

update | Summer 2022

telephone

01837 840640

email

fiona@farfrontiers.com

fiona@arcturusexpeditions.co.uk



Now that so many countries around the world have lifted their pre-pandemic restrictions it certainly feels good to be talking about travelling again. It's been a long time coming.

In this issue I'm looking at what's on trend for this year and next. I suspect you'll be looking for more emphasis on stay-put and wilderness destinations.

If you're now ready to realise some long-held travel dreams do get in touch so we can get planning!

Fiona Brijnath

Fiona Brijnath, Director

Ninestone, South Zeal, Devon EX20 2PZ

far frontiers
tailored travel for today's explorer.



ARCTURUS
THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL

creating ADVENTURES

See what we can tailor-make for you at www.farfrontiers.com and www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk

» where « MONGOLIA

» why « Large tracts of Mongolia remain virtually unvisited, which makes this enormous country a wonderful destination for true exploration away from the crowds, either on horseback, foot or by jeep.

» inspire me « Travel June to September this year or next. Take a jeep with private Mongolian guide and go truly off road through steppe, desert or mountain pasture for starkly beautiful windswept landscapes and memorable encounters with locals.



» where « BHUTAN

» why « Trek on the newly restored Trans Bhutan Trail which spans the breadth of the country, 403 kilometres from Haa in the west to Trashigang in the east. For hundreds of years, it was used by pilgrims, messengers, armies and traders. Until the 1960s, it was the only way to travel and communicate with others across the country. It is one of the most beautiful, culturally rich and least explored trails in the world.

» inspire me « Travel Spring or Autumn. Keep away from the crowds and stay on a tea garden enroute. Stunning scenery, old fashioned elegance and the opportunity to see the rituals of tea production make Glenburn Tea Estate a compelling blend. Trek a section of the Trans Bhutan Trail and end in Assam at Diphlu River Lodge close to Kaziranga National Park famed for the Indian One-horned Rhinoceros.

» where « NEW ZEALAND

» why « Finally opened for travel. Wide open spaces for all.

» inspire me « There are 14 fiords in Fiordland National Park. Only two, Milford and Doubtful Sound, are accessible by road - the rest can only be reached by boat. They are amongst the most remote and inaccessible places in New Zealand.

This expedition does what no other expedition does and explores all of the fiords giving you the opportunity to see and experience everything that makes these fiords so unique and so alluring. Travel August-November 2022. Small boat - just 8 places. Incredibly knowledgeable and characterful skipper.

EXPLORE YOUR TRAVEL DREAMS WITH THESE GREAT EXPERIENCES FOR 2022

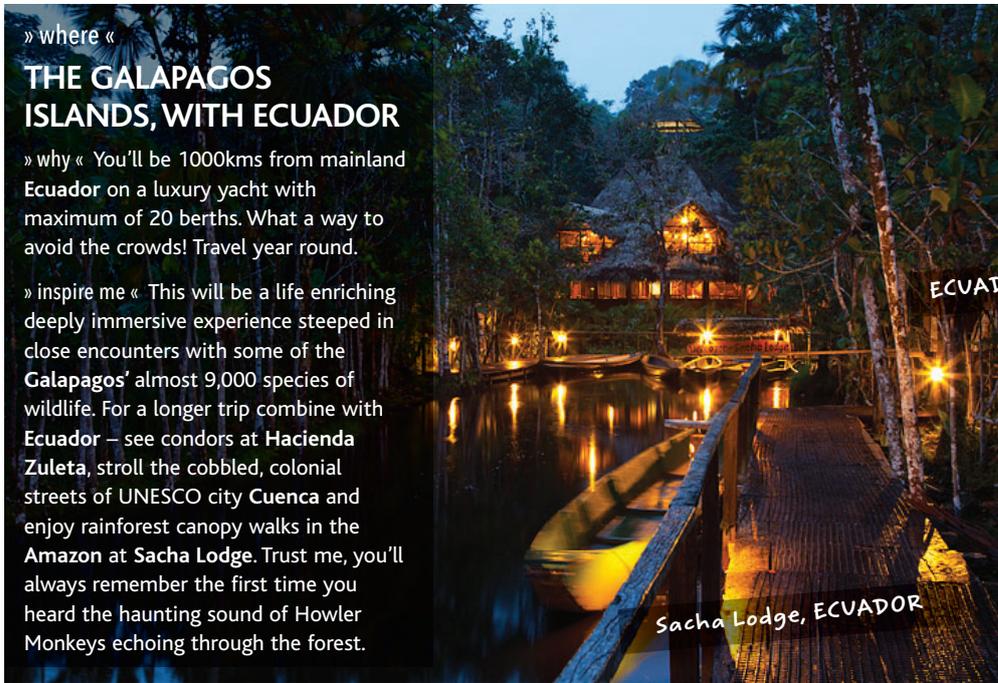


» where «

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, WITH ECUADOR

» why « You'll be 1000kms from mainland Ecuador on a luxury yacht with maximum of 20 berths. What a way to avoid the crowds! Travel year round.

» inspire me « This will be a life enriching deeply immersive experience steeped in close encounters with some of the Galapagos' almost 9,000 species of wildlife. For a longer trip combine with Ecuador – see condors at Hacienda Zuleta, stroll the cobbled, colonial streets of UNESCO city Cuenca and enjoy rainforest canopy walks in the Amazon at Sacha Lodge. Trust me, you'll always remember the first time you heard the haunting sound of Howler Monkeys echoing through the forest.



Sacha Lodge, ECUADOR



ECUADOR: Howler monkey



OMAN: Zighy Bay



» where « **SPAIN**

» why « The award winning 18th century Hacienda de San Rafael, once a thriving olive estate, is now a heavenly Andalusian hideaway where rustic charm meets modern sophistication. It's perfectly positioned halfway between the historic cities of Seville and Jerez de la Frontera renowned for its sherry bodegas and dancing horses. To the East, in the Sierras de Grazalema lie the attractive white villages known as *pueblos blancos*.

» inspire me « Book a private pool villa. Set in olive groves you'll have complete privacy. Breakfast on your verandah and take lunch or dinner under a private thatched *choza*. The private garden and infinity pool look out onto the Andalusian sierras. Enjoy endless views of olive and almond groves, seas of sunflowers, the scent of lavender and jasmine, blue skies, a soothing Atlantic breeze, singing cicadas and the sound of running water from the pools.



» where « **OMAN**

» why « Oman doesn't suffer from the over-westernisation that has affected Dubai. It has more than 1,000 kilometres of pristine coastline and spectacular empty beaches. The Omanis are proud of their long held traditions. A safe and friendly atmosphere awaits you.

» inspire me « Travel over our winter. My personal favourite – Alila Jabal Akdar nestled among the Al Hajar Mountains at 2000m. Try cliff top dining, star gazing, via ferrata or simply enjoy the spa, superb trekking or butterfly trail. Head north to Six Senses Zighy Bay on the Musandam Peninsula for a sublime beach holiday.

» where « **INDIA**

» why « For the ultimate ultra-private and absorbing holiday look to India's mighty Brahmaputra River and our private river boat for two. Track rhinos and tigers at Kaziranga National Park and discover the dancing monks at Majuli. Itineraries reflect a sense of deliberate slowness, enabling guests to cruise gently, and keenly absorb the beauty of Assam.

» inspire me « Work with me to custom build your very own private river cruise this coming winter. The MV Rudra Singha is an air-conditioned wooden houseboat staffed by captain, chef and guide/naturalist. Enjoy village walks, wildlife safaris, cycling (two bikes on board), tea-tasting, local culture and markets, cooking and weaving classes, textile villages and fishing.



INDIA: MV Rudra Singha



Baros, THE MALDIVES

» where « **THE MALDIVES**

» why « The ultimate sun-soaked stay-put holiday. Travel December to April for best weather.

» inspire me « Charter your own seaplane. Fly over the garland of islands to spot whale sharks and manta rays. Land on a beach to relax or go surfing. Try award-winning boutique resort **Baros** or 5 star **Anantara Dhigu**, great for families. 110 beach villas and over water suites with spa, surf school and PADI freediving as well as free boat to two sister resorts and small desert island **Gulhifushi**. For couples try **COMO Cocoa Island** a secluded, private island with 33 overwater villas. Understated luxury focussed on holistic wellness.



» where « **SRI LANKA**

» why « You'll find sweeping beaches, cool hill country, spice gardens, national parks and historic tea plantations all packed into this tiny island nation. Dotted throughout are many fantastic small hotels and villas which are perfect for a longer stay.

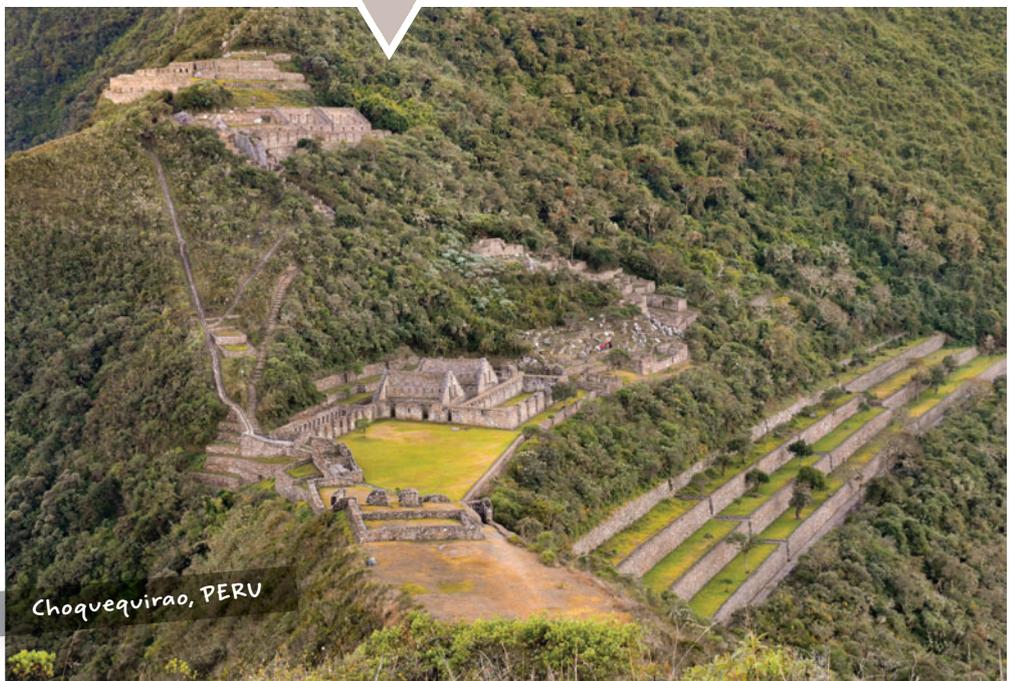
» inspire me « Book for next January/February. Try **Fort Bazaar** or **Rampart Street** in eclectic **Galle** with its fort and pretty streets. Go inland to **Koslanda Living Heritage**, a peaceful retreat on a private estate with stunning infinity pool and forest rooms on stilts with spectacular views of the treetops. You'll love new villa **Leela Walauwwa**, a colonial manor house with four bedrooms a stone's throw from gorgeous beaches near **Bentota**. Go remote at **Gal Oya** with a water safari to see wild elephants roaming amid 25,000 hectares of unspoilt evergreen forests and open savannahs. Don't forget gorgeous **Nine Skies** or **Goatfell** for trekking amid tea gardens.



» where « **PERU**

» why « At last the luxurious **Hiram Bingham** train has restarted operations. It's a unique opportunity to enjoy travel across the **Sacred Valley** by rail aboard elegant **Pullman** wagons to **Machu Picchu**.

» inspire me « Join our **Inca Trail Express** – 5 days in and around **Cusco** with a full day hike of 11kms on the **Inca Trail** itself. Top it off with a new and extraordinary day hike to **Palcoyo** a colourfully striped mountain situated at 4950m. Few visit it, but the lucky ones who do, with a light trek of two hours, will treasure the landscape. Finally a new 'must' is **Choquequirao**. Built by the Incas in 1536 it strongly resembles **Machu Picchu**. The construction remains nearly intact to this day, probably because of its arduous access, which requires a 2 to 3 day-walk to 3000m. Nonetheless, this is a spectacular adventure for those up for a challenge. Travel April to October.

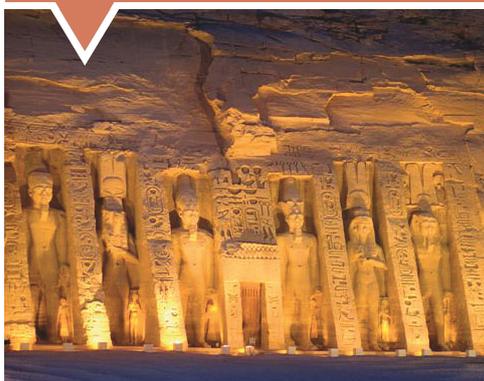


Choquequirao, PERU

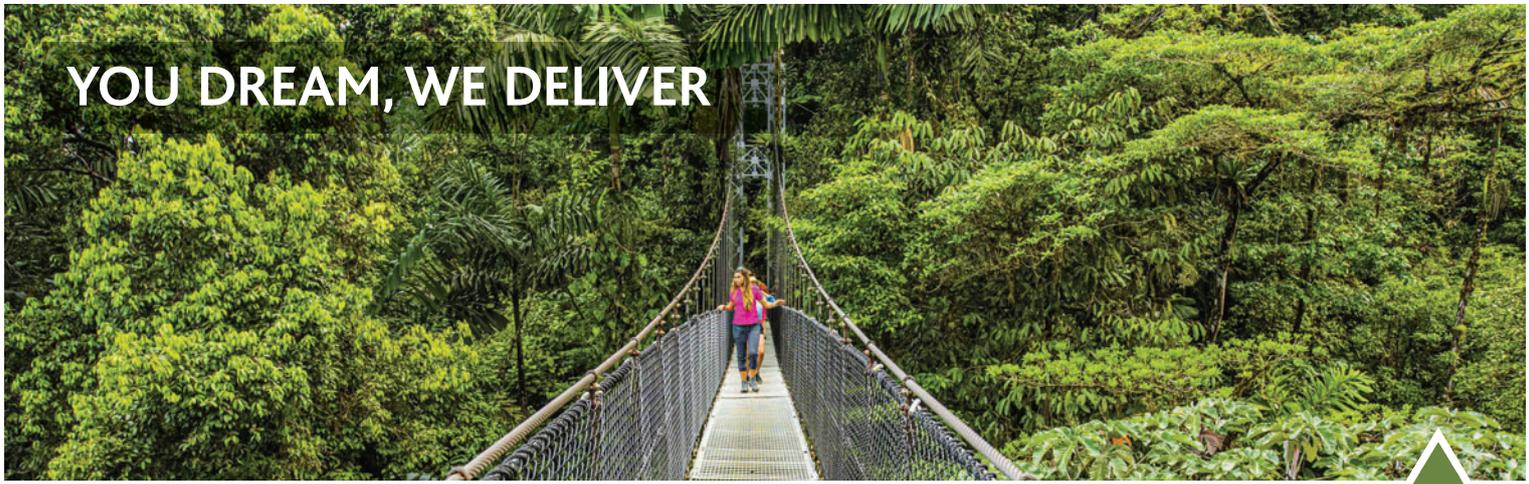
» where « **EGYPT**

» why « We've major events this year – not least the proposed opening of **The Grand Egyptian Museum** near the pyramids at **Giza** in **November**. This year is 100 years since **Howard Carter** discovered **Tutankhamun's** tomb yet our interest in one of the world's greatest ancient civilisations never wanes.

» inspire me « Escape the drudge of winter. Recreate the bygone era of travel so enjoyed by **Agatha Christie's Poirot**. Travel the **Nile** in style by luxury river boat, steam ship, dahabiya (houseboats with sails) or felucca (simple sailing boat where you'll sleep on deck under the stars). If the temples and monuments of the **Valley of the Kings** aren't enough, top off your stay with the famous library of **Alexandria** including the Roman & Manuscript museums, the catacombs and Roman theatre.



YOU DREAM, WE DELIVER



» where « ARGENTINA



» why « **Estancia Los Potreros** is a 6,000 acre working cattle farm which has remained in the same **Anglo-Argentine** family for four generations. It nestles between the pampas and the **Andes** in the heart of the beautiful region of **Cordoba**. The main focus is riding – an experience not to be missed, whatever your ability. Horses are ridden 'gaucho style', in a relaxed manner with loose reins, which is intuitive and easy to pick up.



» inspire me « Make this the year you do something different. Book a trail ride or polo week. Often too expensive or inaccessible to try at home, **Los Potreros** polo weeks allow you to try this thrilling game in a unique environment, whilst not breaking the bank. "Country Polo" Learn to play polo weeks – 2022 dates: 2 October, 6 November or by arrangement for 2+ people.

» where « COSTA RICA

» why « If nature, adventure and the fresh outdoors are what you are looking for, then year round destination, **Costa Rica** is a must

» inspire me « Where to start? A thrilling white water trip on the **Pacuare River** after breakfast. An incredible canopy tour before dinner? Soak in hot springs at **Arenal Lake**, walk the hanging bridges at **Monteverde Cloud Forest** or scuba dive among stingrays, whale sharks, seahorses and octopuses off the **Bat Islands** in the **Gulf of Papagayo**. Trek from **Pacific** to **Caribbean** coast in a week, and see nesting sea turtles at **Tortuguero**. **San Gerardo de Dota** is heavenly for birders. You'll encounter wildlife-filled forests, simmering volcanoes and bring home unforgettable memories.



» where « MOROCCO

» why « Short on flying time, long on character. I fell for **Morocco** during my very first visit in the mid 90s. Perfect for a long weekend to **Fez** or **Marrakech**, even better for a relaxing break in atmospheric riad or kashbah hotel, a trek in the **Atlas Mountains** or a self-drive holiday to the fringes of the **Sahara Desert**.

» inspire me « Head south of **Marrakech** in September or October to the award-winning **Kasbah Tamadot** located in **Asni**, a little village in the foothills of the **Atlas Mountains**, an area inhabited by friendly **Berbers**. You'll find just 28 rooms, a gorgeous pool, a cookery school, luxurious spa, mule trekking and movie nights under the stars.

» where « JORDAN

» why « Surrounded by countries with ongoing political issues, **Jordan** itself is relatively peaceful. The **Jordanians** are incredibly friendly and open and travelling through **Jordan** is a delight and so easy with many incredible sights – **Petra**, **Jerash**, **Wadi Rum** and the **Dead Sea**, all within very close proximity.

» inspire me « Call me to plan a Spring or Autumn trek on the '**Jordan Trail**' a long distance hike that connects the length of the country from **Um Qais** in the north to **Aqaba** in the south. It takes around 40 days to do the whole route – over 675 kms – visiting 75 villages/ towns enroute. You can plan a section – ten days is ideal. The landscape is diverse: rolling wooded hills of the north, rugged wadis, cliffs overlooking the **Jordan Rift Valley**, rose red **Petra**, dramatic sands and towering mountains in **Wadi Rum**, to the crystal waters of the **Red Sea**.



» where « THAILAND

» why « Thailand has opened up again after the pandemic. We've got a great new island hopping trip. All transport and logistics included. You'll have private guides and be sure to avoid the hordes.

» inspire me « Explore different, lesser known tropical islands in the **Andaman Sea**. Start at **Koh Lanta Island**, one of **Thailand's** most beautiful islands, located just off the coast of **Krabi**. Its long coastline has nearly a dozen beaches; some considered the finest in the country, and each one with its own charm and atmosphere. Continue to **Koh Mook** and **Lipe** via **Emerald Caves** to **Langkawi**. You'll see a lot in a week. There is diving, snorkelling, sea kayaking and travel by long tail speedboat. Travel November to April.

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 the **booking conditions** on our websites for further information or for more information about financial protection and the **ATOL Certificate** go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate.

Clients wishing to book their own international flights are financially protected by the **TOPP (Total Payment Protection)** scheme. Full details are given on both **Arcturus** and **Far Frontiers** Travel websites under 'Your financial protection'.

