



SAFARI EXPERT LINDA FRIEDMAN EXPLAINS . . .

How to Work with a Travel Specialist

"Before you get in touch, spend some time dreaming up what you most want to do and what you'd like to accomplish during your trip. Set a realistic budget—and communicate it. Plan to have at least a few phone calls with us to discuss specifics. We want your input, but there's a reason you called: Give us the chance to shine."

Bertie and Victoria Dyer

India Beat
Jaipur residents, the Dyers arrange swims with an elephant in the Andaman Sea one day, private jet tours to remote corners of India like Jaisalmer the next.

INDONESIA

Diane Embree
Michael's Travel Center
Custom trips to Bali have included private art tours and visits with a local *dukun* (folk healer).

JAPAN

Nancy Craft
Esprit Travel & Tours
Organizes lunch with a geisha or last-minute tickets to Kyoto's Katsura Imperial Villa in cherry blossom time.

Duff Trimble

Wabi-Sabi Japan
Trimble counts a fourteenth-generation sake maker and Kyoto artisans among his impressive connections.

MALDIVES

Lindsey Wallace
Linara Travel
A pro when it comes to over-the-top experiences

at resorts across the Indian Ocean region, he also sends clients to Mauritius, the Seychelles, and the United Arab Emirates.

NEPAL

Antonia Neubauer
Myths and Mountains
Plans custom trips focusing on culture, religion, and the environment and knows which parts of the country are tourist-ready after the April earthquakes.

PHILIPPINES

Lorenzo Urra
Global Nomad
Can arrange picnics on private islands throughout the archipelago and off-roading on volcanoes.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

G. W. "Sandy" Ferguson
Asia Desk, Ltd.
Arranges cooking classes and monk-led meditation sessions, and books the best suites at the region's top hotels.

Catherine Heald

Remote Lands
Taps her local network to take travelers beyond the typical destinations, to Bhutan's Himalayan towns and Burma's tribal villages.

Andrea Ross

Journeys Within Tour Company
With offices in the region, her company plans in-depth yet affordable multi-stop trips through Siem Reap, Bangkok, and more.

Middle East

EGYPT

James R. Berkeley
Destinations & Adventures International
Opens doors at normally off-limits tombs and arranges dinners inside sites like the Luxor Temple.



I once tracked down a piano for a client staying at the Gili Lankanfushi resort in the Maldives—then had it shipped in from Sri Lanka."

—MALDIVES EXPERT LINDSEY WALLACE

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PERCENT

of travelers who recently used a travel agent would do so again, according to an ASTA survey.

Rami Girgis

Abercrombie & Kent
A native Egyptian, Girgis arranges luxe Nile cruises and gets travelers into normally closed temples.

ISRAEL

Susan Weissberg
Wyllys Professional Travel
Custom tours are packed with historical and cultural hits—Caesarea Maritima, Jerusalem's Temple Mount—as well as perks like hotel room upgrades.

Joseph Yudin

Touring Israel
Up on Tel Aviv's best restaurants and books hot-air-balloon flights over the Jezreel Valley.

OMAN

Sean Nelson
Hud Hud Travels
Specializes in private camps and luxury lodges in Oman's remote stretches where birding, dune bashing, and stargazing are among the many draws.

Latin and South America

ARGENTINA

Maita Barrenechea
MaiLO
Barrenechea has access to estancias and private villas not listed on any booking site and can organize adventure trips to the Andes and Patagonia.

ARGENTINA AND CHILE

Jordan Harvey
Knowmad Adventures
Customizes trips to Patagonia's most far-flung corners, like the Perito Moreno Glacier.

BOLIVIA AND PERU

Marisol Mosquera
Aracari Travel Consulting
Introduces her travelers to local chefs and artists, and connects clients with the very best Machu Picchu guides.

BRAZIL

Martin Frankenberg
Matuété
His firm has private villas across Brazil, access to luxury yachts on the Amazon, and in-the-know guides in cities like Rio and São Paulo.

Paul Irvine

Dehouche
Rio based, he knows the city's top tables and the best guides in Brasília, including a contemporary of Oscar Niemeyer's who leads architectural tours.

Jill Siegel

South American Escapes
Can nab sizable hotel discounts and connect clients with local luminaries like director Bruno Barreto.

CHILE

Brian Pearson
Upscape
Creates luxury adventure trips in Chile, from San Pedro de Atacama to Patagonia, and is well connected in Argentina and Uruguay.

COSTA RICA

Irene and Richard Edwards
GreenSpot.travel
This couple can arrange immersive experiences like tortilla making and visits to indigenous communities.

Michael S. Kaye

Costa Rica Expeditions
Trips often include perks like the opportunity to watch turtles nest on a deserted beach.

EQUADOR AND THE GALÁPAGOS

Eric Sheets
Latin Excursions
His trips to the Galápagos often take in lesser-seen islands where you can swim with sea lions.

THE GALÁPAGOS

Allie Almario
Myths and Mountains
Organizes candlelit dinners on a volcanic hillside and (legal) fishing trips for wahoo and tuna led by local fishermen.

Tom Damon

Southwind Adventures
Specializes in multi-destination itineraries, combining the islands with other hot spots like Machu Picchu or Patagonia.

NICARAGUA

Pierre Gedeon
Nicaragua Adventures
Gedeon's high-end trips include boat trips to private islands on Lake Nicaragua.

URUGUAY

Paola Perelli
Lares Uruguay
Arranges excursions from horseback riding to surfing, knows the best hotels in José Ignacio, and can set up wine-tastings at leading vineyards.

Australia/Pacific

AUSTRALIA

Amanda Fisher
Alquemie
Custom trips have featured dinner served inside an opal mine and wine tours by helicopter.

Drew Kluska

The Tailor
Kluska's off-the-beaten-path tours include stays at Outback ranches and fishing expeditions on the Great Barrier Reef.

"WE'D NEVER TAKE ON A VILLA WITHOUT HAVING SEEN IT FIRSTHAND. WE'VE VISITED EVERY PROPERTY ON OUR BOOKS, OFTEN MULTIPLE TIMES."

—VILLA EXPERT ADAM COATS

★ BEST LUXURY HOTEL IN QUITO, EQUADOR? **CASA GANGOTENA.** —Allie Almario