

update | January 2007



**A** new year, and an opportunity to wish our regular clients and those of you who have yet to travel with us a very happy one.

My resolutions for 2007 are to bring you even more exciting places to discover and to update you more often about what's new. This spring I am trying out new trips in Indochina and Argentina to add to the portfolio.

Many of you travel with us time and again – a testament we hope to our emphasis on providing a highly-personalised, efficient, friendly and knowledgeable service, not only during the planning stage of your trip but also in the back-up we give whilst you are away. Last year, more clients than ever kept in touch via email and text messages to let us know how their trip was going.

Our website contains more than 80 sample itineraries covering over 30 countries, all categorised geographically as well as by type of tour and area of interest. It's a good place to start when planning your holiday. If you haven't experienced Far Frontiers Travel, why not make 2007 the year to try us out? Call us on our new number 01285 851921.

*Fiona Brijnath*

Fiona Brijnath  
Far Frontiers Travel

new telephone & fax

**01285 851921**

email

[fiona@farfrontiers.com](mailto:fiona@farfrontiers.com)

website

[www.farfrontiers.com](http://www.farfrontiers.com)

brochure

Call us for a copy of our 'show-case' brochure

CONTACT US

Far Frontiers Travel Limited  
The Pound  
Ampney Crucis  
Gloucestershire GL7 5SA



# far frontiers

tailored travel for today's explorer.

*"We slept out under the stars, next to a fire fragrant with frankincense. Musallim our guide made a wonderful vegetable soup and rice meal and we ended up discussing the merits of second wives for Bedouins. We rather enjoyed being Western agony aunts in the desert".*

Sue Thompson, a regular traveller with Far Frontiers Travel on her trip to Oman



## ELEGANT INDIA

Palaces, historic residences, nature sanctuaries and spas – an exotic and magical world awaits

## ON THE TRAIL – BOTH ENDS OF THE SCALE

View the world from a different perspective on one of our breathtaking treks – in simple or sumptuous style

## HALF-TERM AND EASTER BREAKS

Enriching family experiences in out-of-the ordinary places



# inspiration for HALF-TERM OR EASTER

With half-term fast approaching and Easter not far off, it is still possible to book a quick week away. Here are some recommendations.



Stay in an authentic Moroccan fortified house with superb views, like the Kasbah du Toubkal



Petra, the romantic and extraordinary rose red city



The Temple of Hathor, Abu Simbel, Egypt will astonish you

## MOROCCO

Take the kids away for a refreshing week of walking in the **Atlas Mountains**. Enjoy private treks with your English-speaking Moroccan guide to visit local berber homes or head into **Marrakech** for a day of colourful sightseeing. All just a three and a half hour flight from the UK.

## OMAN

Stay at one of **Muscat's** superb hotels, chill out on the beach or visit majestic forts, glorious oases, camel farms and ancient cattle markets. Experience the thrills of dune driving and the opportunity to see nesting turtles. A world away, yet only seven hours by air.

## JORDAN

See the rose red city of **Petra**, float in the extraordinary **Dead Sea** and explore **Jerash**, a spectacularly preserved Roman city. For something truly different, how about camping in **Wadi Rum**? Jordan is just four and a half hours by air from London.

## EGYPT AND THE NILE

Is Egyptology on the curriculum? Explore the majestic pyramids at **Giza** and the Egyptian Museum as well as some lively souqs before heading south to the **Nile** for a four-night cruise between **Aswan** and **Luxor** to the Valley of the Kings and Queens. All only a five hour flight from London.



» Cattle ranch, Argentina «

- » when to go « All year round
- » sleeps « 24 (exclusive use)
- » prices from « £1830 per person for seven nights with flights, transfers and all meals

**Estancia Los Potreros** is a 6,000-acre working cattle farm which has remained in the same Anglo-Argentine family for four generations. This secluded estancia sits at an altitude of 3,000 feet in the **Sierras Chicas** between the pampas and the **Andes** in the heart of the beautiful region of **Cordoba**. The main house is steeped in family history with many references to the days of the Jesuits who were the first to organise farming in the area before they were forced to leave in 1769. The family provides both short and long breaks for those who want to experience the majesty and rural tradition of Argentina. You can lounge by the pool, take gentle walks, enjoy the bird life or take full advantage of the riding, hiking and outback life. The estancia is in a perfect location for visiting Jesuit churches and there are three excellent golf courses in the vicinity.



## ideas for SHORT STAYS

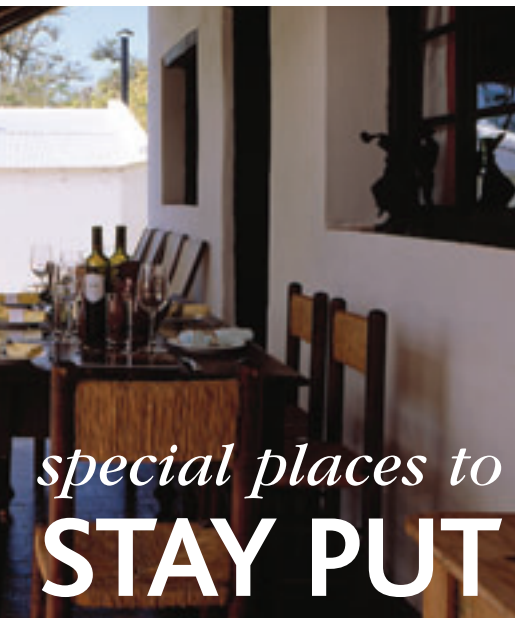


Sometimes we all need a quick escape but don't have time for a full-scale holiday. Here are two suggestions with guide prices for a long weekend break. You can visit year-round, but Spring and Autumn offer the most gentle climate.

## KASBAH AGAFAY – MOROCCO

This 18th century castle fort is a haven of relaxation and tranquillity with unforgettable views across Berber villages and olive groves to the **Atlas**





## special places to STAY PUT



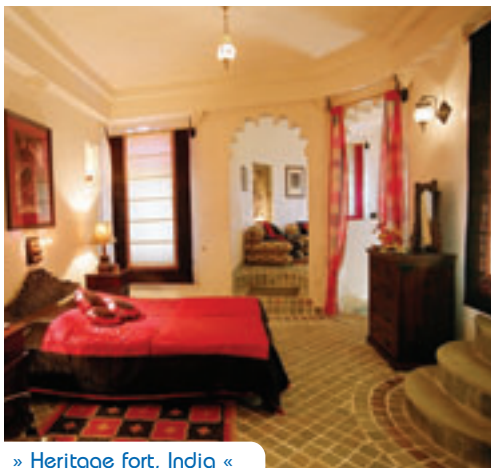
» Hacienda, Spain «

- » when to go « April to September
- » sleeps « 28 (exclusive use)
- » prices from « £825 per person for four nights with flights and breakfast

**Hacienda de San Rafael**, a beautifully restored former olive mill, is situated about 40 minutes' drive from Seville in the heart of **Andalucia's** sunflower farmland. The cobbled courtyard and bell tower are just some of the original features and 14 thoughtfully decorated rooms are set around the courtyard in Andalusian style. You can go riding, explore the nearby area, including the famous sherry houses of **Jerez** and the magnificent **Coto Donana National Park**, pay an exclusive visit to a bull-breeding ranch or simply relax by one of the three swimming pools. Your day culminates in a spectacular candlelit dinner in the old white-washed barn.

**Mountains**, and is only 20 minutes' drive from the centre of **Marrakech**. The Kasbah has 16 rooms and suites set around six private riad-style courtyards, each with imaginative decoration, Moroccan artefacts and antiques and modern amenities. There are also four large suites in traditional tents each with private terrace, a king-size mosaic bath and four-poster bed made from old Nomad tent beams. Swim in the large mosaic-tiled swimming pool, play tennis or relax in the open-air aromatherapy spa at this unique escape.

- » guide price « Four nights including flights, transfers and breakfast from £695 per person



» Heritage fort, India «

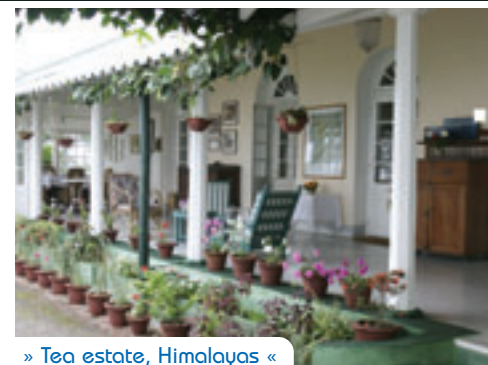
- » when to go « October to April
- » sleeps « 8 (exclusive use)
- » prices from « £1895 per person for seven nights with flights, transfers and all meals

**Fort Seeng Sagar** is a magical and awe-inspiring island fortress sitting in the middle of a lake within a dramatic rocky landscape. Three hours' drive from **Udaipur**, it is fully-staffed and everything is of the highest quality. Each room has a private bathroom and balcony overlooking the lake. The small pond in the central courtyard becomes a cosy fire to sit around during winter. As well as a dining and sitting area under cover there is a superb, open-air terrace which overlooks the lake. Small enough to be rented as a 'villa' this is an intensely personal place which retains its traditional, Rajasthani character and where the staff attend to your every need and comfort. Activities include jeep safaris, picturesque train rides, horse and bike riding, picnics in the countryside, village excursions, bird-watching and visits to the Jain temples at **Ranakpur**, **Kumbhalgarh Fort** and the temples at **Nathdwara** and **Eklingsi**.

*Are you looking for somewhere incredibly special, private and with a 'house party' atmosphere? These properties can be exclusively booked for the whole family or a party of friends for a memorable way to celebrate a special occasion.*



Fort Seeng Sagar is the perfect venue for a family party with every comfort you could wish for



» Tea estate, Himalayas «

- » when to go « Spring and Autumn
- » sleeps « 12 (exclusive use)
- » prices from « £1095 per person for seven nights with flights, transfers and all meals

**Glenburn Tea Estate** is a 150 year-old plantation house in the **Indian Himalayas** above the River Rungeet about an hour from **Darjeeling**. It sits at an altitude of 3700m on a small hilltop and is overlooked by Mount Kangchenjunga. Surrounded by 1000 acres of private forest and the working tea estate, the main bungalow has a wonderful long verandah where you can dine or relax in a comfortable chair. Inside is a very English-style sitting room and communal dining room and if you want to be more private, there is a small pavilion in the garden which provides the perfect setting for lunch, tea or dinner. Glenburn is an ideal base from which to visit Darjeeling and offers a unique opportunity to stay on a working Indian tea estate. Activities include fishing (trout and mahseer from October to April) and rafting, massage, yoga and meditation classes, overnight trips to a riverside log cabin, day-trips to Darjeeling and **Kalimpong** and overnight excursions into **Sikkim**, staying in delightful little hotels en-route.



## VALLDEMOSA HOTEL – MALLORCA

This luxurious, boutique hotel is situated on the old estate of **S'Olivaret** and has a truly magical Spanish ambience. There are stunning views of the **Tramuntana Mountains** and the valleys and olive groves below, and **Valldemossa's** historic Monastery is close by. The hotel has three superior double rooms and nine junior suites (all air-conditioned), indoor and outdoor pools and an excellent restaurant for fine dining.

- » guide price « Seven nights including flights and breakfast from £710 per person



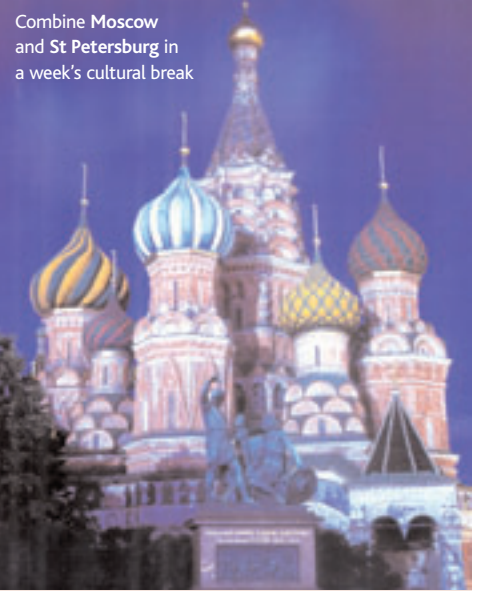
Overnight in a Bedouin camp in Jordan's unforgettable Wadi Rum



# multi-country TRAVEL

**E**xtended breaks and even sabbaticals which encompass several countries are becoming more and more popular. We specialise in multi-country itineraries such as these outlined here.

Combine Moscow and St Petersburg in a week's cultural break

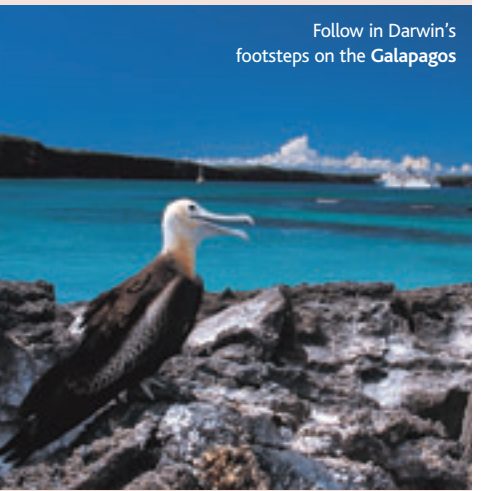


Bhutan – one of the last untouched cultures in the world

Mongolia – a place of windswept plains and starkly beautiful desert



Follow in Darwin's footsteps on the Galapagos



**Central Asia – The 'Stans' –** Combine Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan by historic overland travel on the Silk Route. Alternatively head east into Western China and go all the way to Beijing.

» best time to go « May to September

**Russia, Mongolia and China –** Start your trip with the art treasures and palaces of St Petersburg before heading off on the overnight train to Moscow and east to Siberia and beyond on the trans-Siberian and trans-Mongolian trains.

» best time to go « May to September

**The Himalayas –** Visit the magical kingdoms of Bhutan and Nepal using India as a gateway and the excellent air links between countries. Continue by air to Lhasa and experience the dramatic drive across the Tibetan Plateau back to Kathmandu.

» best time to go « Spring and Autumn

**Sri Lanka and the Maldives –** Combine a cultural touring holiday taking in the ancient citadels of the north, Kandy's Temple of the Tooth and the tea gardens of Nuwara Eliya with a hideaway in sun-soaked paradise.

» best time to go « October to April

**Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia –** Experience the highlights of each on an intricately woven journey by plane, train and boat.

» best time to go « November to March



Vietnam – a place of ancient traditions

**Peru and the Galapagos –** If you go just once in a lifetime, Machu Picchu and the Galapagos are surely two of the greatest wonders of South America, if not the world.

» best time to go « April to September

**Argentina, Chile and the Antarctic –**

The lively city of Buenos Aires is a superb prelude to the breathtaking scenery of Patagonia and Ushuaia, setting-off point for the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic.

» best time to go « November to February

**Jordan and Syria –** Contrast ancient civilisations with a modern kingdom. Overnight at the Dead Sea, visit Mount Nebo, burial place of Moses and stay in a Bedouin camp in the desert. Amman is just a day's drive from Damascus from where you can explore the splendours that Syria has to offer.

» best time to go « Year round (excluding summer)

## Visas

**Worried about how to obtain your visas?**

**Don't be.** We offer a fantastic visa service to help with all your arrangements. We will send you the appropriate visa forms and tell you exactly what needs to be sent where. This can really take the headache out of planning multi-country itineraries. Compared with the time and cost of travel to the various embassies, we think you will find the small fee very reasonable.

*These are all itineraries we regularly put together for clients so please do call us to discuss the possibilities, and your own personal requirements.*



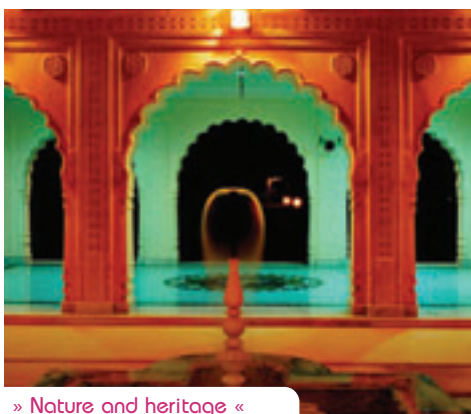


» Classic luxury «

- » close to « Backwaters of Kerala
- » when to go « October to April
- » suggested stay « Three nights

**Raheem Residency** is an 1868 colonial Kerala villa which has been lovingly restored in a rich, classical Indian style by its Indo-European owners. Echoes of the Raj abound in this accredited 'Heritage Hotel' with its original features and traditional furniture. The Residency is located at **Alleppey Beach**, ten minutes from the houseboat jetty and a perfect stopping point if you are taking a houseboat cruise. Facilities include Ayurveda massage, Yoga and excellent food. It is a peaceful oasis amid the hustle and bustle of India.

Amyriad of unique properties now exist in India - each focusing on different needs. We really want to share their secrets with you.



» Nature and heritage «

- » close to « The Taj Mahal and Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary
- » when to go « October to March
- » suggested stay « Two or three nights

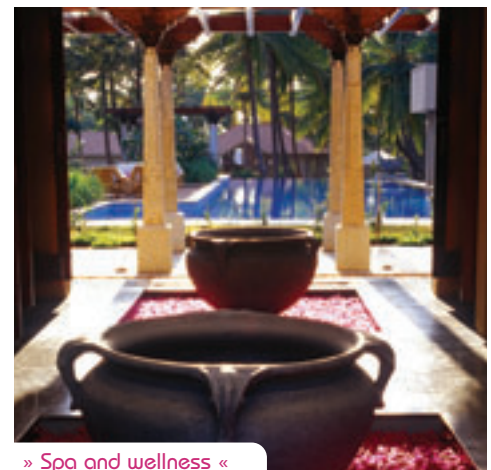
**The Bagh** is a mere two minute's drive from **Keoladeo Ghana National Park** and its **Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary** – one of the most famous in the world – and is set in ten acres of peaceful 200 year-old gardens and orchards. Some of the resort's beautifully restored buildings date back 150 years and are scattered around the grounds which also feature a small massage centre, sauna, jacuzzi and swimming pool. It is an ideal overnight stop on the journey between **Agra** and **Jaipur** or a more leisurely stay during which to explore the archaeological site at **Noh**, the summer palaces at **Deeg**, the **Taj Mahal** in **Agra**, Akbar's deserted city at **Fatehpur Sikri** and his mausoleum at **Sikandra**.



» Historic heritage palace «

- » close to « Jaipur
- » when to go « October to March
- » suggested stay « Three nights

**Raj Palace**, one of the leading **Small Luxury Hotels of Jaipur**, is for those looking for a really luxurious experience with a true Indian flavour. Situated at the very heart of the pink city of **Jaipur**, renowned for its historical palaces, forts and havelis, this unusual boutique hotel has a swimming pool and ayurvedic spa, one of the largest crystal chandeliers in India and a museum housing beautiful 200 year-old antique crockery. The palace's impressive list of past guests includes Lord Mountbatten, Fredrick Forsyth, Elaine Page and many dignitaries and members of royal families from around the world. Make one of the palace's 40 sumptuous rooms and suites, all decorated in Rajasthani style, your base for an unforgettable stay.



» Spa and wellness «

- » close to « Bangalore
- » when to go « September to April
- » suggested stay « Three nights

**Shreyas** is a boutique yoga retreat an hour and a half's drive from **Bangalore** in Southern India. Immensely stylish and comfortable, Shreyas focuses on the concept of wellness of body, mind and soul in order to achieve excellence in all we do. You can learn about the philosophical traditions of India and escape from an over-stressed lifestyle getting your hands dirty helping out in the vegetable and medicinal herb gardens.

Accommodation is in eight tents (each with a superb bathroom semi-open to the sky) and four rooms in cottages dotted around expansive gardens. There is one dining room where guests are encouraged to dine together. All the meals incorporate organically grown ingredients freshly gathered from Shreyas' 20 acres of fields. Resource conservation initiatives include rainwater harvesting and solar heating. Shreyas is an excellent base from which to visit **Bangalore**, **Mysore**, **Belur**, **Halebid**, **Srirangapatnam** and **Sravanabelagola**.





### Travel Operators for Tigers

We are proud to be a member of **Travel Operators For Tigers (TOFT)**, a campaign set up by concerned Indian-focused travel operators in the UK. TOFT is working towards a situation where all those involved in 'tiger tourism', including tour operators, accommodation providers, local services, park management and visitors, will join together to halt the demise of the tiger. We issue codes of conduct to all our clients visiting India's national parks and make a donation to TOFT for each one. To find out more visit [www.toftiger.org](http://www.toftiger.org)

### Nepal enters new era of peace

Last November's much awaited peace accord between the **Government of Nepal** and the Maoist **Communist Party** heralded a new era of peace and democracy. If you have postponed a visit to Nepal, now is the time to discover its fascinating people, culture, temples, monasteries, mountains and jungles. The tourism industry has suffered over the past eleven years and foreign income will be vital in helping the country to rebuild its economy.

### For eclipse followers

August 2008 will be the perfect time to see the eclipse in **Mongolia's** far west Altai region. Why not combine this special event with a wilderness trek or ride in the beautiful and remote **Altai Mountains**?

### Beijing Olympics

We are already receiving enquires for the **Beijing Olympics** in 2008. Talk to us about combining your interest in sport with a tour of the **Far East**. We have some great ideas and options.

### Total protection through TOPP

In addition to the protection that our membership of **ATOL** gives you, there is also the satisfaction of knowing that your holiday is bonded under the **Total Payment Protection Policy (TOPP)**. TOPP covers UK customers' pre-payments for flight and non-flight-inclusive holidays, and repatriation to the UK where your package includes return travel to the UK in the unlikely event of the tour operator's financial failure (subject to the terms and conditions of the policy). In a nutshell, you are bonded whether you take international flights from the UK or not, which gives you that extra degree of protection.



## TREK POSSIBILITIES

*from luxury to simple*



- » when to go « June to October
- » prices from « £2995 per person
- » trip basis « Private two week tour for four people



- » when to go « Year round
- » prices from « £2595 per person
- » trip basis « Private two week tour for two people

### SHAKTI LUXURY CAMP, HIMALAYAS

**Shakti Luxury Camp**, at 2200m, offers stunning views and great luxury. Spend your days taking gentle walks out into the countryside and neighbouring villages, enjoy superb picnic lunches set up for you in pristine mountain locations and return to the comfort of your solar-heated stone hut with its canvas roof. Here the air is achingly fresh and birds, flowers and butterflies abound. High-altitude walks can be arranged enabling you to see even more of the land of **Uttaranchal**, and you share them with no-one but the odd shepherd or local villager. Return to sundowners around the camp fire, a fabulous three-course dinner and the comfort of your four poster bed. This exquisite and unique camp is a five hour drive from **Almora**, followed by a gentle two hour walk from the road. We recommend a



minimum four or five night stay which works well as an extension to trips from **Delhi**, especially if you are visiting **Corbett National Park**.

## ALTAI WILDERNESS TREKS AND RIDES, MONGOLIA

**The Altai**, Mongolia's highest mountain range, stretches south from **Russia** down the far west of the country, petering out at the **Gobi Desert**. Remote, barren and dramatic, this is a landscape of craggy peaks and deep valleys dotted with grazing yaks and gers (nomadic felt tents) where, in winter, only the fittest survive. We can offer wonderful wilderness treks and rides for private parties in this serene landscape. We hike through lush green meadows, larch forests and mountain gorges and across the snow-capped peaks of the Altai. At night we sleep in tents by rivers and lakes with an unparalleled view of the clear heavens above. We will also take you to the **Eagle Hunters**, an ethnic band of skilled Kazakhs who, during the long tough winters, hunt marmots and small foxes with majestic golden arrows.



- » when to go « October - April
- » prices from « £1995 per person
- » trip basis « Eleven day group tour. Weekly departure on Saturdays

### PATAGONIAN ECOLOGICAL TREKS, CHILE

**Patagonia's** untamed rugged beauty in the wilderness of southern **Chile** is waiting to be discovered. It is a landscape of stunning pink and white, near-vertical granite towers thrusting above the surrounding forests, glaciers and sparking turquoise lakes.

After a night in **Santiago**, fly to **Punta Arenas** and drive on to **Puerto Natales**, gateway to the **Torres del Paine National Park**. The trek runs along the eastern side of **Lake Grey**, dotted with majestic icebergs and the campsites are in idyllic locations. Trek up into the **Asencio Valley** where you can admire the famous towers, immense granite pillars soaring some 2835m towards the sky. This is the luxurious end of trekking – each of the six nights on trek are spent in refugios or eco-camps.

