

Summer 2015

Fifteen fantastic years: fifteen favourite holidays...

This anniversary seems a fitting moment to look back at some of the many countries I have been fortunate enough to visit and indulge in a few personal travel reminiscences. We can all trawl through glossy brochures, but I believe that these real experiences and friendships forged across continents, religions and cultures make for lasting memories of a different life that money can't buy.

I hope my recollections will inspire you to make your own special journey. I've included guide prices by each destination to give you a feel for the cost – they are all based on two people travelling and include flights from the UK.

Nepal

After the unbelievably tragic earthquakes, Nepal will need our support once it has started to regroup and rebuild. Take a luxury lodge teahouse trek, visit its superb wildlife parks, discover the kingdom of Mustang, wander the cobbled streets of old Kathmandu or raft a wild bucking river in central Nepal.

» **unforgettable experiences** « *Hearing the roar and seeing the flash of orange and black in my first ever encounter with a tiger in the wild – mercifully from the back of an elephant. Nursing hot chocolate and swapping stories with American climbers at Everest Base Camp on an epic month long trek.*

» **guide price** « **Trekking, rafting and wildlife** 14 days from £2,950 per person

Mongolia

Take a jeep overland from Ulaanbaatar via Ghengis Khan's ancient capital at Karakorum and down through the remote steppe dotted with tiny ger settlements to hunt for fossils in the Gobi Desert. Ride with Kazakh golden eagle hunters or gallop with reindeer herders rounding up their stock.

» **best memory** « *Careering by jeep behind a horde of hollering children in a dramatic Naadam horse race, then sharing enormous bowls of chilled airag (fermented mares' milk) with burly wrestlers.*

» **guide price** « **Overland jeep tour to the Gobi** 15 days from £3,495 per person

Russia

Art treasures too priceless to imagine in St Petersburg rub shoulders somewhat bizarrely with the starkly austere skyline of Moscow.

» **vivid recollection** « *A priceless evening of steaming borsch and vodka toasts in a tiny Moscow apartment many floors up – a real Soviet experience contrasting with an entrancing evening marvelling at the Kirov Ballet in St Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre.*

» **guide price** « **Cultural Moscow and St Petersburg** 7 days from £2,095 per person

India

My husband is from India so it's always going to be up there in my heart. I have travelled its length and breadth, I understand how it operates and most importantly I've top-notch partners. For a first visit it has to be Rajasthan and its glorious palaces, but head south to another world of lush green palm trees or visit some of the many superb national parks and support our work with the tiger conservation charity TOFT.

» **best of times** « *Sharing a chapati or two with a lovely family on a long distance train to Mumbai; an extraordinary two-day road journey from Srinagar to Leh; camping under the stars in the Thar Desert, my camel tethered nearby; watching a sandstorm race towards us in Jaisalmer; approaching Deogarh Fort by bullock cart; the gentle lapping of the Keralan backwaters against my houseboat.*

» **guide price** « **Forts and Palaces of Rajasthan** 17 days from £3,295 per person

Argentina

Chic, gleaming, cosmopolitan Buenos Aires – gateway to a week riding the Sierra Chicas near Cordoba or wine tasting and glorious vineyard ranches in Mendoza; the thrill of Iguazu Falls; whale watching and the penguin colonies of Puerto Madryn; the wild wetlands of the Pantanal or the creaking glaciers of Patagonian south. Do ask about adding these to an Antarctic polar adventure.

» **unforgettable high** « *My night in a tiny rustic stone cabin high in the hills where eagles soared and the wind rustled the long grasses. We dined by candlelight in delicious simplicity, followed by a glorious ride through flowering forests back to the polo field for a rumbunctious chukka or two.*

» **guide price** « **Glaciers and gauchos – highlights of Argentina** 15 days from £4,845 per person

“ It is 15 years since Far Frontiers Travel was born, and what an incredible journey it's been so far – filled with exciting travel challenges, unforgettable personal experiences and wonderfully loyal clients who have travelled with us time and again.

In 2003 we brought Arcturus into the stable and the polar dimension has proved to be an exciting and rewarding addition.

With so many operators in the travel arena it can be bewildering to know where to start when choosing a holiday. Personally, when I need help with something new, I look to enlist trustworthy and experienced guidance and for a long-term relationship, and I firmly believe that over the years this is what my clients have enjoyed with me.

To my regulars – heartfelt thanks for your support. For those who haven't tried us out, do take a look at our website where you will find comments from past clients on the service I offer. I hope you'll take that first step and call me soon! ”

Fiona Brijnath

Fiona Brijnath,
Director



Bolivia 2009



Oman 2004



Tibet 2000

Antarctica

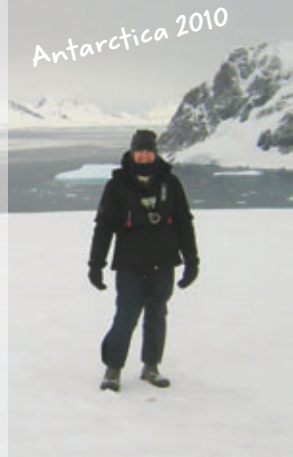
Forays by zodiac, awe-inspiring glaciers, albatross, fur seals – an other-worldly sparkling grandeur and spectacle like no other – I adored my time on and around the Antarctic Peninsula.

» exhilarating experiences «

Standing on terra firma and listening to crashing, crushing brash ice, cruising among icebergs in a snow storm, a leopard seal circling our zodiac having flung a penguin sky high.

» guide price « **Classic Antarctic Peninsula** 13 days from **£5,895** per person

Antarctica 2010



Oman

An azure coastline, white sand and deserted beaches! If you like vibrant souks and historic fortresses you'll love Oman. We have some wonderful trekking in the interior and intimate desert camps.

» fabulous feeling « *The gorgeous enveloping hot desert wind – it was May and 55 degrees!*

» guide price « **Fortis, wadis and souqs of Oman** – 10 days from **£2,725** per person

Bolivia

Bolivia really is other-worldly and almost untouched by the ravages of tourism. Take to the searingly hot salt pans for a bizarre Airstream camper safari or explore the desert by rugged 4WD.

» special memories « *Running through a dramatic and sudden hailstorm in La Paz; sunrise after an early morning trek atop Sun Island in the middle of Lake Titicaca; dancing by the fire at a moonlight festival; the dazzling salt pans.*

» guide price « **Lake Titicaca and 4WD Bolivia experience** 15 days from **£3,625** per person

Tibet

On the high altitude road between Lhasa and Kathmandu the Himalayan greats, Everest, Cho Oyo, Lhotse and Makalu, unfold before your eyes. Explore the high plateaux of the east and old town Lhasa, its high-stepped monasteries heavy with the scent of butter lamps.

» lasting impressions « *Due to a sporting injury I hopped around Tibet on NHS crutches. Women all over the country would come up to me, touch my arm and murmur words of sympathy. It was special, touching and a very connecting experience.*

» guide price « **Journey across Tibet** – overland from Kathmandu to Lhasa 13 days from **£2,495** per person

Bhutan

I have driven from west to east on the vertiginous road that corkscrews over high passes, through agricultural villages and past majestic Himalayan peaks to lichen-clad rhododendron forests. The colourful spring and autumn festivals are a photographer's dream.

» enduring experience « *It was teeming down, the road was blocked and we had to abandon our vehicle and walk 10km through dense tropical jungle with only fireflies lighting the road! We spent the night on the floor of a garage but I made my flight home the next day!*

» guide price « **West to east drive across Bhutan** 17 days from **£3,950** per person

Myanmar

A people of endless smiles and peaceful demeanour, glamorous gilded Yangon pagodas, graceful leg-rowers on Inle Lake, tiny rickety trains, ridge-top hill towns and the tumbling temples of Bagan. Take a brass and teak river cruise to experience hidden riverbank life.

» finest reflections « *Dawn on the river, hot air balloons filling the skies over Bagan, a wild truck ride up to the Golden Rock at Bago, the untouched and gorgeous Mergui Archipelago.*

» guide price « **All Burma** 18 days from **£4,695** per person

Morocco

I've been several times, the last time with my family which was a great hit. Take a long weekend in Fez or Marrakech, a trek in the Atlas Mountains, a laid-back beach holiday or head south to the Sahara Desert for tiny oasis hamlets and camping among dramatic dunes.

» magical moments « *Seeing my young son disappear up a mountain trail atop a sturdy donkey. The crows wheeling and cawing above our High Atlas hideaway and city sounds drifting on the warm night air over Marrakech.*

» guide price « **Marrakech, Atlas Mountains and Taroudant** by car, 8 days from **£1,295** per person

Central Asia

Follow ancient caravan routes via the domes and minarets of Bukhara, Khiva and Samarkand, ride among high peaks and flowing streams and visit the roaming nomads of Kyrgyzstan, the ancient desert citadels of Turkmenistan or trek in the High Pamirs of Tajikistan.

» singular reflections « *Reaching the Chinese border in the far south east of Kazakhstan and seeing the long, forbidding double fence and watchtowers with No Man's Land in between; pouring out of a Russian banya in Almaty, having been pummelled and scrubbed to within an inch of my life, straight into a snowstorm!*

» guide price « **Classic Uzbekistan** 11 days from **£1,850** per person

Peru

The lost city of Machu Picchu appears to hang in the cloud forest and you have to pinch yourself to believe you are there. Head up neighbouring Wayna Pichhu for the ultimate view. We've the mystical Nazca lines, the teeming Amazon jungle and undisturbed beaches north of Lima to end your tour.

» top moment « *Machu Picchu at dawn – I had the whole site to myself – plus an unannounced alpaca garment fashion show on the train journey up!*

» guide price « **Inca Trail, Lake Titicaca and the Amazon** – 19 days from **£4,590** per person

The Ross Sea

I don't have a magic moment for this yet as it may have to wait until I retire! It's an epic Antarctic odyssey of over a month, taking in the historic huts of Scott and Shackleton in the Ross Sea. I'm fascinated by polar history and the extraordinary feats of endurance of the explorers of the Heroic Age.

» guide price « **In the Wake of Scott and Shackleton** – the Ross Sea 35 days from **£15,935** per person

“ Eye-opening, exciting, enlightening, challenging, wonderful! A real adventure for the two of us, with some unexpected extras thrown in, like meeting the King and Queen of Bhutan! Everything worked like clockwork. All the right people were there at the right time to meet us, move us on, or take us somewhere – a great relief in strange countries. ”

Mr and Mrs Richard Watson, Bhutan and India, April 2015

“ The kindness of our driver, Mahjou, is what we remember about Morocco, he enabled us to integrate with the local people, and he was and is, without question, the finest of men. The knowledge that he has of his country and the customs and wares of all the different cities that make up that beautiful land, is phenomenal. ”

The Korner family, Morocco, April 2015

There's more client feedback, maps and itineraries on both our websites
www.farfrontiers.com
www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk



The air holiday packages included here are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 9270. Please see our booking conditions for more information.



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