



KENSINGTON
TOURS
travel becomes you





Travel has been the single most transformational force in my life. The countries I've visited (over 80), the people I have met and the experiences that have given me new perspectives are all now a part of me.

Enabling transformational travel experiences is what inspired me to start Kensington Tours. The enthusiastic response from so many travelers hungry for richer, more personalized experiences is what continues to spur me – and the whole Kensington team – forward.

With this in mind, I share with you the mission and manifesto that guide the Kensington team as we approach each and every customized tour we craft. On behalf of our destination specialists and our network of deeply knowledgeable local private guides, I invite you to discover the unforgettable moments and transformative experiences only possible when your trip is truly customized.

Jeff Willner, CEO Kensington Tours
and Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society

WELCOME TO KENSINGTON TOURS	2
DESTINATION EXPERTS	3
EUROPE	7
AFRICA	13
ASIA	17
EGYPT TO INDIA	21
SOUTH AMERICA	25
CENTRAL AMERICA	29
NORTH AMERICA	33
AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC	37
FAMILY ADVENTURES	41
HONEYMOONS	45
CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES	49
EXPLORERS-IN-RESIDENCE SERIES	53
CUSTOM CRUISING	57
KENSINGTON CARES	61

OUR MISSION

To create the experience that changes the life.

OUR MANIFESTO

We are not in the business of booking tours.
We're in the business of satisfying an essential human need.
Why do people feel the insistent pull of the world?
Is it merely to see things they've never seen before?
To visit places before they're ruined by civilization?
Or simply because the world is more accessible than any time in human history.
Yes. All of the above.

But none of these reasons capture why we're in business.
We're in the business of discovery.
People travel to peel away the husk of habit and uncover their true selves.
To relax into a purer state of being.
To better understand the world and their place in it.
To conquer challenges and discover new wells of confidence.
Deep down, people believe if they travel enough, they will discover a better self.

Our business is not the booking of tours.
We are architects of travel.
Which means we start with the important questions.
Not just 'where' or 'when' but rather 'why.'
Why a journey? Why now? What's going on here that you want to go there?
The 'why' tells us a lot about the 'how.'
Since everybody's 'why' is different, everybody's 'how' must be personalized.
Personalized travel leads to personal discovery.

No, we are not in the business of travel.
We are the architects of possibilities.
The agents of change.
We create the experience that changes the life.

DISCOVER TAILOR-MADE TRAVEL. DISCOVER YOURSELF.

Most tours are a series of compromises. Trying to please everyone, they please no one. But not at Kensington Tours. A custom tour from Kensington is your own private tour, carefully crafted by our destination specialists to deliver a personalized adventure like no other. We build in enriching and unforgettable experiences, and put the best private guides at your service. We do all this with award-winning attention to detail and at unbeatable value for your travel dollar.

DISCOVER THE FLEXIBILITY AND FREEDOM ONLY POSSIBLE WITH A CUSTOM TOUR

Linger longer to watch the lion cubs play, explore an out of the way artisan studio in Rome (instead of yet another Duomo), choose value wise hotels for the first half of your trip so you can indulge yourself on the homestretch – this is the freedom and flexibility only possible on a custom tour. And these are the experiences that transform both the trip and the traveler.

Whether you are traveling as a couple, with your family or a group of friends, Kensington's experienced staff will custom tailor an itinerary to match your travel style, your passions, your pace and your pocketbook. The result is an experience that is more personal, more rewarding and frankly more fun.



TRAVEL + LEISURE 'WORLD'S BEST AWARD'
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADVENTURE
'BEST ADVENTURE TRAVEL COMPANIES ON EARTH'



EXPERTISE MATTERS

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.

GETTING STARTED – IT'S SIMPLE

Peruse the pages ahead for ideas and inspiration (or visit our website for more). When you are ready, contact our team of specialists – or your trusted travel agent. We'll ask insightful questions and then begin weaving together the essential experiences and all the tiny details that make both planning and travelling seamless and worry free.

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 Tanganyika – 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.



ROSELLA 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 AND 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 AND 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.



KAREN MCRAE

SOUTHEAST ASIA EXPERT

Only truly at home while on the road, Karen has lived and guided all over Southeast Asia, using Thailand and Myanmar as her base for over 12 years. She is a human rights activist, designed a National Geographic award-winning trip, and has been featured in the New York Times. **Ultimate Experience:** Living aboard a small luxury cruise boat in Myanmar, taking travelers along the Irrawaddy from Mandalay to Bhamo. **Travel Tip:** For an authentic culinary experience visit any Southeast Asian night market. Luang Prabang offers superb Lao street food at bargain prices.



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 EUROPE 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.

