

ROM

The Traveller

Volume 59, Spring 2022

A Message on COVID-19

Dear ROM traveller: While it is difficult to predict the future, ROMTravel is optimistic that the world will gradually reopen for travellers. Of course, the safety of our guests and volunteers is our first priority. Please be assured that we will adjust plans as necessary in response to any new health information.

The Best of Morocco

May 2 to 16, 2023



Figure 1: Jemaa el Fna Square, Marrakech, Morocco. © Lviatour, Wikimedia Commons, 2013.

What images does Morocco evoke for you? Romantic medinas, colourful markets, the Atlas Mountains, snake charmers in Marrakech, camels in the Sahara Desert? We'll see all of these and much more on our two-week exploration

of the best this wonderful country has to offer. ROM Senior Curator of Global Africa, Silvia Forni, will be our resource person, adding extra depth to the experience.

We will start in Casablanca with a visit to one of the largest mosques in the world which is open to non-Muslims. We'll see Rabat, the capital, and Tangier, which formerly had a reputation for decadence. Less well known is charming Chefchaouen, with many houses painted a distinctive blue. The beautiful mosaics at Volubilis remind us how important this Roman city once was. Fes, where we will stay in a traditional style riad, feels like Morocco from the past. A stroll around the medina reveals many delightful scenes such as zellij-tiled fountains or the metalware market, but watch out for cargo-laden donkeys!



Figure 2: A souk in the medina, Chefchaouen, Morocco. © YoTuT, Wikimedia Commons, 2011.

We will drive through the Atlas Mountains for the amazing scenery and spend a night in a luxurious camp in the Sahara. We'll also stay in a "ksar", the Moroccan equivalent of a castle, before arriving in Marrakech. There we'll enjoy the highlights including Jemaa el Fna Square at night, the Moroccan Arts Museum and the Majorelle Gardens,

famously restored by Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge.



Figure 3: A caravan in the Sahara Desert, Morocco. © Bachmont, Wikimedia Commons, 2007.

Our accommodation will combine traditional charm with modern conveniences, and we'll enjoy Morocco's delicious cuisine. Join us on this unforgettable trip!

An information meeting is being planned. Please contact the ROMTravel Coordinator for details.

Coordinator:

Anne Lindsey 416.489.0251

aylindsey@sympatico.ca

Cost:

\$8,995 per person, double occupancy
International flights not included.

Travel arrangements by:

Worldwide Quest International

Laurielle Penny

416.633.5666 or 1.800.387.1483

laurielle@worldwidequest.com

Ontario Registration Numbers: 2667946
and 1667953

Mystic Haida Gwaii

June 9 to 18, 2022

Ninstints, Tanu, Skedans. Just names until you cruise the waters of British Columbia's remote islands of Haida Gwaii aboard an 82-foot ocean sailing vessel. This archipelago is home to ancient Haida villages, an astonishing abundance of wildlife, flora and outstanding wilderness scenery.



Figure 4: A mask at Haida Heritage Centre, Skidegate. © IndigenousBC.com, 2016.

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 the sea, land and air. Discover why this area is known as “the Canadian Galápagos”.



Figure 5: Traditional Haida canoes, Haida Gwaii. © Susan Clarke, Wikimedia Commons, 2008.

Coordinator:

Penelope Hughes 416.686.3787

penhuws@gmail.com

Cost:

\$9,480 per person, double occupancy

Flights not included.

Travel arrangements by:

Ellison Travel & Tours

Cathy Shaw 1.800.265.7022 or

519.672.7020 extension 204

cathys@ellisontravel.com

Ontario Registration Number: 2392471

High Arctic Explorer with Bob McDonald

August 12 to 24, 2022

Come and see the iconic and majestic Canadian High Arctic, with vast ice floes and polar bears, before it disappears. Experience the Inuit way of life and art with Bob McDonald of CBC's "Quirks & Quarks" on this small ship expedition. There are only a few spots remaining on this re-scheduled trip.

Coordinator:

Eric Morrison 416.691.6770

morrison.eric07@gmail.com

Cost:

Depends on cabin type

Flights not included.



Figure 6: Iceberg near Disko Bay, Greenland. © Mark Edward Harris, 2017.

Travel arrangements by:

Adventure Canada

905.271.4000 or 1.800.363.7566

extension 1

info@adventurecanada.com

Ontario Registration Numbers: 4001400

and 50021860

Japan: Medieval, Mysterious and Modern

November 6 to 22, 2022

Blessed with a centuries-old culture, Japan will always fascinate. It is at the same time one of the oldest and most modern civilizations. Closed to westerners for centuries, it was labelled as mysterious and exotic. It is a complex and rewarding destination. Join us to experience the distinct flavour, history and culture of Japan during this amazing journey!

Coordinator:

John Golla 416.239.1855

japantripjohn@gmail.com

Cost:

\$13,400 per person, double occupancy

Flights not included.



Figure 7: Seimon Ishibashi bridge, near the Imperial Palace, Tokyo, Japan. © Wikimedia Commons, 2009.

Travel arrangements by:

Elite Orient Tours Inc.

Jun Hayashi

416.977.3026 or 1.800.668.8199

hayashi@elitetours.com

Ontario Registration Numbers: 5000110

and 5000112

Looking Forward: Upcoming Trips

Scotland Slowly, June 13 to 24, 2023



Figure 8: Finlaggan, Islay, Scotland. © Dennis Minty, 2018.

Thread your way through Scotland's enchanting islands, sailing from Aberdeen to Glasgow onboard

Highlights of Spain: Ancient and Modern, May 15 to 31, 2023

Join Professor Jonathan Edmondson as he takes us off the beaten tourist track to discover Spain of the Romans. The Romans controlled Spain for roughly 600 years and left behind an enduring legacy. The itinerary also includes the well-known Moorish sites of the Alhambra, the palace city of Medina Azahara and the mosque in Córdoba. Add to this the vibrant cities of Barcelona, Valencia, Seville and Madrid with their blend of historical monuments, modern architecture, and bustling urban life, and there is something for everyone.

Adventure Canada's ship, the "Ocean Endeavour". This trip has something for everyone, from prehistoric ruins to isolated Highland towns, from Skye's craggy peaks to Saint Kilda's bird sanctuaries, from fine distilleries to hand-woven tweeds. On board, learn from passionate experts about local wildlife and culture. Drop into a pub for a dram or two before a peat fire. Savour Scotland, slowly.

Coordinator:
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virginiaavanvliet@gmail.com

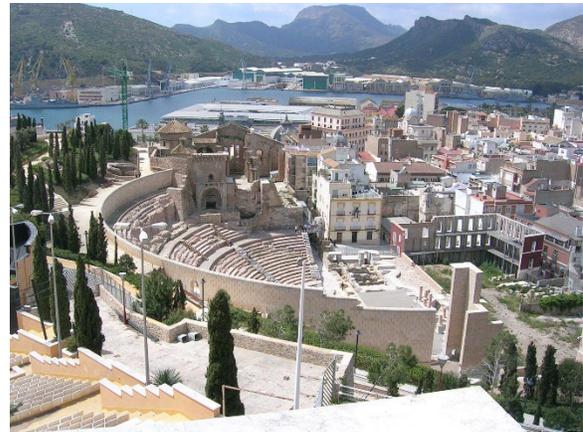


Figure 9: Roman theatre and cathedral, Cartagena, Spain. © Trasmundo, Wikimedia Commons, 2010.

Coordinator:
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ann_dandy@yahoo.com

A Tale of Three Cities: Budapest, Vienna and Prague, October 2 to 15, 2023

Once upon a time.... If you like music, fairy tale architecture, famous writers, fascinating history, café society, romantic hilltop castles, ornate cathedrals and imperial palaces, fine wine and food, come visit the golden cities of Europe with retired “Toronto Star” Architecture Critic and Urban Issues columnist Christopher Hume as your guide.



Figure 10: Karlštejn Castle, Prague, Czech Republic. © Jürgen Regel, Marian..., Wikimedia Commons, 2009.

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Figure 11: The Belvedere Gallery, Vienna, Austria. © Bwag, Wikimedia Commons, 2018.

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