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Smithsonian Journeys Announces New Trips for 2026

New Itineraries Include an Immersive “Living in” Stay in Vienna, an Active Journey to Morocco, Small Ship Cruises to Indonesia and a Cultural Journey to West Africa

Smithsonian Journeys, the travel program of the Smithsonian Institution and a leader in authentic and enriching small-group travel, has announced new trips for 2026, including land journeys; cultural stay programs, such as “Living in” Vienna and an art-focused program in Florence; Active Journeys to Morocco, Croatia and Iceland and more; specialty trips including Solar Eclipse experiences on land and at sea; and small-ship cruises in alliance with PONANT.

Drawing on the Smithsonian’s 175+ year history as the world’s largest museum, education and research complex, each of these new travel experiences embodies the unique combination of engaging activities and educational enrichment, focused on cultural immersion and discovery that are hallmarks of Smithsonian Journeys. Most feature notable Smithsonian Journeys experts—whether an art historian, an archaeologist or an international relations expert—whose insight and knowledge deepen understanding of a destination’s cultural and natural history.

“Our new offerings span the globe from Great Britain and the Balkan Peninsula to West Africa and beyond, building on Smithsonian's heritage as a leader in deepening people's understanding of our world,” said Walter Littlejohn III, senior vice president of Smithsonian Journeys. “Our new cruises aboard the small ships of PONANT bring us to places that are rich in history and culture, including Indonesia and Vietnam, and the Atlantic Coast of the U.S., and we’ve expanded our popular ‘Living In’ series to include a new three-week immersion in Vienna, Austria, named the world’s most livable city by the Economist Intelligence Unit—for the third time—in part for its vibrant art and cultural offerings. These new options, and all our exciting journeys, invite intellectually curious travelers to explore destinations around the world in a meaningful, memorable way, getting an up-close look at captivating places through enriching experiences and the insights of our experts.”

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

New Land Programs

Across the Balkan Peninsula—A Journey through Seven Countries in Europe’s Southeast

April 14–29, May 26–June 10, Sept. 15–30, Oct. 6–21, 2026

16 days starting from \$9,495 per person double occupancy.

Travelers can peel back layers of the past on an odyssey through the seven Balkan countries, exploring the intersection of Ottoman influence, Slavic culture and modern European history in vibrant cities and lesser-known World Heritage sites from Sarajevo to Skopje. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Highlights of Britain

May 18–26, June 22–July 5, Aug. 17–30, Sept. 7–20, 2026

14 days starting from \$8,271 per person double occupancy, including airfare.

Participants will encounter centuries of history and natural beauty as they travel across England, Scotland and Wales, exploring World Heritage sites and enchanting landscapes from Edinburgh's Royal Mile to the megaliths of Stonehenge. They will trace the tales of mighty monarchs on tours of Scotland's Holyrood House and Conwy Castle in Wales and venture to the Roman ruins and Georgian gems of Bath, and so much more. Full details are [available on the website](#).

West Africa: A Cultural Journey to Ghana, Togo, and Benin

May 20–June 4, Aug. 19–Sept. 3, Oct. 28–Nov. 12, 2026

16 days starting from \$10,979 per person double occupancy, including airfare.

Travelers will get acquainted with the vibrant cultures of West Africa on a journey to coastal capitals and rural villages across Ghana, Togo and Benin. They will discover timeless spiritual and artistic traditions as well as the vestiges of the transatlantic slave trade and experience the engaging, innovating energy of modern life. Full details are [available on the website](#).

New Cultural Stays

Smithsonian Journeys One-Week Cultural Stay programs allow visitors to unpack once and stay in one hotel while immersing themselves in a destination.

A Stay in New Orleans: History, Music, and Cuisine in the Big Easy

May 20–June 4, Aug. 19–Sept. 3, Oct. 28–Nov 12, 2026

Seven days starting from \$4,690 per person double occupancy.

Travelers can soak up the spirit of New Orleans during a weeklong stay in the French Quarter. They will delve into the city's history on guided walks through neighborhoods that brim with distinctive character and cruise a traditional-style paddleboat to battlefields along the Mississippi River. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Prague: A One-Week Stay in the Czech Republic

Oct. 3–11, Oct. 10–18, 2025; May 2–10, May 9–17, Sept. 19–27, Sept. 26–Oct. 4, 2026

Nine days starting from \$5,540 per person double occupancy.

Participants can immerse themselves in the "city of 100 spires," discovering Prague's history and its rich cultural heritage during a weeklong stay in the heart of the Old Town and enjoying day trips to Pilsen and the World Heritage site of Český Krumlov. Full details are [available on the website](#).

A Stay in Florence: An Art History Journey from Leonardo to Michelangelo

Oct. 31–Nov. 8, 2025; March 20–28, April 24–May 2, Oct. 2–10, Nov. 6–14, 2026

Nine days starting from \$6,590 per person double occupancy.

Travelers will encounter the magnificent art of the Italian Renaissance during a weeklong stay in the heart of Florence, discovering the gems of art and architecture on day trips to the World Heritage sites of Siena and Pienza. Full details are [available on the website](#).

New Immersive "Living In" Program

On Smithsonian Journeys' popular "Living In" programs, travelers can fulfill their dream of living abroad during an immersive stay that includes excursions to must-see and lesser-known sites, talks by local

experts and plenty of free time for independent exploration. Repeat “Living In” programs including stays in Lisbon, Portugal; Provence, France; Andalusia, Spain; and Florence, Italy, will continue in 2026, and new for 2026 is “Living In” Austria.

Living in Austria: A Three-Week Stay in Vienna

Sept. 18–Oct. 10, 2025; April 16–May 8, May 7–29, Aug. 27–Sept. 18, Sept. 17–Oct. 9, 2026

23 days starting from \$8,490 per person double occupancy.

Participants can make themselves at home in the heart of Vienna and enjoy three full weeks to get acquainted with the city and its everyday culture, enjoying guided tours of historic sites, day trips to the Wachau Valley and nearby Bratislava, along with optional activities focused on classical music, cuisine, and the German language. Full details [available on the website](#).

New Active Journeys

Smithsonian Journeys launched Active Journeys in 2024 and will repeat 12 popular itineraries in addition to adding three new experiences in 2025/2026. Active Journeys group sizes are limited to 12–18 travelers, and journeys are rated light, moderate or energetic. More information about all Active Journeys is available on the [website](#).

Iceland in Winter: An Active Journey in Search of the Northern Lights

Nov. 29–Dec. 5, 2025; Jan. 10–16, Jan 17–23, Feb. 14–20, March 14–20, 2026

7 days starting from \$4,399 per person double occupancy.

Travelers can see out the splendor of the northern lights in the dark skies over Iceland as they explore local culture and waterfalls, glaciers, and intriguing geological formations along the southern coast. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Croatian Islands and Trails: An Active Journey to the Dalmatian Coast

May 6–19, June 6–16, Sept. 5–15, Sept. 19–29, Oct. 3–13, 2026

11 days starting from \$5,499 per person double occupancy.

Participants can island hop through the glorious Dalmatian Archipelago, exploring beloved isles such as Hvar, Korčula and Brač from the trail on a journey that will have them hiking through vineyards, swimming and sea kayaking in sapphire seas and discovering some of the most beautiful beaches on the Adriatic coast. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Morocco’s Mountains and Dunes: An Active Journey

March 28–April 11, April 11–25, April 25–May 9, May 16–30, Sept. 12–26, Sept. 26–Oct. 10, Oct. 10–24, Nov. 7–21, 2026

15 days starting from \$5,499 per person double occupancy.

Morocco recently became the most popular country in Africa for U.S. travelers. This two-week journey enables visitors to explore Morocco’s diverse landscapes from the Rif and Atlas Mountains to the Saharan dunes with hiking, meals with Berber families, the souks of Fez and Marrakech and two nights at a luxurious desert camp soaking up the culture of the Amazigh people. Full details are [available on the website](#).

New Solar Eclipse Programs—2026 by Land and by Sea

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 solar eclipse

journeys. With that in mind, for 2026, Smithsonian has developed two unique opportunities to witness the next total eclipse in the company of like-minded travelers and astronomy experts.

Solar Eclipse Over Spain—Madrid and Old Castile

Aug. 8–14, 2026

Seven days starting from \$7,195 per person double occupancy.

Travelers can experience the next total solar eclipse at a stunning winery in Spain's Old Castile region. The path of totality arcs south from the Arctic, staying over the Atlantic Ocean until it sweeps across northern Spain. Along its route, lie storybook castles and medieval villages, an iconic Roman aqueduct and rolling vineyards. Beginning in Madrid, participants will experience the region through the lens of astronomy, visiting the World Heritage sites of Segovia and Ávila as well as the historic town of Valladolid. On eclipse day, guests will head to a winery in the hills of the beautiful Ribera del Duero region and toast this celestial event with wine tasting, live music and a memorable meal. Full details are [available on the website](#).

A Solar Eclipse at Sea—Voyage Across the Western Mediterranean

Aug. 11–19, 2026

Nine days starting from \$10,270 per person double occupancy.

This special small-ship cruise aboard the 184-guest Le Dumont d'Urville coincides with the 2026 total solar eclipse. The cruise will set sail from Barcelona to Spain's Balearic Islands, and passengers will witness the eclipse on the evening of Aug. 12 after an afternoon of exploring the stunning town of Palma de Mallorca. Participants will trace the influence of Moors and Catalans, to the historic capital of Menorca and the rugged shores of Sardinia and Corsica, and visit the haunts of Napoleon on tiny Elba and ends with a sail from the coast of Tuscany to the Italian Riviera. Full details are [available on the website](#).

New Smithsonian Journeys + PONANT Small Ship Cruises

[Smithsonian Journeys and PONANT](#) have announced 36 co-branded sailings for 2026, the fifth year of collaboration highlighting a continued shared commitment to fostering global citizenship through immersive travel experiences. These extraordinary voyages blend PONANT's seafaring expertise and esteemed hospitality with Smithsonian's unparalleled legacy as the world's largest museum, education and research complex, offering guests unparalleled opportunities to explore the world with depth and purpose. Following are the new departures for 2026:

Madagascar and Seychelles: Natural Treasures of the Indian Ocean

Jan. 7–17, 2026

11 days starting from \$12,600 per person double occupancy.

This voyage from northern Madagascar through more than 1,000 miles of the Seychelles Archipelago offers travelers an exploration of the rich endemic flora and fauna including lemurs, chameleons, red-tailed tropicbirds, radiated tortoises, multi-colored fish, green turtles and more. A full day in Diego Suarez in the Emerald Sea Lagoon brings snorkeling and birding opportunities before heading onto the Seychelles. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Coastal Vietnam by Sea: Singapore to Hong Kong

Feb. 8–22, 2026

15 days starting from \$13,280 per person double occupancy.

Travelers can explore the many sides of Vietnam, from the ancient civilizations of Cham and Khmer, through Chinese influence and French colonialism, to the present day. Highlights include visits to four World Heritage sites: The Ancient City of Hội An, the My Son temples, the Imperial City of Hue and Hạ Long Bay. Also featured are a performance of Vietnamese dance and song in Ho Chi Minh City, visits to handicraft markets in Nha Trang and Da Nang, and a day in Vietnam's capital, Hanoi. Full details are [available on the website](#).

South Africa and Namibia by Sea: Around the Cape of Good Hope

March 19–29, 2026

11 days starting from \$7,660 per person double occupancy.

This voyage along the southern coast of Africa highlights the best of South Africa with three days devoted to a 'safari by sea' exploring the great game parks of the Eastern Cape followed by two days focused on Cape Town and its surroundings, as well as an exploration of the wild coastlines of Namibia from Lüderitz. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Voyage to Indonesia: Dragons, Reefs, and the Spice Islands

May 1–13, 2026

13 days starting from \$11,490 per person double occupancy.

Travelers can discover the lush and idyllic islands of Indonesia and sail through the heart of the Coral Triangle before arriving to the northern shores of Australia. They can combine an exploration into the region's biodiversity in the air, on land and under the sea with visits to Komodo National Park, a World Heritage site, and enjoy extensive possibilities for swimming and snorkeling in crystal clear waters with pristine coral reefs. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Corsica and the Tuscan Archipelago by Sea

July 18–26, 2026

Nine days starting from \$7,670 per person double occupancy.

Travelers can soak up the distinctive cultures of France and Italy's Mediterranean isles as they sail from the coast of Corsica to the Tuscan Archipelago and follow the coast to delightful Portofino on the Italian Riviera. They will explore the historic Corsican towns of Calvi and Bonifacio, taste wines on the beautiful isles of Giglio and Elba and can opt to snorkel, hike, e-bike and kayak amid stunning scenery. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Celebrating American History and Cultural Heritage along the Atlantic Coast

Oct. 6–20, 2026

15 days—details coming soon

Participants can cruise from New England to Florida during the 250th anniversary year of American independence, tracing the historical moments and cultural movements that have shaped the American experience. Full details are [available on the website](#).

About Smithsonian Journeys

Smithsonian Journeys is a global leader in cultural travel for diverse audiences, offering unique, expert-led trips on all seven continents. Smithsonian Journeys offers small-group land journeys, small-ship ocean cruises, river cruises, active journeys, cultural stays, private jet trips, tailor-made journeys for the independent traveler and student travel programs. Smithsonian Journeys 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

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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