



WORLDWIDE COMFORT ADVENTURES

PERFECT FOR OVER 50S



ShandonTravel

Established
1974

CALL US: 021 427 7094 **VISIT US:** 76 Grand Parade, Cork
W: www.shandontravel.ie **E:** info@shandontravel.ie

Licence No. T.A. 0252

Contents

TRIP STYLES

4-5

SOLO TRAVEL

6

SOUTH EAST ASIA & INDOCHINA

7-11

JAPAN, TAIWAN & NORTH KOREA

12-13

INDIA, SRI LANKA, NEPAL & BHUTAN

14-16

EUROPE, MOROCCO & THE MIDDLE EAST

17-21

THE AMERICAS

22-26



A high-angle photograph of a person with dark skin, wearing a light blue t-shirt and a yellow patterned cloth draped over their shoulder, sorting through a vast field of bright red chili peppers. The person's hands are visible, reaching into the sea of peppers. The background is a dense, textured expanse of red peppers, filling the entire frame.

Welcome

EXPLORE THE WORLD WITH OUR COMFORT ADVENTURE TOURS

Immerse yourself in the culture of where you are visiting and enjoy the real life experiences and thrill of travel without sacrificing your comfort. These tours are for everyone especially solo travellers!

What are Comfort Adventure Tours?

Comfort Adventure Tours offer you the same opportunity to experience the culture of each destination by travelling as part of a group with a highly experienced tour leader as adventure tours. However these comfort tours offer a higher level of comfort in accommodation and transport so for example instead of sleeping on a junk boat in Vietnam you can stay in a hotel.

Features of these tours include: Using more private transport ~ The travel pace is more relaxed ~ Accommodation is a touch nicer ~ More included meals ~ More leader-led activities

Local Leader - The passion of the local leaders is what makes these trips so special. You'll have a highly experienced leader with invaluable local knowledge who'll be there for you every step of the way.

Group activities - Our comfort-style trips follow a more structured itinerary and feature more included activities. This leaves you to reap the benefits of more time in the company of a local leader – and their local knowledge.

Meals - Some meals are included – all of your breakfasts throughout and then perhaps visits to some of our favourite restaurants with your group to get a taste of the region.

Accommodation

Where you stay ensures you are firmly entrenched in a region's people and culture and provides you with unique local experiences that benefit the local community too. Most nights are spent in comfortable hotels, but on most trips you can also get to stay a night or two in some pretty special accommodations such as the Permanent Camp in Serengeti National Park and an Indian Heritage Property.

Transport - getting around

These trips mostly use private vehicles such as cars or buses but in some destinations you will travel in unique modes of transport local to where you are. Some of the more interesting of these would include: Bullet Train in Japan; Traghetto in Venice or a Felucca in Egypt!

These tours are designed to not only see a place but to be immersed in the culture and the people of where you are.

Call us to discuss these tours on 021 427 7094.

Trip Styles

Every one of our trips has a particular style. It's a way to help you pick the adventure that suits you best. We've smoothed away adventure travel's rougher edges to craft a style of travel that has an added degree of... well, comfort. Enjoy a more relaxed pace, comfortable accommodation and lots of included activities.

INCLUSIONS

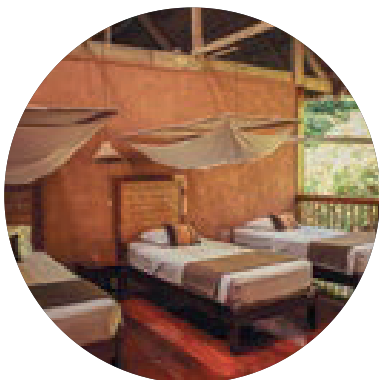
Plenty of included activities and some meals. Each trip has an expert local leader and is full of real life experiences.

ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable hotels with private amenities and often with plenty of local character. Some itineraries feature homestays or unique accommodation, such as a Moroccan riad or a French chateau.

TRANSPORT

More private transport than Original style trips and shorter travel days.



Adventures for all tastes

Like our travellers, our trips come in all shapes and sizes – from active tours to family-friendly journeys, short breaks to epic overland adventures. In fact, you'll find a whole range of food, cycling and sailing adventures sprinkled throughout these pages. Whatever flavour, tempo or activity floats your boat, we've got it covered.

FOOD

All the highlights of an Explorer tour, seasoned with street food crawls, cooking classes and home cooked meals.

SAILING

Explore the hard-to-reach parts of a destination by sail or riverboat. No traffic jams, no delays – just endless horizons.

CYCLING

See the world on two wheels. Active, expertly guided cycling trips designed for all experience and fitness levels.

Plus a whole lot more...

Like to get the blood pumping? Check out our active trips in **Croatia** and the **Galapagos Islands**, or **Hike, Bike and Kayak Vietnam**.

If you're looking for a challenge, conquer the climb to **Everest Base Camp** or tackle the glaciers of **Patagonia**.

If you're short on time and want to skip to the highlights, check out our quick yet immersive itineraries in **Japan**, **Costa Rica** or **Morocco**.

Look out for these symbols



We have no minimum numbers on most of our trips. Once you've booked, your trip will run as scheduled.



We offset our emissions each year by investing in highly accredited renewable energy products.

PHYSICAL RATING

Each of our trips has a physical rating, so you can tell how physically exerting a trip is and how fit you'll need to be to enjoy it. As a guide:

- Easy and relaxing
- Bring your walking shoes
- An average level of fitness required
- Action packed, physically demanding
- Full-on active adventure for the more agile traveller



Highlights trips that receive a traveller rating of over 4.75 out of 5.



Exciting new additions to our current range of itineraries.



Highlights an adventure combining two or more trips.

**ALL ITINERARIES ARE
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS!**



Solo Travellers

Ever get the urge to travel, but no one to go with? That intense desire to sip coffee in Colombia or ride a camel across the desert (a la Lawrence of Arabia) or explore the essence of classic Rajasthan. Sounds like it's time to give solo travel a try. Travelling alone on a small group tour has great advantages: we've got expert local leaders to show

you around, ready-made friends who are always willing to explore (just like you), and no hidden fees because you're travelling solo. With logistics, accommodation and transport already taken care of, all you have to do is turn up with a smile and a passport!



Best of Morocco

See the best of Morocco from Casablanca to Marrakech. Admire the city of Fes, see the sands of the Sahara Desert and visit the Roman ruins of Volubilis.



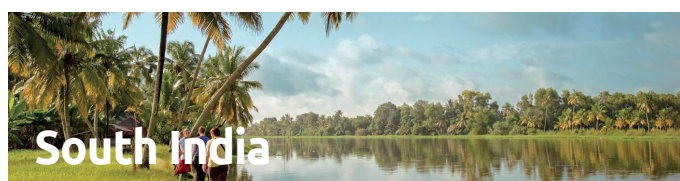
Best of Italy

Immerse yourself in classic culture, history and incredible sights on this Best of Italy tour. Visit Rome, Florence, Milan and the romantic city of Venice.



Classic Rajasthan

Explore classic Rajasthan on an adventure tour through romantic India. The enchanting northern province of Rajasthan is awash with all the colours of India.



South India

Discover the beautiful landscapes of southern India on a fascinating journey from the beaches of Varkala to idyllic Goa via the Kerala backwaters and historic Kochi.



Mexico Unplugged

Discover the heart of Mexico's Aztec, Zapotec, Mayan and Spanish cultures on a two-week journey spanning ruins, pueblos and beaches. Mexico is one of Latin America's most colourful and exciting destinations.



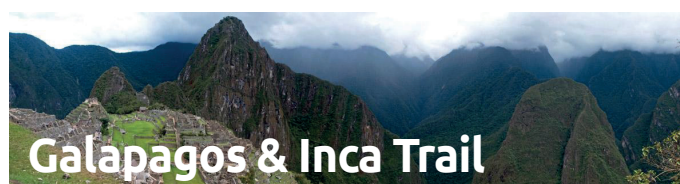
Cape Town To Victoria Falls

Take a wild African adventure from South Africa to Zimbabwe. Travel north from Cape Town into Namibia, cross over to Botswana and finish in Zimbabwe.



Gorillas & Gameparks, Uganda

The ultimate African adventure tour. See lions in Kenya's Lake Nakuru National Park, hippos in Uganda and go on a gorilla safari in Rwanda. This tour is unforgettable.



Galapagos & Inca Trail

Prepare for a unique adventure packed full of ancient sights and breathtaking beauty as you travel from the bustle of Quito, visiting the breathtaking Galapagos Islands.



Serengeti, Tanzania

Venture to the enormous caldera of Ngorongoro, a wildlife hotbed unlike anywhere else on Earth. Proceed on to Serengeti National Park, home to the Masai people and an incredible range of wildlife.



Cruise Croatia

Cruise Croatia on a small ship cruising adventure with Intrepid. Join us on a cruise along the Croatian coast, calling in at Hvar, Korcula, and Split.

TRAVELLING SOLO - This is a great way to travel with like-minded people who want to explore the same destination as you. There's no single supplement when you share accommodation with a member of the same sex, but if you'd like a room to yourself, there's the option of a single supplement available on most trips. **For further information and departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie**

With our expert knowledge
and great value prices
we will organise and
tailor-make an unforgettable
holiday for you



South East Asia & Indochina



From the steamy jungles and rolling hill country of mainland Laos and Thailand, to the thousands of Indonesian islands scattered across the Indian and Pacific Ocean, there's always something to be discovered in this vibrant and tropical corner of the world. One moment you can be riding a tuk tuk through the busy streets of Hanoi, the next you're trekking past small villages in the outer reaches of Mandalay or relaxing on the pristine beaches of Phuket. The only problem is deciding where to start.



Bali isn't just about beach chilling; it's also a place for those with adventure in mind. Whitewater rafting and trekking through forests are just a taste of what's on offer.



Admire the ingenious floating gardens and stilt-houses of Inle Lake in Myanmar and see the unusual leg-rowing techniques of the Intha fishermen.



The stunning waterside ruins of Cambodia's Angkor Temple Complex aren't just beautiful to look at from afar, they're also a joy to explore on foot. Get lost among the moss-covered buildings of this ancient Khmer city.

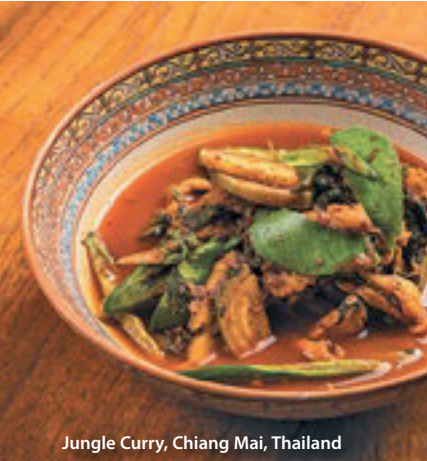
WHERE IN THE WORLD

Cambodia
Indonesia
Laos
Malaysia
Myanmar
Papua New Guinea
The Philippines
Thailand
Vietnam

Weather

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bangkok												
Kota Kinabalu												
Chiang Mai												
Manila												
Moresby												

- Monsoon 25-35°C
- Very hot & dry 35°C+
- Hot & dry 25-35°C
- Hot & wet 25-35°C
- Pleasantly warm 20-30°C
- Warm & wet 20-25°C
- Cool 15-20°C
- Cold & dry 0-15°C
- Cold & wet 0-15°C
- Below freezing -0°C



Jungle Curry, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Thailand Adventures

Get the best of both worlds – the jungle of the north and the golden sands of the south – by joining Thai trips together. Combine Bangkok and the Golden Triangle hilltribe villages with either the islands of the east coast or the beaches of the west.



Kanchanaburi, Thailand - Laura May

Highlights of Thailand

11 DAYS, BANGKOK TO BANGKOK



Whip up a culinary storm and taste delicious local northern cuisine in a Thai cooking class in Chiang Mai.

Immerse yourself in the wonders of an ancient tribal culture with a night in the H'mong Lodge, treated to a barbecue dinner and H'mong Cultural show.

Day 1 Bangkok Arrive in the frenetic Thai capital. **Day 2 Bangkok/Overnight Train** Visit the Emerald Buddha, and take a cruise along the canals to see a different side of the city. Head north on an overnight train journey to Chiang Mai. **Days 3-4 Chiang Mai** Embark on a scenic drive up to Doi Suthep, a sacred mountain famous for its copper-plated chedi and sweeping views. In the evening enjoy a traditional khantok dinner while being entertained by tribal dances. **Day 5 H'mong Lodge** See the embroidered dress and silver jewellery worn by the H'mong tribe. **Days 6-7 Sukhothai** Continue to Lampang and pay a visit to the Friends of the Asian Elephant Centre. **Days 8-9 Kanchanaburi** Boarding at Nam Tok station, take a ride along the historic tracks that follow the Kwai Noi River and cross the original wooden viaduct that became better known as the Bridge on the River Kwai. **Days 10-11 Bangkok** Return to Bangkok and enjoy a final dinner at a local restaurant supporting a good cause.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Fridays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
TTKK

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (4 nts), lodge (1 nt), overnight sleeper train (1 nt), resort (4 nts)



10 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 3 Dinners



Boat, overnight sleeper train, sammlaw (cycle rickshaw), private minivan

Beautiful Northern Thailand

15 DAYS, BANGKOK TO BANGKOK



Journey to Kanchanaburi and swim beneath the seven-tiered waterfall of Erawan National Park. These glacial blue falls are considered the most beautiful in the country.

Even the transport on this trip is an adventure – discover the joys of travelling on overnight sleeper trains, longtail boats, songthaew and a raft house.

Day 1 Bangkok Revel in the boundless energy of the Thai capital. **Day 2 Kanchanaburi** Gaze up at the reclining Buddha at Wat Pho on a longtail boat cruise. **Days 3-4 Kanchanaburi** Float down the Mae Long River in a raft house and stop to see ancient cave temples. **Day 5 Ayuthaya** Continue on to Ayuthaya, an ancient capital city of many splendid temples. **Days 6-7 Chiang Mai** Perhaps choose to enhance culinary prowess in a cooking class. In free time there's also the option of visiting an Elephant Nature Park. **Day 8 Doi Mae Salong** Head through the undulating valleys of the Golden Triangle. **Day 9 Homestay** Experience village life on an overnight stay. **Days 10 Hilltribe Trek** Hike for two days through bamboo forests, tea plantations and terraced rice fields. **Day 12 Chiang Rai** Explore Chiang Mai's 'little sister'. **Day 13 Chiang Mai** Enjoy a traditional Thai massage or set off on a bike ride to nearby villages. **Days 14-15 Bangkok** Hit the Chatuchak Weekend Market or Chinatown.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Sundays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
ORIGINAL

TRIP CODE
TTSN

PHYSICAL
●●●○○



Maximum group size 12



Guesthouse (4 nts), hilltribe village (2 nts), homestay (1 nt), hotel (4 nts), overnight sleeper train (2 nts), rafterhouse (1 nt)



4 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 4 Dinners



Public bus, overnight sleeper train, songthaew, taxi, minivan, boat



Hoi An, Vietnam

Log on to our website
www.shandontravel.ie
for more
itinerary options



Imperial Citadel, Hue, Vietnam

Cambodia & Vietnam Discovery

13 DAYS, PHNOM PENH TO HANOI



Zip from sight to sight, spectacle to spectacle, on this comfort-style adventure that takes long travel days out of the equation by working in a few flights.

Go back in time at the ancient trading port of Hoi An. Experience the blend of influences from Europe and Asia on the nearby beaches and markets.

Days 1-2 Phnom Penh Jump straight into the thick of things in historic Phnom Penh. **Days 3-5 Siem Reap/Angkor Wat** Fly into Siem Reap. Temple-hop through the Angkor complex and discover the intriguing mythology of Angkor Wat. **Days 6-7 Ho Chi Minh City** Embark on a tour of the city and take in the smell of fresh herbs at the Binh Tay Market before heading to the Cu Chi Tunnels. **Days 8-9 Hoi An** See the Marble Mountains en route to lively Hoi An. Meander past low-tiled houses, visit the Japanese Covered Bridge and perhaps stroll through the local market. **Day 10 Hanoi** Embark on a half-day city tour, visiting Ho Chi Minh's stilt house and the One Pillar Pagoda before sitting down to lunch at KOTO. **Day 11 Halong Bay** Drift away on an overnight cruise in beautiful Halong Bay, perhaps venturing out by kayak. **Days 12-13 Hanoi** Return to Hanoi and take in a water puppet performance, perhaps rounding out the trip with a few bia hois at a street cafe.



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
TKKCC

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (11 nts), overnight boat (1 nt)



12 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 3 Dinners



Plane, private vehicle, boat, minivan



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Mondays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



Indochina Discovery

23 DAYS, HANOI TO BANGKOK



Encounter the eclectic fusing of eastern traditions with western cultures on this extensive adventure through Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

Spend a day in Hue, touring the city's sights on a motorbike, cruising down the Perfume River and eating lunch at a serene nunnery.

Days 1-2 Hanoi Get lost in the whirl of colour, commotion and horn-tooting traffic that is Hanoi. **Days 3-4 Halong Bay** Spend an unforgettable evening floating atop the shimmering waters of Halong Bay. **Days 5-6 Hue** Relive the opulence of imperial Vietnam within the Thai Hoa Palace and Forbidden Purple City. **Days 7-9 Hoi An** Step back in time in the ancient streetscapes of Hoi An. **Days 10-12 Nha Trang** Visit the sweeping beaches of Nha Trang and snorkel off its nearby islands. **Days 13-15 Ho Chi Minh City** Enjoy a guided city tour. Later, travel into the Mekong and learn about the production of longan honey from a family of beekeepers. **Days 16-17 Phnom Penh** Travel on to the Cambodian capital. **Days 18-20 Siem Reap/Angkor Wat** Relish the sacred beauty of Angkor's temples. **Day 21 Battambang** Unwind in peaceful Battambang. **Days 22-23 Bangkok** Skip across the border into Thailand and its glitzy capital.



STYLE
ORIGINAL

TRIP CODE
TVSLC

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 16



Hotel (19 nts), overnight boat (1 nt), overnight sleeper train (2 nts)



19 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 1 Dinner



Private vehicle, private bus, boat, overnight sleeper train, public bus, train, taxi, motorbike



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Saturdays & Wednesdays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie





Hoi An, Vietnam



Halong Bay, Vietnam

Classic Vietnam

15 DAYS, HO CHI MINH CITY TO HANOI



Experience Vietnam the local way on an overnight train journey and Mekong Delta homestay, then unwind in style with plush accommodation and sumptuous banquets.

Set out to sea from the Nha Trang coast for a day of swimming, snorkelling and island hopping, finishing with an onboard seafood lunch.

Day 1 Ho Chi Minh City Watch daily life unfold in Vietnam's biggest city. **Day 2 Mekong Delta** Cruise the matrix of waterways that are the lifeblood of this lush and fertile region. **Days 3-4 Ho Chi Minh City** Get to know Ho Chi Minh City on a half-day tour, then visit the mind-boggling Cu Chi Tunnels. **Days 5-6 Nha Trang** With its cosmopolitan vibe and superb beaches, Nha Trang makes for the perfect beach break. Spend daylight hours snorkelling vivid coral reefs, and balmy evenings exploring a city often referred to as 'the Cannes of the Orient'. **Days 7-9 Hoi An** Walk through the Hoi An Old Town, then perhaps book some time with local tailors. **Days 10-11 Hue** See the ruins of Hue's Imperial Citadel before gliding peacefully down the Perfume River by dragon boat. **Day 12 Hanoi** Attend a water puppet performance. **Day 13 Halong Bay** Cruise the jade waters of Halong Bay by junk boat. **Days 14-15 Hanoi** End your Vietnam adventure in the heart of Hanoi's Old Quarter.



DEPARTURE DATES

Every Saturday

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
TVKT

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (11 nts), homestay (1 nt),
overnight sleeper train (1 nt),
overnight boat (1 nt)



13 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 4 Dinners



Plane, private vehicle, boat, overnight
sleeper train, private bus

Treasures of Vietnam

8 DAYS, HO CHI MINH CITY TO HANOI



Crawl through the Cu Chi Tunnels and see old military equipment on display in Ho Chi Minh City's War Museum for an insight into Vietnam's tumultuous history.

In Hanoi, witness a traditional waterpuppet show and learn about the history of this ancient art from the masters.

Days 1-2 Ho Chi Minh City Welcome to Vietnam! Visit the Reunification Palace and the War Remnants Museum before heading out to the incredible Cu Chi Tunnels. **Days 3-4 Hoi An** Make tracks to Hoi An and discover a port town of centuries-old temples, charming houses and gilded community halls. Wander through the atmospheric Phung Hung Old House and check out the Japanese covered bridge. **Day 5 Hanoi** Take a guided tour of Hanoi including the Temple of Literature, Ho Chi Minh's former house that's built on stilts, and the historic Old Quarter. **Day 6 Halong Bay** Board a junk boat and take a slow cruise around one of the world's most beautiful waterways – be sure to have the camera handy when passing through the dramatic karst scenery. **Days 7-8 Hanoi** Back in the city, choose to visit one of the many fascinating museums or just kick back with a bia hoi in a streetside bar and recount highlights of the trip.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Saturdays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
TVKB

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (6 nts), overnight boat (1 nt)



7 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 1 Dinner



Plane, private vehicle, boat, private
bus



Myanmar Short Break Adventures

If you want to extend your adventure in Yangon or to the Golden Rock enter TRAY-O or TRAC-O on our website. Or if you can't find a departure date that suits or want more flexibility, consider booking TRAB-O or TRAL-O for alternatives in Bagan and Inle Lake.

For more info head to intrepidtravel.com/myanmar

The Golden Rock, Kyaukse, Myanmar



Bagan, Myanmar

Myanmar Highlights

9 DAYS, YANGON TO YANGON



Join a homegrown master of Burmese cuisine as you stock up on market ingredients, cook up a storm in a cooking class, then feast on the results.

Explore Inle Lake on a peaceful canoe trip, followed by a boat tour of its floating islands and local village industries.

Day 1 Yangon Touch down and perhaps head out for your first taste of Myanmar cuisine – a heady combination of Mon, Indian and Chinese flavours. **Days 2-3 Bagan** Discover the staggering archaeological complex that is Bagan. Take up two wheels and explore thousands of temple ruins, including Ananda and other icons. The next day, take a cooking class with a local culinary wiz. You'll feast for a cause, with part of the proceeds going to a local children's library initiative. **Days 4-5 Mandalay** Snap photos of Myanmar's mythical landscapes en route to Mandalay. Cruise up the lovely Ayeyarwady River to the pagodas of Mingun. Visit the Mandalay Palace, Shwenandaw Monastery and historic U Bein Bridge. **Days 6-7 Inle Lake** Take a plane and transfer to Inle Lake. Canoe out on the water, then explore by motorised boat – see local craftspeople and the ingenious floating gardens. **Days 8-9 Yangon** Fly to Yangon, then discover the holiest shrine in the country, the Shwedagon Paya.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Sundays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
ORIGINAL

TRIP CODE
TRSH

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (8 nts)



8 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch



Bicycle, canoe, longtail boat, plane, private bus, songthaew

Classic Myanmar

12 DAYS, YANGON TO YANGON



Experience the incredible sight of Bagan's sea of temples and explore the best of the region's 4,000 temples and monasteries.

At Inle Lake, sample the hospitality of the Shan people, one of the many groups that contribute to the ethnic diversity of this colourful country.

Days 1-2 Yangon Soak up the unique atmosphere of this irrepressible city, kicking off with a walking tour of the colonial downtown area. Take in the history, spiritual significance and beauty of the ancient Shwedagon Pagoda complex. **Days 3-4 Mandalay** Fly to Myanmar's 'Jewel City'. Check out the local gold leaf industry, take a boat trip up to the Mingun archaeological site, and enjoy memorable river sunsets. **Days 5-7 Bagan** Explore Bagan's endless temples, pagodas and monasteries until dusk. You'll also enjoy lunch at a restaurant set up by Friends International. **Days 8-10 Inle Lake** Uncover the watery world of Inle Lake, the lifeblood of many ethnic communities. Take a boat out to see the local life that thrives around these waters. Hike through the forests and villages surrounding the Indein ruins complex, finishing with a traditional Shan dinner. **Days 11-12 Yangon** Fly back to Yangon and discover more of this beguiling city.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Sundays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
TTKA

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (11 nts)



11 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner



Private bus, boat, plane, songthaew

With our expert knowledge
and great value prices
we will organise and
tailor-make an unforgettable
holiday for you



Japan, Taiwan & North Korea



Up in the north east of Asia sit three very different countries. Behind the communist propaganda and Soviet architecture, North Korea is bursting with picturesque landscapes. Head further south and you'll see the mist-shrouded forests, soaring peaks and coastal cliffs of Taiwan, as well as the innumerable scenic vistas of Japan. These unique destinations, each with their own customs, culinary quirks and spiritual practices, belie their modest size and pack a serious punch for any traveller.



Japan's neon cities are a large part of its appeal, but perhaps see a different side of this diverse country with a Southern Japan exploration – art-filled Naoshima island is a wonder



Taiwan is Asia's next big food destination, home to both street 'small eats' and Michelin-starred restaurants. Luckily there's also hiking and biking to work off those extra calories



Travel is all about eye and mind opening experiences, and there are few more so than a trip to North Korea. Take the unique chance to uncover this mysterious country for yourself

WHERE IN THE WORLD

Japan
North Korea
Taiwan

Weather

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tokyo												
Kyoto												
Sapporo												
Hiroshima												
Taipei												
Pyongyang												

- Monsoon 25-35°C
- Very hot & dry 35°C+
- Hot & dry 25-35°C
- Hot & wet 25-35°C
- Pleasantly warm 20-30°C
- Warm & wet 20-25°C
- Cool 15-20°C
- Cold & dry 0-15°C
- Cold & wet 0-15°C
- Below freezing -0°C



Kyoto, Japan



Tsumago, Japan

Classic Japan

12 DAYS, KYOTO TO TOKYO



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
CJKJ

PHYSICAL
●●●○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (9 nts), ryokan (1 nt), temple stay (1 nt)



11 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners



Bullet train, train, public bus, boat

Surrounded by tranquil scenery, an overnight temple stay in Koya-san is as peaceful and unique as it sounds.

Spend the night in a traditional Japanese ryokan sleeping on a tatami mat. These family-run inns are a true travel experience.

Walk back in time with a wander along a short section of the old Nakasendo Highway from Tsumago to the Edo period village of Magome.

Days 1-3 Kyoto Discover Kyoto's luxuriously landscaped Zen gardens, its enchanting temples and intriguing handicraft centre on a guided orientation walk. Take a free day to explore this town that's made for walking, and visit the famous Gion area – better known as the geisha district. **Day 4 Koya-san** Steeped in mysticism and religious history, the Koya-san temples provide a tranquil setting for trying shojin ryori (Buddhist cuisine) and witnessing the resident monks in meditation. Meet the monks and learn about traditional customs during an overnight stay at Shukubo Temple. **Days 5-6 Hiroshima** Visit the Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Memorial Park for a sobering glimpse into Japan's darkest moment. Catch a ferry out to Miyajima Island for some hiking, or ride a cable car up Mt Misen for exceptional views of the bays and islets way down below. **Day 7 Tsumago**

Head for the mountains and experience an overnight stay in a traditional ryokan. Spend the day exploring quaint villages and pristine forests on a walk along the Nakasendo Highway. **Day 8 Matsumoto** Journey further into the Japanese hinterlands to the charming mountain town of Matsumoto. Shop for crafts in the merchant district of Nakamachi and marvel at the imposing but beautiful Matsumoto Castle.

Days 9-12 Tokyo Arrive in space-age Tokyo. Lap up all the treasures and spectacles that this astonishing neon-lit capital has to offer. Take a tour of the historic Asakusa area, cruise down the Sumida River, and take in the glitz of the Ginza shopping district. Amble through the heavenly gardens of Hama Rikyu, or perhaps head to Harajuku for an insight into eclectic Japanese youth culture, before dining out at a final group dinner.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Saturdays from March to November
For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie

With our expert knowledge
and great value prices
we will organise and
tailor-make an unforgettable
holiday for you



India, Sri Lanka Nepal & Bhutan



Stitched together by the Himalayas, India, Nepal and Bhutan have more in common than just this majestic mountain range. Like their small South Asian sibling Sri Lanka, they're also home to rich natural landscapes, bucolic villages and historical treasures. Be inspired by colourful India's fusion of old and new, prayer flags flapping outside Everest base camp, Sri Lanka's blissful beaches, and the smiling faces of Bhutan's Buddhist pilgrims. From the north to the south, this region will leave you stirred.



Encounter life and death on the banks of the Ganges in Varanasi. Confronting, emotional and spiritual, this is travel at its most eye-opening.



Despite the devastating earthquakes that shook Nepal in 2015, the Nepalese people are just as welcoming and the Himalayan scenery just as stunning as ever. See it for yourself.



Discover the small villages of Sri Lanka's gorgeous highlands and far-north peninsula. Cooking classes and guided hikes offer close-up glimpses of daily life.

WHERE IN THE WORLD

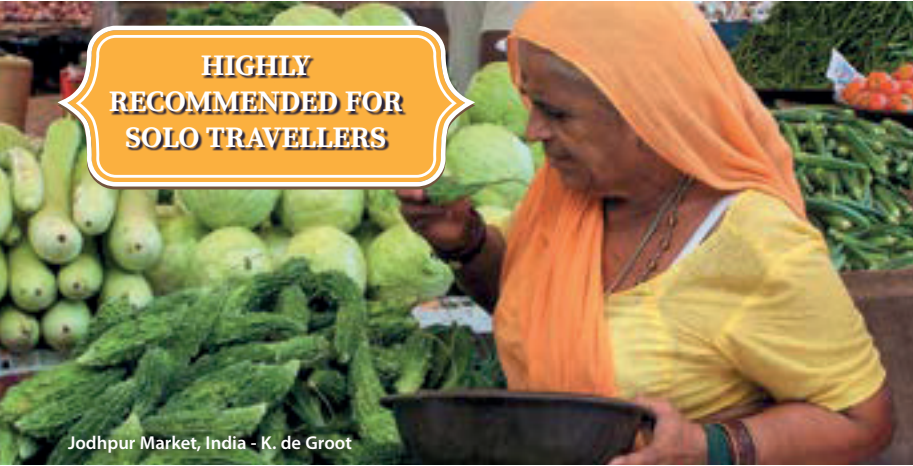
Bhutan
India
Nepal
Sri Lanka

Weather

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Delhi	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange
Mumbai	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Kochi	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Kathmandu	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Colombo	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Kandy	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Thimphu	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue

- Monsoon 25-35°C
- Very hot & dry 35°C+
- Hot & dry 25-35°C
- Hot & wet 25-35°C
- Pleasantly warm 20-30°C
- Warm & wet 20-25°C
- Cool 15-20°C
- Cold & dry 0-15°C
- Cold & wet 0-15°C
- Below freezing -0°C

**HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED FOR
SOLO TRAVELLERS**



Jodhpur Market, India - K. de Groot



Goa, India - Angela Strangis

South India Revealed

16 DAYS, TRIVANDRUM TO GOA



A homestay with a local family is a special experience, especially in the serene backwaters of Kerala.

Visit the World Heritage-listed Virupaksha Temple in Hampi, a spectacular monument surrounded by ruins.

Day 1 Trivandrum Hang out with the locals on Kovalam Beach or check out the museums, palaces and bazaars. **Days 2-3 Varkala** Take a dip in the Arabian Sea, practise some yoga or visit the ancient Janardhana Temple. **Day 4 Kerala Backwaters Homestay** Cruise past palm trees, rice fields and coconut groves on a sunset boat trip. **Days 5-6 Kochi** Explore this colonial island on a local ferry, then perhaps catch a Kathakali dance performance. **Days 7-8 Periyar National Park** Journey to a lush park in the Western Ghats Ranges to spot elephants and monkeys at play in the wild. **Days 9-10 Madurai** Weave through chaotic streets filled with bazaars, pilgrims and rickshaws. **Days 11-12 Mysore** Famous for its silk, incense and sandalwood, relaxed Mysore also boasts amazing temples. **Days 13-14 Hampi** Wander through the ruins of the Vijayanagar Empire. **Days 15-16 Goa** Perhaps enjoy a final group dinner before this southern adventure concludes in relaxing Goa.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Wednesdays & Fridays from July to May
For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
BASIX

TRIP CODE
HHRS

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (9 nts), homestay (1 nt),
overnight sleeper train (3 nts),
guesthouse (2 nts)



3 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner



Train, boat, private vehicle, local bus

Rajasthan Experience

15 DAYS, NEW DELHI TO NEW DELHI



A camel safari through the remote Thar desert is not only a highlight, it also provides the perfect relief from the frenetic streets of New Delhi and Jodhpur.

The tantalising tastes of North Indian cuisine are many and varied, from spicy stuffed bati to sweet saffron-scented kulfi.

Day 1 New Delhi Welcome to New Delhi, India's rambunctious capital. **Day 2 Agra** Visit the iconic Taj Mahal. **Days 3-4 Jaipur** Explore the deserted Mughal kingdom of Fatehpur Sikri before continuing to the 'Pink City' of Jaipur. **Days 5-6 Mandawa** Beautifully decorated havelis make for a spectacular open-air museum in Shekhawati. **Day 7 Bikaner** Venture deep into the Thar Desert and enjoy an evening of Rajasthani food and dance. **Days 8-10 Jaisalmer/Camel Safari** Travel through the Jaisalmer desert to a sandstone trading centre. Explore markets hidden among the twisting alleys and take an overnight camel safari out into the dunes. **Day 11 Jodhpur** Soak up grand views of India's 'Blue City' from the Mehrangarh Fort ramparts. **Days 12-13 Udaipur** Rajasthan's artistic heart is a vision of splendour with white marble palaces and a sparkling lake. **Days 14-15 New Delhi** This magical Rajasthan experience comes to a close back in New Delhi.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Saturdays
For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
HHKR

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 16



Hotel (6 nts), heritage property (3 nts),
camping with facilities (1 nt),
resort (4 nts)



14 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 3 Dinners



Plane, cycle rickshaw, metro, train,
private minibus, camel



Pokhara, Nepal - Indrajit Debnath

**HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED FOR
SOLO TRAVELLERS**



Nepalese farmers with traditional rain protection - Goran Jovic

Experience Nepal

10 DAYS, KATHMANDU TO KATHMANDU



Discover the hidden town of Nuwakot and stay in charismatically restored farmhouses. Enjoy a farm breakfast before taking a stroll through historic bazaars.

Raft the rapids of the Trisuli River before setting up camp on the bank and sleeping out under the stars.

Days 1-2 Kathmandu Discover colourful bazaars, labyrinthine alleys, bustling squares and ancient palaces in Nepal's capital. **Day 3 Bhaktapur** Venture out to the medieval town of Bhaktapur and lose yourself in the quiet, old-world charm. **Day 4 Balthali** Hike out to the hilltop village of Balthali. See sprawling green hills and tranquil farms nestled beneath the mighty Himalayas. **Day 5 Namobuddha** Traverse terraced fields, trek through open pastures, past quaint villages and through dense forest up to Namobuddha, a sacred Buddhist site. **Days 6-7 Nuwakot** Cut through scenic hills to Nuwakot, a place hidden from the mainstream tourist routes and home to a forgotten historic citadel. Enjoy a farmhouse breakfast on the sunny terrace before strolling to the historic Nuwakot Bazaar. **Day 8 Trisuli River** Raft down the Trisuli River and sleep under the stars. **Days 9-10 Kathmandu** Jump back on the water for a morning of white-water fun before returning to Kathmandu.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Saturdays from September to May
For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
ORIGINAL

TRIP CODE
HNSC

PHYSICAL
●●●○○



Maximum group size 12



Guesthouse (7 nts), farmstay (1 nt), camping with basic facilities (1 nt)



8 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 2 Dinners



Bus, minibus

Classic Nepal

11 DAYS, KATHMANDU TO KATHMANDU



Whether it's flying, hiking, driving or canoeing, this trip will let you experience Nepal's stunning natural beauty from all angles.

Take a jeep safari and jungle walk with an expert resident naturalist through Chitwan National Park, a beautiful sanctuary brimming with exotic birdlife and game.

Days 1-2 Kathmandu Hit the streets of Thamel to see why this openly touristy town is sometimes known as a backpackers' Disneyland. **Days 3-4 Pokhara** Take a boat ride on a lake so still it reflects the mountains and visit the Peace Pagoda. **Days 5-6 Bandipur** Take in the views and explore this incredible settlement – virtually unchanged for centuries – while witnessing the workings of a traditional Newari village. **Days 7-8 Chitwan National Park** Get to know the residents of this region – rhinos, deer, birdlife and more – on a wildlife-spotting safari by jeep and dugout canoe. **Day 9 Bhaktapur** Visit the former capital of Nepal, Bhaktapur. Spend some time meandering the streets and temples of this quaint town, making sure to explore the 15th-century palace and the five-storey pagoda at Bhaktapur Durbar Square. **Days 10-11 Kathmandu** Explore Bhaktapur further before returning to Kathmandu in the late afternoon for a final group dinner celebrating the colours of Nepal.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Saturdays
For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
HNKA

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 16



Hotel (8 nts), lodge (2 nts)



10 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 2 Dinners



Plane, private bus, boat

With our expert knowledge
and great value prices
we will organise and
tailor-make an unforgettable
holiday for you



Europe, Morocco & The Middle East



This continent and its fringes is packed with a staggering amount of diversity, from its languages to its landscapes, and truly offers something for every type of traveller. There are Moroccan markets to browse, Egyptian deserts to cross, Turkish seas to sail, Italian meals to devour, Iberian nightlife to tame, Eastern European mountains to bike, and natural Nordic wonders to witness. With new corners uncovered, 'hidden gems' polished, and classic journeys perfected, simply choose your own adventure.



Can't keep still even when you're travelling? Up the energy levels on our range of active-focused trips – including mountain biking in Morocco and watersports in Croatia.



Like a good Tuscan wine, the best way to experience Italy is to go slow and savour the many bucolic towns and villages outside the famous cities on our Highlights of Italy tour.



Embark on a tantalising journey through the Balkans on a Real Food Adventure that will expand your horizons and your palate. Savour bieno cheese, rakija brandy and more!

WHERE IN THE WORLD

Albania	Kosovo
Austria	Macedonia
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Montenegro
Croatia	Morocco
Czech Republic	Northern Ireland
Egypt	Norway
Finland	Oman
France	Poland
Greece	Portugal
Hungary	Serbia
Iceland	Slovakia
Iran	Spain
Ireland	Sweden
Italy	Turkey
Jordan	

Weather

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marrakech												
Cairo												
Amman												
Istanbul												
Rome												
Venice												
Barcelona												
Budapest												
Reykjavik												

- Monsoon 25-35°C
- Very hot & dry 35°C+
- Hot & dry 25-35°C
- Hot & wet 25-35°C
- Pleasantly warm 20-30°C
- Warm & wet 20-25°C
- Cool 15-20°C
- Cold & dry 0-15°C
- Cold & wet 0-15°C
- Below freezing -0°C



Český Krumlov, Czech Republic

Log on to our website
www.shandontravel.ie
for more
itinerary options



Paris, France - Sally Johnson

Highlights of France



9 DAYS, PARIS TO AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Contrast the booming city of Paris with the rustic, laidback countryside of the Burgundy and Provence regions.

Relaxed train journeys allow you to soak up vistas of the French countryside that have inspired the brushes of countless Impressionist artists.

Days 1-2 Paris Bonjour! Welcome to France. Walk up the Champs-Elysees to see the latest in French fashion and be sure to check out bohemian Montmartre. **Day 3 Chateau Stay** Take a step back in time with a night spent in a traditional French chateau. Take in some air on a garden walk, or nestle down with a book and the beautiful French countryside before you. **Days 4-5 Dijon/Beaune** Explore the Burgundy region, famous for its culinary delights such as beef bourguignon and coq au vin. Visit Renaissance buildings in Dijon and vineyards in Beaune. **Days 6-7 Avignon** Picture-perfect and ready to be explored, get along to the Palais des Papes, a 14th-century Gothic palace built for Pope Clement V. **Days 8-9 Aix-en-Provence** Explore the historical Old Town and perhaps sip coffee in the famous Deux Garçons cafe. Bid adieu to France with a farewell dinner in the birthplace of painter Paul Cezanne.



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
AMKF

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (7 nts), chateau (1 nt)



8 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 3 Dinners



Minibus, train, taxi, metro



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Fridays from May to September
For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie

Berlin to Venice



15 DAYS, BERLIN TO VENICE

Settle back to the sultry sounds of jazz at a low-lit Prague bar before stepping into the fairytale setting of World Heritage-listed Cesky Krumlov.

Enjoy a scenic walk along the banks of Budapest's stretch of the Danube. Threaded by bridges and dotted with castles, it's a site particularly beautiful at night.

Days 1-2 Berlin Kick off the journey in edgy Berlin, then get comfy for an overnight train ride to Poland. **Days 3-4 Krakow** Visit the highlight attractions of this World Heritage-listed old town – Wawel Royal Castle, Rynek Glowny town square and St Mary's Church. **Days 5-6 Prague** Explore the narrow hallways of mysterious Prague Castle and tour the city's once vibrant Jewish Quarter. In the evening, check out the jazz clubs, beer-halls or underground absinthe bars so central to the Old Town's vibe. **Day 7 Cesky Krumlov** Potter about the atmospheric alleys and laneways of urban bohemia. **Days 8-9 Vienna** Be immersed in the rich culture and artistic heritage of Vienna. **Days 10-11 Budapest** Explore the grand boulevards, hearty cuisine and famous public baths of Hungary's opulent capital. **Days 12-13 Bled** Flex the muscles rafting, caving, canoeing, swimming or biking in one of Slovenia's most popular lakeside towns. **Days 14-15 Venice** Be romanced by this city of hidden treasures.



STYLE
BASIX

TRIP CODE
AMRB

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 16



Hotel (5 nts), hostel (4 nts), overnight sleeper train (1 nt), apartment (2 nts), guesthouse (2 nts)



2 Breakfasts



Overnight sleeper train, metro, public bus, train, private vehicle



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Saturdays from March to October
For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic

Log on to our website
www.shandontravel.ie
for more
itinerary options



Salzburg market, Austria

Highlights of Central Europe

9 DAYS, MUNICH TO BUDAPEST



Sip a brew in the beer capital of the world, Munich, and delight in the city's amazing food market culture.

An orientation walk around Vienna makes for the perfect introduction to the artistic heritage that defines Austrian history.

Day 1 Munich Kick off the adventure in Munich. Saunter through the historic city gates and be dazzled by the crown jewels at Residenz. **Days 2-3 Prague** Travel to Prague, where astounding architectural accomplishments, extraordinary history and a buzzing jazz scene create an irresistible atmosphere. Trawl through the past in Prague Castle and traipse through the crooked streets of the Old Town by night. **Days 4-5 Cesky Krumlov** Discover the bohemian charms of Cesky Krumlov. Be enchanted by this fairytale town while strolling its cobblestone laneways and admiring its lovely, history-laden buildings. **Days 6-7 Vienna** Absorb the golden splendour of Vienna. Encounter stylish urban spaces and leafy parks, and marvel at the Gothic spires of St Stephen's Cathedral. **Days 8-9 Budapest** Uncover the contrasting halves of Budapest – the green Buda and grid-like Pest. Enjoy a farewell dinner with the group to mark the end of this journey.



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
AMKB

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (8 nts)



8 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners



Metro, public bus, private vehicle, train



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Mondays from April to October
For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie

Christmas Markets of Central Europe

8 DAYS, MUNICH TO BUDAPEST



Austria's capital provides a spectacular seasonal shopping affair, with tonnes of handcrafted toys, candles and paintings on offer.

Jolly Budapest really embraces the Christmas spirit. Take a walk through the town to find every street, tree and market lit up in lights.

Days 1-2 Munich Discover the magic of a traditional German Christmas exploring Munich's Christmas Markets. Find everything you need to create the perfect nativity scene at the crafty Krippenmarkt, grab a grilled sausage, sip on a mug of gluehwein and peruse the stalls of wooden handicrafts. **Days 3-4 Salzburg** Built on the fortune of its famous salt mines, Salzburg enchants with its cobblestone streets, bubbling river and kitsch Mozart paraphernalia. Wander the city's market, savouring its wafting aromas of roasted chestnuts and cinnamon-brushed baked apples. **Days 5-6 Vienna** With its festively adorned trees, fairytale scenes and 12 Christmas markets, Rathauspark is the perfect place to snaffle up a Christmas gift. **Days 7-8 Budapest** Admire this beautiful city all lit up with fairy lights and sparkling decorations. Go on an orientation walk of the city, taking in the delightful Christmas market's tasty treats and traditional decorations.



STYLE
ORIGINAL

TRIP CODE
AMSW

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (7 nts)



7 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner



Train, metro



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays in December
For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



WINTER DEP



Colosseum, Rome, Italy

CANAL & APERITIVO EXPERIENCE

Check out the landmark attractions of Venice by water taxi – the Grand Canal, Rialto and San Marco – then cruise through the city's residential neighbourhoods for a glimpse of local living and a sunset cicchetti.



Italy Experience

10 DAYS, VENICE TO ROME



A series of walking paths connect the pastel villages of Monterosso, Corniglia and Riomaggiore in Cinque Terre. Explore this amazing region on foot or by train.

The Leaning Tower of Pisa may be Pisa's most iconic image, but the city also offers some other (less crooked) masterpieces of Medieval-Italian architecture.

Days 1-2 Venice Work up an appetite for some delicious cicchetti by exploring the narrow streets and tiny bridges of Venice. **Days 3-4 Cinque Terre** Absorb sweeping views of the Mediterranean from the Cinque Terre's picturesque coastal path. Hike at a leisurely pace or catch a train between these five famous towns. **Days 5-6 Pisa/Florence** After marvelling at the Leaning Tower of Pisa, appreciate artistic treasures in the romantic Tuscan capital. **Days 7-8 Perugia/Spello** Venture further afield to the beautifully preserved town of Perugia, in the heart of Umbria. Set off on a daytrip to nearby Spello to sample local wines and food at a quaint enoteca. **Days 9-10 Rome** Arrive in the Italian capital and remember that while here, the best attitude is 'when in Rome!' Perhaps visit the Vatican City to see St Peter's Basilica and dome, and enjoy a final gastronomic fling before your Italian journey comes to an end.



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
ZMKF

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (9 nts)



9 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 3 Dinners



Vaporetto, train, taxi, public bus, metro



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Mondays from April to September
For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie

Highlights of Italy

8 DAYS, VENICE TO ROME



Feast on mouth-watering seafood along Italy's coast, drink fine wine in Tuscany and indulge in the endless pasta dishes on offer in Rome.

Walk along Cinque Terre's rocky coastal pathways, calling into the sleepy pastel villages of Manarola, Riomaggiore and Vernazza.

Days 1-2 Venice Arrive in Venice, arguably the most romantic holiday destination in Europe. Learn why this city is said to be the world's best for getting lost in, zigzagging through a seemingly endless tangle of alleyways, bridges and canals. **Days 3-4 Cinque Terre** Travel to the Cinque Terre and be revitalised by the fresh sea breezes that drift in from the Mediterranean. Take in glorious sea vistas while walking this famous coastal path, journeying past bucolic villages and idyllic citrus orchards before cooling off in the warm waters of the Mediterranean. **Days 5-6 Florence** Be captivated by the culture-rich atmosphere of Florence. View wonders of art in various galleries and climb uphill to Piazzale Michelangelo for a golden sunset across the city's rooftops. **Days 7-8 Rome** Visit the imposing Colosseum and then recharge with a slice of pizza and a strong espresso. Throw a coin into the Trevi Fountain and make a wish to return to the 'Eternal City'.



STYLE
BASIX

TRIP CODE
ZMRR

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 16



Hotel (5 nts), hostel (2 nts)



4 Breakfasts



Train, public bus



DEPARTURE DATES

Every Saturday from April to October
For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



Felucca cruise on the Nile, Egypt



Petra, Jordan

Egypt Experience

12 DAYS, CAIRO TO CAIRO



Delve into the marvels and mythologies of Ancient Egypt on guided tours through the Pyramids of Giza and the Valley of the Kings.

Stand at the feet of Abu Simbel's monumental temples, marveling at the sheer scale of these impressive structures.

Days 1-2 Cairo Visit the majestic Sphinx and the only surviving Wonder of the Ancient World, the Pyramid of Giza. Wander the halls of the Egyptian Museum, taking in the thousands of ancient treasures on display.

Days 3-4 Alexandria Head underground and delve into the mysteries of the Kom ash-Shuqqafa catacombs. This Roman burial site, the largest of its kind in Egypt, was discovered by a donkey. **Day 5 Aswan** Watch the sun set over the Nile from the deck of a gliding felucca. Learn about Nubian culture at the excellent museum and enjoy a homecooked meal. **Days 6-8 Nile Cruise** Fly to the magnificent, memorable temples of Abu Simbel. Return to take a cruise down the Nile River, stopping along the way to explore the ancient temple sites of Kom Ombo and Edfu. **Days 9-10 Luxor** Wander through the fascinating Temples of Karnak, the biggest and most important complex of its time. **Days 11-12 Cairo** Fly back to Cairo and the hustle and bustle of the Khan al-Khalili bazaar.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Sundays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
XEKI

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (7 nts), overnight sleeper train (1 nt), cruise ship (3 nts)



11 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 5 Dinners



Plane, van, overnight sleeper train, boat, felucca

Explore Jordan

8 DAYS, AMMAN TO AMMAN



Hop in a jeep and experience the extraordinary desert scenery of Wadi Rum, a rugged moonscape of huge sandstone mountains.

Experience the best weightlessness this side of outer space with an effortless float in the super-salty waters of the Dead Sea.

Day 1 Amman Jordan's cosmopolitan capital is the starting point of this exciting tour. A visit to the Roman Theatre or National Archaeological Museum offers great insight into the city's past. **Days 2-3 Wadi Rum**

Head out on a jeep safari through Wadi Rum's stark but spectacular desert scenery. Enjoy dinner cooked in a traditional earthen oven, then bed down in a camel hair tent beneath a twinkling canopy of stars. **Days 4-5 Petra** Tour Petra's ancient temples, tombs, amphitheatres and monasteries. The challenging walk up to the stunning Monastery is well rewarded with dramatic vistas of the canyons below. **Days 6-8 Jerash/Madaba** Visit the ancient crusader castle of Karak and enjoy a float in the famous Dead Sea. Stop by legendary Mt Nebo, where the prophet Moses is said to have seen the Promised Land, then explore the well-preserved Roman ruins of Jerash before ending the adventure in historic Madaba.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Saturdays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
ORIGINAL

TRIP CODE
EESJ

PHYSICAL
●●●○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (5 nts), desert camp (2 nts)



7 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 2 Dinners



Van, jeep

With our expert knowledge
and great value prices
we will organise and
tailor-make an unforgettable
holiday for you

The Americas



This great continent, stretching all the way from farthest Canada to Argentinian Patagonia, is like one big natural playground. You name it, the America's have it. Discover the rhythms of vibrant Latin American cities and Amazonian rainforests, Peruvian lost civilisations and Central American jungles, road trips in the USA and snorkelling in the Galapagos. The people and cultures are as lively as the stunning natural world that surrounds them. The only dilemma will be which part to visit next.



It might be sloth territory, but Central America isn't a place to move slowly – not with all the cloud forests, Maya ruins, volcanoes and gorgeous coastlines to see and amazing food to eat.



High up in the misty Andes, Machu Picchu is one of South America's greatest sights. Take the bus up or tackle the memorable 4-day trek on the Inca Trail – the choice is yours.



If any trip ticks all the 'must have' boxes, then you might just find it in the USA – The Big Apple, Vegas, San Fran, and the best national parks filled with canyons and redwoods. This is US-yay!

WHERE IN THE WORLD

USA	Belize
Canada	Costa Rica
Peru	Cuba
Ecuador	El Salvador
Bolivia	Guatemala
Argentina	Honduras
Uruguay	Mexico
Brazil	Nicaragua
Chile	Panama
Galapagos Islands	Colombia

Weather

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Las Vegas	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C
San Jose	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C
Panama City	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C
Mexico City	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C
Belize City	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C
Antigua	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C
Cuzco	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C
Quito	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C
Buenos Aires	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C	Hot & dry 25-35°C

- Monsoon 25-35°C
- Very hot & dry 35°C+
- Hot & dry 25-35°C
- Hot & wet 25-35°C
- Pleasantly warm 20-30°C
- Warm & wet 20-25°C
- Cool 15-20°C
- Cold & dry 0-15°C
- Cold & wet 0-15°C
- Below freezing -0°C



Havana, Cuba - Rachel Lewis



Havana, Cuba - Rachel Uberti

Cuba Explorer



9 DAYS, HAVANA TO HAVANA

Take inspiration from the locals and mix things up with a bicycle-taxi tour of the colonial city of Camaguey.

With its vibrant music scene and Afro-Cuban roots, sultry Santiago de Cuba is a great place to practice your moves.

Days 1-2 Havana Arrive in Havana, one of the most spirited, rhythmic cities in the Americas. Kick things off with an introductory walking tour of Old Havana and a Spanish lesson. **Days 3-4 Santiago de Cuba** Head to Santiago de Cuba – the loud and proud music capital of the Caribbean – and visit El Morro Castle, Ifigenia Cemetery and the Moncada barracks on a half-day city tour. When evening falls, get carried away by the local music scene.

Day 5 Camaguey Enjoy getting lost in Camaguey's labyrinth of cobblestone streets or perhaps visit one of Cuba's most esteemed dance companies. **Days 6-7 Trinidad** Experience the slower side of island living on a guided walk with your leader, then take a free day to soak in the clear waters of picture-perfect Playa Ancon.

Days 8-9 Santa Clara/Havana Make tracks for the mausoleum of the legendary Che Guevara in Santa Clara, then continue on to Havana. Celebrate the end of this adventure by dancing up a storm at a city salsa club.



STYLE
ORIGINAL

TRIP CODE
QUSN

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Standard guesthouse (8 nts)



8 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch



Private vehicle, plane



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Wednesdays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie

NEW
TRIP

Beautiful Cuba



8 DAYS, HAVANA TO HAVANA

Take in all the colours and aromas of Soroa, the stunning valley area known as the 'rainbow of Cuba'.

Discover the man behind the legend with a stop at the Che Guevara museum and mausoleum in Santa Clara.

Day 1 Havana Welcome to the sultry capital of Cuba. The best way to see Havana's colonial buildings, elegant plazas, vintage cars and cigar-smoking musicians is by foot. **Days 2-3 Soroa/Vinales** Tour the Cuban orchid gardens of Soroa en route to Vinales. One of Cuba's most attractive areas, the fertile valleys and tobacco crops of Vinales are well worth exploring on a walking tour. Get into the groove with an introductory group salsa lesson. **Day 4 Bay of Pigs/ Cienfuegos** Journey to the port city Cubans call La Perla del Sur (The Pearl of the South) and visit the Palacio del Valle. Stop for a swim in the Bay of Pigs. **Days 5-6 Trinidad** Take time to explore Trinidad's Spanish-style churches, then maybe head to Playa Ancon, a white sandy beach where hours slip lazily by. **Days 7-8 Santa Clara/Havana** Stop in at Santa Clara to visit the mausoleum of Che Guevara and learn about the life of this famous revolutionary. Back in Havana, see two city landmarks: Hotel Nacional and Revolution Square.



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
QUKA

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Premium guesthouse (5 nts),
standard guesthouse (2 nts)



7 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 2 Dinners



Private vehicle



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Saturdays & Wednesdays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



**HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED FOR
SOLO TRAVELLERS**



Costa Rica Express

9 DAYS, SAN JOSE TO SAN JOSE



Monteverde is truly a nature lover's paradise. More than 2,000 species of plants, 320 bird species and 100 different types of mammals call the park home.

While Manuel Antonio itself is a laidback kind of town, its nightlife is famously fiery – so kick up those heels and get a taste for Costa Rican revelry.

Day 1 San Jose Get accustomed to Costa Rican time on a leisurely walk through San Jose, or perhaps visit the lively San Pedro area. **Days 2-3 La Fortuna/Arenal Volcano National Park** Why not get the most out of your stay here by visiting Arenal Volcano, enjoying a shower beneath La Fortuna waterfall, taking a canopy tour, or soaking in the hot springs. **Days 4-5 Monteverde** The steamy Monteverde cloud forest boasts several unique species of flora and fauna. Explore the emerald-green cloud forest by foot to admire the array of wildlife and learn how this incredible ecological curiosity came to be. **Days 6-7 Manuel Antonio National Park** Discover the soft-sand beaches, tropical vegetation and turquoise waters of Manuel Antonio National Park. Hike along the trails to spot some of the abundant wildlife – be on the lookout for armadillos, sloths and colourful birds. **Days 8-9 San Jose** Return to San Jose to meander through the stalls of the Mercado Central or catch a show at the city's pride and joy – the Teatro Nacional.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Saturdays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
QVKR

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (8 nts)



8 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner



Shuttle bus, private vehicle, boat

Hike, Raft and Canyon in Costa Rica

11 DAYS, SAN JOSE TO SAN JOSE



Don't pass up the opportunity to visit a vanilla farm, sleep in a local village, and raft down the Savegre River on a four day trek to the Pacific Coast.

Encounter Costa Rica's vibrant wildlife on a visit to two nature preserves: Corcovado National Park and the nearby Punta Rio Claro Wildlife Refuge.

Day 1 San Jose An assortment of galleries, theatres and lively central plazas set among San Jose's glitzy modern shopping malls make this one of Central America's most surprising capitals. **Day 2 San Gerardo de Dota** Huddled up against the Talamanca Mountain is San Gerardo de Dota, a haven for birdwatchers, hikers, and fishing enthusiasts. **Days 3-6 Travesia del Savegre** Set off on a four day hike to the Pacific Coast. Guided mainly by the shores of the Savegre River, trek through cloud forests and lowland rainforests to an overnight homestay. This is an area few people know about so make the most of the home-cooked meals and the chance to swim in nearby waterfalls. **Day 7 Uvita** Get ready for a canyoneering adventure, rappelling down rock faces, through canyons, and landing in tranquil ponds. **Days 8-9 Drake Bay** Travel by boat to Drake Bay and visit the Punta Río Claro National Wild Life Refuge. **Days 10-11 San Jose** Stop off at the stunning Manuel Antonio National Park on the way back to Costa Rica's capital.



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected dates

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



STYLE
ORIGINAL

TRIP CODE
QVXB

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (3 nts), lodge (3 nts), multishare homestay (2 nts), cabin (2 nts)



10 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 4 Dinner

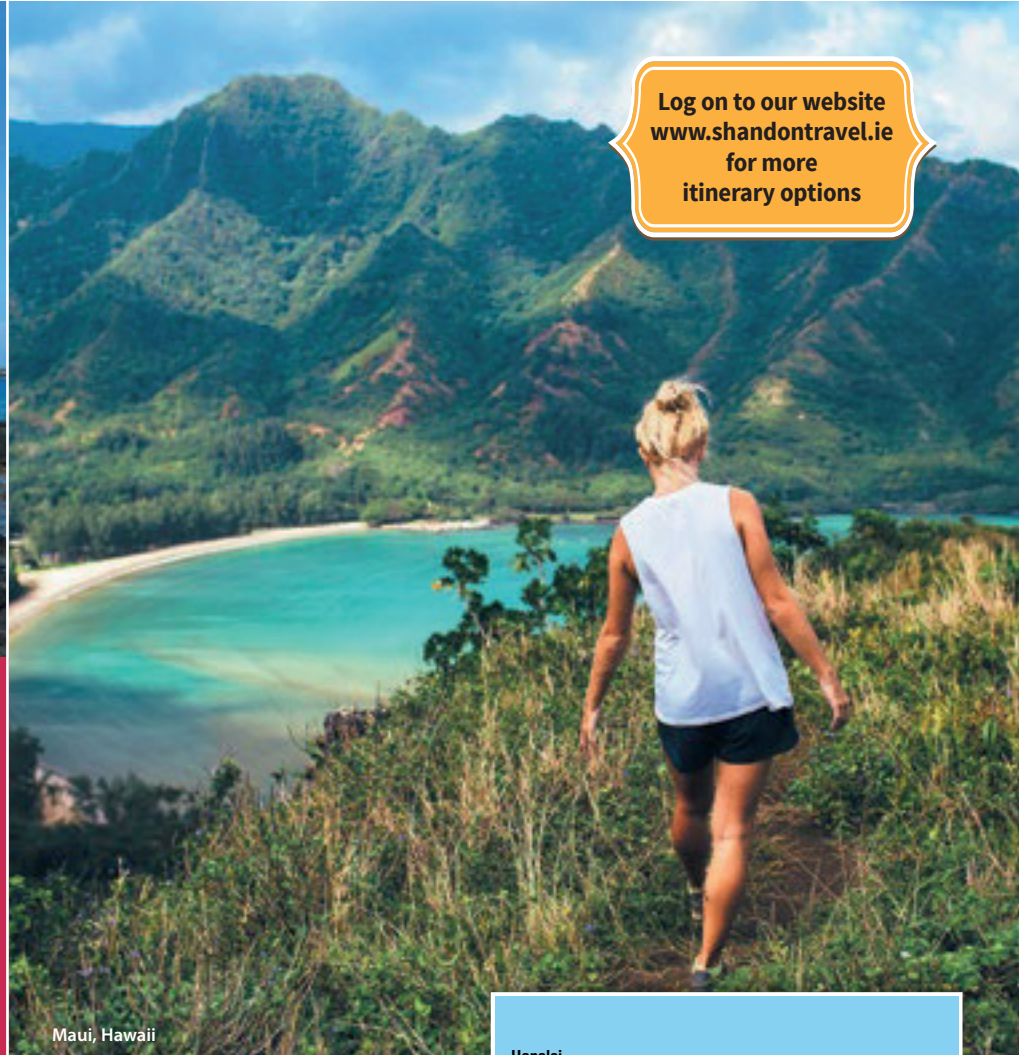


Private vehicle, boat



WAIKIKI WICKED WALKING TOUR

Sample Kona coffee and shaved ice, take in awe-inspiring views of Diamondhead Mountain and skirt the mansion-lined seawall on an adventurous half-day walking tour of Oahu's finest.



Maui, Hawaii

Log on to our website
www.shandontravel.ie
for more
itinerary options

Hawaii Discovery

10 DAYS, HONOLULU TO LAHAINA



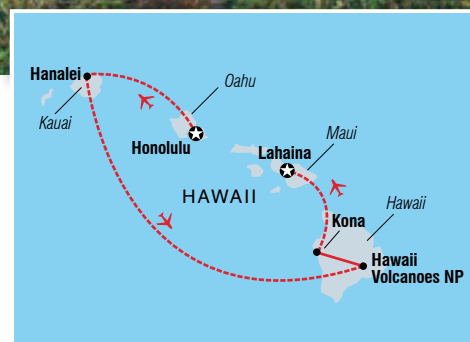
Explore Kauai's diverse landscapes. Hawaii's 'Garden Isle' has tropical beaches, powerful waterfalls, lush rainforest and narrow valleys. Something for everyone.

The world's most active volcano, black sand beaches and stunning national park make the 'Big Island' the most distinctive of the whole archipelago.

It's no coincidence that Maui is often voted one of the world's best islands to visit. Waking early to see the sunrise from the top of Haleakala is highly recommended.

Day 1 Honolulu, Oahu Welcome to beautiful Hawaii. Meet your fellow travellers in the evening and then check out the sights of this tropical paradise. In the evening, join the group for a sunset sail around the bay. **Days 2-3 Kauai** Look down on craters on a flight to Kauai, then transfer to the coast. Spend free time enjoying the beautiful coast and the island – the Wailua River and Na Pali Coast are spectacular – or simply relax on the beach with a tropical drink in your hand. In the evening, enjoy a traditional luau filled with food and dancing. **Days 4-5 Kona, Hawaii** Fly to the island of Hawaii and on to Kailua-Kona, known locally as Kona. Spend time exploring this lovely spot: perhaps head up to the summit of Mauna Kea or take a swim in Kua Bay's pristine waters. In the evening there is the option to swim with manta rays – but if you don't want to get too close (or wet), you can see them

from a local bar. **Days 6-7 Hawaii Volcanoes National Park** On the way to the national park, visit Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Historic Site, where you can learn about the traditional Hawaiian belief system and the kapu (religious laws) that are its basis. Explore the largest and most active volcanoes in the world – Mauna Loa and Kilauea respectively. Walk around the crater rim and observe natural volcanic formations, then stop by the Thomas A. Jaggar Museum to learn more about the history of volcanology. **Days 8-10 Lahaina, Maui** Fly to Maui, then take a short drive to Lahaina. With nearly ten kilometres of beach, time here may be split between days lazing on the sand or swimming in the warm ocean. Adventure-seekers can get active with some optional downhill mountain biking – this is the chance to witness the awe-inspiring sunrise from Haleakala National Park.



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
SSKL

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 12



Hotel (7 nts), resort (2 nts)



2 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner



Plane, private vehicle



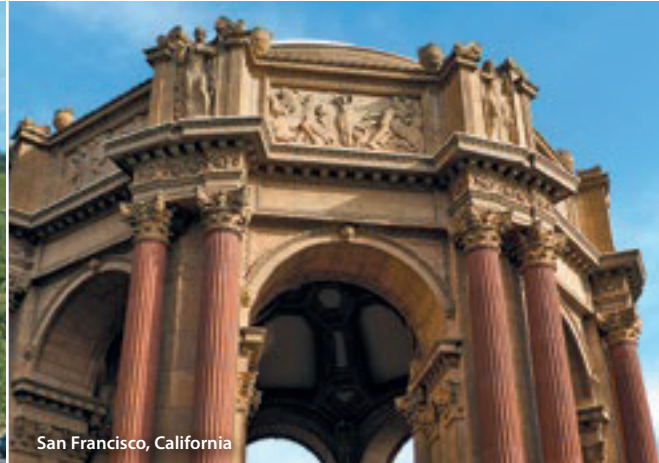
DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Sundays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



Sonoma, California



San Francisco, California

San Francisco to Las Vegas



9 DAYS, SAN FRANCISCO TO LAS VEGAS

Venture north of the 'Golden City' for lunch in the Sonoma Valley wine region and a look around Jack London's old stomping ground.

Enjoy a free day to lose yourself among the bright desert lights of Las Vegas. This is a great way to end your adventure. Remember, what happens in Vegas...

Day 1 San Francisco Get to know cosmopolitan San Fran with a guided evening tour of North Beach and Chinatown. **Day 2 Sonoma** Enter the rolling green hills of Sonoma and its surrounding wine country. Explore historic buildings and scenic trails in nearby Jack London State Park. **Days 3-4 Yosemite National Park** With incredible hiking trails and jaw-dropping scenery, Yosemite is a powerhouse of nature. Walk to the Nevada Falls or Mirror Lake, or hire a bike and cycle through the valley. **Day 5 Sequoia National Park** Welcome to Sequoia National Park, home to the largest tree in the world: General Sherman Tree. Enjoy some quiet reflection in the shade of this 80-metre sequoia. **Days 6-7 Death Valley** Don't let the name get you down – Death Valley is anything but grim. Explore sand dunes, rocks and craters before an easy stroll on the salt flats. **Days 8-9 Las Vegas** Hit the casino, ride coasters or see a show as this adventure ends among the glitz and glam of Vegas.



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
SSKG

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 13



Hotel (6 nts), motel (2 nts)



1 Breakfast, 1 Lunch, 2 Dinners



Private vehicle



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Sundays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie

California Coast Express



3 DAYS, LOS ANGELES TO SAN FRANCISCO

With its widespread beaches and relaxed atmosphere, Santa Barbara is a great escape from the bright lights and buzz of major cities.

Famous for its marine life, a long-running jazz festival and the historic Cannery Row, seaside Monterey makes a beautiful little stopover en route to the 'Golden City'.

Day 1 Los Angeles/Pismo Beach Head north to the popular Californian city of Santa Barbara. Perhaps hire a bike and cycle along the beachfront, visit the old Santa Barbara Mission or grab lunch at a waterfront cafe. Afterwards, continue to Pismo Beach, the perfect place for some slow-paced seaside fun. Stroll along the wide sandy shore, take a refreshing swim or simply relax and soak up the 1950s California vibes. **Day 2 Monterey** Take the spectacular Pacific Coast Highway north. Enjoy a picnic lunch looking out over a dramatic coastline, before continuing to the scenic town of Monterey. Do some whale spotting, drop by the aquarium, or visit Steinbeck's Cannery Row. **Day 3 San Francisco** Continue to San Francisco. Take a group tour to see the famous sights around town, including the city's oldest temple and the beatniks of North Beach. This adventure comes to an end in the evening, but consider spending a few extra days here for further exploration.



STYLE
COMFORT

TRIP CODE
SSAI-K

PHYSICAL
●●○○○



Maximum group size 13



Hotel (2 nts)



1 Lunch



Private vehicle



DEPARTURE DATES

Selected Wednesdays

For departure dates see www.shandontravel.ie



Now showing on
THE BIG SCREEN



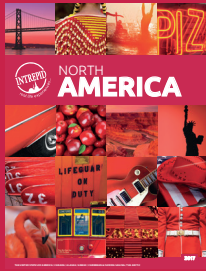
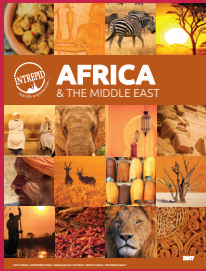
EMIRATES ECONOMY

Choose from over 2,500 channels and watch the latest movies, box sets of your favourite shows, live sports, and much more, all on the widest screen in the sky.

Hello Tomorrow


Emirates

ORDER BROCHURES FOR OTHER INTREPID DESTINATIONS



HOW TO BOOK

AVAILABILITY & INFORMATION

For actual availability on your trip, essential trip information and useful country information visit your travel agent. We also suggest that you subscribe to the Intrepid Express newsletter to keep up-to-date with Intrepid's news.

CONDITIONS

Please carefully read our booking conditions on the previous pages. By booking with Intrepid Travel you accept and are bound by these conditions.

BOOKING

To book your trip you need to pay a non-refundable deposit of €275 per person. If less than 56 days prior to departure date full payment is required.

DETAILS

Before we can confirm your booking you must advise us of your passport number, date of issue and expiry, date of birth, nationality, email address and any pre-existing medical conditions. This information is required for operational reasons and your documentation cannot be released without it.

FINAL PAYMENT

You must make your final payment no less than 56 days prior to departure – or we may consider your booking cancelled.

DOCUMENTS

Your documents will be released on receipt of final payment.

No boundaries just possibilities



CALL US: 021 427 7094 **VISIT US:** 76 Grand Parade, Cork
W: www.shandontravel.ie **E:** info@shandontravel.ie