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Welcome to 2016 – which is shaping up to be a full and exciting year. I'm just back from a short break with my family to **Istanbul** – you can read about our adventures in the enclosed flyer. My trip coincided with the launch of a new collection of itineraries for **Turkey**. These are now on our website, so do browse the new section on Turkey for more details.

In February I'll be heading to **Ecuador** and the **Galapagos Islands**, and, in October (with my polar hat on) I'm attending the four-day **Shackleton Autumn School** near **Dublin**. We'll be celebrating the centenary of Shackleton's **Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition** (1914-1917) and the subsequent epic escape from **Elephant Island** to **South Georgia**. Polar historian **Seb Coultard** who made history re-enacting Shackleton's crossing will be on board our **Hebridean Sky** Antarctic voyages and we have exciting plans for journeys with our polar leaders **Ann Daniels** and **Robert Clancy** too.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you with your own personal travel plans. Let's make it a year to remember for you too!

Fiona Brijnath, Director  
Ninestone, South Zeal, Devon EX20 2PZ

# creating ADVENTURES

See what we can tailor-make for you at [www.farfrontiers.com](http://www.farfrontiers.com) and [www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk](http://www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk)

## Fresh ideas and new trips for 2016

### CAMP IN BOLIVIA

under the stars the Airstream way  
next Christmas! – page 2



## East Greenland UNDER SAIL

on an elegant schooner  
this summer – see page 3

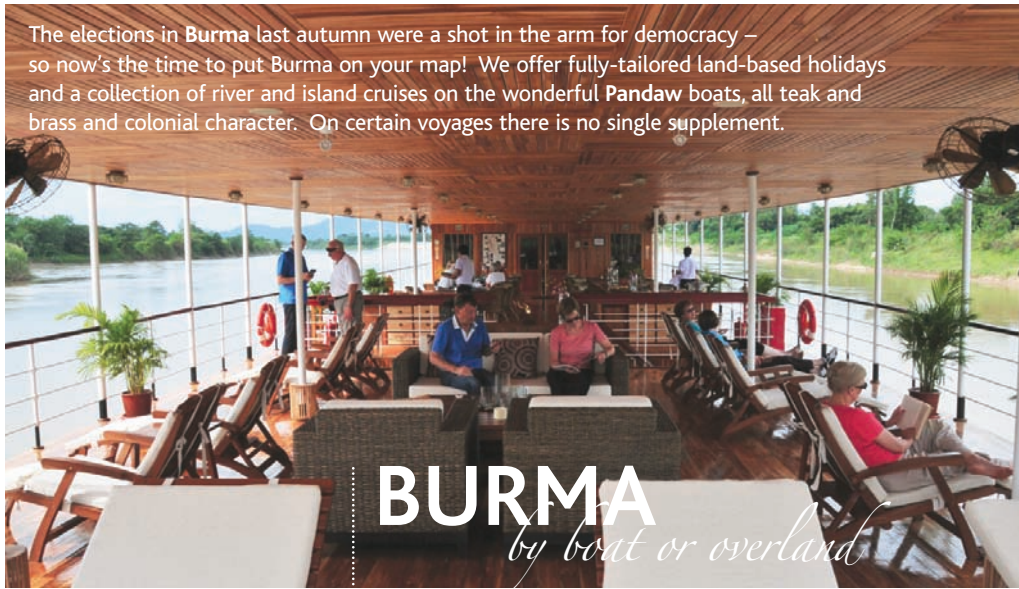


### TOUR BHUTAN

with the Royal Society of Asian Affairs  
in October – page 2



The elections in **Burma** last autumn were a shot in the arm for democracy – so now's the time to put Burma on your map! We offer fully-tailored land-based holidays and a collection of river and island cruises on the wonderful **Pandaw** boats, all teak and brass and colonial character. On certain voyages there is no single supplement.



## BURMA

*by boat or overland*

### » **NEW** Four countries, one river journey

Breakfast on deck watching elephants bathing on the banks of the **Mekong River** and watch the monks of **Luang Prabang** make their begging rounds as the sun rises behind temple spires. The new **Laos Pandaw** cruises the Mekong between **Burma** and **Laos** on its journey from **Thailand** to **China** this February, but hurry as there are only a few cabins remaining. A second ship for Laos is due to be launched in November which will cruise from **Vientiane** up to the **Laos/Cambodia** border. Connecting with expeditions on the **Cambodia Mekong**, this will make it possible to cruise from **Yunnan** all the way to **Saigon** by **Pandaw**.

- » when « 19 day itineraries UK to UK between November 2016 and April 2017
- » price « From **£4,470** per person including flights



### » **BHUTAN** in depth

Join the **Royal Society for Asian Affairs (RSAA)** and come with us on our **RSAA Bhutan tour** this October. There'll be many distinctive and special elements you simply won't find in standard itineraries – such as unique meetings with local dignitaries, political and religious figures, as well as visits to two colourful **stechues** (festivals). Meet a fascinating group of like-minded travellers interested in all things Asia. The group is filling up fast, so call now for a detailed itinerary.

- » when « 13-29 October 2016
- » price « **£4,465** per person including flights

### » **IRAN** in vogue

Since the re-opening of the **British Embassy in Tehran** in August 2015 we have started to see an increase in requests for **Iran** – do please call us for itineraries and ideas.



### » **NEW** Luang Prabang to China

The best of both worlds – this new 10 night journey on the **Laos Pandaw** combines an overnight hotel stay in **Luang Prabang** and a two night river journey by local day boat, staying at comfortable riverside lodges, with a seven night reconnaissance cruise from **Chiang Saen** to **Jinghong** (or vice versa).

- » when « 13 day itineraries March and April 2016
- » price « From **£3,685** per person including flights

### » **BOLIVIA** new season

With the **Dakar Rally** passing through **Bolivia** the spotlight is on this thrilling and super value country. I had a fantastic trip there a couple of years back, and urge you to discover it too. New for 2016 is the chance to see the **Salt Flats** in the magnificent wet season (which coincides with our Christmas period). Travel in luxury in one of our airstream campers for an unforgettable journey or special celebration – the incredible reflections of the expansive skies in the flooded salt pans of **Uyuni** will stay with you forever. Take the cable car for a bird's eye view of **La Paz** and the contemporary architecture of **El Alto** – the world's highest major metropolis. **Bolivia** is truly a holiday of many contrasts.

### » **OMAN** top of the world

In these turbulent times **Oman** continues to offer a safe option for a holiday with a difference. We propose a lovely property in the mountains called **Alila Jabal Akhdar**, perched 2,000 metres above sea level overlooking a dramatic gorge. Let us chauffeur you in 4x4 luxury on a discovery tour taking in **Muscat**, forts and souqs, the magnificent **Wahiba Sands**, traditional dhow shipyards at **Sur** and **Nizwa's** imposing fortress – with a zillion wadis and mountain villages in between!

- » offer « Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 with half board (weekdays) between now and 7 February 2016



### » **PERU** Lima direct

**British Airways** starts a direct service to **Lima** from **Gatwick** in May 2016 – perfect timing for the best travel season which is April to October. We have a rich portfolio of itinerary options, boutique hotels and lodges we can recommend – so do ask.

### » **NEW** Mergui Archipelago

Discover the remoter parts of the **Mergui Archipelago** on a seven night reconnaissance cruise on the coastal expedition ship, the **MY Dreneq**, discovering the old colonial ports on **Burma's** southern coast and the stunning white beaches and sea gypsy inhabitants of the little-known **Mergui Islands**.

- » when « 16-19 March 2016
- » price « **£4,995** per person including flights



# news from ARCTURUS

**Introducing...** *Arcturus has teamed up with some eminent polar experts and explorers to bring you these uniquely special voyages and expeditions. Here's a taste of what's in the pipeline.*

## » SEB COULTHARD *Bringing polar*

Seb Coulthard is a polar historian who achieved fame in early 2013 as one of the team who re-enacted Ernest Shackleton's epic 800 nautical mile crossing from Elephant Island across the Southern Ocean followed by a three-day mountain crossing of South Georgia in order to get help to rescue his stranded crew. They achieved their perilous mission using the same equipment, clothing, and food as their heroes almost a century before, surviving everything that the sea threw at them in a faithful replica of the 23ft James Caird. It is a story every bit as gripping as the extraordinary journey made by Shackleton and his five fellow explorers in 1916. You can read more at [www.sebcoulthard.com/shackleton-death-or-glory.html](http://www.sebcoulthard.com/shackleton-death-or-glory.html).



Following her multi-million dollar refurbishment, **Hebridean Sky** (formerly Sea Explorer) will set sail for the 2016-2017 Antarctic season with Seb Coulthard on board the voyages listed here. Seb will be bringing history back to life using period equipment and resources both at sea and during land excursions. There will be opportunities to camp ashore where possible and to kayak among icebergs and whales.

Type Seb Coulthard into the search box of [www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk](http://www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk) to find out more – or lift the phone to Fiona!

### Antarctic Peninsula

» when « 18 November – 2 December 2016  
11-25 February 2017

» price from « £7,595 per person in a twin porthole cabin (private facilities) including flights

Join Ann Daniels, one of Britain's leading explorers, for an Antarctic Peninsula adventure voyage on **Basecamp Plancius**. Ann was one of the first women to reach both the North and South Poles as part of all-women teams.



She will lead this 16 day group tour delivering a series of illuminating lectures on her various exploits. Camping, kayaking, mountaineering, photography and snowshoeing activities are all available at no extra charge.

» when « 26 December 2016 – 10 January 2017  
» ship « **Plancius**  
» price from « £8,595 per person twin cabin with porthole (private facilities) including flights

See [www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk](http://www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk) for more – type Ann Daniels into the search box

## » EAST GREENLAND *Intimate sailing voyages*

Join the sturdy sailboat **Donna Wood** or elegant schooner **Opal** for an amazing week-long expedition (both just 12 passengers) to experience full-on the magnificence of nature in East Greenland's spectacular Scoresby Sound fjord.

» when « Weekly from mid July to mid September 2016

» price from « £4,535 per person for a 10 day itinerary including flights

Photos: Juan Cristobal Del Pedregal Bravo



## » ANTARCTICA XXI

There are three compelling reasons for booking an **Antarctica XXI** voyage – comfort, speed and style! Flying direct to Antarctica means you get there quickly and avoid the inevitable storms of the Drake Passage and you'll love the intimate, yacht-like experience that a small ship offers. **Have a chat with Fiona about the available options.**



## » ANTARCTIC WITH ANN DANIELS *our great British adventurer*

## » SUMMER IN THE SOLOVETSKIS

We are seeking two more people to join our small group tour to the little-visited Solovetski Islands and the White Sea area of Northern Russia in June. Call us for an itinerary – the walking in summer is incomparable!

*We can arrange an evening of opera or ballet or an extension to see some of the treasures of St Petersburg either before or after the tour.*

» when « 5-16 June 2016

» price « £2,725 per person including flights

Photo: M Kelly



## » NORTH EAST PASSAGE

*Northern Sea Route westbound*

This very exciting, brand new 28 day expedition is a real first! The great seaway that the rest of the world calls the **Northeast Passage** is controlled by Russia and known there as the **Northern Sea Route**. Only a handful of expedition vessels have ever transited this passage, but changes in sea ice conditions have made it accessible. Join us to explore the history and development of this fascinating route and the many islands along the way.

» when « 30 July – 28 August 2016

» ship « **Akademik Shokalskiy**

» price from « £15,710 per person including flights



## history to life

### Falklands/South Georgia/Antarctica

- » when « 24 January – 15 February 2017  
21 February – 15 March 2017
- » price from « £12,775 per person in a twin porthole cabin (private facilities) including flights

## FROM FIRE TO ICE

During the coming Antarctic season **Rob Small** will embark on his epic **From Fire to Ice** expedition which we

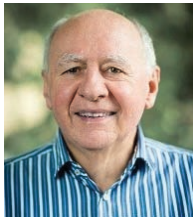


Photo: Fire To Ice Expedition

featured in January 2015. Rob is making this journey to the **South Pole** to conduct medical research and raise money for victims of serious burns like himself. He will be joined by Seb Coulthard who will take a short break from his voyages on Hebridean Sky. They now plan to depart on 26th December 2016 and return from the Pole in mid-January 2017. Read more about Rob's exciting plans at [www.fromfiretoice.org](http://www.fromfiretoice.org).

## » ROBERT CLANCY *Pioneer in many fields*

Arcturus has partnered with **Professor Robert Llewellyn Clancy AM**, a leading Australian clinical immunologist, to offer an exciting 12 day expedition to the **Antarctic Peninsula**, **Weddell Sea** and the



**Falkland Islands**. As a medical student, Professor Clancy spent many years researching with the **Australian Antarctic Division** on the effect of wintering in Antarctica on immunity. He is a seasoned lecturer and author of a number of polar books and is also known as one of Australia's most eminent map collectors.

### North West Passage – Finding Franklin: from Resolute to Cambridge Bay

- » when « 19-29 August 2016 (voyage only)
- » ship « Akademik Ioffe
- » price from « £6,250 per person (flights to be added to this)

### Antarctic Peninsula, Weddell Sea and the Falkland Islands

- » when « 25 December 2016– 8 January 2017 (voyage only)
- » ship « Akademik Sergey Vavilov
- » price from « £9,995 per person (flights to be added to this)

Read more about these voyages at [www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk](http://www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk) – type **Robert Clancy** into the search box.



## » NON-ESCORTED POLAR TOURS

In addition to the **Arcturus** escorted polar tours featured here, don't forget we work with around 20 ships covering scores of areas in the polar regions so, if you prefer not to travel in a group, call Fiona with your wish list!

» **special offer** « A discount of **£150 per person** on the following non-escorted trips for bookings made by the end of January 2016. Prices include private facilities and flights.

### North Spitsbergen polar bear special on board **Plancius**

» **when** « 22-30 June 2016

» **price** « **£4,135** per person (twin cabin)

### Around Spitsbergen circumnavigation with **Kvitoya** on board **Ortelius**

» **when** « 21-31 August 2016

» **price** « **£5,095** per person (twin cabin)

### Classic Antarctic Peninsula on board **Plancius**

» **when** « 6-20 January 2017

» **price** « **£7,555** per person (twin cabin)

Photo: Reinhard Pantke



## » MAGICAL FAROES

For far-flung adventure, we suggest heading to the **Ross Sea** on an epic 35 day voyage! However, if you like your excitement a little closer to home, then the **Faroe Islands** between June and August are hard to beat. Accessed by an excellent direct flight from **Edinburgh** twice a week, these special lands offer spellbinding walks, a buzzing foodie scene in the capital **Torshavn** and a cornucopia of small but perfectly-formed hotels! We can tailor a variety of tours from hiking to chauffeur-driven, all with delightful local guides. Fiona's a big fan of the Faroes and she's not the only one, so you'll need to think about booking sooner rather than later!



## Helpful Holidays

Here in Devon we like to support other local businesses, especially if we think they might be of interest to our clients! **Helpful Holidays** is a family-run company offering around 600 self-catering holiday cottages in Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset. From cosy coastal cottages and vast converted barns to impressive historic manor houses, it's just the thing if you're either planning a relaxing break or looking for the perfect top-end location for a celebratory event. Become lord or lady of the manor for a week, treat your friends to a weekend of jollification, gather the family together for a special occasion, Christmas or New Year, or even tie the knot in a country house with a wedding licence. Many of Helpful Holidays' properties are dog-friendly too. Call **01647 434393**, email [help@helpfulholidays.com](mailto:help@helpfulholidays.com) or visit [www.helpfulholidays.co.uk](http://www.helpfulholidays.co.uk) for more information.

## Good guide for wildlife

**Far Frontiers Travel** has been a staunch supporter of **Travel Operators for Tigers** since its inception. One of their major projects for 2015 was their online **Good Wildlife Travel Guide to India and Nepal 2016** in which we have taken a prominent advert. Its 200-plus pages form a comprehensive handbook for all aspects of responsible wildlife tourism and we are proud to be a part of it.



## Prize draw

Congratulations to **Sue Henning** whose feedback questionnaire from the Arcturus brochure mailing was pulled out of the hat! She wins £250 off a holiday booked with us in 2016.

## Don't miss out!

Clients are loving our monthly Dispatches e-news mailings as they get all the up to date news and special offers as they happen! We can't email you without your current email address so please do let us have your details. We promise never to pass contact details on to third parties.

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 our booking conditions on our website for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate](http://www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate).

**Total Payment Protection (topp) Policy cover:** In compliance with the UK Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 an insurance policy has been arranged with Travel & General Insurance Services Limited (t&g), to protect customers' prepayments in the unlikely event of our financial failure. Full details are given on both the Far Frontiers Travel and Arcturus websites under the Your Financial Protection section.



## » INDIA made easy

For those on a single entry visit to **India** the new USD60 online visa is making life much easier. Whilst arrivals procedures are still being streamlined, we believe it won't be long before this great incentive for Indian tourism will be running smoothly. Prepare now by looking at our detailed itineraries and planning an incredible winter 2016 holiday!



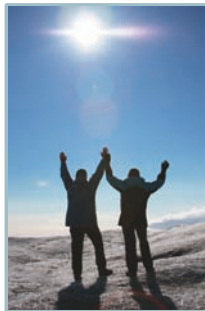
### From a seasoned Far Frontiers Travel client!

*"I have been to Burma on four previous occasions, each time on the RV Katha. I am writing to say my last trip was, arguably, the best yet. Everything was wonderful – the food, the care of the passengers, the friendliness of the crew and our informative and hard working guide. Pandaw's attention to detail was also appreciated – provision of bananas for the elephants, the lanterns for the Full Moon Festival and everything else that helped to make the trip memorable. After we got stuck on the sandbank I even enjoyed clambering aboard the 'speedboat' at 3 am in order to catch my flight from Mandalay to Yangon. Incidentally I missed it but the guide found me another and then said it would be held until I arrived! Please pass on my sincere thanks to your crew for an entertaining trip, and for their kindness in looking after me (although, perhaps the deep-fried crickets with chilli and ginger were not such a good idea!)."*

**Marianne Spender, Pagan and Upper Irrawaddy cruise, Burma, October 2015**



See our websites for more client comments on trips that interest you – we're always adding new feedback!



*"Your service was truly exceptional! We have traveled a lot and tried the services of several companies (both in the UK and the US) and you rank right up there at the top (and we have used some good ones). Your responsiveness was very much appreciated, particularly when the 2014 trip was cancelled. This level of personal service really makes a difference. This was one of the best trips we have taken – one of those that was a revelation and will always be remembered (like our first trip to see the wildlife in Southern Africa, for example). And your service was first rate – we are so glad that we chose you to organize our trip. We would be happy to be a reference/ resource for you with any future travelers (particularly from North America) if you would ever want us to."*

**Richard and Christine Holdrup, Arctic Explorer, August 2015**

*"I had a wonderful holiday. The food on board was very good although there was no choice. When we were in the far north the two guides each carried a rifle (in case of polar bears) and we were required to keep up with them and stay together. This was not always easy, the terrain was often difficult and some of us, including me, were not in the first flush of youth! As to future holidays, I will certainly recommend Arcturus and Greenland. I had been to East Greenland on three occasions and it was interesting to contrast East with West, they are certainly very different, both very interesting in their different ways."*



**Elizabeth Lonkhurst, Sail West Greenland, July/August 2015**

*"I found the 'adventure' both rewarding and educational and also met some interesting people, especially among the English-speaking Chinese and Russian passengers. Once again thank you for putting the trip together for me and therefore making it a resounding success."*

**Peter Wright, the North Pole, July 2015 (see the Arcturus website for Peter's trip report and more photos)**



*"First it was Antarctica, then Argentina, and this time India... Another excellent trip organised for me by Fiona, taking in all that I wanted to do and more. The itinerary was a good cross-section of the old and the new, countryside and city – a jeep safari in Ranthambore, riding an elephant to the City Palace in Jaipur, the Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur and the Taj Mahal. It was amazing to be in India for Diwali, the festival of lights."*

**Judi Smith and Claire Macleod Ash, India, November 2015**