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Smithsonian Journeys Announces New Trips for 2026
***Itineraries Span the Globe—From the Swiss Alps and Greek Isles
to the Baltics, Baja California and America’s Great Frontier***

Smithsonian Journeys—the travel program of the Smithsonian Institution and a recognized leader in immersive, small-group travel—has announced new offerings for 2026, including expert-led land journeys from Greece to the Great American Frontier, distinctive specialty trips such as a solar eclipse experience in Spain, and intimate small-ship cruises to Baja California and the Sea of Cortez, as well as along the iconic Mississippi River.

Drawing on the Smithsonian’s 179-year legacy as the world’s largest museum, education and research complex, each of these new travel experiences reflects the hallmark blend of engaging activities and enriching education that defines Smithsonian Journeys. Designed to foster cultural immersion and meaningful discovery, most itineraries are accompanied by distinguished Smithsonian Journeys experts—ranging from art historians and archaeologists to international affairs specialists—whose insights offer travelers a deeper understanding of each destination’s cultural and natural heritage.

“Building on the enthusiastic response to our 2026 journeys—including traveler favorites like Egypt, Japan and the Camino de Santiago—we’ve expanded our collection to include even more opportunities for meaningful, culturally immersive travel,” said Walter Littlejohn III, senior vice president of Smithsonian Journeys. “From the majestic landscapes of Switzerland and the unique cultures of the Baltics to the untamed beauty of Baja California and the Great American Frontier—we are continuing Smithsonian’s legacy of deepening understanding through exploration and lifelong learning.”

These new journeys are available to book now by visiting www.smithsonianjourneys.org or calling 877-338-8687.

New Land Programs

Baltics Past and Present: A Journey to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia

May 14–26, June 11–23, July 30–Aug. 11, Sept. 3–15, 2026

18 days starting from \$6,995 per person double occupancy.

Travelers can make their way across the three unique countries of the Baltics, exploring historic sites and local cultures as they visit countryside palaces and castles, centuries-old villages and the World Heritage-listed Old Towns of Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Greek Odyssey: Athens to Corfu

May 4–17, June 8–21, Sept. 28–Oct. 11, 2026

14 days starting from \$9,092 per person double occupancy, including airfare.

Participants will journey across history as they travel from Athens, birthplace of democracy, to the plains of Macedonia, birthplace of Alexander the Great, and on to the idyllic island of Corfu. They will visit

legendary places such as Delphi and Meteora as well as lesser-known World Heritage sites in Thessaloniki and Aigai. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Switzerland: Majestic Peaks and Alpine Villages

June 7–19, July 19–31, Aug. 23–Sept. 4, Sept. 20–Oct. 2, 2026

13 days starting from \$9,292 per person double occupancy, including airfare.

Travelers will experience Switzerland's majesty from its gem-like lakes to its towering snowcaps on a journey to Alpine villages and fabled resort towns from the Italian border to the shores of Lake Geneva. Full details are [available on the website](#).

The Great American Frontier: The Badlands to Yellowstone

May 29–June 5, June 15–22, Sept. 2–9, Sept. 18–25, 2026

8 days starting from \$6,995 per person double occupancy.

From South Dakota's Black Hills to the geysers of Yellowstone, guests will explore Old West history, American Indian culture and astonishing natural wonders on a journey that includes legendary sites such as the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, Devils Tower, Little Bighorn and the spectacular Beartooth Highway. Full details are [available on the website](#).

New Solar Eclipse and Astro-Tourism Journeys

Smithsonian Journeys has a deep heritage as a leader in special-interest travel aimed at deepening people's understanding of the world, and recently there has been an increased interest in astro tourism, including in solar eclipse journeys.

Solar Eclipse Over Spain—Basque Country to León

Aug. 8–15, 2026

8 days starting from \$7,995 per person double occupancy.

Travelers will make their way from Basque Country to Madrid to witness the August 2026 total solar eclipse from the vineyards of northern Spain, one of the few places on land within the path of totality. They will encounter World Heritage sites and astonishing architecture and enjoy wine tasting in the countryside of León. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Chile Earth and Sky: A Stargazing Journey from Santiago to the Atacama Desert

March 9–20, Oct. 3–14, 2026; Feb. 27–March 10, 2027

12 days starting from \$10,990 per person double occupancy.

Travelers will delve into the world of astronomy beneath the clear skies of northern Chile and enjoy exclusive tours of major observatories on a journey from Santiago to the Atacama Desert that features the lovely town of La Serena and the villages of Elqui Valley. Full details are [available on the website](#).

New Small Ship Cruises

Baja and the Sea of Cortez: A cruise offering from Smithsonian Journeys and PONANT EXPLORATIONS

Feb. 10–20, 2027

11 days starting from \$9,560 per person double occupancy.

Travelers will experience the wild wonders of the Baja Peninsula, observing gray whales, snorkeling with sea lions and hiking amid dunes and desert islands on an expedition cruise from the Pacific Coast to the sparkling bays of the Sea of Cortez. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Cruising the Mississippi: A Springtime Voyage from Memphis to New Orleans

March 3–11, 2026

9 days starting from \$9,790 per person double occupancy.

Travelers can sail the legendary Mississippi River from Memphis to New Orleans aboard a classic paddle-wheeler riverboat, visiting historic cities, battlefields and plantations that tell the story of the American South. Full details are [available on the website](#).

2026: Top 10 Journeys

In 2026, the most sought-after Smithsonian Journeys reflect an appetite for discovery, with travelers choosing destinations that stretch from Europe to Asia and beyond reflecting a continued interest for immersive, expert-led exploration. From the peaks of the Swiss Alps and the sun-drenched Greek Isles to the cultural treasures of Japan and the timeless wonders of Egypt, these journeys offer unparalleled access to history, nature and tradition. Whether cruising, hiking or engaging in hands-on learning, travelers are embracing meaningful experiences that blend comfort, discovery and the insight of Smithsonian Journeys experts.

[Eternal Japan](#)—From historic castle towns to the dazzle of Tokyo, travelers will experience the essence of Japan past and present, delving into art, cuisine and spiritual traditions in great cities and stunning rural areas.

[Highlights of Italy](#)—From the Amalfi Coast to the Adriatic, some of Italy’s most beloved cities and sites are featured on a journey that includes Rome, Florence, Venice and a stay in a Tuscan villa.

[Ancient Egypt and the Nile](#)—Travelers will experience the vibrant soul of Cairo and encounter ancient wonders from the Pyramids of Giza to Abu Simbel. Then they will sail to the temples of the Nile on a three-night cruise from Aswan to Luxor.

[The Silk Road: A Journey to Central Asia](#)—Travelers will explore the fabled Silk Road as they journey through Central Asia’s Five ‘Stans: Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

[Solar Eclipse over Spain](#)—A total solar eclipse in August 2026 in Spain is the highlight of a journey that includes exploring World Heritage-listed towns, astonishing architecture and more.

[Legendary Turkey and the Turquoise Coast](#)—Travelers will trace the Turkish coast from Istanbul to Antalya, discovering historic mosques and marketplaces, captivating shorelines dotted with ancient ruins and harbor towns, and legendary Greco-Roman sites from Ephesus to Pergamum.

[Walking the Camino de Santiago: An Active Journey to Spain](#)—The most picturesque portions of the Camino Francés, a World Heritage-listed route of the Way of Saint James pilgrimage route, and the timeless culture of El Camino de Santiago are highlights of this hiking and walking journey.

[Treasures of the Alps: Swiss Trains and Italy’s Lake District](#)—Travelers can immerse themselves in the majestic mountain scenery of Switzerland, Italy, Liechtenstein and Austria as they explore the history, arts, traditions and classic trains of the Alps.

[Cruising the Greek Isles of the Southern Aegean](#)—Setting sail on the Aegean Sea, travelers will explore World Heritage sites from Patmos to Delos and visit gem-like isles in the Dodecanese, the Cyclades and beyond.

[Living in France: A Three-Week Stay in Provence](#)—Travelers will settle into the heart of Aix-en-Provence and spend three weeks living like a local, immersed in the delightful culture of the south of France and exploring Provençal history and culture on excursions to Avignon, Arles and beyond.

About Smithsonian Journeys

Smithsonian Journeys is a global leader in cultural travel, offering unique, expert-led trips on all seven continents. It offers a robust collection of small-group land journeys, small-ship exploration cruises, river cruises, active journeys, cultural stays, private jet trips and tailor-made journeys for the independent traveler. It is part of Smithsonian Enterprises, a division of the Smithsonian that oversees the Institution’s commercial activities, including the Smithsonian Channel; the retail operation, which includes 35 museum and airport stores and food concessions; *Smithsonian* magazine, which reaches more than 8 million monthly readers; Smithsonianstore.com, an E-Commerce business; consumer and education licensing; and books. For more information, visit www.SmithsonianJourneys.org or call 855-330-1542.

About the Smithsonian

Since its founding in 1846, the Smithsonian Institution has been committed to inspiring generations through knowledge and discovery. It is the world’s largest museum, education and research complex, consisting of 21 museums, the National Zoological Park, education centers, research facilities, cultural centers and libraries. Two of the 21 museums—the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum—are in the early planning stages. The Smithsonian Campaign for Our Share Future, which began in 2018 in a quiet phase, was publicly launched in September 2024 with a goal of \$2.5 billion. There are more than 6,200 Smithsonian employees and 3,800 volunteers. The total number of objects, works of art and specimens at the Smithsonian is estimated at nearly 157 million, of which nearly 148 million are scientific specimens at the National Museum of Natural History. www.si.edu.

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