



**SIERRA
CLUB**
Outings

2022



International Trips



Greetings! It's been more than a year since we made the difficult decision to pause our program in order to protect travelers and staff. After many canceled trips and postponed vacations, we're thrilled to announce that we're back! As of the time of writing, we are conducting a phased reopening of our domestic and international trips, with plans to return to full capacity later in 2021.

Here you'll find our latest selection of international journeys, ranging from history and culture tours in Europe to African wildlife expeditions and extended treks in Asia. As always, these trips are led by our skilled and knowledgeable volunteer leaders, who personally invite you to discover their favorite corners of the globe and join in the fight for their preservation.

We will continue to monitor the situation and make decisions accordingly. To stay up-to-date on how we're responding, search for trips, or learn about our volunteer leaders, call or visit us online at sc.org/outings.

Stay safe out there and we can't wait to see you all again soon.

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Central & South America

Search for brilliant birds among Mayan ruins in Belize, assist with reforestation and turtle conservation efforts in tropical Costa Rica, and other exceptional experiences.

SOUTH AMERICA

Belize: Birding the Ruins. February 5–13.

Belize is a confluence of brilliant neotropical birds and Mayan ruins, both of which are the focus of our tour. We'll stay at eco-lodges and explore Mayan ruins with our birding guide and local archaeological guides. Target ruins will be Lamanai, Zunantunich, and Caracoal. Birding sites will include the Mountain Pine Ridge, Cockscomb Wildlife Sanctuary and Jaguar Preserve, coastal beaches, and a wetland lagoon, which we'll tour by boat. *Leader: Pati Rouzer. Price: \$4,295. [22540A]*

Discover the Wild Heart of Patagonia, Chile and Argentina. February 28–March 15. Experience the snowcapped peaks, stunning waterfalls, and sapphire-blue lakes of the breathtaking

Andes range in two fascinating countries. We'll witness nature at its most dazzling on day hikes featuring volcanic peaks, massive glaciers, and a myriad of plant life. Wild and windswept vistas, guanacos and rheas, gaucho culture, and wonderful cuisine await us on this extraordinary journey. *Leader: Carl Martin. Price: \$6,445. [22565A]*

Machu Picchu Eco-lodge Trek, Peru. March 28–April 8. Forgo the crowded Inca Trail and strike out instead along a less traveled route through the Cordillera de Vilcabamba. After five days of challenging hikes past snow-mantled 20,000-foot peaks—and five nights in comfortable eco-lodges—our journey will culminate in a full day at the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu. A guided tour of Cusco, Peru's ancient capital, will also be included. The small group size (maximum 11) and sumptuous, remote lodges make this an

intimate and comfortable trek. The trip will begin and end in Cusco. *Leader: Michael Jensen. Price: \$5,395. [22585A]*

The Enchanted Galápagos Islands, Ecuador. May 3–14. Discover the unique ecosystems of the Galápagos Islands on this active, land-based adventure. Our itinerary will include snorkeling among marine life, hiking through blue-footed-booby rookeries, and strolling among multitudes of birds. We will also search mountain pastures for giant tortoises and visit the Charles Darwin Research Center to learn about these great symbols of the islands. There will be plentiful opportunities for up-close photographs, and we'll stay in cozy hotels. *Leader: Wendy Van Norden. Price: \$5,825. [22615A]*

Galápagos Islands and Machu Picchu: The Best of Ecuador and Peru. October 25–November 6.

Imagine combining two trips of a lifetime—the enchanting Galápagos Islands and mystical Machu Picchu—into one unforgettable adventure. In Ecuador, we'll stroll among giant tortoises, iguanas, sea lions, a multitude of birds, and many other creatures in the living laboratory that inspired Darwin. We'll then fly to Peru to tour the Sacred Valley, visit Pisac Market, and explore the lost city of Machu Picchu, a World Heritage site and an archaeological treasure. *Leader: Barbara Kamm. Price: \$8,345. [22830A]*

Orcas, Dolphins, Penguins, and More: Wildlife Watching in Northern Patagonia, Argentina.

October 30–November 6. Discover the magical Península Valdés, a World Heritage site and global conservation area for sea life. We'll spend our days exploring diverse coastal and marine ecosystems and their inhabitants, including southern right and orca whales, elephant seals, dolphins, and penguins. We'll also observe abundant land mammals, like maras, rheas, armadillos, and guanacos. Staying in comfortable hotels, we'll travel by bus to daily destinations for hiking and wildlife watching. *Leader: Angela White. Price: \$4,085. [22835A]*

Trekking the Highlights of Patagonia, Argentina and Chile.

November 8–20. Discover culture, history, cuisine, and spectacular hiking trails in the Patagonian Andes. In Argentina, we'll hike the highlights of Los Glaciares National Park, including the Perito Moreno Glacier and the Fitz Roy massif area. In Chile, we'll traverse iconic portions of the "W" circuit in Torres del Paine National Park and stay at *refugios* within the park. Our itinerary will include visits to an *estancia* (ranch) and a penguin colony. *Leader: Laura Bonds-Johnson. Price: \$5,565. [22845A]*

The Enchanted Galápagos Islands and Colonial Quito, Ecuador.

December 19–31. Imagine walking among tortoises and iguanas so fearless you have to step over them. Accompanied by a naturalist guide, we'll visit the islands and stroll among multitudes of birds, sea lions, and other animals in this unique living laboratory that inspired Darwin. In mainland Ecuador, we'll visit Guayaquil, a cloud forest for two nights, and historic Quito (a World Heritage site). Lodging will be in cozy, land-based hotels. *Leader: Patrick Tierney. Price: \$6,125. [22895A]*



FLAMINGO IN THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS, ECUADOR. CREDIT: BURROBLANDO/GETTY IMAGES

CENTRAL AMERICA



BEACH STROLL IN COSTA RICA. CREDIT: CAROL MARTY

Natural Highlights of Costa Rica. December 20 2021–January 1, 2022. Sample Costa Rica's major ecosystems on a visit to six national parks and several private preserves. Among our adventures, we will explore secluded waterfalls, search for wildlife by boat along a jungle river, snorkel in the ocean, view the forest canopy by skywalk, and bathe in hot springs. We will look for monkeys, coatis, crocodiles, iguanas, the famous quetzal, and a host of other wildlife. Accommodations will be in clean, comfortable lodges and hotels. *Leader: Elaine Grace. Price: \$3,895. [22505A]*

Costa Rica's Tropical Trails. December 26, 2021–January 4, 2022. Join us for an exceptional adventure in Costa Rica, a haven of biodiversity, stunning vistas, lush forests, and wildlife. We'll walk and float in lowland forests, soak in volcano-heated hot springs, swim below a waterfall, picnic along a gorgeous beach, learn about conservation projects, and hike a world-famous cloud forest reserve. Along the way, we'll observe howler monkeys, keel billed toucans, and scarlet macaws. Accom-

modations will be in simple but comfortable eco-lodges and locally-owned hotels. *Leader: Cy Englert. Price: \$3,545. [22510A]*

Up Close in Undiscovered Costa Rica. January 15–25. Sample Costa Rica's least toured treasures in the Osa Peninsula's Corcovado National Park, Marino Ballena National Park, and Savegre. We'll view wildlife with a naturalist guide on early-morning bird walks, hike through cloud forests and rainforests, and engage in a variety of outdoor activities, including kayaking, whale-watching, and river boating. Our unique lodgings will include a mountain retreat, a hand-built and fully sustainable lodge, and an eco-lodge overlooking the Pacific coast. *Leader: Pat Stevens. Price: \$3,675. [22522A]*

One-Week Active Marine Adventure in Bocas del Toro Archipelago, Panama. January 29–February 5. Join us on an eight-day, action-packed adventure in an infrequently-visited group of tropical islands in the Caribbean Sea. Our base for the week is a secluded ecolodge set in a lush and pristine national marine

park. We'll embark on daily kayak, snorkel, beach, and jungle excursions, and in the evenings, enjoy sunsets and birding from our observation tower high above the canopy. We'll also visit the Smithsonian research facility to learn about climate change and human impact on Caribbean ecosystems. **Leader: Carol Marty. Price: \$3,545. [22558B]**

Hiking the Natural Beauty of Southern Costa Rica and Northern Panama. February 7–19. Explore the trails less traveled in two ecologically friendly countries. We'll hike through cloud forests and rainforests and over mountainous volcanic terrain to stunning vistas and cascading waterfalls. Accompanied by a naturalist guide, we'll look for abundant wildlife and colorful wildflowers in national parks, conservation areas, and private reserves. We'll hike up Panama's tallest mountain for views of the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea and visit the Osa Peninsula, which *National Geographic* calls "the most biologically intense place on Earth." **Leader: Kevin Breen. Price: \$3,675. [22535A]**

One-Week Active Marine Adventure in Bocas del Toro Archipelago, Panama. February 19–26. See trip 22558B, p. 4, for details. **Leader: Carol Marty. Price: \$3,545. [22558A]**

Costa Rica: Reforestation, Turtle Conservation, and Community Support. July 18–29. Contribute to service projects and sustainable tourism on a unique vacation in this lush tropical paradise. We will plant trees near the cloud forest, work alongside locals on a community project in the Sarapiquí, and assist a turtle protection project in Tortuguero. Accompanied by a local naturalist guide, we'll visit lowland tropical forests, hike through national parks and reserves, and soak in delightful hot springs. Lodging will be at locally-owned hotels and lodges. **Leader: Cy Englert. \$4,175 (11–14)/\$4,575 (10 or fewer). [22765A]**

Hummingbirds to Harpies: Birding Panama's Darién Forest. December 11–19. From bejeweled hummingbirds to majestic eagles and hundreds of tropical birds in between (nearly 1,000 to date), Panama's remote tropical forest is a birder's paradise. On our journey, we'll explore two of the richest, most biodiverse areas in Central America: the Canal Zone and the Darién forest. Panama's abundant flora will delight us as we search for sloths, bats, butterflies, slinky reptiles, and who knows what else. Nights will be spent enjoying delicious Panamanian meals and good company in comfortable eco-lodges. **Leader: Pati Rouzer. Price: \$3,795. [22870A]**

Natural Highlights of Costa Rica. December 20, 2022–January 1, 2023. See trip 22505A, p. 4, for details. **Leader: Elaine Grace. Price: \$4,045. [23500A]**

ANTARCTICA

Active Exploration on the Seventh Continent, Antarctica. January 3–15. Looking for a genuine trip of a lifetime? On this rare adventure, we'll leave our comfortable boat to hike, snowshoe, sea kayak, visit research stations, explore by Zodiac raft, and even camp for one night. Evenings will feature lectures and videos by our onboard naturalists and other experts. Anticipate massive icebergs; colonies of penguins, whales, and albatross; and basking in the unparalleled splendor of the seventh continent. **Leader: Margie Tomenko. Price: \$9,675. [22515A]**

Extraordinary Adventure to the Seventh Continent, Antarctica. January 15–February 3.

Experience one of the last untamed areas on Earth, a land of ruggedly beautiful landscapes and amazingly varied wildlife. We'll explore the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctic Peninsula by boat and foot; follow in polar explorer Ernest Shackleton's footsteps; get close to King Penguins and penguin chicks; and view whales and orcas in this awesome, ice-filled landscape. **Leader: Kath Giel. Price: \$16,075. [22520A]**

Extraordinary Adventure to the Seventh Continent: Antarctica. November 22–December 10. See trip 22520A, left, for details. **Leader: Kath Giel. Price: \$15,025. [22850A]**

PACIFIC



MT. COOK NATIONAL PARK, NEW ZEALAND. CREDIT: ROBERT CHG/GETTY IMAGES

Devilish Tasmania: Australia's Wilderness Wonderland. February 7–18. Hike and tour the wild island of Tasmania, home to a vast array of endemic wildlife and a near-pristine World Heritage wilderness. We'll explore scenic beaches, high mountains, temperate rainforests, and rugged, rocky coastlines. We will also cruise the Pieman River to the untamed west coast and check out the unique animals of the Australian continent. We'll make use of a chartered minibus and enjoy local guides, healthful food, and Australian humor. **Leader: Jenny Roberts. Price: \$5,695. [22550A]**

Hidden Gems of New Zealand's South Island. February 21–March 9. Discover the lesser-known wonders of Aotearoa, the "Land of the Long White Cloud," on a unique adventure focusing on natural history and hiking on the South Island. Accompanied by a knowledgeable naturalist guide, we will dayhike in national parks, forested valleys, and a 1,000-year-old kahikatea rainforest. We'll also get close to a massive glacier, hike portions of New Zealand's famous track system,

and cruise along fjords and the golden-sand beaches of the Tasman Sea. **Leader: Martha Schultz. Price: \$6,395. [22560A]**

Hidden Gems of New Zealand's South Island. March 14–30. See 22560A, left, for details. **Leader: Kath Giel. Price: \$6,395. [22575A]**

Australia: Journey through a Timeless Land. June 20–July 1. Explore the ancient and rugged landscape of Australia's Red Centre. From Sydney, we'll fly into Alice Springs to learn about Aboriginal culture; visit sacred sites, including Uluru and Kata Tjuta, a UNESCO World Heritage site; and hike along weathered mountain ranges and rocky gorges. In the evenings, we'll sleep under a starry outback sky along the oldest river in the world. **Leader: Becky Wong. Price: \$5,775. [22675A]**

Hidden Gems of New Zealand's South Island. November 28–December 14. See trip 22560A, left, for details. **Leader: Daniel Pettit. Price: \$6,795. [22855A]**



Asia

Learn the traditions of Kazakh eagle hunters in Mongolia, interact with wild monkeys and giant pandas in China, and hike and bike to waterfalls, caves, rice paddies, and remote villages in Vietnam.

Rebuilding a Village in Earthquake-Damaged Nepal. February 4–22. Trek through the forests, villages, and fields of the Himalayan foothills to reach the village of Badel, home to many of the staff who have supported Sierra Club treks over the years and whose houses were damaged or destroyed in the 2015 earthquakes. We'll work for a week under professional supervision to help rebuild homes with a quake-resistant design. During our stay, we'll learn how villagers live in harmony with their environment without many of the conveniences we take for granted. *Leader: Cheryl Parkins. Price: \$4,395. [22545A]*

Treasures, Tigers, and the Taj Mahal, India. February 7–20. Focused on culture and wildlife, our journey will take us by airplane and bus to three incredible national parks, where we'll have a chance of seeing wild tigers, exotic birds, and many of the big game animals of the Indian subcontinent. We will explore the beguiling treasures of this ancient land, including New and "Old" Delhi, many World Heritage ancient temples and monuments, and of course, the magnificent Taj Mahal. *Leader: Rudy Scheffer. Price: \$4,725. [22555A]*

Vietnam Adventure. February 26–March 13. Join us on an exploration of southern, central, and northern Vietnam, visiting many of the most beautiful, important, and interesting natural and cultural sites from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi. We'll hike in two national parks, snorkel in Nha Trang Bay, and kayak on Ha Long Bay (all physical activities are optional). We'll also stay overnight in a traditional village; experience Vietnamese culture through music, dance, and water-puppetry performances; and enjoy exquisite cuisine. *Leader: Barbara Kamm. Price: \$3,295. [22570A]*

China's Giant Pandas and Mt. Qingcheng, Birthplace of Taoism. April 5–8. Join us on an exploration of Sichuan Province on this five-day extension to "China's Ancient Cultures, Mystical Mountains, and Dynamic Shanghai" (see trip 22600A, right, for details). Our journey will begin in Chengdu, where we will learn about the history of the region before spending a full day at the Dujiangyan Panda Base, the only place in the world where observing and interacting with the giant panda is permitted. Afterwards, we will explore the sacred temples and pavilions on nearby Mt. Qingcheng,

considered the birthplace of Taoism, followed by a visit to the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, which was built in the 2nd century BC and still supplies water to the fertile farmlands of the Chengdu Plain. *Leader: Kathie Fowler. Price: \$2,045. [22595A]*

China's Ancient Cultures, Mystical Mountains, and Dynamic Shanghai. April 9–22. Experience ancient and modern China on a unique itinerary that will include climbing the Great Wall, visiting the Terracotta Warriors, hiking in national forests and nature preserves, and exploring the sacred, mystical Mt. Huangshan. We will spend five days immersed in the otherworldly landscapes that have inspired Chinese artists for thousands of years yet are completely off the beaten path for Western tourists. The trip will end in Shanghai, known as "Paris of the East." For a more complete experience, pair this trip with "China's Giant Pandas and Mt. Qingcheng, Birthplace of Taoism" (see trip 22595A, left, for details). *Leader: Kathie Fowler. Price: \$4,425. [22600A]*

Upper Dolpo Trek, Nepal. May 7–June 12. At the southern edge of the Tibetan Plateau

lies wild and open Dolpo—the most remote and sparsely populated region in Nepal. This is an extraordinary 31-day trek. After crossing the Toudje La (18,250 feet) beyond Dhaulagiri, we will descend into a world of snow leopards, yak caravans, blue sheep, and medieval villages and their monasteries, including Yangser, Samling, Shey (Crystal Mountain), and Ringmo, on the shores of unearthly Phoksundo Lake. *Leader: Cheryl Parkins. Price: \$7,475. [22705A]*

Temples, Mountains, and Reefs of Bali, Indonesia. May 18–30. Join us in the lush tropical paradise of Bali, the “island of the gods,” renowned for its warm hospitality, terraced rice fields, and Hindu temples and palaces set against stunning natural backdrops. During our stay, we’ll visit temples, dine at a royal palace, raft, hike mountainous terrain, and scuba dive or snorkel among incredible reefs and abundant sea life. We’ll stay in comfortable Balinese-style accommodations utilizing nature in their design and enjoy traditional meals and massages. *Leader: Margie Tomenko. Price: \$4,795. [22635A]*

Hiking Japan’s Ancient Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Trail. May 20–28. The Kumano Kodo pilgrimage tour is a fully-guided walking tour between the vibrant, modern city of Osaka, the mountain temple community of Mt. Koyasan, and the Japanese imperial shrine at Ise. One of only two World Heritage pilgrimage routes in the world, the Kumano Kodo is a journey through a thousand years of Buddhist history on Japan’s beautiful Kii Peninsula, which connects these iconic sites. *Leader: Todd Duncan. \$5,695 (8–10)/\$5,995 (7 or fewer) [22605A]*

Trekking in Mongolia’s Altai Mountains. July 8–23. Discover Mongolia’s diverse cultural and natural heritage on this exclusive itinerary. Beginning at the Naadam festival in the capital Ulaanbaatar, we will participate in large feasts and view locals in their finest costumes. We will then travel to the western Altai Mountains to trek uncharted lands and meet some of the country’s most remote ethnic groups, including Kazakh eagle hunters and Uriankhai archer families who will share traditions dating back to the days of Chinggis Khan. *Leader: Rudy Scheffer. Price: \$5,975 (13–16)/\$6,295 (12 or fewer). [22745A]*

Borneo Explorer: Malaysia. July 16–28. Borneo, one of the world’s last wild places, contains jungle valleys, mountain peaks, and coastal islands teeming with wildlife. On this trip, we will take advantage of comfortable lodges located in wild areas to see species such as the orangutan, the white rhinoceros, the proboscis monkey, and the hornbill. We will hike and snorkel along the coast during the day and visit hot springs at night on this active adventure. *Leader: Kath Giel. Price: \$5,945. [22750A]*

Ancient China: Mountains, Monkeys, Hutongs, and Pandas. October 9–22. This exciting new itinerary will explore ancient Chinese wonders and history from Beijing to Guilin. We’ll visit a traditional Hutong neighborhood in Beijing; interact with wild monkeys and giant pandas; hike two sacred mountains, Mts. Qingcheng and Emei; take a night walk along the Great Wall of China; and cruise down the Li River, one of the top water wonders in the world. We’ll also visit an authentic tea house, learn about Taoism, and much more. *Leader: Ruth Dyche. Price: \$5,595. [22815A]*

Beyond Manaslu: A Himalayan Journey, Nepal. October 10–30. Trek beyond Manaslu (26,781 feet), the world’s eighth-highest mountain, located in one of Nepal’s less toured regions. Closed to trekkers until 1991, much of our path will follow an ancient salt-trading route, crossing the high pass of Larkya La at 16,752 feet. With experienced guides showing us the way and porters carrying all but our day packs, we’ll enjoy unsurpassed views of towering peaks and spend evenings in simple trekking lodges along the way. *Leader: Steven Veit. Price: \$4,135. [22820A]*

Trekking to Mt. Everest, Nepal. October 13–November 4. Follow the historic Khumbu Valley route on this classic trek to the base of Mt. Everest. Accompanied by Nepalese guides and porters, we’ll explore bustling Namche Bazaar, sit with monks at the renowned Tengboche Monastery, and view Ama Dablam, Nuptse, Pumori, and countless other Himalayan giants. After reaching Everest Base Camp (17,600 feet), we’ll ascend to the 18,450-foot Kala Patthar viewpoint. Before and after the trek, we’ll experience the cultural riches of Kathmandu. *Leader: Bill Flower. Price: \$4,875. [22825A]*

Hike, Bike, and Kayak in Vietnam. October 15–29. Experience the magic of Vietnam on our multi-sport adventure in this diverse land. Our journey will begin in the bustling Hanoi Old Quarter and end with two nights on a beautiful yacht in Ha Long Bay, where we’ll kayak to secluded caves and floating fish farms. Along the way, we’ll hike and bike to waterfalls, caves, rice paddies, and remote villages. We’ll also dine on local delicacies, experience a fish pedicure, and learn about the endangered langur. *Leader: Francy Rubin. Price: \$3,325. [22880A]*

Land of the Thunder Dragon: Bhutan. October 17–31. Travel to a land rarely visited by Westerners, with one of the most intact ecological systems on Earth. Bhutan’s Himalayan terrain and Buddhist culture make it a fascinating place to visit, and our combination of day hikes and trips to cultural and artistic sites will open up many wonders to us. Tiger’s Lair, Divine Madman, Bhumthang—the names alone conjure up the sublime. Travel will be by comfortable charter bus, and lodging will be in cozy hotels. *Leader: Patrick Tierney. Price: \$4,845. [22865A]*

Jewels of Northern Vietnam and Cambodia. December 3–16. Our extraordinary journey in northern Vietnam and Cambodia will feature two World Heritage sites, ancient temples and pagodas, water-puppet shows, and exquisite cuisine. In Vietnam, we’ll hike in two national parks; spend two days on a yacht while exploring, swimming, and kayaking Ha Long Bay; stay overnight in a traditional village; and experience local culture through music and dance. In Cambodia, we will tour the temples of Angkor Wat, bicycle through villages, and visit a floating community. All physical activities are optional. *Leader: Rudy Scheffer. Price: \$3,075. [22860A]*



STREET ARTIST IN SHANGHAI, CHINA. CREDIT: KATHIE FOWLER

AFRICA

Kilimanjaro and Safari, Tanzania. January 15–30. See the snows of Kilimanjaro before they're gone and reach the highest point in Africa on this nontechnical climb. Our journey will take us from lush grasslands to cloud forest, moorland, and finally, the tundra zone. Eight days on the remote Lemosho Route will ensure maximum acclimation and the greatest chance of success. Afterward, we'll celebrate our accomplishment on a five-day safari featuring big game animals, showy birds, and mischievous baboons. Excellent condition is required for this strenuous trek. *Leader: Lynn McNamara. Price: \$6,575. [22525A]*

Botswana and Zimbabwe: A Living Eden. June 4–16. Botswana still feels like the Africa of old: vast savannas with free-ranging herds of graceful antelope, all the big cats, giraffes, hyenas, 500 species of spectacular birds, and more. With plenty of time to observe and photograph, we will move with our comfortable mobile camp from the premier game territories of the Okavango Delta to arid Savuti to the Chobe National Park waterfront, with its large elephant herds. In Zimbabwe, we'll hike at world-famous Victoria Falls. *Leader: Marti Greason. Price: \$9,745. [22660A]*

Tanzania Safari and Zanzibar Beaches. June 17–27. Witness the incredible abundance of wildlife in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater on this classic

safari. Accompanied by local guides, we'll see lions, elephants, giraffes, cheetahs, leopards, zebras, rhinoceroses, monkeys, flamingos, and hundreds of other species. We'll also view Mt. Kilimanjaro, visit a Maasai village and Olduvai Gorge, and enjoy fresh meals in our private luxury camp and lodges. Our adventure will end on Zanzibar, where we'll visit a spice farm, stroll along beaches, and snorkel in the warm Indian Ocean. *Leader: Patrick Tierney. Price: \$7,695. [22670A]*

Magical Morocco: From Casbahs to Camels. September 21–October 5. Explore Morocco as we visit the imperial cities of Casablanca, Rabat, and Meknes and the medieval cities of Fez and Marrakech, with their bustling souks. We'll roam into deep mountain gorges, explore Berber villages, and trek in the Atlas Mountains. We'll also journey by camel to a tented camp deep in the pink sands of the Sahara. Accommodations will include hotels, lodges, and a luxury desert tent. *Leader: Carol Marty. Price: \$4,575. [22780A]*

Gorillas, Chimpanzees, and More in Uganda and Rwanda. November 22–December 7. With only 900 mountain gorillas left in the wild, the privilege of observing them at close range is a rare and humbling experience. We'll spend four days on challenging hikes to view these gorillas as well as playful chimpanzees, and we'll visit national parks for lion tracking, boat safaris, jungle walks, and game drives. We'll observe up to 13 species of primates and 1,000 species of birds as well as hippos,

elephants, Cape buffalo, and Uganda kob; explore the friendly local culture; and stay in comfortable, scenic lodges. *Leader: Barry Morenz. Price: \$9,695. [22530B]*

MIDDLE EAST

Natural and Historical Highlights of Israel. March 15–28. Discover unique history and incredible biodiversity on a comprehensive journey through this enduring land. Traveling from the verdant north, where the Jordan River starts, to the southern desert, we'll visit history-rich cities, like Jerusalem and Jaffa (the oldest port town in the world), as well as the famous Dead and Red Seas. Our travels will also include hikes in nature reserves, sea snorkeling, birdwatching, and evenings in hotels and on a kibbutz. *Leader: Shlomo Waser. Price: \$4,825. [22580A]*

Wings Over Israel: Spring Migration, Nature, and Culture. March 29–April 10. Witness the spectacular spring bird migration in one of the world's birding hotspots. Some 500 million birds from 283 species migrate through Israel each year, heading north from Africa to Europe and Asia. We'll visit Israel's most important birding areas, including the Mediterranean coast, the Dead and Red Seas, and the Judean and Negev Deserts. We'll also explore rich human history in Masada and some of Jerusalem's major sites, and stay in comfortable local hotels and kibbutz inns. Beginner birders welcome. *Leader: Rochelle Gerratt. Price: \$5,895. [22590A]*



ZEBRA HERD, TANZANIA. CREDIT: CHANTAL/GETTY IMAGES



Europe

Tour prehistoric caves and mysterious paintings in France's Dordogne region, ramble through the story-book Cotswolds of southern England, and absorb the cultural abundance of Sicily and the Aeolian Islands, Italy.

Exploring North Holland by Bike and Barge. April 16–23. Cycle through the quaint towns and former fishing villages of North Holland during the height of the tulip blooming season. Beginning in Amsterdam, we will embark on a circular route from the east to west, including the island of Texel. After daily jaunts cycling and exploring the countryside with a bilingual guide we will return to our exclusive barge, which offers twin rooms with toilets and showers in each room and hearty meals. *Leader: Francy Rubin. Price: \$4,025. [22610A]*

Hike Ireland's Natural and Ancient Wonders: Dublin to the Aran Islands. April 26–May 6. Discover the natural wonders, history, and culture of Ireland on an incomparable hiking adventure, from Neolithic tombs near Dublin to the rugged western shores of the Atlantic. We'll visit ancient and medieval sites dotting the countryside near Galway and on the Aran Islands and take inspiring hikes along the breathtaking coastline, through scenic valleys, and among dramatic mountains. Lodging will be in comfortable bed-and-breakfasts and small country inns. *Leader: Brian Anderson. Price: \$3,445. [22725A]*

Jewels of Croatia: Forests, Rivers, and Islands. May 2–15. Discover Europe's most diverse outdoor destination on this active trip. Starting

in Zagreb, our journey will take us south toward the coast of Dalmatia. We will hike in dense forests; bike through leafy national parks; raft, kayak, and swim in pristine rivers; and discover history and culture in ancient towns. Our adventure will end with a sailing cruise among the idyllic coves and fishing villages of the Elafiti Islands, with ample opportunities to swim, snorkel, bike, and hike. *Leader: Patrick Tierney. Price: \$5,275. [22620A]*

Portugal Traverse: Hiking through History from the Mountains to the Sea. May 2–16. Our traverse from Porto to Lisbon will explore Portugal's historical and natural landscapes, including cork oak montado forest, granitic mountains, and dramatic coastline. We'll immerse ourselves in the culture and livelihoods of the Portuguese people and discover what attracted Iberians, Phoenicians, Romans, Muslims, and Christians to this land as we visit rural villages, hilltop castles, terraced vineyards, the Douro Valley, monasteries, ancient ruins, and a sustainable farm. Our itinerary involves moderate hiking on hilly terrain. *Leader: Laura Bonds-Johnson. Price: \$6,025 (12–14)/\$6,735 (11 or fewer). [22840A]*

Vienna to Prague: Walking the Czech Greenways, Austria and Czech Republic. May 4–17. Explore four World Heritage sites and two UNESCO biosphere reserves while hiking along a system

of medieval trade routes. We'll start in the great cultural center of Vienna and end in magical Prague. Our walks will take us across the southern Czech areas of Moravia and Bohemia, where we'll discover fairy-tale castles, old town squares, and the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Telc and Cesky Krumlov. We'll enjoy moderate hiking with bus support and spend our nights in quaint village inns. *Leader: Tom Brown. Price: \$5,695. [22625A]*

England's Coast-to-Coast Walk: From the Irish Sea to the North Sea. May 6–19. Embark on a grand cross-country walking tour through three of England's most beautiful national parks: the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, and the North York Moors. Our moderate-to-strenuous day hikes will take us to Grasmere, Keld, and Robin Hood's Bay while a minivan transports our luggage to comfortable bed-and-breakfasts. Local British friends will share daytime walks and evening talks in colorful pubs. *Leader: Steve Welter. Price: \$4,095. [22715A]*

Lake District Ramble, England. May 10–18. Pack your camera and binoculars for a walking journey among the fells and glittering lakes of northwestern England. As we ramble through this historic landscape, we'll picnic near becks spanned by old stone bridges and visit tiny cafés to discuss the famous writers drawn to the region. We'll also

admire ancient scenery from hilltops, cruise on lake steamers, and visit the famous Castlerigg stone circle. This trip is for moderate-to-experienced hikers. **Leader:** *Marti Greason*. **Price:** \$3,325. [22710A]

Treasures of Sicily and the Aeolian Islands, Italy.

May 16–27. Sicily, the largest of the Mediterranean islands, offers diverse art, archaeology, architecture, cuisine, and nature. We will explore the fascinating cultural abundance resulting from centuries of occupation by Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, and Normans. On the Aeolian Islands, we'll hike along stunning coastlines and through mountain forests and climb a volcano. We will be accompanied by local experts who will help us understand Sicily's unique mix of cultures and landscapes. **Leader:** *Jenny Roberts*. **Price:** \$5,045. [22630A]

Mountains, Lochs, and Glens: The West Highland Way, Scotland.

May 23–June 3. Join us as we walk the entire 96 miles, from Glasgow to Fort William, of Scotland's oldest, most famous footpath. We'll journey along Loch Lomond's picturesque shore, to lowland hill country, and into the central Highlands. Luggage will be delivered to our hotel or guesthouse each night. We'll visit the Isle of Skye and Armadale Castle as well as Eilean Donan Castle in Kyle of Lochalsh. This is a moderate-to-strenuous trip for experienced hikers. **Leader:** *Nancy Mathison*. **Price:** \$3,995. [22640A]

Walking Through History in the Cotswolds, England.

May 26–June 5. Ramble over the rolling hills and through the woods and fields of the storybook Cotswolds of southern England. We will stay at country inns in picturesque villages with thatched-roof houses and manicured gardens filled with spring flowers. Our daily walks of 4 to 11 miles will be van supported. This trip will also feature days in London, Bath, and Stratford-upon-Avon and a visit to the Neolithic stone circles of Stonehenge and Avebury. **Leader:** *Rochelle Gerratt*. **Price:** \$4,295. [22645A]

Hiking the Franciscan Trail, Umbria, Italy. May 27–June 8. Following the path of Saint Francis, patron saint of the environment, we'll hike through forests and wildflowers and past ancient mills, Etruscan tombs, Roman roads, springs, vineyards, and olive orchards. Hiking three to six miles daily, we'll visit remote abbeys, monasteries, hill towns, and churches with priceless art. A contessa, a priest, and locals will be our guides. We will visit Cortona of Under the Tuscan Sun fame, enjoy local cuisine, and stay in a country inn. **Leader:** *Carol Marty*. **Price:** \$5,045. [22650A]

Traversing the Spanish Pyrenees. May 27–June 8. Visit the best of the southern Pyrenees, one of Europe's grandest mountain ranges, as we travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea. Starting in artsy Bilbao in the Basque Country and ending in cosmopolitan Barcelona, the capital of the Catalonia region, we will hike

through canyons, up mountains, beside ancient volcanoes, and along pristine rivers. Evenings will be spent in small hotels and a castle in charming villages along the way. **Leader:** *Lee Thomas*. **Price:** \$5,595. [22655A]

In Pursuit of Blue Zone Longevity Secrets in Sardinia, Italy.

June 14–22. What makes Sardinia a blue zone, where an above average number of citizens live to over 100 years? We'll pursue its secrets as we hike rugged mountains, boat and swim in cerulean Mediterranean waters, and share in the traditional social values, culture, cuisine, and wine that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. A one-day excursion will also take us to the French island of Corsica. **Leader:** *Carol Marty*. **Price:** \$3,975 (10–12)/\$4,875 (9 or fewer). [22810A]

Poets and Pilgrims: A Literary Walking Tour of Ireland.

June 14–25. Experience Ireland through the eyes of four of its master storytellers. We'll walk the streets of James Joyce's Dublin, sail to John M. Synge's remote Aran Islands, hike Hazel Woods to Yeats's "Lake Isle of Innisfree," and explore Patrick Kavanagh's rural County Monaghan. A literary guide will accompany us on our pilgrimage across the Emerald Isle as we combine sightseeing and hiking for a remarkable cultural adventure. **Leader:** *Kathie Fowler*. **Price:** \$4,725. [22665A]

Easy Hiking the Dolomites, Italy.

June 20–July 3. Join us for a leisurely hiking vacation in the dramatic Dolomites, renowned for their beauty and magnificent mountain views. Beginning in Cortina and ending in Austrian-influenced Bolzano, we'll traverse a variety of mountain settings with stops for photographs and al fresco lunches. Evenings will be spent in comfortable, family-owned hotels (including one with a pool and a spa) offering excellent cuisine, refreshing showers, and cozy beds. Luggage will be transported between hotels. **Leader:** *Shlomo Waser*. **Price:** \$4,535. [22680A]

Eiger and Jungfrau Up Close, Switzerland.

June 26–July 4. The fearsome Eiger (ogre) and serene Jungfrau (maiden), kept forever apart by the solemn Mönch (monk), loom high above the villages of Grindewald and Wengen in Switzerland's Ber-



DUTCH FLOWERS IN BLOOM. CREDIT: PETER HORAN

nese Oberland. These towering ice-clad summits are the source of Europe's longest glacier and some of its most exciting climbing legends. We'll take advantage of Switzerland's highly developed cogwheel train and gondola lift network to start high up for our scenic alpine hikes among waterfalls, wildflowers, glaciers, and peaks. **Leader:** *Steven Veit*. **Price:** \$4,195. [22685A]

Hiking the Alps of Bavaria and Tyrol, Germany and Austria.

June 28–July 9. Explore the mountain paths, lakes, forests, and wildflower meadows of the Berchtesgaden and Ammergau Alps in Bavaria and the Karwendel range of Austria's Tyrolean Alps. We'll hike to lovely baroque country churches and the fantasy castles of King Ludwig II, cruise the fjordlike Lake Königssee, tour Salzburg and Munich, enjoy a Mozart dinner concert, and sample the delicious local cuisine. In the evenings, we'll return to small, family-run hotels with unbeatable alpine views. **Leader:** *Erhard Konerding*. **Price:** \$3,825. [22690A]

Cave Paintings, Paddling, and History in Dordogne, France.

June 30–July 10. The Dordogne region in southwestern France is world-renowned for its beautiful countryside dotted with picturesque villages and castles. From our riverside hotels in medieval villages, we will tour prehistoric caves and marvel at their mysterious and skillful paintings. We will also paddle down the gentle Dordogne and Vézère Rivers, stopping to explore 12th-century castles and enjoy wines, cheeses, and other delicacies. **Leader:** *Wendy Van Norden*. **Price:** \$3,625. [22695A]

Day Hikes in the Dolomites: Treasures of South Tyrol, Italy.

July 8–14. The Dolomites are among the most dramatic mountains on Earth. Though not as big as the nearby Alps, they are even more striking in their color and the way their pale, craggy peaks rise abruptly from the surrounding meadows. This comfortable, hotel-based trip will feature daily hikes on easy-to-moderate trails through these stunning mountains. **Leader:** *Steve Welter*. **Price:** \$2,525. [22732A]

Advanced Trekking and Via Ferrata in the Dolomites, Italy.

July 17–25. Combine trekking and via ferrata (a protected climbing route using steel cables) on this exceptional journey in Italy's legendary Dolomites. Under the guidance of certified local mountain guides, we will navigate the world-famous Via delle Bocchette and spend five days trekking, with walks up two dramatic peaks. Each night will be spent in a well-appointed mountain refugio or our base hotel. No climbing experience is necessary to enjoy this rare adventure. **Leader:** *Mike Abbott*. **Price:** \$3,325. [22875A]

Volcanic Vacation: Hut-to-Hut Trekking in Iceland.

July 18–29. Trek an otherworldly volcanic landscape where few have gone before. Our route will take us from Landmannahellir through the Reykjadalur geothermal valley to Landmannalaugar, then up into the highlands and down to the southern coast. We'll encounter a wide range



WATERFRONT IN SOGNEFJORD, NORWAY. CREDIT: IAN DAGNALL/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

of landscapes, including multicolored volcanic mountains, black-sand deserts, glaciers, volcanic rifts, and craters, with the chance to discover new lava fields and craters from the 2010 eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano. *Leader: Daniel Pettit. Price: \$5,095. [22740A]*

Dolomiti di Brenta: Hut to Hut in the Trentino Alps, Italy. July 22–30. West of Italy's Brenner valley lie the Brenta Dolomites, the most dramatic and rugged area of the Dolomite range. Our hut-to-hut adventure will bring us through the heart of their towering spires, which at sunset take on the spectacular colors of fire. We may spot chamois, eagles, grouse, and even bears, and we'll spend most evenings at mountain huts enjoying the local atmosphere, tasty food, and the company of travelers from around the world. *Leader: Becky Wong. Price: \$2,825. [22735A]*

Exploring Norway's Fjords and Glaciers. July 22–August 1. Our adventure will begin in the historic city of Bergen, gateway to the fjords, with an introduction to Norse history and culture. We will travel by ferry up the Sognefjord to the artists' community of Balestrand, where we will begin our hikes through valleys, over passes, and past waterfalls and glaciers, before a train ride and a tour of cosmopolitan Oslo. We'll enjoy dramatic scenery, excellent cuisine, and delightful accommodations in hotels and a traditional farmhouse with full amenities. *Leader: Pritpal Kochhar. Price: \$3,975. [22755A]*

Exploring Norway's Fjords and Glaciers. August 4–14. See trip 22755A, above, for details. *Leader: Steve Welter. Price: \$3,975. [22760A]*

In Search of Pack Ice, Polar Bears, and Whales in the Land of the Midnight Sun, Norway. August 20–29. Experience unparalleled scenery and wildlife viewing on a cruise through Norway's Svalbard archipelago. From our comfortable and spacious vessel, we'll view enormous colonies of seabirds, seals, and walrus hauled out on ice floes; observe the thrilling antics of whales; and search for the Arctic's iconic polar bears. Onboard scientists and naturalists will discuss natural history and environmental impacts, and we'll enjoy a variety of optional activities, including Zodiac side trips, snowshoeing, and hiking. *Leader: Kath Giel. Price: \$6,545. [22730A]*

Hike Ireland's Natural and Ancient Wonders: Wicklow Mountains to the Aran Islands. August 21–September 1. Discover the natural wonders, history, and culture of Ireland on an incomparable hiking adventure, from Tara Hill near Dublin to the rugged western shores of the Atlantic. We'll visit ancient and medieval sites dotting the countryside near Galway and on the Aran Islands and take inspiring hikes along the breathtaking coastline, through scenic valleys, and among dramatic mountains. Lodging will be in comfortable bed-and-breakfasts and small country inns. *Leader: Barry Morenz. Price: \$4,145. [22770A]*

Exploring the French and Italian Alps: Mont Blanc and Gran Paradiso National Park. September 2–13. Join us on a hiking journey to two of the most classic destinations in the Alps. Beginning in France, we will explore the awe-inspiring Mont Blanc massif from the

charming town of Chamonix. Later, as we cross the Alps from France to Italy, we'll tour Gran Paradiso National Park and visit the quaint Val d'Ayas. Our itinerary will also include plentiful opportunities to experience local culture and cuisine. *Leader: Shlomo Waser. Price: \$4,945. [22800A]*

Walking the Witches Trail from Inn to Inn, Harz Mountains, Germany. September 2–13. In the heart of Germany lie the Harz Mountains, a region rich in folklore and diverse geologic features. We'll enjoy easy-to-moderate hikes along the Witches Trail as it winds through valleys, moors, and meadows, with stops at UNESCO sites and in medieval towns. We'll also walk in the footsteps of Goethe; explore the fabled Brocken, believed to be a traditional meeting place of witches; and ride a narrow-gauge railway through deep ravines. Our journey will conclude in the historic city of Leipzig. *Leader: Erhard Konerding. Price: \$3,325. [22775A]*

Hut to Hut in the Picos de Europa, Northern Spain. September 4–15. The dramatic Picos de Europa are the perfect landscape for our hut-to-hut hiking journey. Along our route, we'll visit the three iconic massifs, explore deep gorges and high peaks, and discover abundant natural and cultural history. We'll also observe the unique coexistence of wildlife, traditional farming, and protected areas that are open to the public. In the evenings, we'll enjoy spectacular sunsets and mingle with other international travelers in small inns and high mountain huts. *Leader: Nancy Mathison. Price: \$3,845 (11–14)/\$4,145. [22795A]*

Hiking the Peaks and Valleys of the Dolomites, Italy. September 5–16. The surreal pale peaks of the Dolomites rise dramatically from rolling green valleys dotted with small villages. We will travel to a different trailhead each day and hike through scenic mountain settings, spending our nights in picturesque villages. Lodging will be in small, family-run hotels (and, one night, a mountain refuge), where we will sample local cuisine and wines and experience the Italian, Tyrolean, and Ladin cultures. We'll also visit Ötzi the "Ice Man" and a World War I outdoor museum. *Leader: Daniel Pettit. Price: \$3,575. [22785A]*

Hiking the Greek Islands. September 19–October 2. Join an Aegean adventure exploring the unique character, culture, and historic sites of the Cyclades Islands. Climb Mt. Zas, the highest peak in the islands; marvel at the Temple of Apollo; swim in crystal-clear waters; and absorb the wonderful ambience of the waterfronts. We will island-hop across the cerulean Aegean Sea by fast boat and ferry, then return to magnificent Athens to discover the magic and mystery of the ancient Acropolis and Parthenon. Accommodations will be in locally run hotels. *Leader: Angela White. Price: \$4,325. [22805A]*



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Outings

2101 Webster Street
Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612



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General Information & Reservations:

415.977.5522

national.outings@sierraclub.org

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