



Background

Founded in 1970, Smithsonian Journeys is an established leader in expert-led land and cruise travel, offering 300+ annual journeys on all seven continents. As a vital program of the Smithsonian Institution's educational outreach, Smithsonian Journeys delivers dynamic travel experiences that uncover the authentic culture of each destination, providing access unavailable to most travelers. A broad array of opportunities is available, including small-group land tours (many with air included), cultural stays, small-ship ocean cruises, river cruises, active journeys, family journeys, private jet journeys, and tailor-made journeys for the independent traveler. Travelers engage with the world through the Smithsonian lens, creating life-long memories alongside others who seek a deeper understanding of the places they visit. Importantly, participation benefits the work of the Smithsonian, helping to make the world a better place by preserving and celebrating what we cherish from our common past, present, and future.

Why Choose Smithsonian Journeys?

Smithsonian's Heritage and Community

- Powered by 175 years of prestige and trust in the Smithsonian
- Trips mirror the reputation, collections, and research of the Smithsonian
- Bringing together like-minded learners
- Transformative experiences, rooted in knowledge and cultural awareness

Quality Travel Experience

- Superior service
- Special access
- Distinctive properties reflecting the culture of a destination
- Personal touch of staff and tour directors

Educational Emphasis

- Enrichment with meaning
- Fun and engaging learning
- Insightful, world-class, and accessible experts and local guides



What Travel Styles Are Available Through Smithsonian Journeys?

- Small-Group Classic Land Journeys
- Small-Ship Ocean Cruising
- River Cruising
- Cultural Stays
- Active Journeys
- Train Journeys
- Special Interest Tours
- Family Journeys
- Private Jet Journeys
- Tailor-Made Journeys

What Distinguishes Smithsonian Journeys?

- **Smithsonian Journeys Experts:** Among the experts who accompany a journey are scholars from around the world – with in-depth understanding of history, culture, politics, the natural world, or the fine arts – who have been selected by Smithsonian Journeys for their special knowledge and ability to connect with people. Travelers may also find by their side a Smithsonian scientist who has spent a lifetime studying and interpreting biology, ecology, geology, astronomy, or another discipline. In addition to presenting a series of planned discussions, experts offer ongoing commentary and camaraderie to provide travelers with the breadth, details, and insights necessary to more fully understand and appreciate their destination. Travelers often find that the quality of their expert is the difference between an outstanding travel experience and a mass-market alternative.
- **Camaraderie:** Travelers choose Smithsonian Journeys in order to experience an exhilarating and authentic journey with like-minded lifelong learners who share their special interest in the world, and who are interested in learning more deeply about their destination. Shared interests and outlooks provide a social and intellectual starting point that leads to a satisfying overall experience on tour. In fact, over the years, travelers have forged lasting friendships and often choose to travel together again on a future journey. Tours and cruises are ideal for solo travelers, couples, family groups, and friends.

- **Tour Directors:** These attentive, caring people rank among some of the best in the business. They are masters at handling the details to insure a stress-free travel experience. They will share their special on-the-ground insights of the destination, resulting in a more enjoyable experience. And they infuse each trip with a personal touch, providing recommendations for memorable restaurants and things to do during free time, and of course handle the logistics with creativity so everything is seamless.
- **Local Guides:** Smithsonian Journeys, with our tour operator partners, choose local guides who understand the intellectual needs of our travelers. Smithsonian Journeys will not only visit the traditional routes but will also explore places where travelers would not have the access or opportunity to visit on their own – behind the scenes and off the beaten path.
- **Accommodations:** Travelers stay in distinctive properties that reflect the character and ambiance of the local culture and that meet their high standards. Accommodations, selected for quality, location, ambiance, cuisine, service, and amenities, can be in a historic area or in the idyllic countryside. The ambiance might be “out-of-this-world” luxury, seriously historic (but also upscale), family-run charm (in the true meaning of the word), or often something truly unique.
- **Small Ships:** Ocean and river cruises feature intimate ships that cruise distinctive waterways where large, mass-market cruises cannot go. These vessels allow travelers to see the life of a country up close and allow them to disembark frequently to explore ashore. Ships vary from comfortable to truly deluxe, and feature a casual on-board ambiance, “single-seating” dining, and amenities such as lounges, fitness facilities, and plenty of open deck space.
- **Flexibility:** People who have always traveled independently and then choose to travel with Smithsonian Journeys on a group tour are always enthusiastic with the service, independence, and value of a Smithsonian Journeys program. Travelers get the best of both worlds: the ease and comprehensive itinerary of a group tour, and the flexibility of independent travel. For example, travelers may choose to skip an included excursion in favor of independent time. Certain meals are unplanned so that travelers can enjoy the freedom and flexibility to explore on their own or with newfound friends.