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THE A-LIST

Want to tour the Louvre after hours? Tag rhinos in Rwanda? Get married on Mykonos? Throw a milestone birthday party on St. Bart's? Or take a luxurious cruise to the Arctic? Our travel advisors have you covered. In our 22nd annual A-List, we present a directory of the most influential vacation specialists in the world, vetted by the editors at *Travel + Leisure*.

Learn more about the A-List advisors at [travelandleisure.com/a-list](https://www.travelandleisure.com/a-list).

EDITED BY SAMANTHA FALEWÉE AND DENNY LEE

REPORTED BY PAUL BRADY, ELIZABETH CANTRELL, ARABELLA HAU, DANIELLE POINTDUJOUR, PETER TERZIAN, AND JESSICA VADILLO

AFRICA

WILL JONES

Journeys by Design

Jones plans a limited number of itineraries each year, which allows him to create truly special trips. For one journalist, he arranged a trip to Dzanga Bai, an elephant gathering point in the southwestern forests of the Central African Republic, with accommodations at Sangha Lodge, one of the most remote camps on the continent.

\$2,500 explore@journeysbydesign.com

CRISNEY LANE

Mosaic Safaris

Lane has sent clients to the remote Shoebill Island Camp in Zambia for rare bird sightings and once snagged last-minute tickets to Kwita Izina, a gorilla naming ceremony, in Rwanda. She's excited to check out properties like the Kamba African Rainforest Experiences camps in the Congo River Basin and the nine-tent Hemingways Ol Seki Mara, near Kenya's Masai Mara Reserve.

\$1,000 crisney@mosaicsafaris.com

CHIMPANZEE & GORILLA SAFARIS

PRAVEEN MOMAN

Volcanoes Safaris

Operating primarily in Rwanda and Uganda, Moman focuses on trips to see mountain gorillas, chimpanzees, and golden monkeys. Guests might trek through the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest with a primatologist or look for rare red colobus monkeys in the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary.

\$3,000 enquiries@volcanoesafaris.com

EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA SAFARIS

EMILY BALDWIN

Micato Safaris

For a former U.S. president and his family, Baldwin arranged a private safari in Tanzania, which involved coordinating with the Secret Service. For a family group of 22, she planned an epic multicountry trip during which a photographer was



▲ Our specialists know all the best safari camps, like Sarara, in Kenya's Namunyak Community Conservancy.

able to capture a surprise marriage proposal.

\$2,500 ebaldwin@micato.com

CRAIG BEAL
Travel Beyond

For one family hoping to take a gorilla trek, Beal worked his connections at the Uganda Wildlife Authority to allow 14-year-old twins to participate (the age requirement is normally 15). For a Jewish couple visiting South Africa, he planned a foraging excursion that ended with cooking a kosher meal.

\$1,750 craigb@travelbeyond.com

BJORN BEHLERT
Scott Dunn

Behlert first visited Africa when he was five, and he continues to be inspired by the life-altering impact safaris can have. One of his family trips might include a helicopter ride to an island in the Okavango Delta, in Botswana, or a stay at the

newly opened Tswalu Loapi Tented Camp, in South Africa, with meals prepared by a private chef.

\$1,500 bjorn.behlert@scottdunn.com

CHERRI BRIGGS
Explore Inc

In her 28 years in business, Briggs has set up memorable escapes to climb Mount Meru in Tanzania, bungee-jump near Victoria Falls, and go on game drives in Namibia for the chance to see rare species such as brown hyenas and springboks.

\$1,850 info@exploreafrika.net

LAURA BURDETT-MUNNS
Journeysmiths

Warren Samuels, an Emmy-nominated wildlife videographer, often accompanies Burdett-Munns's clients on safari to capture footage of their trip—as well as regale them with tales of past filmmaking feats. On one seven-week itinerary, Burdett-Munns traveled with

VIP clients down the length of the Zambezi River.

\$1,750 laura@safari.co.uk

KATIE CADAR
TravelStore

While Cadar arranges trips across the world, she has a special knack for safaris. No request is too big, whether it's an impromptu wedding in the Tanzanian bush—which included booking extra seats on a prop plane to transport the wedding dress—or a private visit at the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Kenya.

\$2,000 katie.c@travelstore.com

DEBORAH CALMEYER
Roar Africa

Calmeyer grew up in the Zimbabwean bush and later lived in South Africa. One trip she planned included stops in Botswana, Kenya, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe—with transportation in an Emirates Executive private jet. She and her team also helm the annual Women's

AFRICA & SAFARIS

Empowerment Retreat, where female thought leaders discuss changes in the safari industry.

\$2,500

welcome@roarafrika.com

MAIJA DE RIJK-UYS
Go2Africa

De Rijk-Uys sends clients to the continent's remote reaches—she can arrange paddling tours of the Orange River on the Namibia–South Africa border, scuba diving off Kenya's Diani Beach, and stays at the Jabali Ridge camp, in Tanzania.

\$1,000 majja@go2africa.com

TAMSYN FRICKER
Travel Artistry Africa

Fricker is up-to-date on the continent's fashion, design, and music trends, which means she can easily pair a stay at the contemporary Singita Ebony Lodge in South Africa with gallery-hopping in Nairobi. For one billionaire client, she flew in award-winning South African soul singer Bongeziwe Mabandla for a private performance in Cape Town.

\$1,500 tamsyn@travelartistryafrica.com

ELIZABETH GORDON
Extraordinary Journeys

Born in Kenya, Gordon is part of a family that's been involved with safaris for more than 60 years. She excels in finding and developing new wilderness experiences, like private-plane travel to Pamushana Lodge, in Zimbabwe, or helicopter flights to Lake Turkana, in Kenya's northern desert.

\$1,200 elizabeth@extraordinaryjourneys.com

SAMANTHA GORDON
Red Savannah

With more than 25 years of experience, Gordon has deep relationships with lodge owners, camp managers, and safari guides. For families, she likes to complement game drives with activities like horseback riding through the bush and archery lessons with Masai warriors.

\$1,000 sgordon@redsavannah.com

JULIAN HARRISON
Premier Tours Inc.

Born in South Africa, Harrison, who speaks Afrikaans and Zulu, is the author of a safari guidebook and has planned trips for many celebrities. For a visually impaired client, he once designed a safari in Botswana and Zimbabwe that focused on sound, touch, and smell.

\$1,200

julianh@premiertours.com

CANDICE HECKEL
Africa Endeavours

This specialist pays extra attention to pre-trip details so travelers can begin their seamless safari before they even leave home. On one South Africa trip, Heckel's clients explored the Cape Peninsula in a vintage World War II motorcycle sidecar, snorkeled with Cape fur seals, and ended the day with sunset drinks in the shadow of Chapman's Peak.

\$1,000 heckel@africaendeavours.com

KARIN JONES
Anastasia's Africa

For one oenophile, Jones designed a helicopter transfer to South Africa's winelands to spend time with a legendary cellarmaster, followed by private barrel tastings after lunch. For another client, she arranged a stop at the remote Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, in the Matthews Mountain Range in Kenya.

\$1,500

karin@anastasiasafrica.com

CHRIS LIEBENBERG
Piper & Heath Travel

Liebenberg plans trips that highlight sustainability, conservation, and grassroots connections. His clients have participated in veterinary interventions, joined educational excursions to work with local farmers, and, in the Republic of the Congo, seen some of the rarest animals on the continent.

\$1,500

inquiry@piperandheath.com



▲ Jabali Ridge, a safari lodge in Tanzania favored by advisor Maija De Rijk-Uys.

SUSAN NEVA
Alluring Africa

Neva has a knack for helping large family groups and single travelers alike navigate the logistics of multicountry journeys, often sending them to lesser-known destinations, like Tanzania's Ruaha National Park. One new camp she's excited about is Sitatunga Private Island, in Botswana's Okavango Delta, which was built using only recycled materials.

\$1,200

susan@alluringafrica.com

ALISON & MARK NOLTING
The Africa Adventure Company

For 31 years, this husband-and-wife duo has been providing standout family and honeymoon safaris. For one group, they set up a private tour of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, followed by a memorial tree planting at Wilderness Chitabe Lediba, a camp in Botswana.

\$1,000 safari@africanadventure.com

BRANDI & JAY PARMAR
Wander Africa

Meeting clients in the bush is just one of the ways the Parmars add personal

touches to their memorable itineraries. They're excited about the Entara camps in northern Tanzania, which focus on local immersion and maintain strong working relationships with the region's Hadza and Datoga tribes.

\$1,600

jay@wander-africa.com

LEORA ROTHSCHILD
Rothschild Safaris

With more than 25 years of experience, Rothschild specializes in trips with exclusive access, including private tours of Botswana parks led by experts in Tswana culture, visits with paleoanthropologists, and jamming with a South African band, Freshly Ground, in Cape Town.

\$1,000 leora@rothschildsafaris.com

DANIEL SAPERSTEIN
Hippo Creek Safaris

Saperstein works with his family's company to craft conservation-minded itineraries, which may include helping to save white rhinoceros and elephants in Zimbabwe. He's seeing renewed interest in the Mana Pools region of Zimbabwe, where former hunting concessions are being

ADRIAAN LOUW

converted into wildlife reserves.
\$1,200 info@hippocreek.com
safari.com

SHAUN STANLEY
Stanley Safaris
 Stanley enjoys a challenge—specifically, planning complex trips that span several countries. For one couple, he arranged a seven-week itinerary to cross Namibia's desert terrain, followed by stays in South Africa and Tanzania. There was even time at the end for a visit to Madagascar.
\$1,000
shaun@stanley-safaris.com

TERESA SULLIVAN
Mango African Safaris
 Sullivan prioritizes connecting travelers with local specialist guides. At the six-tent Muzimu Camp in Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park, her clients can pair game drives with biking excursions to learn about Mozambican culture, including stops at local villages. She also plans trips to Egypt.
\$1,500
info@mangosafari.com

RAZA VISRAM
AfricanMecca Safaris
 This Kenya-born expert helps clients give back to the places they visit. He sits on the board of directors of Teach Rwanda, an NGO and early-childhood-education school. One couple was so inspired by their trip that they included a nonprofit, Help Aid Africa, in their will.
\$1,500
sales@africanmecca.com

LIZ WHEELER
Micato Safaris
 In Kenya, Wheeler's clients have run with sniffer dogs as they train to combat poaching, flown by helicopter over the Great Rift Valley to the Turkana Basin, with sights of flamingos along the way, and gone sand-boarding in the remote Suguta Valley.
\$3,250
lwheeler@micato.com

EGYPT
CHRIS BAZOS
Travelous
 In addition to planning tours of Egypt's highlights, Bazos fosters cultural connections for his clients. That might mean lunch in a mud house near Edfu or a scarf-making workshop with a textile expert. He enhances the cookie-cutter Nile cruise experience by assigning a private guide for each group.
\$500
requests@travelous.com

EGYPT & MOROCCO
CAMILLA CATLIN
Global Patina
 Catlin's clients trust her impeccable taste and attention to detail when it comes to travel in North Africa—including activities like camel rides in Morocco's legendary Erg Chebbi dunes. She'll also ensure there's minimal walking for less mobile travelers, babysitters for parents, snacks for the kids, and photographers there to capture it all.
\$2,500
camilla@global-patina.com

MALAKA HILTON
Admiral Travel International
 Drawing on her family ties to Egypt, Hilton can arrange special tours of the Sphinx with famed archaeologist Dr. Zahi Hawass and insider access to the preservation labs of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. She also has expertise planning trips in the U.A.E.
\$1,250
malaka@admiraltravel.com

ISRAEL & JORDAN
TOVA WALD
Tova Wald
 With Wald at the helm, travelers might find themselves learning how to cook local dishes in a culinary workshop in Jordan followed by a candlelit dinner or an architecture tour of Tel Aviv that takes in both the grand Rothschild Boulevard and the twisting, narrow streets of Neve Tzedek.
\$2,000
tova@tovawald.com

ISRAEL, JORDAN, & THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
JONATHAN ROSE & JOSEPH YUDIN
Touring Israel
 Surprise and delight are the specialties of this long-standing duo, whether it's a lavish outdoor breakfast in a wadi at the end of a sunrise hike, a visit to the Jewish-Muslim Ballet School in Jaffa for a moving performance, or an over-the-top bar mitzvah.
\$1,000
jonathan@touringisrael.com

JORDAN, OMAN, & THE U.A.E.
MO NOUBANI
The Travel Box International
 Born and raised in Oman and with relatives in Jordan, Noubani has personal connections throughout the region. He works with them to create special moments—like arranging a dinner with a local family or booking a last-minute seaplane for a *via ferrata* hike in the mountainous Jabal Al Akhdar region.
\$550 monoubani@travelboxinternational.com

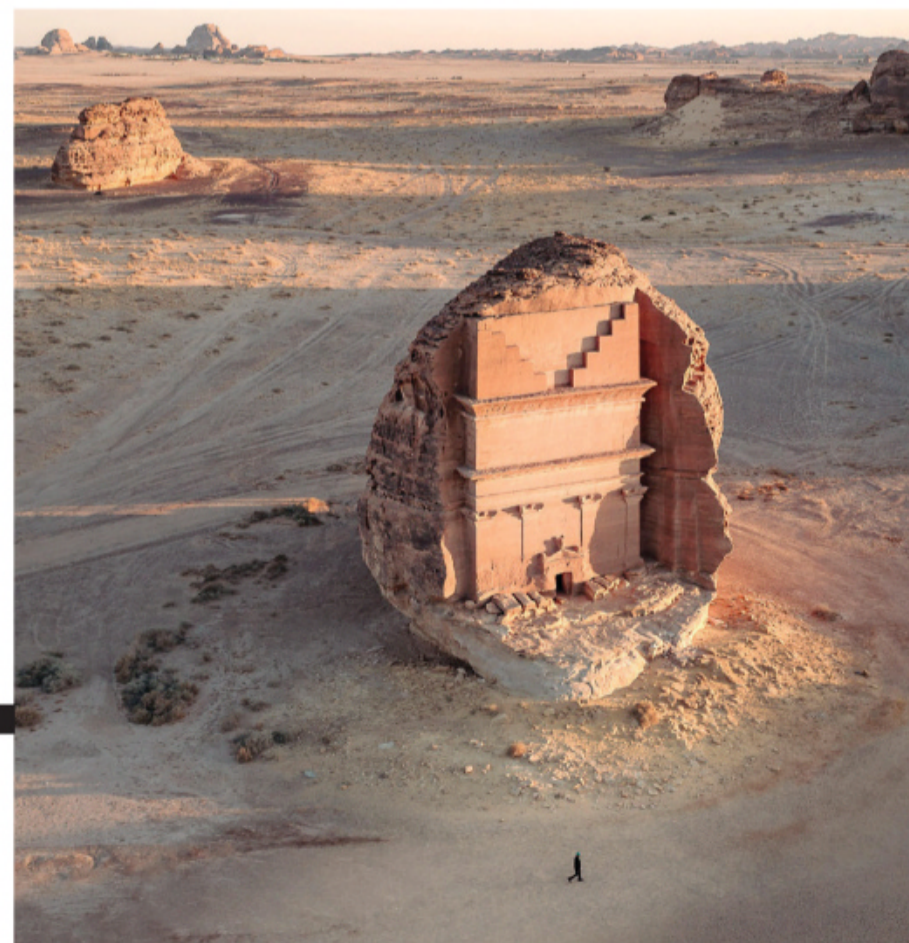
JORDAN & SAUDI ARABIA
STEPHANIE FISHER
Stephanie Fisher Travel
 Whether it's organizing a hike in Jordan's Wadi Rum at sunrise or crafting a

weeklong trip through Saudi Arabia (including a jaunt in a helicopter over the AlUla ruins and shopping in Riyadh's Deerah Souk), Fisher adds her own flair to every superlative experience. She also operates in Egypt.
\$900 stephanie@stephaniefishertravel.com

MOROCCO
MICHAEL DIAMOND
Cobblestone Private Travel
 A picnic in the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains; a stay at the 12-room Villa Mabrouka, once the home of Yves Saint Laurent; backstage access to the Gnaoua & World Music Festival in the city of Essaouira: Diamond can arrange it all.
\$900 michael@cobblestoneprivatetravel.com

OMAN, QATAR, & SAUDI ARABIA
AMALIA LAZAROV
Travelicious
 Lazarov specializes in female travel to the Middle East. Recently she organized a wellness-focused trip to Oman's Wahiba Sands, where her clients enjoyed kundalini yoga and tea-leaf readings before being whisked off by private jet to Abu Dhabi for shopping and hammam treatments.
\$250
amalia@247travel365.com

▼
 Advisors like Stephanie Fisher and Amalia Lazarov can set up visits to the Hegra archaeological site, in Saudi Arabia.



BHUTAN, INDIA, & NEPAL

VIIJI KRISHNA
Rothschild Safaris

Krishna, who's an authority on parts of India that travelers don't typically see, can easily arrange a visit to the Khajuraho Dance Festival, in the Chitragupta Temple in Madhya Pradesh, or a stay at an 18th-century palace in Goa. In Bhutan, she recommends the new and Beyond Punakha River Lodge.

\$1,000
viji@rothschildsafaris.com

BHUTAN & SRI LANKA

NIALL CAUSER
Audley Travel

The regions that Causer covers are off the beaten path. For a couple who wanted to explore spirituality and wildlife, he designed a four-week trip that included hiking part of the Trans-Bhutan Trail and a meal at a Bhutanese farmstead. He also specializes in India.

\$450 niall.causer@audleytravel.com

CAMBODIA, LAOS, & VIETNAM

ANDY BOOTH
ABOUTAsia Travel

Cambodia-based Booth has literally written the book on Angkor, which details the best crowd-free ways to see the iconic temples. His firm, which just celebrated 15 years, offers unrivaled experiences across Southeast Asia, whether his clients are visiting for the food, the culture, the scenery—or all of the above.

\$350
ajb@aboutasiatravel.com

ETHAN CROWLEY
Asia Desk

Crowley grew up in Cambodia and knows every inch of the nation, as well as Laos and Vietnam. That includes off-the-tourist-trail hill-tribe villages, private-island resorts, mountain lodges, and the best big-city restaurants and art galleries. He also prides himself on knowing the right "local hosts," as he calls his handpicked guides.

\$850 ethan@asiadesk.net

JACK TYDEMAN
Audley Travel

An industry veteran, Tydeman has traveled through Southeast Asia for more than 20 years and uses his expertise to put together seamless multicountry tours for discerning clients. He enriches his itineraries with cooking classes, after-hours food tours, temple visits, and cruises on the Mekong River.

\$450 jack.tydeman@audleytravel.com

CHINA

MEI ZHANG
WildChina Travel

Zhang takes an anthropological approach to China's natural and cultural landscapes. Recently, she's sent clients to Dali, in Yunnan, for a private gallery viewing; Ningxia Huizu, an emerging wine region; and Songyang, an ancient village where woks are still forged by hand.

\$500
mei.zhang@wildchina.com

INDIA

RUMIT MEHTA
Immersion Journeys

Many of the guides Mehta works with have degrees in law or history, giving his clients a richer understanding of the nation's cultural and archaeological story. He also likes to incorporate sites less frequently visited, like the salt marshes in Gujarat's Rann of Kutch.

\$750 runit@immersionjourneys.com

MARION MILLER
Micato Safaris

Whether Miller is planning a Bengal-tiger game drive or a champagne toast with views of the Taj Mahal, she avoids a cookie-cutter approach. For one group staying in Jaipur over Christmas, she arranged a stay in a former residence of the city's royal family—complete with a Christmas tree, gifts, and a private outfitting session with a tailor.

\$1,500 mmiller@micato.com

INDIA & NEPAL

CAROLE CAMBATA
Greaves Tours

Cambata—who has been in

business for 30 years—often calls on her extensive family network in India to arrange a one-on-one with a maharajah, boutique shopping, or a private breakfast on the ramparts of a fort.

\$1,000 ccambata@greaves.com

INDONESIA

JARROD HOBSON
ATJ

Hobson's little black book of contacts, developed over two-plus decades, grants his clients insider access, whether it's the best spot for roast suckling pig in Bali or private sailings to the islands of Raja Ampat.

\$500 jarrod@atj.com

JAPAN

JASON & SCOTT GILMAN
JapanQuest Journeys

A visit to a family-run Wagyu farm; a tour of an observatory founded by artist Hiroshi Sugimoto; browsing knives in Kappabashi, Tokyo's kitchen district: uncommon experiences like these are all par for the course for this son-and-father duo.

\$3,000 info@japanquest.com

MARK LAKIN

The Legacy Untold Travel

Lakin's agency connects curious travelers to the farthest corners of the globe. His special-access immersions have included meeting sumo wrestlers, attending private geisha dinners, and chatting with samurai-sword makers. Lakin also shines at planning conservation-minded African safaris.

\$1,500
ml@thelegacyuntold.com

REBECCA MAZZARO
ATJ

Ask Mazzaro for a favorite Japanese experience and she might mention the "art islands" in the Seto Inland Sea. Or a katana-sword workshop at a knife-maker's studio. Or meeting some of the last amas, the female pearl divers whose traditions go back thousands of years.

\$1,200 rebecca@atj.com



▲ A Japan itinerary might include an evening in Osaka's Shinsaibashi district, a popular shopping destination.

JAPAN & KOREA

AMY TADEHARA
InsideJapan Tours

As a travel specialist who has lived in Japan and speaks the language, Tadehara immerses her clients in Japanese customs, with private kaiseki dinners in Kyoto, stays in a ninth-century Buddhist temple, and, for those with Japanese heritage, visits to ancestral villages.

\$750
amy@insidejapantours.com

JAPAN & SOUTHEAST ASIA

CATHERINE HEALD
Remote Lands

Heald delivers unparalleled experiences—she's just as adept at arranging an intimate 12-course dinner near a Khmer temple in Cambodia as she is at pulling off a 73-day journey that includes Japan, Singapore, and Vietnam.

\$1,375
catherine@remotelands.com

SOUTH KOREA & THAILAND

GRANT EKELUND
InsideAsia Tours

Ekelund encourages his clients to try activities like food tours and cycling as a way to slow down and take in their surroundings. His expertise extends to other parts of Asia as well, including Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

\$500 grant.ekelund@insideasiatours.com

AUSTRALIA

STUART RIGG
Southern Crossings

For a day trip from Brisbane, Rigg arranged a surf lesson with a former world champion, then a visit to the surfer's own factory to custom-design a board. For a classical-music lover and amateur composer, he set up a private recital at the Sydney Opera House—and had the orchestra play a piece the client had written. **\$650** stuart@southern-crossings.com

AUSTRALIA & FIJI

DREW KLUSKA
The Tailor

Kluska creates experiential itineraries for adventure seekers in remote parts of Australia and Fiji, complete with five-star lodging and wildlife encounters led by local experts. A trip could include hidden waterfalls in Queensland's Daintree Rainforest, snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, or a stay at a private-island resort in Fiji.

\$1,000
info@thetailor.com

AUSTRALIA, FIJI, & NEW ZEALAND

CASSANDRA BOOKHOLDER
Camelback Odyssey Travel

Australia-born Bookholder knows how to make the most of every minute. Want to squeeze a wine tasting into a busy Adelaide afternoon? Bookholder knows the cellar doors of the McLaren Vale are just a half-hour away. Worried about the long-haul flight with children? She travels with her own kids, so she can offer lots of advice—and can plan a multiday layover to break up the trip.

\$1,125 cassandrab@camelbacktravel.com

CORINNE GOODMAN Down Under Endeavours

Goodman has been perfecting itineraries in the South Pacific for 25 years. In one instance, she crafted an extensive 23-day trip for an ambitious couple who wanted to see the highlights

of Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji.

\$1,000 cg@downunderendeavours.com

AUSTRALIA, FRENCH POLYNESIA, & NEW ZEALAND

KEMI WELLS-CONRAD
Wells Luxury Travel

Founder Wells-Conrad has visited more than 60 countries and excels in crafting celebratory trips. For one glamorous honeymoon, she arranged a private-jet journey around New Zealand and Australia that included rafting and helicopter tours.

\$1,250 kemi@wellsluxurytravel.com

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

SUZY MERCIEN-FEROL
Touring Treasures

An A-Lister for more than two decades, Mercien-Ferol designs each itinerary carefully—for example, she might secure after-hours access to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, in Sydney, and a tour with a curator of Indigenous art, topped off with a private dinner in the museum overlooking Woolloomooloo Wharf.

\$2,500 luxurytravel@touringtreasures.com

DONNA THOMAS New Zealand Travel

Even with more than 70 trips to Australia and New Zealand under her belt, Thomas never stops scouting for new accommodations. For clients hoping for a romantic, remote getaway in New Zealand, she can arrange stays in the glass-walled Pure Pod cottages and glacier-top champagne toasts.

\$300 donna@newzealandtravel.org

FIJI & FRENCH POLYNESIA

SUSANNE HAMER
TravelStore

Hamer knows how to set the scene for romantic bliss: lunch with champagne and lobster on a private motu in Bora-Bora, a helicopter ride to the heart-shaped island of Tupai, and snorkeling in a coral garden.

\$500
susanne.h@travelstore.com

FIJI & NEW ZEALAND

SARAH FARAG
Southern Crossings

New Zealand-based Farag gets clients into some of the country's most remote places, whether they go caving in the Craigieburn Range or stargazing in the Ahuriri Valley, both on the

South Island. Lately she's seen increased interest in villas such as Te Mānia, in the Hawke's Bay wine region. **\$1,000** sarah@southern-crossings.com

FRENCH POLYNESIA

CHRISTINA TURRINI

Frosch Travel

A South Pacific trip by Turrini might include lunch on a secluded atoll, a visit to a pearl farm, and up-close encounters with humpback whales. For environmentally minded clients, she can arrange a tour of the research station at the Brando, a sustainable private-island resort. Her expertise also extends to Fiji and the Cook Islands.

\$500
christina.turrini@frosch.com

NEW ZEALAND

JEAN-MICHEL JEFFERSON
Ahipara Travel

This veteran advisor excels at complex cross-country trips. A recent 15-day journey included a four-night yacht charter through the Hauraki Gulf of the North Island, flying over the glaciers of Aoraki Mount Cook National Park, and a workshop with a Maori jade carver.

\$1,000
jean-michel@ahipara.com

▼
The Sydney Opera House, an iconic addition to any Australian vacation.



CRUISE

OLGA PLACERES

Preferred Travel & Co.

As president of her firm, Placeres has 35 years of experience and oversees a team of more than 80 luxury travel and cruise experts. Custom European tours are her specialty, and she maintains strong relationships with the teams at lines including Ponant, Seabourn, and Viking.

\$1,000

olga@preferrednaples.com

EXPEDITION SHIPS

ASHTON PALMER

Expedition Trips

Palmer's personal connections, built up over three decades in the business, make magic happen at the far reaches of the globe. One of the most over-the-top requests he's ever received? Coordinating a haute couture photo shoot in Antarctica for an Italian fashion designer.

\$1,250

ashton@expeditiontrips.com

EXPEDITION & SMALL SHIPS

JULIE JONES

TopFlight Travels

For a family of 22 who explored Alaska, Jones handled all flights, transfers, custom shore excursions, and dinners. Impressed, the family matriarch then enlisted Jones to help realize a dream trip to Scotland and Bordeaux: she planned a week aboard Belmond's *Royal Scotsman*, followed by a river cruise through the French wine region.

\$1,100 julie@topflight.travel

LARGE, MEDIUM, & SMALL SHIPS

ROB CLABBERS

Q Cruise + Travel

Clabbers's Chicago-based agency excels in customizing marine getaways aboard intimate luxury lines like Seabourn, as well as historic lines such as Cunard.

A specialist for more than 30 years, he has been on more than 130 cruises to all seven continents.

\$750

rob@qcruisetravel.com



▲ Polar specialist Eric Goldring recommends sailings aboard Silversea's *Silver Cloud*, seen here in Greenland.

VALERIE WILSON

Valerie Wilson Travel

At her namesake firm, Wilson unlocks luxury experiences on and off the ship, such as a private tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney led by an Aboriginal elder. She often recommends Abercrombie & Kent and Seabourn, but lately has taken notice of Swan Hellenic, a legacy line that relaunched in 2020.

\$875 valeriew@vwti.com

POLAR EXPEDITIONS

ERIC GOLDRING

Goldring Travel

These days, Goldring, who has been in business for more than 20 years, is impressed by Explora Journeys, as well as the smaller vessels of Quark Expeditions. While polar itineraries and trips to Iceland remain popular, Goldring has also noticed increased interest in cruising

off the coast of Turkey, which he's happy to oblige.

\$1,200

eric@goldringtravel.com

SMALL SHIPS

MARY CURRY

Adventure Life Journeys

Whether it's a tropical sailing in the Seychelles or an adventurous swing through the Galápagos Islands, Curry, a 23-year veteran of the small-ship industry, excels at matching the right ship to her client's adventure needs.

\$875

mary.c@adventure-life.com

MARY ANN RAMSEY

Betty Maclean Travel

In her four decades as a small-ship expert, Ramsey has sailed with all the luxury players as a paying customer, which has given her firsthand insights into such lines as Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Seabourn, and Silversea.

She has also built a network of contacts around the world who can deliver superlative shore excursions—all private, of course.

\$2,000

maryann@bettymacleantravel.com

YACHT CHARTERS

JIMMY CARROLL

Pelorus Yachting

Carroll is a British Army veteran and a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society. His trips often involve multiple vessels to help clients get deeper into remote terrain, like a diving mission in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands that required a 230-foot yacht, two helicopters, and a submarine.

\$2,750

jimmy@pelorusx.com

AUSTRIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, & POLAND

GWEN KOZLOWSKI
Exeter International

A Poland trip with Kozlowski might include an intimate tour of the Museum of the Second World War, in Gdańsk, and a visit to the Wieliczka and Bochnia salt mines. In Austria, she can score box seats for the Vienna State Opera or invitations to a high-society ball.

\$800 gwen@exeterinternational.com

AUSTRIA, GERMANY, & SWITZERLAND

SOFIA MARKOVICH
Sofia's Travel

Multicountry trips are a breeze for this Central Europe expert, who will have you driving the Autobahn in a Porsche; biking in the Austrian Alps; tasting chocolate and cheese in Gruyères, Switzerland; and touring Germany's storybook Neuschwanstein Castle.

\$650 sofia.markovich@sofiastravel.com

CROATIA, ITALY, & GREECE

JAY TERNAVAN
JayWay Travel

Want to renew your wedding vows in Rome, treat a dozen friends to a blowout trip through the Cyclades Islands in Greece, or find a long-lost family member in a small Croatian village? Ternavan has spent 17 years crafting memorable experiences like these.

\$500
t.and.l@jaywaytravel.com

CROATIA, MONTENEGRO, & SLOVENIA

DARIA WESTERFIELD
River Oaks Travel

In Slovenia, Westerfield's recommendations might include the Škocjan Caves (a UNESCO World Heritage site) or wine touring in the Goriška Brda region. She also organizes private boating excursions, whether to Montenegro's Boka Bay or Croatia's Pakleni Islands.

\$1,000
dasha@riveroakstravel.com



The Bellini Suite at Passalacqua, on Lake Como—a favorite of travel expert Jim Strong.

CROATIA & SLOVENIA

WANDA S. RADETTI
Tasteful Croatian Journeys

Radetti's company was the first luxury tour operator in Croatia when it launched in 1994. She excels at taking clients to destinations such as the hill towns of Istria, the wetlands of Baranja, and the islands of Kornati National Park, where she can arrange private yacht charters.

\$800
concierge@visitcroatia.com

DENMARK, FINLAND, & SWEDEN

MELISSA LEE
Royal Travel

Lee travels to Scandinavia four times a year, visiting new properties and keeping up to date on culture, design, and fashion trends. Recent trips have included reindeer-sledding under the northern lights in Finnish Lapland, baking cinnamon rolls in a family kitchen in

the Stockholm Archipelago, and driving an electric Porsche on Norway's scenic Trollstigen Road.

\$1,500
mlee@royal-travel.com

THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN & GREECE

MINA AGNOS
Travelive

Splitting time between Athens and the Greek Islands allows Agnos to continuously seek new experiences, including those tailored to families with kids. Recent trips included a TikTok-dance checklist for teens and a training session in the Olympic Stadium in Athens for a young athlete.

\$1,000
mina@travelive.com

CHRISTOS STERGIU
TrueTrips

An expert in luxury Greece travel for two decades, Stergiou has organized a

Jewish heritage tour for a 20-person academic group, an island-hopping vacation for nine women seeking to reconnect, and a monthlong tour of classical Greece for a billionaire and five companions.

\$925
cstergiou@truetrips.com

EUROPE

TESA TOTENGGCO

Travels with Tesa

Totengco's strength lies in independent luxury travel, historical and cultural immersions, and finding the best local cuisine and traditional craft stores. Born in the Philippines, she spent much of her twenties traveling solo through Europe—a journey she recently helped a client, also a single woman in her twenties, re-create.

\$500
tesa@travelswithtesa.com

FRANCE

MARK BONTE
French Side Travel

Bonte, who founded French Side Travel with his father, Paul, in 2015, specializes in custom experiences. The duo has hands-on knowledge of French culture, whether it's a private dinner in a Provence farmhouse, a champagne "pique-nique" in the Tuilleries, or an exclusive tour of Versailles.

\$1,000 contact@frenchside-travel.com

FRANCE, ITALY, & THE U.K.

JIM STRONG
Strong Travel Services

Texas-based Strong and his team deftly organize travel for VIP clients throughout Europe, which can include dinners with dignitaries and jet and yacht charters. Recent hotels that have caught his eye include Raffles London at the OWO and Passalacqua, on Lake Como.

\$5,000
jim@strongtravel.com

FRANCE & MONACO

PHILIP HASLETT
French Promise

With 36 years of tourism experience throughout France, Haslett can open doors. That could mean an after-hours visit to the Louvre, a last-minute tour of top Burgundy vineyards, or a balloon ride over the Loire Valley (he was once a commercial pilot, after all). He also has extensive contacts in Monaco.

\$1,500
philip@frenchpromise.com

FRANCE, SPAIN, & TURKEY

CARMEN TERESA TARGA
Condado Travel

Puerto Rico-based Targa is seeing increased demand for Europe's great wine regions, as well as for family travel—two of her specialties. Recently, she enlisted an elementary-school teacher to guide a family with young kids through the Louvre and secured a Master Sommelier to guide a wine tasting in the

Côte de Nuits vineyards of Burgundy.

\$750 carmenttarga@condadotravel.com

FRANCE & SWITZERLAND

BOB PRESTON
GlobeBleu

As a 17-year veteran of luxury travel, Preston knows how to impress his clients. For 10 women celebrating a 60th birthday with a trip to France, he designed a week of fashion, art, Black heritage, and jazz that culminated in a gala dinner in Paris.

\$1,500
bob@globebleu.com

GREECE

PETROS ZISSIMOS
Hellenic Holidays

Zissimos is proud to specialize exclusively in Greece. "That allows me to continuously hone my craft," he says. Zissimos has booked trips with wood-fired-cooking classes on Naxos, luxury hotels on Páros, and wellness resorts throughout the Greek Isles.

\$450 pzissimos@hellenic-holidays.com

ICELAND

GWEN NICOL
Pelorus

Drawing upon her deep knowledge of Iceland, Nicol pulled out all the stops for an active family of five: camping in the highlands, a helicopter tour of an active volcano, fly-fishing at a remote lodge, and a four-night stay at the luxurious Deplar Farm.

\$1,750
gwen@pelorusx.com

JENNIFER SCHWARTZ

Authentic Explorations

Schwartz started her travel company in 1999 and has lived in Europe for much of that time, allowing her to develop unique trips and adventures such as swimming with beluga whales off the coast of Iceland. She is also well versed in Italy and—fun fact—is a licensed truffle hunter.

\$1,500 jennifer@authentic-explorations.com

IRELAND, NORTHERN IRELAND, & SCOTLAND

CROTHÚR MURPHY
Crafted Ireland

Murphy credits his "black book of connections" for his ability to create unforgettable trips, which have included a voyage to the Aran Islands and a deep dive into Gaelic heritage and history. He recently planned a multigenerational trip for a family of 12 and a last-minute itinerary for a client passionate about jewelry.

\$1,500
info@craftedireland.com

IRELAND & SCOTLAND

SIOBHAN BYRNE LEARAT
Adams & Butler

Learat tailors each trip around a theme, an experience, or encounters with luminaries and local heroes. That might include climbing to the top of Slieve League Mountain, in Ireland, or sipping whisky with the Jameson sisters in their ancestral home. She can plan special trips to Africa, too.

\$2,000
sales@adamsandbutler.com

IRELAND & THE U.K.

NICOLA BUTLER
NoteWorthy

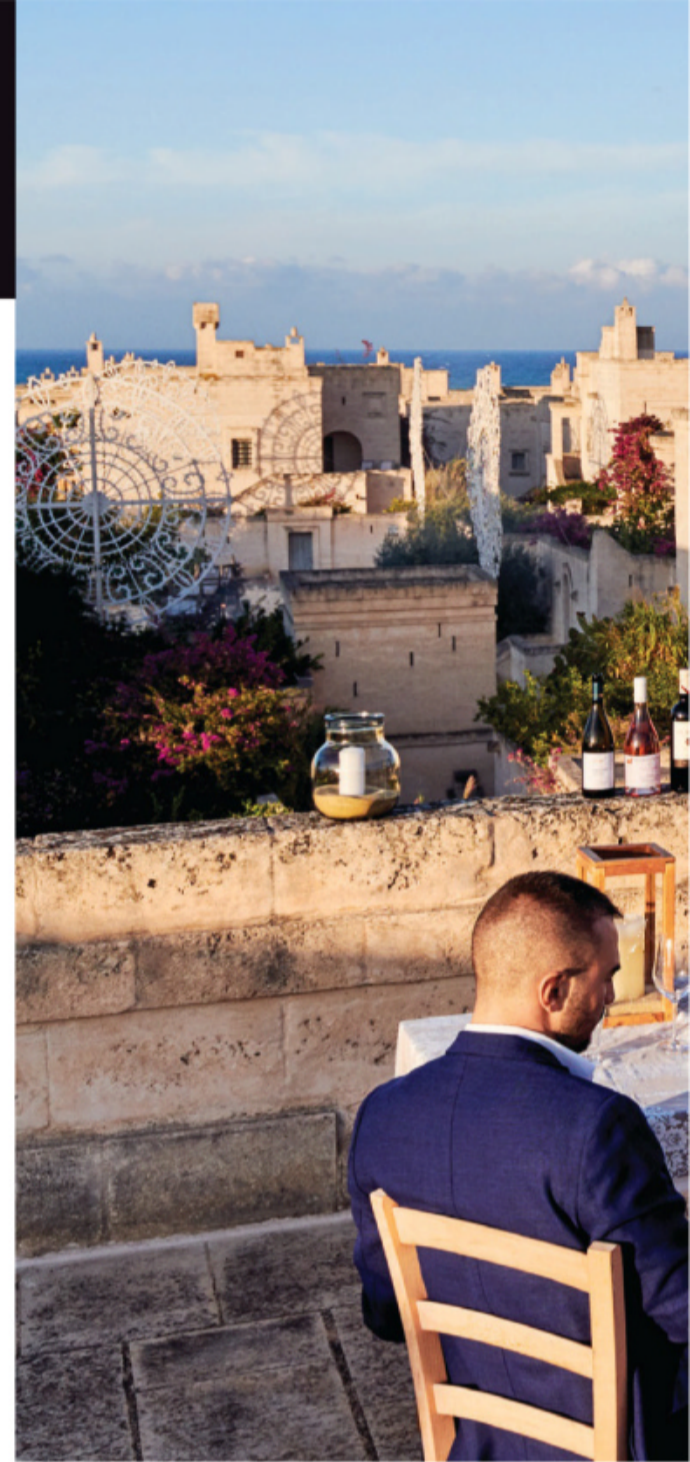
Butler specializes in accessing the inaccessible, especially for families. Trip highlights have included an exclusive tour of St. Patrick's Cathedral, in Dublin; a chef-led ramble around London's Borough Market (followed by dinner at the chef's house); and prime views of the coronation of King Charles III.

\$900
nicola@noteworthy.co.uk

JONATHAN EPSTEIN

Celebrated Experiences

Travel planning is in Epstein's blood: his parents founded the agency when he was 15. His itineraries have a personal touch, such as surprising a musical son with an impromptu jam session in Ireland, teaching student athletes the sport of Gaelic hurling, or giving fashion-minded clients a



rare tour of a 19th-century woolen mill.

\$1,500 jonathan@celebratedexperiences.com

ITALY

MATTEO DELLA GRAZIA & DANIELA MENCARELLI
Discover Your Italy

Born and raised in Italy, this couple focuses on hidden gems. "Travel is not just about visiting places; it's about connecting with the heart and soul of a destination," Della Grazia says. The firm encourages interactions with local artisans, including visiting a farm to try their hand at making buffalo mozzarella.

\$700 matteo@discoveryouritaly.com

JOYCE FALCONE

The Italian Concierge

Falcone believes in meeting with every hotel, restaurant, and vendor she works with. "This is the Italian way of conducting business," she



Advisors can set up alfresco wine tastings at Puglia's best resorts, such as Borgo Egnazia.

says. Recent hotel visits include Borgo Santandrea, on the Amalfi Coast, and the new suites at the Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco, in Tuscany.

\$1,000
info@italianconciierge.com

GINA GABBARD
OvationNetwork

This 28-year industry expert has long-standing connections in Italy. Gabbard is excited about the plethora of new hotels in Rome, including a Bulgari and a Six Senses. She also specializes in travel to Mexico and Central America.

ggabbard@theovationnetwork.com

ANDREA GRISDALE & STEFANO SANCASSANI
IC Bellagio

This mother-son duo works with a team of 32 that specializes in unique Italian experiences. Favorites

include driving around Rome in a vintage Fiat 500, fishing in the Venetian lagoon, and horseback riding with Tuscan cowboys.

\$825
andrea@icbellagio.com

GARY PORTUESI
Authentic Explorations

Portuesi regards each of Italy's 20 regions as a separate country with its own history, culture, and food. He especially enjoys planning trips to Sicily, where his parents were born, and where he has a home. Portuesi also co-owns a cooking school in New York City and is a certified wine expert.

\$1,250 info@authentic-explorations.com

JOHN SKELTON
John Skelton Travels

This Italy-based advisor takes pride in learning his clients' likes and dislikes,

which helps him craft a unique itinerary for each one. Skelton has planned private dinners in castles, chef-led tours of Sicily, and all kinds of outdoor adventures. While Tuscany and Sicily remain popular, he can also arrange trips to lesser-visited places like Veneto and Piedmont.

\$1,250
john@johnskeltontravels.com

ELI WAGNER
Wagner Bespoke Travel

Although Wagner has been a travel advisor for only a few years (she was previously a high-profile entertainment lawyer), she has already established herself as a leading player in ultra-luxury travel in Italy. She can turn the lights on at the Vatican, charter helicopters to Tuscan villas, and plan a last-minute getaway to Lake Como for a marriage proposal.

\$1,500
hotel@wagnertravel.com

KEITH WALDON

Departure Lounge

Waldon prioritizes meaningful, family-focused experiences—which, he says, are made possible by his insider connections. He loves showing clients less popular destinations and booking them at his favorite hotels, including the elegant 15th-century Palazzo Portinari Salviati, in Florence.

\$750 kwaldon@departurelounge.com

NORWAY

TORUNN TRONSVANG
Up Norway

Tronsvang's network of farmers, foragers, architects, and specialty guides ensures her clients have access to one-off experiences. These have included private tours of farms where cheese and cider are made, soaks in floating saunas, and home-cooked meals.

\$600
journays@upnorway.com

NORWAY & SWEDEN

KATE HERZ
Jacada Travel

Herz's calling card is her passion for culture and cuisine. She recently organized a 10-day tour of Swedish Lapland for a couple that included a stay at an eco-lodge on the Råne River, a hike with huskies, glamping in a *lavvu* tent, a boat tour on the Luleålv River, and a campfire dinner near Abisko National Park.

\$1,500
kate@jacadatravel.com

PORTUGAL

GONÇALO CORREIA
Tours for You

Correia can arrange for a private visit to Pena Palace, in Sintra; a tour devoted to Portuguese tilework; or a graffiti workshop in Lisbon. But what really sets him apart is his firsthand knowledge of the country. "It's one thing to have read about it," he says. "It's very different to have been there."

\$500 goncalo.correia@toursforyou.pt



▲ A view from the Süleymaniye Mosque, in Istanbul, where Engin Kadaster arranges many trips.

SHEREE MIRANDA MITCHELL
Immersa Global

As an American who has lived and worked in Portugal since 2015, Mitchell plans trips for a diverse clientele that includes affluent travelers of color. Her network of Portuguese insiders includes artists, chefs, winemakers, journalists, and a former U.S. ambassador.

\$550
sheree@immersaglobal.com

PORTUGAL & SPAIN

NINA AQUINO & PABLO ARGÜELLES
Bravo Luxury Travel

Aquino was previously an architect for New York's Soho House; Argüelles was a concierge. In 2017, the couple combined their diverse backgrounds in hospitality to offer bespoke itineraries that showcase the best of the Iberian peninsula's design, culture, and food.

\$875
info@bravoluxurytravel.com

DANILO CERQUEIRA
TempoVip Portugal & Spain

Whether it's curating a dinner at an art gallery with a Michelin chef or arranging a balloon ride over the cork region of Portugal, Lisbon-based Cerqueira knows how to craft unforgettable itineraries.

\$600 daniло.cerqueira@tempovip.com

MARCO PALERMO
Authentic Explorations

Palermo can arrange private tours that examine Bilbao's architecture and Seville's Moorish history. But where he really shines is his network of cooking schools, chefs, and winemakers, who might suggest a *pintxos* crawl in San Sebastián or a romantic dinner at a Gaudí-designed house in Barcelona.

\$1,250 marco@authentic-explorations.com

STEVEN VIGOR
Iberian Escapes

Vigor and his team make a point of highlighting rare experiences in Portugal and Spain. His clients have gone e-biking through the rice

fields and medieval towns of the Costa Brava, swimming with dolphins in the Azores, and stargazing in Alqueva, Portugal.

\$400
travel@iberian-escapes.com

SLOVENIA
RACHAEL MENDIZABAL
Scott Dunn

Mendizabal specializes in less-traveled destinations in Slovenia. Recent trips have included hiking the Julian Alps, truffle tasting in Istria, and a stay at the boutique hotel Zlata Ladjica, in Ljubljana. She has also sent clients on a private yacht cruise along the Dalmatian Coast.

\$1,500
rachael.mendizabal@scott-dunn.com

SPAIN
NIGEL HACK
Madrid & Beyond

Hack seeks to create "non-Googleable" experiences for clients who want to immerse themselves in local culture. These might include a Picasso-themed birthday celebration with flamenco

dancing and fireworks, a special dinner at an organic banana plantation on Tenerife, or a vow renewal at a lighthouse on Menorca.

\$600 nigel@madridandbeyond.com

JESUS REPETTO
Titanium Tours

Repetto prides himself on being able to make his clients feel special by offering perks like after-hours access to museums and monuments, cooking classes with top chefs, and surprise photo shoots with a professional photographer.

\$600
travel@titaniumtours.com

TURKEY

ENGIN KADASTER
Turkey at Its Best

For more than 40 years, Kadaster has specialized in creating itineraries backed by her knowledge as a former tour guide and archaeologist. Her list of must-dos includes Istanbul, Cappadocia, and the Thrace wine region.

\$500
engin@turkeyatitsbest.net

THE U.K.

ELLEN LECOMPTE
LeCompte Travel

Indulging her clients' passions is one of LeCompte's missions. She has arranged tea with a well-known ceramist for a design enthusiast, military-themed tours across Britain for history buffs, and lunch with cousins newly discovered thanks to LeCompte's work with a genealogist.

\$1,000 stephanie@lecomptetravel.com

RACHEL SHOEMAKER
Louisa White Travel

Wow-factor moments are what Shoemaker does best: a private tour of the Jewel House at the Tower of London, a personal shopper to outfit her clients for Royal Ascot, where they got special access to the Parade Ring, and dinner at a members-only club.

\$1,000
rachel@louisawhite.com

ARGENTINA, CHILE, & URUGUAY

MAITA BARRENECHEA
MAI10

Operating throughout South America for more than 40 years, Barrenechea focuses on gastronomy and wine, fly-fishing, and horseback riding. For a renowned chef's birthday celebration, she arranged a wild-caught meal in the Tierra del Fuego archipelago, where guests dove for king crab and mussels.

\$500 maita@mai10.com.ar

ARGENTINA & PERU

JEN RICHT
Jacada Travel

Richt whips up comprehensive Argentina vacations that take travelers' every desire into account. That might mean a traditional estancia stay in El Calafate or a wine tasting in the Uco Valley. Her expertise also extends to other South American countries, like Brazil and Chile.

\$1,500
jennifer@jacadatravel.com

BELIZE & GUATEMALA

PATRICIA JOHNSON
Absolute Belize

As a native Belizean, Johnson prioritizes experiences that are environmentally friendly and culturally responsible. During an equinox, considered a sacred holiday in the Indigenous Maya community, Johnson organized a private viewing of the sunset, as it perfectly aligned with the ancient Xunantunich ruins, from an artisan's workshop on a nearby hilltop.

\$500
patricia@absolutebelize.com

BRAZIL

PAUL IRVINE
Dehouche

Irvine might send clients on a scientific flight over the Amazon rainforest to collect cloud-water samples, which provide information about changing weather patterns. He can also arrange private drumming workshops in Rio de Janeiro with AfroReggae, a

band that supports charitable community projects.

\$1,200
paul.irvine@dehouche.com

COLOMBIA

BORIS SECKOVIC
Amakuna Travel

In his 17 years in business, Seckovic has planned encounters like a basketball scrimmage with a local team as well as far-reaching trips—like a 66-day tour of the entire country that included two weeks of trekking via horseback. One of his favorite new hotels to book is Casa Pestagua, a recently renovated 17th-century mansion in Cartagena that is the country's only Relais & Châteaux property.

\$600
boris@amakuna.com

COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA, & PANAMA

PIERRE GEDEON
Costa Adventures

Gedeon, who divides his time between Costa Rica and

Nicaragua, has thrown a barbecue on a deserted island in Panama and rented a fleet of top-of-the-line fishing boats for clients off the coast of Costa Rica. He makes a point of adding unexpected touches to every itinerary—including private boat charters.

\$450
travel@costa-adventures.com

CUBA

JOE SANDILLO
Exeter Latin America

Sandillo prides himself on being detail-oriented and hands-on in every trip he plans. For one automobile enthusiast, he arranged a visit to a body shop where his client could learn about maintaining the classic 1940s and 50s American cars that are still seen on Cuba's roads.

\$800
joe@exeterlatinamerica.com

ECUADOR & PERU

ALLIE ALMARIO
Premier Tours

With more than three decades of experience, Almario has a special knack for family-friendly Galápagos trips. During one multigenerational yacht cruise, she arranged two surprises: a photo shoot on a beach with sea lions and marine iguanas and a champagne christening of a Zodiac that had their name on a banner.

\$650
alliea@premiertours.com

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS & PATAGONIA

JORDAN HARVEY
Knowmad Adventures

This longtime travel expert has been on T+L's A-List for 11 years—and with good reason. He curates safari experiences in the Galápagos, arranges surprise visits with puma conservationists in Patagonia, and knows the best luxury lodges where his clients can enjoy South America's wild landscapes in total comfort.

\$700 jordan@knowmadadventures.com

On a Galápagos trip with A-Lister Erin Correia, travelers might see the landmark Pinnacle Rock on Bartolomé Island.



CHRIS WALLACE

ERIC SHEETS

Latin Excursions

A trip with Sheets might include a seaplane tour of Patagonia and the Atacama Desert bookended by world-class wine tastings or a villa stay in the Galápagos, where a celebrated biologist can teach guests about the evolution of the region's famous finches.

\$700

eric@latinexcursions.com

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS & PERU

ERIN CORREIA
Adventure Life

While some advisors may work with one or two cruise ships in the Galápagos, Correia maintains strong contacts with all the reputable lines—and travels there often to ensure that ships and hotels continue to meet her expectations. Recently she arranged pottery making with a local artisan, surfing lessons, wildlife viewing, and a cooking

class in a private home. She also plans trips to Antarctica. [\\$825 erin.correia@adventure-life.com](mailto:erin.correia@adventure-life.com)

MEXICO

ZACHARY RABINOR
Journey Mexico

In the 20 years since he founded his company, Rabinor has come to know every corner of Mexico, from the top resorts on the Pacific to the best places to eat in Oaxaca, plus how to get after-hours access to the ruins at Chichén Itzá. He maintains offices in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico City, and Cancún, which allows his team to meet many clients personally.

\$500

info@journeymexico.com

PANAMA

JESS HEUERMANN
Adventure Life

This Central American country has emerged as a compelling destination, and Heuermann helps clients discover all its charms,

whether on adventure-packed honeymoons—with ziplining, waterfall rappelling, and ATV rides—or culturally enriching family trips.

\$450

jess.h@adventure-life.com

PATAGONIA

JEANINNE SANZ
JSB Journeys

Sanz keeps her client list small so that her six-woman team can devote extra-close attention to every traveler. Their trips seamlessly blend outdoor adventure and luxury. Recently, one family went from a cozy glamping site in northern Patagonia to Los Cauquenes Resort & Spa, in Ushuaia, Argentina, and the White Desert Echo camp, in Antarctica.

\$600

jean@jsbjourneys.com

PERU

EMMANUEL BURGIO
Blue Parallel

Burgio takes a thoughtful approach to designing

purposeful trips. That might include a vacation at the tranquil Sol y Luna lodge, in Peru's Sacred Valley, which funds educational projects for children, or an expedition-style stay at the Napo Wildlife Center eco-lodge in the Amazon rainforest.

\$2,000

emmanuel@blueparallel.com

THOMAS ROBINSON
Dehouche

Robinson delights in arranging new ways to experience Peru: sending travelers to Pugio, the first luxury tented camp in the Colca Valley; chartering the *Hiram Bingham*, a Belmond Train, between Machu Picchu and Cuzco for a black-tie murder mystery; and arranging digital-detox trips with Andean or Amazonian healers. He also operates in Bolivia and Ecuador.

\$1,000 thomas.robinson@dehouche.com

SOUTH AMERICA GASTRONOMY

KAROLINA GUILCAPI
Sated Ventures

Guilcapi calls herself a “culinary anthropologist” who creates delicious moments for food-minded travelers. That may consist of grinding cacao in Ecuador's highlands, participating in hot-stone *pachamanca* baking in Peru, and tasting Malbec and Carmenere wines along the fjords of Patagonia.

\$500

info@satedventures.com

URUGUAY

OLIVIA SCHELLENBERG
Extraordinary Journeys

For two longtime friends who travel six weeks every year, Schellenberg crafted a trip that began with a stay at Bahia Vik José Ignacio resort (an art lover's haven), a class in making yerba mate in the town of Colonia, and a private sailboat tour of the Río de la Plata estuary at sunset. She's knowledgeable about Argentina and other South American countries as well.

\$900 olivia@extraordinaryjourneys.com

A Peru itinerary with A-Listers Emmanuel Burgio or Thomas Robinson might incorporate the Iglesia de la Compañía de Jesús, in Cuzco (left), or the mighty Andes in the Sacred Valley.



FROM LEFT: KIRA TURNBULL; JESSE CHEHAK

converted into wildlife reserves.
\$1,200 info@hippocreek.com
safari.com

SHAUN STANLEY
Stanley Safaris
 Stanley enjoys a challenge—specifically, planning complex trips that span several countries. For one couple, he arranged a seven-week itinerary to cross Namibia's desert terrain, followed by stays in South Africa and Tanzania. There was even time at the end for a visit to Madagascar.
\$1,000
shaun@stanley-safaris.com

TERESA SULLIVAN
Mango African Safaris
 Sullivan prioritizes connecting travelers with local specialist guides. At the six-tent Muzimu Camp in Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park, her clients can pair game drives with biking excursions to learn about Mozambican culture, including stops at local villages. She also plans trips to Egypt.
\$1,500
info@mangosafari.com

RAZA VISRAM
AfricanMecca Safaris
 This Kenya-born expert helps clients give back to the places they visit. He sits on the board of directors of Teach Rwanda, an NGO and early-childhood-education school. One couple was so inspired by their trip that they included a nonprofit, Help Aid Africa, in their will.
\$1,500
sales@africanmecca.com

LIZ WHEELER
Micato Safaris
 In Kenya, Wheeler's clients have run with sniffer dogs as they train to combat poaching, flown by helicopter over the Great Rift Valley to the Turkana Basin, with sights of flamingos along the way, and gone sand-boarding in the remote Suguta Valley.
\$3,250
lwheeler@micato.com

EGYPT
CHRIS BAZOS
Travelous
 In addition to planning tours of Egypt's highlights, Bazos fosters cultural connections for his clients. That might mean lunch in a mud house near Edfu or a scarf-making workshop with a textile expert. He enhances the cookie-cutter Nile cruise experience by assigning a private guide for each group.
\$500
requests@travelous.com

EGYPT & MOROCCO
CAMILLA CATLIN
Global Patina
 Catlin's clients trust her impeccable taste and attention to detail when it comes to travel in North Africa—including activities like camel rides in Morocco's legendary Erg Chebbi dunes. She'll also ensure there's minimal walking for less mobile travelers, babysitters for parents, snacks for the kids, and photographers there to capture it all.
\$2,500
camilla@global-patina.com

MALAKA HILTON
Admiral Travel International
 Drawing on her family ties to Egypt, Hilton can arrange special tours of the Sphinx with famed archaeologist Dr. Zahi Hawass and insider access to the preservation labs of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. She also has expertise planning trips in the U.A.E.
\$1,250
malaka@admiraltravel.com

ISRAEL & JORDAN
TOVA WALD
Tova Wald
 With Wald at the helm, travelers might find themselves learning how to cook local dishes in a culinary workshop in Jordan followed by a candlelit dinner or an architecture tour of Tel Aviv that takes in both the grand Rothschild Boulevard and the twisting, narrow streets of Neve Tzedek.
\$2,000
tova@tovawald.com

ISRAEL, JORDAN, & THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
JONATHAN ROSE & JOSEPH YUDIN
Touring Israel
 Surprise and delight are the specialties of this long-standing duo, whether it's a lavish outdoor breakfast in a wadi at the end of a sunrise hike, a visit to the Jewish-Muslim Ballet School in Jaffa for a moving performance, or an over-the-top bar mitzvah.
\$1,000
jonathan@touringisrael.com

JORDAN, OMAN, & THE U.A.E.
MO NOUBANI
The Travel Box International
 Born and raised in Oman and with relatives in Jordan, Noubani has personal connections throughout the region. He works with them to create special moments—like arranging a dinner with a local family or booking a last-minute seaplane for a *via ferrata* hike in the mountainous Jabal Al Akhdar region.
\$550 monoubani@travelboxinternational.com

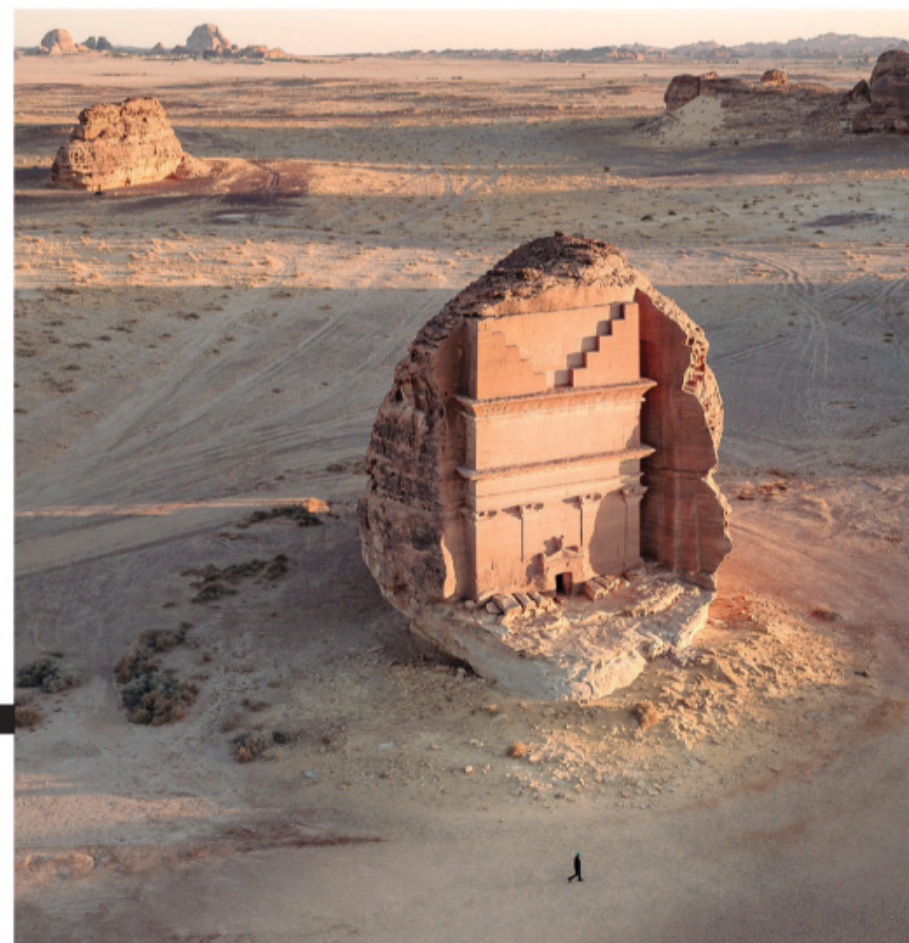
JORDAN & SAUDI ARABIA
STEPHANIE FISHER
Stephanie Fisher Travel
 Whether it's organizing a hike in Jordan's Wadi Rum at sunrise or crafting a

weeklong trip through Saudi Arabia (including a jaunt in a helicopter over the AlUla ruins and shopping in Riyadh's Deerah Souk), Fisher adds her own flair to every superlative experience. She also operates in Egypt.
\$900 stephanie@stephaniefishertravel.com

MOROCCO
MICHAEL DIAMOND
Cobblestone Private Travel
 A picnic in the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains; a stay at the 12-room Villa Mabrouka, once the home of Yves Saint Laurent; backstage access to the Gnaoua & World Music Festival in the city of Essaouira: Diamond can arrange it all.
\$900 michael@cobblestoneprivatetravel.com

OMAN, QATAR, & SAUDI ARABIA
AMALIA LAZAROV
Travelicious
 Lazarov specializes in female travel to the Middle East. Recently she organized a wellness-focused trip to Oman's Wahiba Sands, where her clients enjoyed kundalini yoga and tea-leaf readings before being whisked off by private jet to Abu Dhabi for shopping and hammam treatments.
\$250
amalia@247travel365.com

▼
 Advisors like Stephanie Fisher and Amalia Lazarov can set up visits to the Hegra archaeological site, in Saudi Arabia.



AIR TRAVEL

PAUL TUMPOWSKY

New Yonder

An expert at arranging discounted business- and first-class fares on major carriers, Tumpowsky—the founder and CEO of New Yonder—saves clients thousands of dollars by seamlessly navigating the increasingly complex world of aircraft, cancellations, upgrades, the onboard experience, and more.

\$730

p@newyonder.com

CULTURAL TRAVEL

KAREEM GEORGE

Culture Traveler

George has an eye for crafting travel experiences inspired by diverse cultures and his own deep love of art, fashion, and food. He has arranged private horseback riding in the gardens of Versailles, a grandmother-and-grandson trip through Japan, and pre-opening visits to the Prado. He travels frequently himself, including to Germany and South Africa.

\$1,000

kgeorge@culturetraveler.com

DESTINATION CELEBRATIONS

JODY BEAR

Bear & Bear Travel

Whether it's a multifamily vacation in Miami that included orchid scouting with a marine biologist in the swamps of the Big Cypress Preserve or a three-week trip to Taiwan and Japan for a small group of friends, Bear juggles logistics and details like a boss.

\$1,000

jodyb@beartvl.com

KRISTIN CHAMBERS

D. A. Luxury Travel & Travellustre

Chambers can turn any trip into a showstopper. For two families traveling together to Morocco, she created a night on the dunes with camels, an astrologist, and a top-rated chef from Marrakesh who whipped up a traditional Moroccan dinner.

\$750

kristin@daluxurytravel.com

ERINA PINDAR

SmartFlyer

For more than a decade, New York City-based Pindar has designed custom itineraries for an ultra-discerning clientele. She operates from the belief that the best trips begin with human connection and trusting relationships.

\$1,500

erina@smartflyer.com

DISNEY TRAVEL

MARY HELEN LAW

Mini Mouse Counselors

As a mother of two toddlers, Law has made it her specialty to take the stress out of multigenerational travel planning. For a family visiting Disney and staying at the Four Seasons Orlando, she transformed the daughters' room into a princess's palace, complete with a tent, flower arrangements, and balloon bouquets.

\$625

maryhelen@mousecounselors.com

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS TRAVEL

LINDA SCROGGINS

Affluent Luxury Travel

Scroggins is the founder and CEO of her company, an ultra-luxe agency that handpicks and curates life-changing journeys. That has included a trip to space with Virgin Galactic, a last-minute booking at Noma before it shuttered, and dinner with a Dallas Cowboy.

\$5,000

contactus@affluentluxurytravel.net

FAMILY TRAVEL

JESSICA GRISCAVAGE

Runway Travel

No matter the destination, Griscavage makes sure each family member is entertained throughout the trip. Heading to Rome? She'll set up a private tour of the Sistine Chapel and the Vatican for the parents, while the kids embark on an "Ancient Rome day" where they dress as gladiators and learn sword skills.

\$1,000

jessica@runwaytravelco.com



▲ Advisor Eleanor Hardy secures the best luxury rail accommodations. A favorite is the Prague Suite on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.

CHRISTIE HOLMES
Mi Familia Internacional

Holmes researches all types of out-of-the-box experiences. For one mother-daughter duo, she arranged a tour of Amsterdam's thrift stores and record shops; in India, she surprised a client's son with a private lesson with a magician.

\$500 christie@mifamiliainternacional.com

SHAWNA HUFFMAN OWEN
Huffman Travel

A former management consultant, Huffman Owen became a travel professional 16 years ago. She recently planned a 24-person family reunion in France that included a D-Day tour of Normandy via helicopter, private access to the Louvre, lunch at Alain Ducasse's

Le Grand Contrôle restaurant, and a yacht dinner on the Seine.

\$2,000

shawna@huffmantravel.com

JULIA B. PIRRUNG
Jetset World Travel

Hyper-personalization is what sets Pirrung apart. During one three-week family journey in Europe, she arranged court-side seats for her clients to watch Novak Djokovic play at the French Open in Paris. For a billionaire vacationing on St. Bart's, Pirrung made sure he had his favorite Burgundy wines in stock.

\$875

julia@jetsetworldtravel.com

FLY-FISHING

BETSY DONLEY
Camelback Odyssey Travel

Donley, who has cast her line in the American West, Cuba,

MATTIA AQUILA/COURTESY OF BELMOND

and New Zealand, draws on her personal passion to plan angling trips across the globe. She recently pulled off a 17-day trip that encompassed gorilla trekking in Rwanda, a balloon ride over the Masai Mara, and saltwater fly-fishing in the Seychelles. **\$1,000** betsyd@camelbacktravel.com

GOLF TRAVEL

JENNIFER WILSON-BUTTIGIEG
Chase Travel

Wilson-Buttigieg has a knack for crafting trips focused on golf. She balances hard-to-get slots at world-famous courses with visits to historical sites and city day trips. A recent eight-person trip through Scotland included the Dornoch putting greens, Loch Ness, and Edinburgh. **\$1,000** jennifer.wilson-buttigieg@chase.com

HIGH-SECURITY TRAVEL

SUSAN WHITSON
Susan Whitson Travel

As the former press secretary to First Lady Laura Bush, Whitson has the connections to give high-profile travelers peace of mind. Africa, the Middle East, and India are among her areas of focus. For one group interested in Indian politics, she designed an itinerary that included a visit to the Wagah Border ceremony, where they watched the elaborate daily border closing between India and Pakistan. **\$1,350** susan@whitsontravel.com

HONEYMOONS & DESTINATION CELEBRATIONS

JOSH ALEXANDER
Protravel International

Whether it's chartering a yacht along the southern coast of France or planning a blowout celebration in Punta Mita, Mexico (complete with helicopter rides to exclusive tequila distilleries), Alexander knows how to plan knockout trips. **\$700** josh.alexander@protravelinc.com

KARA BEBELL & HARLAN DEBELL
The Travel Siblings

This sister-brother duo can plan it all. A bachelor weekend in Scotland, a fairytale proposal in Venice, and a wedding on Mykonos are just a few of their recent tours de force. **\$1,250** hello@thetravelsiblings.com

KRISTEN KOREY PIKE
KK Travels Worldwide

Korey Pike has had her share of horror stories—missed flights and expired passports—but such snafus are no sweat for this seasoned advisor. She's planned marriage ceremonies on every continent, organized a 300-person wedding at Tuscany's famed Il Pellicano hotel, and is arranging a cruise buyout for a couple's Mediterranean nuptials. **\$1,000** kristen@kktww.com

HOTEL STAYS & INSIDER ACCESS

STEVE ORENS
Frosch Travel

A 30-year veteran of the travel industry, Orens is a senior vice president at Frosch Travel, a leading agency with more than 2,200 employees. He has close ties with top hotel brands around the world, including Four Seasons and Rosewood. **\$1,000** steve.orens@frosch.com

IMPACT TRAVEL
VENETIA MARTIN
Journeys With Purpose

Martin gets environmentally minded travelers into the heart of the conservation world. Last year, clients embarked on a trek through Argentina's Iberá wetlands led by Kristine Tompkins, former CEO of Patagonia and president of Tompkins Conservation. Martin also leads trips herself: she recently took a group into Romania's Southern Carpathian mountains, soon to be recognized as Europe's largest forested national park. **\$1,000** connect@journeyswithpurpose.org

LGBTQ TRAVEL
JOHN CLIFFORD
International Travel Management

As a longtime specialist in LGBTQ travel, Clifford knows how to cater to his clients' wishes while ensuring safety and privacy. For one couple who wanted to extend their Europe trip from the Côte d'Azur to Portofino, Clifford secured a suite at Splendido, a Belmond Hotel (during a sold-out week), plus an off-the-cuff yacht itinerary that included a romantic beach dinner in Liguria. **\$5,000** john@international-travelmanagement.com

DAVID RUBIN
DavidTravel

Rubin prides himself on maintaining trusted relationships so that clients feel at home wherever they go. In countries where homosexuality is taboo or illegal, he opens doors for clients to socialize with local LGBTQ community members and allies. For families with trans children, he takes special care to provide contextual destination briefings and conscientious guides. **\$1,000** request@davidtravel.com

LUXURY RAIL TRAVEL
ELEANOR HARDY
The Society of International Railway Travelers

Hardy puts her 40 years of experience into crafting five-star journeys along the world's most iconic rail routes. She rides every train she books, including two of Belmond's trains: the *Andean Explorer*, in Peru, and the *Venice Simplon-Orient-Express* from Paris to Istanbul. She can also arrange VIP airport service, stays at five-star hotels, and the best guides in each destination. **\$1,500** ehardy@irtsociety.com

OVER-THE-TOP TRIPS
JACK EZON
Embark Beyond

No feat is out of reach for Ezon, who has arranged private-island weddings in

the Mediterranean and resort buyouts at places like Jumby Bay Island in Antigua and Barbuda. He recently reconstructed an entire beach in the Seychelles after a hurricane washed it away. **\$2,750** jack@embarkbeyond.com

STACY FISCHER-ROSENTHAL
Fischer Travel

Fischer-Rosenthal leads a membership-only, fee-based travel and lifestyle company founded by her father in 1973. The duo are known for creating money-is-no-object experiences, whether it's a private dinner in the Hamptons prepared by Eric Ripert, watching the Super Bowl from a suite, a workout with Daniel Craig, or a wedding at Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc during the Cannes Film Festival. **\$2,000** travel@fischertravel.com

BARKLEY HICKOX
Local Foreigner

Hickox and her team hyper-personalize every detail for her high-net-worth clients—the company recently arranged a buyout of Ted Turner's private Flying D Ranch, in southwest Montana. **\$1,500** barkley.hickox@localforeigner.com

POLAR TRAVEL
JONATHAN ALDER
Jonathan's Travels

Alder has organized three-week jaunts around the Arctic, including a full circumnavigation of Svalbard, Norway, as well as numerous expeditions to Antarctica. He also likes to wow clients with wildlife experiences on South Georgia Island, which is home to hundreds of thousands of king penguins. **\$1,500** jonathan.a@jonathans-travels.us

SARAH GROEN
Bell & Bly Travel

Although Groen plans trips worldwide (and has visited more than 100 countries), she takes a keen interest in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. Lately, she's been booking stays at Antarctica's

SPECIAL INTEREST

White Desert camps. She also hosts a weekly podcast, *Luxury Travel Insider*.

\$1,300
hello@bellandblytravel.com

PRIVATE TRAVEL

DAVID LOWY
Renshaw Travel

Vancouver-based Lowy has been curating exceptional travel experiences for more than 30 years. He has deep relationships with super-luxury brands like Aman, Rosewood, and Singita. "We can open doors that people didn't know even existed."

\$1,500
dlowy@renshawtravel.com

REMOTE EXPEDITION TRAVEL

WILL BOLSOVER
Natural World Safaris

This conservation-minded outfitter specializes in hard-to-get-to places. Clients, who have included journalists and filmmakers, might join researchers on a rhino-tagging excursion in Rwanda, search for Arctic foxes in Greenland, or view polar bears and walrus in Svalbard.

\$1,250 sales@naturalworldsafaris.com

SKI TRIPS & YACHT CHARTERS

KENDRA THORNTON
Royal Travel

Thornton is the owner and president of a luxury agency founded by her parents more than 50 years ago. She can curate last-minute family adventures on every continent, once-in-a-lifetime trips to Bhutan and Jordan, epic ski adventures in France, and yacht charters in the Caribbean.

\$700
kthornton@royal-travel.com

WELLNESS TRAVEL

TIFFANY LAYNE
LaVon Private Luxury

Layne zeroes in on her clients' well-being, whether that means skiing in Niseko, Japan, hiking in the Himalayas, or indulging in an Istanbul hammam. Her favorite wellness resorts include Euphoria Retreat, in the Peloponnese, in Greece, and Octola, a pair of chalets with sweeping views of Finnish Lapland. She also specializes in private travel.

\$1,300 tiffany@lavonprivateluxury.com

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

LILY BUNKER
Jacada Travel

Wildlife and gastronomy are Bunker's passions: she knows the best empanada joints in Buenos Aires, the most delicious ceviche in Lima, and where to see whales in Antarctica. She recently designed a four-week trip through South America that included jaguars in Brazil, tango in Argentina, and flamingos in Bolivia.

\$1,250
lily@jacadatravel.com

WINE TRAVEL

MEG NOLAN
Friend of a Friend Trip Design

As a certified wine expert, Nolan has the passion and knowledge to craft detailed itineraries for any oenophile. She recently planned a five-day trip to Mendoza, Argentina, that was timed to the harvest and included horseback riding, spa treatments, and *pádel* tennis. Naturally, she also knows the best of European wine country, including Bordeaux, Champagne, and Tuscany.

\$500 meg@friendofafriendconsulting.com

TRAVEL ADVISORY BOARD

This elite group, which shares its industry knowledge with the editors of T+L, oversees tens of thousands of individual trips each year. While not all of these 26 experts personally assist clients, many do—you can find them throughout the 2024 A-List directory under their respective specialties. The rest lead teams who excel at creating memorable adventures.

MARCUS BARLOW
American Express

As a vice president of Travel and Lifestyle Services, Barlow helms a team of 2,400 experts who create bespoke trips around the world for premium-card members.
marcus.c.barlow@aexp.com

KATIE CADAR
See Africa & Safaris, PAGE 40

ROB CLABBERS
See Cruises, PAGE 48

JACK EZON
See Special Interest, PAGE 53

STACY FISCHER-ROSENTHAL
See Special Interest, PAGE 53

GINA GABBARD
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KAREEM GEORGE
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MARK LAKIN
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DAVID LOWY
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STEVE ORENS
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ERINA PINDAR
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JULIA B. PIRRUNG
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OLGA PLACERES
See Cruises, PAGE 48

SANDY SCHADLER
Travelink
Schadler is the chief marketing officer and

executive vice president of vacation travel services at Travelink, which books leisure vacations and business travel. Though she doesn't book trips directly, she has expertise in Germany, the Middle East, and Romania.
sandy.schadler@travelink.com

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JIM STRONG
See Europe, PAGE 31

CARMEN TERESA TARGA
See Europe, PAGE 34

KENDRA THORNTON
See Special Interest, PAGE 54

TESA TOTENGCO
See Europe, PAGE 31

PAUL TUMPOWSKY
See Special Interest, PAGE 52

DAVID VAN NESS
All-Travel
Van Ness's expertise for business began in New York's luxury fashion scene; today he's vice president of All-Travel, where he specializes in corporate travel and cruises.
davidvn@all-travel.com

KEITH WALDON
See Europe, PAGE 35

KEMI WELLS-CONRAD
See Australia, New Zealand, & the South Pacific, PAGE 47

KIMBERLY WILSON WETTY
Chase Travel
Wilson Wetty was recently named the head of brand culture at Chase Travel, after serving as co-president of Valerie Wilson Travel for nearly three decades. Drawing upon her expertise in planning family trips, she will support the company's travel advisor community and branding strategy.
kimberly.wetty@chase.com

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\$1,300
hello@bellandblytravel.com

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\$700
kt Thornton@royal-travel.com

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\$1,300 tiffany@lavonprivateluxury.com

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\$1,250
lily@jacadatravel.com

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davidvn@all-travel.com

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kimberly.wetty@chase.com



Hawaii specialist Marilyn Clark can arrange eco-minded trips on Oahu.

ANGUILLA, ANTIGUA, & ST. LUCIA

MARGIE HAND
Andavo Travel

Hand knows how to dazzle: she can arrange sunset proposals, book private yoga instructors, and rent multiple villas for family reunions. She also keeps her finger on the pulse of all things Caribbean; her eye is set on the 53-acre Montage Cay, a private-island resort set to open in the Bahamas this year.

\$1,000 margie.hand@andavo-travel.com

CALIFORNIA WINE

MICHELLE MURRÉ
Azurine Travel

Napa Valley-based Murré has built relationships with many of the best wineries and can offer exclusive access. Clients have enjoyed birthday dinners at the French Laundry, private dinners in wine caves, and VIP tastings.

\$2,000 michelle@azurinetravel.com

CANADA

MARC TELIO
Entrée Canada & Alaska

Indigenous experiences are central to Telio's trips. These might include viewing the northern lights with a Nunatsiavut guide in Torngat Mountains National Park or snowmobiling with an Inuvialuit host in the Northwest Territories followed by a tasting of home-cooked *muktuk* (fermented beluga whale). He also operates in Alaska.

\$1,250 marc@entree-destinations.com

THE CARIBBEAN

BRITTNEY MAGNER
Royal Travel & Tours

Magner's expertise is luxury family travel. While she knows the best places to stay in St. Bart's and Anguilla—including where to find the nicest welcome amenities and most plugged-in concierge—she is also a wiz

at European destinations like the Amalfi Coast.

\$1,250 bmagner@royal-travel.com

THE CARIBBEAN & THE U.S.

MARIA DIEGO
Diego Travel

For a family of five road-tripping in northern California, Diego curated a mix of adventurous and educational activities, like a guided UTV ride through the redwoods, as well as the chance for the kids to plant seedlings. For the parents, she planned a wine tasting and art tour of Donum Estate, which boasts art by Ai Weiwei.

\$1,000 maria@diegotravel.com

HAWAII

MARILYN CLARK
Lighthouse Travel

For a family looking to reconnect, Clark arranged a three-day visit with an Indigenous Hawaiian healer

who taught them about *la'au lapa'au*, or herbal medicine. Another group spent a day with a farmer on Oahu learning about the island's sustainable practices and preparing a meal with the fruits and vegetables they'd gathered.

\$700 marilyn@lighthouse-travel.net

ST. BART'S & TURKS AND CAICOS

HENLEY VAZQUEZ
Fora

Vasquez is the cofounder of a tech-driven travel agency that taps into a network of independent advisors who specialize in the Caribbean and elsewhere. Highlights of past trips include an epic birthday bash on St. Bart's. She is seeing strong interest in Bermuda, St. Lucia, Aruba, and Puerto Rico.

\$500 bookings@foratravel.com

U.S. NATIONAL PARKS

MIKE AUGUSTINE
MT Sobek

For a family trip through South Dakota, Augustine set up hiking in Badlands National Park and bison tracking in Custer State Park, as well as a visit to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. There, an Indigenous guide took the clients to the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre and spoke about the impact the reservation had on the Lakota people.

\$700 mikeaugustine@mtsobek.com

U.S. SOUTHWEST

MARY CROPPER
Audley Travel

Cropper, who grew up in Santa Fe, creates itineraries that explore the natural wonders of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. These might include photography workshops around Utah's national parks or staying at hotels with the best views, such as Amangiri, in Canyon Point, and Ambiente, in Sedona.

\$300 mary.cropper@audley-travel.com