

Did you know... The capital of **Iceland**, Reykjavik, runs on geothermal power!



This Nordic island nation, is defined by its dramatic landscape with volcanoes, geysers, hot springs and lava fields. With stunning scenery and a brutal yet interesting Viking History, Iceland is increasing in popularity as a tourist destination. The summer months are best to experience the midnight sun, and for a *chance* to witness the Northern Lights (we cannot guarantee the weather) it is best to go In February, March, September or October.

We have a trip right now with **GAdventures** that includes airfare, 6 nights tour and accommodation, 6 meals, and priced for a solo at \$3720 including taxes. Travel dates are from April 10- May 30, 2020

[Best Of Iceland](#)

For those of you wanting to be a bit more on the pampered side, Trafalgar also has their version with a priceless dip in the Blue Lagoon. [Iceland Including the Blue Lagoon](#)



Prices through May 2020

\$3795 twin share, \$4425 for solo travellers

Prices for June, July & August

\$4025 twin share, \$5095 for solo travellers

Current promotion of \$100 off for bookings made up to June 2020

For even more captivating viking history, fjords and the beauty of Scandinavia, **Costsaver** has a 12 day adventure through Norway, Denmark and Sweden. [Highlights of Scandinavia](#) is a relatively affordable trip considering the affordability of Northern Europe, and pricing for June 12- June 23rd is only \$3570 for solos.



HANDS DOWN the popularity for Central and Eastern Europe has surpassed that of the West, and for a number of reasons...the main one being affordability. The further East you go, the further your dollar goes (with a few exceptions) and many of the cities you will not find nearly as busy as others such as Paris or London. However, that is changing. Just as the “cusp” months for travel before and after summer are becoming prime, the hidden gems of many of these countries are gaining in popularity and my true thought is the sooner you can get there the better.

Here are the top trips of 2020 based on all your interest, although in no particular order.

Ok, there is order.

My heart is in Prague on the Charles Bridge



The only city untouched by Hitler in WWII, **Prague** in the Czech Republic is where I would go in Europe over and over again. Soups...train stations with amazing potato pancakes.....and home of the BEST Garlic Cream soup I have found make it the first trip I would suggest for people to explore Europe. I chose the itinerary below because it includes Prague, Vienna and Budapest which are all places that should not be rushed through. I would even suggest arriving a few days early to have your own time and I have more than enough suggestions for you to enjoy day trips and all that you can get out of this magical city. With the change in the city and increasing tourists, it is strongly suggested that you avoid the summer months. Right now with Trafalgar, pricing through May, June and July don't vary so much, priced at \$2795 for a twin share, and \$3695 for solo accommodation. [Prague, Vienna and Budapest](#)

As many of you know, there are a number of tour operators for Europe to choose from, but I tend to default to Trafalgar for a number of reasons. Not only have they been in business for over 70 years, and are rates on average 4.8 stars out of 5 my guests, but I am impressed by....

- 1- The quality of their Tour Directors- I would say that for a large scale tour operator, the quality of their Tour Directors is above all others. Their knowledge, expertise and passion for what they do, means you have an experience you will never forget.
- 2- Their pricing- Trafalgar compares, and in many instances, beats the pricing of other competitors, but also has a sister brand, Costsaver, which is simply alternative accommodation for those who would like to budget a bit. Same tour, same experience but hotels outside the town centre.
- 3- CONNECT WITH LOCALS - The unique opportunities segment of many tour companies began with Trafalgar. From private meals in the Vatican, or joining in with South African locals for a traditional meal and insight into their culture, every destination gives you an opportunity to experience something that you are guaranteed to never forget.
- 4- STAYS WITH STORIES- Every tour destination has one special night of accommodation that has been picked for a very special reason. Whether it be historical importance, societal significance, or a unique wow factor, each has its own story to tell, that will "stay with" you.
- 5- THEIR DEPOSIT POLICY- If you have placed a deposit down on a trip, and events change preventing you from going, Trafalgar will hold that deposit for 5 YEARS to apply to another

*******Until June 2020, get \$100 any new booking for tours in 2020*******

One of the most popular tours for Spain and Portugal, is also with Trafalgar Tours.

[Treasures of Spain & Portugal](#) is a 14-day adventure from Madrid to Barcelona, with a guaranteed departure date of June 6-19, 2020. Pricing for twin share is \$4225.50 and singles \$5525.00.

*****An additional \$50 off for bookings made prior to November 15th*****



Experience all the mesmerising highlights of Italy, including the delectable flavours that have inspired its passionate locals to coin the phrase: "First we eat, then we do everything else..."

[Best of Italy](#)- June 2- June 14, 2020

\$4795 twin share, \$5735 solo



Insight Vacations has an amazing tour for with many dates still available from May right through October.

Country Roads of Croatia is a 14 day, 13 night adventure that begins in **Zagreb** and ends in **Dubrovnik**. Your best bet considering weather and pricing is tour dates of May23-June 5th and is \$6093 including the solo supplement.

Some great highlights to consider about **Insight Vacations** if you are not familiar with the company:

- dining - Michelin star, cooking lessons/demonstrations, truly local specialty restaurants, farm-to-table
- hotels - hand picked, boutique , most desirable locations
- coach - leg room between seats is HUGE. The windows are great for viewing. They do a seat rotation plan so everyone gets a chance to sit at the front. Electrical outlets to ensure you are charged. Smaller groups max 40 seater buses.
- travel director - are employed all year and do training in off season. They often break the group into smaller sub groups with a local expert to be more manageable and more enjoyable visits. They often have tours after hours when all the tourists have gone.
- make travel matter – they are looking at the bigger picture with projects that support the planet, wildlife and culture of the destination. A new initiative is they are supporting reforestation right here in BC!

A FEW OTHER GREAT OPTIONS FOR Spring/Summer 2020- pricing is for tour only

Best of Greece with 4 day Aegean Cruise- June 1-June 13 2020
Solo Pricing \$6165

Best of France Summer 2020- June 28-July 10 2020
Twin share \$4495 and solo pricing is \$5765

Essence of South Africa- April 12-April 21 2020
Solo Pricing \$8315

Israel & Jordan- April 23-May 6 2020
Twin share \$7595 and solo pricing is \$10,135

I am being completely honest when I say that I have never had so many people say they were so pleasantly surprised with a trip, than when they visited this country. When I first began my "life" as an agent and met Claire Newell, I asked her what her best travel experience was. She said the stunning beauty, culture, nature and people in **China** was not anything she would have ever expected. Lucky for us, one of the best to cover China (as well as India and South East Asia) has its home base here in Vancouver. **China Star Holiday** has received numerous Excellence Awards for their top end tours, and they can be groups between 20-32 people.

I would like to present a couple of their options for 2020. **Tours do include AIR**

[China Yangtze Spectacular](#) is 15 night tour that begins in the country's largest city of Shanghai (where you will find the famed waterfront promenade) and completes in Beijing. When you do open the link, there is a very detailed itinerary and all the pricing for the tour dates, including the single supplement pricing of \$1150. May 6th is the departure date I would look at, but not set in stone as if there were a few with a different availability, I would explore that with you.



DAYS 7 AND 8 OF THIS TOUR INCLUDE A RIVER CRUISE WITH SOME STUNNING SCENERY INCLUDING THE **THREE GORGES DAM** WHICH IS THE LARGEST POWER SOURCE IN THE WORLD. CONSTRUCTION TOOK OVER 17-YEARS, AND REQUIRED OVER 14,000 WORKERS. LEFT, QUTANG GORGE, THE MOST DRAMATIC OF THE 3 GORGES OF THE YANGTZE RIVER.

I would like you to pay close attention to the group photo. I love the diversity and there are people of all ages. Of course part of the beauty of travelling is meeting people from all over the world, but I think being on a tour with fellow Canadians is a pretty special thing too. If this tour is of interest to you, please let me know, as well as your rooming preference if I don't have that already on file for you.

For those of you looking for a taste of India, [Indias Golden Triangle](#) is another one of their most popular tours. Typically the best time to go is between October and March, so a wonderful destination to look forward to before our Spring starts. For 2020, February 22, March 8 and October 17th have guaranteed departures. Perhaps one works for you?

FUN FACT-

*Because of the terrible air pollution, the white marble had started turning yellow, so visitors must walk or take electric buses

From the history of Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta to beauty of the towering limestone pillars of Halong Bay, 14 days through [Vietnam and Thailand](#) is the perfect way to start off 2020.

Pricing for this tour, with dates of January 2-17th including taxes and fees is only \$5200 for a solo!