

SUNDOWNER

FOR THE INSPIRED TRAVELLER • SUMMER 2022

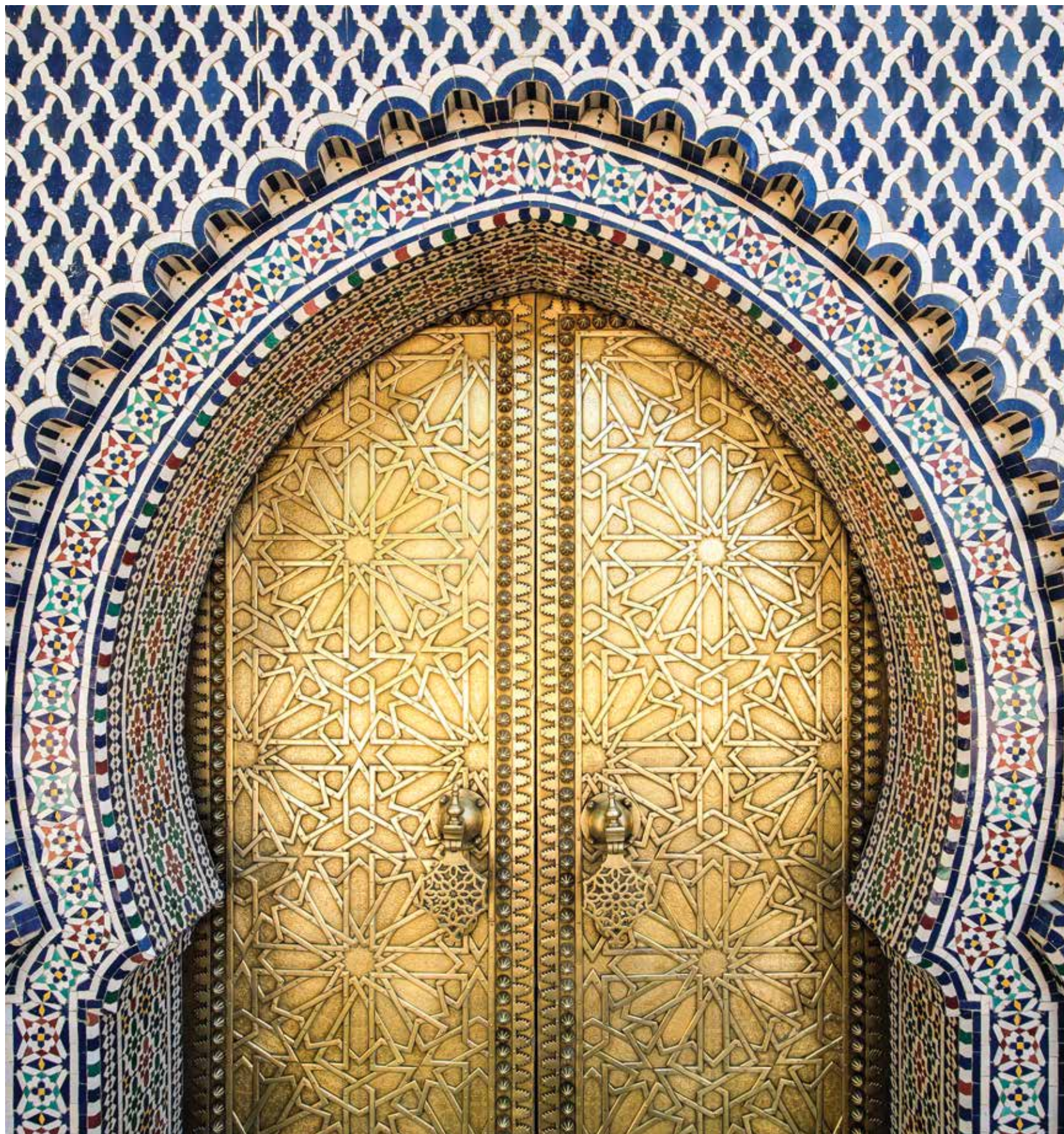
— INSIDE —

JAPAN

MOROCCO

ICELAND

ITALY



Abercrombie & Kent

FOUNDER'S NOTE



WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER 2022 ISSUE

As the globe starts to reopen and summer arrives in your part of the world, I am delighted to share our latest issue of Sundowner serving up an array of inspiring articles, field notes from our resident experts and a swathe of enticing travel ideas – both perennial favourites and some fresh new selections.

Travellers seeking the exotic will enjoy Hannah-Rose's Yee's account of her journey through Morocco (page 24) chasing spices and sunsets while Ute Junker discovers paradise off the beaten track in Iceland (page 30). Annabelle Thorpe shares her dreamy sojourn in the Italian Lakes (page 36) and a photo essay on the Nelson Tasman region (page 14) brings this treasured pocket of New Zealand into sharp focus.

Our Insider's Guide to Japan (page 18) reveals a snapshot of the country's cultural scene, while our Notes from the Field (page 56) this issue takes you to Egypt. And every year, we release our much-anticipated Hot List (page 42). This year is a little different to most when we shine a spotlight on the motivating factors we think will help you, our travellers, navigate your destination choices in the new COVID age of travel.

Personally, I'm excited about venturing to two destinations next year for the first time on my private jet journey: Eritrea, and its Art Deco capital Asmara, and Benin for a deep dive into the mysterious world of voodoo. And I'll also be hosting an intimate group on a privileged tour of some of Britain's great country estates where we'll go behind the scenes at Windsor Castle and Goodwood Motor Circuit and stay at Floors Castle in Scotland as personal guests of its owner, the Duke of Roxburghe.

I invite you to start planning your own adventures or join me on mine. Whichever you choose, let A&K, and our global family, help you confidently plan your future travels and deliver unforgettable experiences, every time.

Geoffrey Kent

Founder, Co-Chairman & CEO of the Abercrombie & Kent Group of Companies



follow me on Instagram and hear
about my latest A&K adventures
[@geoffrey_kent](#)

CONTENTS

SUMMER 2022



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FEATURES

- 24 **MESMERISING MOROCCO**
In search of spices and sunsets, flavours
and fragrances
- 30 **ALONE AT LAST**
Off the beaten track in Iceland
- 36 **ETHEREAL GREAT LAKES**
Italy's Lake Como and *la dolce vita*

REGULARS

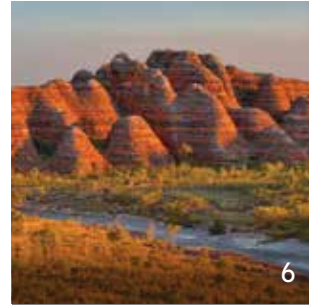
- 4 **NEWS**
Goings-on around the A&K world
- 10 **A&K PHILANTHROPY**
Positively impacting lives & livelihoods
- 56 **NOTES FROM THE FIELD**
Egypt

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 6 **EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES
IN OUR OWN BACKYARD**
Small Group Journeys in Australasia
- 12 **WISH YOU WERE HERE**
The Bushmen of the Kalahari
- 14 **RECENT TRAVELS**
A photo essay from Nelson Tasman
- 18 **INSIDER'S GUIDE**
Japan
- 42 **HOT LIST 2022**
A&K's inspiration for travel
- 50 **AROUND THE WORLD**
2022 Limited Edition Small Group Journeys
- 54 **A JOURNEY REVEALED**
South Pacific Voyage: Komodo, Papua &
Great Barrier Reef



4



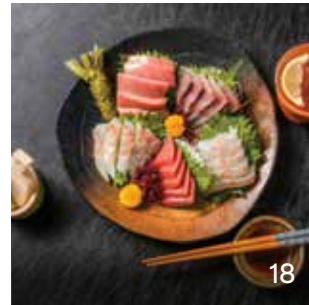
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10



14



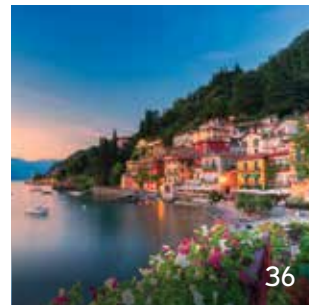
18



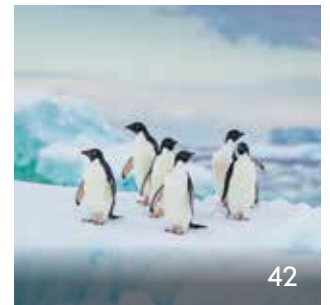
24



30



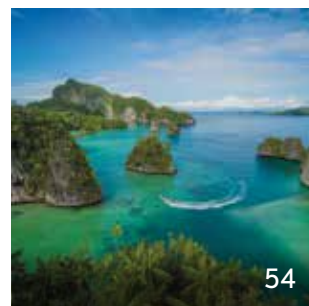
36



42



50



54



56

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HANNAH-ROSE YEE

Page 24

Hannah-Rose Yee is a writer based in Sydney. In 2020, just before the pandemic shut down international travel for the next two years, she was living in London and travelled to Morocco with A&K to report a story for *Gourmet Traveller* and fell in love with this vibrant and intoxicating country. "I had been to Marrakech once before, but this trip really showed me the breadth of Morocco, from the coast to the mountains, small villages and big cities," she says. Alongside *Gourmet Traveller*, she has written for *Vogue*, *marie claire*, *Elle*, *The Australian* and *Sydney Morning Herald*.



UTE JUNKER

Page 30

Ute Junker reports from farflung corners of the world for outlets including the *Australian Financial Review*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *New York Times' T Magazine*. Iceland is one of her favourite destinations. "It's not just the majestic scenery – it's the fact that those dramatic landscapes are paired with such a welcoming community feel." Ute frequently appears on radio and television talking travel, and is the founder of the *Walk the World* podcast.



ANNABELLE THORPE

Page 36

Annabelle Thorpe is an author and award-winning travel journalist. She began her career on *The Times* travel desk, before moving to a role as Deputy Travel Editor at *The Express*, and then *The Observer*. In recent years, she has focused on writing fiction; her first novel, *The People We Were Before* was published in 2016, her second, *What Lies Within* in 2018. Her third is currently in production, and she has also written two UK-based travel books. In a twenty-year travelling career, she has visited over sixty countries but her heart belongs to London and Sussex.

Check us OUT

Follow A&K online for recent happenings, news and travel inspiration.

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INSTAGRAM



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Join us on our travels around the world, as we share our favourite photos from the field. Tag your A&K travels with #GoBeyondtheOrdinary.

YOUTUBE



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Discover more about A&K Philanthropy projects.



On the Cover: Entrance to the old Royal Palace in Fes, Morocco (page 24).

Our appreciation for imagery to: Sanctuary Retreats, A&K Philanthropy, Elise Hassey, Shutterstock, Getty Images, and all our partner airlines, hotels, vessels and properties.

Illustration: Joy Gosney.

Luxury Expedition Cruises

Ultra-refined luxury polar expeditions and immersive cultural cruises

Antarctica | The Arctic | Greece | Italy | Baltic Sea | Japan | Kimberley | South Pacific^{NEW} | British Isles^{NEW}

"Glittering white, shining blue, raven black... the land looks like a fairytale. Pinnacle after pinnacle, peak after peak – crevassed, wild as any land on our globe, it lies, unseen and untrodden. It is a wonderful feeling to travel along it." – Roald Amundsen

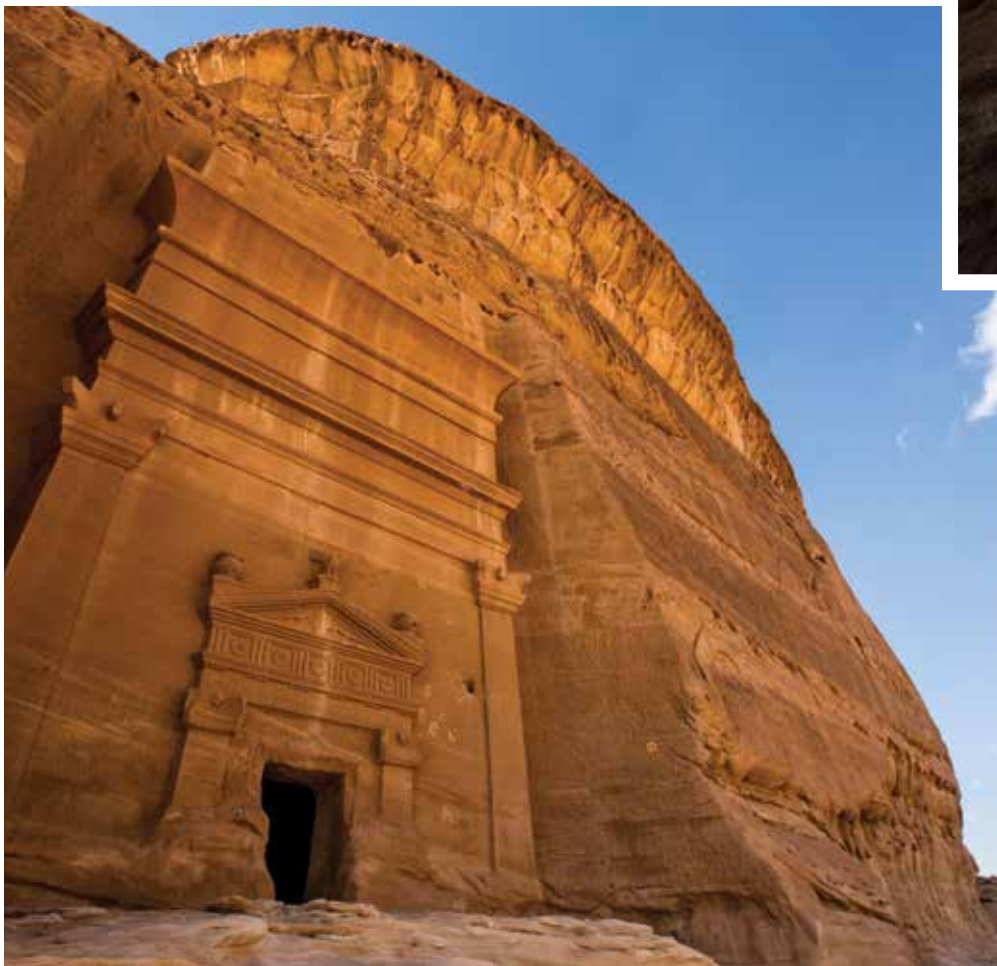
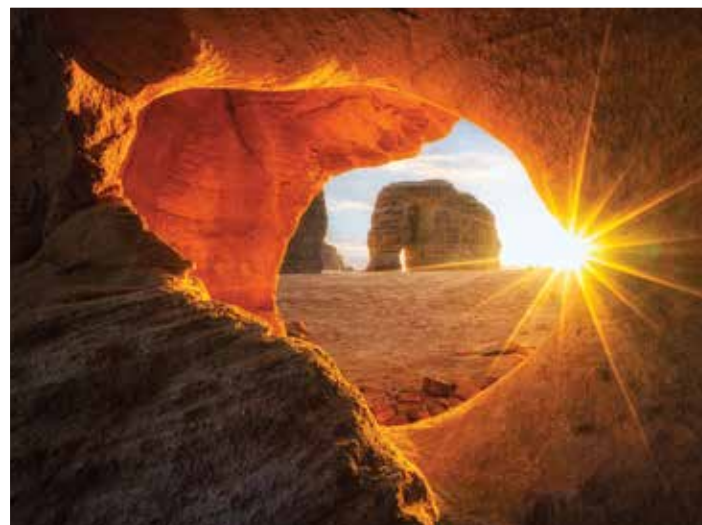
Backed by an award-winning, 30-year expedition cruising legacy, every voyage is a truly all-inclusive, unscripted adventure on exclusively chartered, state-of-the-art vessels limited to no more than 199 guests. Dynamic shore excursions and onboard activities with the award-winning expedition team are inspiring and insightful. 2022-23 voyages on sale now with early booking savings on many departures.

Call Abercrombie & Kent on 1300 551 541 or talk to your travel agent.

www.abercrombiekent.com.au



Abercrombie & Kent



A&K ARRIVES IN SAUDI ARABIA

With a global network of more than 55 offices, A&K has recently opened a new office in Saudi Arabia with plans afoot to build a number of luxury lodges across the country, the first opening in 2022.

Saudi Arabia is an exciting, and emerging, destination, closed to much of the outside world until recently. The extraordinary carved temples of Madain Saleh, known as the second Petra, are a highlight and Al Ula, the vast open-air museum located on the ancient incense route, is simply astonishing. Cosmopolitan Riyadh, Jubbah's sophisticated rock art and Jeddah's World Heritage coral architecture all add up to reveal an exclusive glimpse of a realm veiled in secrecy.

See page 46 for travel inspiration.

CITY GETAWAYS AT PARK HYATT MELBOURNE

Adjacent to the verdant Fitzroy Gardens, St Patrick's Cathedral and a stone's throw from Collins Street, the Park Hyatt Melbourne is a welcoming inner-city sanctuary perfectly located for all Melbourne has to offer. Treat yourself to one of our indulgent urban getaways.

Family Escape

Enjoy two nights' accommodation in interconnecting rooms with a swathe of special inclusions that are sure to entice young and old alike. There's valet parking, tailored activity packs for the children, in-room movies and screen time snacks, a hands-on baking demonstration and a picnic in the park. Plus, receive a personal introduction to Mr Walker, the hotel's resident blonde Labrador, who relishes a walk first thing every morning.

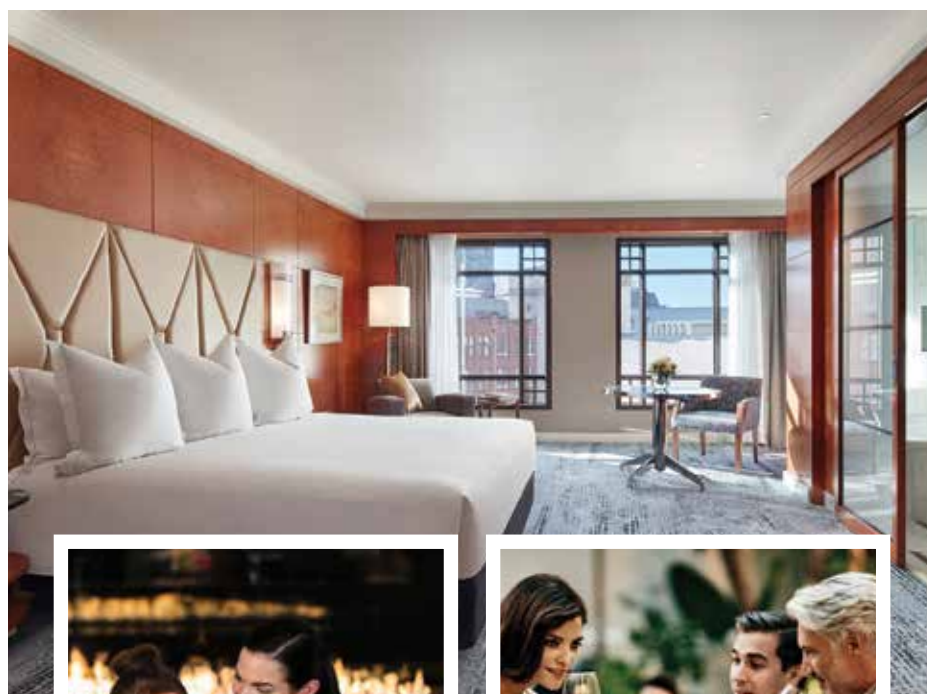
Family Getaway: \$2495 total (based on 2 adults + 2 children)*

Couples Indulgence

This romantic city break includes two nights at Park Hyatt Melbourne, afternoon tea and a massage on arrival plus an evening classic cocktail class with the hotel's resident mixologist. Valet parking and breakfast is included plus a \$100 per person meal credit.

Couples Indulgence: \$995 per person*

*Prices valid for stays to 30 April 2022. Book by 28 April 2022. Blackout dates apply: 22-31 December 2021 inclusive, 28-30 January 2022 inclusive & 7-10 April 2022 inclusive.



Exclusive Preview

2023–24 EXPEDITION CRUISES

We are excited to offer a first look at our 2023–24 cruising season. Backed by more than 30 years of expedition cruising experience, our voyages are renowned for all-inclusive comfort on exclusively chartered small ships, all-balcony staterooms and suites, and an award-winning Expedition Team leading every adventure-packed day. Keep an eye on our website as we finalise plans for new cruise itineraries and destinations.



ADVENTURE CRUISES TO EARTH'S FARTHEST FRONTIERS

Explore awe-inspiring Antarctica, the Arctic, the natural wonders of Indonesia and Australia's Kimberley on astonishing itineraries found nowhere else. Led by A&K's award-winning Expedition Team — real-life explorers who are experts in their fields — experience a spectacular cruise aboard a luxurious ship purpose-built for adventure.

Arctic Cruise Adventure: In Search of the Polar Bear

15 days | Jul 17, 2023 | Limited to 199 guests

Antarctic Cruise Adventure

13 days | Dec 10, 2023 | Limited to 199 guests

Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands: Holiday Voyage

18 days | Dec 20, 2023 | Limited to 199 guests

Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands Expedition

18 days | Jan 4, 2024 | Limited to 199 guests

Antarctica Discovery: Beyond the Antarctic Circle

5 days | Jan 19, 2024 | Limited to 199 guests

Kimberley Cruise: Australia's Last Frontier

11 days | May 14, 2023 | Limited to 148 guests

Indonesia Voyage: Komodo, Papua & Great Barrier Reef

17 days | Oct 20, 2023 | Limited to 148 guests



CULTURAL CRUISES THAT ENRICH AND ENLIGHTEN

A unique and compelling sense of discovery defines every A&K cultural voyage, from the comprehensive itinerary designed by A&K experts to the enriching and authentic insider access opportunities found on your choice of included shore excursions, curated by A&K and accompanied by passionate local guides.

Wonders of Japan Cruise: Cherry Blossom Season

14 days | Mar 29, 2023 | Limited to 199 guests

Cruising the Baltic Sea: Copenhagen to St. Petersburg

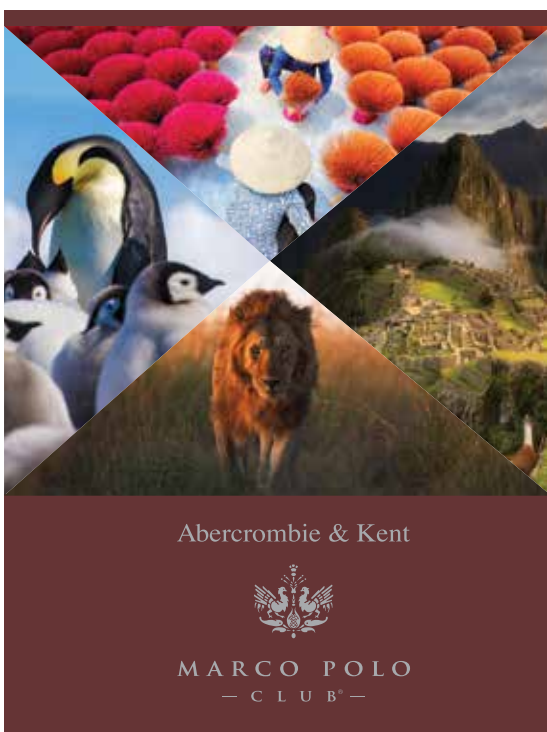
13 days | Jul 15, 2023 | Limited to 148 guests

Italy Cruise: Hidden Treasures from Florence to Venice

12 days | Sep 9, 2023 | Limited to 148 guests

Cruising the Greek Isles

10 days | Sep 27, 2023 | Limited to 148 guests



MARCO POLO CLUB

Join the exclusive community of A&K's most passionate and loyal travellers.

You will be personally invited to join the Marco Polo Club after travelling on your third journey of seven days or more with Abercrombie & Kent Australia. Our complimentary loyalty programme offers members-only savings on A&K travel and special attention and recognition while travelling with A&K. This ensures you'll receive exactly the kind of authentic, enriching and luxurious travel experiences that create everlasting memories.

Exclusive benefits include:

- 5% savings* for you and your immediate family travelling with you, when you make a new booking within nine months of returning from an A&K journey
- 50% off the published single supplement on selected journeys
- Members-only onboard reception on A&K's Luxury Expedition Cruises
- VIP acknowledgment and gifts when travelling with A&K
- Priority waitlist on sold-out journeys
- Exclusive member communications and events
- Various travel partner savings and benefits

*Savings apply on bookings of seven nights or more on A&K private and small group journeys (except Private Jet journeys and Inspiring Expeditions by Geoffrey Kent). Not valid on international and internal air, select promotional offers and non-A&K services (travel insurance, visas etc.).

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Extraordinary shared experiences on your doorstep



Without travelling far from home, find yourself somewhere amazing on an intimate and immersive, shared Antipodean adventure. This select portfolio focuses on some of Australia and New Zealand's most captivating scenic and cultural wonders with a fine balance of guided activity and breathing room, allowing time and space for you to learn, explore and appreciate. These small groups have between six and 12 guests meaning you'll enjoy more one-on-one interaction with your guides and gain rare access to experiences and unique encounters not available to larger groups.



NEW

TOP END & KIMBERLEY: AN AIR SAFARI

Traverse ancient landscapes in the remote Top End of Australia on a rare outback journey. Dive into Darwin, with an in-depth exploration of all the major sights, and an off road adventure in Litchfield National Park. Step back through 50,000 years of aboriginal heritage, in wild and untamed Arnhem Land where Davidson's Safari Lodge at Mt Borradaile is your entrée to some extraordinary indigenous rock art. Experience station life at Bullo River and explore the Bungle Bungles on foot and from the air. End the adventure in tropical Broome.

9 Days

Departure dates: 26 August 2022, 14 June, 12 July & 1 August 2023

Per person twin share: From \$16,385

Single supplement: From \$2,430



NEW



NEW ZEALAND: ALPINE WINTER WONDERLAND

See New Zealand's Southern Alps under snow on this winter adventure. Take a helicopter flight over glacier-fed lakes and snowfields and fly the length of the Tasman Glacier, toasting the experience over a glass of champagne. Seek out the constellations on a star gazing experience at the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve and be immersed in gold rush history in Arrowtown. See Milford Sound from the air and on a wilderness cruise. Savour gourmet food and wine in the Central Otago region, fire the adrenalin on an exhilarating jet boat trip and skim through the powder on a private snowmobile adventure.

8 Days

Departure dates: 25 July, 22 & 30 August 2022

Per person twin share: From \$7,995

Single supplement: From \$1,780



OUTBACK S.A. — AN AIR SAFARI

This unforgettable journey into outback South Australia reveals the raw landscapes of the Flinders Ranges, from the air and at ground level, and a wealth of extraordinary natural wonders all the way to the Eyre Peninsula. You'll get a unique insight to the state's rich pastoral heritage visiting outback stations and meeting the characters who reside there. And by night, call atmospheric pubs and hotels home. Delight in the myriad tastes of South Australia from 'feral fare' and home brew at the Prairie Hotel to world's finest seafood at Port Lincoln. This adventure is sure to remain with you long after you've toasted your final outback sunset.

8 Days

Departure dates: 9 March, 7 & 28 April,
2 August 2022, 7 March & 11 April 2023

Per person twin share: From \$15,700

Single supplement: From \$665





TASMANIA: WINE, WILDLIFE & WILDERNESS

Explore the very best of Tasmania contrasting the Apple Isle's culture and history with a healthy dose of adventure. Marvel at spectacular landscapes and heritage listed natural wonders, from Lake St Clair and Cradle Mountain to Flinders Island and Freycinet National Park. Taste a myriad gastronomic delights from award-winning whisky and gourmet seafood feasts to Bruny island's celebrated cheeses. Dive into the thriving creative scene, from lauded Mona to Risby Cove Gallery and its homage to local artists. And revel in a kaleidoscope of rare wildlife.

11 Days

Departure dates: 19 February & 15 October 2022

Per person twin share: From \$11,965

Single supplement: From \$4,795



TRADITIONS OF THE TOP END: AN AIR SAFARI

Be spellbound by the ancient wonders of Australia's Top End. From tropical Darwin to the storied escarpments of Arnhem Land, led by local guides you'll take a deep dive into Aboriginal lore and traditional tales of living on the land. Be captivated by the majesty of Kakadu on land and water, cruising billabongs teeming with life and be immersed in the region's rich biodiversity on a glamping safari in Mary River at breathtaking Bamurru Plains. An all-encompassing adventure, this journey will see you humbled by history, enthralled by picturesque landscapes and enchanted by the flora and fauna.

8 Days

Departure dates: 20 May, 8 October 2022 & 30 April 2023

Per person twin share: From \$9,355

Single supplement: From \$2,675



SHORES OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN: AN AIR SAFARI

Delve into epicurean delights, rare wildlife, inspired artworks and coastlines battered by the great Southern Ocean on this air safari from Adelaide to Hobart. Discover a unique vineyard in the Adelaide Hills on a private tasting. Meet Coffin Bay oyster farmer Chris Hank and sample produce fresh from the rack. Dine on Port Lincoln's daily catch at a seafood masterclass and meet the fishermen who haul it in. Admire abundant wildlife and epic landscapes on Kangaroo Island. And on King Island, dine ocean to table and paddock to plate on the region's finest food and wine.

9 Days

Departure dates: 5 May, 8 September, 27 October 2022 & 30 March 2023

Per person twin share: From \$16,855

Single supplement: From \$1,440



OUTBACK TO THE REEF

Contrast Queensland's rich outback spirit with the pristine natural wonders of the Great Barrier Reef and the remote Cape York peninsula. This adventure combines the ancient landscapes and untamed wilderness of Mount Mulligan, a working cattle station in the Atherton Tablelands, with the rich marine life of tropical hideaway, Lizard Island. An exhilarating helicopter trip from Horn Island to Roko Island in the Torres Strait reveals hundreds more pristine islands and beaches as well as the region's rich pearling heritage. Travel by a combination of private 4WD vehicle, charter aircraft and helicopter maximising your time spent in each destination.

7 Days

Departure dates: 6 August, 5 September, 8 October 2022 & 23 April 2023

Per person twin share: From \$12,800

Single supplement: From \$6,260



For more information on any of these Small Group Journeys, please call A&K on 1300 551 541 or your local travel agent.



A&K PHILANTHROPY

IMPACTING LIVES & LIVELIHOODS

While travel has been restricted this past year, Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy (AKP) has remained committed to bettering lives and livelihoods in the communities in which it operates. Here are some of the inspiring initiatives which have been implemented.

Learning aids in Zambia

AKP has been working in partnership since 2010 with the Nakatindi Primary School in Zambia which sits beside Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park near Victoria Falls. The latest initiative has been the supply and installation of 16 computers along with two printers, a projector and four back-up power

supply machines. This is the last major milestone to completing this project and the official handover ceremony is scheduled before the end of the year.

Much-needed medical supplies

Earlier this year, AKP shipped two containers of medical supplies to Bwindi Community Hospital in



Uganda. And before year's end, another will be on its way to Peru, where hospital beds and PPE supplies will be split between AKP's partner school in the Sacred Valley, Children of the Rainbow, and a small hospital in the countryside.

More Bikes to Africa

While much of the world remained locked down, many took the opportunity of spending time outdoors engaging in active pursuits. The locals in Nakatindi Village, Zambia and Bwindi, Uganda were no different. For the women in AKP's bike shops in both locations, bike sales remained robust and more bikes were requested. Consistent with the AKP model, these shipments were paid for with proceeds from the women's bike sales. The bike shop in Uganda – located in one of the world's most isolated regions – will receive 470 bikes and the shop in Zambia 450.

Sishemo Beads

The lack of visitors to Sishemo Beads in Zambia because of the pandemic has made life particularly difficult for the women who run this

enterprise. Recently, though, things have started to look up. As part of a partnership with the ABANYA artisan collectives, Sishemo has had a brand refresh and the ladies love the new logo as it really captures how unique every bead is. The business has also been awarded a WWF grant to help promote the project, and the studio visit, as a 'must-do' activity for all visitors to Livingstone. Some of the funds will also go to emergency salary support for the ladies. And happily, guest visits are starting to resume with the reopening of nearby luxury lodge, Sanctuary Sussi & Chuma.



To learn more about projects supported by AKP visit akphilanthropy.org

BOTSWANA

BUSHMEN OF THE KALAHARI

A relic of one of the world's largest super lakes, formed some five to seven million years ago, the breathtaking Makgadikgadi salt pans in northeastern Botswana are completely surrounded by the Kalahari Desert. Seemingly desolate, the salt-baked landscape plays host to a variety of animals and the ancient Zu/'hoasi Bushmen. On a guided walk learn how these extremely skilled hunter-gatherers have survived the harsh wilderness and the skills they have employed to thrive against the odds.





OUR SUGGESTED JOURNEY

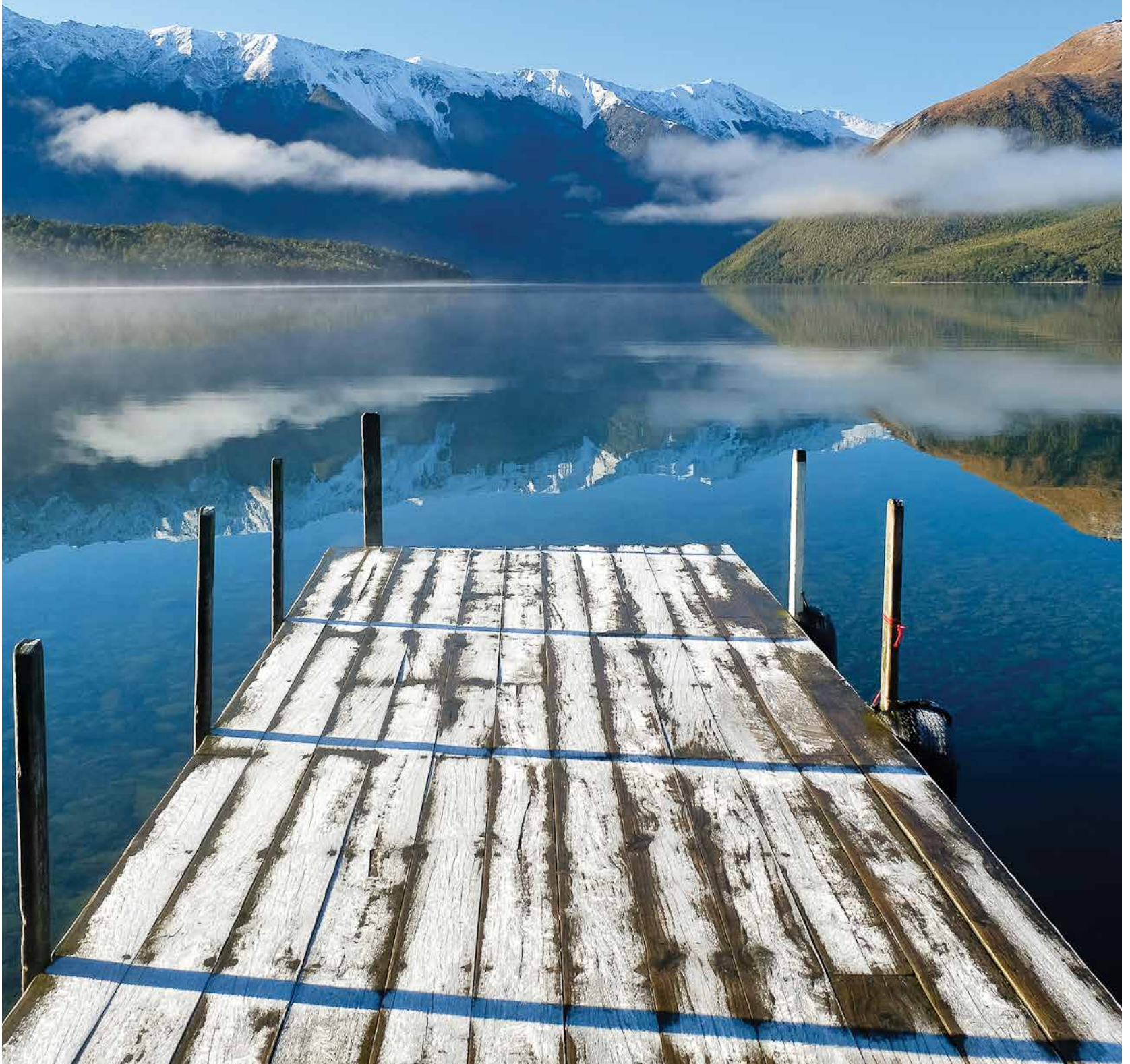
A&K's 10-day 'Delta to Desert' is
priced from \$22,050.

For more information call A&K on
1300 551 541 or your local
travel agent.

RECENT TRAVELS

Nelson Tasman, New Zealand

At the top of New Zealand's South Island lies Nelson Tasman - a place with a rich concentration of all the little things which make New Zealand great. A&K's New Zealand Country Manager **Chris Hall** recently explored the area and discovered a vibrant local art scene, stunning landscapes, award-winning wines and adventure aplenty.





2



3



4

My base in sunny Nelson was Te Koi - The Lodge at Bronte, a perfect waterfront location and base for a range of outdoor activities. Starting on a high, I was swept away by helicopter soaring over mountain ranges in the breathtaking Nelson Lakes National Park to the sacred Blue Lake which is claimed to have the clearest fresh water in the world. Landing in the Upper Moutere area, an e-bike, and guide, awaited. Pedalling through the vineyards and

hop gardens of the Great Taste Trail was a chance to sample the local produce (craft beer anyone?) while the many galleries and studios were an opportunity to dip into the local art scene.

More activity beckoned with a day in the Abel Tasman National Park which is a petite coastal paradise full of sandy beaches, native forest and sparkling waters - a mecca for outdoor adventure. Taking to the water, my chosen craft was a kayak

- 1: Nelson Lakes National Park
- 2: Blue Lake, Nelson Lakes National Park
- 3: Te Koi - The Lodge at Bronte
- 4: Cycling the Great Taste Trail



5



7



6

which allowed a gentle appreciation of the exquisite landscape, discovering hidden coves and inlets and a chance to spot the adorable little blue penguin.

Next an outing to Golden Bay which is accessed by a spectacular drive over the Takaka Hill past the Te Waikoropupū Springs to the vibrant artistic (read hippy) community of Takaka, which sits at the southeastern end of Golden Bay. If you keep following the road north, you'll reach Farewell Spit, a 34-kilometre-long stretch of sand that curves around the upper reaches of the bay. The spit is an important bird sanctuary and wetland area home to an impressive colony of gannets. Don't miss Wharariki beach,

a wild, beautiful place where massive rock formations and sand dunes have been created by the wind and waves.

In Abel Tasman National Park, the spectacularly located Split Apple Retreat was my base. Built high above Tasman Bay and with just three suites, this is a special hideaway tailored to wellness. Run by a Thai yoga teacher and her Kiwi husband, the retreat embraces holistic methods with a variety of wellness activities, including massage, yoga, meditation and spa treatments. The saltwater infinity swimming pool and Japanese onsen are a welcome indulgence after a day of adventure and the menus are designed to promote health and wellness.



9



8

- 5: Split Apple Rock, Abel Tasman National Park
- 6: Te Waikoropupū Springs
- 7: Gannet viewing, Farewell Spit
- 8: Kayaking on Falls River, Abel Tasman National Park
- 9: Wharariki beach
- 10: Split Apple Retreat



10

OUR SUGGESTED *Journey*

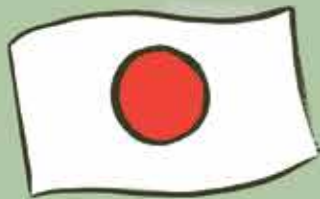
'Nelson Tasman Active Discovery' Tailor-Made Journey
7 Days

Priced from \$7,380 per person twin share

For more information call A&K on 1300 551 541 or your local travel agent

JAPAN

日本



ASIA

Japan



Kanazawa



Tokyo



Kyoto



Mount Fuji



Teshima Island



Naoshima Island



SETO INLAND SEA

PACIFIC OCEAN

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO JAPAN



1



2

Japan is as unique as it is beautiful, a place where ancient and modern collide. Where a tranquil Shinto shrine sits sandwiched between cloud-piercing skyscrapers. And where ladies draped in decorative silk kimonos wait patiently to board speeding bullet trains. The contradictions are illuminating, exciting and inviting. And so is its cultural scene with a wealth of both traditional and modern arts and crafts, and a rich history. For a truly authentic experience of Japan, use these hand-picked recommendations as your guide.

1: Sunset at Shinjuku, Tokyo
2: Meiji Shrine, Tokyo

TOKYO

Feel the vibrant urban pulse in Japan's exciting capital where the eclectic and the unusual make this city Asia's capital of cool. A dazzling fusion of ancient and modern, traditional and avant-garde, Tokyo offers the traveller a myriad of activities that draw on the city's imperial history, innovative technology, exciting art and design, and the charm of her people. For food, fun, art and fashion there is no city quite like Tokyo.

DO

Vintage & Vinyl

The laid-back bohemian district of Shimokitazawa is Tokyo's centre of cool. Home to vintage clothing stores, eclectic bookshops, music emporiums and funky cafés and bars, you can easily spend a day here trawling the stores for antique treasures, rare release records and one-off vintage finds before grabbing a table on the street for

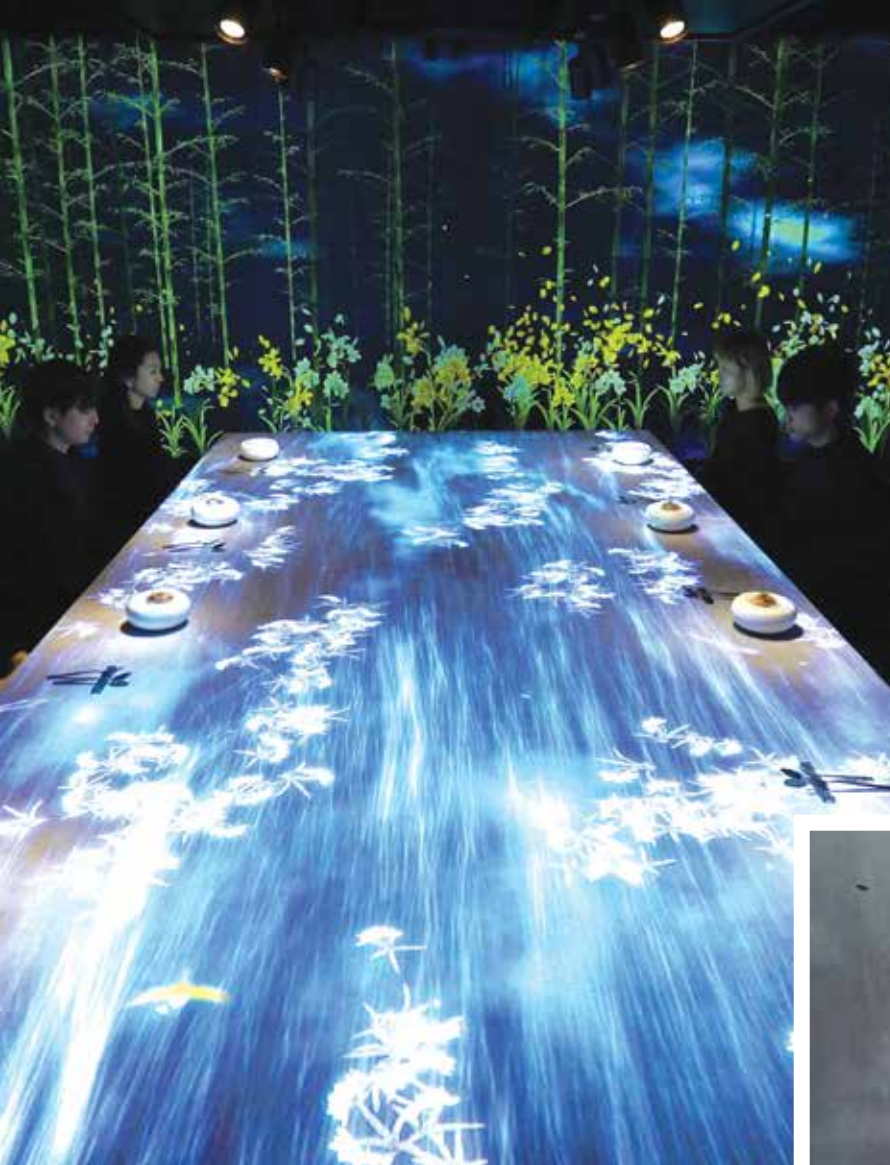
some people watching and sipping a draft beer or Akita sake in one of the area's many quirky bars.

Tokyo's coolest neighbourhood

Home to high-end fashion boutiques, brewpubs, coffee roasters and some of Tokyo's best brunch spots, the leafy streets of Daikanyamacho are where the capital's fashionistas come to see and be seen. Browse the backstreet boutiques and accessory stores, step inside a bookshop that doubles as a gallery cum cocktail bar, grab a seat at NOMAD for some jazz or cocktails at Débris where the vibe is speakeasy meets cool.

The World of Sumo

Learn about the ancient art of Japanese wrestling on a private walking tour with a retired sumo practitioner who opens the door to the world of Japan's most beloved sport. Explore two historic areas long associated with sumo: the Ryogoku



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- 3: MoonFlower Sagaya Ginza, Tokyo
- 4: Sumo wrestlers training, Tokyo
- 5: Streetwear designer Shinichiro Nakamura, aka 'Sk8thing', Tokyo
- 6: Yasaka Pagoda, Higashiyama District, Kyoto
- 7: Traditional wind chimes, Tokyo
- 8: Kyo-wagasa, traditional Kyoto-style umbrellas
- 9: Isshi Souden Nakamura, Kyoto

District, ancestral "heartland" of sumo where most of the sumo stables are found as well as the first professional sumo stadium. The walk ends in the historic Asakusa area where the sacred Sensoji Temple and busy Nakamise shopping street are popular attractions.

DINE

MoonFlower Sagaya Ginza

Run by digital art collective teamLab, MoonFlower Sagaya Ginza offers a unique dining experience dishing up inventive cuisine to just eight guests in the middle of a digital art installation. Dine on a 12-course menu of seasonal dishes and high-quality Saga wagyu beef on specially made porcelain crockery while a moving forest of trees, a fish-filled river or field of flowers is projected around you.

Sasanoyuki

Opened in 1691, this is one of Japan's most famous tofu

restaurants. With a tradition dating back more than 300 years, the delicate white cakes of soybean curd are made fresh on the premises daily. Traditionally Japanese, the restaurant serves a varied menu showcasing the star ingredient in a myriad different ways. Be sure to taste ankake-dofu, the restaurant's original dish, where the silky tofu simmers in a soupy stock seasoned with soy sauce, sugar and kuzu starch, and finished off with a dollop of hot mustard.

SEE

21_21 Design Sight

Design aficionados will definitely want to schedule in a visit to this cultural bastion. Conveniently located in Roppongi in the centre of Tokyo, the museum was designed by the legendary Japanese architect Tadao Ando and founded by the award-winning fashion designer Issey Miyake. Admire the beautiful architecture, which is as much

a feature of the museum as the exhibits it contains.

Perrotin

Located in the heart of Tokyo's vibrant Roppongi neighbourhood, this is the Japanese outpost of Emmanuel Perrotin's gallery empire which offers a vibrant environment to experience the work of some of the world's most celebrated contemporary artists.

SHOP

Streetwear

Born and raised in Tokyo, Shinichiro Nakamura (better known as Sk8thing) has been a pivotal figure within the streetwear world for over two decades. Elusive and enigmatic, this masked designer has worked on some of the most iconic labels in streetwear and fashion — BAPE, WTAPS, Human Made and Undercover among them. Visit Cav Empt's Tokyo flagship store to see the latest collection.



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Wind Chimes

On the outskirts of Tokyo, in a neighbourhood near the Edogawa River, stands the Shinohara Furin Honpo workshop, where glass wind chimes are created using techniques passed down from the Edo period (1603-1867). Today, a group of six craftsmen led by members of the Shinohara family, the fourth generation to run the shop, is striving to protect the traditional craft. Wind chimes were originally used to drive away evil spirits and today these beautifully crafted items with their tinkling sound are much treasured.

KYOTO

Turn back time in Kyoto where the mysterious Geisha culture blends into a backdrop of Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines and World Heritage Sites. This is the heart of historic Japan, a city steeped in imperial heritage and deeply rooted in classical Japanese tradition. Famous for its temples, gardens,

shrines, and the ethereal philosophy of an ancient way of life, the city is a repository of the cultural treasures for which Japan is celebrated.

DINE

Isshi Souden Nakamura

Founded over 180 years ago, this prominent old Japanese restaurant in Kyoto has retained a Michelin 3-star rating consistently since 2011. Famously representing Kyoto and its cuisine, head chef and owner Motokazu Nakamura is the sixth generation of the Nakamura family to run the iconic establishment which specialises in traditional kaiseki, the elaborate multi-course meal which uses highly refined seasonal ingredients.

Kagizen

Established in the mid-Edo period, more than 300 years ago, this is one of Kyoto's most famous confectionery shops located in the heart of stylish Gion. Handmade from a simple

recipe passed down from generation to generation, the sweet treats are artistically presented in the front window every day. Venture inside to the tea room for a taste of the traditional sweets washed down with a cup of local matcha tea.

SHOP

Hiyoshiya

Established nearly 150 years ago, Hiyoshiya is the only producer of traditional Kyo-wagasa, Kyoto-style umbrellas. Made out of bamboo and washi paper, these finely crafted umbrellas are used at tea ceremony gatherings, Noh and Kabuki theatre plays and in other parts of traditional Japanese culture.

Traditional handicrafts

Quaint and picturesque, the old cobblestone streets of Gion, Ninenzaka, and Sannenzaka have prospered since ancient times. Wander their atmospheric sloping streets lined with historic Japanese-



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style buildings and search amongst the handcraft shops selling swords, drums, fans, pottery and more to find your perfect Kyoto memento.

DO

Galerie 16

Galerie 16 is one of the city's best contemporary art spaces. It has been running since 1962 and is an important player in the local art scene.

The Gardens of Kyoto

Meet Chisao Shigemori, a leading Japanese garden designer who specialises in designing Kyoto-style gardens around Japan and communicating their aesthetic appeal. Grandson of famed gardener Mirei Shigemori, Chisao will walk you through some of the city's finest horticultural attractions including the gardens of Tofukuji and Shinnyo-do Temple.

Pilgrimage Hike

The best way to appreciate Fushimi Inari, one of Japan's best known Shinto shrines, is on foot. The hike

to the summit of 233m Mt. Inari and the pilgrimage circle around the shrines near the top is one of the most interesting short walks around Kyoto and provides outstanding views over southern Kyoto and as far as Osaka on a clear day. Much of the hike is through the eye-catching arcades of vermillion torii (Shinto shrine gates) as well as various shrines and subshrines along the route.

KANAZAWA

Set at the southern end of the Noto Peninsula along the coast of the Sea of Japan, Kanazawa is Japan's hidden secret and historic jewel. Authentically Japanese, the city is home to one of the country's three most beautiful classical gardens, an historic samurai quarter, a traditional geisha district and a number of elegant handcraft workshops.

DO

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art

This striking circular structure

resembling a UFO was designed by Sejima Kazuyo and Nishizawa Ryue of world-renowned architecture firm, SANAA. Void of designated entry points, visitors are invited to approach the museum, and its artworks, any way they choose. Installations by Leandro Erlich and James Turrell are interspersed throughout the museum's public spaces, seamlessly integrating art into everyday life.

Tea in the Garden

Join a tea master in the enchanting garden of Gyokusen-en with its more than 300-year-old history. The garden design and construction began in the middle of the 17th century, and four generations continued the landscaping. Lava stone lanterns, old trees and waterfalls provide the perfect backdrop for an immersion in the most important Japanese ritual - the tea ceremony.

Lifestyle of the Geisha

Higashi Chaya-gai is Kanazawa's geisha district. Chaya is a traditional



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place of feasts and entertainment, where geisha have been entertaining guests by performing dances and playing Japanese traditional musical instruments since the Edo period. Venture inside a 180-year-old chaya house for a glimpse into the unique lifestyle of the geisha.

DINE

Yamato

Yamato has been making miso and soy sauce since 1911 and you can visit the factory to learn about the traditional production method and see the huge barrels where the soy sauce is fermented. The local Kanazawa soy sauce is known for its balance of sweet and salty flavours and you might like to try a lunch of fermented foods, soy-sauce flavoured dishes or a steaming bowl of miso soup.

NAOSHIMA

Washed by the jade waters of the Inland Sea, Naoshima and its sister island, Teshima, have become an international art

sensation – these are the art islands of Asia. Attracting the world's most celebrated contemporary artists and designers, the islands are shrines to the diversity of international contemporary art.

DO

Chichu Art Museum

Designed by architect, Tadao Ando, this museum is another example of how art exists within nature on Naoshima Island. A contrast in Buddhist simplicity and Modernist brutalism, the subterranean gallery spaces, which only utilise natural lighting, house important artworks by James Turrell, Claude Monet and Walter De Maria.

Teshima Art Museum

This striking museum sits on a hill overlooking the Seto Inland Sea. Uniting the creative visions of artist Rei Naito and architect Ryue Nishizawa, the museum is located in the corner of a rice terrace that was restored in collaboration with local residents

and resembles a water droplet at the moment of landing.

STAY

Benesse House

Both modern art museum and resort hotel, Benesse House on the southern coast of Naoshima Island was famously designed by Tadao Ando. To get close to the art, stay in Museum building where you are literally living among the artists' work. The Oval is close to the museum, with panoramic views of the Seto Inland Sea, while the Park offers views across the green lawns and the sparkling sea. The Beach has just eight rooms, steps from the water's edge.

- 10: Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto
- 11: Traditional Japanese tea
- 12: Kenroku-en Garden, Kanazawa
- 13: Geisha, Higashi Chaya-gai, Kanazawa
- 14: Red Pumpkin, Naoshima
- 15: Benesse House, Naoshima
- 16: Yamato Soy Sauce & Miso Shop, Kanazawa

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A photograph of a Moroccan courtyard, likely the Alhambra in Granada. The image shows a two-story building with a large central archway. The walls are covered in intricate carvings and tilework. The upper level features a large arched window with a decorative lattice. The lower level has a dark wooden door with a lattice pattern. The floor is paved with light-colored tiles. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and architectural beauty.

MESMERISING

Morocco

On a journey through Morocco, **Hannah-Rose Yee** discovers the country's unique and individual flavours and fragrances.



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MOROCCO

Previous spread: Interior of Madrasa Bou Inania, Meknes

- 1: Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca
- 2: Local potters, Fes
- 3: Traditional Moroccan tagine
- 4: Stalls in the old Medina of Fes
- 5: Leather tanneries, Fes

It's dusk in Fes, and the sun is starting to set. We are on the rooftop of Riad Fes, a beautifully restored riad in the centre of the medina, decorated with mosaics and intricate carvings. As part of our intimate Abercrombie & Kent adventure, we have spent the afternoon in a cooking class, and are awaiting the slow-cooked fruits of our labour (we have been making tagine after all). The sky is turning shades of pink and purple – rosewater, raspberry, a pale lilac – as the day sheds its skin and slips into evening. The call to prayer is echoing out over the city. It's a warm evening in February, and though the temperature will drop a little bit as the sun dips below the horizon, it won't be by much. It's sandal weather almost all year round in Morocco, just make sure you have a jacket on hand come nightfall.

It's not the first showstopper of a sunset on the trip, and it definitely won't be the last. With

Abercrombie & Kent's nine-day tour of Morocco, you'll take in the length and breadth of the country, starting in historic Casablanca before moving to Rabat, Fes, Marrakech, the Atlas Mountains and ending in Essaouira and Oualidia on the west coast. It is both an introductory overview of Morocco and an action-packed cross-country tour, full of history and culture and food and shopping – so much shopping! Part of the reason we are so excited to take in that glorious Fes sunset is that it's an opportunity to rest our weary feet; we have been walking the rumoured 9,000 winding alleys and laneways of the historic Fes medina, home to the world's oldest and continuously functioning university, all day long.

Earlier that morning, we stop by the ancient tanneries, where leather is cured and treated – and has been for hundreds of years, built at the same time as the medina in the

9th century and now a protected UNESCO World Heritage site – to be turned into the sandals and handbags and homewares that line the stores in the souks. There is a viewing platform, high above the tanneries on the terrace of a leather shop, where we peer down, watching the work unfold below. Raw leather is dipped into deep vats of dye, in and out, in and out, ready to be hung and cured by the sun. It is a timeless practice, carried out today in exactly the same manner that it has been for hundreds of years. It is also a difficult, backbreaking one. The work is physical, undertaken under a blazing sun. And even from a great distance, the smell is overpowering: pungent and thick. Bunches of fresh mint are thoughtfully passed around to alleviate the odour.

Leather goods are just one piece of the Moroccan retail offering. Another is ceramics. In Fes,

“we have been walking the rumoured
9,000 winding alleys and laneways



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we stop by Art D'Agile on the outskirts of the city, where the friendly Ahmed Lahkim has taken up his family's pottery business. Everything is done by hand, with trained artisans working directly with the clay on the wheel, shaping it into smaller pieces such as tagines, vases, plates and jugs. These pieces are fired in an ancient kiln, heated with thousands and thousands of crushed olive pits, before they are sent for decoration. The embellishments are endless. Pieces can be hand-painted in intricate swirls, glazed with a deep gloss or tiled over with mosaics. Larger pieces, such as an arched fountain, standing proudly by the entrance of the store, can take a craftsman several days to make.

Fes is just one of the many bustling cities in Morocco. Our Abercrombie & Kent journey also makes stops in Casablanca – where the elegant Hassan II mosque stands proudly on the coastline, ready to welcome

some 105,000 worshippers – Rabat, Marrakech and Essaouira. Each has a unique and individual flavour. Rabat, the country's capital, is a polished modern city built upon its own history. The sunken Citadel of Chellah gardens are a Roman ruin in the middle of the city, dating back to around 250AD. Nearby, in the Kasbah of the Udayas – another UNESCO World Heritage site – you will find winding streets painted blue-and-white. A short drive from Rabat is Meknes – an imperial city, built with splendour in the 17th century – and Volubilis, an impressive Ancient Roman ruin that has been impeccably excavated and maintained. Situated in a valley and drenched with sun, even on the February afternoon when we visit, you can see why a wealthy Roman would want to set up court there, surrounded by olive trees and fields of flowers.

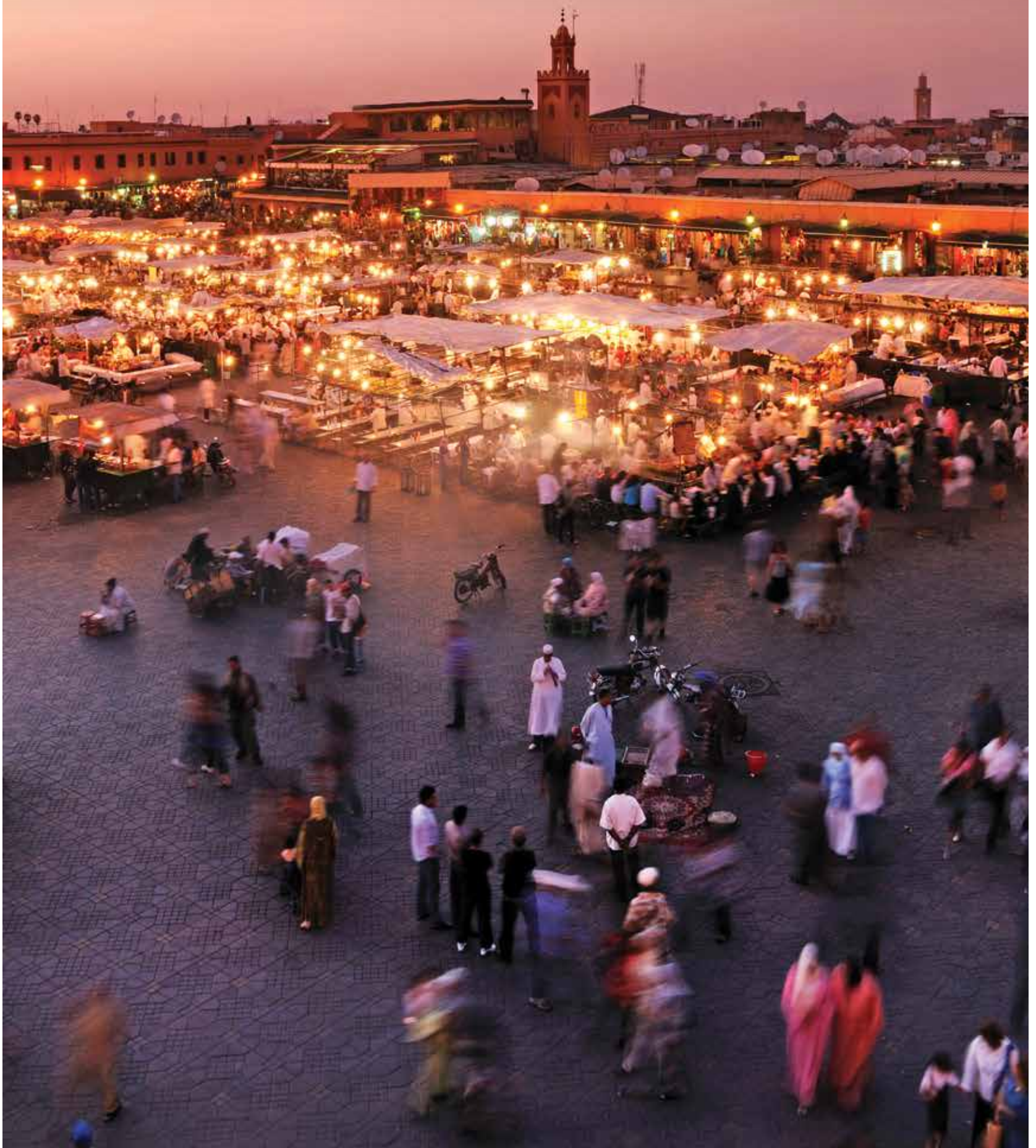
But the Moroccan city which most travellers come to see is

Marrakech. A desert oasis at the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, Marrakech shimmers with history. The walled medina is ancient, built in the 11th century and comprising a winding network of souks, selling spices – ras-el-hanout is the blend to buy, a local specialty perfect for roasting meats created from a mixture of 30 or more different herbs – and handwoven carpets and lanterns and baskets and ceramics galore. You could lose whole days to the souks of Marrakech and their endless alleyways, but don't forget to venture outside the red-tinged stone walls of the medina. There, you'll find the new wave of the Marrakech creative community, such as ceramicist Laurence Leenaert of LRNCE, whose modernist-leaning homewares and clothing is stocked in boutiques all around the world. Her studio is located in Sidi Ghanem, a warehouse district just a short taxi ride from the city centre.

Creatives have always flocked to Marrakech. A few days in the city and it's not hard to see why. There's a vibrancy and an energy as you walk the streets that is endlessly inspiring. The colour palette – pink clay, cactus green and the bright blue sky – is inspiring too. No wonder fashion icons including Serge Lutens, Talitha Getty and Yves Saint Laurent have all called Marrakech home. There's even an Yves Saint Laurent museum dedicated to the designer's sensual, glamorous aesthetic, just outside the medina. We visit the museum, which tells the fascinating story of the YSL brand, as it is entwined with the city of Marrakech, on a warm February afternoon.

Afterwards, we head next door to the Majorelle Gardens, a sprawling homestead painted in blue that was once owned by Saint Laurent and his partner Pierre Bergé, and is now open to the public, alongside its

“A desert oasis at the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, Marrakech shimmers with history





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- 6: Djemma El Fna Square, Marrakech
7: La Sultana Marrakech
8: Harbour Gate, Essaouira
9: Saffron, one of Morocco's leading exports

famous cactus-filled gardens. Here are all the colours of Marrakech in one place: the deep cerulean blue of the house, the terracotta stones, the herbacious greens, everything washed out and warmed by the sun.

Marrakech is a busy city. Before the pandemic, it regularly drew crowds of three million annually. We stay at La Sultana, a luxurious hotel on the fringes of the medina, easily accessible both by car and on foot and decorated riad-style with carved columns, internal water features and one of the best bathtubs we've ever seen. Each morning, we are treated to a traditional Moroccan breakfast of freshly baked bread – the crumpet-like *beghrir*, light as a feather and made for spreading with *amlou*, the Moroccan blend of peanut butter and honey that is a particular favourite – and thick, syrupy coffee.

The food in Marrakech is really good. We eat tagine after tagine, fragrant with spices like turmeric, saffron and ginger, mopped up with couscous and flatbread. For dessert, we eat slices of orange doused in rosewater and cinnamon, or a millefeuille-esque treat made from layers of pastry with an orange blossom-scented custard filling.

For a change in pace, we leave Marrakech towards the end of our trip and head to the coast. It's about a five-hour drive to Essaouira, the seaside town on the western coast of Morocco, famous for both its silversmiths and its seafood. We visit the fish markets in the centre of the medina, where trawlers display the day's catch proudly: fat oysters, writhing crabs, fresh crayfish. You might recognise Essaouira, and in particular its carved, creamy sandstone gate.

The city has served as a filming location for projects as varied as Orson Wells' classic adaptation of *Othello* to *Game of Thrones* and the new *Jack Ryan* miniseries.

Just a short drive away from Essaouira is Oualidia, a sleepy resort town famous for its seafood. La Sultana has a sprawling outpost situated right on the water, with infinity pools overlooking the ocean, shaded by towering palm trees. This 12-room hotel is a true respite designed for relaxation and repose. There is a top-notch spa, a fantastic

restaurant featuring produce fished out of the sea – oysters as big as your fist, sweet, salty crayfish – or from their own kitchen garden, and beachy-inspired room design. Down by the water there's a long deck and, at the very end, an oyster bar. On our last night, we amble down there before dinner, nursing a few cocktails from the bar. We're treated to yet another great sunset: a marbled pink sun slowly fading into the horizon mirrored in the still water all around us. There are so many showstopping sunsets in Morocco. You'll never forget them. 🌅

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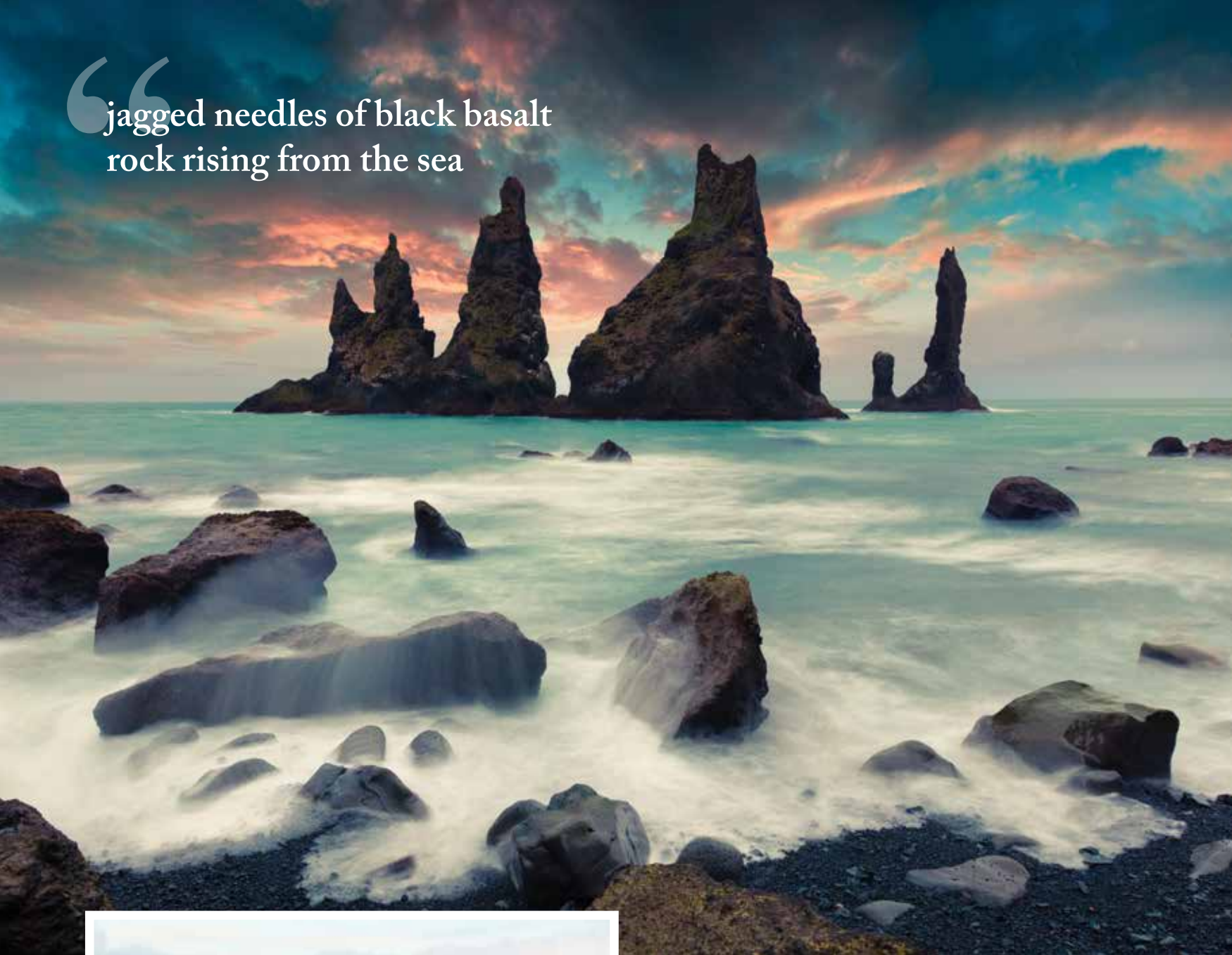
ALONE *at Last*

Escaping the crowds in Iceland, **Ute Junker** discovers paradise off the beaten track.





“jagged needles of black basalt
rock rising from the sea



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Previous spread: Godafoss Waterfall, north Iceland

- 1: Reynisdrangar basalt sea stacks
- 2: Reykjavik, capital of Iceland
- 3: Icelandic horses grazing
- 4: Picturesque coastal ice floes
- 5: Turf houses, south Iceland

ICELAND

Glaciers. Geysers. Lava fields and black sand beaches. It's no secret that when it comes to otherworldly landscapes, Iceland scoops the pool. But astonishing natural wonders are not the only reason that Iceland is topping many people's post-COVID travel lists. Just as appealing for travellers who have survived stints in lockdown is Iceland's wealth of wild, uncrowded spaces. In Europe's least-densely populated country, you don't have to go too far to get off the beaten track and find your own patch of paradise.

Fortunately, Icelanders are just as excited about welcoming back visitors. Having done an excellent job of containing COVID, it was the first country in Europe to re-open its borders. It has even unveiled a brand-new attraction: a newly-hatched volcano, which sprang into life back in March. Locals and visitors alike have been heading to the Reykjanes Peninsula

near Reykjavik to take in the action, which often includes lava snaking its way down a closed valley.

There aren't many places where you can take a day trip from the capital to an active volcano, and that is another of the beauties of Iceland. No matter how much, or how little, time you have up your sleeve, you can tick off plenty of marvels.

Short of time? Concentrate your explorations on the southwest corner of the country, where the easily-accessible attractions range from the Reynisdrangar sea stacks, jagged needles of black basalt rock rising from the sea, to naturally-heated thermal pools where you can soak up a dose of mineral-rich goodness. If you have the luxury of being on a more leisurely schedule, plenty of other adventures await further afield.

Either way, the one essential item to take with you is a local guide. Your



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guide will not just introduce you to locals and safely navigate the island's roughest terrain, they will also share insights into local life, providing that sense of connection that makes a holiday unforgettable.

My guide, Magnus, has a hearty laugh, a steady hand on the wheel, and a fondness for good coffee that makes him my perfect travel companion. As we start each day, he briefs me on what lies ahead. No matter how well I've done my research, I soon discover, he always has another layer of knowledge.

Take our visit to Thingvellir National Park. I've done my reading and I'm confident I know what's in store. Thingvellir is a very special place. One of Iceland's three UNESCO World Heritage sites, it is the only one listed for both cultural and natural reasons. More than a thousand years ago, Iceland's national parliament, the Althing, was established here. The other

remarkable thing about Thingvellir is that it is a rift valley where two tectonic plates meet, pushing away from each other with such force that 2.5cm of new land is created every year.

I may know all of this, but Magnus knows something I don't. "The public toilets here have one of the best views in Iceland," he tells me with such a straight face that I am convinced he is joking. When I head inside, however, I realise he is right – the toilets have a magnificent full-length window, facing away from all passers-by, looking out across the moody Icelandic landscape.

Thingvellir sits on the route known as the Golden Circle, perhaps Iceland's most popular drive. The itinerary's attractions include the Geysir geothermal area in the Haukadalur Valley, a place where the ground is littered with steam vents, bubbling mud pots and hot springs. The most famous sights here are

two geysers – Geysir, the earliest documented geyser in Europe, and its nearby sibling, Strokkur.

Geysir is often inactive these days – after 10,000 years, who can blame it? – but Strokkur more than makes up for it. It erupts spectacularly every six to 10 minutes, often shooting its plume of steam 40 metres into the air.

They call Iceland the land of fire and ice but the more I explore, the more I realise that what really defines the island's landscape is water. The meltwater from the glaciers that cover 10 per cent of the terrain – containing enough ice to spread a 35-metre-thick layer over the entire island – shows up over and over again. It's there in the super-heated steam of the geysers. It's also present in ice-studded lagoons, in bubbling rivers, in heated pools and in underwater rivulets that help sustain Iceland's moorlands and moss-covered lava

“a place where the ground is littered with steam vents, bubbling mud pots and hot springs



- 6: Strokkur Geyser
- 7: Gullfoss Falls
- 8: Blue Lagoon thermal bath
- 9: Thingvellir National Park
- 10: Knútur and Jón, Friðheimar Restaurant and Greenhouse
- 11: Iceland is home to one of the world's largest colonies of puffin

fields. It's so clean, you can dip your water bottle into just about any water source and fill up safely.

Above all, the water shows up in waterfalls: so many, that no-one has bothered counting them all. More than 200 have names, including Skogafoss, a 25-metre-wide cascade that plunges 60 metres, and Seljalandsfoss, where you can walk behind the falls and admire the cascade from a different angle.

The best-known of all, however, is Gullfoss, a lace-like two-tiered cascade of water that plummets into a narrow gorge with such force that a veil of spray hangs permanently

in the air above. In summer, up to 140 cubic metres pour over the edge every second. When the sun comes out, light refracts through the suspended droplets, creating thousands of tiny rainbows.

It is not just the named waterfalls that are impressive. One of my favourite excursions is the day we spend exploring the hidden valley of Thorsmork, or Thor's Valley. The beauty of this valley, accessible by a road so forbidding that it is best travelled by Superjeep, lies in its contrasts: the glowing greens of moss and fern, interspersed with lava fields and encircled by bare mountain peaks.

We hike through narrow canyons, where birds dwell high in the cliff walls, sometimes jumping from rock to rock through ever-flowing water, to the far end of Stakkholtsgja canyon, where we find a waterfall tumbling into a small cave. Light bounces off the mossy rocks and bathes the cave in a gentle emerald glow. It's a magical moment.

Not all of our adventures involve spectacular surrounds. Magnus promises to take me to his favourite restaurant, which is an eye-opener: a restaurant inside a greenhouse. Iceland's landscape may be remarkably devoid of trees –



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the result of centuries of volcanic activity – but one thing the island has plenty of is greenhouses. These are cheap to run, thanks to the country's surfeit of geothermal energy, and allow Iceland to grow its own apples, bananas and even kiwifruit.

Magnus introduces me to farmers Helena and Knútur Rafn Ármann, who harvest almost 400 tonnes of tomatoes ever year. The restaurant menu is limited, with every dish built around tomatoes. Magnus recommends the tomato soup – it's the best you'll ever taste, he promises – and as usual, he's right.

Magnus has more going for him than just driving skills and restaurant recommendations, however. He also has great jokes up his sleeve. When he gives me a rundown on Iceland's unique botany – the country's lack of tall trees, he explains, is the result of hundreds of years of volcanic activity – he winds up the explanation, as he often does, with a joke.

"What do you do if you get lost in an Icelandic forest?" he asks me. "I don't know, what do you do if you get lost in an Icelandic forest?" Magnus smiles. "You stand up." 🍷



11

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ETHEREAL

Great Lakes

Deserving of its reputation as a playground for the well-heeled, **Annabelle Thorpe** discovers that Lake Como remains the most fashionable of Italian destinations.





“Como has been luring the well-to-do since Roman times



1

ITALY

Cocktail hour at the Mandarin Oriental – the first international hotel brand to set up shop on Lake Como – and my sister, Caroline, and I are discussing the possibility of George Clooney dropping by on a gleaming motor launch. Anywhere else, this suggestion would be firmly in the realms of fantasy, but here it seems entirely possible – and not just because Mr Clooney owns a villa in Laglio, on the other side of the lake. It’s because Lake Como is so breathtakingly beautiful and so effortlessly glamorous, that Hollywood stars, great musicians and celebrated *bon vivants* should simply be part of the package.

The smallest of Italy’s three ‘Great Lakes’ (along with Garda and Maggiore), Como has been luring

the well-to-do since Roman times, but it was during the Renaissance that many of the elegant, pastel-hued villas were built along its shore. Composers, artists, and writers flocked to the area, drawn by its proximity to Milan and the spectacular scenery. Many of the sprawling villas are now holiday rentals, or boutique hotels; the Mandarin Oriental was once known as Villa Roccabruna, home of the famous opera singer, Giuditta Pasta.

The arrival of this hotel was big news for a destination where little changes from one year to the next. Como is fashionably unfashionable; perennially popular and yet somehow under the radar. This is not a place where new hotels or restaurants constantly pop up – many have been operating on the lake for decades, including our first

stop, the Grand Hotel Tremezzo. Our route to the hotel takes us from the town of Como along the western shore, and as we follow the winding road along the lake to the Tremezzo, it feels as if we have stepped back into the 1950s. The road twists and winds through picturesque villages with trattorias spilling tables and chairs onto the pavement, and faded *alimentari* signs swinging in the gentle breeze.

By the time we pull up at the hotel, I already feel as if I am living in a Fellini movie. On one side of the road, the lake glistens and shimmers, matched by one of the hotel pools which floats on the lake itself. On the other, the Tremezzo emerges – a vanilla-hued confection that looks straight out of Wes Anderson’s *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. Inside, the scarlet walled



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Previous spread: Classic Lake Como vista
1: Exploring Lake Como aboard Mandarin Oriental's vintage boat
2: The exterior of the Grand Tremezzo Hotel
3: Lake Prestige Room at the Grand Tremezzo Hotel
4: A restaurant in Bellagio

lobby, filled with flowers and velvet sofas, feels wonderfully luxurious, as does our stylish bedroom, with a view straight out over the lake to the mountains beyond. Behind the main building, the hotel grounds encompass a spectacular botanical garden that steps up the hillside, criss-crossed with footpaths and flower-filled viewpoints.

One of the joys of Como is that once you have arrived on the lake, there's little need for a car to explore further. A huge range of vessels ply the deep waters: slow boats, or *battelli*, that offer plenty of time for photographs from the deck; hydrofoils, that run from Como in the south to Varenna on the east, and Colico at the northernmost end; and ferries that traverse the middle of the lake. Many of the villas and gardens

which dot the lakeshores are open to the public, and are accessible by *battelli*, so it's easy to combine visiting one or two with lunch or a spot of shopping in one of the small towns.

We decide to take the passenger ferry from the pier opposite the hotel, and glide across the lake to Bellagio, an historic town that sits on a promontory right in the middle of Como. It's a charming place, with cobbled streets that lead up the hill, dotted with boutiques and gift shops, the air filled with the scent of fresh coffee that emanates from the myriad small cafés. We browse in shops selling Murano glassware and beautiful leather handbags in jewel-bright colours, and stroll up to Villa Serbelloni, where the magnificent 18th century terraced garden is

ablaze with scarlet and purple azaleas and rhododendrons.

By the end of the day, I am completely bemused as to why I have never visited Como before. We sit on the Tremezzo's elegant terrace, sipping crisp prosecco while the dusk creeps in across the water and the hotel's pianist provides a gentle jazz soundtrack, and I feel almost giddy with the beauty and the luxury, and the sense that this isn't somewhere that has been spoilt by overdevelopment, or greedy hoteliers, or an unthinking rush to modernise. We eat dinner in the hotel's Marchesi restaurant – angel hair pasta and clams so fresh I can taste the saltwater they came from – where the charming, silver-haired sommelier takes us on a whirlwind tour of Lombardy's best wines.

“The road twists and winds
through picturesque villages





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7

8

- 5: The village of Bellagio
6: Exquisite dining, Mandarin Oriental
7: Dusk view from the Penthouse Suite terrace, Mandarin Oriental
8: Torno village

Next morning, regretfully, we leave the Tremezzo and head back to the town of Como, and over to the east side of the lake, to the Mandarin Oriental. The hotel is a clever combination of Mandarin Oriental's trademark pared-down, Asian feel, with more than a nod to the flamboyance of those who once called the estate home. Belle Epoque wallpaper, gilt trimmed ceilings, and velvet sofas in deep turquoise give the bar and Co.Mo restaurant a pleasingly luxurious feel, while our spacious room comes with all the trademark MO trimmings; soft robes, sumptuous beds, and our own small library of books.

It would be easily possible to arrive at the hotel and not leave for the whole duration of your stay; the coolly tranquil spa beckons, as do

the pool and deck that stretch out across the water. But we're keen to explore beyond the confines of the hotel, and in the early evening we set out for the small village of Torno, an easy 10-minute stroll. It's a fantastic time to be out walking; the Mandarin Oriental's location on the eastern side of the lake makes it the perfect place to watch the sun set, and as we walk the sky fades from blue to lavender, to a warm rose-pink.

Torno turns out to be a small waterfront town, with a handful of restaurants and cafés set around a quiet square. In spite of being right on the lake, it feels wonderfully authentic, and we pop our heads into the town's only bar to find that the back room is a simple trattoria. The menu delivers classic Italian

dishes perfectly done; local salsiccia and cheeses, a lusciously light carbonara, coffees, and a couple of beers apiece. The bill comes to under 50 euros.

The beauty of Como, we agree, as we sit in the Mandarin Oriental's waterfront garden on our last morning, is that it delivers a real sense of old-school glamour set against the backdrop of charming towns and villages where everyday

life goes on. There are no crowds here, no sprawling mega resorts, which means that while there are plenty of upscale restaurants and boutiques for those who rent the palatial villas as holiday homes, there are also plenty of traditional trattorias, simple cafés, and bars which are frequented by locals where it's possible to glimpse everyday life. If only we'd managed to catch sight of Mr Clooney too. 🍷

OUR SUGGESTED *Journey*

'Italy Cruise: Hidden Treasures from Florence to Venice'
Luxury Expedition Cruise
13 Days | Priced from \$18,915 per person twin share
Tour dates: 13-25 September 2022

For more information call A&K on 1300 551 541 or your local travel agent



THE 2022

Hot List

Every year our travel visionaries around the globe gaze into their crystal ball for revelations about the world's latest and most sought-after destinations and travel trends. This year, as we approach our 60th anniversary, we have evaluated what travel looks like in the new COVID age and can reveal a collection of motivating factors which will help you, our discerning travellers, navigate your destination choices over the coming months.

Whether it's recognition of a changing climate and an urgency to see a place before it's too

late, or time runs out. Or re-evaluating how to experience a destination that in the past has been compromised by crowds and cultural insensitivities. It could be a yearning to revisit a favourite destination, but in a new way and with a different perspective, rediscovering your own backyard or indeed a home city.

For many, escaping the confines of an urban existence is going to be fundamental when making travel plans. To breathe fresh air in vast open spaces and connect with nature. To admire rare wilderness and the flora and fauna which make it special,

to witness wildlife spectacles integral to the natural world.

Others will seek the unexpected and go where few have gone before, inspired by whispered secrets of faraway lands and new frontiers. There will be a desire to travel sustainably, protecting what is valuable in the places and communities visited and collectively contributing to a better world. And the slow travel movement gathers ever more momentum, as travellers choose to linger longer, meet the locals, hear their stories, be completely immersed in the destination and be welcomed as a friend.

Cultural appreciation will also influence holiday choices as travellers seek to broaden their minds, understand complex traditions and appreciate the artistic and epicurean elements and events which define a place.

And finally, the new bucket list will be framed by lost time and an urgency to reconsider what's important. The commitment to climb that mountain or swim that channel, hike that forest trail or take that epic rail journey. Now is the moment.

With that in mind, here is A&K's inspiration for travel in 2022.

CHANGING LANDSCAPES

As the Earth continues to witness rising sea levels, extreme temperatures, coral bleaching, altered habitats and deforestation, there are some remote landscapes more dramatically impacted than others. This is how to see them with A&K.



THE ARCTIC

Explore the Arctic on an all-encompassing expedition in search of the mighty polar bear. Travel alongside A&K's unmatched Expedition Team and knowledgeable experts intimately familiar with the region, seeking out the polar bear in the Svalbard Islands and discovering the starkly beautiful lava fields and ice caves of Iceland's Westfjords. Cruise to the remote east coast of Greenland, where you may visit Kaiser Franz Josef Fjords, Scoresby Sound and the Inuit village of Ittoqqortoormiit. Experience this thrilling destination through daily guided shore landings, as well as active excursions from sea kayaking through ice floes to epic volcanic hikes.

15-day 'Arctic Cruise Adventure: In Search of the Polar Bear'

- ALMOST SOLD OUT -

Departure date: 30 June 2022

Per person twin share: From \$49,310 | Single supplement: From \$46,210



ANTARCTICA

Join A&K on its annual climate-change focused expedition cruise to Antarctica hosted by Dr. James McClintock, an endowed professor of polar and marine biology at the University of Alabama. Amidst towering icebergs and massive glaciers, be enthralled by lectures on the challenges faced by this fragile ecosystem alongside our award-winning Expedition Team. See abundant wildlife on the Antarctic Peninsula and travel aboard exclusively chartered 'Le Lyrial'.

13-day 'Antarctic Cruise Adventure: A Changing Landscape'

Departure date: 9 December 2022

Per person twin share: From \$18,770 | Single supplement: From \$16,210



NOSTALGIA

With the world opening up, travellers are seeking to revisit favourite and iconic destinations, but seeing them through a different lens, with new appeal. Here are the most evocative.



EGYPT

2022 marks the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun by British archaeologist Howard Carter. Both the boy king and his dazzling treasure have inspired exotic tales of mystery, mummies and riches and have also been important influences in Western art, music, architecture and fashion. Travel with A&K and discover Ancient Egypt as never before on a journey from Cairo to Upper Egypt with a cruise aboard the stylish Sun Boat IV. Visit Tutankhamun's tomb and the home of Howard Carter and the much-anticipated Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza when it opens next year.

14-day 'A Portrait of Egypt'

Per person twin share: From \$10,965



ITALY

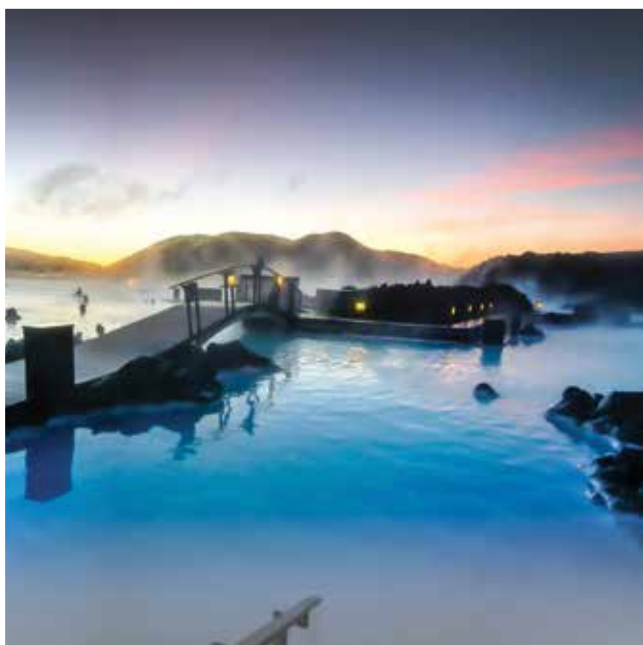
The grandeur of Italy's captivating heritage awaits both first timer and repeat visitor: the ghosts of ancient Rome etched upon hand-carved stonework in the Colosseum, the Pantheon and the Spanish Steps. The home of the Renaissance, Florence, brought to life through the great works of Botticelli, Raphael, and Da Vinci. And the romantic traditions kept alive by modern-day gondola builders in Venice. Italy has more UNESCO World Heritage sites than any other country as well as luscious landscapes, idyllic island havens and a rich culinary tradition.

12-day 'Rome to Venice: A Connoisseur's Italy'

Per person twin share: From \$18,160

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

With months spent confined indoors, travellers are now craving wide open spaces and the opportunity to connect with nature and wilderness, to breathe fresh air and appreciate the natural world and all its curiosities, to witness rare wildlife and the phenomena that surrounds it. Here are the wild places which top A&K's list.



ICELAND

Volcanoes, geysers, lava fields and thundering waterfalls, Iceland is blessed with dramatic landscapes and packs a punch at any time of the year. Discover hot springs; seek out the Northern Lights or bask under the Midnight Sun; stroll black sand beaches and descend into volcanic lava tubes deep in the earth. Honour local Icelandic produce and savour paddock to plate cuisine, meet the curious Icelandic horse and admire inspiring art and architecture. It all awaits in this captivating Nordic nation.

7-day 'Land of Fire & Ice'

Per person twin share: From \$11,510



NAMIBIA

Rugged landscapes, desert-adapted wildlife, vast sand dunes and the legendary Skeleton Coast, Namibia is a safari for the senses, an exotic land where the red sands of the world's oldest desert meet the azure waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Adventure awaits – rare wildlife amongst the shimmering salt pans of Etosha, the haunting desert dunes of Sossusvlei and the lush oases of Kaokoland plus proud people and vibrant tribes with a rich tapestry of traditional culture.

11-Day 'Luxury Namibia: Safari by Air'

Per person twin share: From \$16,390



THE EDGE

As the return to travel arrives, look beyond the bucket list to the unexpected. As much as our desire is to reconnect with the world, we also have a level of comfort with isolation - whether it be travelling to a remote destination, seeking the unexpected or discovering new frontiers where few have gone before. See where A&K's whispered secrets lead.



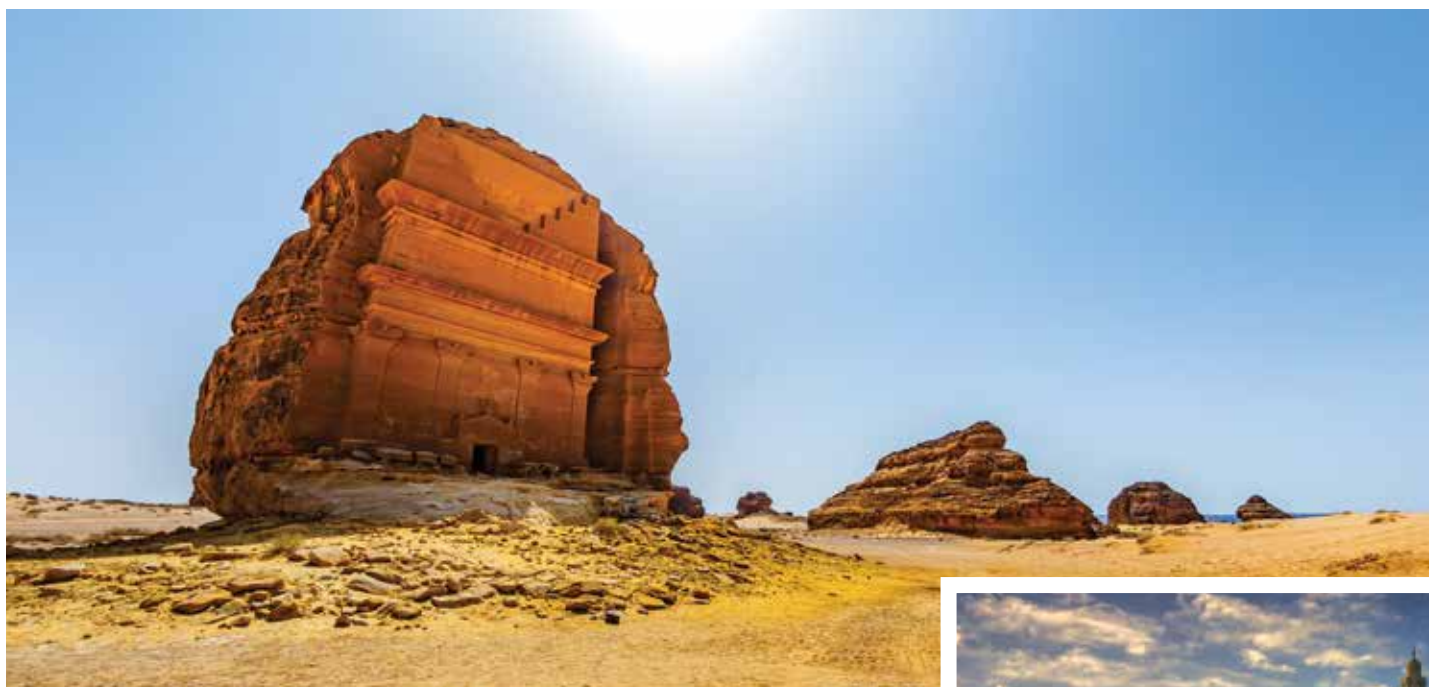
MADAGASCAR

A land of curious fauna and rare flora, Madagascar is a dazzling, and undiscovered, destination. It has people, wildlife and landscapes found nowhere else on earth and a culture far removed from any of its near neighbours. National parks shelter many varieties of lemur and chameleon while the spiny forest habitat showcases 500-year-old baobabs. Birdwatching, boating, hikes and photography make this destination one to bookmark when the time is right.

13-day 'Madagascar: Otherworldly Marvels'

Departure dates: 8 May, 12 June & 4 September 2022

Per person twin share: From \$9,295 | Single Supplement: From \$3,850



SAUDI ARABIA

Be amongst the first to discover the mysterious desert kingdom of Saudi Arabia which has been closed to much of the outside world until recently. One for pioneering types, this is uncharted territory with drawcards aplenty: rock-carved tombs and temples to rival those of Petra, sculpted desert landscapes, the azure waters of the Red Sea and a glittering capital city where ancient ruins and historic palaces sit alongside soaring skyscrapers and dancing fountains.

8-day 'Saudi Arabia: Desert Kingdoms'

Departure dates: 16 October, 20 November 2022 & 19 February 2023

Per person twin share: From \$12,650 | Single Supplement: From \$2,620



A BETTER WORLD

While the world has been on hold, it has provided the opportunity to sit back and take stock. To re-evaluate what matters and how we do things. Travel is no different. There is an even greater commitment today to travelling sustainably, supporting local communities in the destinations visited, protecting wildlife and important ecosystems and nurturing traditional cultures. Here are some of the ways you can integrate philanthropy into your A&K travel experience.



GREAT BARRIER REEF, QUEENSLAND

Take this rare opportunity to participate in a world-first citizen science effort, the Great Reef Census, travelling in a small group aboard a luxury motor yacht surveying the remote northern Great Barrier Reef and gathering data in collaboration with researchers. Daily diving and snorkelling adventures explore miles of reef and there's plenty of time to relax while advancing conservation outcomes for the reef.

7-day Great Reef Census aboard 'Aroona'

Per person twin share: From \$8,350



TASMANIA

Committed to responsible eco-tourism, Tasmania has been at the forefront of environmentally responsible tourism practices for decades. And A&K Philanthropy has partnered with the inspirational Raptor Refuge out of Hobart where important conservation work is being done to rescue and rehabilitate Tasmania's raptors. With A&K, guests enjoy exclusive access to the refuge, visiting the aviaries, the care facilities and observing birds in the various stages of recovery prior to release.

11-day 'Tasmania: Wine, Wildlife & Wilderness'

Departure dates: 19 February & 15 October 2022

Per person twin share: From \$11,965 | Single Supplement: From \$4,795



SLOW & SAFE

Continuing the trend, slow travel is here to stay: take the time to wholly discover a destination, to unplug and switch off, experience a place like a local, with the locals and sharing it with family and friends. And keep your loved ones safe and secure, knowing if anything goes amiss there's a support network like A&K's in the background poised to act. Slow, safe travel with A&K means private islands, estates, villas, ships and super yachts all for exclusive use. Here are some of our favourites.

MT ISTHMUS, WANAKA, NZ

This unparalleled, architect-designed, luxurious sole use villa is the perfect private escape located in breathtaking surrounds with Lake Wanaka to the west, Lake Hawea to the east and Mt Isthmus above. Just four luxurious suites, striking interiors, resident chefs, media room and spa make this eye-catching property a singular stand-out.

ALKINA LODGE, VICTORIA

Set amidst some of the most enchanting natural landscapes in the country on the Great Ocean Road, Alkina Lodge accommodates a maximum of 24 guests in three unique, private contemporary residencies each featuring four bedrooms. Surrounded by bush and native wildlife and close to deserted beaches, it's where the countryside meets the sea.



GUNTU, JAPAN

A cross between a ryokan and a yacht, this floating inn offers a truly unique way to explore Japan's Seto Inland Sea and islands. With just 19 luxurious cabins, Guntu is ideal for a totally private and unique adventure with family and friends with plenty of activity to entertain all and unforgettable Japanese cuisine. Décor is ultra-minimalist with wood panelled cabins, floor to ceiling windows and crisp cotton kimonos to relax in.



For more information about any of these holiday ideas or for your own Tailor-Made adventure, please call A&K on 1300 551 541 or your local travel agent.

Discover Breathtaking & Inspiring Luxury Adventures in Australia & New Zealand.

"Those who lose dreaming are lost." – Australian Aboriginal proverb

Abercrombie & Kent is the global leader in luxury travel, designing luxury private and small group journeys in more than 100 countries and on all seven continents. Discerning and inquisitive travellers know that Australia and New Zealand are home to some of the world's most extraordinary travel experiences and life affirming cultural encounters so now's the time to get out and explore your own backyard, in true A&K style and comfort.

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AROUND THE WORLD: LIMITED EDITION SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS



Your ticket to the world's most beautiful, remote and fascinating places.

This collection of trail-blazing adventures is for the inquisitive traveller seeking rare encounters off-the-beaten track in exotic faraway places. Expert-led, each of these journeys has been handcrafted for a small and intimate group that typically features between only eight and 12 guests with immersive local encounters, unique experiences and educational elements which are mind-broadening and guaranteed to impress. A fine balance of guided activity and time and space for exploration and self-discovery means you experience a destination in the best way possible and with our expert local hosts by your side sharing their insights and firsthand experiences.

SRI LANKA: SECRETS OF THE SPICE ISLAND

Deeply spiritual with a rich tapestry of natural wonders, World Heritage sites, a flavoursome cuisine and lots of tea, Sri Lanka packs a punch. Climb Sigiriya rock fortress and admire 5th century frescoes along the way. Hear fascinating insights over dinner with Sri Lankan architect, historian and critic, Dr. Shanti Jayewardene. Join pilgrims for a nightly prayer ritual at the Sacred Temple of the Tooth. Admire the Kandy Botanical Gardens in the company of a local botanist. Seek out elephants and endemic wildlife at Minneriya National Park. Learn the secrets of Ceylonese tea in the lofty plantations and meander through Galle Fort with an archaeologist leading the way.

14 Days

Departure dates: 22 September, 15 October, 10 November 2022, 12 January, 10 February & 24 March 2023

Per person twin share: From \$8,820

Single supplement: From \$2,395





INDIA: THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

Discover India's more spiritual side on a journey through the relaxed southern states. Be swept up in bustling, sophisticated cities. Marvel at temples, sculptures and shrines. Meander through sleepy fishing villages and colonial ports. Discover the New Age Auroville and the vernacular architecture of Chettinad. Enter a world of tea in the plantations of Munnar and soak up the serenity of Kerala's backwaters. Certain departures are timed to coincide with Diwali, the spectacular festival of lights, and the Pongal Festival, a famous thanksgiving celebration dedicated to the Hindu sun god.

15 Days

Departure dates: 14 September, 19 October,
23 November 2022, 11 January &
8 March 2023

Per person twin share: From \$7,695

Single supplement: From \$2,145

NAMIBIA UNEARTHED

Rugged landscapes, desert-adapted wildlife, vast sand dunes and the legendary Skeleton Coast. Namibia is a safari for the senses. Travel by private charter flight, drinking in a birds-eye view of the dramatic desert landscapes. Climb some of the world's highest free-standing sand dunes at Sossusvlei. See desert-adapted wildlife including the elusive desert elephant and admire extraordinary rock art. Be welcomed into the homes of the proud Himba people and marvel at Africa's most remarkable conservation movement with visits to animal and community projects, including presentations by specialists and expert rangers.

14 Days

Departure dates: 15 June & 17 August 2022

Per person twin share: From \$16,995

Single supplement: From \$2,185



MADAGASCAR: OTHERWORLDLY MARVELS

Curious wildlife, rare indigenous cultures, a primitive landscape and pristine beaches make Madagascar nothing short of fascinating. Home to hundreds of endemic species, including lemurs, chameleons and butterflies, you'll seek out these rarities on escorted wildlife outings by day and night with expert local guides. Hike through 500-year-old baobabs in the Sacred Spiny Forest, one of the oldest on the planet, and experience the culture of the unique Atandroy tribe. Watch local fishermen paddling pirogues on the ocean from a secluded tropical retreat and discover a tropical paradise at Manafiafy Beach.

13 Days

Departure dates: 8 May, 12 June & 4 September 2022

Per person twin share: From \$9,295

Single supplement: From \$3,850



WEST AFRICA: PEOPLE PAST & PRESENT

One of the most ethnically diverse places in Africa, venture to the vibrant West African countries of Ghana, Togo and Benin and be swept up in the colour and movement of local markets and festivals, the healing magic of voodoo, tribal drumming and trance-dances. Witness the splendid Akwasidae Festival of the Ashanti people in Kumasi. Attend a voodoo ceremony in Togo and encounter a traditional 'witch doctor'. Meet local African artists and artisans revered for their sculptures, carvings and whimsical hand-crafted coffins and celebrate a life at a traditional Ashanti funeral.

16 Days

Departure dates: 28 June & 1 November 2022

Per person twin share: From \$12,095

Single supplement: From \$2,820

SOUTH KOREA: SUN & MOON

Go behind the scenes to discover why South Korea is emerging as one of Asia's most talked-about destinations. Browse traditional street markets and admire unique architecture; watch adrenalin-pumping taekwondo artists perform; visit the DMZ with a North Korean defector to learn about this sombre chapter of Korean history; dress in the traditional hanbok and share tea with Buddhist monks. You'll uncover absorbing local customs, flavoursome culinary delights, picturesque scenery and awe-inspiring architecture.

12 Days

Departure dates: 23 March,
12 October & 16 November 2022

Per person twin share: From \$11,995

Single supplement: From \$3,025



MONGOLIA'S GOLDEN EAGLE FESTIVAL

This unique adventure is an opportunity to immerse yourself in the centuries-old traditions of Mongolia's legendary Golden Eagle Hunters. Spend two days at their annual festival marvelling at the impressive skills of Kazakh horsemen competing with their prized golden eagles in a series of spectacular celebrations and events. Bed down in a traditional ger at a remarkable eco-lodge and explore the sand dunes and ancient petroglyphs of the Gobi Desert.

12 Days

Departure date: 28 September 2022

Per person twin share: From \$15,950

Single supplement: From \$3,635



ANCIENT TRADE ROUTES OF CENTRAL ASIA

Walk in the footsteps of emperors and priests on a discovery of the ancient civilisations which lay along the Silk Road. Marvel at some of the world's most impressive and intricate tile work in the famous mosques and minarets of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, two countries steeped in antiquity. Discover the rich cultural traditions of Central Asia and the passionate artisans, craftsmen and performers. And appreciate the world's second largest collection of Russian avant-garde art in remote Uzbekistan.

16 Days

Departure dates: 20 May, 2 September & 7 October 2022

Per person twin share: From \$9,995

Single supplement: From \$1,685

GEORGIA & ARMENIA: JOURNEY TO THE CAUCASUS

Beautiful and beguiling, these countries traditionally positioned at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, Russia and the Middle East deliver endless surprises. Uncover medieval history in captivating churches, cathedrals and monastic complexes. Sip wine from earthenware pots in the world's oldest vineyards. Delve into the unique art and craft traditions of the Caucasus. Float across the high-altitude waters of Lake Sevan on a private boat trip and meet the friendly locals in their kitchens and cellars.

13 Days

Departure dates: 11 May, 8 June, 31 August, 12 October 2022 & 19 April 2023

Per person twin share: From \$8,815

Single supplement: From \$2,640



CUBA AWAKENED

Ernest Hemingway, rum and cigars – just some of what defines Cuba and its quintessential style. On this journey you'll cruise the cobble streets of Havana in a classic vintage convertible and discover rich culinary highlights. Venture into some of Hemingway's haunts and learn about the history and delicate processes involved in the country's rum and cigar production. See the memorial of Che Guevara, and pay a visit to the Bay of Pigs, reliving revolutionary moments in time as you explore with local experts. You'll be amazed by all you see.

13 Days

Departure dates: 6 November 2022 & 5 February 2023

Per person twin share: From \$8,795

Single supplement: From \$2,525



For more information on any of these small group journeys, please call A&K on 1300 551 541 or your local travel agent.

a journey revealed

A SOUTH PACIFIC VOYAGE

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

WHAT?

South Pacific Voyage: Komodo, Papua & Great Barrier Reef

17 days

Per person twin share: From \$25,670
(was \$29,725)

WHEN?

21 November – 7 December 2022

INCLUDES

2 nights at Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay; 14 nights onboard *Le Laperouse*; services of Expedition Team and crew; entrance fees; breakfast daily, 15 lunches, 15 dinners; unlimited drinks onboard *Le Laperouse*; onboard personnel-to-guest ratio of 1 to 1.3; 24-hour Room Service and Breakfast in Bed; Zodiac excursions led by expert naturalist driver-guides; Laundry service; all gratuities, port charges and taxes.

FOR MORE INFO

Please call A&K on 1300 551 541 or your local travel agent.

Discover the rich tribal traditions, tropical seascapes and natural wonders of the dreamy South Pacific. Exploring with A&K's award-winning Expedition Team, enjoy nature walks, local village visits, Zodiac excursions, and opportunities to snorkel and scuba. Experience stunning Komodo National Park and its rare dragon; West Papua's brilliant marine ecosystems, the storied spice islands of Maluku and Banda; and the astonishing Great Barrier Reef.

21-22 November 2022: Bali, Indonesia

Spend two days in and around the "Island of the Gods" with a luxurious beachfront base. Meet fellow guests and A&K's Expedition Team for a welcome dinner and the following day explore the central highlands with a choice of excursion: trek Mount Batukaru and the picture-perfect Jatiluwih rice terraces to the royal temple of Mengwi; or an insightful day visiting Lake Batur and Kehen temple, or beachcombing the Bukit Peninsula to Uluwatu temple.

Accommodation: Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay

23 November: Bali, Indonesia

See the highlights of Denpasar including Jagatnatha Temple, the Pasar Kreneng Market and the unique Balinese architecture of the Jero Kuta Palace. Later, board your luxury expedition cruiser, your base for the next 14 nights.

Accommodation: 'Le Laperouse'

24-25 November: Komodo National Park

Spend the next two days exploring the UNESCO-designated Komodo National Park and its spectacular marine ecosystem. Seek out the rare and fierce Komodo dragon which has thrived here for millions of years and soak up the park's dramatic landscape of pink sands, arid hills and deep valleys which sets the stage for wondrous marine discoveries and some of the world's best dive sites. A swathe of activities is available from kayaking and swimming, to snorkelling, scuba diving, Zodiac excursions and treks.

Accommodation: 'Le Laperouse'

26 November: Alor Island

Explore Alor island in an archipelago blessed with white-sand beaches and clear bays. Choose a visit with the indigenous Takpala in their traditional village, followed by time in Kalabahi to explore a local museum and the town market. Alternatively, and conditions permitting, don your scuba gear for a remarkable diving adventure.

Accommodation: 'Le Laperouse'

27 November: At Sea

Recharge after four days of adventure with a relaxing day aboard.

Accommodation: 'Le Laperouse'

28-29 November: Maluku Islands

The legendary and rarely visited Spice Islands boast coral reefs, lush jungles and volcanic peaks. Enjoy two days of exploration beginning in the Banda archipelago, once the only source of nutmeg and mace, and a fabled prize of colonial powers. Conditions permitting, choose to kayak the harbour or snorkel a pristine coral reef. You may also opt to explore Banda on a walking tour, discovering the eclectic architecture, charming culture and history of what

is arguably the most fascinating of all the Spice Islands.

The next day, indulge in the beauty of the postcard-perfect tropical paradise of the Kei Islands with a leisurely day at one of its endless white-sand beaches.

Accommodation: 'Le Laperouse'

30 November: West Papua

West Papua is known for its natural scenery and dive sites, and Triton Bay is the star of the show. Home to more fish and coral species than anywhere else on the planet – among them pygmy sea horses, marlin, sweetlips and soft corals – you'll be immersed in its beauty on a snorkelling or diving activity.

Accommodation: 'Le Laperouse'

1 December: At Sea

A day at sea engaging with new friends and your Expedition Team.

Accommodation: 'Le Laperouse'

2 December: Papua

Arrive in Papua's Asmat Region, long fabled as the ancient realm of cannibals, headhunters and Asmat warriors. Dubbed the "Land of a Thousand Cultures," the region harbours some 44 tribes completely isolated from the modern world and more than 700 languages. Opt to experience a traditional war canoe greeting, make time to browse Asmat artisan crafts or take a walking tour.

Accommodation: 'Le Laperouse'

3-4 December: At Sea

Unwind and enjoy a day at sea. After clearing customs in Australian waters, there may be an opportunity to visit Thursday Island, the smallest of the Torres Strait Islands, where Captain Cook famously dropped anchor in 1770.

Accommodation: 'Le Laperouse'

5 December: At Sea

At sea sharing conversations with your Expedition Team and newfound friends.

Accommodation: 'Le Laperouse'

6 December: Lizard Island, Australia

Step ashore today on Lizard Island, the Great Barrier Reef's northernmost resort island, dominated by mountainous terrain, pristine beaches and dazzling coral reefs for snorkelling and diving. Choose to relax on a secluded beach, swim in the sparkling blue water, join a guided nature walk, snorkel or scuba dive.

Accommodation: 'Le Laperouse'

7 December 2022: Depart Cairns

Sail on to Cairns where you bid farewell to your crew, Expedition Team and fellow guests. Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on your post-tour extension.



- 1: Kehon Temple, Bali
- 2: Komodo dragon, Komodo National Park
- 3: Triton Bay, Kaimana, West Papua
- 4: Great Barrier Reef
- 5: Takpala people of Alor Island



notes from the field

EGYPT

Long a favourite of intrepid travellers from ancient times to the modern era, Egypt never loses its appeal and A&K Product Manager, **Patrick Clementson**, agrees. On his last trip to this alluring destination, he visited the most iconic museums, wandered amongst some fabled monuments and scoured the stalls of vibrant bazaars and markets. He cruised the Nile in luxury and ventured down tombs in the Valley of the Kings, walked through Old Cairo and bedded down in some legendary hotels. An unforgettable adventure, these are some of his highlights.



Patrick Clementson

Product Manager,
A&K Australia



PHILAE TEMPLE

A mere 2700 years old, Philae Temple is one of the most attractive in Egypt and was saved from floodwaters during the 1960s when it was cut into 40,000 blocks, transported to higher ground and

rebuilt over a period of eight years. Ancient Egyptians believed the temple to be the island sanctuary of the goddess Isis, and the holiest place in the country.

KHAN EL KHALILI

Originally built in the 14th century as a caravanserai, Khan El Khalili has remained an important place of trade ever since. Strolling the lanes and alleyways of the bazaar reveals a treasure trove of antiques, jewellery, spices, handicrafts and some tasty street food. I recommend stopping at the atmospheric Naguib Mahfouz café to recharge over a cup of coffee or the local karkade (hibiscus tea).



KARNAK TEMPLE

3,500 years of history come together at Karnak Temple on Luxor's East Bank. A vast complex facing the Nile, it is one of the largest religious compounds ever known and is nothing short of

brehtaking. Principal religious centre of the god Amun-Re in Thebes during the New Kingdom, it covers around 200 acres and was a place of pilgrimage for over 2,000 years.



ASWAN SPICE MARKET

On a sultry balmy evening with the scent of spices floating on the air, I strolled the paved thoroughfare of the Aswan Spice Market past mounds of technicolour spices, colourful woven baskets, tubs of dried produce, canisters of fresh dates, Nubian artefacts and handmade crafts. It's easy to while away a few hours here after a day of touring the sights and picking up a few mementos of the visit.



OLD CATARACT

Haunt of Agatha Christie, Winston Churchill, Howard Carter and many other luminaries, the Sofitel Old Cataract Hotel is the splendid grande dame of Aswan. Perched above the Nile, overlooking Elephantine Island, the hotel is surrounded by lush gardens and conjures up images of a bygone age. Sip cocktails on the terrace as the sun goes down over the West Bank for a truly sublime experience.



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