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**THE LIST ISSUE**

\$18.95 A SANDOW MEDIA PUBLICATION



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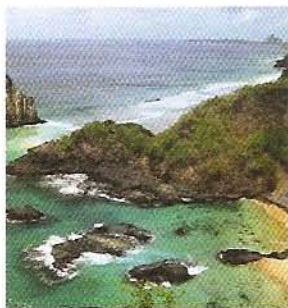
VOLUME 20 | EDITION 03

SOME TRIPS BECOME JOURNEYS, TAKING YOU TO EXOTIC PLACES AND ON SPIRITUAL QUESTS THAT LEAVE YOU FOREVER CHANGED. HERE ARE 20 UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURES THAT WON'T END EVEN AFTER YOU RETURN HOME.

# TRIPS

## OF A LIFETIME

### I. FERNANDO DE NORONHA, *Exploring remote islands off the coast of Brazil.*



**After leaving a career in finance**, Emmanuel Burgio founded Blue Parallel, a luxury travel company, to plan trips for the busy people he'd once worked alongside. "They have time to travel, but not to plan anything complex," he says.

One of Blue Parallel's most memorable trips takes travelers to Fernando de Noronha, an archipelago of 21 tiny islands some 215 miles off the coast of northeastern Brazil. A UNESCO World Heritage site since 2001, the islands are beloved by divers and snorkelers who hope to encounter sharks, rays, turtles and pods of spinner dolphins. While on land, visitors can leave their oceanfront cabanas to ride horses through the rainforest, take a luxury yacht tour featuring sashimi caught right off the boat or walk on the white sand surrounding the lagoons.

The visit to Fernando de Noronha works well in combination with a trip to mainland Brazil, where you can attend a soccer match with a former member of Brazil's World Cup team, visit a Samba School during Carnival and take private drumming lessons with an international samba-reggae group from Bahia.

## SITE

Brazil

## DURATION

12 days

## PRICE

From \$12,000 per person

## CONTACT: Hallie Neumann

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## WEBSITE

blueparallel.com

## 12. SPACE, *Boldly go where not very many have gone before.*



Since Soviet astronaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person to travel into space in 1961, nearly 500 astronauts have followed suit. Vienna, Va.-based Space Adventures is the only company that affords that same privilege to civilians; in the past decade, seven people have traveled into space on their Orbital Spaceflight. Following up to six months of training, clients blast off from Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome (the same pad from which Gagarin launched 50 years ago) on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft to travel to the International Space Station, located 200 miles above Earth's surface. After arrival, spend the next two weeks orbiting the Earth at over 17,000 miles per hour and witnessing up to 16 sunrises and sunsets a day. If that doesn't satiate your appetite for adventure, you can become the first non-astronaut to take part in a spacewalk, which involves leaving the confines of the space station to float (tethered) amongst the stars. "Our clients can spend 90 minutes outside of the hatch taking in the breathtaking view," says Space Adventures' Stacey Tearne. The company offers another unprecedented experience in its Lunar Mission: circumnavigating the moon. No civilian has ever made this journey (and no astronaut has in nearly three decades) to witness the Earth rise from the far side of the moon, nearly 250,000 miles away.

### DURATION

10 to 14 days\*

### PRICE

Orbital Spaceflight, \$50 million (spacewalk is an additional \$15 million)  
Lunar Mission, \$300 million

### CONTACT: Stacey Tearne

info@spaceadventures.com, 703.524.7172

### WEBSITE

spaceadventures.com

\* Preceded by six months of training

## 13. INDIA, *Dine with the Dalai Lama.*



His Holiness the Dalai Lama represents peace and unity, not only for Tibetans long plagued by conflict, but for Buddhists and admirers worldwide. Those in quest of his spiritual wisdom can travel to Dharamsala, India—the home of the Dalai Lama and thousands of other Tibetan refugees for over 50 years—to meet and dine with the Buddhist leader at his home. The sacred journey, offered by Remote Lands, begins with a blessing from the Dalai Lama in the Tsuglagkhang Complex. Once blessed, peruse the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives with the curator as your guide and indulge your curiosity by listening to the Nechung oracle's predictions for the future. Your stay in Dharamsala concludes with a dinner with senior lamas and the Dalai Lama himself. The weeklong trip also infuses elements of luxury, with stays at the Oberoi Wildflower Hall in Shimla (where guests can hike the Himalayas) and a three-day visit to the Ananda spa in Dehradun (which includes participation in *aarti*, a Hindu ritual near the mouth of the Ganges River).

### SITE

India

### DURATION

7 nights

### PRICE

\$100,000 for two people\*

### CONTACT: Catherine Heald

catherine@remotelands.com, 646.415.8092

### WEBSITE

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\* 50 percent is donated to one of the Dalai Lama's charities

## 14. ANTARCTICA, *Penguins and poles.*



With over 5 million square miles of untouched snow and no permanent (human) residents, Antarctica remains one of the world's last frontiers. "It is really the land of nothingness, and that is what is amazing about it," says Gabrielle Nijdam of Kensington Tours. To experience this wintry abyss, Kensington offers two eight-day excursions a year from Cape Town, South Africa to their Antarctica camp, where up to 12 guests are housed in dome-shaped chalets perched atop a 200-foot ice cliff. Only available in December—to take advantage of the warmest temperatures (a balmy average of 32 degrees Fahrenheit) and calmest winds—your days of 24-hour continuous sunlight can be filled with activities of your choosing. Options include witnessing over 6,000 mating emperor penguins at their largest-known colony; making camp at the southernmost tip of the world, the geographic South Pole; navigating caves made entirely of ice or kite-skiing across the open terrain. "Or, if you want to just relax with a glass of wine at the camp, taking in the pure white desert of snow, you can do that too," Nijdam says.

### SITE

Antarctica

### DURATION

8 days

### PRICE

Approx. \$80,000 per person\*

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### WEBSITE

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\* Based on double occupancy