

SUMMER 2024

NEWS & TRAVEL UPDATE



ARCTURUS
THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL



WWW.FARFRONTIERS.COM / WWW.ARCTURUSEXPEDITIONS.CO.UK / CALL FIONA ON 01837 840640



Dear Adventurer

After an incredible 15 years of annual **Arcturus** brochures, this year things are a little different. The brochure has become a showcase edition - an illustration of the

types of polar adventures we can offer you, whilst the latest dates and prices can be found at www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk

We'll continue to send you regular newsy **Creating Adventures** updates with all the latest voyage and expedition news and you can request an **Arcturus** or **Far Frontiers Travel showcase brochure** whenever you want. Users of email also benefit from our regular **E-newsletters** so please do send us your email address if you've not done so to-date.

In other news we've got flight, hotel and train updates for **Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the Maldives** and **Morocco** and travel ideas for **Egypt, India, Spain, Argentina, Peru, Chile** and **Borneo**.

I'm just back from a **Seminar at Sea** to the **Channel Islands** on new polar ship **Ocean Albatros** and a sizzling weekend in **Andalucia** checking our boutique hotel options in and around **Seville**. I'm looking forward to a full-on **Costa Rican** adventure in September and helping you with your own adventures in the meantime.

Fiona Brijnath
Director

QUEST FOR THE SNOW LEOPARD

This extraordinary adventure takes you on an incredible journey in the far north of **India**. Daily forays into **Ladakh's Hemis National Park**, renowned for elusive snow leopard will see you tracking these iconic mammals - this trip is a 'must' for the serious wildlifer/photographer.

Loyal client, **Hugh Dampney**, travelled there in March 2024. This is what he had to say:

"Fiona - you have presented me with a serious problem, I am not too sure I can book with you again because, I think, everything will be a disappointment after this trip! Not too sure where to start or finish as everything was a series of amazing experiences. Gulzar the head guide was very knowledgeable and passionate about working with the local communities. The lodge was warm with amazing food and a great team working there. Fellow guests were all extremely friendly and had a very high level of travel experience and knowledge which they were happy to share. Mountain base and scenery made it all the better. Then there were the sightings of wolves and snow leopard that were surely a once in a lifetime occasion. All in all a fantastic trip - thank you so much for putting it together."

When 2 - 24 February 2025
Price guide £7,645 per person



GO GALAPAGOS

We are pleased to report that two **Galapagos** visitor sites have reopened on the Island of **San Cristobal**. Previously closed since September 2023 due to avian flu, it's great news - so do get in touch if you'd like to visit.

Great news 10% discounts apply to selected voyages.

IN THE JUNGLES OF CENTRAL INDIA

In 1984 I went to **Bandhavgarh** as a young naturalist to build the first private camp in the Maharaja of Rewa's old hunting lodge and spent a wonderful year in the jungle running the camp and many captivating hours watching tigers. Now 39 years later I have come back to the forests of my youth, with my family to stay at **Jamtara Wilderness Camp** in **Pench National Park**.

Our host and his team made the next three days absolutely magical and showed us the beauty of **Pench** and the new luxury levels that camps like his have achieved in **India**.

Masala chai, home-made cookies and hot porridge sustained us for an early start for the Park as we drove through the swirling morning mist, warmly wrapped in blankets with hot water bottles in our laps! Within 15 minutes of entering the park, and much to the disbelief and delight of my family, we are in the presence of the apex predator of these jungles, *Panthera Tigris Tigris*, the royal Bengal tiger.

Over the next few days the jungle, in the company of the camp's naturalists, and in our private family jeep, offered us further glimpses of tigers along with wild dogs, gaur, sambhar, nilgai and a host of mammals and exotic birds that completely enthralled us.

In camp the wonderful team, managed by the cheerful **Kriti**, offered us endless gourmet snacks and delicious meals with superlative service in the luxurious surroundings of our remote camp. Built around a



magnificent banyan (figus) tree, **Jamtara** has 10 spacious luxurious tents spread out along a dry stream bed, which leopard and tiger regularly patrol.

Reminders of owner, **Amit's**, illustrious grandfather, **Kailash Sankhala**, the first Director of Project Tiger, are in photographs and books strewn through the breakfast room, library and dining areas, reminding us of the lineage of this 3rd generation wildlife family.

Having run wildlife camps in **India & Nepal** for 10 years, and worked with camps in the **Galapagos, Amazon, Russia** and **Africa**, I can safely say that the **Jamtara** experience is truly a superb one.

Rahul Brijnath

Action Please ask **Fiona** about planning a visit to **Jamtara** and sister properties in **Kanha** and **Bandhavgarh**.



AMAZING ATACAMA

The **Atacama Desert** in **Northern Chile**, known as one of the driest places in the world, looks other-worldly. Its impressive variety of landscapes, with mountain ranges, volcanoes, dunes, salt flats and wetlands in the middle of the **Altiplano** make it a must for those interested in geology and nature.

We love To combine it with hugely contrasting **Patagonia** in **Southern Chile**

Ask For our **Atacama** and **Torres Del Paine** suggested desert and trek itinerary

NEW LAND AND RIVER TOUR – BHUTAN AND INDIA COMBINED

Calling intrepid travellers for an adventure high in the **Eastern Himalayas** via land, river and rail. Combine a six-night land tour of **Bhutan** with a **Brahmaputra River** expedition on a brass and teak **Pandaw** boat and a three-night post-cruise stay in **Darjeeling**.

When Multiple departures through mid-2025 – ask for dates

Price guide 16 nights from £7,750 per person. Add flights to fit



MALDIVES MAGIC

Dreaming of pristine white sandy beaches, crystal clear turquoise waters and unforgettable adventures? Then the tropical paradise of the **Maldives** awaits. **British Airways** flies direct from **London Heathrow** three times a week in summer and daily in winter. There are good savings on flights between now and **30 September**. Book our favourite barefoot **Makunudu Island** - 36 thatched cottages with superb house reef and dive school

Action Tailor-make your holiday with **Fiona**





MANDARIN MARRAKECH & TAMADOT ATLAS, MOROCCO

Luxurious 5-star **Mandarin Oriental Hotel** nestles among 20 hectares of beautifully landscaped gardens, with the majestic **Atlas Mountains** providing a breathtaking backdrop. Located just 10-minutes from the heart of **Marrakech's** historic medina, the hotel's private villas come with private gardens, swimming pools, and ample space for sunbathing and alfresco dining. The spectacular suites have panoramic views of the gardens and the surrounding countryside and make a great base for relaxing or exploring further afield into the city, mountains or desert. Why not combine this with the stunning new **riads** at **Kasbah Tamadot**, a magical mountain retreat, available to book for stays from 1 July 2024. Each riad, brims with character and has awe-inspiring panoramas of the **High Atlas Mountains**.

Enjoy	20% discount off Kasbah Tamadot when booked before 30 June 2024
Ask	Fiona to tailor make you a holiday to remember
Include	Superb trekking nearby
Choose from	2-day Imlil Valley Hiking , a 3-day High Atlas Traverse or the ultimate Mt Toubkal Ascent (4167m)



LET THE TRAIN TAKE THE STRAIN

Embark on unforgettable railway adventures through the lush landscapes and spectacular scenery of **Central Vietnam** between **Da Nang** and **Nha Trang** aboard new train **The Vietage by Anantara**. From the heritage charm of **Hoi An** to the bustling coastal city of **Nha Trang**, these luxury railway carriages combine old-world comfort, breath-taking views and gourmet dining. It's six hours between **Da Nang** and **Quy Nhon** with a 3-course gourmet meal and a further five hours from **Quy Nhon** to **Nha Trang** with luxury afternoon tea. Enjoy snacks, wine, cocktails and a 15-minute head and shoulder treatment on the way. The two luxury carriages carry just 12 guests per journey.

Ask Fiona how to include it in your holiday to **Vietnam**



THE ESSENCE OF ANDALUCIA

One of our favourite places. We love **Hacienda de San Rafael** situated in rolling olive plantations, about 40 mins from **Seville**. When you're not relaxing round the pool or courtyard dining by candlelight, it's all go. We have **ferias** in **Seville** with horse drawn carriages, casetas, equestrian parades, bullfighting, sherry and flamenco. There's a culinary tuna programme in **Barbate** and **Cape Trafalgar**, cooking classes in private houses or at the hacienda, **Iberian** pig farm visits, tapas tours and private sherry visits to artisanal sherry houses, exclusive flamenco shows, tapas tours, mountain biking and hiking in the **Sierra de Grazalema**.

Repeat client, **Kit Newsome** and her family visited in April 2024:

"Thank you. It was simply wonderful to return to the Hacienda with wonderful weather, a super reception (as ever) from Anthony and staff and, once again, amazing food and service."

Action Email Fiona for more details

PERU'S CRADLE OF GOLD

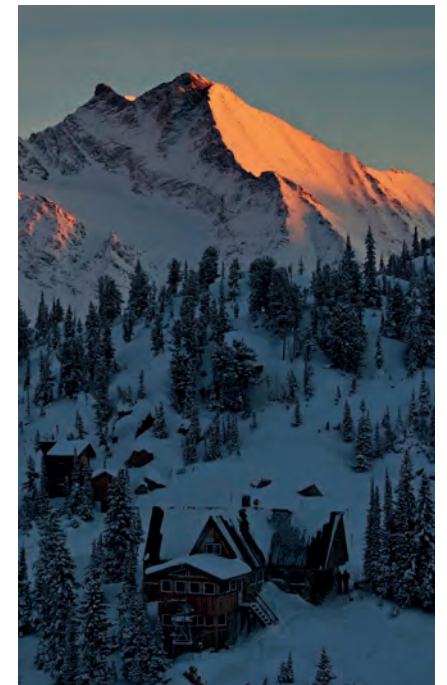
The far reaches of the **Andes** hides an epic ancestral 10-day trail to the enigmatic ruins of **Choquequirao** and **Machu Picchu**, where passions for hiking and archaeology collide. Departing from **Cusco**, hike challenging trails and encounter **Andean** wildlife to arrive in **Abancay**. This trail is much more than just a trek. It is the way to **Machu Picchu's** "Sacred Sister" and the last bastion of the Incas. Rising majestically above the **Apurimac River**, **Choquequirao** is a barely excavated archaeological treasure. Three times the size of **Machu Picchu**, its enclosures, temples and terraces tell ancient stories that are just beginning to be revealed.

Explore Options with Fiona

SKI BACKCOUNTRY CANADA

We are excited to share the news that our lovely friends from **Arctic Watch Lodge** in the **Canadian Arctic** have acquired a new backcountry lodge location for snowy adventures! Nestled deep in the **British Columbia** backcountry, only accessible by helicopter from **Calgary**, **Battle Abbey** offers 10 spaces at a time for world-class winter backcountry skiing, summer alpine hiking and relaxation. Beautifully remote and wild. Get in touch if you would like to know more.

When	January - April 2025 for skiing 4 night/5 days in situ
Price	From £3,900 per person UK to UK





NEW WILDLIFE DISCOVERY IN EAST INDIA

Wildlife conservationists in **Assam** were delighted by a recent discovery of two previously unknown species within the dense forests of **Kaziranga National Park** - namely the binturong and the small-clawed otter. This exciting development contributes to the diverse array of biodiversity in this untouched wilderness.

Stay At the peaceful 12 cottage **Diphlu River Lodge**

What else might I see? One-horned rhino and royal Bengal tiger

Talk to Fiona if you'd like to experience this lesser-known region



NILE IN STYLE

Planning a holiday in **Egypt**? Ask about sailing the **Nile** on a **Dahabeya**. Traditionally these were simple **Nile** passenger boats with two sails but today's options are fabulous – generally 4 - 12 cabins with large panoramic windows and elegant wood-panelled suites boasting an oriental flair with a modern touch. Sailings are typically 4, 5, 6, or 7 nights between **Luxor** and **Aswan**.

Ask Fiona for details



HAPPY HO-HO-HO-HOLIDAY - CHRISTMAS IN ANTARCTICA



Here's a great early Christmas present. Up to 25 % off this Christmas' sailing exploring the best of the **South Shetland Islands** and **Antarctic Peninsula**. Sheltered bays and channels sparkle with ice and reflect towering snowy mountain peaks and immense glaciers. Icebergs complete an image of incomparable beauty. Waters rich with krill are home to huge numbers of marine mammals and seabirds. The whole area is alive with penguins foraging at sea and forming large rookeries on land.

Voyage dates 16 - 27 December 2024, add flights to fit. 2025/6 dates available

Ship Small friendly Sea Spirit (114 passengers)

Price From £6,595 per person (triple cabin/voyage only). Ask for twin prices



FIRST VISIT TO WILKINS ICE SHELF!

Exciting news! In March for the first time ever **Hondius** took guests to **Antarctica's** spectacular **Wilkins Ice Shelf!** A great start to the new **Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf** voyage. But the story doesn't end there... the ship also encountered a large number of emperor penguins, making the landing not only momentous but also a great wildlife experience.



Next departure 19 March - 7 April 2025

Price From £14,195 per person based on twin cabin /private facilities UK to UK

Expedition leader **Pippa Low:**

*"As the sun rose over **Alexander Island**, we made our approach to **Wilkins Ice Shelf**. We had already done some incredible things - crossing the **Antarctic Circle**, seeing thousands of penguins and whales, visiting historic huts and outposts - but this was a crowning moment. As the rising sun turned the sky a bright orange, we got our first glimpse of the 25-meter-high ice shelf. A truly astounding sight!"*



NEW SHIP, NEW HORIZONS

Setting sail in 2025 is new state-of-the-art X-bow expedition ship, the **Douglas Mawson**, purpose-built for polar regions. She takes 154 passengers and excitingly has 36 solo cabins. Why not join her 25 day **Ross Sea Odyssey** voyage in January 2026. These are historic waters, where the explorers of the Heroic Age staged their bold assaults on the **South Geographic Pole**. Hear the stories of their expeditions and attempt to land at some of their remarkably well-preserved huts. With current 20% discounts berths are selling fast.

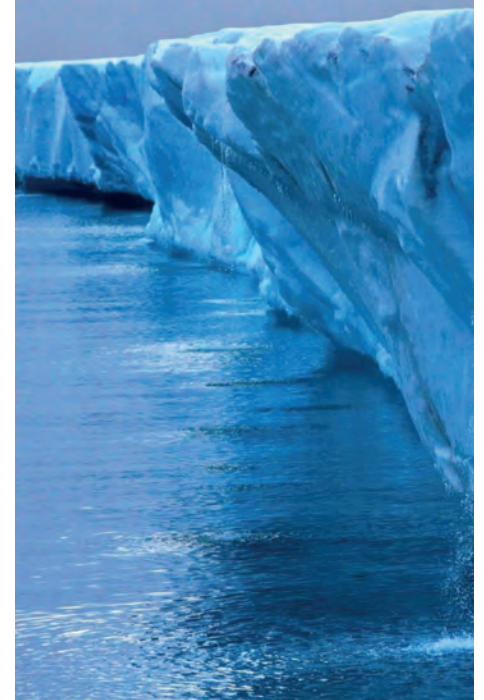
Price From £21,595 per person voyage only

Alternatively We have old favourite - 140 passenger **Heritage Adventurer** sailing **In the Wake of Scott and Shackleton: Ross Sea Antarctica** - 28 day voyages out of **New Zealand** on 7 January and 2 February 2025

Prices From £24,250 per person voyage only

Save Up to 20% on premium cabins

Ask For details





INDIA'S KUMBH MELA

Documented by historians through the ages, listed by UNESCO as a piece of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the **Kumbh Mela** is an epic experience, which transforms the lives of all those who participate in it. This significant spiritual gathering takes place every three years. Millions of Hindus from around the world gather to take a ritual dip in the holy water, aiming to cleanse themselves of sins. This event is a highlight for photographers, spiritual seekers, and the culture curious.

When	January 2025
Ask	For details
Stay	At a luxurious tented camp



MALAYSIA'S BORNEO: A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

In the heart of **Borneo**, on the floodplain of the immense **Kinabatangan River** is a prime location for travellers who want to immerse themselves in natural surroundings. Here you are right in the midst of an incredible diversity of unique fauna and ecosystems, including oxbow lakes, limestone caves, mangrove swamps, and tropical forest. Spot hornbills, kingfishers, owls, kites, eagles, broadbills, doves, hawks, ospreys, falcons, pheasants, parakeets, bee-eaters, woodpeckers, pittas, flowerpeckers, spiderhunters, and still the list isn't finished! There are also glimpses of **Borneo's** wildlife - the rare Bornean Pygmy elephant, endemic proboscis monkeys, gibbons, macaques, orangutans, estuarine crocodiles, sun bears and civets.

Include	In Borneo tailor-made - ask Fiona for help.
Stay	Comfortable hotels exist nearby



SRI LANKA'S DUNHINDA ODYSSEY

To celebrate the centenary of the first train journey in **Sri Lanka**, the Railway Department has introduced a new journey from **Colombo Fort** to **Badulla**, in central **Sri Lanka**, an hour from the tea capital of **Nuwara Eliya**.

When	Started April 2024, three times a week
What to expect	An 11 hour scenic exploration of Sri Lanka's natural beauty
Ask	Fiona how to incorporate this into your tailor-made Sri Lanka holiday.



COME AND GALLOP WITH THE GAUCHOS...

Argentina. Land of the gaucho, wide open spaces, the finest beef and some of the world's best wine. Where horses are used for work and transport, and where cattle roam free. Whether your passion is gentle riding, bird-watching, exploring scenic walking trails or simply relaxing amongst local tradition and culture, your hosts, an Anglo-Argentine family will show you authentic estancia life. **Estancia Los Potros** is near **Córdoba** in central **Argentina** but away from the tourist trail.

Dates	Tailormade to suit
Price from	£5,495 per person for a week's holiday UK to UK
Why not	Take the estancia for "exclusive use" for groups of 6 +adults



YOU HAVE

Your say

“I had been looking forward to my trip to **Patagonia** and the **Chilean Fjords** since before covid struck and postponed it all. But it was worth the wait, especially since we were blessed with almost perfect weather. Great company on the ship - only 42 passengers to 76 crew! I knew to expect some wonderful scenery but had not realised that there was so much of it, enhanced by the lighting, cloud effects, sunrises and sunsets. We even saw a wild puma in addition to all the rest! I'm no photographer but even so I am very pleased with some of my photos and have pictures in my head and memories which are even better. Thank you for making it all possible.”

Miss Christine Simm, Patagonian and Chilean Fjords
aboard Sylvia Earle
April 2024



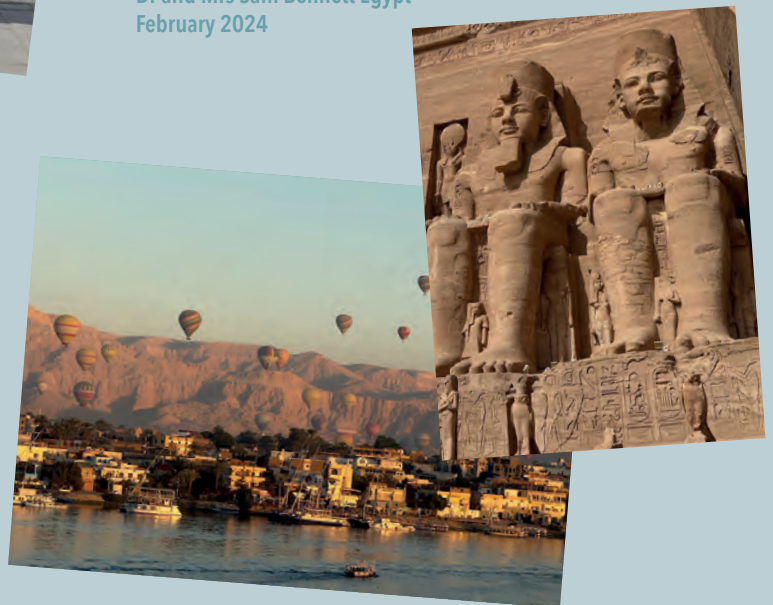
“Your local representatives performed very well indeed. Not once were we kept waiting or left wondering how to proceed. Everything rolled out as planned, at the times given. The transportation was of a very high quality, the drivers were very capable, in the general chaos that is driving in **Egypt**, especially in **Cairo**. And finally, the two guides we were assigned were very pleasant company and knowledgeable. As you are well aware, it is the quality of the local support which makes or breaks the trip. The **Oberoi Philae** was very comfortable. As we drifted down the **Nile** I sat up on the top deck of the vessel in the morning before sunrise and watched the sun come up over what I could easily pretend was the original **Nile** – reed and papyrus beds at the water's edge, palm trees behind, dunes behind that and low sandstone hills behind that; no sign of man, just the birds waking. Absolute bliss. Thank you for arranging the trip. On to the next one!”

Dr and Mrs Sam Bennett Egypt
February 2024



“We had a fantastic time in **Uzbekistan**. The organization of the trip was flawless and exceeded our best expectations. **Rimma** was a very good guide, reliable and very knowledgeable about **Uzbek** history. The itinerary was what we expected - thanks again for the great experience.”

Monsieur & Madame François Rameau, travelling with
Monsieur & Madame Paul Dumont - Uzbekistan
April 2024



Travel with confidence: All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this newsletter are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. **Please see the booking conditions on our websites for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate.**

Clients wishing to book their own international flights are financially protected by the **TOPP (Total Payment Protection)** scheme. Full details are given on both Arcturus and Far Frontiers Travel websites under 'Your financial protection'.

