AROUND THE WORLD
BY PRIVATE JET

JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 2, 2015
Howdy, Ags!

We’re pleased to invite you on this innovative, new Around the World journey for January 2015. This itinerary features new global highlights, along with several classic experiences that should be on every world traveler’s life list.

From the unique island experiences of Palau and the Seychelles, to the incredible temples of Myanmar, to saif and wildlife experiences in the Serengeti Plain and Namibia, this new Around the World takes you inside some of the world’s most mysterious, lesser-known places. Along the way, you will meet countless local guides and people who will share their cultures with you as you travel in comfort and style aboard our private jet. There is simply no better way to see so many of the world’s top sights in one seamless 24-day journey.

As always, this expedition comes with our excellent service and attention to detail, beautiful accommodations and unforgettable moments. Please join us for what will undoubtedly be a journey of a lifetime.

Gig ’em!

Jeniffer Bahac ’87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel Programs
Traveling Aggies
AggieNetwork.com/Travel

$76,950 double occupancy, $8,950 single supplement

24 DAYS, 9 DESTINATIONS, 1 INCREDIBLE JOURNEY
Your journey begins on Hawaii's Big Island. Kona is revered for its calm, clear waters, the rugged beauty of its volcanoes and lava fields, and the intensely rich coffee that grows in this region. Meet fellow travelers and expedition staff at a festive welcome dinner.

Housed in intimate two-story bungalows, Four Seasons Resort Hualalai at Historic Ka’upulehu features open-air living spaces. The resort exudes a nostalgic sense of Hawaii’s Golden Age with its collection of native art and island-inspired decor.

Follow your passion. This itinerary is merely an overview of possible activities. Several options are available at each destination to ensure that your trip is customized to your interests. If you have specific requests or have traveled to a place before, simply ask and we will ensure that your journey is tailored to you. Private options, including spa and golf, are also available for an additional cost. We look forward to welcoming you on board.
We cross the international date line on Jan. 11, losing a day en route, and briefly touch down for a tech stop in Guam before arriving in Palau on Jan. 12.

A small Micronesian archipelago with only 20,000 inhabitants, Palau is an aquatic adventurer’s paradise—and was also one of Jacques Cousteau’s favorite diving locations. One look at the vibrant display of coral and fish in Palau’s waters and it’s easy to see why.

Cruise through the Rock Islands, the lush, jungle-topped limestone cliffs that cover a nearly 20-mile stretch of sea. Dive or snorkel among these “floating gardens” and encounter fascinating underwater creatures including lettuce coral, giant clams and triggerfish. You may also choose to hike into the dense jungle to remote Jellyfish Lake and float among thousands of sting-free jellyfish. Or examine a treasure trove of World War II artifacts, including tanks and bunkers, during a guided tour of a historic battle site.

Accommodations

White-sand beaches and tropical gardens enclose the Palau Pacific Resort. Tasteful tropical furnishings adorn rooms in air-conditioned, cottage-like villas.
JANUARY 14-17

Myanmar
Bagan, Inle Lake and Yangon

Once the historic overland trade route between India and China, Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) is finally emerging from decades of political and economic isolation. This land of ancient Buddhist temples remains largely unspoiled by the modern world. Now is the time to experience a culture where sacred traditions, like morning alms for monks and spirit offerings called nats, are still a part of daily life.

On arrival in Yangon, take a local charter flight to the ancient city of Bagan. Home to more than 2,000 temples scattered over 26 square miles, Bagan was once a thriving capital and the heart of Buddhism in the region. The collective scope of the temples makes it one of the top archeological treasures in Asia rivaling Angkor Wat. Then board a local charter flight to Inle Lake, where daily life unfolds among stilted houses and floating markets set over tranquil waters. Watch skilled locals guide rowboats with a single leg on the oar as they tend the lake's floating gardens. We return to Yangon on our final night and visit the over 300-foot-tall Shwedagon Pagoda, the shimmering golden temple that dominates the capital’s skyline.

Accommodations

Set within the Bagan Archaeological Preservation Zone among the ancient temples of the Kingdom of Bagan, the Aureum Palace Bagan spacious 27-acre resort features villas and rooms furnished with unique crafts. Aureum Palace Inle is on the edge of tranquil Inle Lake, a series of expansive waterways. Uniquely designed rooms line the shore and feature spacious lounge areas and lotus ponds.

Located in the heart of Yangon, Traders Hotel is a contemporary property known for traditional hospitality. Spacious rooms include views of the Yangon River and nearby pagodas.

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JANUARY 18-20

Bhutan
Bhutan and Nepal

Step into another world as you enter the majestic lands of the Himalayas, an eclectic region of ethnicities, languages and faiths. Bhutan was once known as the Forbidden Kingdom and only opened to outsiders in the 1970s. With a focus on gross national happiness, it remains an intriguing society that is slowly modernizing while preserving rich traditions and philosophies.

Take a charter flight from Yangon to Bhutan, a country governed by Buddhist principles. Enjoy a scenic ride through the Paro Valley for its unspoiled views and hillsides dotted with dzongs, the administrative fortresses that exemplify Bhutanese architecture. Visit the immense Paro Dzong, which towers over a local village and symbolizes Bhutan’s wealth and power. Meet local shopkeepers and watch daily life unfold in Paro or examine local textiles in Thimphu. Experienced hikers may opt for a rigorous trek to Tiger’s Nest for striking views and a look inside one of the country’s most revered monasteries.

Alternate: If you have already visited Bhutan or have difficulty at high altitude, fly to Nepal from Myanmar on our jet. Known as much for its mountains as its temples and shrines, Nepal is as culturally diverse as it is geographically impressive. Explore the well-preserved ancient city of Bhaktapur, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Choose a nature walk or jungle ride through the Chitwan National Park, also a UNESCO World Heritage site, and one of the last remaining havens for the elusive Bengal tiger.

Accommodations

The Zhiwa Ling Hotel blends traditional Bhutanese architecture with modern amenities, while the Uma by COMO, Paro, is a sleek, sophisticated mountainside retreat.

JANUARY 21-23

Seychelles

With its idyllic waters, unspoiled beaches and sailboats aplenty, the Seychelles could have been directly taken from the pages of your favorite travel magazine. Of the 115 island archipelago, 50 percent of its land is protected, resulting in an exceptional ecosystem. Island culture is a colorful mix of Asian, African and European heritages, creating multiethnic customs that will leave an unforgettable impression.

Find your paradise adventure here. Snorkel in seas filled with marine life and get a taste of local flavors during a creole barbecue lunch. In Praslin, we enjoy a guided tour through the Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve, home to the coco de mer palms found only on the island. Then travel by boat to La Digue, a biologically diverse island filled with coconut palms, hibiscus gardens and vanilla vines. Beyond the postcard perfect beaches daily life slows to a languid pace as locals shun cars in favor of oxcarts and bikes. Spot rare and native orchids among diverse flora during a visit to the National Botanical Gardens.

Accommodations

Tucked in the hillside jungles, the villas at Banyan Tree Seychelles and Four Seasons Resort Seychelles both reflect the local culture and offer attentive service. The resorts feature rooms that blend outdoor and indoor spaces and ocean views from cliffside infinity pools.
Botswana

Okavango Delta

The Okavango Delta is a wetland oasis—a wild maze of floodplains, narrow waterways and lagoons—and offers a completely different experience than the vast, dry vistas common on most East African safaris. In the Delta, you are as likely to spot lions and cheetahs as you are crocodiles and the red lechwe, an antelope that thrives in marshlands.

Board light aircraft for a short flight to your camp. Arrive in time for a classic sundowner, taking in the grand savannah views with refreshments in hand. Start the next day with an early morning game drive or a river safari by dugout canoe. The Delta is home to a staggering diversity of wildlife, including elephants, Cape buffalos, leopards, giraffes and more than 400 bird species. Rest in the afternoon and prepare for the evening game drive. End the day sharing stories of adventure over coffee or cocktails around the fire.

Alternate: If you have already visited the Okavango Delta, opt for the Kalahari Desert. Salt pans transform the landscape into a moonlike clay terrain where meerkats and baobab trees thrive. Trek with Bushmen to learn survival skills and travel by four-by-four to take in its native flora and fauna.

Accommodations

Okavango Delta: Upon arrival, we split into smaller groups among four properties: Vumbura Plains Camp and Sanctuary Chief’s Camp. Upgrades are available at Mombo Camp or Little Mombo Camp. Each property offers lounge areas with expansive views, spacious rooms, modern amenities and swimming pools.

Kalahari Desert alternate: Jack’s Camp is crafted for travelers who crave authenticity. Guests can expect a nostalgic camp experience, including candlelit dinners under the stars and exceptional tea service.
Namibia
Swakopmund and Walvis Bay

Arguably the world’s oldest desert, the Namib Desert has existed for about 43 million years. Its stunning landscapes are in constant flux with sand dunes and plains of all sizes and shapes stretching along its coast. As a testament to the importance of this starkly beautiful environment, Namibia is the first African country with an environmental conservation clause in its constitution.

Set on the Atlantic coast, Swakopmund is a former German colony and now Namibia’s most popular holiday destination. A haven for nature lovers, Walvis Bay offers several outdoor options. Spot playful seals on a cruise, or spy rare pelicans and flamingos in the natural lagoon. Get an eagle-eye’s view of Namibia’s wild landscape while flightseeing via light aircraft along the coast, where the colossal dunes of the Namib Desert meet the crashing Atlantic surf. Spot rusted shipwrecks scattered along the treacherous Skeleton Coast. Or go by land and explore the dunes by four-by-four vehicle.

Accommodations
Ideally located near the town center, the Swakopmund Hotel is built around a restored historic train station. German colonial architecture and design throughout the hotel evoke the golden age of travel.
Brazil
Rio de Janeiro

With over 4,000 miles of coastline, it’s easy to find paradise in Brazil. In Rio de Janeiro, beaches, thick rain forest and towering granite mountains collide in one of the most striking urban landscapes on the planet.

Start your exploration of Rio off right with two of its most famous sights. Take in outstanding city views on the nearly mile-long cable car ride to Sugar Loaf Mountain, approximately 1,308 feet above the harbor. Then travel by rail to examine the nearly 100-foot-tall Christ the Redeemer atop Corcovado Mountain—the statue is now one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. Find your Zen while exploring the immense tropical paradise in the Botanical Gardens, known as Jardim Botanico. Meet local dancers and designers in Samba City, a dedicated space where Carnival participants prepare for the important event. Leave with a few new samba moves and a new appreciation for the spirit of Carnival.

Accommodations
The distinguished Copacabana Palace transports guests back in time to a glamorous era of travel. Bright, spacious rooms include city or beach views, high ceilings and original art.
Colombia
Cartagena

Originally built to thwart plundering pirates, a massive fortress with towering walls greets visitors to Cartagena. This port city’s comprehensive fortifications are a UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest battlements in South America. The genius military design protected the Caribbean port so well that the old quarter retains the original charm and richness of centuries long ago.

In the picturesque old town, meander through narrow cobblestoned streets lined with colorful balconies and bustling cafes. Ride to the Castillo San Felipe de Barajas, the impressive 16th-century Spanish hilltop fortress. See the Spanish tickler, the rack and other torture devices hidden inside the intriguing Palace of the Inquisition. Or choose a relaxing day in Caribbean waters and snorkel the Rosario Islands, a protected archipelago and national park. On our final night, share stories of the journey during a farewell dinner.

Accommodations
The Hotel Charleston Santa Teresa Cartagena is a former convent that has been restored into one of the city’s most sophisticated hotels. It is a splendid mix of old and new, featuring warm interiors and a stately façade.

Florida
Orlando | Home

We return to the United States via Orlando, where you connect with your independent flight home.
Veteran expedition leaders and their support team expertly guide you through your days.

Each stop is enhanced by local experts and guides who provide essential background information and an insider’s view on every place we visit.

A physician travels with you throughout the entire journey to ensure a safe, healthy experience.

An onboard chef prepares fresh, locally sourced meals tastefully paired with wine and cocktails.

Experienced flight crews assure prompt and attentive service.

When you travel with us, you travel with the most experienced private jet team in the world for a truly worry-free journey.

Our expertise

Private jet experience

There is no other way to visit so many world highlights in a single trip than by private jet.

- Fly direct and land close to destinations with expedited service through airport security whenever possible.
- Seating for up to 78 guests in two-by-two, VIP-style leather seats.
- iPads loaded with itineraries and other helpful trip-related information are yours to keep.
- Bose® noise-cancelling headphones.
- In-flight presentations from our experts.
- VIP luggage service—our staff takes care of your bags throughout the entire journey.
STAY IN STYLE

Rest and recharge in some of the world’s most outstanding properties. Whether it’s an opulent palace, a safari lodge or a shimmering seaside resort, we carefully select the best available property for its amenities, authenticity, service and proximity to the sights.

LEARN WHILE YOU EXPLORE

A world-class team of experts will join us to illuminate the places we visit. They will give informative lectures on the jet and join travelers in discussions during meals and special events on land.

MATT ANDERSON, SAN DIEGO ZOO
Matt specializes in the study of animal behavior. He received his doctorate from Oxford University, where he studied bush babies, a group of nocturnal African primates, and was also awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Cambridge. Matt is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, and he has authored more than 50 scientific articles.

ALEX DE VOOGT, AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
As curator of African Ethnology, Alex has published on such diverse topics as the archaeology of Nubia, the survival of indigenous scripts and seventh-century Islam. He is also a leading expert on the history of board games and their development along human migration and trade routes. He earned a doctorate in social sciences and another in art and architectural history from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

THEODORE MACDONALD, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Theodore’s research focuses on human rights, ethnicity and conflict, Latin American indigenous peoples and the State, property and citizenship rights. While at Harvard, he has received numerous distinctions and awards. He has traveled extensively throughout South and Central America and Asia, among other places.
Amanda/Frankie

Date of Birth: ____________

Phone Number:
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PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS, ATTN: TRAVELING AGGIES
(Charges can be made to most major credit cards, including Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover Card.)

I agree to pay the single supplement of $8,950. (Orlando, Florida, U.S.A., to your home; optional and additional accident/baggage/cancellation insurance; passport and...)

3. The other payment of $2,500 per person is due May 13, 2014. Failure to pay the second payment will result in the loss of your reservation. If you cancel after May 13, 2014, you may be eligible for a refund as...
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