

VOYCGE EDITION 8 2025



EXTRAORDINARY ESCAPES

Everything to a T.

Lapland | New Zealand | The Balkans | Canada | Africa | Japan The Kimberley | UK | Ireland | Vietnam | Cambodia



Welcome to Voyage

as the year draws to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on a season of milestones for APT. In 2025, we proudly launched our groundbreaking new European river ships, APT Solara and APT Ostara, an exclusive twin fleet that has doubtlessly heralded a new era in luxury travel. We also broadened our horizons more than ever before, delivering unforgettable journeys across the globe.

As we look towards 2026, our excitement only grows as we approach APT's second century. With the extraordinary heritage of a centenary as a touchstone, we remain focused firmly on the road ahead. For us, a legacy of achievement brings with it a duty to create an equally exceptional future, and in this issue of *Voyage*, this belief takes centre stage.

In 2026, our journeys span every continent, season and style. Winter in the northern hemisphere offers unexpected invigoration — embrace the snow-draped wonderland of Lapland, staying in a custom-built glass igloo (page 30), and see nostalgic dreams brought to life with the ultimate White Christmas in Canada (page 32). Be captivated by the raw power of Niagara Falls (page 12), and revel in

the wild, windswept coasts of Britain and Ireland on an ultra-luxury expedition cruise (page 24).

You'll also journey along the Danube through the Balkans (page 8), explore Africa's safari frontiers with Tour Director Anne Van der Meulen (page 14), uncover authentic experiences in Japan (page 18), and delve into nature's finest sanctuaries found between Vietnam and Cambodia's cosmopolitan hubs (page 26).

Closer to home, discover the ultimate way to experience the Kimberley — whether that be by coastal cruise or outback 4WD — with APT crew members Margie Colbeck, and Tony and Linda Goodlet (page 20), and be awestruck by New Zealand's Doubtful Sound/Patea (page 4).

While a century of experience guides us, innovation drives us, and we're thrilled to share our evergrowing range of elevated experiences with you in 2026 and beyond.

Bon Voyage, Lou Tandy (nee McGeary) and Robert McGeary APT Company Owners

Explore our new website at aptouring.com.au Search for us on socials at @APTOURING

EDITION 8 | 2025

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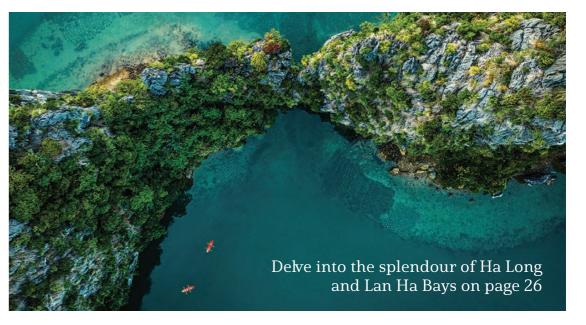
Beneath crystalline skies, Lapland transforms with the seasons into a wonderland of white-swathed forests, glass-domed igloos, and Arctic adventure.

32 Wrapped in Wonder

Christmas in Canada is a most wonderful time of year, where grand alpine chateaus, sleigh rides by frozen lakes, and the snow-draped Rockies await.



Cover: Lapland, Finland





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Voyage magazine is published for APT Australia Pacific Touring (ABN 44004 684 619). All rights reserved. Printed by Southern Impact, Melbourne. Both the printer and paper used to produce this document have ISO 14001 environmental certification. The paper is from sustainably managed forests using elemental chlorine free pulp and is printed by Southern Impact using vegetable-based inks.



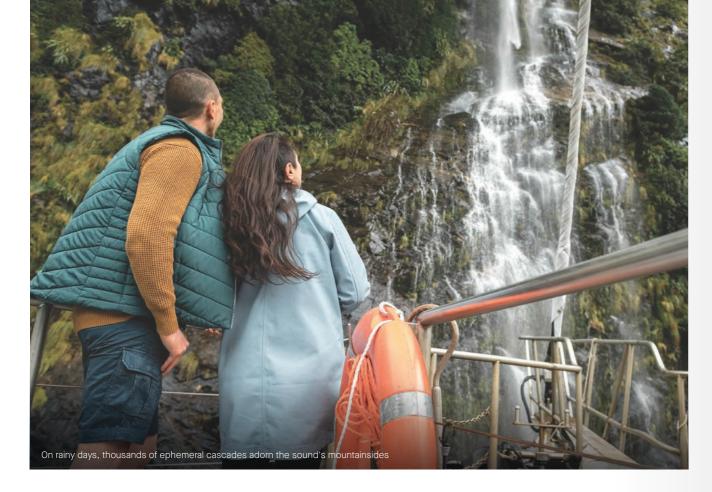


radled deep within the South Island's untamed heart, Doubtful Sound/Patea stretches 40 kilometres into Fiordland's wilderness — vast, brooding and profoundly still. A natural amphitheatre of staggering scale, with deep waters and hidden coves, Patea captivates through its hushed grandeur and rainforest-draped mountains, all harbouring a silence so profound it feels almost spiritual. Accessible only by water, this remote sanctuary invites a deeper connection to nature. An overnight voyage aboard the Fiordland Navigator unveils the sound's shifting moods — from veiled mist to sunlit serenity — in rare intimacy.

The first impression is striking: sheer cliffs and verdant slopes dissolve into glassy depths and an ever-shifting play of light transforms the fjord from solemn grey to luminous blue. Here, rain is an artist — drawing silken waterfalls down colossal cliffs in fleeting, ethereal displays. The air is sharp with ocean salt and the earthy fragrance of rainforest. And the soundtrack is elemental: birdsong echoing in the canopies, cascades roaring against granite, bottlenose dolphins breaking the water with playful splashes, and, above all, long stretches of meditative silence. On Patea, stillness is not absence, but presence — the raw voice of nature undisturbed.

The Fiordland Navigator balances expedition spirit with subdued luxury. Combining a timeless nautical aesthetic – inspired by traditional trading scow vessels – with thoughtful modern design, the ship features private en suite cabins





and spacious viewing decks. Inviting shared spaces frame views that need no embellishment, offering a sense of comfort that complements, rather than competes with, the grandeur outside.

As the vessel anchors in sheltered coves, guests gather over freshly baked scones and platters of local salmon. Soon after, kayaks and tender boats slip into the still water, offering rare proximity to this pristine environment — whether tracing the glassy surface beneath towering cliffs or drifting quietly past basking fur seals. Close encounters with marine life may inspire the boldest guests to later leap from the ship's decks into the sound's icy waters — a jolt of exhilaration that etches itself into memory.

Evening heralds a generous buffet on board: succulent lamb, fresh vegetables and regional cheeses, accompanied by indulgent desserts. Conversation flows easily, buoyed by the warmth of the crew and the insights of an onboard naturalist. Later, a step onto the deck reveals a vault of stars unsullied by city light — constellations glittering over the darkened fjord in luminous clarity. As dawn filters through the mist of morning, breakfast is served against a panorama of awakening peaks before the ship slips quietly into new reaches of the fjord.

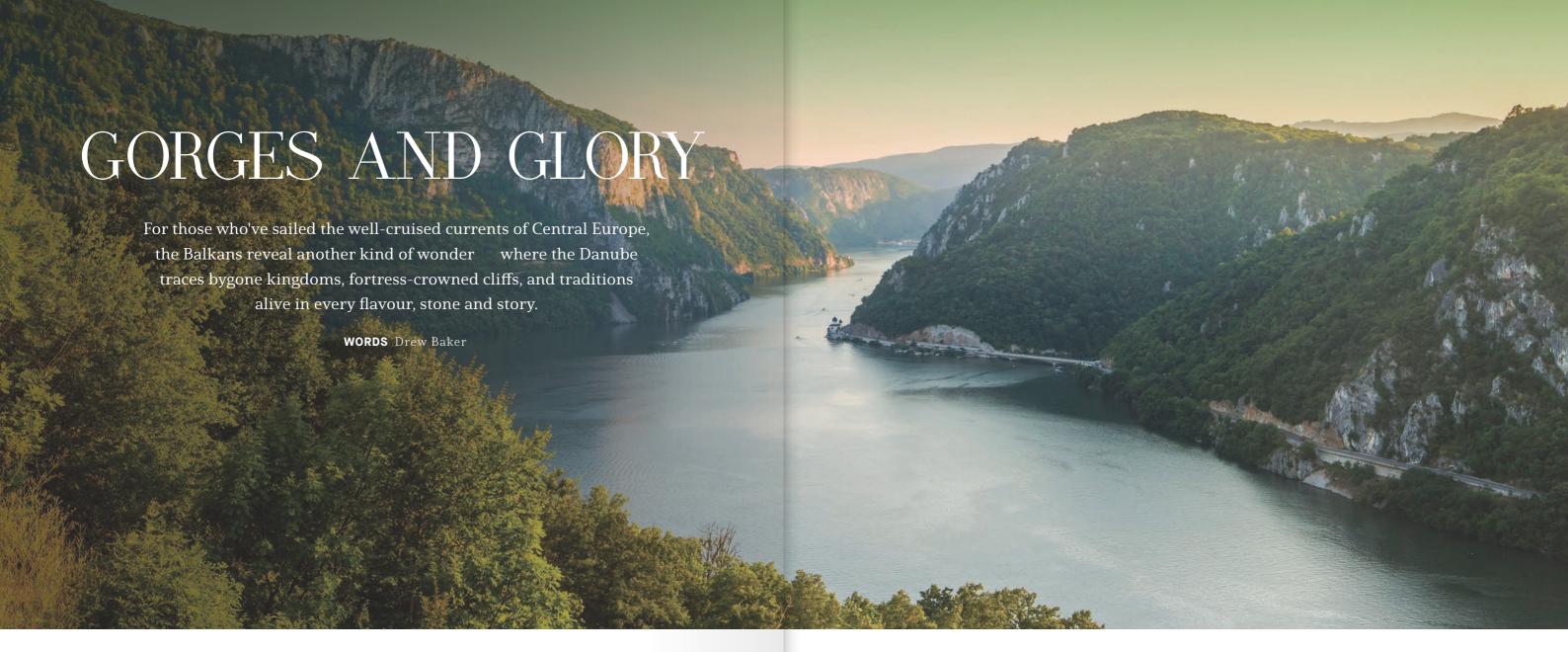
An overnight cruise on Patea lingers well beyond the voyage itself. The remoteness, the tranquillity, the evershifting interplay of weather and light — together they form an experience of profound depth. Yet what makes it truly memorable is the unique pause it offers within

a broader journey. Beforehand lie the lively streets of Queenstown and the majesty of Milford Sound; afterwards, the grounded charm of Invercargill and the wild solitude of Stewart Island/Rakiura. Between these backdrops, silence and scale conspire, and time stretches. Patea is not simply a place to see, but a place to feel — where nature's rhythm takes precedence and perspective shifts in subtle, lasting ways.

DOUBTLESS PRAISE

APT guests consistently depart Doubtful Sound/Patea with memories that linger long after the journey ends. Felicity Land and her mother, Gay Petfield, travelled through New Zealand with APT. Land describes the Patea cruise as her ultimate highlight, praising the stunning scenery, as well as the ship's crew, amenities and dining. "Fiordland is the ultimate destination for all who appreciate nature's wonders. Every moment of our cruise offered breathtaking views, and I especially loved the sunset mirrored in the still waters, and the chance to kayak and swim in the sound." Her mother also cherished the broader adventures beyond Patea, particularly the rail journeys. Together, their experience captures the magic of exploring New Zealand with APT, where each carefully curated moment invites a deeper appreciation of the country's natural splendour.





luxury cruise through the Balkan Peninsula and Hungary reveals a tapestry of cultures and landscapes, where rivers carve through dramatic gorges, farmsteads hum with tradition, and taverns serve recipes passed down through generations. From kayaking along Belgrade's waterways to sailing through the Iron Gates and exploring the grand streets of Bucharest, each day unveils a new layer of the region's identity.

Dive into Serbian culinary traditions at a lively market in Belgrade, where the scent of cured meats and fresh cheese mingles with the sweet aroma of medenjaci - gingerbread biscuits crafted from recipes passed down through generations. A sip of rakija, Serbia's fiery fruit brandy, completes the experience. As an alternative, opt to paddle along the Danube and Sava Rivers on a guided kayak tour, tracing Belgrade's historic waterfront to the inner-city nature retreats of Great War Island and Lido Beach.

Golubac reveals a storybook village steeped in history. Wander the ramparts of its 14th-century fortress before following the Danube's edge to a riverside

tavern, where you'll savour a tasting of Serbian meze, featuring cheeses, cured meats and local delicacies.

As your ship slips away from Golubac, the river narrows, and the landscape begins to rise. Here, the Danube carves a path between the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains, forming the Iron Gates — a natural spectacle of sheer cliffs and ancient stone. From the Sun Deck, witness weathered rock faces etched with carvings, remnants of fortresses, and the quiet power of a gorge that has shaped civilisations.

Grandeur and grit intertwine across wide boulevards and belle époque façades in Bucharest. Wander through the cobbled lanes of the Old Town, where the Royal Court and Stavropoleos Church whisper tales of Romania's layered past. After lunch, opt to visit the neoclassical Palace of the Parliament, a colossal monument to ambition and scale. Or explore the Village Museum in King Michael I Park, where traditional homes, windmills and wooden churches offer a vivid portrait of rural life — preserved in the heart of the capital.

In Bulgaria, Belogradchik Fortress rises from the crimson cliffs of the Balkan Mountains, its Romanbuilt citadel still guarding the ancient road to Ratiaria. Wander through its three fortified courtyards, past cannon embrasures and bastions that once held Ottoman garrisons. From the First Slab, take in sweeping views of the surreal Belogradchik Rocks — a landscape as storied as the stronghold itself, where myth and empire meet in silence and stone.

As you cruise downstream back towards Budapest, Hungary's folk heritage comes alive through embroidery, painted eggs and paprika in Kalocsa. A spirited horse show and authentic lunch in Puszta round out the experience — leaving you with a journey rich in connection, colour and quiet wonder.

A voyage through the Balkans is more than a passage along the Danube — it's a step into living history, where ancient rivers whisper of empires past, fortresses rise in silent command, and traditions linger in every taste, every stone, and every tale shared along the way.



(Top to bottom) The gorges of the Danube form a natural border between Romania and Serbia: authentic comfort food

FOUR BALKAN BITES

A Region of Many Tongues

The Balkans are among Europe's most linguistically diverse regions, with over 20 distinct languages spoken across the peninsula. In border towns, you might hear Hungarian, Romani, or even German and Turkish. This rich blend reflects centuries of cultural exchange — making every conversation its own discovery.

Where Three Seas Meet

Cradled by the Adriatic, Aegean, and Black Seas, the Balkan Peninsula is framed by a unique trifecta of maritime coasts. This geographical diversity shapes everything from cuisine to climate, offering travellers alpine peaks, sun-drenched beaches, and river-carved gorges — often within a day's journey.

Turbo-Folk: A Balkan Beat

Blending traditional folk melodies with electronic rhythms, turbo-folk is the region's most distinctive sound. Born in the late 1980s, it's bold, brash, and beloved — a musical expression of Balkan resilience, rebellion, and flair. You'll hear it everywhere from roadside cafes to latenight dance floors.

Borders with a Twist

The Balkans boast some of Europe's quirkiest borders — think enclaves, exclaves, and even a tripoint where Serbia, Croatia, and Hungary converge. These complex lines tell tales of empires, wars, and shifting identities, making the map as fascinating as the terrain itself.





15-DAY RIVER CRUISE Voyage Through the Balkans

01 →	ARRIVE BUDAPEST Fourteen nights aboard APT Ostara
02	BUDAPEST City tour, funicular ride, or culinary tour
03	MOHACS Pécs sightseeing, Villány wine tasting, or guided bike ride
04	VUKOVAR Vukovar city tour
05	BELGRADE Kayak tour, guided exploration, or culinary tour
06	GOLUBAC, IRON GATES CRUISING Golubac Fortress and meze tasting

	80	GIURGIU, BUCHAREST Bucharest city tour
	09	RUSE, VELIKO TARNOVO Veliko Tarnovo tour led by an expert local guide
wine de	10	VIDIN, BELOGRADCHIK Belogradchik Fortress visit
	11	SCENIC CRUISING
ration,	12	NOVI SAD Guided city tour or local farmstead visit
	13	KALOCSA, PUSZTA Folk art house visit and

Puszta horse show

SCENIC CRUISING	14	BUDAPEST
		Hospital in the Rock Nuclear
GIURGIU, BUCHAREST		Bunker Museum or Gellért H
Bucharest city tour		guided hike

15 **DISEMBARK SHIP, DEPART BUDAPEST**

Find out more:

Search EUVC15 at aptouring.com.au From \$6,895 per person, twin share.* Departing March 2026 to April 2027. *Conditions apply – see page 35

FORTUNE FLOWS AT NIAGARA FALLS

Like the charm it so closely resembles, the horseshoe-shaped Niagara Falls bestows good fortune on those who behold its majestic might.

WORDS Felicia Arhontissas

hether drawn by love, wanderlust, or serendipity, visitors find themselves swept up in the grandeur – and good luck – of Niagara Falls. Straddling the border of Canada and the US, this powerful natural wonder has bewitched visitors for centuries. The well worn phrase "good things come in threes" rings especially true when faced with the trifecta of waterfalls – Horseshoe Falls, the American Falls, and Bridal Veil Falls – that together form the formidable Niagara.

Since the 1800s, Niagara Falls has been celebrated as one of the most popular honeymoon destinations in the Americas. Lucky in love newlyweds first flocked to Niagara-on the-Lake to soak in the breathtaking views, particularly of the waterfalls, which surge at an astonishing 2.4 million litres per second. Today, couples from around the world continue to visit, drawn by the falls and the town itself.

Throughout history, this luck also beckoned the boldest daredevils. Thrill-seekers craving adrenaline and glory faced the ultimate challenge: barrel riding. The first recorded ride was in 1901, when 63-year-old schoolteacher Annie Edson Taylor sealed herself inside a barrel and miraculously survived the tumble down the 51 metre drop. Since then, not every rider has been so fortunate proving that

conquering Niagara Falls demands more than just courage.

If you find yourself among the fortunate standing before the mist-shrouded majesty of the falls, there are a handful of ways to make your visit truly memorable. Begin with a thrilling cruise that carries you to the thunderous base of the cascades, where the roar of the water envelops you. For a breathtaking vantage point, take to the skies aboard a scenic helicopter flight, offering panoramic views of all three magnificent waterfalls.

Niagara-on the-Lake offers its own quiet charm. Wander by beautifully preserved 19th century dwellings, peruse quaint boutiques, or savour a tasting of the region's famed Icewine – a sweet dessert wine made from grapes frozen on the vine.

As dusk falls, the cascades are illuminated with a kaleidoscopic light display. Especially when admired from the refined comfort of a Fallsview Room at Niagara Falls Marriott Fallsview Hotel & Spa, there is no finer way to end the day. Whether it's the vistas, the mesmerising roar, or the sheer wonder of the moment, your visit will leave you with a lasting sense of awe – and a touch of Niagara's auspicious magic.

17-DAY TOUR Eastern Canada and New England Cruise

- ARRIVE TORONTO MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC CITY 01 +
- TORONTO
- TORONTO, NIAGARA FALLS Niagara-on-the-Lake exploration Niagara Falls vis<u>it</u>
- NIAGARA FALLS, THOUSAND ISLANDS, OTTAWA Thousand Islands cruise
- OTTAWA Freedom of Choice sightseeing Progressive dining experience
- OTTAWA, MONTRÉAL Sugar shack experience
 - MONTRÉAL Freedom of Choice sightseeing AURA Experience at Notre-Dame Basilica of Montréal

- Two nights at Fairmont <u>Le Château Frontenac</u>
- QUÉBEC CITY
- QUÉBEC CITY, EMBARK SHIP Seven nights aboard Holland Verandah Stateroom
- DAY AT SEA St. Lawrence River cruising
- DAY AT SEA Gulf of St. Lawrence
- PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND Visit Charlottetown or the Anne of Green Gables homestead
- SYDNEY Cape Breton Island exploration in Nova Scotia

- HALIFAX Halifax exploration
- PORTLAND City sightseeing
- DISEMBARK SHIP, **DEPART BOSTON**

Find out more:

Search UTE17 at aptouring.com.au From \$12,695 per person, twin share.* Departing May to September 2026. *Conditions apply see page 35

AFRICA'S GRANDEST GAME

Wildlife expert and APT Tour Director Anne Van der Meulen shares her most intriguing moments and insights captured over three decades guiding guests on safari in Africa.

AS TOLD TO Mark Lee





When has the wild taken you most by surprise?

While watching a herd of elephants drinking from a watering hole, one suddenly rested the tip of her trunk gently on my shoulder. It was a moment of quiet connection I'll never forget. Another time, I was woken in the night by the deep, resonant grunts of lions calling to one another across the darkness — a sound that still echoes in my memory.

Which wildlife encounters have stayed with you most vividly?

There have been countless unforgettable moments, but one stands apart — witnessing a giraffe give birth during a game drive in Botswana. It was a moving, intimate glimpse into the circle of life and a memory that returns to me each time I visit Chobe National Park. On another occasion, I watched an entire elephant herd guide a baby elephant safely across the Chobe River.

What is it about Chobe Game Lodge that makes it truly unique?

Its position on the Chobe River draws an extraordinary variety of wildlife right to your doorstep, creating an unmatched sense of place. APT selects lodges

in remarkable locations like this, with small guest numbers in safari vehicles that allow for a more personal and unhurried experience.

How do morning and afternoon game drives differ in character?

At dawn, the bush stirs to life with birdcalls and the fresh scent of morning air, the first rays of sunlight gilding the horizon. By contrast, afternoon drives are bathed in golden light and fiery sunsets — often with elephants gathering at the river for a final drink before nightfall.



What moments tend to move guests the most?

Often, I'm touched by how deeply guests are moved — sometimes to tears — by the simple joy of seeing animals in their natural habitat. And almost without fail, the question I'm asked most is, "Will we see the Big Five?"

If you had your own 'Big Five', what would they be?

My favourite animals are owls, elephants, chameleons, the magnificent monitor lizards that bask along the Chobe River, and — without hesitation — birds. As an avid birdwatcher, they're an endless source of fascination and beauty.

What's your best advice for making the most of a safari?

Layer your clothing — days can be warm, but nights and early mornings can be cold. And resist the urge to photograph everything. Sometimes the richest memories come from simply sitting quietly while enjoying the presence of the animals and the magic of the moment.

After so many years, what keeps your passion alive?

For 30 years in Africa - and 15 of those with APT - I've had the privilege of sharing the continent's wonders with guests. I love inspiring curiosity and a deeper

appreciation of the natural world. There's a special joy in seeing someone discover a fascination for birdlife and the wider riches of the animal kingdom during a trip, knowing they'll carry that connection long after they've returned home.

7-DAY SMALL GROUP TOUR

Chobe and Okavango Explorer

Find out more:

Search AF07 at aptouring.com.au
From \$17,995 per person, twin share.*
Departing April 2026 to September 2027.
*Conditions apply – see page 35

19-DAY SMALL GROUP TOUR

Botswana and Southern Africa Discovery

Find out more:

Search AF019 at aptouring.com.au
From \$36,395 per person, twin share.*
Departing April 2026 to September 2027.
*Conditions apply - see page 35

30-DAY SMALL GROUP TOUR

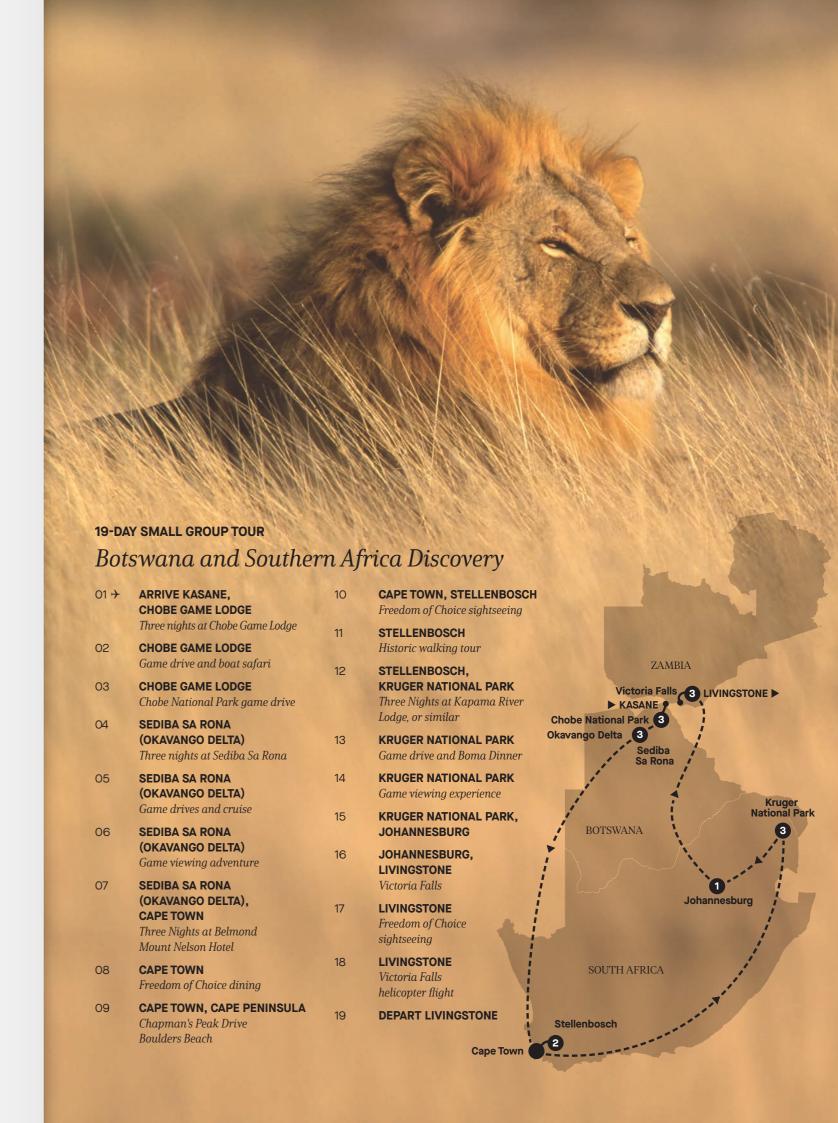
Ultimate African Journey

Find out more:

Search AF0E30 at aptouring.com.au From \$56,895 per person, twin share.* Departing April 2026 to September 2027. *Conditions apply – see page 35



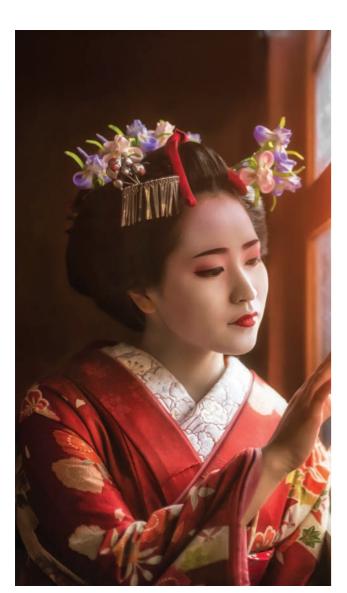
(Left to right) Hippos in Chobe National Park; a lion in Botswana



Five Twhentic EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN

Unravel the unique tapestry of Japan's heritage, where geisha masterfully steer conversation, matcha is crafted with meticulous precision, and calligraphy brushstrokes capture a state of mind in time.

WORDS Jemma Glucina-Henderson







he Land of the Rising Sun remains one of the world's most coveted destinations for good reason. Here, enduring cultural heritage flourishes alongside the cuttingedge and avant-garde. Age-old rituals, meticulous craftsmanship and a reverence for nature merge seamlessly with the vibrant rhythm of modern life, offering the chance to encounter deep-rooted traditions at every turn.

1/ Dinner with a Maiko or Geisha

Porcelain white skin, crimson lips and lacquer-smooth ebony hair: geisha are famous icons of Japan, yet their exclusive world is seldom glimpsed by outsiders. With a history spanning centuries, these graceful artisans undertake around five years of rigorous training to hone traditional skills, ranging from dance to the art of conversation. Learn about daily life during dinner with a geisha or maiko (an apprentice geisha), accompanied by the enchanting melodies of a shamisen, a traditional three-stringed instrument.





2/ Jigokudani Monkey Park

Craggy mountains, sulphurous streams and bubbling pools. Set in the otherworldly geothermal landscape of Jigokudani — meaning Hell's Valley, emblematic of its volcanic terrain — the monkey park is home to Japanese macaques who bathe in the natural hot springs. Observe the social snow monkeys up close as they gather in the steamy waters.

3/ Matcha Experience

Steeped in history, matcha has become a trendsetting staple of cafe culture, with varieties spanning the full spectrum — from iced strawberry to honeycomb-infused blends. Central to Japanese tea ceremonies, the time-honoured brew was introduced to Japan over 800 years ago by a Zen Buddhist monk returning from China. During a special tea experience, grind green tea leaves into a fine matcha powder before savouring this revered beverage.

4/ Tokyo Calligraphy Lesson

Far more than ink on paper, shodō is the art of Japanese calligraphy. Meaning 'the way of writing', this art form and meditative practice is rooted in Zen Buddhism, with nuances in brushstrokes said to reflect the artist's state of mind. Try your hand at shodō under the guidance of an expert instructor during an insightful lesson.

5/ Magome and Tsumago

Like a portal to the past, Japan's charming post towns reveal the rich history of the Edo period, when they were built to provide lodging along key travel routes. Explore beautifully restored Magome, then take a scenic walk along the legendary Nakasendo trail to Tsumago — one of Japan's best-preserved post towns.

18-DAY TOUR

Japan Land of Wonders

Find out more:

Search JAC18 at aptouring.com.au From \$21,295 per person, twin share.* Departing March to November 2026.

* Conditions apply – see page 35

OCEAN OR OUTBACK THE GREAT KIMBERLEY DEBATE

Expert APT Cruise Director Margie Colbeck, Tour Director Linda Goodlet and Driver Tony Goodlet reflect on the Kimberley's raw beauty, sharing their perspectives on experiencing this extraordinary region by land and sea.

WORDS Annie Gray

chre cliffs, aquamarine waters and stories as old as time — nowhere captures the diversity of the Australian Outback quite like the Kimberley. Here, you might follow rugged tracks to hidden waterfalls or cruise untamed coastlines aboard an ultra luxury expedition ship. However you travel, the Kimberley reveals countless wonders — both on land and by sea.

For Cruise Director Margie Colbeck, the magic lies in the remote coastlines and unique splendours only a ship can reach. Meanwhile, Tour Director Linda Goodlet and Driver Tony Goodlet believe the soul of the Kimberley is best uncovered along the Outback's red dirt tracks and in the company of the region's locals. Their words bring to life two distinct, yet equally remarkable ways to experience Australia's wild northwest.

OCEAN

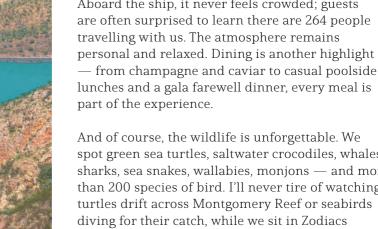
Cruising the Pristine Kimberley Coast

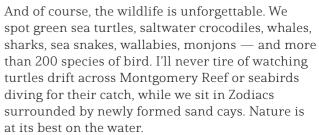
Margie Colbeck unveils the striking beauty and remote wonders of the Kimberley coast.

Each time I set sail, it feels like stepping back into a part of Australia that has been carefully preserved. Much of what we explore is completely inaccessible by land — from the surging waters of Horizontal Falls to the ancient rock art sites of Freshwater Cove. And then there's Montgomery Reef, where low tides dramatically reveal a living reef system. Suddenly lagoons and waterfalls emerge from the water in the middle of the Indian Ocean. It's extraordinary.

For me, the journey is as much about the ship as the coast. Seabourn Pursuit is purpose-built for the Kimberley, combining luxury with expedition capability. After arriving in Talbot Bay, we join the Expedition Team on Zodiacs to explore up close on the water — gliding through the narrows at Horizontal Falls never loses its thrill.







10-DAY SMALL SHIP CRUISE Kimberley Coastal Expedition

Find out more:

Search GKKCB10 at aptouring.com.au From \$16,895 per person, twin share.* Departing May to August 2026. *Conditions apply - see page 35



(Left to right) Broome coast; Zodiac explores Horizontal Falls; Cruise Director, Margie Colbeck

OUTBACK

Discovering the Kimberley's Rugged Interior by 4WD

Linda and Tony Goodlet reveal why exploring the Kimberley by land leaves such a mark.

The Kimberley's landscapes are endlessly varied. Travelling by 4WD, we experience some of the region's most remarkable scenes — from panoramic sunrises and dreamy sunsets to stretches of arid red desert and dramatic gorges. And at night, we find ourselves under the spectacular outback sky. Watching the stars emerge at APT's luxury Wilderness Lodges is something we never forget — and love to share with our guests.

What makes land touring so special is the people we meet along the way. We don't just show our guests the scenery, we also share the Kimberley's stories. We stop to chat with locals — people who live and work here — and you hear the humour and character of the Outback firsthand. Travelling by road gives us time to explore the little tracks others pass by, where some of the most memorable experiences are waiting.





(Left to right) Emma Gorge; Driver-Guides Linda and Tony Goodlet; Echidna Chasm

Cultural encounters and nature's wonders always leave a mark. We guide guests to the thermal pools of Zebedee Springs and through the sacred Mimbi Caves with a local Aboriginal guide, uncovering their deep spiritual significance. And then there are the moments you could never plan for — traffic jams caused by a caravan of camels, a herd of buffalo wandering across sandy tracks, or a crocodile sunning itself on a remote causeway. That's the joy of a guided land journey: you never quite know what's around the corner, but it's always something to remember.

15-DAY 4WD TOURKimberley Complete

Find out more:

Search GKC15 at aptouring.com.au
From \$12,095 per person, twin share.*
Departing May to September 2026.
*Conditions apply – see page 35

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

APT is the only travel company offering Kimberley journeys that combine land and sea. The all encompassing 24-day Kimberley Complete with Kimberley Coastal Expedition tour includes a nine-night coastal cruise and a 14-night 4WD tour.

But it's not only the itinerary that matters. It's the moments in between that make an APT journey through the Kimberley so special: the unexpected stories you hear, the energy of the locals you meet, and the enriching conversations shared with new found friends over meals. And it's often the unplanned touches that linger longest, as Colbeck reflects: "There are moments on every tour where we love to surprise and delight our guests with something truly memorable. It could be a glass of sparkling at sunset to mark a special occasion, or a secret

viewpoint. The Kimberley has so many stories to tell — from ancient times to now."

The Goodlets share some simple advice: "Get out and do it now." Whether you discover the Kimberley by land, sea, or both, its impact is impossible to forget.

24-DAY 4WD TOUR AND SMALL SHIP CRUISE

Kimberley Complete with Kimberley Coastal Expedition

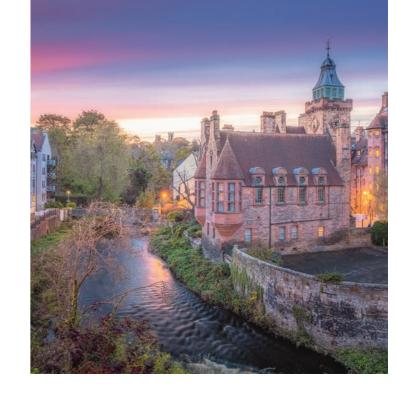
Find out more:

Search GKKCB24R at aptouring.com.au From \$30,495 per person, twin share.* Departing May to July 2026.

*Conditions apply see page 35







Skara Brae offers one of the best-preserved glimpses of Neolithic life

rom Neolithic stone circles to sea caves carved by Atlantic swells, Britain and Ireland reveal millennia of human history set against majestic, untamed coastlines. Aboard the intimately sized Seabourn Venture, guests explore remote and remarkable destinations in unparalleled luxury. Each suite boasts a private verandah, 24-hour in-suite dining and a personalised minibar. Eight exceptional dining experiences rival the finest restaurants on land, and premium spirits, fine wines and champagne are served at any hour of the day. Guided by the expert Expedition Team, guests venture by Zodiac to secluded harbours and hidden coves, and even descend beneath the waves in custombuilt submarines.

The Crowning Glory of Scotland

Edinburgh is a city of contrasts, where medieval lanes and Georgian elegance meet royal heritage and a vibrant cultural scene. Discover the capital's World Heritage-listed Old and New Towns, Holyrood Palace and the elegant Princes Street Gardens. Towering above it all, explore Edinburgh Castle, perched on Castle Rock, where centuries of Scottish royalty once held court.

Britain's Most Remote Inhabited Island

Remote and windswept, Fair Isle is home to just 60 residents and a proud cultural legacy. Renowned for

its intricate knitwear, the island is also a haven for seabirds, with Atlantic puffins nesting along wildflower-covered cliffs. Be welcomed by close-knit locals with tea, home-baked treats, and authentic stories.

Echoes of the Neolithic

In Orkney, history runs deep. Explore the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Heart of Neolithic Orkney, encompassing the Ring of Brodgar and the Standing Stones of Stenness — ceremonial circles as ancient as Stonehenge. Be awed by Skara Brae, a 5,000-year-old village revealed by storm in 1850, offering one of the best-preserved glimpses into Neolithic life. Nearby, Stromness charms with its harbour and artisanal shops.

Nature's Basalt Cathedral

Off Scotland's west coast, Staffa's volcanic origins are revealed in Fingal's Cave. Aboard a Zodiac, witness the towering hexagonal basalt columns that form a natural cathedral, inspiring artists and explorers for centuries.

Titanic's Enduring Legacy

Belfast's shipbuilding legacy is immortalised at Titanic Belfast - a world-class museum situated on the very site where the RMS Titanic was built. Interactive galleries and full-scale reconstructions bring the ship's design, fateful voyage, and lasting legacy innovatively to life.

13-DAY SMALL SHIP CRUISE Britain and Ireland Explorer

01 > ARRIVE LONDON, GREENWICH, EMBARK SHIP

Twelve nights aboard Seabourn Venture

O2 DAY AT SEA

Onboard activities and world-class dining

3 **LEITH, EDINBURGH**

Freedom of Choice sightseeing: Edinburgh city tour including Edinburgh Castle, or historic Dunfermline guided tour

FAIR ISLE (SHETLAND ISLANDS) Fair Isle guided walk and an

Fair Isle guided walk and an islander welcome Signature Experience

KIRKWALL (ORKNEY ISLANDS)

Freedom of Choice sightseeing: Ring of Brodgar and Skara Brae tour, or Ring of Brodgar and Stromness town experience, or a hike to Mull Head

6 STORNOWAY (OUTER HEBRIDES)

Freedom of Choice sightseeing: Isle of Lewis and Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, or Lews Castle, or Isle of Harris Distillery

DUNVEGAN, ARMADALE (ISLE OF SKYE)

Dunvegan Castle and Gardens exploration

STAFFA, IONA

Fingal's Cave Zodiac cruise Signature Experience

9 PORTRUSH

Freedom of Choice sightseeing: Giant's Causeway visit, or Dunluce Castle and Old Bushmills Distillery experience

BELFAST

Titanic Belfast museum visit

DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN)

Freedom of Choice sightseeing: Castle Rushen, steam train journey and Tynwald Hill, or scenic Isle of Man experience with Tynwald Hill

2 HOLYHEAD

Freedom of Choice sightseeing: Bodnant Garden, or Caernarfon Castle, or South Stack Cliffs RSPB nature reserve guided walk

DISEMBARK SHIP, DEPART DUBLIN

Find out more:

Search EUSSCLD13 at aptouring.com.au From \$18,995 per person, twin share.* One departure only, 24 June 2026.

*Conditions apply - see page 35



The horizon shifts in the space of days limestone pillars first rising out of emerald seas, then the spires of mythical Khmer temples soaring above a vast blanket of ever-growing jungle. Contrasts unfold as natural sanctuaries offer serene pauses between visits to Vietnam's historic capital, Hanoi, and Cambodia's second-largest city, Siem Reap. In Ha Long and Lan Ha Bays, karst-strewn waters immortalised in legend see two nights aboard the luxurious Lyra Grandeur flow in rhythm with the tides. Cambodia then beckons, where three nights in Siem Reap reveal a dynamic city pulsing with atmosphere, artistry and the magnetic pull of Angkor Wat.

Waters Steeped in Nature's Splendour

A few hours east of Hanoi, where dynasties once shaped Vietnam's destiny, lie Ha Long and Lan Ha Bays — World Heritage-listed wonderlands steeped in nature's towering splendour. Limestone karsts rise like sentinels from jade-green waters, their sheer cliffs softened by drifting mist. At dusk, the sky melts into hues of copper and mauve as sundowner drinks are savoured on deck: the scent of sea salt in the air, the hush of water lapping gently against the hull, and the silhouettes of islets fading into twilight. As night falls, starlit dinners beckon — the bays' limestone guardians perennially standing watch.

Aboard the brand-new Lyra Grandeur, each suite's private balcony and ocean-view bathtub frame the ever-present beauty outside, while interiors blend contemporary Vietnamese design with lavish traditional motifs. Indulgence is absolute — the Oasis Deck's infinity pool, jacuzzi and Nordic-style sauna pair with first-class amenities inside to match the luxuries of the finest five-star hotels. Guests enjoy pre-dinner drinks in the opulent piano lounge before descending to the Harmony of the Sea Restaurant, and the onboard spa, theatre and poker club offer myriad ways to unwind. Morning greets with Tai Chi on the sunlit deck, the flowing movements harmonising with the bay's shifting moods — tranquil yet elemental, timeless yet ever-changing.

Days unfold with discovery. Cruise past the striking islets of Lan Ha Bay while a vivid spread of Vietnamese dishes is served for lunch, cycle through the lush jungles of Cat Ba Island to Viet Hai village, and explore one of the community's traditional ancient houses before learning the art of rice winemaking. Glide into the otherworldly Dark and Bright Caves aboard traditional bamboo rowing boats, swim in the serene waters of Frog Lagoon, and sunbathe on the pristine sands of Ba Trai Dao Beach. Or simply relax on board — the choice is always yours.



Echoes of the Khmer Empire

If Ha Long and Lan Ha Bays are nature's canvas, Siem Reap is civilisation's. The gateway to Angkor Archaeological Park, this spirited city fuses centuries of Khmer artistry with the pulse of contemporary Cambodia. At dawn, Angkor Wat rises through the mist, its reflection mirrored in still pools as the first saffron light brushes across intricately carved stone. The air is cool, scented with incense, and anticipation builds towards one of the world's most unforgettable sunrises. Beyond the park's namesake temple, countless monumental structures stand in splendour — from Angkor Thom and the Bayon to Ta Prohm and the Terrace of the Elephants. The temple complex was established in the 12th century and, though remarkably intact today, the encroaching jungle has woven itself through the stonework, creating surreal scenes of nature's reclamation.

Back in Siem Reap, the Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort provides an opulent retreat of French-inspired elegance, its gardens adorned with frangipani and lotus ponds. Evenings carry the allure of discovery: at Theam's Gallery, an intimate dinner of fragrant Khmer cuisine unfolds beside the shimmering silks and poised gestures of an Apsara performance. By day, encounters deepen understanding — a visit to Opportunities of

Development thru Art (ODA), where children share their creativity through performance and painting, is as uplifting as it is inspiring.

Immersive experiences reveal Siem Reap's many dimensions: ride quad bikes past emerald rice fields, restore balance with a Khmer massage infused with lemongrass oils, learn culinary secrets in a hands-on cooking class, or discover artisanal crafts at Senteurs d'Angkor. Each adds a deeper thread to Cambodia's cultural tapestry.

The Journey Beyond

Together, Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay, paired with Siem Reap, offer a study in contrasts — one of nature, one of legacy — yet each stirs stir the soul in equal measure. From here, the journey flows onward along Southeast Asia's longest river, where a seven-night cruise unveils still more wonders through Cambodia's authentic rural outposts en route to Ho Chi Minh City.

17-DAY TOUR

Vietnam and Cambodia Discovery

Find out more:

Search VEM17 at aptouring.com.au
From \$10,595 per person, twin share.*
Departing July 2026 to September 2027.
*Conditions apply – see page 35

TRACING THE MEKONG

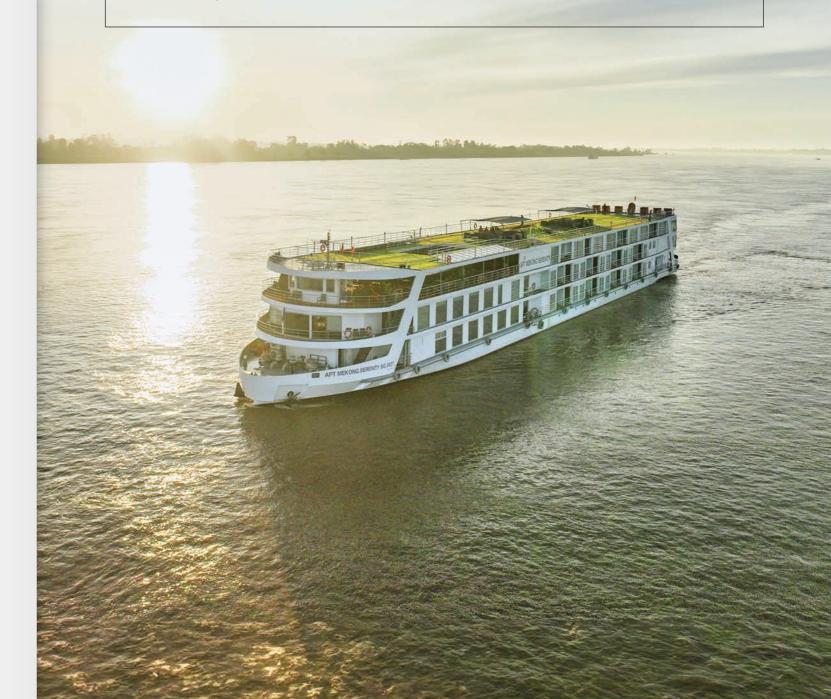
The adventure continues downstream as the opulent Mekong Serenity unveils Southeast Asia's most storied river, where tranquil currents reveal villages, markets and monuments steeped in tradition. Over eight days, this floating haven of luxury offers a window into authentic life — from silk weaving on Oknha Tey Island and the cultural crossroads of Phnom Penh, to the French-colonial echoes of Sa Dec and the floating markets of Cai Be.

Luxury on board knows no equal in this corner of the world. With four world-class dining venues, every meal becomes an occasion. Lemongrass Restaurant serves the finest regional flavours alongside live cooking stations, while Indochine Private Dining presents a refined six-course degustation. The Horizon Pool Bar

& Grill tempts with alfresco favourites, and the Harmony Lounge & Bar pairs light fare with an extensive drinks list.

Suites are spacious and refined retreats, each with a private balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows framing the river's shifting scenery. Bayon Suites elevate the experience with Silver Butler Service, private terraces and spa baths overlooking the water, while the palatial Angkor Suites offer Gold Butler Service, expansive balconies and separate living rooms.

Between explorations, the ship's spa, sunlit pool and elegant lounge invite limitless relaxation — indulgence flowing as effortlessly as the river itself.



THE SPELL

As the seasons turn, Lapland transforms into a wonderland of crystalline skies and Arctic adventure, where snow reigns so supreme the Sámi language holds 300 words to describe it.

WORDS Alexander Simpson

he aircraft door opens, and crisp Arctic air offers an immediate welcome. Excitement is palpable as passengers alight onto a runway dusted with snow. In this corner of the world, October stills the land — lakes freeze, birds migrate, and bears retreat into hibernation. By November, Lapland is swathed in monochrome. A flawless mantle of white settles across vast pine corridors, and a monastic silence sets in, broken only by cantering huskies, the swish of a sleigh and the slink of an Arctic fox — its alabaster fur now perfect camouflage. Yet the atmosphere is electric.

By day, the Lappish sky dazzles in crystalline hues of pink and blue, reflected in the snow as you glide along powdery trails by sled and sleigh. Cocooned in warm blankets, you journey through snow-draped vistas, while your spirited commanders — reindeer and huskies alike — revel in the frost. Collar bells jingle with a lilting chime; and huskies work with unyielding focus before bounding into play at rest stops — tails wagging, paws scattering snow, their joyful howls irrepressible. The exuberance is contagious — winter in Lapland thrums with energy and invigoration.

No chance is missed to witness the region's most coveted nocturnal spectacle. In the cosy warmth of a custom built igloo, you sleep beneath a dome of heated glass, with an innovative all hours aurora alarm system ensuring no flicker of the northern lights escapes notice. Your hotel's luxuries extend to in igloo en suites, underfloor heating, and a unique Finnish snow sauna every detail considered, every comfort assured.

Daylight hours are devoted to immersive experiences in the Arctic wilderness snowshoe hikes, ice fishing, a traditional Sámi lunch, and a visit to the official headquarters of Santa Claus. Evenings, meanwhile, are reserved for Nordic culinary theatre. At Kota, savour salmon fire-seared before your eyes, with roasted Lappish potatoes and dill tartar sauce, rounded off by lingonberry caramel pie. Overhead, the restaurant's conical ceiling rises in rustic grandeur, timber beams echoing the heritage of a traditional Sámi kota, tempered by the poise of modern Finnish design.

The elusive northern lights call once more on your final night in Rovaniemi. At a secluded observation site well beyond the city, the Arctic sky stretches overhead, a limitless expanse of inky sapphire blue. Whether or not the aurora graces the horizon, the soft glow of a crackling fire offers a meditative moment, a pause to celebrate the extraordinary days spent in this snow laden paradise — a wonderland etched in countless dreams yet visited by only the fortunate few.

8-DAY TOUR Northern Lights and Lapland 01 → ARRIVE HELSINKI ROVANIEMI Find out more: One night at Hotel Kämp Lappish wilderness husky safari Northern lights observation Search EULFL8 at aptouring.com.au HELSINKI, ROVANIEMI experience From \$10,145 per person, twin share.* Two nights at the Arctic Snow Departing November 2026. Hotel & Glass Igloos, in a ROVANIEMI. *Conditions apply see page 35 private igloo HELSINKI Two nights at Hotel Kämp ROVANIEMI 03 Iittala & Arabia Design Reindeer sleigh ride Centre visit Traditional Sámi hut lunch

HELSINKI

and design tour

City landmarks, culture

DEPART HELSINKI

ROVANIEMI

Light Hotel

Two nights at the Arctic

Snowshoe hike or ice

Santa Claus Village visit

fishing excursion





Snow lingers on branches, the scent of cinnamon drifts through the air, and golden lights twinkle from rooftops trimmed in white. This is Christmas in Canada.

WORDS Danielle Cowan

There is an official definition of a white Christmas: 2.5 centimetres of snow at 7am on 25 December. This is the kind of Christmas conjured by carols and beloved films — snowflakes and sleigh bells, glowing windows and fireside warmth. Fresh snow drapes pine trees like icing sugar. Frost weaves lace across windowpanes. Smoke curls from chimneys into crisp alpine air. In the Canadian Rockies, this isn't something you dream of — it's a certainty.

Adventures Etched in Snow

On APT's The Twelve Days of Christmas tour, each day is unwrapped with a sensory flourish – a gift layered with adventure, relaxation, or a little of both. Follow paths past rock walls sheathed in ice, crossing snowy bridges to discover waterfalls frozen in time in Banff's Johnston Canyon. Glide through a glittering winter trail as a spirited team of huskies pulls you across the snow. Soak in bubbling mineral pools amid tranquil

waterfalls at the Fairmont Banff Springs Spa, letting alpine air and high-altitude oxygen revive your body, mind, and spirit. And inside the cosy dome theatre at Jasper Planetarium, discover constellations and celestial stories passed down through generations.

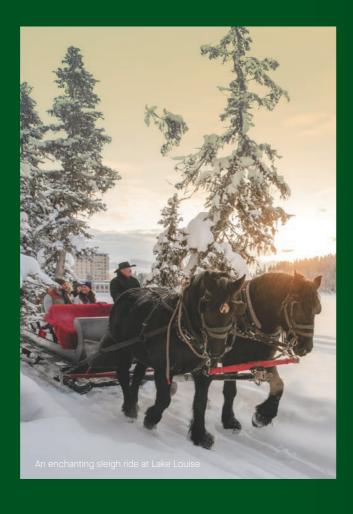
Tradition in Every Tinsel Thread

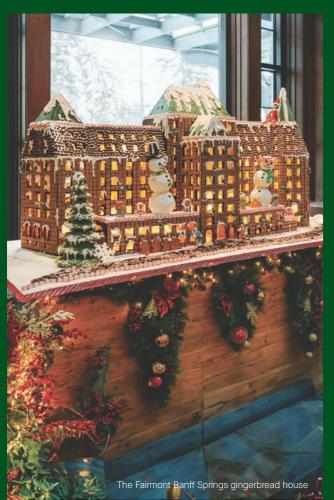
Holiday spirit is woven through every moment of this magical tour. Carollers' angelic voices drift through the night in Vancouver and Whistler, while downtown Banff glows with festive lights and the promise of steaming hot chocolate from every warmly lit cafe. At Fairmont Banff Springs, Mrs Claus reads bedtime stories, and the scent of cinnamon and sugar drifts from a handcrafted gingerbread replica of the hotel. In the grounds outside, lanterns guide the way through frosted forest paths on an enchanting festive light walk. And in Lake Louise, a horse-drawn sleigh ride awaits, with snow-laced landscapes unfolding as soft flakes catch in the horses' manes like crystals.

Lakeside Reverie

Once a humble chalet for early mountaineers, Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise now, in winter, stands like a snow-globe palace on the lake's edge. The turquoise waters freeze into a glassy canvas framed by powder white peaks, inviting you to skate beneath an open sky. Toast marshmallows at the Lakefront Campfire and sip mulled wine at the Ice Bar, sculpted entirely from 20 blocks of ice.

Inside the grand hotel, the scene is equally enchanting. At the intimate Walliser Stube restaurant, fondue bubbles in cast iron pots. Fires crackle during cocktail hour in the Lakeview Lounge, and après-ski classics are shared over stories at Alpine Social. From your Lakeview Room, delight in views of the mountains framing the lake's frozen surface, and sunlight dancing across icicles like scattered stars.





A Christmas Castle in the Rockies

The road into Banff winds between peaks so dramatic they seem brushed onto the sky. Through the trees, Fairmont Banff Springs emerges, rising from the forest like a castle lifted from the pages of a novel. Built in the 19th century and inspired by the romance of Scottish baronial architecture and the chateaus of the Loire Valley, the hotel's turrets and stone façades stand proud against the mountains. Mist curls above the rooftops, not fog, but steam from the outdoor thermal pool, still inviting even in the depths of winter. Inside, oak beamed ceilings soar like vaulted wings. Plush carpets hush your footsteps, and regal staircases sweep upward beneath garlands of pine and golden lights.

In Mount Stephen Hall, a 20-foot Christmas tree stands resplendent, its ornaments shimmering beneath dazzling chandeliers. On Christmas Day, enjoy a host of optional indulgences. Sip festive cocktails at the Thirsty Reindeer bar or curl up in a fireside nook with a glass of Okanagan red. Savour meals to remember from a festive afternoon tea in the Rundle Bar to brunch in the Riverview Lounge and a Christmas feast with all the trimmings — golden roast turkey, gammon, crispy potatoes, gravy and honey roasted parsnips. Here, amid alpine grandeur and pristine snow, a magical Christmas awaits, and it's one that will linger long after the season fades.



Terms and Conditions:



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