



Smithsonian Journeys is a recognized leader in expert-led land and cruise travel, offering more than 350 departures annually across all seven continents. As a vital extension of the Smithsonian Institution’s educational mission, our journeys provide rich opportunities to explore the authentic culture, heritage, and natural wonders of each destination—often with privileged access unavailable to most travelers.

With a diverse portfolio that includes small-group land tours (many with airfare included), cultural stays, small-ship ocean and river cruises, active journeys, private jet explorations, and tailor-made travel for the independent explorer, there’s an experience for every curious traveler. Through the Smithsonian lens, guests engage more deeply with the world—creating lifelong memories alongside others who share a passion for knowledge and discovery.

Perhaps most meaningful, participation in these journeys supports the Smithsonian’s efforts to preserve, understand, and celebrate our shared global heritage—past, present, and future.

Why Travel with Smithsonian Journeys?

Smithsonian's Heritage and Community

- Backed by 179 years of trust and prestige from the Smithsonian Institution
- Trips reflect the Institution’s renowned collections, scholarship, and values
- A community of curious, like-minded travelers
- Culturally immersive experiences rooted in exploration and lifelong learning

An Exceptional Travel Experience

- Outstanding service and attention to detail
- Access to places and perspectives few can experience
- Accommodations that capture the spirit and character of each destination
- Warm, personalized support from expert staff and tour directors

A Journey of Learning

- Enriching experiences infused with meaning and context
- Dynamic, engaging exploration designed to inspire curiosity
- Accessible, world-class experts and knowledgeable guides

Travel Styles for Every Kind of Explorer

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

What Distinguishes Smithsonian Journeys?

- **Smithsonian Journeys Experts:** Most departures are joined by scholars and specialists from around the world—authorities in history, culture, politics, the natural world, and the fine arts—handpicked for their expertise and ability to connect meaningfully with travelers. Beyond their scheduled presentations, they offer spontaneous insights and enriching conversation throughout the journey—adding depth, context, and dimension to every experience. For many travelers, it's the presence of these extraordinary individuals that transforms a great trip into an unforgettable one.
- **Camaraderie and Connection:** Travelers are drawn to Smithsonian Journeys not only for the destinations, but for the exhilarating experience of exploring alongside like-minded lifelong learners. Each journey brings together individuals who share a curiosity about the world and a desire to engage more deeply with the places they visit. This shared outlook forms the foundation for meaningful conversations, enriching experiences, and often, enduring friendships. Over the years, many travelers have formed lasting bonds and returned to journey together again. Whether you're traveling solo, with a partner, family, or friends, each tour or cruise offers an inviting and inclusive setting to connect, learn, and be inspired.
- **Tour Directors Who Make the Journey Seamless:** Our Tour Directors are among the most seasoned and dedicated professionals in travel—attentive, resourceful, and committed to creating a smooth, enriching experience. They handle every detail with care, ensuring your journey is stress-free from start to finish. With their deep local knowledge, they offer invaluable on-the-ground insights that enhance your understanding and enjoyment of each destination. Beyond logistics, they provide thoughtful recommendations for dining, activities, and exploration during free time—infusing each trip with warmth, personality, and unforgettable moments.



- **Local Guides:** In collaboration with our tour operator partners, Smithsonian Journeys selects local guides who understand the intellectual curiosity of our travelers. These knowledgeable companions offer deep cultural insights and context—enriching each experience far beyond the guidebooks. In addition to exploring iconic landmarks, our journeys take you off the beaten path, opening doors to places and moments most travelers never encounter on their own.
- **Distinctive Accommodations That Reflect a Sense of Place:** Each journey features thoughtfully chosen properties that capture the spirit and charm of the local culture—meeting the highest standards for quality, comfort, and authenticity. Whether nestled in a historic district or set against the tranquility of the countryside, these accommodations are selected for their exceptional location, ambiance, service, and amenities. From boutique luxury to storied heritage hotels, from warm, family-run inns to one-of-a-kind stays you won't find elsewhere, every lodging is an integral part of the journey—immersing you more fully in the essence of your destination.
- **Exploration by Small Ship:** Our ocean and river cruises feature intimate vessels that navigate scenic, culturally rich waterways inaccessible to larger ships—offering a more personal and immersive view of daily life along the shores. These thoughtfully selected ships range from comfortably appointed to truly luxurious and are designed to enhance your journey with open deck space, inviting lounges, fitness facilities, and relaxed, single-seating dining. Frequent disembarkations allow for deeper, on-the-ground exploration, ensuring each day brings fresh opportunities to engage with your destination in meaningful ways.