General Information

This is The Traveller newsletter.

It is published twice a year.

The Traveller describes several trips around the world which are offered by ROM Travel.

This is Volume 55, published in the Spring of 2020.

ROM Travel is organized by the Royal Ontario Museum’s Department of Museum Volunteers to provide support for the museum.

These trips are available exclusively to members of the Royal Ontario Museum.
A Message on COVID-19

In these difficult times, when no one can predict what the world will be like in six months, let alone a year or even two, it is very hard to plan.

Having had to cancel most of our 2020 season due to COVID-19, ROM Travel has had long discussions about how to prepare for 2021 and 2022.

As always, the safety of our guests and volunteers is our paramount concern.

At the same time, people will travel again and we want to be ready when that time comes.

So, after much discussion, we have decided to advertise trips in 2021 and beyond, understanding that our plans might change.

For now, we can at least read travel books, look at old photos and dream of the day when we can again pack our bags and move beyond our couches.
The first trip is to Scotland to explore its northern islands.

This trip will take place from June 14 to 24, 2021.

Information about this Destination

Join us as we thread our way through Scotland’s magical islands, the last bastion of Gaelic culture and language.

Sailing from Glasgow to Aberdeen aboard Adventure Canada’s 198 passenger Ocean Endeavour, we’ll marvel at the rugged coastline, combining dramatic mountains with steep cliffs and hidden caves.

We’ll see vast colonies of sea birds, including guillemots, puffins, fulmars and skura.

We’ll travel back in time to find Neolithic standing stones and burial sites, Iron Age towers and Norse ruins.

We’ll visit the burial place of kings at Iona Abbey, the archaeological remains of the historic home of the Lords of the Isles at Loch Finlaggan and the massive Magnus Cathedral at Kirkwall.
On board we’ll learn from storytellers, musicians and historians as they share the songs, dances and folklore at the heart of Scottish culture.

And, of course, we’ll drop into a pub or two to meet the locals and share a pint or a dram with new friends.

We’ll savour Scotland slowly, like a good whisky.

An information night about this trip will be held as soon as possible.

Please contact the Coordinator.

The ROM Travel Coordinator for this trip is Virginia Van Vliet.

Contact Virginia at phone 416.925.5891 or e-mail to virginiavanvliet@gmail.com

The cost of this trip depends on the cabin category chosen.

Cabin costs are from 5,995 U S Dollars per person based on double occupancy.

Note that flights are not included.

Travel arrangements are by Adventure Canada.
This travel agency operates on behalf of ROM Travel.

The travel agent for this trip is Sheryl Saint.

Contact Sheryl at phone 905.271.4000 extension 224 or 1.800.363.7566 or e-mail to sheryl@adventurecanada.ca

This travel agency is registered to operate in the province of Ontario.

Its TICO registration numbers are 4001400 and 5002186.

**The second trip is to mystic Haida Gwaii.**

This trip will take place from June 9 to 17, 2021.

**Information about this Destination**

Ninstints, Tanu, Skedans.

These are just names until you cruise the eastern coast of Moresby Island aboard the “Island Solitude,” an 82-foot ocean sailing vessel with en suite facilities.

Cruise the waters of British Columbia's remote islands of Haida Gwaii.
This archipelago is home to ancient Haida villages, an astonishing abundance of wildlife, flora and outstanding wilderness scenery.

Travel through a breathtaking “place of wonder” with over 100 islands, beautiful forested creek walks, rugged headlands and protected passageways between towering mountains.

Visit villages where great totem poles were carved bearing clan crests of eagles, ravens, bears and killer whales.

Listen to Haida stories told by Watchmen, view monumental poles and enjoy the abundance of wildlife living in sea, land and air.

Discover why this area is known as “the Canadian Galapagos”.

The ROM Travel Coordinator for this trip is Penelope Hughes.

Contact Penelope at phone 416.686.3787 or e-mail to penhuws@gmail.com

The cost of this trip is $ 9,030 per person based on double occupancy. There is no single supplement option available for this trip.
Note that flights are not included.

Travel arrangements are by Ellison Travel & Tours.

This travel agency operates on behalf of ROM Travel.

Contact the ROM Travel Coordinator for the travel agency contact information.

This travel agency is registered to operate in the province of Ontario.

Its TICO registration number is 2392471.

**The third trip is to Japan.**

This trip will take place in November 2021.

**Information about this Destination**

Japan is one of the oldest and yet most modern civilizations.

Closed to westerners for centuries, we labelled it mysterious and exotic.

In fact, it is a complex and rewarding destination.
ROM Travel will unravel its diversity, intricacy, colour, culture and food.

From bustling cities to quiet mountain villages, join us to experience the distinct history and culture of Japan during this amazing trip.

Experience dynamic Tokyo and its famous Imperial Palace.

Travel through the Japanese Alps and see a more traditional way of life in smaller villages.

Marvel at the shrines and temples of Kyoto, the ancient capital.

Learn about samurai warriors, the geisha and the tea ceremony.

Stay in a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn.

Japan’s fall colours will provide a spectacular setting for our travels.

The ROM Travel Coordinator for this trip is John Golla.

Contact John at phone 416.239.1855 or e-mail to goljohn09@gmail.com
The cost of this trip will be announced.

A travel agency has not been selected yet.

Travel arrangements will be announced.

The fourth trip is to Russia.

This trip will take place from September 18 to October 1, 2021.

Information about this Destination

Russia is the world's largest nation, with over 1,000 years of turbulent history and an immense wealth of art and culture.

And yet to many it remains an enigma.

Come with us on a Russian Rendezvous!

Discover the past and the present from mediaeval Rus and the imperial splendour of the Romanovs, through the Bolshevik Revolution, the Soviet Union and the Cold War, to the world power it is today.

Marvel at onion-domed cathedrals. Take in the opulent gilded palaces and the avant-garde art and architecture.
Visit the formerly top-secret hub of the Soviet Union's space race.

Tour UNESCO World Heritage Site towns of the Golden Ring.

Admire the crown jewels at the Kremlin, then raise a toast at the Vodka Museum and enjoy a performance at one of the finest theatres in the world.

Special highlights include an exclusive full-day visit to the Hermitage, a private choral recital at Saint Basil's Cathedral, a cooking master class and a behind the scenes tour of the Mariinsky Theatre.

An information night about this trip will be held as soon as possible.

Please contact the Coordinator.

The ROM Travel Coordinator for this trip is Margaret Magdziak.

Contact Margaret at phone 416.268.3921 or e-mail to margaretmagdziak@gmail.com

The cost of this trip will be announced.
Travel arrangements are by Georgia Hardy Tours Inc.

This travel agency operates on behalf of ROM Travel.

The travel agent for this trip is Kathleen Hardy.

Contact Kathleen at phone 416.483.7533 or e-mail to kathleen@ghardytours.com

This travel agency is registered to operate in the province of Ontario.

Its TICO registration number is 2747543.

The fifth trip is to China to explore the ancient Silk Road.

This trip will take place in October or November 2021.

Information about this Destination

Journey along this historic trading route with Sara Irwin, former manager of the renowned Asian collections at the ROM.

Awaken your senses in this enchanting escapade as we explore the mystery and wonders of the Silk Road: ancient
sites, exquisite architecture, ingenious technology, stunning landscapes and exotic culture.

Gain a deep insight into Buddhist history and exquisite artwork: cave carving, murals in Maijihjan Shan and Dunhuang’s Magao grottoes.

Be amazed by the spectacular desert landscape in Turpan and Jaiyuguang.

Be enthralled with the stunning view of Id Kah Mosque and Abakh Hoja Mausoleum in Kashgar.

Our trip ends in vibrant Shanghai, which offers a delightful insight into the past and present epochs of China. The ROM Travel Coordinator for this trip is Marion Ho.

Contact Marion at phone 416.586.8034 or e-mail to marionhohohoho@yahoo.ca

The cost of this trip will be announced.

Travel arrangements are by Tour East Holidays (Canada) Inc.

This travel agency operates on behalf of ROM Travel.

The travel agent for this trip is Steve Hope.
Contact Steve at phone 416.929.0888 or 1.877.578.8888 or e-mail to steve.hope@toureast.com

This travel agency is registered to operate in the province of Ontario.

Its TICO registration number is 67531472.

**The sixth trip is to the High Arctic.**

This trip will take place from August 5 to 16, 2021.

**Information about this Destination**

Come see the Canadian High Arctic before it disappears.

Travel with Canada’s favourite science journalist, Bob McDonald, of CBC’s Quirks and Quarks, through the historic Northwest Passage, stopping at Inuit communities and the Franklin gravesite.

Then it’s across to Greenland to some of the most amazing UNESCO World Heritage Sites where icebergs calve off glaciers into the ocean.

We end at Nuuk, one of the world’s northernmost capitals.

There is limited space still available.
The ROM Travel Coordinator for this trip is Eric Morrison.

Contact Eric at phone 416.691.6770 or e-mail to morrison.eric07@gmail.com

Travel arrangements are by Adventure Canada.

This travel agency operates on behalf of ROM Travel.

The travel agent for this trip is Sheryl Saint.

Contact Sheryl at phone 905.271.4000 extension 224 or 1.800.363.7566 or e-mail to sheryl@adventurecanada.ca

This travel agency is registered to operate in the province of Ontario.

Its TICO registration numbers are 4001400 and 50021860.

**The seventh trip is to the Great Rift Valley in Tanzania.**

This trip will take place from March 1 to 14, 2021.

**Information about this Destination**
Experience the greatest animal migration on the face of the earth – millions of wildebeest and their predators on the move.

See the famous Olduvai Gorge and learn about the equally famous Leakeys who found some of the earliest human remains.

See the snow-capped peak of Kilimanjaro and have a sundowner on the Serengeti.

Do all this with one of Canada’s great science story tellers, Bob McDonald of CBCs Quirks and Quarks.

There is limited space still available.

The ROM Travel Coordinator for this trip is Eric Morrison.

Contact Eric at phone 416.691.6770 or e-mail to morrison.eric07@gmail.com

Travel arrangements will be by Merit Travel.

This travel agency operates on behalf of ROM Travel.

The travel agent for this trip is Sandra Weber.
Contact Sandra at phone 416.345.9726 or 1.866.341.1777 or e-mail to SWeber@merittravel.com

This travel agency is registered to operate in the province of Ontario.

Its TICO registration numbers are 4499356 and 4499372.

**The following trips are in the planning stage.**

**The eighth trip is to Spain.**

This trip will take place in May 2022.

**Information about this Destination**

Join Dr. Jonathan Edmondson, distinguished research professor at York University and a specialist in the society, economy and culture of Roman Spain.

We will travel to the ancient city of Empuries, the Roman ruins at Tarragona, Merida, Italica and Cartagena, and the Arab palace-city of Medina Azahara.

We will be based in the beautiful cities of Barcelona, Granada, Cordoba, Sevilla and Madrid with their wealth of historical monuments, fine restaurants and vibrant culture.
The ROM Travel Coordinator for this trip is Ann Dandy.

Contact Ann at phone 647.346.4334 or e-mail to ann_dandy@yahoo.com

The cost of this trip will be announced.

A travel agency has not been selected yet.

Travel arrangements will be announced.

The ninth trip is to Morocco.

This trip will take place in March or April 2023.

Information about this Destination

Enjoy a heady mix of languages, cultures, ancient traditions and modern sensibilities in Morocco as you explore imperial cities, dramatic scenery of the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara Desert, and the lively markets and souks.

Highlights include Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca, Medersa Bou Inania and Dar al-Makhzen in Fes, Jemaa el Fna Square and Koutoubia Minaret in Marrakech, traditional Berber villages and palm groves of Skoura, and the must-see Roman ruins of Volubilis.
Stay in beautiful kasbahs and partake in sumptuous cuisine.

The ROM Travel Coordinator for this trip is Neera Chopra.

Contact Neera at phone 416.441.9259 or e-mail to neerachopra7@gmail.com

The cost of this trip will be announced.

A travel agency has not been selected yet.

Travel arrangements will be announced.

Would you like to hear earlier about ROM Travel trips?

When a trip brochure is first issued, it is sent by e-mail to everyone on The Traveller electronic mailing list.

This first notification helps your travel planning and enables you to avoid discovering that a trip has sold out.

To put your name on The Traveller electronic list, send your request along with your e-mail address to travel@rom.on.ca.

Your contact information will only be used by ROM Travel.
Information about this newsletter

The Editor of this issue was Elizabeth Masters.

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