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I hope you enjoy our autumn newsletter. I believe it helps to illustrate not only the breadth of destinations we cover but also our ability to deliver something very special in each location. Inside you can read some of the latest client feedback which bears witness to our strength in turning your thoughts, dreams and aspirations into very memorable travel experiences.

A large part of this is due to the quality and versatility of our overseas partners – people whom we have handpicked over the years. But perhaps more importantly, quite simply, I treat each holiday booking as if it were for myself.

This year we have looked after some prestigious private groups and inside you can read more about what we've arranged for them.

We'll be sending out a Dispatches e-newsletter between now and Christmas so, if you are not on our e-mailing list, let us know if you would like to receive a copy.

As the year draws to a close I'd like to express my thanks and appreciation to you all for your support over the past 12 months and to wish you happy travels for 2013!

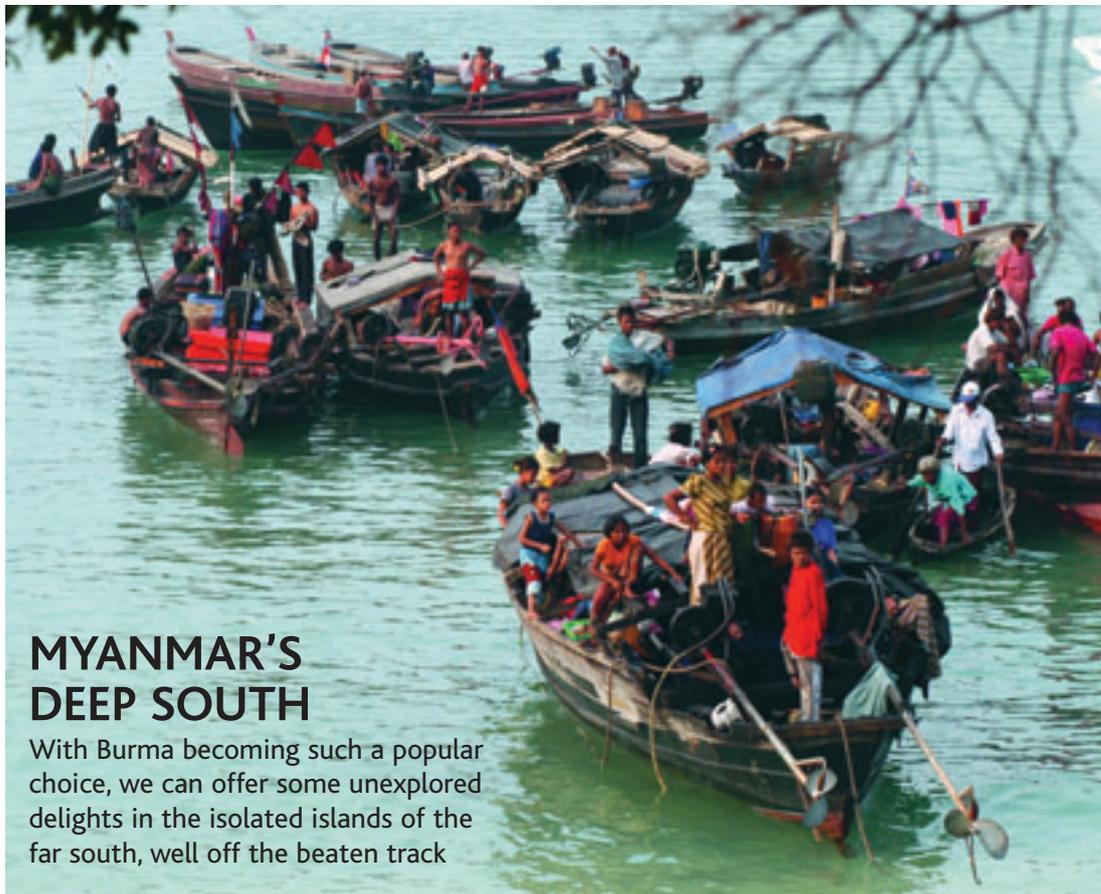
Fiona Brijnath, Director

update | October 2012



ARCTURUS

THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL



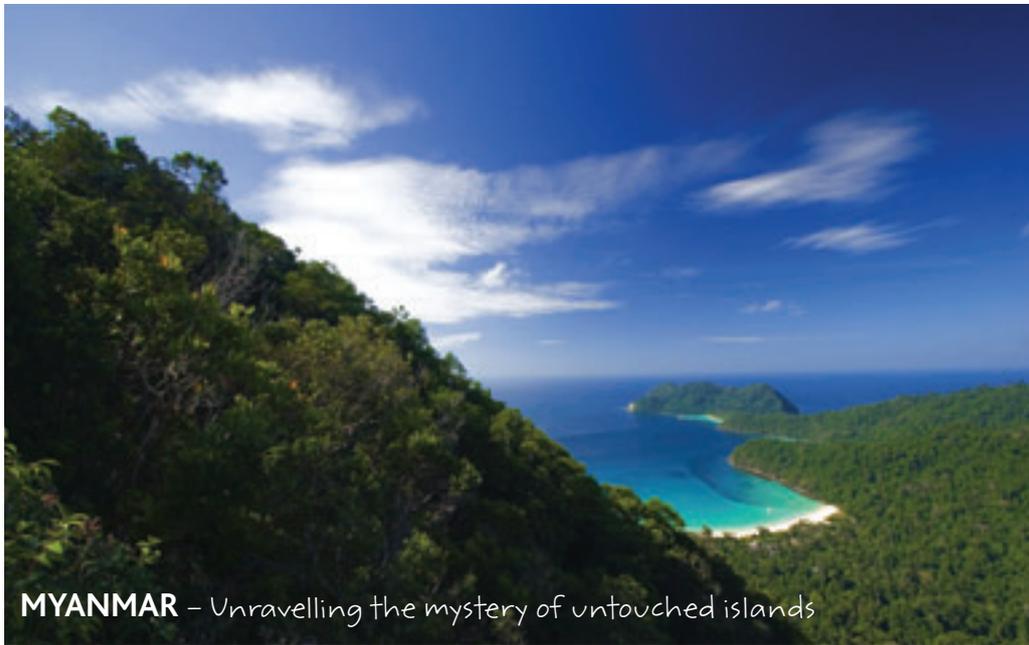
MYANMAR'S DEEP SOUTH

With Burma becoming such a popular choice, we can offer some unexplored delights in the isolated islands of the far south, well off the beaten track



POLE TO POLE

Look no further if you want Arctic excitement in Spring and Summer 2013. Join an expedition voyage to the Russian Far East, do some cross-country skiing in Greenland or, for the really hardy, we've a 550km ski tour in Norway. If you are very quick, you might still catch an Antarctic sailing for the current season!



MYANMAR – Unravelling the mystery of untouched islands

With the recent changes in its pro-democracy movement, tourism to Myanmar is still in its infancy. For many it will still be considered a 'new' destination for some time to come. However, for those who've been before, we have something different – an exciting exploration of untouched islands in the idyllic Mergui Archipelago.

Located in the southernmost part of Myanmar, the archipelago comprises over 800 stunning islands and, due to their virtual isolation, they are alive with an amazing diversity of flora and fauna and abundant marine life offshore. The only human inhabitants are sea gypsies who have

practised the same fishing and boat building techniques for generations.

Explore this tropical paradise by boat, living on board and island-hopping, or stay in simple but comfortable accommodation. Starting your island safari in the bustling harbour of Kawthaung, you can trek through lush tropical jungle in search of wild elephant; explore ancient mangroves by sea-canoe to observe rare sea eagles and endangered hornbills; sunbathe on deserted white sandy beaches; snorkel among tropical reef fish and interact with the sea gypsies.

[Call us for more details.](#)



However, if you're looking for a more traditional tour of mainland Myanmar... look no further – we have plenty of ideas to share – but don't leave it too long to call!



ARCTIC NORWAY

King of the Arctic ski tour

If you are looking for a long (550km) ski tour which involves camping under the Arctic sky, this is the expedition for you! You'll meet many challenges from extreme wind and weather conditions to clear blue sky and deep powder snow. Polar bear danger is always present and dictates route-planning and life around the camps. Little by little, as the journey progresses, the midnight sun rises above the horizon and every day gets brighter. Daily stages cover around 25km on varying terrain with approximately 9-10 hours of skiing per day. Participants have to pull their own pulka with a load of around 50-60kg. It's a very demanding 31 day expedition requiring previous experience of ski touring and sleeping in tents during winter in mountain terrains.

» when « Starts 24 March 2013 in Longyearbyen

» price guide « £9,400 per person



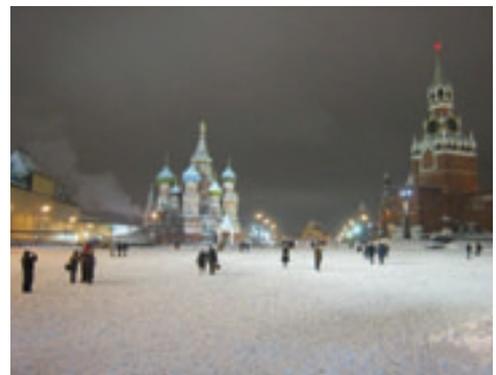
NORWAY

View the Northern Lights in luxury

We have recently started working with **Lyngen Lodge** in Northern Norway – a high quality luxury boutique lodge hotel catering for up to 16 guests in eight en-suite bedrooms. Located in some of the most impressive Norwegian coastal scenery, dominated by jagged mountains and deep fjords, the area is one of the finest from which to view the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) in winter and the midnight sun in summer. It's perfect for active holidays for families, couples and individuals seeking guided adventure, relaxation and nature in an authentic and peaceful Arctic environment. Choose from thrilling boat fjord safaris, canyon and waterfall sightseeing, glacier walking, sea fishing and kayaking, mainly taking place in the two national parks surrounding the lodge.

» what « A three day Northern lights break from December to February including flights, all meals, accommodation, transfers and three activities of dog sledding, snow shoeing and ice fishing plus snowmobiling

» price guide « £1,590 per person



RUSSIA

White Christmas special offer

Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, **St. Petersburg's** unparalleled collection of historical art and architecture includes the **Peter and Paul Fortress**, burial place of the Tsars; the **Hermitage**, formerly the Winter Palace of Catherine the Great (fabled for its more than two million exhibits) and the gilded **Catherine Palace** at **Tsarskoye Selo**. It's just a three and a half hour flight from London and combines well with **Moscow** by comfortable train. Moscow, with its austere yellow-walled Kremlin, the colourful onion-domes of **St. Basil's Cathedral** and the murderous legends of Ivan the Terrible, offers a fascinating contrast. Celebrate Christmas over a sparkling winter break consisting of a six night/seven day tour combining Moscow (Friday to Sunday nights) with St. Petersburg in five star hotels, with a private car and English speaking guide. You connect between the two on the fast four-hour 'Sapsan' high speed train.

» Offer price from « £1,495 per person for stays before 31 December 2012



RUSSIAN FAR EAST

Sea of Okhotsk inaugural voyage

This last June saw the inaugural expedition voyage into the **Sea of Okhotsk** off Russia's far eastern shores. To some extent this was a journey into the unknown, covering new ground even for the highly experienced expedition team. What would they encounter? This is what expedition cruising is all about! There were many highlights, but one of the most remarkable was tiny **lony Island**, a mere dot on the map, which teemed with life. Here they discovered hundreds of inquisitive Steller sea lions that had rarely encountered boats, so were happy to swim right up to the ship. Hundreds of thousands of birds made use of every available space on the rocks and cliffs and their wings beat a constant hum in the air. Further north, the ship encountered ice and everyone was delighted to see and photograph many beautiful and very rare ribbon seals. The locals in the historic town of Okhotsk treated the voyagers to a concert and traditional caribou soup and later everyone watched in awe as a young male Kamchatka brown bear climbed a steep ice wall. Next June you too could experience this extraordinary voyage.

» when « 3 – 21 June 2013
 » price from « **£7,640** per person
 (twin cabin shared facilities)



ARCTIC SPRING/SUMMER 2013

Dates for your Spring diary

Explore Dividalen – drive your own dog sled

» where « **Northern Norway**
 » when « 1 – 6 March 2013
 » price « **£1,695** per person

Cross-country skiing with Lorraine Craig

» where « **Eastern Greenland**
 » when « 26 March – 4 April 2013
 » price « **£3,295** per person



BESPOKE TRIPS for prestigious private groups

This year we are delighted to have been associated with two very special private groups – in April we organised a Silk Route tour of **Uzbekistan** for the **Indian chapter of the World President's Organisation** and, in July, it was the turn of the **Royal Society for Asian Affairs** whose wilderness tour took them on a remote and adventurous trek in the **High Pamirs in Tajikistan**.

One of the party, **Diana Everett**, a seasoned traveller in Central Asia, had this to say in a letter to our trek leader...

“ That was one of the best trips ever and I loved it. It was an amazing part of the world to be in – so seldom is it possible to go for days without seeing anyone at all except a few shepherds, and walking in one of the most beautiful places on top of the world is a rare treat. And the flowers were superb.

We all loved our contact with the local people – all so friendly and hospitable, from the delicious lunch under the chenar trees at Big Kamal's uncle's house, to the friendly offers of yoghurt and bread from the shepherds

in the yurts, and the meals in the yurts themselves. Thank you for arranging all that – not something we could have done for ourselves.

Your team were very good and looked after us beautifully, from Kamal making delicious sheep casseroles, to Tilo being generally very helpful to everyone (including kindly mending my broken knapsack), and all the horsemen – who quite often let me ride when it looked as though I would never get up the hill on my feet!

We heard about the Tajik general being killed, and the army fighting with militants. I am so sorry to hear about this – very worrying for you. From our point of view, we were lucky that it did not happen earlier, as that beautiful road through the mountains beside the Oxus on the border of Afghanistan would probably have been shut.

It was a particularly nice group – we all had fun together with a lot of laughs – something to look back on with enormous pleasure and nostalgia.

I was so glad we had you as our leader – thank you for looking after us so well. ”



If you are part of an organisation or society and feel you might like to organise a special private group tour on their behalf – do contact me. We are brimming with ideas for special places all over the world.

Scottish springboard

We have always had strong support for our Arctic voyages out of **Scotland**. We have five contenders for 2013 which are all well worth considering if you want to head off direct from UK shores. There is something rather special about casting off from port rather than the hassle of an airport. Flights back from Spitsbergen and Greenland are included in the prices below.

Aberdeen, Fair Isle, Jan Mayen, Spitsbergen

» when « 8 – 17 June and 10 – 19 June 2013
 » price from « **£2,070** per person

Scotland slowly

Glasgow, Western Island, Orkney, Shetland, Aberdeen

» when « 2 – 12 June 2013
 » price from « **£3,995** per person

Scotland to Greenland

Aberdeen to Fair Isle, Lerwick and the Faroes to Iceland and, finally, Greenland

» when « 12 – 25 June 2013
 » price from « **£4,195** per person

Wild Scotland – Oban to Aberdeen

» when « 23 June – 3 July 2013
 » price from « **£5,740** per person

Across the Arctic Circle – Aberdeen, Norway and Spitsbergen

» when « 3 – 16 July 2013
 » price from « **£5,820** per person

Antarctic 2012-13

There is still limited availability for this coming Antarctic season so it's not too late to call us.



BOLIVIA

Camping – but not as you know it!

Back in January we reported on an exciting new development in **Bolivia** – 25ft-long American Airstream safari caravans which enable you to experience the extraordinary solitude of the **Sala de Uyuni salt flats** from the surprising comfort of your campervan. Just recently a Financial Times journalist visited as one of their first guests and, needless to say, reported a journey of magical proportions!

Call if you are interested as there are only three caravans in the whole country and we expect demand to be high.



INDIA – Reopening of National Parks for tourism

As we go to press we are delighted to hear that **India's** Supreme Court is expected to overturn the order banning tourism in its tiger reserves. This will be a great relief to all concerned and means that the court accepts that tourism **does** have a role to play in conservation. We have been closely monitoring events as well as giving our support through our membership of **TOFT**. Read more about this at www.toftigers.org

Our brochures

We don't mail our **Far Frontiers Travel** brochure annually – because it's a showcase brochure we send it out on demand. However, do let us know if you would like one. The **Arcturus 2013-14** brochure was mailed out in July – contact us if you'd like any more copies.



Your feedback

See our websites for more client comments on trips that interest you – we are always adding new feedback.



“Thank you, it was a great trip. Ship was very comfortable, lovely food, waiters and cabin stewards did a grand job. Good selection of talks and entertainment. It was a privilege to be welcomed into the Inuit and Newfoundland communities. It was a great relief to find an alternative trip when Polar Star went bust. The trip itself was a unique, once in a lifetime experience that I'll look back on with great pleasure.”

Christine Lord, Wild Labrador and Greenland, September 2011



“The Vietnam trip was excellent and we thoroughly enjoyed it – memorable for all the right reasons. In particular the hotels were well-chosen and uniformly of a very high standard, and each had its own individual character. Our local guides were also excellent – friendly, efficient and very informative.”

Andrew and Suzanne Mounstephen, Vietnam, March/April 2012



“Everything was extremely well-organised both pre-departure – with helpful visa advice – and at the China end. All our guides were excellent at their jobs, very friendly and welcoming and made the whole experience very enjoyable and really interesting. The wide area of China we visited gave us a good insight into the country.”

Ashok and Carole Jethwa, China, April 2012



“Thank you so much for the part you played in arranging our wonderful first visit to India. We had an absolutely fantastic time. Punctuality and reliability of your local staff were excellent and it was a treat to have the undivided attention of such well informed and knowledgeable people for whom nothing was too much trouble. Our driver was exemplary and we felt very safe and well cared for with him.”

Roger and Fiona Hennah, India, February 2012



“Particular thanks to Fiona for her courtesy, professionalism and help with booking flights back to Edinburgh. Pre-departure information very good. Excellent handling of last-minute changes caused by change of vessel.”

Mr and Mrs Norman Robb, Ann Rayner and Ronald Cramond, Aberdeen to Spitsbergen voyage, June 2012



“We thoroughly enjoyed our two weeks in Jordan. It was a marvellous experience visiting so many interesting places, meeting such friendly and welcoming people and learning a little about the past and the present of this beautiful and varied country.”

Rob and Jane Aylott, Jordan, April 2012



“We had the most wonderful trip! Thank you so much for organising it so well – all the travel arrangements and transfers worked seamlessly. The guides were all excellent and one or two were really outstanding, with a good knowledge of English history too, which gave an extra perspective to the places we visited, particularly Delhi. I loved riding at dawn from Rohet Gargh, and by amazing co-incidence discovered that my god-daughter's beautiful Marwari horse was stabled there, so I was able to send her photos!”

David and Diana Fisher, Northern India, December 2011

FAR EAST – New air routes inspire new travel ideas

Sri Lanka

British Airways is launching a new route from Gatwick to **Sri Lanka** from 31 March 2013. Operating year-round, three times a week via **Male** in **The Maldives**, it presents an exciting option to combine these two countries – Sri Lanka for its lush green landscapes, friendly people and varied culture and The Maldives for its beaches and seas to die for.

Thailand/Malaysia combination

The resort islands of **Penang, Northern Malaysia** and **Koh Samui** in **Southern Thailand** now have a direct air link since Malaysian carrier **Firefly** inaugurated its three times a week 30-minute service. This links up the famous beaches of Penang's **Batu Ferringhi** and **Koh Samui's Chaweng**. Penang also offers the delights of the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of George Town** whilst **Samui** boasts a lush jungle interior, golf, diving in a marine park and superb beach hotels.



New ATOL regulations

From 1 October 2012, we will supply all bookings which are inclusive of flights with a special **ATOL** certificate which confirms that your money is protected by the **ATOL** scheme and that you can get home if your travel company

collapses. Of course we are not planning on going anywhere (!) but I am sure that this added reassurance will not go unappreciated.

For those who prefer to book their own flights, do remember that your bookings are also protected under our **TOPP** policy – so you are covered either way.

The air holiday packages in this brochure are **ATOL** protected by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Our **ATOL** number is **ATOL 9270**. Please see our booking conditions for more information.

