



is a Santa Fe Based company offering immersive customized tours.

Ethiopia, its people and festivals

Ethiopia is old beyond imaginings and arguably one of the world's most interesting destinations that very few people ever visit. Towering mountains, sapphire blue lakes and rolling savannahs characterize its rugged landscape.



Beginning as 'the cradle of man,' it is also a country with an ancient and often tortuous past whose written history in the language of Ge'ez goes back over 2,000 years. Christian traditions are celebrated with the Meskel Festival that takes place in September, marking the finding of the True Cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified.

Our program takes you from Addis Ababa, the sprawling capital, to the ancient Christian cities of the north that include monolithic rock hewn



and cliff hanging monasteries. To the south are the Omotic tribes who adhere to ancient animistic rituals and traditions. Beaded leather skirts compliment body painting, scarring, and feathered headdresses. Even more unusual are the isolated Mursi whose women wear large lip plates symbolizing their wealth and beauty. Throughout, your imagination and senses will be challenged by this very different world. Suitable travel periods, September to March (21 days in-country). Festivals September and January)

Xinjiang and the Nomads of Western China

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is China's "wild west", a vast land beyond the Heavenly Gates that is synonymous to barbarians and foreign devils! Attila, Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan launched their empires from its steppes bringing with them the treasured 'Heavenly Horse' for which wars were waged. Buddhism arrived from India in the 4th century CE and later Marco Polo traveled through it searching for the fabled Cathay. Xinjiang stretches from the Altay Mountains in the north to the Pamir and Karakoram Mountains to the south. It is the home to some of China's last nomadic tribes who maintain their lifestyles and traditions in the face tremendous challenges. We camp in Kazak yurts on the vast steppes and visit Tuva mountain villages near Siberia. Kazakh and Mongolian horsemen demonstrate their considerable skills while sheep herders and honey gatherers work the land. On the edge of the Taklamakan Desert are ancient Buddhist caves and further south is the Silk Road city of Kashgar with its famous Sunday Market. The road threads its way over the Pamirs to the Black Lake and Mts. Muztaga and Konggur. Throughout, you will meet the incredibly hospitable people who have lived on this harsh land since before written history. Suitable travel periods, May to October (17 days in-country)



Lost Frontiers
Tribal and Ethnic Adventures

Please tell the tour operator that you
were referred by Travel Bug.

Tour Contact Info

Information on our departures, Prices and availability
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Myanmar 'The Golden Kingdom'

Myanmar, formerly Burma, is a country endowed with rich and diverse cultures, a complex and colorful history, and a landscape of almost unintended beauty. Rudyard Kipling described the fabled Irrawaddy River in "The Road to Mandalay" while traditions of Buddhism are manifest throughout in beautifully ornate temples, white and gold pagodas and intricately carved wooden monasteries.

Our program focuses on the tribal people of the Shan Highlands who, until recently, were off limits to foreigners. The Shan are descended from the Mekong and this is apparent in their architecture and clothing. The Padaung wear numerous brass necklaces that push down their shoulders giving an appearance of elongated necks. This is also the home of the colorful Akha and the black teethed Ann. On the surreal Inle Lake, Intha leg-rowers ply the waters living in houses on stilts, fishing and cultivating vegetables on floating gardens.

There is wonderful architecture beginning with Yangon, formerly Rangoon, with its colonial charm, tree lined streets, bustling markets and the magnificent Shwedagon and Sule Pagodas. Further north is Mandalay, 'the city of gems', which remains an important cultural center and is the boarding point for a delightful

The Legends of South India

Our journey takes us to several of southern India's magnificent Hindu temples including Mahabalipuram, Brahadeeswara in Trichy, and the



Meenakshi Temple in Madurai. This is followed by a couple of days in the old French city of Pondicherry and then a drive to Chettinad to visit its fabulous mansions and to participate in a cooking class. Our program ends at Nagarhole, one of India's greatest tiger reserves.

Suitable travel periods, October to February (15 days in-country)

The Tribal Kingdoms of Ghana, Togo and Benin

Lost Frontiers offers an exceptional opportunity to visit to some of West Africa's most colorful and authentic, but rapidly vanishing tribal societies. Each country provides a heady mixture of often isolated tribes, many which practice the polytheistic religion of voodoo and ancestor worship that preceded the empires of the Dohomey, the Ashanti and the Yoruba.

You will visit where Europeans first landed on Africa's coast, initially for exploration and trade, but later to profit from the miserable trade in humans. You will learn how tribes and whole kingdoms turned on each other for land and captives and how entire tribal groups fled to the Sahel to escape the ravages of slavery. Our program takes you from the slave castles of the Gold Coast to the fortified compounds of the Lobi and Somba and finally to the fabulously decorated and painted households of the Gourounsi where wealth is measured by the number of calabashes a woman possesses. This is an experience right out of National Geographic. Suitable travel periods, November to

February (19 days in country)

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