

# BackTrack



## Adventures

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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN 2024

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Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

**40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR COLLECTION**





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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN 2024

## WHO WE ARE

Back Track Adventures is an adventure travel agency based in Brisbane, Australia. We were founded in 1984 by two mates, and soon after they escorted our first group of trekkers to the Annapurna region of Nepal. What followed has been a 40-year love for adventure travel and we have become the experts in unique, off the beaten track experiences.

*We operate treks to many different destinations, our favourites being Mount Kilimanjaro, the Nepal Himalaya, and the Indian Himalaya, along with African safaris and European food & wine tours. We are a fully accredited travel agency and can help your holiday dreams come true, no matter how big or small they are.*

At Back Track, we believe that adventure holidays are as unique as the people who take them. So, whether your ideal adventure means trekking up a mountain, 4WD'ing in southern Africa, exploring Antarctica from an expedition ship, marvelling at the Northern Lights from the comfort of a heated glass igloo or visiting a continent you've never been to before, our expert team has the experience, enthusiasm, and dedication to realise your dream.

## WHY BOOK WITH US

As a privately owned, specialist travel company, we believe firsthand knowledge makes all the difference. Our consultants have explored the seven oceans and seven continents and love nothing more than sharing their expertise and enthusiasm with fellow travellers.

### 40 years' experience

We have been trekking and designing holidays since 1984 and can arrange the perfect travel itinerary that will exceed your expectations!

### Expertise and knowledge

Our staff have an average of 21 years' experience in the travel industry and are all avid travellers. We're out there experiencing new destinations and products every year. Our firsthand knowledge means we give you special insights and must-do tips to make the most of your holiday.

### Care and attention

We take the time to get to know you – what you like to see and do, and how you like to travel. Every holiday (and every person on that holiday) is unique so we tailor the trip to suit you perfectly. 80% of our business comes from our long-standing client relationships and we always look forward to welcoming new people to the Back Track Family.

### Access to Exclusive Deals

Having been around for 40 years, we've developed strong and lasting relationships with operators and suppliers, which means we are able to secure the best rates and have access to exclusive deals.

### 24/7 Emergency support

Complications happen on holidays, and never at a good time. Rest assured, we offer 24/7 emergency support for all our clients, no matter where you are.

### Responsible & Ethical Travel

We work hard to ensure our treks and organised itineraries have a positive impact on the environment and benefit the communities we visit.





# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Back Track's love affair with adventure travel began back in 1982 when co-founders Jim Drapes and Ray Baker trekked the Annapurna Circuit in Nepal and vowed to return... somehow... someday.

Two years later they established Back Track Expeditions (auspiciously based in the spare bedroom of Jim and Marianne's house) and took their first group of 30 trekkers to Nepal the following year.

From these humble beginnings, expanded tour operations

and a retail travel agency grew, and relationships were forged with key industry partners who shared Back Track's ethos of discovery and exploration.

Back Track's journey has seen us embrace the emergence of the internet as a booking tool, adapt to the changing face of travel in the wake of the World Trade Centre attacks, weather a global financial crisis and of course THAT pandemic.

Back Track is thrilled to be celebrating 40 years in an ever-changing global landscape. We would not be able to do so

without the long term loyalty of our clients whose love of travel and adventure has kept us going. Our amazing staff exemplify hard work, dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment, and allow us to deliver exceptional service time and time again.

The program of trips for 2024 has been lovingly curated to showcase some of our much-loved destinations including Nepal, Africa, Italy, and Antarctica; and work with some of our favourite partners including Intrepid Travel, Heritage Expeditions, Ethical Adventures and Quark Expeditions.

There's something for everyone next year — whether you fancy meandering the fjords of southern New Zealand while sipping a local Sauvignon Blanc, setting yourself the challenge of conquering Mt Kilimanjaro, learning about the stories and natural habitats in our own backyard, driving a luxury 4WD through the stunning African landscape, or capturing the perfect photo in Antarctica and much, much more.

We hope you enjoy the program as much as we enjoyed putting it together, and we look forward to travelling with you in 2024!



# 40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR COLLECTION



For 2024, we have collated a selection of holiday adventures, one for every month, that members of our Team are excited to host. We would love to have you join us on one, or more, of these amazing journeys!



APRIL

## Better Than Base Camp Everest And The Sacred Lakes of Gokyo

Hosted by Ray, one of the most experienced and knowledgeable trek guides leading in Nepal today. Trek breathtaking scenic trails few will ever have an opportunity to enjoy. You still tick off all the highlights that standard Everest trekkers enjoy.

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JUNE

## Kilimanjaro Trek (& Optional Wildlife Safari)

Hosted and lead by Ray, our years of experience and success on Kilimanjaro has resulted in our ability to offer an itinerary with maximum acclimatisation, that considerably enhances your chance of success. An optional safari exploring the world famous Serengeti eco system is available.

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OCTOBER

## Sicilian Food Odyssey

Hosted by Matteo, our resident Italian fine food and wine connoisseur. Explore Sicily in depth on a moderately paced tour. Enjoy culinary delights and unique cultural insights for an amazing Italian experience. Prepare to enjoy and explore like a local.

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FEBRUARY

## New Zealand's Southern Fjords Discovery

Hosted by Sarah, this short, sharp, easy grade adventure is all about grand scale scenery and epic wildlife. Cruise the breathtaking Fjords of New Zealand's rugged south island coastline, while enjoying a glass of fine white New Zealand wine.

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APRIL

## Beautiful Africa Safari

Hosted by Jim, with Trish and a team of Africa's best guides, historians, and an archaeologist, this safari will tick all the boxes for first time or addicted African travellers. Experience the best iconic African wildlife and scenery, while embracing meaningful cultural interaction.

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AUGUST

## Wild Botswana – 4WD You Drive / We Guide

Breathtaking wildlife encounters, iconic African scenery. A rarely offered opportunity to drive a luxury 4WD Avis safari camper on a guided comfortable African camping safari. Hosted by Jim and joined by Trish and Stevie providing a fun and expert guide team.

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NOVEMBER

## Galapagos of the Southern Ocean

An inspirational journey to a most remote and important ecosystem. Hosted by Marianne and Jim, immerse yourself in peace, solitude and the expansive beauty of the mighty Southern Ocean exploring remote islands with unique flora and fauna. Wonderful nature photographic opportunities.

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MARCH

## Bhutan Experience

Join Leanne on an exciting, moderately graded, 9-day escape and discover Bhutan, a Himalayan Kingdom shrouded in mystery where life is measured by the level of happiness you achieve. Visiting Tigers Nest, the most beautifully located Buddhist monastery in the world, is just one amazing highlight.

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MAY

## Northern Territory Top End Connections

Fall in love with the natural beauty and soul of our very own Top End on this fun and active adventure. Hosted by Emma, hear stories of creation and marvel at breathtaking landscapes carved out over millions of years.

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SEPTEMBER

## Puglian Food Odyssey

Hosted by Matteo. Puglia was selected for its beauty, history, and off the beaten track feel. Enjoy a 'local' insight to this unique region. You will be always 'fuelled' with the best local food and wine. Prepare to enjoy and explore like a local.

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DECEMBER

## Spectacular Antarctica: A Photographic Journey

It is hard to describe magical Antarctica. All who journey there tell you their beautiful pictures do not do it justice. Without doubt one of the most spectacular, awe-inspiring destinations you will ever visit. Damian will hone your travel photography skills.

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## OUR PARTNERS



At Back Track we believe in working with operators and industry partners who share our focus on exploring the world with respect, leaving a positive impact on the communities and environments we visit, and who will care for our clients in the same way we do. We're thrilled to be joined in 2024 by Intrepid Travel, Heritage Expeditions, Quark Expeditions, Ethical Adventures and Wild Earth Travel.





# New Zealand's Southern Fjords Discovery

Experience grand scale scenery, untamed wilderness, ice-carved mountains, forests, and unique wildlife of New Zealand's Southern Fjords. Only accessible by sea, this isolation ensures this epic gem of nature remains unspoiled. Explore the calm waterways home to bottlenose dolphins, crested penguins and fur seals combined with enthralling shore excursions.



## Trip Highlights:

- A journey into NZ's Fjordlands few ever have the privilege to visit.
- Incredible scenic helicopter flight transfer in one direction.
- Grand scale scenery, untamed wilderness, ice-carved mountains, and forests.
- Abundant wildlife.
- Expert onboard naturalist guides.
- Small ship cruising in an isolated area accessible only by sea.



## Your Host

Back Track Adventures are proud to partner with Wild Earth Travel and Heritage Expeditions on this amazing voyage. Back Track's very own Sarah will be your host alongside the experienced Heritage crew.

## Day 1 | Queenstown

Arrive Queenstown. Make your way to Double Tree by Hilton. Meet your Back Track host and fellow travellers.



## Day 2 | Doubtful Sound

A day enjoying beautiful NZ scenery. Early morning coach transfer to Te Anau, followed by a short boat journey cross Lake Manapouri and an additional coach trip to board the Heritage Explorer moored in Doubtful Sound. Be welcomed on board by the Captain and crew. Relax and enjoy spectacular Doubtful Sound. The adventure begins in earnest. **BLD**

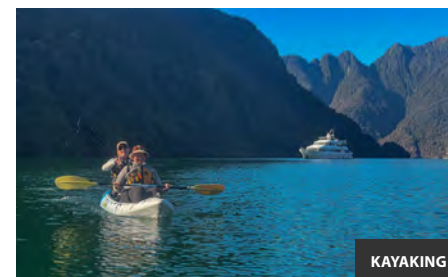
## Day 3 | Doubtful Sound

Enjoy cloud-scraping wilderness cloaked mountains, sheer cliffs, waterfalls, inlets and quiet coves while cruising the 40 kilometre long Doubtful Sound, arguably the most spectacular scenery in NZ. Watch out for the magnificent Wandering Albatross off Breaksea Island. **BLD**



## Day 4-5 | Dusky Sound

Two days leisurely exploring Dusky Sound's historic sites and wildlife sanctuaries with half the world's population of Spotted Kiwi and Kakapo. Exciting navigation experience past Resolution Island. **BLD**



## Day 6 | Chalky Inlet

Today we penetrate Chalky Inlet, named by explorer Captain Cook. Home to many endangered bird species. So much history to explore and majestic mountain scenery to enjoy. **BLD**

## Day 7 | Preservation Inlet

Full day dedicated to exploring Preservation Inlet. Fascinating shore excursions amongst long abandoned gold mining, whaling and forestry sites that nature is now reclaiming. **BLD**



## Day 8 | Queenstown

After breakfast, sadly, we depart the Heritage Explorer, and join a spectacular helicopter flight back to Te Anau from where we travel by coach to the Double Tree by Hilton in Queenstown. **B**

## Day 9 | Queenstown

Our itinerary concludes this morning after breakfast. Our consultants can assist if any additional touring or holiday arrangements are required. **B**



Prices from

**\$6,675** per person twin share

Duration

**9 Days**

Dates

**08 – 16 February 2024**

## Trip Includes:

- Fully escorted by Back Track host.
- Expert nature, wildlife, and history guides on board.
- Pre and post tour accommodation in Queenstown with breakfast.
- Spectacular helicopter transfer from Preservation Inlet.
- All meals and accommodation on board 18 passenger expedition yacht.
- House beer, wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- All shore excursions.
- All landing fees.
- 24-hour emergency contact while on holiday.



[Learn More](#)



# Bhutan Experience

Steeped in tradition and legend and framed by mountains and valleys, the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan has long been shrouded in mystery. Join us on an exclusively designed itinerary to discover the land of pure happiness and explore its history, culture, people, and landscapes, culminating with a climb to the incredible Tiger's Nest.

## Trip Highlights:

- See Bhutan through the eyes of a local as you travel with a leader who will bring the country's unique history, legends, and traditions to life.
- Hike to Taktsang, commonly known as the Tiger's Nest, and soak in its magnificence.
- Discover the 15th-century fertility temple of Chimi Lhakhang, and visit an ancient fortress and religious centre that sits at the confluence of two rivers.
- Feel the heat of Bhutanese cuisine when you tuck into traditional meals made with red rice, local cheese, and lots of tastebud-tingling chillies.
- Spend a day exploring Thimphu, from the city to the woodlands, visiting the Cheri Dorji Dhen monastery, National Memorial Chorten, Simply Bhutan and the National Textile Museum.
- Travel on the infamous Dochula Pass, a beautiful mountain pass located between Thimphu and Punakha in Bhutan, which is a photographer's heaven.
- Enjoy Bumthang Valley - home to four beautiful mountain valleys and an array of ancient monasteries and temples.



## Your Host

Back Track Adventures are proud to partner with Intrepid Travel on this once in a lifetime journey. Back Track Director Leanne has long had Bhutan on her wish list so is excited to join Intrepid's experienced Tour Leader to share this remarkable country with you.



THIMPHU

## Day 1 | Paro – Thimphu

Arrive in Paro and be transferred to Thimphu where you'll have the chance to explore the main street and market area. **LD**

## Day 2 | Thimphu

Explore the Thimphu Valley today and gain insight into Bhutan's traditional arts & crafts and its religious and cultural heritage. **BLD**

## Day 3 | Gangtey/Phobjikha

We make our way to the beautiful Gangtey (Phobjikha) Valley today via Dochula Pass (altitude 3,080m) which offers a spectacular view over the high peaks of the eastern Himalayas on a clear day. **BLD**



GANGTEY (PHOBJIKHA) VALLEY

## Day 4 | Bumthang

Continue to Bumthang, crossing Pele-la Pass (altitude 3,300m) via Trongsa. Swap mountain forest for high altitude dwarf bamboo and climb to 3,400m as we drive across Yutong-la Pass, before arriving in the wide open Bumthang Valley. **BLD**

## Day 5 | Bumthang

Tour the picturesque Bumthang Valley today visiting temples, villages, monasteries. **BLD**



TRADITIONAL DANCE PERFORMANCE

## Day 6 | Punakha

Journey westwards today to Punakha, the old capital town of Bhutan. This evening explore the village located right on the bank of the river. **BLD**

## Day 7 | Punakha – Paro

An opportunity to stretch your legs this morning through paddy fields and villages to Chimi Lhakhang (also known as the temple of fertility). Afterwards continue the drive to Paro with stops at fortresses and the National Museum along the way. **BLD**



TAKTSANG MONASTERY

## Day 8 | Paro (Taktsang Monastery)

The highlight of any trip to Bhutan is an excursion to Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest). Today's hike will take up to 5 hours and reach an altitude of 3,120m but you will be well rewarded. **BLD**

## Day 9 | Paro

Our Bhutan Experience concludes after breakfast with a group transfer to the airport where we say farewell to this unique and remarkable country. **B**



LOCAL FOOD

Prices from

**\$5,490** per person twin share

Duration

**9 Days**

Dates

**13 – 21 March 2024**

## Trip Includes:

- Fully accompanied by a representative of Back Track Adventures.
- Local English speaking tour leader for the duration of the journey.
- Group transfers to and from the airport.
- 8 nights' premium accommodation in Bhutan.
- All meals in Bhutan.
- Private vehicle transfers throughout the itinerary.
- Entrance fees where applicable on included activities.
- One-time Bhutan visa fee.
- Optional single supplement: \$750 (subject to availability).
- 24-hour emergency contact while on holiday.



[Learn More](#)



# Better than Base Camp

## Everest and the Sacred Lakes of Gokyo

The Mt Everest region in Nepal is renowned for its high-altitude trekking. With breathtaking views of Mt Everest, challenging trails, serene forests, and the friendly Sherpa people, it's a trekking paradise. You'll also trek the length of the beautiful Gokyo Valley, with its sacred lakes and sensational mountain scenery.

### Trip Highlights:

- This trek explores the upper reaches of Gokyo, offering views of Mt Everest (8,848m, highest peak on earth) Lhotse (8,516m, 4th highest) Makalu (8,485m, 5th highest) and Choy You (8,188m 6th highest).
- Travel across varied terrain including alpine forests, glacial valleys, alongside high-altitude sacred lakes, and across a 5,417m pass.
- Trek through one of the Everest areas most remote valleys and experience authentic Sherpa culture.
- Safety and gradual acclimatisation are prioritised.
- Trek accommodation is in Sherpa guest houses, renowned for their hospitality.
- Kathmandu accommodation is in a comfortable guest house located within easy walking distance of the old city.



### Your Host

You will be accompanied by Ray Baker, a Back Track founding Director and trek leader. For over 40 years, Ray has researched and led treks to Everest and other Himalayan regions. You'll also be supported by an experienced team of local guides and porters who provide not only a safe trekking experience, but a fun-filled cultural interaction.

### Day 1 | Kathmandu 1300m

Arrive in Kathmandu today and transfer to the International Guest House.

### Day 2 | Kathmandu 1300m

Morning tour of the Hindu Pashupatinath Temple and the Buddhist Boudhanath Stupa. Pre-trek briefing in the afternoon. Welcome dinner in the evening. **B D**

### Day 3 | Ramechap 474m

Drive to Ramechap. We will be accommodated in a hotel close to the airport. **BLD**

### Day 4 | Phakdingma 2640m

Begin the trek with a spectacular mountain flight to Lukla (2860m). After landing, we'll set off on the first of two days on a trail along the Dudh Kosi Valley. Our lodge is in the village of Phakdingma. **BLD**

### Day 5 | Mondzo 2815m

A half day walk to assist in essential acclimatisation. After lunch we do an acclimatisation walk from our lodge. **BLD**

### Day 6 | Namche Bazaar 3440m

We trek to Namche Bazaar, the largest village in the Khumbu area. Our lodge is a short walk from the National Park headquarters and museum. **BLD**

### Day 7 | Rest & Acclimatisation in Namche Bazaar 3440m

We take a rest and acclimatisation day in Namche. Several impressive side treks are available, including to the Everest View Hotel (3880m) for stunning views of Everest, and a host of Himalayan peaks. **BLD**

### Day 8 | Phortse Tenga 3680m

Trek to our lunch spot at Mong La. From here trail descends to our lodge at Phortse Tenga beside the Dudh Kosi River. **BLD**

### Day 9 | Dole 4090m

Another short day to assist in acclimatisation. The trail climbs to the small settlement of Dole in time for lunch. In the afternoon there will be a short walk to assist acclimatisation. **BLD**

### Day 10 | Machhermo 4410m

Ascend the Gokyo Valley to Machhermo Village. In the afternoon there will be a short walk to assist acclimatisation. **BLD**

### Day 11 | Gokyo 4750m

Trek to the settlement of Gokyo. We pass three lakes to reach our lodge on the shore of the third lake, called Dudh Pokhari. **BLD**

### Day 12 | Gokyo 4750m

We take an optional pre-breakfast trek up to Gokyo Ri (5360m), a small peak. The views

from here rank with any that trekkers may encounter in Nepal. We get memorable views of four 8,000m peaks – Everest, Cho Oyu, Lhotse and Makalu plus the 3 sacred lakes to the south. We return to our lodge for lunch. The afternoon is free to relax. **BLD**

### Day 13 | Exploration Day in the Gokyo Valley

After an early breakfast we will head north up beside the Ngozumba Glacier. Our aim is to reach the fifth lake (4975m). There are outstanding views of Mt Everest and other peaks from here. We will take a packed lunch today and return to Gokyo by midafternoon.

### Day 14 | Marulung Via Renjo La 4200m

It will take about 3 hours to reach Renjo La. The glorious views from the pass include Mt Everest. After the pass, head down the Bhote Kosi Valley. Pass yak grazing areas to reach our lodge at Marulung. **BLD**

### Day 15 | Namche Bazaar 3440m

Descend the Bhote Kosi Valley. After reaching the picturesque village of Thame we stop in a comfortable lodge for an early lunch. Reach Namche by mid-afternoon. **BLD**

### Day 16 | Spare Day

A spare day is always included in our Everest itineraries in case of delays. There are numerous opportunities for exploring, shopping, or just relaxing. **BLD**

### Day 17 | Phakdingma 2640m

From Namche the trail descends rapidly to the floor of the Dudh Kosi Valley before reaching our lodge at Phakdingma. **BLD**

### Day 18 | Lukla 2860m

Our last trekking day and it's quite easy. Follow a trail through villages and fields before a gradual climb to Lukla. In the evening there's a special celebration dinner followed by a ceremony to farewell our Nepali trekking crew. **BLD**

### Day 19 | Kathmandu

Depart early morning on the short flight to Ramechap. After landing at Ramechap, we board our bus for the drive to Kathmandu. **B**

### Day 20 | Kathmandu

This is a free day to explore Kathmandu. Tonight, we will dine in a nearby restaurant for a farewell dinner. **BD**

### Day 21 | Kathmandu Airport Transfer

The trip ends today after breakfast. If you are leaving Kathmandu today, you will be transferred to Kathmandu Airport for your onward flight. **B**

Prices from

**\$5,190** per person twin share

Duration

**21 Days**

Dates

**08 – 28 April 2024**

### Trip Includes:

- Australian leader.
- 3 hearty meals per day on the trek.
- Twin share, comfortable lodge accommodation.
- Local experienced guides.
- Porterage of your gear and equipment. You only need carry a day pack containing items necessary for a particular day.
- All trek crew tips.
- Loan of a sleeping bag, kit bag and mini crampons.
- 4 nights B&B hotel accommodation in Kathmandu
- 1 night B&B hotel accommodation in Ramechap.
- All National Park entry fees and trek permit fees.
- All local flights and road transportation.
- Airport transfers.
- Welcome and farewell dinners in Kathmandu!
- 24-hour emergency contact while on holiday.

[Learn More](#)



# Beautiful Africa Safari

Relax and enjoy a meticulously crafted itinerary, designed to surpass the expectations of the first time African traveller, or the addicted African devotee. 21 days, travelling in comfort with superb iconic African scenery, incredible wildlife encounters, and real cultural interaction. Escorted from Australia, with additional expert guides on a near fully inclusive itinerary.

## Trip Highlights:

- Up close – numerous and quality wildlife encounters in premier wildlife reserves, national parks, and conservation areas.
- Breathtaking, ever changing, iconic African scenery.
- Meaningful cultural interaction.
- Explore 3 UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- 3 x small boutique safari camps with exclusive occupancy and selected atmospheric lodges at other locations.
- Great food! There's an old African saying: "A safari travels well on a full stomach".
- Renowned wildlife and naturalist guides, plus, historians and archaeologist.



## Your Hosts

Trish and Jim have been escorting Safaris in Africa together for 30 Years. Their passion and love for Africa is demonstrated in this itinerary that they have crafted specially for Back Track's Ruby Anniversary. Joining them will be some of Africa's best wildlife guides as well as historians and an archaeologist.

## Day 1 | Victoria Falls

Arrive Victoria Falls. Relax, meet fellow safari team members, poolside briefing, Welcome to Africa Dinner at Dusty's African homestyle restaurant. **D**



VICTORIA FALLS

## Day 2 | Hwange National Park

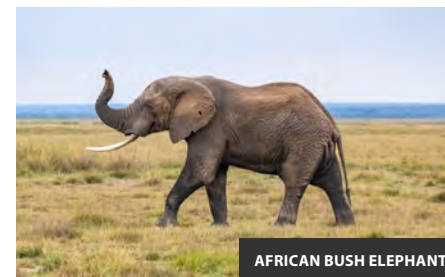
Private Victoria Falls tour. Enjoy your first wildlife excursion in Hwange National Park plus sundowner drinks and a sumptuous safari dinner under the stars. **BLD**

## Day 3-4 | Hwange National Park

Two full days enjoying traditional authentic safari experience. Professional guides escort you on early morning and late afternoon wildlife and nature drives and nature walks. **BLD**

## Day 5-6 | Matobo National Park

UNESCO World Heritage listed site. Additional specialist historian and archaeologist provides expert detail on the world's largest rock art collection and protected rhino sanctuary. **BLD**



AFRICAN BUSH ELEPHANT

## Day 7-8 | Great Zimbabwe National Monument

UNESCO World Heritage site. Fascinating ancient trade centre. Additional specialist historian and archaeologist provides expert commentary. **BLD**

## Day 9-11 | Eastern Highlands

Spend 3 days immersed in wildlife, nature, and cultural experiences. To claim this region is beautiful is an understatement. **BLD**

## Day 12 | Zimbabwe's capital Harare

Negotiating the hectic traffic is a fun experience. Overall, a brief but amusing and 'eye popping' experience. Special African culinary experience. **BLD**

## Day 13-15 | Mana Pools National Park

UNESCO World Heritage site. A journey down the wild Zambezi River, 3 days on safari in an area we are privileged to visit. A favourite haunt of David Attenborough. **BLD**



ZAMBEZI RIVER

## Day 16-18 | Matusadona National Park

3 days on safari. Bordering Lake Kariba, enjoy additional water-based activities, Noted birding and wildlife location. Expert guides and choices of activities. **BLD**

## Day 19-20 | Victoria Falls

Charter flight back to Victoria Falls. Two days of adventure activities and fun dinner and social experiences. **BD**

## Day 21 | Departure Day

Final farewells and breakfast. Team transfer to International terminal for home bound flights. **B**

Our consultants can assist with arrangements for anyone wishing to continue their adventures in Africa.

Prices from

**\$16,450** per person twin share

Duration

**21 Days**

Dates

**09 – 29 April 2024**

## Trip Includes:

- Fully escorted from Australia by Back Track host.
- 2 Guides and a driver throughout itinerary.
- Addition of specialist local wildlife and nature guides, plus historians and an archaeologist at times throughout itinerary.
- All transport from Day 1 Victoria Falls, including air-conditioned Coaster bus, 4WD safari vehicles, river boats, charter flight.
- Purposely selected: - fully furnished, lodge and safari tent accommodation all ensuite and highest superior class. Exclusive occupancy at our 3 safari camps.
- All meals as indicated on the itinerary with wine and spirits served at safari camps. Special dining experience in Harare.
- Access to purified water at all times.
- All activities, entry fees as indicated on itinerary.
- All group gratuities where necessary.
- Extensive pre departure information, commemorative team cap and safari shirt.
- Pre-Departure Zoom meeting.
- 24-hour emergency contact while on holiday.

[Learn More](#)



# Northern Territory Top End Connections

An itinerary with a difference – this is not a mass market tour. Our itinerary has been specially designed by Rob Woods from Ethical Adventures, to ensure you have an opportunity to understand, learn as well as experience all the places you visit, and gain a true understanding of life in the NT. Meals in many places are not included as your guide will join you to eat locally, with the locals.

## Trip Highlights:

- Immersive small group journey.
- Guides are the difference, and Rob is one of the best.
- The Darwin sunset at famous Mindil Markets.
- Bush and thermal pool swimming.
- Nitmiluk Gorge Cruise.
- Sunset Yellow Waters Cruise.
- Guluyambi Cultural Cruise (East Alligator Creek).
- Top Didi Experience.
- Tom Curtain Outback Experience.



### Your Host

Back Track's Emma is excited to be joining Rob on this incredible journey that delves deep into the stories and landscapes of the Top End. Emma fell in love with this region 13 years ago and can't wait to return and uncover more of its legends and natural beauty.

### Day 1 | Darwin

Transfer to our accommodation and freshen up after flights. Late afternoon city tour culminating with sunset at the famous Mindil Beach markets. Stay in a superior, centrally located hotel tonight.



DARWIN

### Day 2 | Litchfield National Park / Mt Bundy

Depart Darwin early for the short drive to Wangi Falls in Litchfield National Park. Enjoy morning tea followed by a full day enjoying different waterfalls, easy grade walks, birdwatching in the wetlands and a chance to swim in a natural pool abounding with fish. A great spectacle. Goggles provided. Accommodation in refurbished workers huts with ensuite at Mt Bundy Station. **LD**

### Day 3 | Katherine

Breakfast on the lawns of Mt Bundy, then explore the historic Pine Creek Village. Relaxed time to roam the fascinating town of Katherine, offering great culinary surprises as well as extraordinary history. Finish the day with a 4-hour cruise in beautiful Nitmiluk Gorge, before retiring to beautiful Cicada Lodge, our home for the next 3 nights. **BD**



KATHERINE

### Day 4 | Katherine / Mataranka

After breakfast, enjoy a cultural experience at Top Didi followed by lunch. A short drive down the Stuart Highway to explore Cutta Cutta caves, then on to the Mataranka and Bitter Springs thermal pools to finish our day floating through a rainforest shrouded paradise. **L**

### Day 5 | Katherine

Relaxed swim in Katherine thermal pools followed by a lazy lunch then a short trip out of town for the Tom Curtains Outback Experience offering an insight into life in the country. Afternoon free for scenic walks, birdwatching, or a swim.

### Day 6 | Katherine to Kakadu (Cooinda)

Long but fascinating day of adventure. First up, a swim at Edith Falls. Scenic drive to lunch at Bukbukluk Lookout and into the Heart of Kakadu and our accommodation at Cooinda Lodge. Our Yellow Waters sunset cruise heralds the end of another wonderful day.



KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

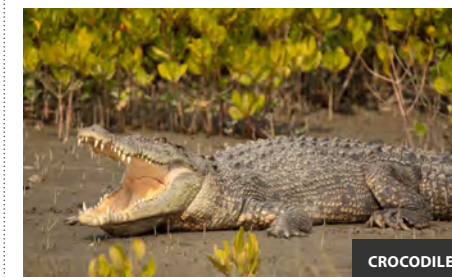
### Day 7 | Kakadu – Cooinda to Jabiru

A morning discovering wonderful rock art while on interesting walks. Late afternoon Cultural cruise on the infamous East Alligator River. Finish the day with the spectacular sunset at Nadab Lookout. Stay tonight at the Anbinik Kakadu Resort Suites.

### Day 8 | Kakadu to Darwin

Depart early and enjoy lunch at Purple Mango microbrewery and pizza place enroute to Darwin. The tour finishes on arrival at Darwin Airport to connect with homeward flights. **L**

Please confer with your BackTrack consultant for any additional holiday arrangements.



CROCODILE



Prices from

**\$7,199** per person twin share

Duration

**8 Days**

Dates

**05-12 May 2024**

### Trip Includes:

- Hosted by Back Track team member and expert guide accompanying throughout.
- Arrival transfer on Day 1 from Darwin Airport to group accommodation.
- Thoughtfully selected ensuite authentic accommodation on twin share basis as detailed.
- Single supplement on application.
- All transport in an airconditioned Coaster.
- All entrance fees and activity fees per itinerary.
- Meals as indicated on itinerary. The itinerary is designed to eat local with locals.
- Sunscreens, insect repellent and water bottle.
- 24-hour emergency contact while on holiday.

**Learn More**

\*Please note the inclusions and itinerary order may change subject to operational, cultural, or environmental considerations.

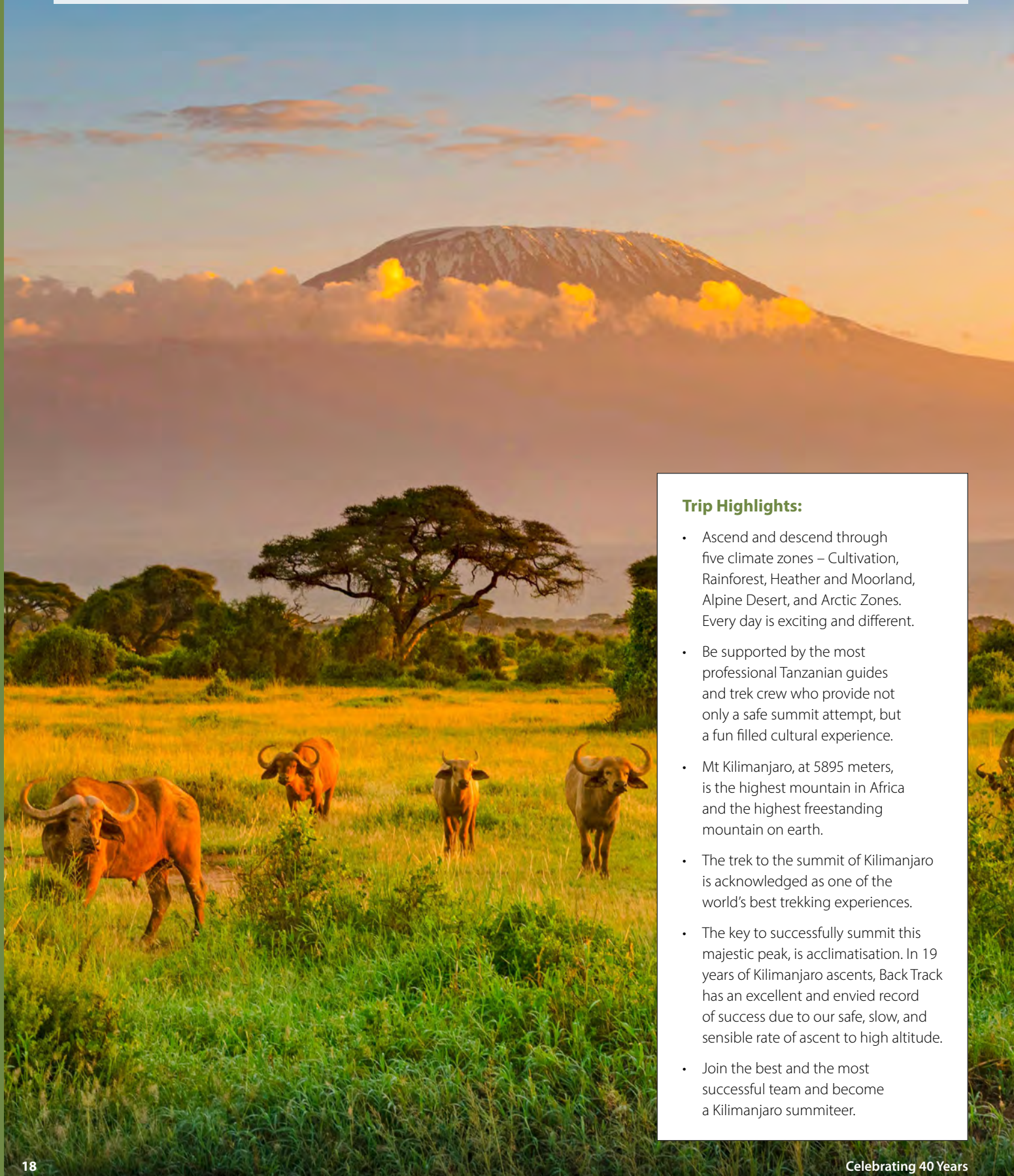
[backtrackadventures.com.au](http://backtrackadventures.com.au)

Celebrating 40 Years



# Kilimanjaro Trek (& Optional Wildlife Safari)

With a focus on acclimatisation, trek to the snow covered summit of Mt Kilimanjaro, soaring 5895m above the plains of East Africa. Afterwards, why not opt to enjoy the best wild game viewing areas in Africa – the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.



Trip Highlights:

- Ascend and descend through five climate zones – Cultivation, Rainforest, Heather and Moorland, Alpine Desert, and Arctic Zones. Every day is exciting and different.
- Be supported by the most professional Tanzanian guides and trek crew who provide not only a safe summit attempt, but a fun filled cultural experience.
- Mt Kilimanjaro, at 5895 meters, is the highest mountain in Africa and the highest freestanding mountain on earth.
- The trek to the summit of Kilimanjaro is acknowledged as one of the world’s best trekking experiences.
- The key to successfully summit this majestic peak, is acclimatisation. In 19 years of Kilimanjaro ascents, Back Track has an excellent and envied record of success due to our safe, slow, and sensible rate of ascent to high altitude.
- Join the best and the most successful team and become a Kilimanjaro summiteer.



**Your Host**  
You will be accompanied by Ray Baker, a Back Track founding Director and trek leader. Ray has successfully summited Mt Kilimanjaro 11 times plus has numerous other high-altitude experiences in mountainous areas.

**Day 1 | Moshi**  
Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport near Moshi. Meet and transfer to the Parkview Inn.

**Day 2 | Commence Climb**  
Depart in the morning from Moshi to our starting point for our Kilimanjaro ascent. **BLD**



**Day 3 | Shira 1 (3840m)**  
Trek to Shira Hut walking through the fine open moorlands. **BLD**

**Day 4 | Moir Hut (4140m)**  
Continue from Shira to Moir Hut, a walk through the open moorland. **BLD**



**Day 5 | Acclimatisation Day**  
Acclimatisation Day at Moir Camp. We do a morning walk to a nearby vantage point for spectacular views of Kilimanjaro. **BLD**

**Day 6 | Barranco Camp (3950m)**  
After a good night’s rest, this day is a challenging trek to Barranco; the route turns east into a semi desert and rocky landscape surrounding via Lava Tower. Our camp lies in a sheltered area below the spectacular cliffs of the Barranco Wall. **BLD**



**Day 7 | Karanga Camp (4100m)**  
We trek a short day to Karanga Camp, situated on a high ridge that descends from Kilimanjaro. This is the final water point until our descent from the summit of Kilimanjaro. **BLD**

**Day 8 | Barafu Camp (4600m)**  
Our slow acclimatising ascent places us tonight at Barafu Hut from where we will launch our summit bid tomorrow. **BLD**



**Day 9 | Summit Day**  
We head off early by torch light and arrive at the crater rim at Stella Point (5765m) by first light. We continue clockwise around the crater rim for an hour to arrive at the highest point at UHURU (5895m). After we soak in the atmosphere of being on the highest point in Africa, we start our descent via the Mweke Route to Mweke Hut (3100m). **BLD**



**Day 10 | Moshi**  
This morning it is an easy descent to the park entrance and then back to the Parkview Inn in Moshi. **BLD**

**Day 11 | Moshi**  
Transfer to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your flight departure. If you are joining our Wildlife Safari, today will be a rest day in Moshi. **B**

Prices from  
**\$6,190** per person twin share

Duration  
**11 Days**

Dates  
**19 – 29 June 2024**

- Trip Includes:**
- Australian leader.
  - Local Tanzanian guides and trek crew.
  - Porterage of your gear and equipment. You only need carry a day pack containing items necessary for a particular day.
  - Comfortable, centrally located hotel accommodation including buffet breakfast in Moshi before and after the trek.
  - 3 hearty meals per day on the trek.
  - All National Park entry fees and camping fees.
  - All camping equipment on the trek including sleeping tent, sleeping bag and mattress.
  - Private toilet.
  - All trek crew tips.
  - 24-hour emergency contact while on holiday.
  - Bonus – discounted add-on post trek Safari available.

Learn More



# Wild Botswana – 4WD

## You drive, We guide

Breathtaking wildlife encounters, iconic African scenery, fun and exhilarating driving. Enjoy comfortable camping in beautiful campsites in Africa’s outstanding eco system, the world-famous Okavango Delta in Botswana, a nation of warm and welcoming people. Experienced 4WD drivers will love the driving environment, but no 4WD experience necessary if you consider yourself a safe and competent driver. Experienced guides assist. Fully equipped Avis luxury camper provided. Unique African Safari opportunity arguably the world’s premier 4WD wildlife and camping experience.



### Trip Highlights:

- An exclusive opportunity to experience a guided, self-drive African safari holiday, rarely available to the public.
- Up close and personal encounters with Africa's amazing wildlife, including outstanding bird viewing.
- Breathtaking iconic African scenery including Victoria Falls.
- The exhilaration experienced from a shared small team adventure. Strictly limited to 4 vehicles to ensure our minimum impact on wilderness areas visited.
- Immersion in the wilds of the African bush. Wonderful campsites, with campfires and bush dinners.
- Fall asleep to the enthralling sounds of Africa's wildlife under star filled skies.
- 3 days of adventure in Victoria Falls in beautiful lodge accommodation.



### Your Host

Jim has escorted Safaris in Africa for 30 Years. His passion and love for Africa is infectious. Animal advocate, and keen 4-wheel driver, Jim will be joined in Africa by professional guides Steve Becker and Trish Pritchard to provide a competent and fun team. Jim will escort from Australia.

### Day 1 | Johannesburg

On arrival transfer to the Safari Club. There's time to relax after your flight before our team briefing.

### Day 2 | Matamba Bush Camp

Transfer to Avis depot and complete hire documentation, vehicle briefing and handover. Visit a supermarket for basic food and drink provisions before a short highway journey to Matamba Bush Camp. **B D**



KHAMA RHINO SANCTUARY

### Day 3 | Khama Rhino Sanctuary

Cross the border to Botswana, scenic highway driving to Khama Rhino Sanctuary. Full amenities campsite with pool and bar. **D**

### Day 4 | Maun

Scenic highway drive across Kalahara Desert country. Camp in Maun, safari gateway to Okavango Delta. Refuel, restock provisions. Full amenities campsite with pool and bar. **D**



OKAVANGO

### Day 5-13 | Okavango Delta Eco System

Travelling mostly off the grid for 9 days utilising 4WD tracks and a mix of wild campsites and lodges with varying amenities available. Renowned wildlife areas visited include Moremi, Khwai, Savuti and Chobe. The Okavango Delta Eco system supports vast quantities of Africa's unique wildlife within diversified bush environments, including plains areas, forest, deep as well as shallow channel river systems. Up close and personal encounters with animals and prolific birdlife. Elephants often visit our campsites. **D nightly**



VICTORIA FALLS

### Day 14-16 | Victoria Falls

Vehicles left safely at Thebe Safari Camp in Kasane on the border with Zimbabwe. Meet Trish our Zimbabwean guide. Cross the border by minibus. 3 nights/2 days of adventure in Victoria Falls. 4-star lodge accommodation, special dinner events. Falls tour included. **B x 2, D x 3**

### Day 17 | Kasane

Today head back to Thebe Safari Camp to refuel and reprovision. **B D**

### Day 18-19 | Elephant Sands/Goo Moremi

Enjoy a 2-day leisurely scenic highway journey. Camp at Elephant Sands where elephants also enjoy the camp swimming pool, and at beautiful Goo Moremi Gorge. **D, D**



JOHANNESBURG

### Day 20 | Johannesburg

Cross the border and return to Johannesburg. Return Avis hire vehicles, complete paperwork, transfer to Safari Club. Open evening for farewell celebrations.

### Day 21 | Johannesburg

Safari Club transfer to airport for those returning home. **B**

Additional activities can be arranged for those wishing to extend their African Holiday.

Prices from

**\$9,950** per person twin share

Duration

**21 Days**

Dates

**05 – 25 August 2024**

### Trip Includes:

- Hire of a 2.2 litre auto or manual, airconditioned, 4WD Avis safari vehicle fully kitted for camping, including bed linen, doonas, pillows, pillow slips.
- All road taxes, cross border fees and post tour cleaning fees.
- All park entry and camp fees.
- Australian escort and local guides.
- Dinners on most nights, including special event dinners in Victoria Falls, breakfast on 5 days.
- Private tour of Victoria Falls.
- Twin share accommodation in 4-star lodges on 5 nights.
- Arrival and departure transfers in Africa.
- Extensive pre departure information and advice to ensure your preparations are complete.
- Pre departure Zoom web meeting for all participants which includes our African guides.
- Services of our Travel Agency team for all travel arrangements.
- 24-hour emergency contact while on holiday.
- Commemorative safari shirt and cap.

[Learn More](#)



# Puglian Food Odyssey

Embark on a captivating journey through Southeastern Italy. Explore Puglia’s stunning coastline, iconic stone huts, and delectable cuisine. Discover Basilicata’s sandstone towns, Greek ruins, and divine produce. Experience Molise’s diverse cuisine and breathtaking scenery. This tour follows the Food Odyssey’s spirit, offering a history spanning 2000 years. Immerse yourself in traditions and savour the rich kaleidoscope of flavours that tell Italy’s remarkable story.



Trip Highlights:

- Experience real village life with authentic experiences.
- 2 Cooking lessons, market tour and pasta making class.
- Visit 3 Slow Food Presidia.
- 2 Wine tastings and visit wine museum.
- Explore traditional markets and producers.
- Boat tour to charming Polignano a Mare.
- Explore the Castellana Caves.
- Lunch on an old fishing platform in Gargano.
- Visit 1000-year-old bell workshop producing bells for the Vatican.
- Join a truffle hunt with truffle lunch.



**Your Host**  
Matteo Carri, born near Florence, developed a love for food and quality ingredients while growing up in a farmhouse. Assisting his mother and gaining experience in renowned restaurants fuelled his culinary passion. Now based in Brisbane, Australia, Matteo combines gastronomy, culture, and expertise in tours. Join him on a remarkable journey of flavours, immersing yourself in culinary delights.

**Day 1 | Bari – Matera**  
Arrival in Bari and transfer to Matera. Welcome Dinner. **D**

**Day 2 | Metaponto – Craco – Matera**  
Explore the ancient ruins of Metaponto. Immerse yourself in the captivating ambiance of the ghost town of Craco, a backdrop for numerous movies. **BLD**

**Day 3 | Lucanian Dolomites – Matera**  
Discover the Lucanian Dolomites. Savour the exquisite food flavours of their artisanal products. Enjoy leisure time in Matera before indulging in a delicious dinner. **BLD**

**Day 4 | Tricanico – Miglionico – Matera**  
Lose yourself in the enchanting villages of Tricanico and Miglionico. Engage in a delightful cooking class with an aperitivo and dinner experience in Matera. **BLD**

**Day 5 | Altamura – Santa Cesarea Terme**  
Wander charming streets of Altamura and savour the taste of their famous country-style sourdough bread. Relax by your resort pool this afternoon, overlooking the breathtaking Adriatic coastline. **BLD**

**Day 6 | Otranto – Santa Cesarea Terme**  
Revel in the scenic coastal drive enroute to Otranto. Wine tasting session and a memorable dinner amidst the Olive trees at Masseria Muntibianchi. **BLD**



**Day 7 | Gallipoli – Santa Cesarea Terme**  
Embark on a guided walking tour through the charming streets of Gallipoli, and culminate the day with a special dinner in a XVI-century farmhouse. **BLD**

**Day 8 | Ostuni – Locorotondo – Martina Franca**  
Stroll through the enchanting town of Ostuni in a market tour. Enjoy a traditional local lunch that you will prepare. Visit the picturesque town of Locorotondo, recognized as one of Italy’s most beautiful villages. **BLD**



**Day 9 | Castellana Caves – Polignano a Mare – Martina Franca**  
Venture into the mesmerizing Castellana caves. Conclude the day with a walk and cruise through the captivating coastal village of Polignano a Mare. **BLD**

**Day 10 | Castel del Monte – Trani**  
Head to Castel del Monte. Take a leisurely stroll around Trani before enjoying a delightful rooftop dinner. **BLD**

**Day 11 | Gargano Peninsula – Trani**  
Explore the Gargano Peninsula. Relish a delectable lunch in Peschici, situated on an old fishing platform converted into a restaurant. **BLD**

**Day 12 | Bari– Trani**  
Explore the vibrant capital city of Puglia, Bari. Wander the charming streets of the old quarter. **BLD**

**Day 13 | Termoli – Campobasso**  
Discover the coastal fishing village of Termoli and explore the historic town of Campobasso. **BLD**

**Day 14 | Saepinum Archaeological Area – Mount Miletto – Campobasso**  
Uncover the hidden gem of Saepinum Archaeological Area, a well-preserved Roman ruin. Take a memorable chairlift ride from Capitello Matese to reach the refuge on Mount Miletto. **BLD**

**Day 15 | Truffle Hunt – Campobasso**  
Today we go on a truffle hunt with a local hunter and experience the thrill of unearthing these precious culinary gems. **BLD**

**Day 16 | Transfer to Naples**  
Head to Naples for your return flight home or consider joining our Sicily tour or embarking on further adventures. **B**

Prices from  
**\$12,999** per person  
twin share

Duration  
**16 Days**

Dates  
**23 September – 08 October 2024**

- Trip Includes:**
- Escorted by Italian-born English-speaking tour leader from Australia.
  - 15 nights boutique hotels with character.
  - Transfers to and from airports.
  - Minibus transportation throughout.
  - Daily breakfast.
  - All Lunches and Dinners with wine.
  - Evening aperitivo throughout.
  - Tasting as per itinerary.
  - Entrance to sites as per itinerary.
  - Activities as per itinerary.
  - Tipping.
  - 24-hour emergency contact while on holiday.

Learn More



# Sicilian Food Odyssey

Embark on a tantalizing Sicilian Food Odyssey, where flavours, aromas, and vibrant colours from local markets and producers awaken your senses. Immerse yourself in picturesque village-scapes and uncover the region’s rich history. Sicily’s intertwined tapestry of history, culture, and cuisine unfolds, with each ruling civilization leaving a lasting mark on architecture and traditional dishes. Indulge in the pleasures of the table while embracing fair trade and responsible practices on this extraordinary journey.



Trip Highlights:

- Experience real village life and authentic experiences.
- Market tour with cooking lesson.
- Boat trip to see the Stromboli volcano erupting.
- Talks from restaurant owners.
- Visits to 3 Slow Food Presidia.
- Explore traditional markets and producers.
- 3 nights at Salina on the Aeolian Islands.
- 2 nights in a Boutique hotel in Taormina.
- Knowledgeable and local tour guide and speakers.
- Traditional Music night.



**Your Host**  
Matteo Carri, born near Florence, developed a love for food and quality ingredients while growing up in a farmhouse. Assisting his mother and gaining experience in renowned restaurants fuelled his culinary passion. Now based in Brisbane, Australia, Matteo combines gastronomy, culture, and expertise in tours. Join him on a remarkable journey of flavours, immersing yourself in culinary delights.

**Day 1 | Catania – Noto**  
Arrive in Catania and transfer to the hotel for a welcome dinner with local produce. **BLD**



**Day 2 | Ragusa – Modica – Marzamemi – Noto**  
A captivating day of exploration including the baroque city of Ragusa, chocolate tasting in Modica and the charming fishing village of Marzamemi. **BLD**

**Day 3 | Palazzolo Acreide – Scicli – Noto**  
Begin the day with a visit to the black pig Slow Food presidia in Palazzolo Acreide before discovering organic produce near Scicli. **BLD**

**Day 4 | Siracusa – Ortigia – Noto**  
Venture to Siracusa and its archaeological sites, including the Ortigia market where you'll source produce for a captivating cooking class this afternoon. **BLD**

**Day 5 | Piazza Armerina – Agrigento**  
Journey to the remarkably preserved Roman Villa of Piazza Armerina and its extended mosaics before continuing your expedition to Agrigento. **BLD**

**Day 6 | Valley of the Temples – Sciacca – Trapani**  
Marvel at the awe-inspiring Valley of the Temples, and after a delightful lunch in Sciacca, proceed to the salt flats of Trapani. **BLD**



**Day 7 | Erice – San Vito Lo Capo – Trapani**  
Uncover the treasures of picturesque Erice and its delectable pastries. Indulge in a Slow Food lunch before venturing to the coastal gem of Scopello. **BLD**

**Day 8 | Selinunte – Marsala – Trapani**  
Today is an intoxicating mix of exploring ancient sites and tantalising your taste buds with local dishes paired with Marsala wine. **BLD**

**Day 9 | Monreale – Palermo**  
Visit the renowned Monreale Cathedral before continuing your journey to Palermo for a leisurely afternoon and special dinner. **BLD**

**Day 10 | Palermo – Cefalu – Palermo**  
Discover the vibrant Ballarò Street Market today before experiencing the captivating atmosphere of Cefalù this evening. **BLD**

**Day 11 | Salina Island**  
Transfer to Milazzo and board a Hydrofoil to Salina Island in the Aeolians. Unwind and enjoy a relaxing evening by the sea. **BLD**

**Day 12 | Salina Island**  
Relax this morning before embarking on a captivating sunset boat tour of Stromboli this afternoon. **BLD**

**Day 13 | Salina Island**  
Delve into the world of Capers Slow Food presidia and savour the exquisite wine of Salvatore followed by a visit to the Museum of Emigration. **BLD**



**Day 14 | Taormina**  
Bid farewell to Salina Island and head to Taormina, where you can visit the Greek theatre overlooking the picturesque bay, and enjoy some free time. **BLD**

**Day 15 | Mt Etna – Bronte – Taormina**  
Explore the majestic Etna volcano and discover the charming town of Bronte, renowned for its pistachio culture. Conclude the day with a memorable final dinner in Taormina. **BLD**

**Day 16 | Taormina – Catania**  
Transfer to Catania airport today as you bid our group farewell. **B**

Prices from  
**\$12,499** per person  
twin share

Duration  
**16 Days**

Dates  
**10 – 25 October 2024**

Trip Includes:

- Fully accompanied by Italian-born English-speaking tour leader from Australia.
- 15 nights boutique hotels with character.
- Transfers to and from airports.
- Minibus transportation throughout.
- Daily breakfast.
- All Lunches and Dinners with wine.
- Evening aperitivo throughout.
- Tasting as per itinerary.
- Entrance to sites as per itinerary.
- Activities as per itinerary.
- Tipping.
- 24-hour emergency contact while on holiday.

Learn More



# Galapagos of the Southern Ocean

Without doubt one of the most inspirational expeditions into the Southern Ocean ecosystem on offer anywhere in the world. The subantarctic islands lying to the south of New Zealand are UNESCO World Heritage sites designated as one of 'the most important and natural habitats on the planet.' We offer you the excitement of joining a small team of knowledgeable and passionate guides to explore and photograph these wonderful remote islands.



## Trip Highlights:

- Explore The Snares, Macquarie Island, Campbell Island, Auckland Islands.
- Immersion in unique floral and fauna endemic to these islands.
- Learn from expert guides.
- Opportunity for unique nature photography.
- Get up close and personal with albatross, penguins, petrels, prions, shearwaters and marine mammals like sea lions, fur seals and elephant seals.
- Share this life-enhancing experience with Jim and Marianne.



## Your Hosts

Back Track Adventures are proud to partner with Wild Earth Travel and Heritage Expeditions on this amazing voyage. Back Track's Marianne and Jim will be your hosts alongside the experienced Heritage crew.



HOBART

## Day 1 | Hobart

Make your own way to our designated Hobart hotel. Meet your Back Track hosts and fellow adventurers. **D**

## Day 2 | Hobart

After breakfast, transfer to the Heritage Adventurer. Be welcomed onboard by the Captain and crew and settle into your cabin. Early afternoon departure time. **BLD**

## Day 3-4 | At sea

Head south into the great Southern Ocean to Macquarie Island. Wonderful birding opportunities abound. **BLD**

## Day 5-6 | Macquarie Island

On arrival we meet with stationed scientists and park rangers. They will accompany our own guides and naturalists as we explore the island extensively. Immerse yourself in amazing flora and fauna experiences while enjoying wonderful photographic opportunities. **BLD**



MACQUARIE ISLAND

## Day 7 | At sea

Birdlife will amaze. On board lectures. **BLD**

## Day 8-9 | Campbell Island – Perseverance Harbour

Two days fully occupied in island exploration. Unique flora and fauna experiences. **BLD**

## Day 10 | Auckland Islands – Carnley Harbour

Formed by two now extinct volcanoes, the dramatic landscape lends itself to exploration on foot and by zodiac along its rugged coastline. **BLD**

## Day 11 | Auckland Islands – Enderby Island

One of the most beautiful islands in the group and easily explored. The plan is to land near

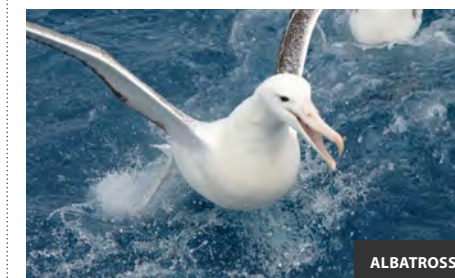
the breeding area of a rare species of sea lion. Outstanding wildlife and birding location. **BLD**



PENGUINS

## Day 12 | The Snares – Northeast Island

The closest Subantarctic islands to New Zealand, uninhabited and home to more nesting seabirds than all the British Isles together. Tonight, we enjoy a farewell dinner on board. **BLD**



ALBATROSS

## Day 13 | Invercargill /Queenstown

Early morning arrival in Bluff on the southern tip of New Zealand. After breakfast we board our coach to Queenstown where our adventure concludes. **B**

All travel arrangements from this point can be tailored to meet the individual travel requirements of participants. Please confer with your Back Track Travel Consultant.



HERITAGE ADVENTURER



Prices from

**\$15,395** per person twin share

Duration

**13 Days**

Dates

**22 November – 03 December 2024**

## Trip Includes:

- 1 night Hobart accommodation with welcome dinner.
- Transfers hotel – ship – hotel.
- Onboard ship accommodation with all meals.
- House beer, wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- Permits and landing fees.
- All shore excursions.
- Lecture programme by noted naturalists.
- 24-hour emergency contact while on holiday.

[Learn More](#)



# Spectacular Antarctica: A Photographic Journey

Described as the last frontier and a pristine wilderness, it is difficult to put into words just how magical Antarctica is. Most visitors will say their photos simply don't capture it. On this incredible photographic journey, you'll not only marvel at the spectacle and wonder that is Antarctica, you'll capture images that will forever preserve your precious memories.

## Trip Highlights:

- Be accompanied from Buenos Aires by a professional photographic guide who'll conduct group workshops and provide individual mentoring.
- Explore where few people venture – glacial valleys and lakes of the Fuegian Andes, and the islands, coves, channels, and harbours of the Antarctic Peninsula.
- Conquer the famed Drake Passage in a stabilised polar-class ship.
- Opportunity to see numerous penguin, seal, and whale species.
- Learn about the unique landscape and wildlife from your expert expedition team.
- Option to camp on the ice in Antarctica (subject to availability and at an additional cost).



## Your Host

Damian Caniglia is a full-time photographer who has been awarded at a state and national level. His international work has taken him to all seven continents and a growing list of publications have used his images and footage including Australian Geographic and Lonely Planet. He is also a qualified trainer who is committed to helping you develop your own photographic skills and knowledge.

## Day 1 | Buenos Aires

Welcome to Argentina! Be met on arrival in Buenos Aires and transfer to your hotel where you can settle in and relax on a free evening.



USHUAIA

## Day 2 | Ushuaia

After breakfast and a relaxing morning, be transferred to the airport for your flight to Ushuaia. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and set out to explore this charming town at the end of the world. **B**

## Day 3 | Ushuaia

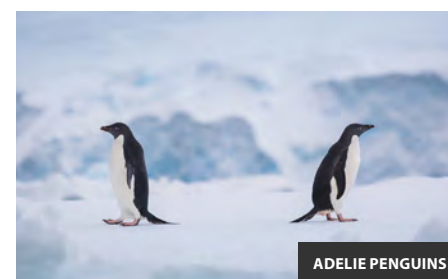
Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, then join Damian for your first photographic workshop where you'll learn how to get the best out of your camera. This afternoon set out to practice your new skills around town. **B**

## Day 4 | Ushuaia – Fuegian Andes – Ushuaia

Get set to further hone your photographic expertise on a private, full day tour exploring the lakes of the Fuegian Andes. Head off road and explore trails that are impassable for conventional vehicles and enjoy a mouth-watering lunch of Argentinian specialties, far from the noise of modern life. **BL**

## Day 5 | Embarkation Day

This morning why not take the Fuegian Southern Railway (or aptly named End of the World Train) to Tierra del Fuego National Park or visit one of Ushuaia's museums before meeting your fellow Antarctic expeditioners and embarking on your voyage of a lifetime. **BD**



ADELIE PENGUINS

## Day 6 | Drake Passage

Wake up in the Drake Passage and enjoy presentations by your expert Expedition Team as well as more photographic tuition from Damian.

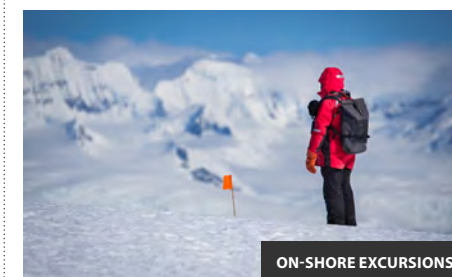
Perhaps you'll snap an image of the majestic Wandering or Southern Royal Albatross. **BLD**

## Day 7 | Drake Passage

Continuing your journey southwards, you'll be entertained and engaged by your guides and have the opportunity to polish your photography skills before stepping off the ship tomorrow. Who will see the first iceberg?! **BLD**

## Day 8-11 | South Shetland Islands & Antarctica Peninsula

For the next four days, be captivated by the incomparable landscape and curious wildlife. Every day will be different, and your expedition team will provide a range of off-ship excursions to make the most of your time. Be entertained as penguins set about courting and nesting and Damian will help you capture amazing images of these inquisitive little birds along with a variety of seals and whales, not to mention the incredible ice formations of varying shades of blue. **BLD**



ON-SHORE EXCURSIONS

## Day 12 | Drake Passage

Say farewell to Antarctica but the adventure isn't over yet. Keep an eye out for whales and seabirds and work with Damian to perfect the images you've taken on this unforgettable journey. **BLD**

## Day 13 | Drake Passage

As the shores of Argentina come ever closer, enjoy a final day with your fellow expeditioners and celebrate the experiences you've shared. **BLD**

## Day 14 | Disembark / Buenos Aires

Disembark this morning and return to Buenos Aires. Transfer to your hotel and freshen up before enjoying a fabulous farewell dinner in true Argentinian style. **BD**

## Day 15 | Buenos Aires

The adventure comes to an end today as you transfer to the airport for your onward travels or flight home. **B**

Prices from

**\$17,999** per person  
twin share

Duration

**15 Days**

Dates

**07 – 21 December 2024**

## Trip Includes:

- Professional photographic guide including pre-trip advice.
- Detailed pre-departure photographic booklet & private access to training material.
- Photographic workshops, tuition, and individual mentoring throughout the journey.
- Group transfers throughout.
- 5 nights comfortable hotel accommodation.
- 9 nights aboard an expedition ship
- Daily breakfast.
- Farewell group dinner in Buenos Aires.
- All meals onboard the ship.
- Any welcome and farewell cocktails onboard the ship.
- Select beer & wine served during dinner onboard the ship.
- Formal & informal presentations onboard the ship by the expedition team.
- Expedition photographic journal.
- Pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for duration of voyage.
- 3-in-1 Quark Expeditions parka to keep.
- Luggage handling onboard the ship.
- Full day Lakes off-road tour in Ushuaia including lunch.
- Return domestic flights from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia.
- All gratuities throughout the trip.
- 24-hour emergency contact while on holiday.

**Learn More**



# BackTrack



## Adventures

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN 2024

Cannot find a tour that suits you?

*Contact our Adventure specialists for  
more inspiration on where 2024 can take you.*



**backtrackadventures.com.au**

1300 669 780 • [enquire@backtrack.com.au](mailto:enquire@backtrack.com.au)

222A Barry Parade, PO Box 132 Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006



\*Conditions apply. Prices are per person, in Australian dollars, subject to availability and correct at time of publication. For full terms and conditions visit [www.backtrackadventures.com.au](http://www.backtrackadventures.com.au)