

Creating ADVENTURES

25 COUNTRIES FOR 25 YEARS!

This autumn, I'm immensely proud to be celebrating 25 years at the helm. I started **Far Frontiers** in 2000 - helping clients plan tailor-made holidays all over the world. In 2008, in an exciting development, I acquired **Arcturus** which increased the destination portfolio, adding a huge array of thrilling polar travel experiences in the remoter regions of the **Arctic** and **Antarctica**.

Over the years, I've had some unforgettable experiences, travelled to far-flung corners of the world and most importantly made special and trusted friends many of whom I still work with today.

Here, I look back at some of my favourite trips. If any of these float YOUR boat, please get in touch and let's turn that dream into reality.



Dear Adventurer

For those of you returning from summer escapes, I'm hoping this missive will help you plan your next adventure. I've just touched down from **Cairo** and can't wait to share my experiences on the **Nile** and among the tombs of **Egypt's** great pharaohs. In May, I had a great trip touring the lakes and wineries of **Argentina** - read on for details. Back in the office, bookings continue on the rise and I've had some lovely feedback from returning clients, which is always a great reward for the hard work it takes to plan a seamless holiday. Next stop is an incredible small ship voyage to the **Falklands** and **South Georgia** in late October. I'm super excited and am counting down the days to departure ...if you want to join me, I might still be able to find you a berth or two so call now!

Fiona Brijnath

Fiona Brijnath, Director

NEPAL

I saw my first tiger in the wild in **Nepal** - it was June, pouring with rain. I was in **Chitwan National Park** early morning, on elephant back. We were swishing through the long grass when suddenly my elephant trumpeted and ran - straight past the bold black and orange striped back of a large male. We had almost stepped on the tiger! I've enjoyed some great trekking there too and on one occasion at **Everest Base Camp** was even invited to share a meal with British climbers in their tented HQ.



AUSTRALIA

I spent one of the best years of my life down under - working as a jillaroo in the south, living in vibrant **Sydney** and travelling all around the country by road. Its emphasis on enjoyment of nature and outdoor living aligns with my ideals and today we have the added benefit of superb wilderness lodges and camps with exceptional guides and naturalists. Travel by ship to explore **Australia's** wild west **Kimberley** region. You 'll not regret it. It's known for its dramatic cliffs, ancient Aboriginal rock art, powerful tides and rare wildlife. Ask for details.



OMAN

For me it's the **Jebel Akhdar** every time - stunning canyon views, dramatic mountain roads, great hiking and biking and a perfect climate. I really rate **Oman** if you want safe **Middle Eastern** culture and character, miles of untouched coastline and great hotels.





NORWAY

In 2010 I spent a day hiking black sandy volcanic beaches across the **Norwegian** island of **Jan Mayen** in the **North Atlantic** as part of an expedition voyage from **Scotland** to **Spitsbergen**. The goal: an abandoned **Dutch** whaler's station. Just this year I roamed around the far north of **Norway** visiting my dog sledging partners and spending a day with the reindeer herding **Sami** leaving with an invite to go back and join their migration. Now that would be something.



SVALBARD

I loved the frontier town atmosphere of the capital **Longyearbyen**, and the eerie silence of the empty trapper's lodges scattered among the islands. Seeing a polar bear pop its head over a snowy hillock from the deck of the ship and watch it slide down the hill and into the icy water to roll about and play in the seaweed was pure magic. I hope next for me is **Isfjord Radio** - 100 km from civilization, a former radio station - now a boutique wilderness hotel. Stunning nature, **Arctic** dining, and wildlife experiences - with comfort on the edge of the world. Top it off with a walrus hike and a thrilling RIB boat safari across the fjord.

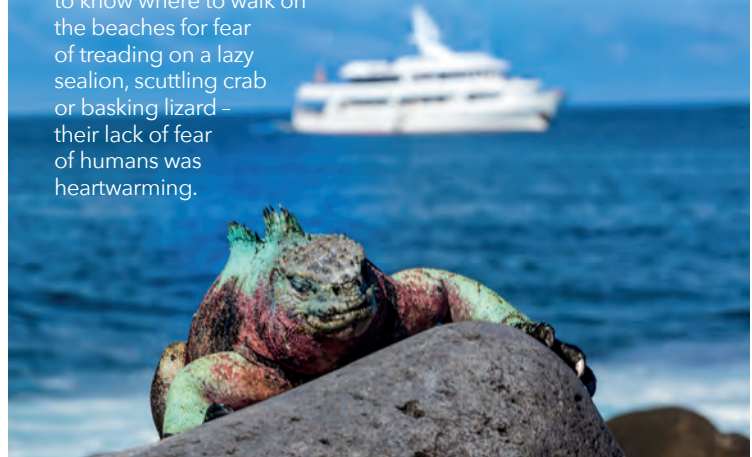


LAOS

A bit of an epic as I covered **Vietnam** and **Cambodia** on the same trip. Waking early to give alms to the monks in **Luang Prabang** is a rewarding experience and in **Vietnam's Halong Bay** I had one of the best guides I've had anywhere in the world. The extraordinary, tangled profusion of giant strangler roots engulfing the 13th Century temples at **Ta Prohm** in **Cambodia's Angkor** complex are a sight to behold.

ECUADOR AND THE GALAPAGOS

At **Sacha Lodge** in the **Amazon** - it could take half an hour to walk back from breakfast, such was the star appeal of the distracting squirrel monkeys which ran along the balconies and swung right above your head. Here was where I first heard the eerie sound of a howler monkey. In the **Galapagos**, it was hard to know where to walk on the beaches for fear of treading on a lazy sealion, scuttling crab or basking lizard - their lack of fear of humans was heartwarming.



BOLIVIA

I'll never forget the huge barren landscapes, weird desert rock formations and undisputedly rugged 4WD journey south to the **Salar de Uyuni**. My bags were lost on the flight out and I spent 10 days in the same clothes - actually loving the freedom of not having to pack and unpack each day! Parts of **Bolivia** feel as if they are 50 years behind the rest of the world. Definitely a place for those who like dramatic scenery and few people.



MALDIVES

Having visited a number of islands by speedboat (including one that took only a minute to walk across) - I finally settled on **Makunudu** as my favourite bare-foot experience. Floating on the surface watching turtles feeding right under me and seeing the majestic flap of three manta rays gliding in perfect formation were a huge highlight.

MOROCCO

Several visits, each with memorable landscapes. The narrow streets of **Fes** and smell of the tanneries, the dusty frontier desert towns, hiking in the **Atlas Mountains**, my young sons astride a donkey, wheeling seagulls on the ramparts of the fortress at **Essaouira**, strolling in the **Palmeraie** chatting to my driver seemingly in fluent French, even though my French is not fluent! The charming riads tucked away in quiet corners of **Marrakech** - full of character and colour.





INDIA

My ties with **India** go back many years – my first solo trip there was in my twenties when I travelled from the far north – **Kashmir** and **Ladakh** to the far south – **Kerala** and **Tamil Nadu** and from east to west. Little did I know then I would visit almost annually with my husband who was born in **Kolkata** to visit his family who still live there today. Only last year we took our sons for their first tiger sighting in the wild at the stunning **Jamtara Wilderness Camp** in **Madhya Pradesh** – I really rate that place! For pastures new ask about **Shakti**. Unique on-foot journeys in style and comfort in the **Indian Himalayas, Ladakh** and **Sikkim**.



JORDAN

It's the incredible citadel of **Petra** which many think of as they fly into **Amman** but it was the friendliness and warmth of the Jordanian people which enchanted me most. They have endured so much over the years with events just over their borders. The incredibly complete Roman amphitheatre of **Jerash** was quite something!

MONGOLIA

What memories! Arriving into **Mongolia** by train from **China** – and seeing my first horseman galloping alongside the track. The vastness of the overland journey by jeep to the **Gobi Desert**. Stopping to visit nomads in their gers to discuss the best place to cross the river. Following the children as they raced with ponies across the steppe during the **Naadam** – a golden horde of tiny tots. Riding the nomad's route from summer to winter pastures and staying with the **Kazakh** eagle hunters. We met a camel caravan at the top of a pass – both extraordinary and timeless.



GREENLAND

Less than 5 hours' flight from here is such a hugely different world. I visited **Greenland**'s east coast in early spring – it took several attempts and a lot of ingenuity to get there. Flights having to turn back, helicopters cancelled due to poor visibility and an unscheduled 1.5 hour snowmobile journey in -29C all in the pursuit of a dog sledge trip out of **Scoresby Sund**. On arrival a huge storm blew in taking off our guest house door – we woke to find a 6ft snow drift in the corridor. All rather epic but a thrilling trip. Iceland on the way home seemed quite tame in comparison!

EGYPT

I have always loved the legend and history surrounding early archaeologists in **Egypt** and with great partners there, I always love to plan trips for clients. With the advent of the small boutique dahabeya – it is really opening up ways to explore the Nile at a slower pace and in the company of few. For those with more time – what about exploring little visited and captivating **Siwa Oasis**?



UZBEKISTAN

After three visits, I feel quite at home and have made trusted friends – important as **Central Asia** is not an easy place to plan trips. On my first visit, I trekked with a school party in the south of the country. Flowing rivers, deep gorges, pretty stone walled villages and simple houses set among apricot and walnut orchards left a lasting impression. On subsequent visits the great silk road cities of **Samarkand** and **Bukhara** spoke for themselves.

BHUTAN

I had planned to traverse the country by road, along the one navigable winding corkscrew route. It did not all go quite according to plan – travelling in the monsoon has its drawbacks! A landslide left me stranded on the wrong side of the route out, and I had to walk with my bag for 10kms through the jungle in the pitch black and pouring rain with only fireflies in the verges to light the way, in order to catch the plane home! It took me two days to dry out after that but what an adventure! On my second visit a few years later, the trek seemed quite easy!



ANTARCTICA

I'll not forget my first **Drake Passage** crossing – it was epic – Force 8 winds with seas washing the decks and incredible views from the bridge. Don't let that put you off. Our ships and crews have seen it all and I always feel in very safe and capable hands. Seeing the first penguin on land – four days after leaving home was a special moment as was being in a zodiac among feeding humpbacks – small ships are the way to go. Go soon.





GEORGIA

Thinking back over the 2400kms I travelled around **Georgia** - there are a few standout moments - hiking in the medieval towered village of **Ushguli** at 2,400m in the **Caucasus**, watching a profusion of hummingbird hawk moths feeding on flowering shrubs at **Bodbe Monastery** in **Kakheti**, a close up look at the stunning murals at 12th Century UNESCO **Gelati Monastery**, eating salty cheese and yoghurt with fresh bread straight out of the oven at the roadside. The cool, edgy bars and restaurants of **Tbilisi** also deserve mention, as does the wine!



TIBET

The experience of crossing the immense **Tibetan plateau** with awesome views of the world's most famous mountains is something I will always remember, not least because I was on crutches at the time after a sporting injury! Thank goodness I was in a trusty 4WD. **Lhasa** with its monasteries filled with flickering butter lamps and prostrating pilgrims has a special place among my memories.



SPAIN

I just loved **Andalucia** for its magical boutique hotels, delicious tapas, superbly pretty mountain villages just ripe for exploration, carpets of flowers in the hills making great picnic spots and the stunningly beautiful cities of **Seville** and **Jerez**. Seeing the Andalusian horses practising at the Equestrian School was a real treat. Book that mini break now.



CHILE

Stand out memories - the pilot of our light aircraft banking steeply in a figure of eight over **Cape Horn**; watching the gauchos streaming over the **Patagonian** landscape of the **Torres Del Paine** at **Estancia Cerro Guido**; the extraordinary moonlike landscape of the **Atacama Desert**. My next wish - to drive the **Carretera Austral** - one of the most scenic routes in **Patagonia** - winding through roaring rivers, ancient forests, and the untouched beauty of Chile's southern wilderness. **Explora Hotels** offer stunning stays in these stunning locations. Ask for details.

AND WILL THEY COME BACK?

Myanmar, Syria and **Russia** are three such countries, all of which I visited in a time when we could. **Moscow** and **St Petersburg** occupy a special place in my travel memories. Our Russian friends came and stayed with us in **Devon** whenever they could. Many of you have had happy times in **Kamchatka** and I so wish our ship partners could restart operations in **Wrangel Island** and **Franz Josef Land** where polar bears roam in their hundreds and we can roam at will. I will never forget standing in that stunning amphitheatre at Palmyra and the hospitality of the stall holders in **Aleppo, Syria**. The **Mergui Archipelago** 40 miles off the coast of **Myanmar** was an untouched gem and I stayed in the only hotel there - miles of white sandy bays, untouched reef life and pristine rainforest. I hope one day these will all be back on our radar but we need a huge regime change first.



COSTA RICA

A trip of firsts for me - first time rafting, first time on a zip wire, first visit to **Central America**. My top-rate memories - bouncing through rapids, being caught in a sink hole and surviving, huge surfing beaches, seeing sloths lazily moving from tree to tree, night walks and close encounters with spider monkeys and toucans right in camp.



Snippets

UNCHARTED ISLANDS OF THE DEEP SOUTH

On this extraordinary journey, we navigate the unexplored waters around **Lazarev Bay** and the mysterious **Glinka Islands**, a region where old aerial photographs (1939-1941) serve as reference for existing charts. Ice and daylight permitting, we aim to push further south toward these mysterious uncharted islands.

When: 18 February - 4 March 2026

From: £12,225 per person - voyage only for a twin porthole berth on 110 passenger **Ortelius**

**** Special **** FREE navigational workshop includes the use of sextants, chart positioning, and GPS functions.



GREAT NEWS FROM OMAN

From 25 October 2025 we've double daily flights between **London** and **Muscat** on Oman Air. **Oman** encapsulates the very essence of the **Middle East** with its ancient hill forts, busy fishing ports, fertile wadis and the echo of the muezzin's call. Ask for details.

REALM OF THE POLAR BEAR

Focusing on the largest island of the **Svalbard Archipelago**, we slice through pack ice to find walrus and bearded seals, and sail along spectacular fjords surrounded by jagged mountains that pierce the sky. We keep our eyes peeled for the regal polar bears hunting on ice while guillemots nest in high cliffs away from the hungry jaws of arctic foxes. Stretch your legs on walks across tundra and discover historical camps of explorers and hunters.

When: 11 – 18 June 2026

From: £9,260 per person voyage only on small ship
Greg Mortimer

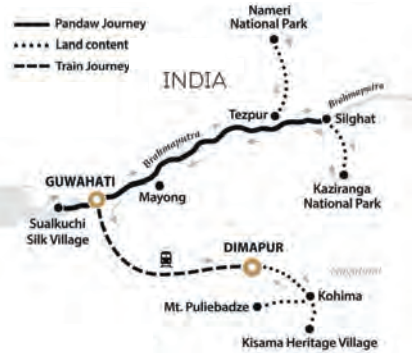


INDIA'S HORNBILL FESTIVAL

December sees this annual festival in **Kohima**. Famed for its fierce and distinct **Naga Warriors**, **Nagaland** is a must-see for travellers in **India's Northeast**. Combine a guided tour with a 7-night small boat expedition along the mighty **Brahmaputra River**.

When: 13 nights starting November 2025.

From: £6,500 per person, just add flights.



DESTINATION ANYWHERE!

I'm often asked: "Which is your most popular destination this year?" The answer is: "There is no one place". Even after 25 years of operation I'm staggered by the diversity of the locations you ask me to send you to. In the past year alone, we've helped you to explore...
Sri Lanka, Kenya, South Georgia, Morocco, Iceland, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Georgia, India, South Korea, The Maldives, Norway, Canadian Arctic, Australia, Spitsbergen, Greenland, Mongolia, Spain, Costa Rica, Argentina, Egypt, Antarctica and Chile, to name but a few...

GAUCHOS, WINERIES AND LAKES OF ARGENTINA... FIONA REPORTS BACK!

Making my fourth visit to **Argentina** in May proved as enjoyable as the others yet even more diverse. See below for a few of my most memorable experiences and start planning a visit of your own:

Glamorous **Buenos Aires** made a great stopover for a day or two. Contrast the multicoloured houses and whacky street art of **La Boca**, with the extraordinary stillness of **Recoleta Cemetery** where visitors make haste to the Duarte family vault to pay their respects to Argentina's first lady Eva Peron. Evenings offer great options too. I sipped cocktails at the roof terrace **Sky Bar** with cool nightscape and dined on juicy steak at nearby **Faena Tango** – a low-lit club where strutting music, sharp suits, trilbies, pencil moustaches, high heels and sequinned evening gowns are the order of the day, or should I say night?



Heading 1.5 hours north was **Estancia La Bamba de Areco** – an 18th century ranch – great for riding, polo or just chilling! It was good to be back in the saddle again – a comfy sheepskin atop a western saddle. I followed the estancia's head gaucho at a fast canter round the polo field before ducking under trees to find a typical asado lunch laid out on the lawns – a long table awash with chilled bottles of white and heaped platters of salads, steak and home-baked bread. It reminded me of the stunning **Estancia Los Potreros** where I stayed at some years back in **Cordoba** – boutique accommodation, great hiking and riding, superb food and atmosphere. Ask me for details.



The cauldron of hot oil bubbled on the barbeque grill and the freshly made empanadas bobbed about, crisping nicely, while delicious flatbreads imprinted with cherry tomatoes, rosemary, salt and olive oil chargrilled next to fat Argentine steak and roasted aubergine. I'd just finished an incredibly fun cooking lesson under the vines at the stunning boutique **Cavas Wine Lodge** in **Mendoza**, west of the capital and the epicentre of the Argentine wine district.



If you like to drink wine, this place is a must. New for me – the chance to blend and bottle my own red – **Castillo Brijnath 2025!**





I also wine-tasted in the nearby **Uco Valley** in the shadow of the snowcapped **Andes Mountains**. Gleaming stainless-steel tanks, aged oak barrels and row upon row of orange and red leaved vines in their glorious autumn plumage. **Malbecs** and **Cabernet Sauvignons** rubbed shoulders with fruity new **Chardonnays** and **Sparkling Wines**. This is a heavenly experience for the vinophile!

Even the 90-minute flight from **Mendoza** to **Bariloche** was something to remember. I was glued to the window for the entire flight as we followed the snow dusted spine of the **Andes** with the occasional white pointed snow peak rising above the soft folds of brown. The night sky was awash with stars and next morning a brisk wind funnelled down over the lake between steep sided wooded hills which I later explored on horseback before swapping four legs for a paddle and taking to the lake in a kayak. **Bariloche**



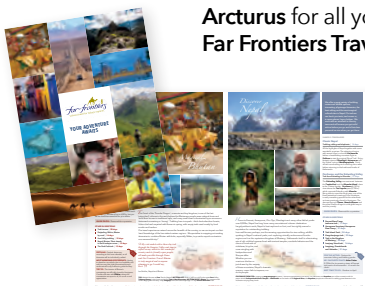
is the undisputed **Lake District** of **Argentina** and a fantastic place to hike, bike, fish, ride and sail.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Not only do we tailor-make **Argentina** pre and post **Antarctic** voyages - we also organise comprehensive tours of the country. Where do your interests lie? Cultural **Buenos Aires** or the thrill of **Iguazu Falls**, riding, wine, hiking, glaciers, national parks, fishing, polo, or the lesser visited northwest region of **Salta**. Put **Argentina** on your 'to see' list and ask for our **Glaciers** and **Gauchos** tailor-made itinerary or a thrilling option combining **Argentina** with **Chile** and world-renowned **Patagonia**.

Now is the time to plan for 2026 and beyond. For a copy of our showcase brochures please email me: fiona@farfrontiers.com

Arcturus for all your polar holiday plans.
Far Frontiers Travel for everywhere else.



Ninestone, South Zeal, Devon EX20 2PZ. Telephone: 01837 840640

Client COMMENTS

“Thank you so much for organising our accommodation at **Corral Del Rey** and **Hacienda de San Rafael** - two beautiful hotels in such an interesting part of Spain. The staff at both were very accommodating - helping us plan our time there. We had a wonderful time in **Seville**.”

Dave and Lucinda Barnes - Andalucia - May 2025

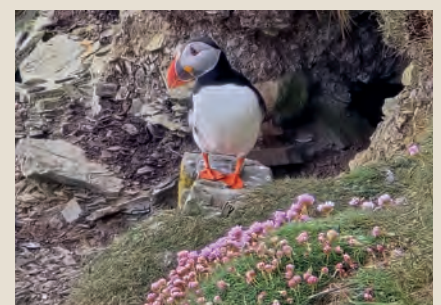
“The trip was completely amazing and we were lucky to have great sightings of polar bears, beluga whales, bearded seals, arctic foxes and walrus, also glaciers and icebergs at close quarters. The ship was under sail on the last afternoon - a lovely way to end the trip.”

Peter Crawshaw, North Spitsbergen on Rembrandt Van Rijn - June 2025



“The expedition team were absolutely great! Supportive, knowledgeable and friendly! Our Expedition leader, Huw was exceptional! He worked all the hours he could to ensure we had the best chances to do and see everything possible! The trip was amazing and I would highly recommend it. The scenery was stunning and just got better each day. On all the islands, the people living on the islands/ guides were so passionate about their homeland! As always, Fiona. Thank you for everything. It's so reassuring to know I can book through you with the confidence that I will have no worries!”

Liz May, travelling with Anthea Gawel - British Isles and the Faroes on Sea Spirit - May 2025



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'.

