



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

**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

**92**

PERCENT

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

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