

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

ISSUE 2012

Traveler

Indulge
Yourself

TEA and TEMPLE
in SRI LANKA
HUNTING
and FISHING in
ARGENTINA
DOG-SLEDDING
in SIBERIA, and
Yes, CHAMPAGNE
for BREAKFAST

Your GREEK ISLAND Hideaway

If you're reading this magazine, chances are you want to go somewhere and do something most people haven't. And to turn a vacation into an I'll-tell-my-grandkids-about-this-lifetime-high-point, you need an experience maker, as we refer to them here at *Condé Nast Traveler*. These on-the-ground fixers don't dole out canned itineraries. They can get you a meeting with the Dalai Lama in a Buddhist temple, rustle up a private 737 for your wedding party when their scheduled flight is canceled, and make it snow in Bethlehem. (Just kidding about that last one—or are we?)

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST



CENTRAL EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Cherri Briggs

Explore, Inc.
She plans elephant viewing in the Okavango Delta, walks with Singita's anti-poaching team, and tours with the co-founder of Gabon's national parks system.

Michael Lorentz

Passage to Africa
His specialty is "off the grid" charter flights over Ethiopia's Danakil Depression or journeys to Chad's game-rich Zakouma National Park.

Henrietta Loyd

Ozernow & Loyd
Gets you up close to meerkats in the Kalahari Desert or watching sea turtles on the coast of South Africa.

EAST AFRICA

Linda Friedman

Custom Safaris
Friedman has planned safari weddings and multi-generational family trips through Kenya and Tanzania.

Nina Wennersten and Daniel Saperstein

Hippo Creek Safaris
They know all the spots, including ideal mobile camps, for prime wildlife viewing in the Maasai Mara.

EGYPT

Jim Berkeley

Destinations & Adventures International
Unlocks after-hours access to the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities; knows sites such as Petra, Jordan, too.

Rami Girgis

Abercrombie & Kent
A native Egyptian, Girgis takes clients to historic sites like the tomb of Amenhotep II that are otherwise closed to the public.

ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN

William Jones

Journeys by Design
Jones creates out-there adventures like helicopter safaris in some of the least-visited corners of Africa.

ISRAEL

Susan Weissberg

Wyllys Professional Travel
She can book the best rooms at hotels—even when they're sold out.

Joe Yudin

Touring Israel
Can intro travelers to Israeli MPs or researchers leading archaeological digs.

MOROCCO

Michael Diamond

Heritage Tours Private Travel
He'll walk you through Fez's spice markets and take you stargazing in the desert.

OMAN

Sean Nelson

Oman Expeditions
Nelson has exclusive access to a private, mobile tented camp for adventure trips through the dunes of the Empty Quarter.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Julian Harrison

Premier Tours
A former safari guide, he plans game drives in Chobe and Kruger national parks.

Ryan Hilton

Admiral Travel International/Authentic Escapes
He's obsessed with wildlife photography and sharing tips for taking pro shots on your safari.

Mark Nolting

The Africa Adventure Company
He'll connect you with chimp researchers in Uganda or help you climb Kilimanjaro.

Phoebe Weinberg

Greatways Travel
Sends guests gorilla trekking in Rwanda's Virunga Mountains and canoeing in the Okavango.

TUNISIA

Jerry Sorkin

Gil Travel Group
He can take you to Roman ruins or desert oases—or intro you to Arab Spring activists and human rights leaders.

ASIA



BHUTAN

Brent Olson

GeoEx
Does crowd-free tours of the dramatic, cliff-clinging Tiger's

Nest Monastery and Bhutan's largest fortress, Trongsa Dzong.

BHUTAN AND NEPAL

Antonia Neubauer

Myths and Mountains
She'll get you into ancient Hindu temples and even set up meetings with the Dalai Lama.

BURMA

Tyler Dillon

Butterfield & Robinson
Runs private trips deep into the rarely seen countryside.

CAMBODIA

Andy Booth

AboutAsia
He's literally written the book on Angkor Wat and is an expert on Laos and Vietnam.

CENTRAL ASIA

Zulya Rajabova

Silk Road Treasure Tours
Decodes stunning Silk Road cities like Ashgabat, Bukhara, and Samarkand.

CHINA

David Allardice

Eastern Journeys
He'll steer you to the Great Wall's less-trafficked areas and help you skip museum lines.

Gerald Hatherly

Abercrombie & Kent
Based in Hong Kong, he'll get you a private look at the vaults of the Shanghai Museum or a meeting with the imam of Xi'an's Great Mosque.

Mei Zhang

WildChina Travel
Her food-focused trips take you to pilgrimage-worthy restaurants like Hangzhou's Longjing Caotang.

THE HIMALAYAS

Sanjay Saxena

Destination Himalaya
His outstanding guides can take you through Bhutan, India, Nepal, Tibet—and even to Everest Base Camp.

INDIA

Lucy Davison

Banyan Tours
She's great with multi-day walking treks through lesser-visited regions like Ladakh and Sikkim.

Bertie and Victoria Dyer

India Beat
They'll craft tiger safaris in the jungles of Ranthambore National Park or textile shopping trips to Jaipur.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Jonny Bealby

Wild Frontiers
Our go-to man in Kashmir, he can arrange private cruises on Lake Dal and meals with local families.

INDONESIA

Diane Embree

Bali Barong Tours
Embree's trips go beyond Bali's high-end resorts to lesser-known dive sites off Lombok, eastern Java, and Sulawesi.

JAPAN

Nancy Craft

Esprit Travel & Tours
She'll set you up with ceramicists, weavers, and kimono tailors in Tokyo and Kyoto.

Duff Trimble

Wabi-Sabi Japan
Has close relationships with craftspeople, chefs, and ryokan owners you'd otherwise never meet.

THE PHILIPPINES

Lorenzo Urrea

Global Nomad
He knows which of the country's 7,107 islands are worth seeing—and which aren't.

“ONE OF OUR CLIENTS WITH HIS OWN PLANE COULDN'T GET A JET PARKING SPACE AT THE SMALL AIRPORT ON IBIZA, SO I GOT IN TOUCH WITH ONE OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY THAT OWNS THE AIRPORT. PROBLEM SOLVED.”

Cédric Reversade, *villa specialist*

SOUTHEAST ASIA

G. W. "Sandy" Ferguson
Asia Desk

He'll get you into spots like the Queen Sirikit Textile Museum that most visitors can't access on their own.

Catherine Heald
Remote Lands

An expert on yachts in Indonesia's Raja Ampat, she's also planned private tours of Burma's pagodas.

Andrea Ross
Journeys Within Tour Company

Ross has peerless guides in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam.

TIBET
Vassi Koutsaftis
GeoEx

He's guided Himalayas trips since the '80s and knows the best trekking routes depending on your experience.

"The Little Ruckomechi bush camp, near Zimbabwe's Mana Pools, is a great base for game drives and canoeing on the Zambezi River. It's the sort of pioneering camp we used 25 years ago, when we first started operating safaris in the country."

Henrietta Loyd, Africa specialist

VIETNAM

Nathan Lane
Butterfield & Robinson

His custom-planned trips explore seldom-visited villages like Dalat or Phan Rang.

LATIN AND SOUTH AMERICA



ARGENTINA

Maita Barrenechea
Mai 10

She'll craft off-road adventures in Patagonia or stays at Mendoza wineries or country estancias.

ARGENTINA AND CHILE
Jordan Harvey
Knowmad Adventures

Harvey will have you dune-hopping in the Atacama Desert, kayaking near Bariloche, or tangoing in Buenos Aires.

BRAZIL

Martin Frankenberg
Matueté

He's known for private architecture tours of Rio and out-there adventures through the dunes and lagoons of Lençóis Maranhenses.

Paul Irvine
Dehouché

Knows the best times to visit Florianópolis and Brazil's most luxurious *pousadas*.

Jill Siegel
South American Escapes

Arranges bird-watching on the Amazon and guided walks with local artists or filmmakers who'll show you their São Paulo.



Get to Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni salt flats with the help of Marisol Mosquera.

CHILE

Brian Pearson
Upscape
Pearson's focus is adventure trips—by bike, on skis—but he also knows all the up-and-coming wineries.

COLOMBIA

Boris Seokovic
Amakuna Travel
Builds trips to Cartagena, Medellín, and the rarely visited (but totally amazing) Tatacoa Desert.

\$15.5
BILLION

That's how much travelers spent last year on trips arranged by Virtuoso, a network of travel specialists. The figure is up from \$12.5 billion in 2013.

COSTA RICA

Irene and Richard Edwards
GreenSpot Travel
They plan bird-watching hikes through El Silencio Cloud Forest and the animal-rich Osa Peninsula.

Natalie Ewing and Michael S. Kaye
Costa Rica Expeditions
Their whitewater-rafting, ultralight-flying, wildlife-watching adventures often include stays at their own lodges.

CUBA

Alison Coelho
InsightCuba
Coelho can intro you to artists, musicians, and entrepreneurs—or even register you for the Havana Marathon.

ECUADOR

Tom Dames
South American
He plans bird-watching trips to the Galapagos and the Amazon rainforest.

Allie Rosen
Mythos & Legends

Allyson Rosen knows every town in the world.

Eric Shaw
Latin Escapes

Well-versed in Galapagos, he knows Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru.

NICARAGUA
Pierre Geller
Nicaragua

Geddes is a trek, a boat, and a town in the era of home and Latin.

PERU

Marisa Weaver
Anazon
Diala is a Pico de Huascarán, the Peruvian and Bolivia.

URUGUAY

Paola Perini
Lares
Keeps her own or with long excursions through the countryside.

AUSTRALIA AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC



AUSTRALIA

Drawn
The Tour
He has a...

Time
who...