

Kensington's Global Expert Encyclopedia

60+ DESTINATION EXPERTS

AT YOUR SERVICE



**KENSINGTON
TOURS**
travel becomes you

60+ DESTINATION EXPERTS, AT YOUR SERVICE

Planning thousands of customized private tours to more than 90 countries around the world is no small task. How does Kensington Tours do it? Simple. We have a secret weapon. **A passionate team of Destination Specialists.** You won't ever talk to a call center at Kensington – we don't have one. Every member of our team is an experienced professional intimately versed on the new, the old, the different, the must sees, the off-the-beaten-track and the out-of-this-world.

Kensington's specialists customize each and every itinerary to exacting specifications. Whether you're looking for an active adventure, a premium tour or the most exclusive activities, properties and amenities (or better yet, the flexibility to mix and match between these), our destination specialists have the knowledge and savvy to transform a vacation into the experience of a lifetime.

INTRODUCING OUR DESTINATION EXPERTS... (WELL, A SMALL SNAPSHOT ANYWAY)

60 Destination Experts. Born, lived, studied, guided, trekked, researched, eaten, taught and volunteered in more than 90 countries worldwide. They are all bounded by passion and drive to unearth what's new and unknown. Armed with unique experiences and specialized knowledge, these expert consultants are committed to planning custom trips that wow.



LYNNE PETTIT

WESTERN EUROPE EXPERT

Raised in Norfolk, England, Lynne has a lovely English accent to prove it. As a flight attendant for British Airways, Lynne became blasé about pouring gin and tonics but passionate about discovering all corners of the UK and Europe. **Ultimate Experience:** Meeting the cast of Monty Python at the Maid's Head hotel in Norwich. **Travel Tip:** Don't just breeze through the UK's most charming villages. Instead, stay overnight to enjoy quiet evening strolls, lively music and a pint with the locals.



GABRIELLE NIJDAM

AFRICA EXPERT

Gabrielle is an encyclopedia of knowledge from Cairo to Cape Town. Our Africa expert extraordinaire and a lifelong animal enthusiast, she is a catalogue of intricate safari details and secluded luxury lodges. **Ultimate Experience:** Sunrise yoga in Tanzania, gorilla trekking in Uganda, walking with elephants in Botswana, playing with meerkats in South Africa and making friends with lemurs in Madagascar. **Travel Tip:** For a thrill try sunset fishing surrounded by hippos and crocs. Whether on the Zambezi, Sand River or Lake Tanganika – it'll get your heart pumping.



BRANDI MERCHANT

LATIN AMERICA EXPERT

Latin at heart, Brandi called Mexico home for a number of years and found it an ideal jumping-off point as she explored the region from tip to tip and perfected her Spanish. From the Galapagos & Costa Rica to Mendoza & Patagonia, she's got the inside track to help you get the most from each destination. **Ultimate Experience:** Sipping champagne and watching the sunset over the Arenal Volcano from a private pool at Nayara Springs. **Travel Tip:** Don't avoid Costa Rica's Green Season, April – Oct. In addition to the great prices and no crowds, the jungles literally blossom with life.



ROSSELLA DINELLO

ITALY EXPERT

This sophisticated Italian has spent the last decade as a luxury Italy specialist. Rossella has circumnavigated the land of "La Dolce Vita" by foot, bicycle, hot air balloon and chauffeured Ferrari! **Ultimate Experience:** Cruising the Amalfi Coast in a privately crewed yacht with her family, disembarking to explore little visited towns and secret beaches. **Travel Tip:** Cannolis in Sicily, pecorino and bistecca in Tuscany, lobster pasta in Portofino, gelato in Rome, peach bellinis in Venice, fungo polenta in Lake Como, truffles in Piedmont and pizza mozzarella di bufala in Naples.



SUNITA SINGH

INDIA & REGION EXPERT

With an illustrious 25 year career creating luxury adventures, her in-depth knowledge of India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal will amaze. From holy pilgrimages and ashram retreats to overnights in palaces, mountain treks and more, this expert is second to none. **Ultimate Experience:** She's seen wild tigers close to 40 times but during her last trip to Bandhavgarh, she saw a large male take down a buffalo – it was amazing! **Travel Tip:** Sri Lanka is sensational. Often overlooked, it's packed with UNESCO sites, wild animals, welcoming people, distinct cuisine and great surfing and diving.



LOUISE BAER

AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC EXPERT

From Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, to Bora Bora, Tahiti, Moorea and Tehaa, Louise's annual visits and 17 years in the industry ensure she knows the region from tip to tip. **Ultimate Experience:** Snorkeling with sea turtles at the Great Barrier Reef and swimming with the sharks in Bora Bora. **Travel Tip:** Did you know that Australia is the only country that eats both animals on their national emblem the emu and kangaroo. Give these exotic delights a try – you'll be pleasantly surprised.



SARAH FERGUSON

ASIA EXPERT

By plane, train, private car, boat, tuk-tuk and elephant, Sarah has been exploring Asia in depth for over 10 years. She has volunteered at an orphanage in Cambodia, hiked the Great Wall of China, voyaged from Singapore to Bangkok on the Orient Express and designed a National Geographic award winning tour of Vietnam. **Ultimate Experience:** Mingling with baby snow monkeys in the hot springs of Jigokudani National Park in Japan. **Travel Tip:** Learn a few local words when traveling in Asia – you'll be surprised by how much locals will open up to you and enrich your trip.



CHRISTINE WILLNER

AFRICA EXPERT

The daughter of African missionaries, Christine has spent 17 years in Sub-Saharan Africa. **Ultimate Experience:** Emerging from the pool at Somalisa, Zimbabwe to be greeted by a mother elephant and her baby! **Travel Tip:** Foodies, don't ever overlook Africa as a culinary destination. From East to South, the cuisine and wines can be amazing if you know where to dine. At most premium safari camps and lodges, pre-game drive breakfast, breakfast, brunch, lunch, high tea, sundowners and dinner are the norm. At Kensington we call it safari belly!



NORALY BARILLAS

SOUTH AMERICA EXPERT

Native Venezuelan and our senior Latin America Expert, Noraly Barillas has used her fluency in Spanish and Portuguese and a thirst for travel to explore much of Central and South America. Her favorite spot? On top of Sugar Loaf Mountain, taking in the view of Rio de Janeiro. **Ultimate Experience:** Watching her kids snorkeling with seals in the Galapagos Isles. **Travel Tip:** Entering Machu Picchu through the Sun Gate at sunrise is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and gets you away from the coach tour crowds.



CLAUDIA SCHWENGER

EASTERN EUROPEAN EXPERT

This travel obsessed German has Eastern Europe covered. Claudia's been to 45 + countries, is fluent in English, German, Spanish and French. **Ultimate Experience:** Germany's Christmas markets. The mulled wines, handicrafts, live music and twinkling lights are irresistible and each town is so unique. **Travel Tip:** On a visit to Croatia be sure to stop in Zadar. Dating back to antiquity and the gateway to four national parks, this Dalmatian city still remains untouched by crowds of tourists.



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