photographic opportunities and Sue’s expert eye to help you take the best footage.

Accompanied by Sue Flood.
20th - 30th May 2018
From £6,195 PP*

INDIA

SNOW LEOPARDS

Explore Ladakh’s Ulley Valley, the best region in the Himalaya for snow leopard sightings. Track these rare and elusive cats with experts from the Snow Leopard Conservancy.

Accompanied by David Sonam & Tchewang Norbu.
3rd - 14th February 2018
From £4,495 PP*

NAMIBIA

PREDATOR CONSERVATION

Working exclusively with AfriCat, gain behind the scenes access to their conservation work at Okonjima Reserve and Hobatere Concession.

Accompanied by Donna Hanssen & Tammy Holth-Hanssen.
22nd June - 4th July 2018
From £5,295 PP*

SOUTH AFRICA

RHINO CONSERVATION

Join vet Dr Peter Rogers for a hands-on holiday. Help dart, notch and microchip a rhino with rangers from Klaserie Nature Reserve. With time in Greater Kruger for walks and guided game drives.

Accompanied by Dr Peter Rogers.
22nd - 28th July 2018
From £2,295 PP*

TONGA

HUMPBACK WHALES

Swim with humpback whales, accompanied by Sir David Attenborough’s favourite cameraman, Doug Allan. Immerse yourself in Tonga’s compelling mix of spectacular landscapes, pristine rainforests and azure waters.

Accompanied by Doug Allan.
15th - 26th September 2018
From £5,395 PP*

*excluding flights
Intrepid & Adventurous

Pioneering Tours

Do you have a spirit of adventure? Are you looking for something different?
Then join one of the Steppes team on one of our pioneering tours.
Experience traditional life with indigenous tribes and explore places few have travelled to accompanied by local guides.

WILDLIFE & CULTURE OF AFRICA’S EDEN
Discover the vast Ivindo National Park, home to Logouve Bai. Explore Loango National Park and encounter forest elephants and trek for lowland gorillas. Experience an iboga-fuelled Bwiti ceremony, deep within Gabon’s interior.

12th – 24th January 2019
From £6,395 PP excluding flights

ANGOLA
DESERT TRIBES & HIDDEN LANDSCAPES
Explore Angola’s remote southern deserts. Meet local tribes, whose customs and lives remain largely unaffected by western influences. Travel in the company of anthropologist Joan Riera.

13th – 22nd July 2018
From £4,995 PP excluding flights

CAMEROON
NGUON FESTIVAL & LOWLAND GORILLAS
Visit the royal Nguon Festival, which only happens every two years. Trek for newly habituated western lowland gorillas in Campo Ma’an National Park. Explore Cameroon’s highlands, forests and coastline.

5th – 16th December 2018
From £3,395 PP excluding flights

ERITREA
INSIDE AFRICA’S FORGOTTEN KINGDOM
Explore remarkable Asmara, rebuilt as Africa’s “Little Rome” by Mussolini. Cruise through the Dahlak Archipelago, with its coral reefs, desert islands and marine life. Admire Ottoman buildings, as well as Aksumite ruins, such as Qohaito.

18th – 29th October 2018
From £2,995 PP excluding flights

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST: PIONEERING@STEPPESTRAVEL.COM

START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands Cruise

WITH SIR RANULPH FIENNES, JONATHAN SHACKLETON AND SUE FLOOD

Following the success of our exclusive charter to Antarctica in January 2017, we are delighted to offer another opportunity to join Steppes, along with some of the world’s leading polar experts on a private expedition cruise to Antarctica. Travelling at the optimum time of the year, the RCGS Resolute offers a luxury platform from which to explore one of the world’s last truly pristine environments. Experience Antarctica’s epic scale and sense of space on daily excursions, by zodiac, kayak and on foot. Visit Sir Ernest Shackleton’s grave accompanied by his cousin, Jonathan Shackleton and take tips from Sue Flood on how best to photograph the 200,000 king penguins that call Salisbury Plain home.

DEPARTURE: 30th January - 17th February 2019
18 days from £14,995 PP excluding flights

START YOUR JOURNEY 03333 318 714 // cultural@steppestravel.com
The Steppes Difference

GROUP TOURS BEYOND THE ORDINARY

Hand-picked Tour Experts
We carefully select our experts based on their knowledge, companionship and influence. Often they can facilitate private access to sites not typically open to the public.

Benefit from our small group sizes
Our average group size is typically 8-10 people, allowing you to have a more personalised and relaxed experience, a factor which many of our clients appreciate.

Refer friends and get rewarded
The biggest compliment you can pay us is to recommend us. Refer a new client to the same group tour and we will give both you and them a £100 discount when they book.

*All pricing throughout is excluding international flights. Flights can be arranged at an additional cost.
Bespoke holidays

BEYOND THE ORDINARY

Tailor-made travel

As well as our wildlife and expert-led cultural tours we create exceptional tailor-made journeys. By listening to your likes and dislikes we help plan a personalised itinerary tailored around you, finessing every detail before, during and after your holiday. Your holiday. Your experience. Your way.

Our objective will always be to show you the highlights of a country, but to also take you off the beaten track to see the lesser known, but equally interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists.

Get in touch to see where we can take you.
We hope that you can join those who return to us year after year.
Why Steppes?

Service
You can depend on us to deliver to high standards. We go that extra mile. With over 25 years of experience and knowledge we have built up many long-standing relationships with our partners around the world, ensuring they deliver the very best service to you.

No wonder then that over 70% of our business is repeat and referral.

Trust
You will not only be able to contact our partners throughout your stay abroad but also our office on a dedicated number that is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We go that extra mile to give you added security and peace of mind.

Expertise
We use our experience to create yours. Our Experts travel to the destinations in which they specialise up to three times a year, increasing their knowledge and always experiencing what’s new.

Pricing
Booking through a tour operator may not be as expensive as you think. We negotiate the best rates with hotels and expert guides, ensuring you always get the best value for money. Often we have access to exclusive offers which are only available to our clients. Booking through us also ensures you are protected from fluctuations in exchange rates.

Protected
By booking through us you have the security of a financially protected holiday as offered by our ATOL licence (6945).

Ethical
Being responsible in our travels and operations both locally and globally is ingrained in all that we do at Steppes.
Each time you travel with us, we donate £5 to a local charity in the UK and £10 to an international charity.
Each time we travel, we offset our carbon emissions with the World Land Trust. If you can, we urge you to do the same.

Surprising
We love out of the ordinary and relish the opportunity to create a truly beyond the everyday experience for you, your friends and family.

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Right from the first contact it was clear Chris understood the kind of trip we wanted and his expert advice ensured we were able to plan and experience the perfect trip. We wouldn’t hesitate to recommend Chris and the rest of the Steppes team.

- Bertie

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Client Testimonials

Don’t just take our word for it

“Bridget could not have been more helpful in organising all aspects of our trip, she was very knowledgeable about the country and was able to select a fantastic trip which worked well for the whole family. She always responded promptly to our many enquiries so that when we left we felt reassured all would go well.”
- Karen | Zimbabwe

“Even though we had done a large amount of research for the trip we found the expertise of Steppes invaluable in comparing accommodation types and obtaining a good balance between value and experience. We were also pleased that the recommendations given were in line with the budget we had provided and there was no attempt to push us over the line financially.”
- Joanne | Argentina

“We were both impressed with your knowledge and with your speedy replies to all questions.”
- Judith | Antarctica

“John put together my trip perfectly as I hadn’t a clue about what to see in the time I had!”
- Jillian | Baja California

“Sue’s in-depth knowledge of the region and the vessel was invaluable in our preparation for the trip and was a strong differentiator when we were choosing a travel agent. Talking with Sue, we quickly got an honest perspective.”
- Fiona | Antarctica

“Excellent in every way. Particularly liked the document holder and mini itinerary which we received before leaving, it was invaluable throughout our trip! Promptness of communication was excellent as was the vast knowledge and expertise of our travel experts.”
- James | Brazil

“We had a very well organised trip given the short notice. You made the trip unforgettable, since we had nothing to worry about except enjoying the stays. We have been spoiled in every location and the choices of them where outstanding. Thank you!”
- Mikhail | Botswana

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