



NOMADIC TRAVEL



NEWSLETTER

Issue 33

NOMADIC NEWS

Our upbeat clients keep booking their trips and we thank you heartily! Remarkably, Nomadic Travel ended 2011 with its highest ever sales figures in over 10 years of trading! In light of the rather less buoyant reports emanating of late from other sectors of the travel industry, Rob has been wondering whether to declare this news or not in case people think he has been inhaling too much Gandy Street incense! With over 85% of our bookings arising from repeat custom and word of mouth referrals, we take great pride in achieving this outstanding result which confirms we are bucking the trend and delivering what our clients want and have come to expect from us.

We hope 2012 holds some grand adventures in store for you. Keep in touch - we look forward as always to helping you on your way!

THE WIZARDS OF OZ

If you're planning a visit to Australia then be sure to speak with our two resident advisers who between them have this wonderful country well and truly covered. Irene is our official 'Aussie Expert' – as fully trained by 'Tourism Australia', and she has lived and worked Down Under, whilst Barb has completed two long-distance campervan journeys on separate visits to South and West Australia, and is heading off to the Northern Territory in summer 2012 as she just can't get enough of her outback adventures!

There are so many things to consider when planning a trip to 'Oz' from where to go and what to include, to how to join up the various highlights with transport options including the mighty Ghan rail route that bisects the nation from top to bottom, self-drive itineraries, escorted tours, Greyhound coach passes, motorhome rental and even sailing journeys through the Whitsunday Islands to The Great Barrier Reef. In addition, there is plenty of choice for international air routes out and back from the UK, with Singapore, Hong Kong and the Cook Islands amongst the possible stopovers.

To get the most out of your trip you could not do better than giving Irene or Barb a call, and letting them work their magic!



IN THIS ISSUE

- Wizards of Oz – advice on all things Australian
- Wildlife Exposed – Paul Goldstein returns to Exeter
- New trips for 2012 – six of the best for the year ahead
- Astronomy Tours – heavenly ideas for star-gazers
- A Steppe Beyond in Borneo – orangutan conservation
- Paddling in Zambia – Barb's bravura boat trip
- Frozen Planet at Fever Pitch – following Attenborough



WILDLIFE EXPOSED

Award winning photographer Paul Goldstein returns to Exeter to present a lavish pictorial tour of his favourite species - mainly predators. He is an outspoken photographic guide and his lectures are stimulating to put it mildly. Polar bears, leopards, cheetahs, lions, tigers are some of the stars of his show. He will not pull punches on the conservation of these species, nor will he on people who exploit these animals for profit and greed. His advice is priceless, his style passionate and he takes few prisoners. Don't say you weren't warned!

The Rougemont Thistle Hotel, Queen Street – Wed 25 January at 7.00pm. £10.00 voluntary contributions for 'Worth More Alive 3'.



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NEW TRIPS FOR 2012

Our preferred specialist tour companies have really surpassed themselves this winter with the launch of some wonderful new and original trips for the year ahead. From new destinations such as Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo, to creative twin-combinations such as China & Japan, there are many fresh ideas to consider.

Here's a sample below as we showcase a selection of our own chosen favourites...

'DISCOVER THE WESTERN BALKANS' – DEPARTURE DATES IN MAY TO OCTOBER 2012

This compact yet comprehensive 6 day tour traverses three countries – Croatia, Bosnia and Slovenia, taking in some of the region's main highlights – notably the sights of Split, Dubrovnik, Ljubljana, Zagreb and Plitvice - and is ideal for travellers wanting to see the best of the Western Balkans in a relatively short space of time. **From £885, including flights. (ATOL 10417).**

'EMPIRES OF THE EAST – JAPAN & CHINA' – DEPARTURE DATES IN MAY TO SEPTEMBER 2012



This tour offers a wonderful blend of these two fascinating Oriental nations. Highlights include the legendary Terracotta Army and Forbidden City, walking on the Great Wall of China and exploring Shanghai, the world's most dynamic city, before taking a short hop across the Japan Sea where serene Zen gardens and ancient Shinto shrines await you along the journey below the Japanese Alps between Kyoto and Tokyo. This trip is a fantastic introduction to these close but very contrasting

neighbouring countries. **From £3369 including flights (ATOL 2582).**

'DISCOVER VIETNAM: A FAMILY HOLIDAY' – DEPARTURE DATES IN JULY TO AUGUST 2012

This family adventure offers an exciting introduction to Vietnam with travel by bus, train and plane along the coast from Hanoi in the north to Ho Chi Minh City in the south. Highlights include sea kayaking around the cliffs of Ha Long Bay, learning a martial art, making kites and cooking a Vietnamese meal. **From £1490 per person including flights (ATOL 2595).**



'REMOTE GOBI TREK' – 22 SEPT TO 8 OCT 2012

This unique trekking itinerary was developed with local people who are intimate with every corner of the places visited on this remote adventure. Trek to two distant ranges of the Great Gobi Desert and attempt an ascent of Ikh Bodh peak at 3957m along the way, as well as visit the largest and most impressive sand dunes in Mongolia at Khongoriin Els. **From £1790, excluding flights.**

'WILDLIFE & BEACHES OF NORTHERN MADAGASCAR' – DEPARTURE DATES IN JULY TO OCTOBER 2012

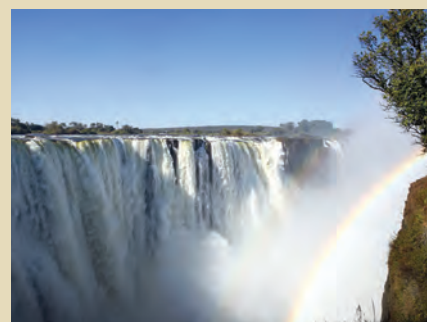
Less-visited than the south, northern Madagascar offers spectacular scenery, incredible wildlife and superb beaches.



Go looking for lemurs and the famous 'Aye Aye' (the world's largest primate) in Montagne d'Ambre National Park, enjoy the breathtaking backdrop of ruby-red rock pinnacles of Ankarana, and still have time to relax along the beautiful coastline. **From £2799 including flights (ATOL 2582).**

'WESTERN TRANS- AFRICA' – 31 MAY TO 25 JULY 2012

This epic journey will appeal to those who really want to get off the beaten track and visit places few tourists have ever heard of, let alone will ever see. The trip commences in Cameroon and heads south into Gabon before crossing into the Congo, then onwards to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola. Rewardingly, after much hard travelling on tough roads, the finale is Zimbabwe and the mighty Victoria Falls. A major highlight will be the local people encountered and the friendliness they offer towards Westerners who are rarely seen. **£2295 excluding flights (plus kitty of US\$860).**



Nomadic Travel works with over 120 appointed tour companies, many of whom are small independent firms who are not represented in the mainstream travel trade. With their support we believe that the breadth of choice of specialist holidays and expertise we offer our clients is unrivalled in the UK.

For more details about the above trips and thousands of other travel ideas just get in touch – we look forward to advising and inspiring you!

ASTRONOMY TOURS... HEAVENS ABOVE!

2012 is set to be an exceptional year for those interested in celestial matters with conditions considered to provide the best northern lights displays for half a century, an annular eclipse occurring in western USA in May and a total eclipse to follow in Queensland, Australia in November.

At Nomadic Travel we have added further expertise in such heavenly matters by signing up a specialist company offering small group tours that incorporate these key events into a wide range of 'astronomic' itineraries. These dedicated trips allow for ample star-gazing at various world-famous observatories such as the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, USA where you get viewing time with the extraordinary Alvan Clark Telescope, alongside adventurous journeys focused on guided star-watching in such



wonderfully evocative places as Jordan's Wadi Rum and Cappadocia in Turkey.

These trips need not cost the earth either - an 8 day 'Night Sky & Caravan Trail' trip to Morocco visiting the Sahara Sky Observatory in the Draa Valley costs from £1099 per person including flights.

Contact us for full details of these various trips which we are delighted to now be able to add to our ever-widening breadth of special-interest holidays.

DIARY DATES

We are delighted to welcome to Exeter two of our foremost travel partners for a couple of exciting travel talks, each to be held at The Rougemont Hotel in Queen Street.

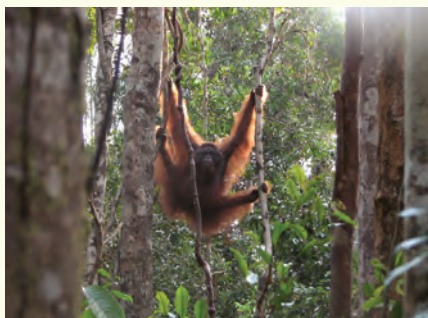
Firstly, Naturetrek are hosting a slide evening on Monday 16 January (6.45pm start) featuring destinations including Canada, Bhutan and Madagascar. Then, Exodus have a team of 3 presenters arriving on Tuesday 13 March (7.00pm start) for their 'Magnificent Seven' talk featuring their own personal favourite trekking adventures and discovery tours.

Entry to both events is free, but please register your interest with us at Nomadic Travel in advance by email or telephone stating how many places you require.

GOING A STEPPE BEYOND IN BORNEO

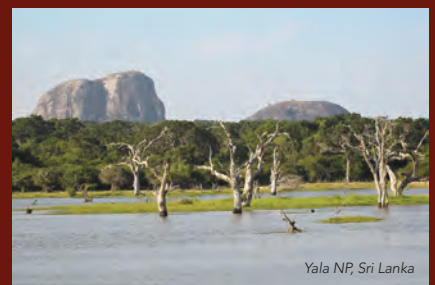
We have helped clients in search of orangutan encounters in the wild previously with trips to Malaysian Borneo, but now - in conjunction with our friends at Steppes Discovery - we are able to offer a visit to Indonesia Borneo for the first time.

What's even more exciting is, in keeping with Steppes' unparalleled conservation credentials, there is the privilege to see at first-hand the dedicated work of The Orangutan Foundation UK in areas of rainforest made exclusively accessible to their visiting groups. Staying in a comfortable eco-lodge, this tour goes behind the scenes of orangutan conservation, and affords encounters with these marvelous creatures that are intimate, unhurried events. Expert-led by Foundation staff these tours raise significant funds towards preserving Asia's only Great Ape. There are departures in June, August and September 2012 and the cost is £2595 per person sharing, excluding flights. This trip can also be extended to allow for time afterwards relaxing on the beautiful beaches of Bali and Lombok. Get in touch to find out more about this and other inspirational conservation holidays.



SRI LANKA – NEW VISA RULES

From 1 January 2012, visitors to Sri Lanka will no longer be able to obtain a free visa on arrival. British passport-holders - along with most other nationalities - will now need to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) online prior to departure at www.eta.gov.lk costing US\$20.



Yala NP, Sri Lanka

TRAVEL PHOTO COMPETITION

If you are reading this before 31 December 2011 then there is still time to submit your entry for our Travel Photo Competition. The usual simple rules apply - images must have been taken on a trip arranged by Nomadic Travel within the 2011 calendar year. Good luck!



PADDLING IN ZAMBIA

'In September,' says Barb, 'I set off to Zambia not quite sure if I was excited or scared witless about the Zambezi Valley trip we had signed up for with Exodus. This was a 10 day adventure which involved canoeing 140km down the Zambezi River. We had never canoed before, and I hadn't put up or taken down my own tent before, so lots of new experiences were in store.

I needn't have worried – we soon got to grips with it all, our guides were nothing short of marvellous keeping us safe throughout the trip. Each morning we broke camp and loaded everything into the 7 canoes: tents, pots and pans, food, water, cool boxes, bags and of course the



odd beer. Hippo spotting and dodging skills had to be perfected. It's amazing how fast we could all paddle when a lone male paid far more attention to us than our guide was happy with.



The river alters shape as you go, sometimes it is wide – up to 2km across and at other times it divides into channels between the sandbanks on which we had coffee breaks, lunched, or camped at night. It was certainly no luxury trip though – the camping was truly wild with no facilities until we reached Chiawa Camp on Day 6 – how welcome was that shower!

From our base at Chiawa Camp we took part in walking safaris, then day and night safaris in the camp trucks. On a more human note we visited both the local village and then the orphanage which Exodus supports there – the children were delightful and very pleased with all the goodies and clothes everyone had brought for them.



The wildlife was wonderful - I don't know which was the most magical moment of the trip, it could have been sitting in a canoe with two lions up on the bank above us, or being so close to the elephants as they stood feeding on the shores, maybe it was watching the beautiful Carmine Bee Eaters nesting in the river banks. I do know that it wasn't the hippos – they were such bad boys.'



EXPLORE! WITH PAUL ROSE

A professional diver, polar explorer, mountaineer and yachtsman, Paul Rose is best known for his BBC documentaries 'Voyages of Discovery', 'Oceans' and 'Britain's Secret Seas'. From climbing Antarctica's most active volcano to retracing the voyages of pioneers Captain Cook and Ferdinand Magellan, Paul's adventures have taken him all over our planet. He spent 10 years working for the British Antarctic Survey, regularly leads expeditions across the Greenland Icecap and has made some of the most challenging dives in the world. Paul uses behind the scenes stories and footage from his television programmes to inspire the audience and poses the question 'Why Explore?' This is a presentation by The Royal Geographical Society and sponsored by Nomadic Travel.

The Broomhouse Theatre & Arts Centre, Taunton. Thursday 2 February at 7.45pm. For tickets call the Box Office on 01823 283244.

FROZEN PLANET AT FEVER PITCH

Trips to the spectacular polar regions have seen a sharp increase following the exalted reviews for the BBC's 'Frozen Planet' series in the autumn. If you wish to travel in the wake of Sir David Attenborough to see polar bears in the Arctic wilderness, or marvel at the teeming wildlife and

towering icebergs of Antarctica, then speak with Rob who can advise on the full range of polar journeys and help with your choice of route, tour operator and expedition vessel. Feedback from previous clients has always been astonishingly high and expectations are always exceeded.



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