

# WHAT'S NEW

After our spring'2022 success of our Jordan tour, we decided to offer it again in 2023. Jordan is a country that displays many attractive features and characteristics including majestic natural scenery, a harmonious blend of oriental and occidental cultures, a rich history, longstanding traditions and a gentle hospitable people. Our tour in Jordan extends to 16 days to enable coverage of the numerous elements of beauty the country offers. Jordan is a great destination for nature, hiking, wellness (the Dead Sea attributes) and for food & culture enthusiasts. The greatest benefit for taking our Jordan trip is that the scholar leading it is none other than Dr. Barbara Porter who is a world-renowned authority on Jordan's archaeology, so she will open up for you doors of perception that you would never experience otherwise on any other tours of this country. The dates are [Mar 03 - Mar 20, 2023](#).

After the huge success of our first adventure to the Western Sahara in November 2022 and listening to the various suggestions and recommendations presented by the tour members who joined that pioneering journey, we decided to adjust our next Western Sahara tour of [March 3 - March 17, 2023](#) by eliminating the few camping nights. We opted to adjust the itinerary in a way that does not require the rough/wild camping in the Sahara due to its lack of acceptable amenities and also because the drives back and forth to that location turned out to be inconvenient for the small benefits of what has been seen.

The tour will still offer amazing treks across virgin sands and steep dunes, stopping along the way to meet nomadic tribes and stargazing at some of the lodges. The 15-day tour in 2023 will begin at the mysterious red city of Marrakesh and will snake its way down heading south to the bustling camel market of Tafnidilt, where nomadic shepherds trade their sheep, goats, and of course, camels! From here, it enters the semi-autonomous contested Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic known as the Western Sahara where you will marvel at a unique world of vast sand dunes, rock formations, and petroglyphs painted by far gone ancient ancestors. The tour ends on the sandy Dakhla Peninsula surrounded by clear, turquoise waters. As you make your way through the Western Sahara, you will mingle with isolated populations of nomadic tribes and caravanners that have survived this harsh environment for millennia. At the end of the trip in Dakhla, you can either fly back to the USA or cross overland into another intriguing Saharan country - Mauritania. Here you will explore fabled cities of ancient kingdoms such as Atar and Chinguitty where a trove of ancient manuscripts survived for centuries in private collections and clandestine libraries. Mauritania is a geological wonderland inhabited by very hospitable people. Dates are [March 17 - March 25, 2023](#)

After our successful tour to [Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi](#) for the 4th year in a row, we have made a few needed changes to help the program flow more comfortably and allow more "2 night hotel stays" rather than the 1 night ones, and avoid consecutive long drives. Now that David and Kerina from our office both had a chance to escort this tour and tweak it to be the "perfect" trip for those 3 amazing countries, our Aug 2023 tour is 2 days longer and is the best you can ever see in the market. We invite you to join us on this wonderful journey, during which we will be getting in touch with the rich cultural heritage of those countries and enjoying their exotic natural scenery and wildlife culminating with the best trek ever to meet the mountain gorillas!

After so many of our travelers made the recommendation that we should venture into the market of offering [Papua New Guinea](#) and we listened, so join us on this pioneering Journey. A voyage into the dense forests & Stone Age cultures in remote Papua New Guinea. Enjoy exclusive cultural experiences and stunning natural beauty on this adventurous exploration of a little-visited land. From your comfortable lodges, stopping at tiny villages, you will interact with the locals & understand their way of life. Savor a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the colorful Mt. Hagen Show where tribe's

people from all over the country converge to compete in traditional dance. In addition, in the Highlands, attend a festive Tumbuna Show, which takes place every May. In this remote land, stay in comfortable accommodations and be escorted by veteran local guides who will introduce you to local people & customs. Make the most of your time with scenic chartered flights over the impenetrable rain forest that has kept tribes isolated for centuries.

To our joy and delight we already sold out our February 2023 Gabon, CAR, DRC and Congo trip which is a magnificent adventure visiting seldom-seen central African countries and the pivotal element of it is the 2 days in the intact forest of Dzanga-Sangha to trek for Lowland Gorillas and experience a humbling encounter that will be a long-life memory. We now have open spots on the same trip that we offer in [January 2023](#) and the space is again limited to 11 travelers so do not delay participation.

We are thrilled to launch our latest adventure in Chad, visiting THE ENNEDI MASSIF (a UNESCO NATURAL Heritage site) . It is a spectacular tour to Chad's most remote and breathtaking lands that takes you to places few western travelers have ever been. The Ennedi is a vast collection of sandstone mountains sculpted by the wind and sand over millennia into stunning rock formations. The region is inhabited by one of Africa's most traditional, and least known tribe (the Tubu) and our adventure will give you a glimpse of how those shy and secretive clans of the desert live. You will marvel at rock art dating back thousands of years while maintaining vivid colors. You will encounter huge herds of camels and visit their drinking waterholes which are shared by one of the last populations of Saharan crocodiles. The trip is accompanied by one of our top tour managers: Michel Behar and this once-in-a-lifetime tour is limited to 10 people ONLY!

One of the most exciting trips that we are thrilled to repeat again is [Jordan](#). The most appealing feature of this trip is that it will be led by [Dr. Barbara A. Porter](#), a world authority on Jordan. , The tour is a true “in-depth” exploration of a country bestowed with so many ancient sites and layers upon layers of bygone civilizations, wherein, of course, the crown jewel is Petra. Unlike most other commercial tours that visit Petra for a few hours and rush out, our tour will allot two days to it---the period it deserves to enable the visitor to really savor and enjoy the ambiance of this rich and amazing site that is numbered by UNESCO among the treasures of the world.

Some of our most appealing African destinations include our classical trip to [Ghana, Togo & Benin](#) . Michel Behar is very excited to lead for us for the first time this tour to Ghana, Togo and Benin (January 08 - January 22, 2023); three amazing West African countries that are filled with history and cultural encounters especially the Voodoo annual festival in Ouidah in Benin

We would love to have our tour managers’ escort every trip but we often need to focus on the destinations that need them the most. [David William](#) decided now that he will accompany our extensive tour to [Ivory Coast](#) in January 2023.

Additionally, our other delightful tour manager: [Nancy Weber](#) agreed to lead once again our [Nigeria](#) journey in January 2023.

It was a delightful news to hear that Eritrea has finally after 2 ½ years of shut down decided to open the doors once again for foreigners to obtain visas to visit. This small enigmatic nation hidden behind an iron curtain is so unique and now we are happy to see our Horn of Africa trips ([February](#) and [November](#)) of 2023 fill up. We cannot wait for the time when we hear the good news that Syria and Libya both open up for American visitors to apply for visas. So far, BOTH are barring US passport holders from entering and this is making us anxious and jittery.

For those of you in search of the thrill of true adventure I would strongly recommend our tour to [Tajikistan & the Pamir Highway](#), May 2023. It is journey into an exotic world in which the traveler is transported into remote beautiful surroundings and crosses some of the world’s most majestic mountains with imposing views of gorges and canyons, and villages nestled in isolated valleys that

look like they have never been touched by civilization. One of our most appreciated tour managers will lead this trip: Nancy Weber, who speaks Russian and loves to pamper our guests.

A new re-introduction of a tour we suspended for many years is making us very happy. It's the Eastern Balkans tour with [N. Greece, Macedonia, Romania and Bulgaria](#). The focus of this tour will be the dramatic mountain scenery and exquisite jewel-like villages, farms, churches, and monasteries of rural Romania. From settlement on top of settlement, Bulgaria is a repository of ancient sites from many civilizations that inhabited the region through millennia. Buffeted by Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman influences and dotted with beautiful lakes, threaded together by a network of rivers.

Finally, our new introductions are 2 very special trips to a rather obscure African nation: [Chad](#). The beauty of visiting this country is to attend the colorful festival of the Wodaabe tribes and our 2 departures are going to guarantee that experience. The January 2023 one will have a "mock festival" taking our group to a nearby village where the tribespeople will replicate exactly what they do for the actual [Gerewol festival](#) in October every year but without the crowds and the heat and humidity of the fall season. The October 2023 one will have the real festival. BOTH will be magical experiences. Our most exciting piece of news is that Libya seemingly opened up its doors to American visitors, and we are conducting a couple of small pilot tour [May 26 – June 02, 2023](#) to check on current conditions, after which, if all goes well as we expect, we shall offer two group departures in fall [September 30 - October 07, 2023](#) and [October 07 - October 14, 2023](#).: and our 2024 departures are: Mar 08 - Mar 15, 2024, Apr 20 - Apr 27, 2024, May 09 - May 16, 2024 and Oct 12 - Oct 19, 2024.

Libya is a country of stark contrasts, offering visitors an opportunity to see not only some of the greatest remains of ancient Roman and Greek cities in the world but also the spectacular Libyan Desert. On Libya's western Mediterranean coast, we explore the charming Old Town in the country's capital city of Tripoli and admire the breathtaking ancient Roman city of Leptis Magna; and we will travel to the heartland of the Berber people in the Nafusa Mountains to see one of the world's greatest treasures, the Granary of Qasr al-Haj. We shall see the unique whitewashed houses designed to keep the homes cool during the hot days and warm during the cold nights. You will be getting a fascinating glimpse into the Berber culture and see how they live in their traditional troglodyte caves. At the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Sabratha, you will discover Roman Ruins that date back to the second century AD. With Libya now allowing US Citizens to enter the country, it is the time to visit this stunning destination before their government decides once again to suspend visas. It's been a rough roller-coaster every year with their policies opening and closing doors on Americans. *If you are interested in joining, please contact Amy and she will add you to the list. Also if you are interested in doing it as a private tour you will be able to do so, just let us know so we can plan it based on your preferred dates.*

We want to invite you to the most remote, beautiful deserts in the world and the graveyard of a million dinosaur bones, to a desert oasis odyssey in Africa, and one of the last borders of touristic destinations in the world. Welcome to the land of colorful cultural festivals, wild nomad soul, and the core of the Sahara. To its most beautiful and oldest soul, we invite you to explore the magnificent wonders of Chad and embrace the local culture and traditions and discover the breathtaking beauty of Chad's rural destinations by journeying to the countryside. Venture on an adventure of a lifetime by joining our tour for the first time combining [Gerewol and Ennedi](#) with an extension to [Cameroon](#) at the end of the Chad tour.

From sprawling deserts, wonderous mountains and clear seas, the amount of majestic scenery brought on by Central Asia cannot be justified through the scope of a camera lens. Come and see the wonderful countries of [Turkmenistan](#) (May 03 - May 11), [Tajikistan](#) (April 29 - May 13) and [Uzbekistan](#) (May 11 - May 23), in Spring of 2024. Culturally, these countries bring much to the table as well. The geographical position of Turkmenistan has made it a very pivotal part of some of the

world's most ancient civilizations. The Oriental and Islamic influences of Tajikistan's Pamir Highway have been left largely untouched, despite occupations by both the Taliban and Soviet Union in recent years. The roots of the Silk Road are still largely prevalent in Uzbekistan, from the bustling capital of Tashkent to the holy sites of Bukhara. We very much recommend a trip to this part of the world, where history and natural wonders combine for the ultimate journey.

Eritrea exudes an alluring charm through its archaeological wonders such as the ancient port city of Adulis and the Dahlak Archipelago. As you delve into the vibrant streets of Asmara, the capital city, you are greeted with picturesque colonial architecture, bustling markets showcasing traditional crafts, and the distinct aroma of freshly brewed coffee. Despite not being internationally recognized as an independent country. Somaliland has managed to establish itself as a remarkable destination. Its striking coastline stretches across pristine beaches that entice sun-seekers and water sports enthusiasts alike. Venture further into the interior, and you'll find breathtaking mountain ranges, dramatic cliffs, and sprawling deserts. The capital city, Hargeisa, bustles with energy, boasting bustling markets, historic landmarks, and museums that showcase Somaliland's fascinating history and ancient civilizations. While Djibouti is a hidden gem that unveils the rich tapestry of Africa's diverse cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes. This small but captivating country offers a tempting blend of ancient traditions, modern developments, and natural wonders that will leave you spellbound. In the vibrant capital, colonial-era architecture stands tall against the backdrop of bustling markets and aromatic spice stalls. The surreal landscapes, such as the Salt Lake of Lake Assal and the otherworldly lunar-like expanses of the Danakil Desert, will captivate you. Join us on our January tour to the Hotel of Africa which takes place from [January 03 - January 18, 2024](#).

If you are looking for a travel destination that promises unparalleled beauty, unique cultural experiences, and breathtaking landscapes, then [Mongolia](#) should be at the top of your list. Get ready to embark on a journey that will leave you in awe of the raw and untamed allure of this extraordinary country. Mongolia is renowned for its nomadic culture, which still thrives in many parts of the country. Immerse yourself in the traditional lifestyle of the Mongolian people and gain a deep understanding of their customs and traditions. Stay in a yurt, known as a ger, and experience firsthand the warmth and hospitality of the locals. Share stories around the campfire, savor traditional dishes, and witness the traditional music and dance performances that will transport you to an ancient world. No journey to Mongolia is complete without indulging in its savory and unique cuisine. Sample traditional dishes such as Khorkhog, a sumptuous feast of slow-cooked meat and vegetables, or Buuz, steamed dumplings filled with mutton or beef. Taste the refreshing Airag, a fermented mare's milk that is a staple among the nomadic herders. Let the nomadic cuisine take you on a culinary adventure that will leave you craving for more. Mongolia offers a captivating blend of ancient traditions, unspoiled landscapes, and warm-hearted hospitality. It is a destination that will capture your heart and leave an indelible mark on your soul. Embrace the spirit of adventure and embark on a journey that will ignite your senses and provide memories to cherish for a lifetime. Mongolia awaits, offering an experience that is simply unmatched.

[Timor-Leste](#), the youngest country in Southeast Asia, is a hidden gem waiting to be discovered. Boasting untouched natural beauty, this rugged land offers an authentic and unique experience for those willing to venture off the beaten path. Explore the vibrant capital of Dili, where colonial Portuguese architecture stands side by side with modern developments. Take a stroll along the pristine beaches of Atauro Island and delve into the pristine coral reefs submerged just offshore. The traditional villages scattered across the countryside present a glimpse into the local way of life. Engage with the friendly locals and immerse yourself in their customs and traditions. Also, embark on a journey to Indonesia, a vast archipelago comprising more than 17,000 islands. From the bustling streets of Jakarta to the tranquil beauty of Bali, this diverse country promises an experience like no

other. Immerse yourself in the rich history and cultural heritage of Yogyakarta, where ancient temples like Borobudur and Prambanan await your exploration.

Indonesia's natural wonders are truly breathtaking. Visit the lush-terraced rice fields of Ubud, where the tranquility of the countryside offers respite from the fast-paced world. Explore the stunning beaches of Bali, such as Seminyak or Nusa Dua, where you can unwind against a backdrop of swaying palm trees and azure waters. And for thrill-seekers, the volcanic landscapes of Mount Bromo and Mount Rinjani offer challenging trekking opportunities that are guaranteed to leave you with a sense of accomplishment. No visit to Indonesia would be complete without sampling its mouthwatering cuisine. From famous dishes like nasi goreng and satay to the local delicacies found in the colorful markets, your taste buds will be in for a treat. And don't miss the chance to witness firsthand the diverse cultural traditions, vibrant festivals, and colorful dances that showcase Indonesia's multicultural tapestry.

[Book your trip today and get ready to immerse yourself in the natural wonders, cultural richness, and warm hospitality that Timor-Leste and Indonesia have to offer. You won't be disappointed!](#)