

ATLANTIC TRAVEL & TOURS

**EGYPT, MIDDLE EAST,
INDIAN OCEAN AND JAPAN
SINGLE, COUPLES & FAMILIES**

**EXPERIENCES FOR SINGLES, COUPLES AND FAMILIES
AMONG ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS, ISLANDS AND THE
WORLD'S GREAT CULTURES**



WWW.VISITATLANTICTRAVELTOURS.COM

FROM THE CEO - FOUNDER

Dear travelers,

Travelling is much more than moving from one place to another: it is a way of seeing the world with new eyes, **being inspired by different cultures, and living experiences that remain with us over time.**

Every itinerary we create is built around a clear idea: to **offer an authentic and conscious way of discovering destinations, far from conventional routes and mass tourism.** We believe in travel that combines **emotion, freedom, and quality,** tailored to the **needs and desires of every traveler.**

Whether it is an individual journey, a romantic escape, or a family experience, every proposal is designed to **enhance the destination, its landscapes, and its most genuine atmospheres.** From major cities to hidden places, each stop becomes part of a **personal and unique story.**

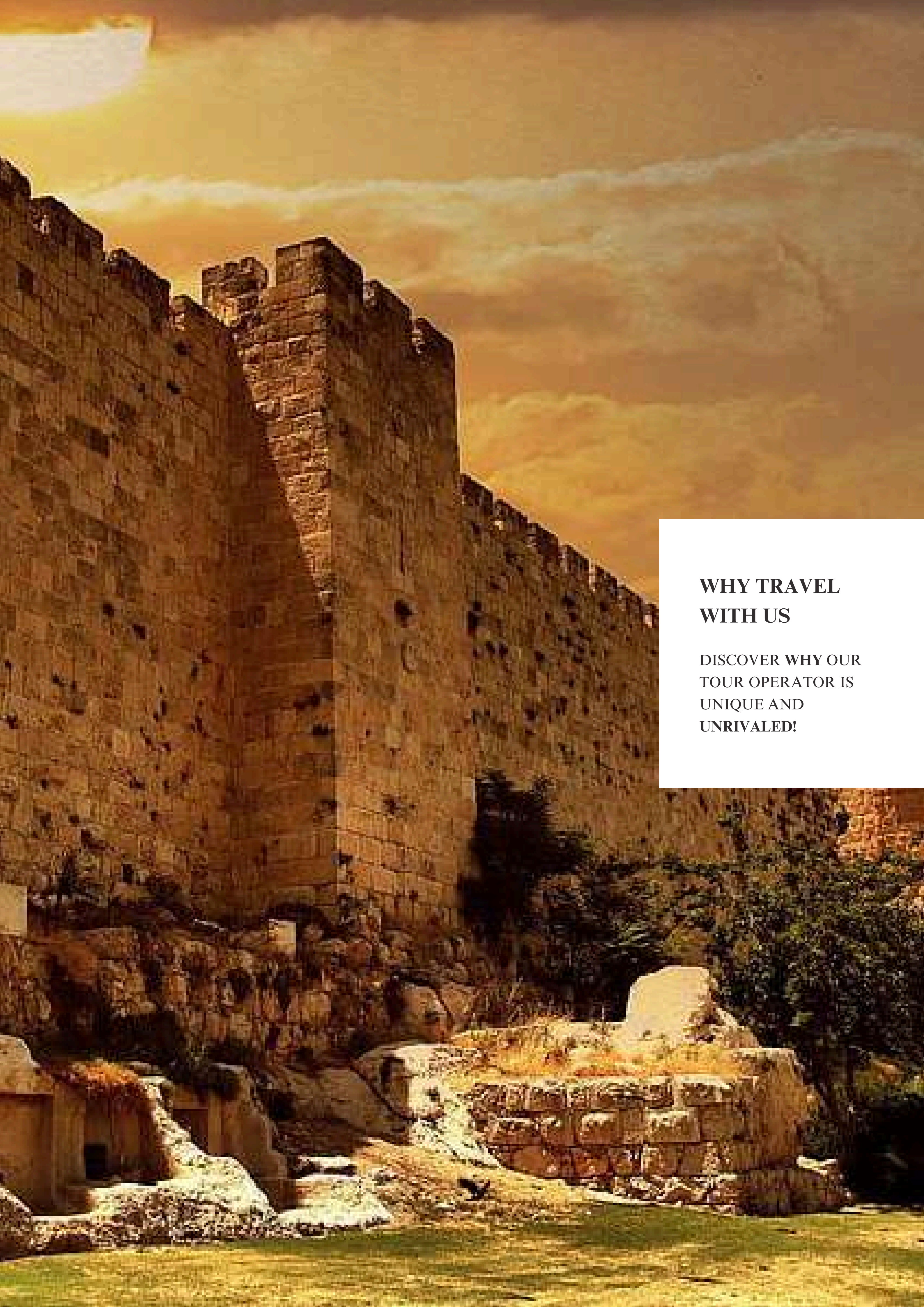
Our aim is to guide travelers in discovering destinations that can **surprise, inspire, and leave a lasting memory, through carefully curated experiences and a strong focus on travel quality.**

Because every journey is not just a destination, but **a different way of experiencing the world.**



Steve Tabacchi

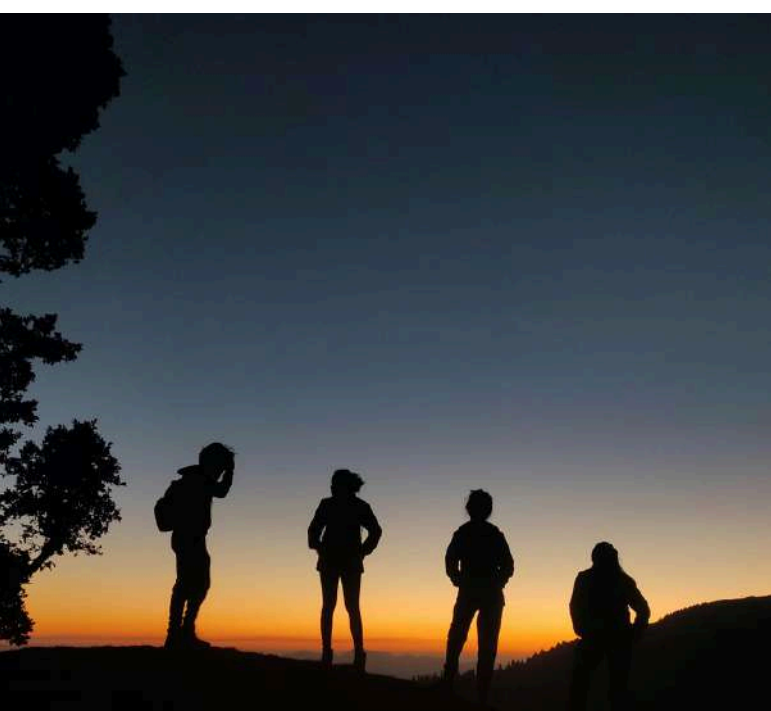
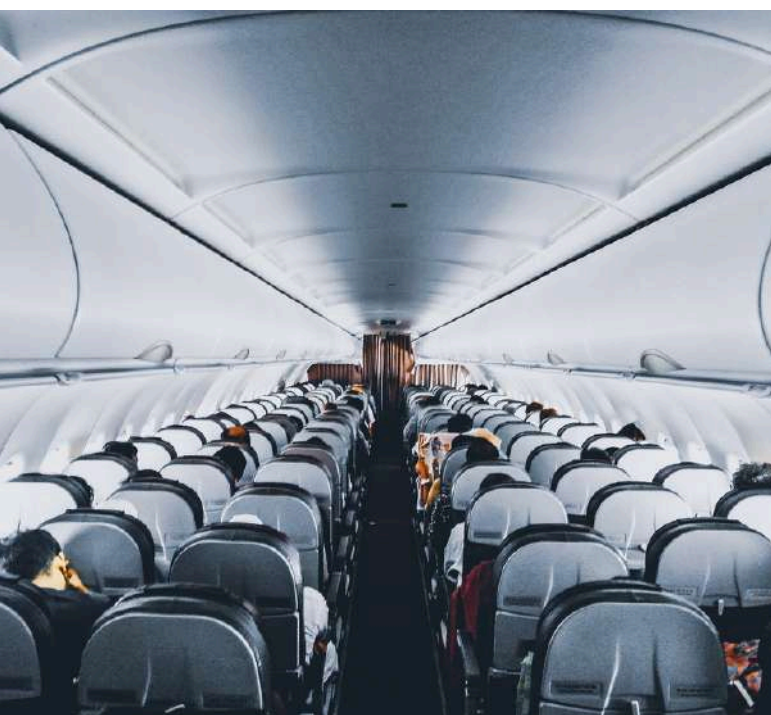
DR. STEVE TABACCHI
CEO - FOUNDER
ATLANTIC TRAVEL & TOURS



WHY TRAVEL WITH US

**DISCOVER WHY OUR
TOUR OPERATOR IS
UNIQUE AND
UNRIVALED!**

BESPOKE TRAVEL FOR EVERYONE



OUR TRAVEL ITINERARIES

We exclusively curate itineraries for innovative and original travel experiences that diverge from the conventional paths of mass tourism. Our aim is for each customer to be the protagonist of their own journey.

OUR TRAVEL CLASSES

We arrange travel for the following categories:

- **FIRST**
- **PREMIUM**
- **ECONOMY**

WE ORGANIZE ITINERARIES USING THE FOLLOWING TRANSPORTS



CAR

- ✓ RENTAL



VAN

- ✓ RENTAL
- ✓ SCHEDULED TOURS WITH DRIVER



COACH

- ✓ RENTAL WITH DRIVER
- ✓ SCHEDULED TOURS WITH DRIVER



MOTORHOME

- ✓ RENTAL



MOTORCYCLE

- ✓ CHARTER SERVICES
- ✓ TAILOR MADE TRAVEL ITINERARIES

WE ORGANIZE ITINERARIES USING THE FOLLOWING TRANSPORTS



AIRPLANE

- ✓ DOMESTIC FLIGHTS



BOAT

- ✓ TOURS AND EXCURSIONS
- ✓ INTERNAL TRANSFERS



FERRY

- ✓ INTERNAL TRANSFERS



SEAPLANE

- ✓ INTERNAL TRANSFERS

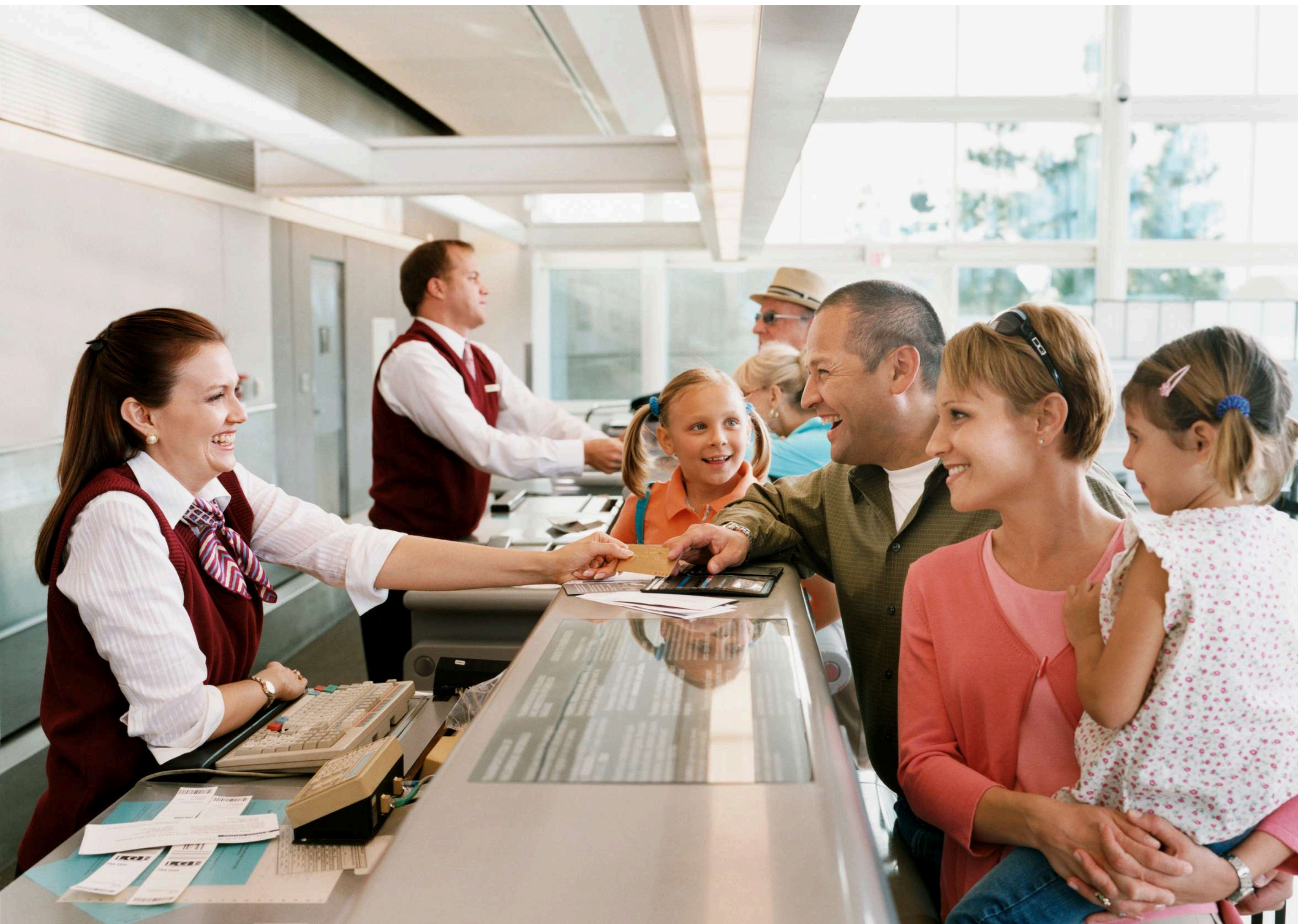


TRAIN

- ✓ INTERNAL TRANSFERS

PRIORITY CHECK-IN AND CHECKED BAGGAGE

Bid farewell to lengthy check-in queues! With our priority check-in service, you can swiftly obtain your boarding pass and check in your baggage. We are consistently prepared to provide this option, contingent upon airline availability, to enhance your travel experience, whether you are flying in premium or economy class. **Do not squander time; opt for comfort!**



NO QUEUES AT THE AIRPORT WITH THE FAST TRACK SERVICE



We understand the frustration of enduring lengthy waits at airport security. Therefore, we consistently incorporate fast track access into our travel packages, allowing you to bypass the queue and enjoy a stress-free experience.

The service is contingent upon the availability at each airport, thus we cannot assure its constant accessibility. Nevertheless, we are pleased to announce that it has been implemented in the majority of the airports we utilize. **Seize this opportunity!**





COMFORT IN AIRPORT LOUNGES

Once reserved solely for business and first-class passengers, airport lounges are now available to travelers in other classes as well. We provide the highest level of comfort and luxury to ensure your airport experience is memorable. In our travel packages, we consistently strive to include access to these exclusive areas at both departure and arrival points (subject to airport and airline availability). Relax, indulge in culinary delights, savor fine beverages, and enjoy refreshing showers, all within elegant and tranquil settings. **Seize this exceptional opportunity!**



OTHERS SERVICES

OUR EXCEPTIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS WITH
DIVERSE SUPPLIERS ENABLE
US TO PROVIDE OUR
CUSTOMERS WITH THE
FINEST OF THE FOLLOWING
SERVICES

ADVANCED LUGGAGE SHIPPING
TOURIST VISAS
CURRENCY EXCHANGE
INSURANCE POLICIES



	AUD	7.01
	NZD	5.05
	JPY	0.0913
	GBP	11.23
	EUR	9.71
	SGD	5.35
	CHF	7.01



ALWAYS TRAVEL WITH A PREMIUM DISCOUNT!



-20%

- ACTIVE YEAR-ROUND
- FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF TRAVELERS
- NO MINIMUM SPENDING THRESHOLD REQUIRED



TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER

FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE TOUR
FOREVER

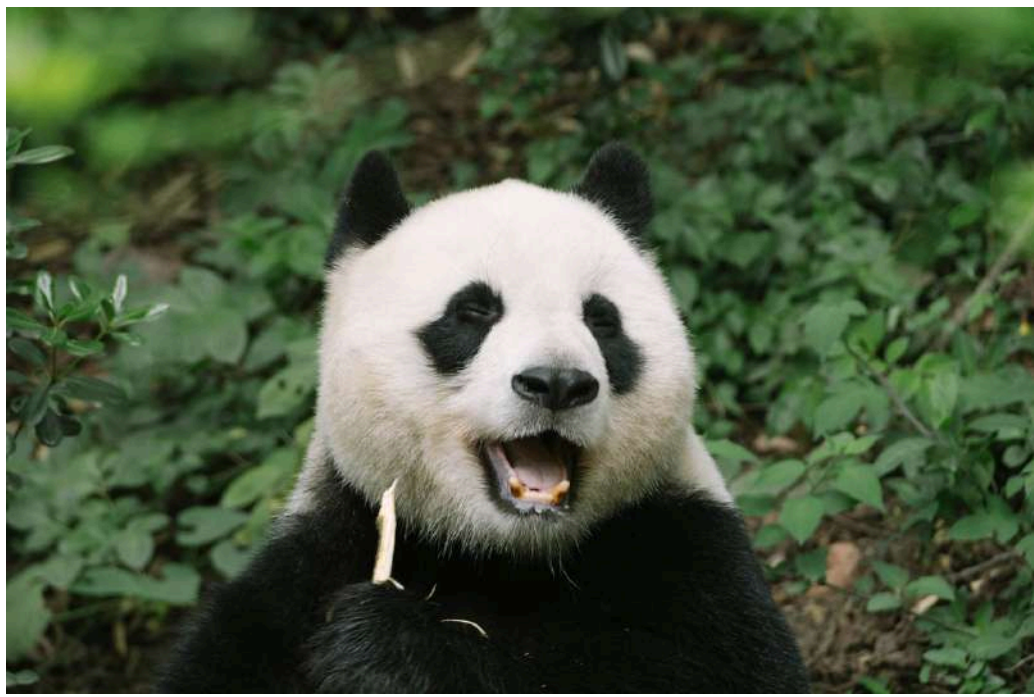


Certain journeys hold a unique significance: a honeymoon, a wedding anniversary marked by the renewal of vows, or cherished moments spent with close friends or family. Such beautiful occasions will be immortalized through professional photography and videography. Should you wish to incorporate this option into your upcoming trip, we are pleased to provide assistance with photographers who can transform your experience into a lasting memory.



ONE FREE INDIVIDUAL FOR EVERY 15 PAYING CUSTOMERS

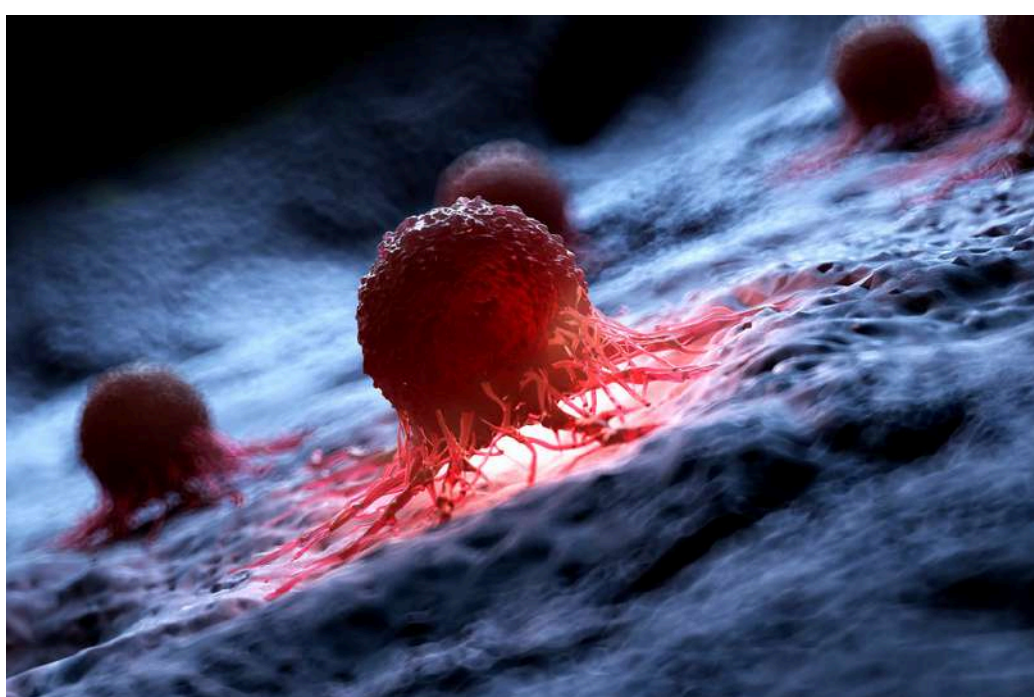
Take advantage of our **perpetually active** promotion. If you can gather a **minimum of 15 individuals**, one person will receive a **complimentary** trip. Consider anyone who might be interested among family, friends, colleagues, or others. Additionally, if you require a tour leader or tour guide to assist you and your group throughout the entire tour, we can provide this service as well



OUR COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CANCER RESEARCH



THROUGH OUR TRIPS, WE AIM TO PROVIDE OUR CUSTOMERS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO **SUPPORT** NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING GLOBAL CHALLENGES.



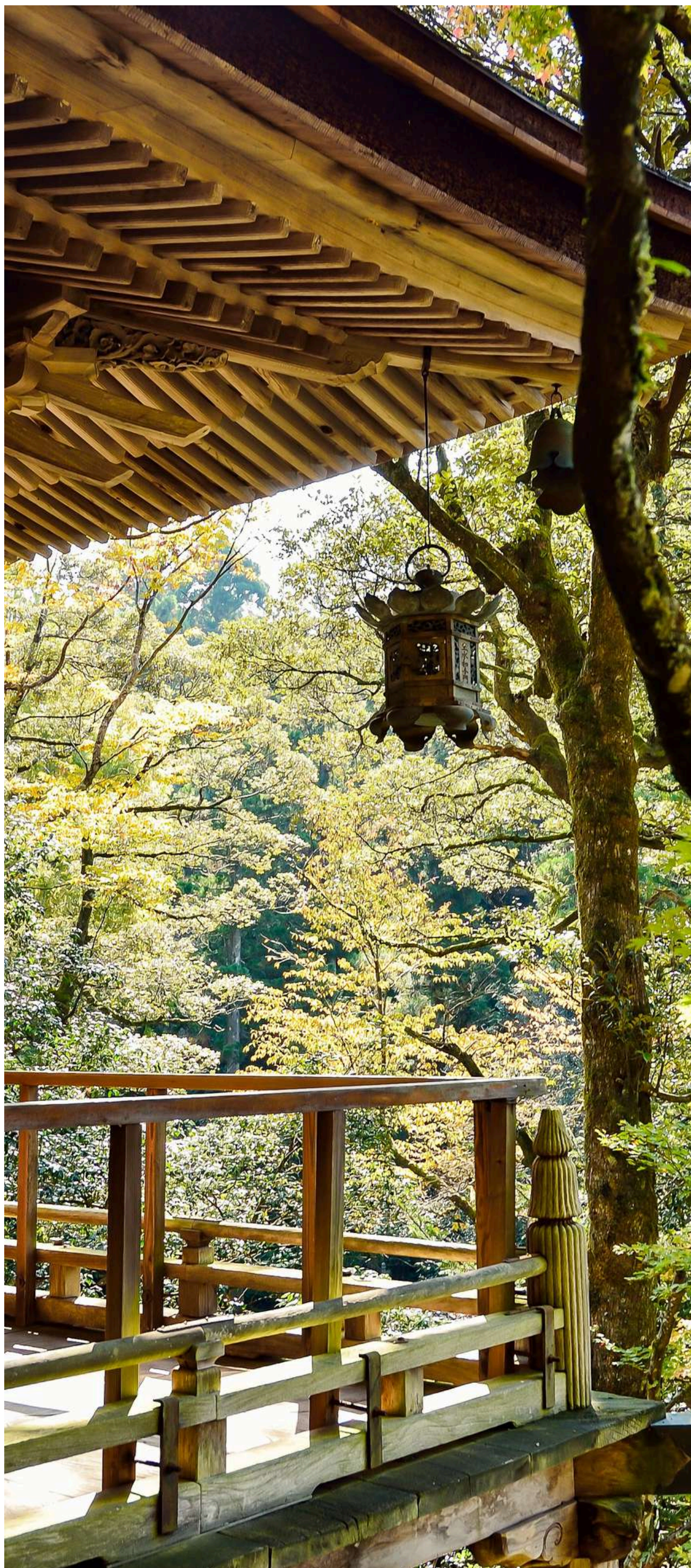
- **CONSERVATION OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE**
- **GLOBAL WARMING**
- **CANCER RESEARCH**



**WHY TRAVEL TO EGYPT,
THE MIDDLE EAST, THE
INDIAN OCEAN AND
JAPAN**

DISCOVER EGYPT, ISRAEL AND PALESTINE,
THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, SEYCHELLES,
MAURITIUS, ZANZIBAR, THE MALDIVES AND
JAPAN THROUGH EXPERIENCES DESIGNED
FOR SINGLES, COUPLES AND FAMILIES,
AMONG ANCIENT CULTURES, EXOTIC
ISLANDS AND ICONIC LANDSCAPES, IN A
RELAXING, COMFORTABLE JOURNEY FAR
FROM MASS TOURISM

TAILOR-MADE JOURNEYS ACROSS CULTURES, HORIZONS AND DIFFERENT RHYTHMS



There are destinations that are not defined by how quickly they are visited, but by the quality of how they are experienced. In these regions of the world, travel can take different forms depending on who undertakes it: for singles it becomes freedom of exploration and the opportunity to create personal journeys through cities, nature and diverse cultures; for couples it turns into a shared experience made of atmosphere, landscapes and more intimate moments; for families it becomes a balance between discovery and organisation, with clear and easily manageable itineraries.

Across Egypt, the Middle East, the Indian Ocean and Japan, an extraordinary variety of environments can be found, along with a surprisingly clear travel structure. From the routes of the Nile to the major cities of the Gulf, from the islands of the Indian Ocean to the orderly urban centres of Japan, each area allows for progressive experiences without complexity and with a strong sense of continuity.

In Egypt, the journey naturally follows the river, which connects archaeological sites and historic cities in a linear flow; in the Middle East, modern metropolises, cultural districts and desert landscapes alternate in easily accessible ways; in the Indian Ocean, the islands create compact environments where sea and nature define the daily rhythm; in Japan, the efficiency of transport makes it easy to move from dynamic cities to temples, villages and natural landscapes.

The relationship between natural elements and human settlements gives identity to each destination. Water shapes Egypt through the Nile, the sea structures Gulf cities, the ocean surrounds and defines tropical islands, while in Japan water, mountains and coastlines coexist in an extremely organised and harmonious balance.

The way the journey is experienced also changes according to needs. Singles can move with greater autonomy between different stops and contexts, couples tend to prefer more immersive and continuous experiences, while families find itineraries designed around clear transfers and easily combinable activities, without overload.

The cultural dimension runs through all these regions in different but always accessible forms. In Egypt, history unfolds along the Nile and within great archaeological sites; in the Middle East, modernity and tradition coexist in contemporary cities; in the Indian Ocean, culture emerges in the daily life of villages and local markets; in Japan, it is expressed through temples, gardens and historic cities arranged with remarkable visual order.

Overall, these destinations allow tailor-made journeys to be built, where every type of traveller can find their own balance between discovery, simplicity and personal rhythm, letting the places naturally guide the experience.

WHY CHOOSE EGYPT, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND JAPAN FOR A JOURNEY

A SET OF DESTINATIONS SUITED TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF TRAVELERS

These regions of the world offer a wide range of experiences that naturally adapt to different ways of travelling. Solo travellers can enjoy a more autonomous and flexible journey, moving between highly diverse cultural and natural settings; couples can build a more immersive experience based on shared atmospheres and impressions; families can instead find a balance between variety and simplicity of organisation, with itineraries that combine discovery and practicality without excessive complexity.

DIVERSE YET LEGIBLE AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENTS

In Egypt, where the Nile naturally structures the sequence of cities and historical sites, a linear and clearly readable journey unfolds between archaeology and life along the river.

In the Middle East, the strong contrast between major modern cities and vast desert landscapes creates a balance between urban environments and essential natural scenery.

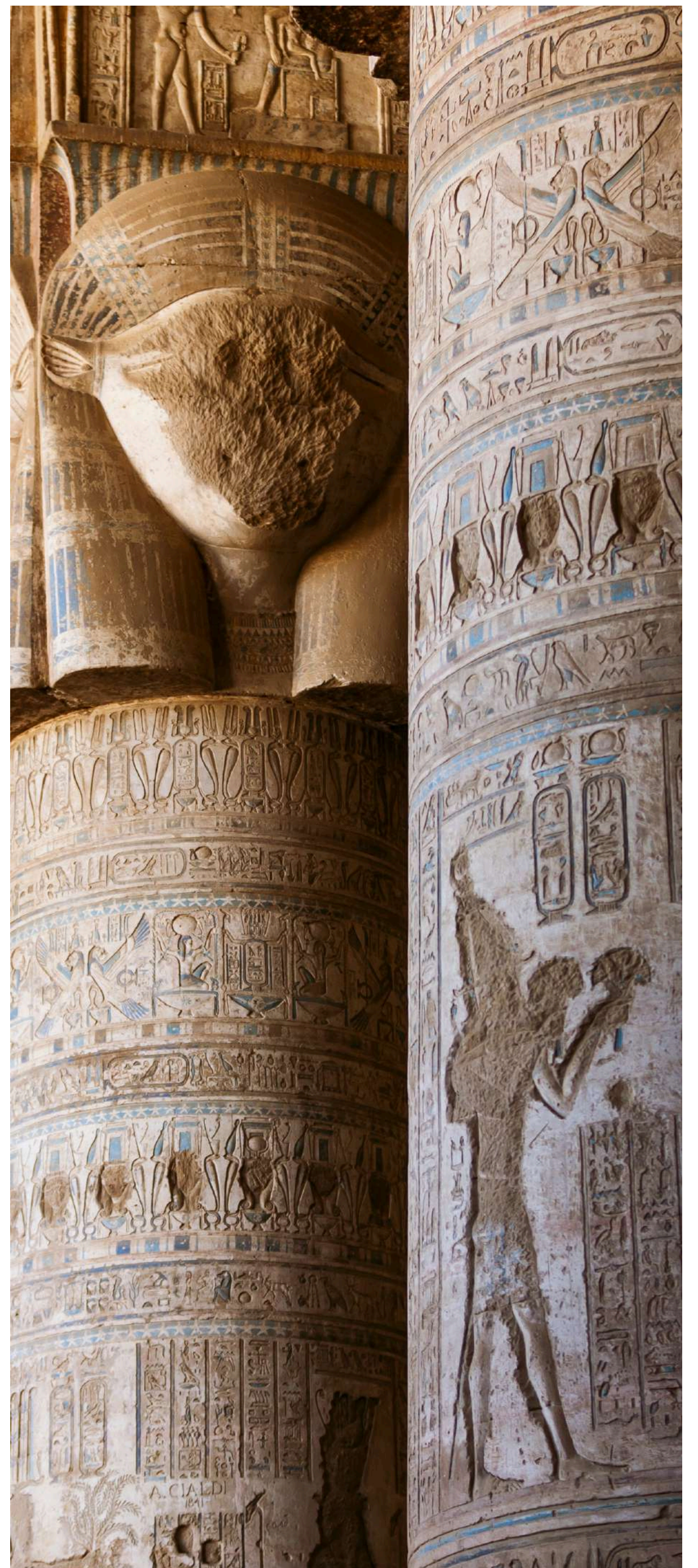
In the Indian Ocean, the islands define a slower and more natural rhythm, with compact and easily accessible environments closely connected to the sea.

In Japan, the efficiency of transport links connects cities, culture and nature within a coherent and well-organised system, where travel between destinations is smooth and immediate.

In all cases, each destination maintains a strong identity and clear accessibility, turning geographical diversity into a source of richness rather than travel complexity.

AN EXPERIENCE BUILT ON BALANCE AND PERSONALISATION

Across these regions, travel is shaped by the ability to choose and adapt the experience according to individual needs. The environments allow a smooth alternation between cultural visits, natural landscapes and free time, without forced interruptions or logistical difficulties. The result is a flexible travel model, where each person can interpret the destination at their own pace, always maintaining a balance between discovery, comfort and variety.





OUR APPROACH TO TAILOR-MADE TRAVEL

Every journey should be a personal experience, capable of reflecting tastes, expectations, and the way each traveller approaches discovery. For this reason, every itinerary is not created as a standard package, but as a project built around the traveller.

Our approach is based on listening and personalisation: understanding what you wish to experience, interpreting your travel style, and shaping it into a coherent, balanced, and meaningful journey.

Every detail is carefully considered: from destinations to the pace of travel, from experiences along the way to the selection of the most suitable accommodation.

The goal is to create a harmonious journey where each stop has a clear purpose and contributes to the overall experience.

The result is an authentic, tailor-made itinerary designed to adapt to every type of traveller, whether singles, couples, or families.

EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE A JOURNEY THROUGH EGYPT, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND JAPAN UNIQUE



SINGLES, COUPLES AND FAMILIES – DIFFERENT WAYS OF EXPERIENCING THE SAME DESTINATIONS

These destinations naturally lend themselves to different interpretations depending on who is travelling: solo travellers tend to build a freer and more spontaneous journey, couples experience travel as a sequence of shared and meaningful moments, while families favour solutions that allow different activities to be combined within the same itinerary without organisational complexity. In all cases, the variety of contexts makes it possible to adapt the experience to individual needs, making each journey personal rather than standardised.

CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS AND LANDSCAPES ALONG THE WAY

From the vast river regions of Egypt to the urban and cultural centres of the Middle East, and further to the islands of the Indian Ocean and the orderly landscapes of Japan, each territory offers a different relationship with space and scenery. This geographical diversity becomes an integral part of the experience, providing continuous changes of setting that enrich the journey without disrupting its overall coherence.

AN EXPERIENCE BUILT ON VARIETY AND PERSONALISATION

Across these regions, travel unfolds through experiences that can be combined in different ways, without rigid structures. Each stop can play a specific role within the itinerary, contributing to ever-changing and adaptable journeys. The result is a flexible experience where the richness of the destinations merges with the ability to interpret them according to one's own travel style.

WHEN TO TRAVEL THROUGH EGYPT, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND JAPAN



Choosing the right departure time for a travel in these destinations depends heavily on the climate and the different seasonality of each country. Between Egypt, Israel and Palestine, the United Arab Emirates, the Seychelles, Mauritius, Zanzibar, the Maldives, and Japan, there isn't a single ideal season, but rather a series of more favorable time slots that allow you to optimize your travel experience based on the chosen destination.

In Egypt, the climate is predominantly desert, with strong temperature variations between the seasons that significantly affect the quality of travel, especially in inland areas and along the Nile.

- October–April: Best time with milder temperatures and ideal conditions for cultural visits and Nile cruises
- May–September: very hot season, especially in desert areas and southern Egypt

In Israel and Palestine, the Mediterranean and semi-arid climate varies between the coast, interior, and desert areas, influencing the seasonality of travel.

- March–May and September–November: best periods with more balanced climate and ideal conditions for cultural and naturalistic visits
- June–August: hot season, especially in inland and desert areas, but still practicable on the coasts
- December–February: Mild winter, varying between light rain and cool temperatures, ideal for more leisurely trips

In the United Arab Emirates, the desert climate strongly influences the choice of travel period.

- November to April is the ideal season with pleasant temperatures
- From May to September the intense heat and humidity make the stay less comfortable

The tropical climate **in the Seychelles** allows for year-round travel, with variations related to seasonal rainfall.

- April–May and October–November: generally favorable period, with more stable climatic conditions
- December–February: May have more frequent rains

In Mauritius, seasonality is more marked than in other islands in the Indian Ocean.

- May to December is the most stable and recommended period
- January to March can be wetter and subject to cyclonic phenomena

In Tanzania (Zanzibar island) the equatorial climate alternates between well-defined dry and rainy seasons.

- June to October and December to February are the best periods
- March to May coincides with the heaviest rainy season

The tropical climate **in the Maldives** makes the destination accessible all year round, with variations linked to the monsoons that mainly affect the intensity of rainfall and the stability of the sea.

- November–April: best period with drier climate, calm sea and ideal conditions for seaside holidays
- May–October: more unstable season with more frequent rainfall

In Japan, the strong climatic variety makes choosing the right time of year crucial to best experience the different regions and their seasonal attractions.

- March–May and September–November: ideal periods thanks to the mild climate and particularly suggestive landscapes
- June–August: hot and humid season, especially in large cities
- December–February: variable winter, very cold in the north but milder in the southern areas

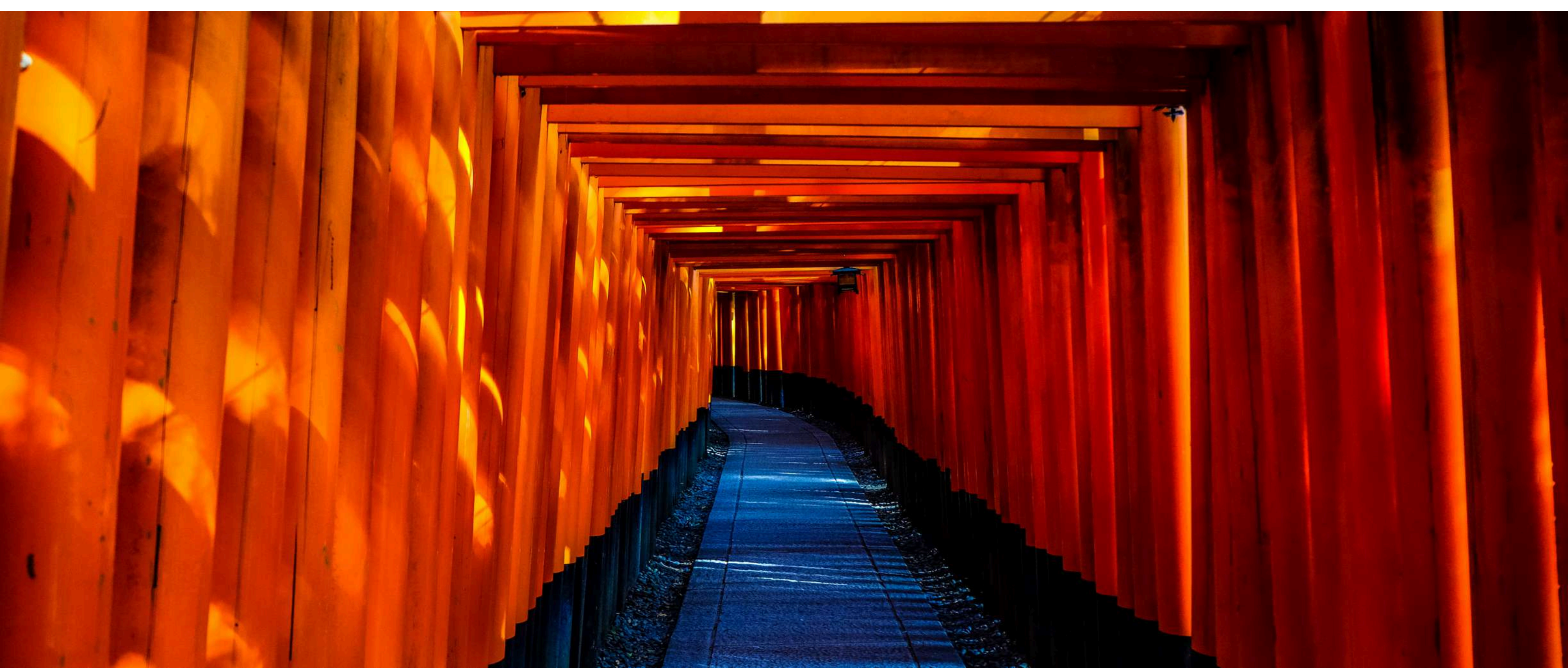
In these destinations, there isn't a single perfect time, but rather a series of optimal seasonal windows that allow you to tailor your trip to the most favorable weather conditions. Choosing the right time thus becomes an integral part of travel planning, decisively contributing to the overall quality of the experience.

10 TRAVEL SCENARIOS THAT EXIST ONLY BETWEEN EGYPT, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND JAPAN

Between Egypt, Israel and Palestine, the United Arab Emirates, the Seychelles, Mauritius, Zanzibar, the Maldives, and Japan, there are travel experiences that unfold far from the major tourist hubs, in secondary territories of rivers, deserts, islands, and rural regions. These are settings where the pace is dictated by local geography and the communities that permanently inhabit these places, rather than by tourism infrastructure. The result is a way of traveling based on the continuity of the landscape and a more direct and authentic experience.

Among the most suggestive:

- Navigating the Nile between Luxor, Esna, Edfu, and Aswan - In Egypt, the stretch between Luxor, Esna, Edfu, and Aswan represents one of the slowest and most continuous experiences in the country. The Nile River becomes a natural axis along which temples such as Karnak and the Temple of Horus in Edfu alternate, along with farming villages, cultivated fields, and small towns that still live in close connection with the river.
- Crossing the Negev Desert between Makhtesh Ramon, Mitzpe Ramon, and Eilat - In Israel and the Palestinian Territories, the Negev Desert extends between natural canyons and rocky plateaus. The Makhtesh Ramon area, near Mitzpe Ramon, boasts one of the world's largest erosion craters, while heading south leads to Eilat, overlooking the Red Sea, in a seamless transition between desert and coast.
- Exploring the oases of Al Ain and the Rub' al Khali dunes towards Liwa - In the United Arab Emirates, the route between Al Ain and the Liwa region leads to the great Rub' al Khali desert. Al Ain is one of the country's most important historical oases, while continuing westward, you'll encounter traditional fortifications and the immense dunes of the empty desert, in a landscape dominated by sand and an open horizon.
- Experience the Baa and Laamu Atolls, and the local islets of Malé - In the Maldives, beyond the more popular tourist atolls, such as North and South Malé, there are areas like Baa Atoll and Laamu Atoll, home to local villages and inhabited islands. Here, daily life revolves around fishing, small ports, and natural lagoons, with a direct and constant connection to the ocean.
- Discover La Digue, Praslin, and the interior forests of Mahé - In the Seychelles, the islands of La Digue and Praslin offer a landscape of granite beaches like Anse Source d'Argent and tropical forests like the Vallée de Mai. On Mahé, the mountainous interior and Morne Seychellois National Park complete an environment where nature and small settlements coexist harmoniously.
- Traveling through Grand Baie, Chamarel, and the east coast of Belle Mare - In Mauritius, the north of Grand Baie is one of the liveliest areas, while the interior of Chamarel is known for its seven-colored earth and waterfalls nestled in lush vegetation. The east coast of Belle Mare, on the other hand, offers long, less urbanized stretches, with open beaches and small coastal villages.
- Exploring Paje, Jambiani, and Stone Town in Zanzibar - In Tanzania (Zanzibar), the journey takes you from the eastern coast of Paje and Jambiani, characterized by the tides and seaweed harvesting, to Stone Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The narrow streets, coral stone houses, and local markets reflect a strong cultural and commercial identity.
- Experience the local islands of Dhigurah, Maafushi, and Thulusdhoo - In the Maldives, the islands of Dhigurah, Maafushi, and Thulusdhoo offer a different experience than resorts. Here, you'll find local communities, schools, small ports, and businesses related to fishing and sustainable tourism, connecting visitors directly with daily life.
- Traveling through rural Tokyo, Kyoto, and the coast of Kyushu - In Japan, the journey can alternate between the rural outskirts of Tokyo, Kyoto's historic districts like Gion and Arashiyama, and the coast of Kyushu, particularly the Kagoshima and Beppu areas. The contrast between modern cities, temples, and volcanic landscapes creates a striking variety of environments.
- Crossing Hokkaido between Sapporo, Biei, and the volcanic lakes of Shikotsu and Akan - In Japan, the island of Hokkaido offers a landscape very different from the rest of the country, with vast natural expanses, farms in the Biei area, the city of Sapporo, and volcanic areas such as Lakes Shikotsu and Akan. The region is characterized by open spaces, national parks, and small towns immersed in nature, where the pace of travel is dictated by distances and marked seasonal changes.





THE MOST FASCINATING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR A JOURNEY THROUGH EGYPT, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND JAPAN

A journey is defined not only by the places visited, but also by the accommodations where one stays, which become an integral part of the experience. Between Egypt, the Middle East, the Indian Ocean, and Japan, hospitality takes on a wide variety of forms: riverboats, desert camps, isolated resorts, traditional ryokans, and highly contemporary urban hotels. In every context, the stay is never neutral, but contributes to defining the perception of the journey.

In Egypt, a stay is often tied to the river and the region's historical significance. Nile cruises between Luxor, Esna, Edfu, and Aswan are one of the most distinctive experiences, with accommodations that allow you to seamlessly traverse the landscape. In cities like Cairo and Luxor, there are also hotels overlooking archaeological sites or housed in historic buildings, where the presence of history is constant and immediate.

In Israel and the Palestinian Territories, accommodations alternate between modern hotels in major cities like Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and more intimate accommodations in historic centers like Bethlehem or Jericho. In the Negev Desert, there are also lodges and desert camps near Mitzpe Ramon, where the natural landscape becomes an integral part of the experience.

In the United Arab Emirates, accommodations range from iconic and contemporary hotels in the cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi to desert resorts and camps in the Al Marmoom and Liwa areas. Your stay can thus alternate between futuristic skylines, designer architecture, and desert environments characterized by silence and open spaces.

In the Seychelles, accommodations nestle among granite rocks, tropical forests, and natural beaches. On Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue, you'll find boutique hotels and eco-resorts nestled in lush vegetation, where the architecture seamlessly integrates with the landscape.

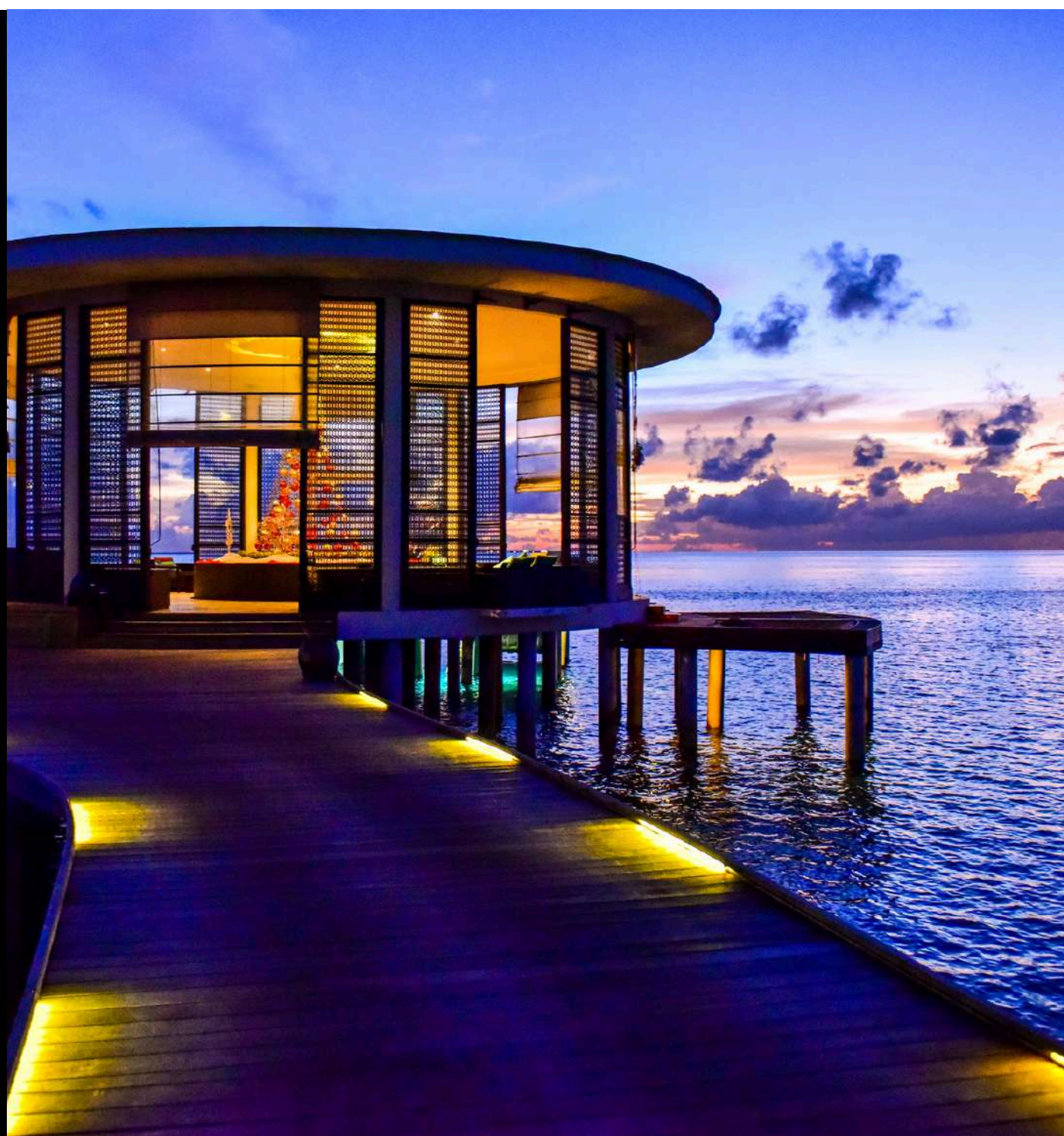
In Mauritius, a stay alternates between coastal resorts and properties nestled in the plantations and inland. Areas like Grand Baie, Belle Mare, and Chamarel offer very different settings, with sea, countryside, and volcanic mountains.

In Tanzania (Zanzibar), accommodations range from boutique hotels in historic Stone Town to lodges on the east coast, in the Paje and Jambiani areas, where the relationship with the tides and local life is constant.

In the Maldives, accommodations are strongly tied to the island experience, with resorts on private islands and guesthouses on inhabited islands like Maafushi or Dhigurah. Each property is directly connected to the lagoon and ocean, which become part of the daily experience.

In Japan, accommodations range from the traditional ryokans of Kyoto, where tatami mats and onsen define the experience, to the modern hotels of Tokyo and Osaka, to the natural settings of Hakone and Hokkaido. Japanese hospitality combines precision, attention to detail, and a strong cultural identity.

MISTAKES TO AVOID WHEN PLANNING A JOURNEY THROUGH EGYPT, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND JAPAN



BUILDING ITINERARIES THAT ARE TOO DENSE AND UNREALISTIC

One of the most common mistakes is trying to combine too many destinations in the same trip, without considering distances and geographic considerations. Even between Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, or Japan, an effective itinerary works best when it focuses on a single main area, possibly with a limited scope. The same goes for the Indian Ocean, where the Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius, and Zanzibar should not be considered consecutive stops, but rather alternate destinations. This mistake stems from wanting to "see it all," but the result is often a fragmented and unenjoyable trip.

IGNORE THE COMPLEXITY OF MOVEMENT BETWEEN AREAS AND CONTINENTS

Another mistake is underestimating actual travel times. In Japan, domestic travel is efficient but requires planning between cities like Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. In Egypt, connections between Cairo, Luxor, and Aswan can be long. In the Middle East, even between Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and the Liwa Desert, distances must be carefully managed. In the Indian Ocean, each island or atoll often requires air or boat transfers, which affect the entire pace of the journey.

LEAVE NO ROOM FOR TRAVEL FLEXIBILITY

In these destinations, conditions can change rapidly: climate, sea, city traffic, or transfer availability can impact the experience. In Zanzibar or the Maldives, for example, the sea and tides affect activities; in Japan, seasonality strongly influences tourist flows; in the deserts of the Emirates or Egypt, temperatures can alter daily plans. An itinerary that's too rigid reduces your ability to adapt.

FOCUS ONLY ON THE MOST WELL-KNOWN DESTINATIONS

A common mistake is to limit oneself to iconic cities like Dubai, Tokyo, Cairo, or the most famous islands in the Maldives, overlooking lesser-known but often more interesting areas. In the Middle East, there are places like the Al Ain desert or Wadi Rum; in Japan, regions like Kyushu or Hokkaido; in the Indian Ocean, less touristy local islands; in Egypt, less crowded stretches of the Nile. It is precisely these areas that offer a more authentic experience.

UNDERESTIMATE THE ROLE OF ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE EXPERIENCE

In these destinations, the stay is an integral part of the journey. A ryokan in Kyoto, a resort on an atoll in the Maldives, or a Nile cruise in Egypt aren't just accommodations, but elements that define the experience itself. Choosing accommodations that don't fit the context means missing out on a fundamental part of the trip.

APPLYING A SINGLE MODEL TO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT REALITIES

Egypt, the Middle East, the Indian Ocean, and Japan don't follow the same travel patterns. The desert, contemporary metropolises, tropical islands, and Asian cultural contexts require different approaches. A common mistake is to treat them as if they were interchangeable, when the quality of the trip depends precisely on the ability to adapt to the specifics of each territory.



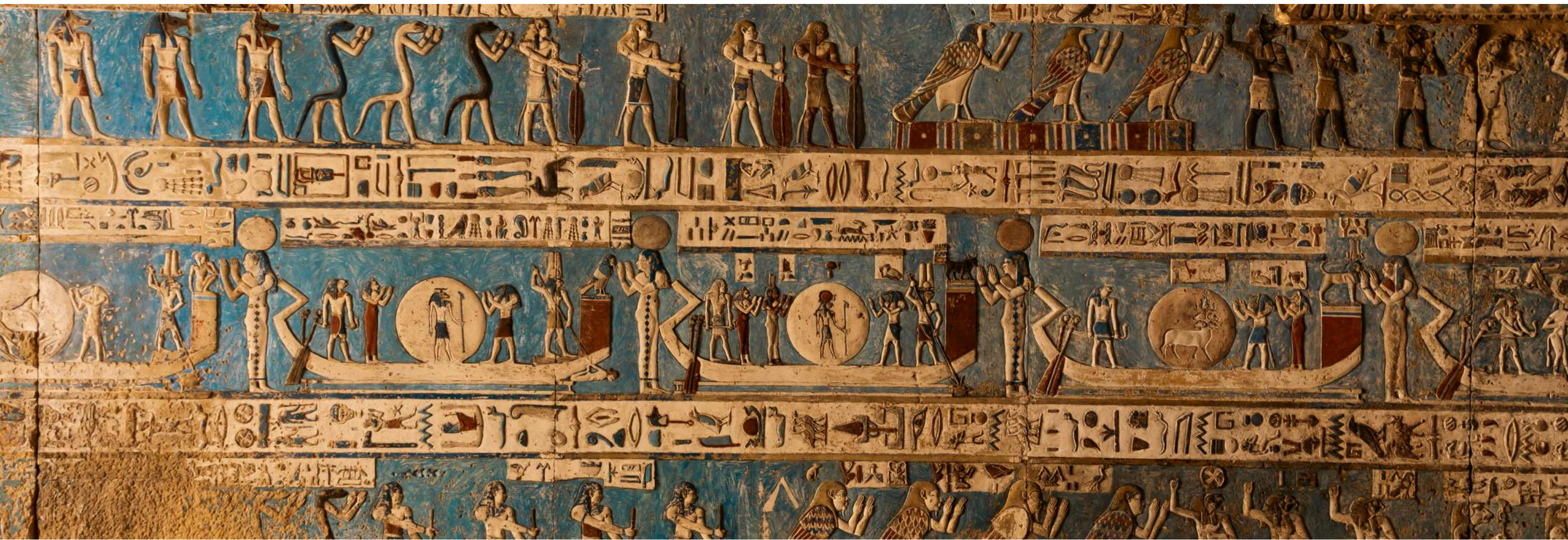
QUALITY AND SERVICE UPDATES

The experiences and services presented in this brochure have been selected based on qualitative criteria focused on comfort, accessibility, and the personalization of the travel experience.

As operational conditions, dedicated services, and policies may be subject to updates or changes over time, each proposal will be reviewed and confirmed at the quotation stage, in order to ensure full alignment with the traveler's specific requirements and the expected quality standards.



EGYPT – BETWEEN RIVER VALLEYS, CONTINUOUS DESERTS AND A HISTORICAL STRATIFICATION THAT CONNECTS AFRICA, THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST



Located in northeastern Africa, Egypt extends along one of the world's most recognizable and continuous geographic systems: the Nile Valley, which crosses the country from south to north, creating a stark contrast between fertile land and desert environments. The territorial structure is defined by the interaction between the river's narrow arable strip, the vast Western Desert (part of the Sahara), the Eastern Desert extending to the Red Sea, and the northern delta area opening onto the Mediterranean Sea. From a morphological perspective, the Nile Valley represents the central axis of the country, with an alluvial plain that progressively widens into the Nile Delta, one of the most fertile and densely populated agricultural areas. To the west, the territory is dominated by desert plateaus interrupted by depressions such as the Siwa Oasis, while to the east, mountain ranges develop parallel to the Red Sea, characterized by arid reliefs and rugged coastlines. Finally, the Sinai Peninsula represents a geographical link between Africa and Asia, with mountainous and desert environments extending to the Gulf of Aqaba. To understand Egypt's identity, it is necessary to begin with the Pharaonic civilization, which developed from the 3rd millennium BC along the Nile, with centers such as Memphis and Thebes. During this period, monumental structures such as the pyramids of Giza and the great temples of Upper Egypt emerged, evidence of a highly organized civilization on religious, political, and technical levels. Subsequently, the territory entered the orbit of the Hellenistic world with the founding of Alexandria by Alexander the Great, becoming one of the main cultural centers of the Mediterranean. Subsequently, with its annexation to the Roman and then Byzantine Empires, Egypt maintained a strategic role until the Arab conquest in the 7th century, which introduced the Islamic language and culture, which still predominate today. Over the centuries, the country went through Ottoman, colonial, and modern periods, until the formation of the contemporary state.

In this framework, the Egyptian territory is divided into distinct but interconnected geographical macro-areas:

- NILE VALLEY AND UPPER EGYPT – THE RIVER AXIS THAT RUNS ALONG THE NILE, CHARACTERIZED BY A NARROW, FERTILE STRIP NESTLED BETWEEN DESERT LANDS. THIS AREA IS HOME TO IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORIC CITIES SUCH AS LUXOR AND ASWAN, WHICH REPRESENT ONE OF THE HEARTLANDS OF PHARAONIC CIVILIZATION
- LOWER EGYPT AND THE NILE DELTA – THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY, WHERE THE RIVER BRANCHES OUT TO FORM ONE OF THE MOST FERTILE AND POPULOUS DELTAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. IT INCLUDES LARGE URBAN CENTERS SUCH AS CAIRO, LOCATED BETWEEN THE VALLEY AND THE DELTA, AND ALEXANDRIA, DIRECTLY OVERLOOKING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
- WESTERN DESERT AND OASES – A LARGE PORTION OF THE EGYPTIAN SAHARA, CHARACTERIZED BY ARID ENVIRONMENTS, DUNES, AND DESERT DEPRESSIONS. THIS AREA CONTAINS ISOLATED SYSTEMS SUCH AS SIWA AND OTHER INLAND OASES, WHICH REPRESENT CENTERS OF LIFE AND SETTLEMENTS IN AN OTHERWISE EXTREMELY INHOSPITABLE TERRITORY
- EASTERN DESERT AND RED SEA COAST – THE AREA STRETCHING BETWEEN THE NILE VALLEY AND THE RED SEA, CHARACTERIZED BY ARID RELIEFS, DESERT MOUNTAIN RANGES, AND A COASTLINE RICH IN CORAL REEFS. IT IS AN IMPORTANT GEOGRAPHICAL AREA FOR BOTH NATURAL AND TOURISTIC REASONS, WITH MARINE AND DESERT ENVIRONMENTS IN CLOSE CONTACT
- SINAI PENINSULA - A REGION LOCATED BETWEEN AFRICA AND ASIA, OVERLOOKING BOTH THE RED SEA AND THE GULF OF AQABA. IT IS A PREDOMINANTLY MOUNTAINOUS AND DESERT AREA, WITH PEAKS SUCH AS MOUNT SINAI AND COASTAL AREAS OF GREAT SCENIC AND NATURAL INTEREST

As for the main access points, the airport network connects the different areas of the country:

- Cairo International Airport – Main hub and gateway to the Nile Valley
- Hurghada International Airport – Access to the Red Sea Coast
- Sharm el-Sheikh International Airport – Access to the Sinai Peninsula
- Luxor International Airport – Direct access to archaeological Upper Egypt
- Marsa Alam International Airport – Access to the southern coastal areas

In short, Egypt is a unique territorial system, where the continuity of the Nile, the expanse of deserts, and the presence of two seas create a balance between extreme environments and highly anthropized areas. It is precisely this relationship between nature and civilization, combined with one of the world's oldest historical stratifications, that defines the country's identity within the African, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern contexts.

BETWEEN ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS, SILENT DESERTS AND LANDSCAPES SUSPENDED BETWEEN RIVER AND SEA

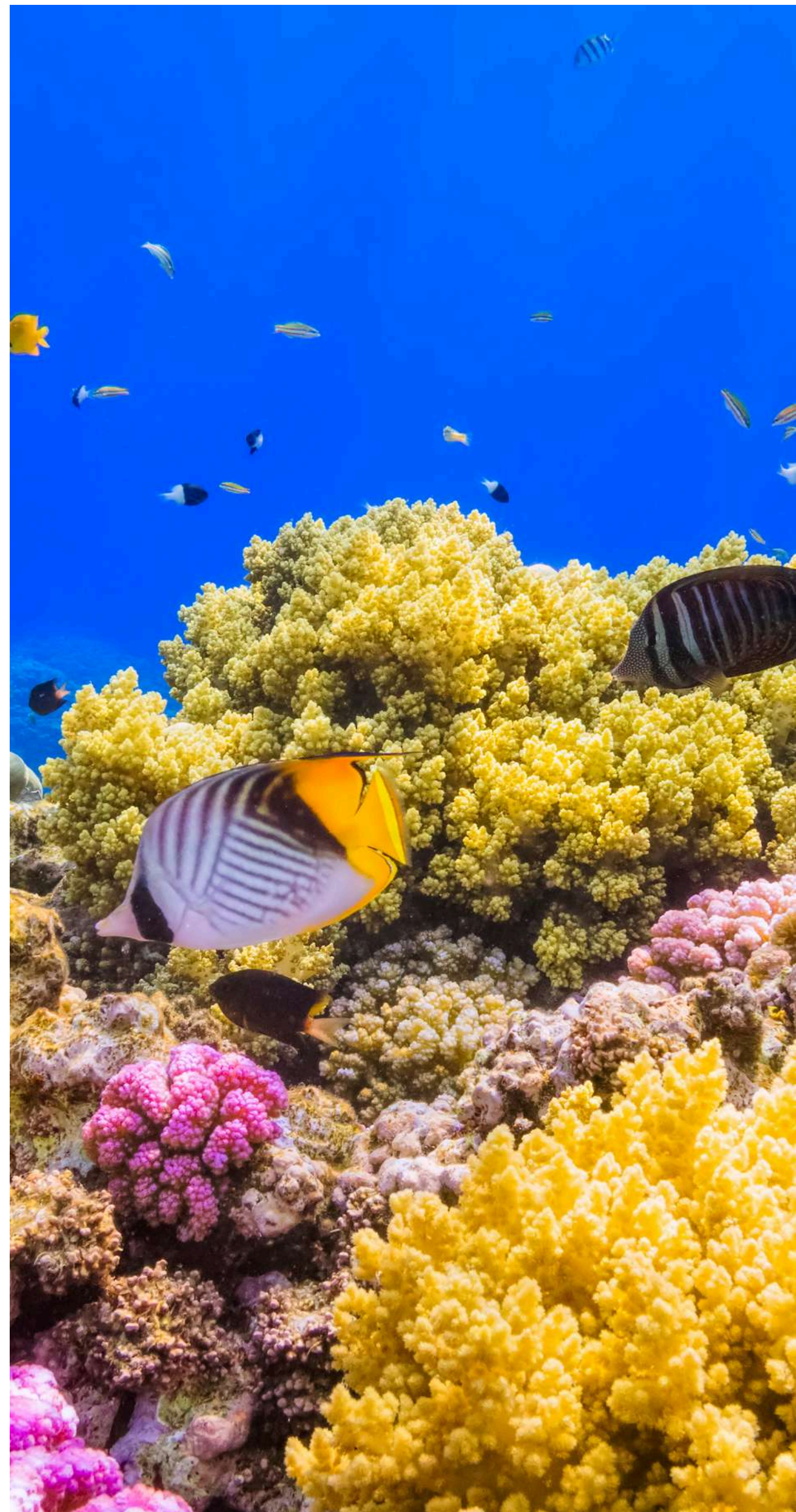
PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR SINGLES, COUPLES, AND FAMILIES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

- **Singles** – Along the Nile Valley, beyond the great monumental complexes, places such as Esna preserve a more authentic atmosphere, with local markets and small river docks far from the busiest routes, while in Aswan the Nubian villages along the riverbanks reveal colourful architecture and slower rhythms. In the Western Desert, the Siwa Oasis offers an isolated setting among salt lakes, palm groves and ancient mud-brick fortresses, ideal for more independent and contemplative experiences. In Alexandria, less touristy districts such as Anfushi still maintain a strong connection with the Mediterranean and the city's maritime traditions.

- **Couples** – In the Eastern Desert and along the Red Sea coast, towns such as El Quseir retain a more intimate character compared to the larger tourist centres, with easily accessible coral reefs and quiet promenades overlooking the desert. In the Sinai Peninsula, Dahab combines arid mountains and crystal-clear waters in a more relaxed and natural environment, while in Upper Egypt, cruises between Luxor and Aswan allow travellers to slowly pass through river landscapes, small villages and isolated temples along the Nile.

- **Families with children** – In Cairo, beyond the Pyramids of Giza, the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization offers interactive routes and spaces that are easy to explore even for younger visitors, while along the Nile Delta, towns such as Rosetta reveal a lesser-known side of Egypt through historic houses, markets and everyday river life. On the Red Sea coast, destinations such as Hurghada provide calm beaches and accessible marine activities, with shallow waters and areas suitable for first snorkelling experiences.

- **Families with teenagers** – Along the Red Sea, destinations such as Marsa Alam offer more dynamic experiences connected to marine nature, including advanced snorkelling, boat excursions and extensive coral reefs, while in the Sinai, places such as Ras Mohammed National Park combine desert landscapes, arid canyons and marine environments within the same natural setting. In the Nile Valley, Luxor adds a more immersive dimension through monumental temples, pharaonic tombs and archaeological routes that make history especially engaging for older children and teenagers.





DID YOU KNOW?

In the heart of the Western Desert lies the Siwa Oasis, one of the most isolated places in the country and historically linked to the Berber culture of the Siwi. Here you can visit the Temple of the Oracle of Amun, famous because, according to tradition, Alexander the Great went there to be recognized as the son of Zeus-Amun. Also in the same area is the Shali Fortress, an ancient citadel built of kershef (salt and mud), now partially in ruins but still accessible through its alleys and traditional structures.

In southern Sinai, at the foot of Mount Sinai, lies the Monastery of Saint Catherine, one of the oldest active monasteries in the world. The complex houses an extraordinary collection of Byzantine icons and ancient manuscripts, while the surrounding natural setting is characterized by a mountainous desert landscape linked to ancient pilgrimage routes.

Along the Red Sea coast, in the Marsa Alam area, lies the Shaab Samadai (Dolphin House Reef), a horseshoe-shaped marine ecosystem known for the stable presence of dolphins in a protected natural environment, far from the more urbanized tourist areas such as Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheikh.

In the Nile Delta, the city of Rosetta (Rashid) preserves an Ottoman-era architectural heritage with historic red-brick houses and river canals. It is the site where the Rosetta Stone was discovered, a key artifact for deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics, now housed at the British Museum in London.

In the Western Desert, White Desert National Park boasts one of the most unusual landscapes in the country. In the Farafra Depression, wind-shaped limestone formations take on sculptural, pure white forms, creating an almost surreal desert environment completely devoid of urbanization.

These places reveal a lesser-known Egypt, made up of isolated deserts, protected coasts, historic oases, and urban centers in the Delta, where nature, archaeology, and local culture intertwine away from the main tourist circuits.



ISRAEL AND PALESTINE – BETWEEN THE LEVANT MEDITERRANEAN, THE JUDAE-SAMARITAN AXIS, COASTS, DESERTS, AND A STRATIFIED HISTORICAL-RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE



The region of Israel and the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is located in the heart of the Mediterranean Levant, in a transitional area between Western Asia and the Mediterranean basin, where geography and history are closely intertwined. The territory is defined by the coexistence of a narrow coastal strip, inland hills, a large tectonic depression, and vast southern desert areas, which together create a highly diverse environmental mosaic despite their relatively small size. Physically, the territorial structure is organized along clearly recognizable axes. The Mediterranean coastal strip represents the main urban and infrastructural space, with cities such as Tel Aviv and Haifa, developed on narrow but heavily populated coastal plains. Proceeding inland, the landscape transforms into the hills of Galilee and Samaria, characterized by gentle hills, agricultural valleys, and scattered settlements. Continuing southward, the Negev desert system opens up, occupying much of the southern territory and marking the transition to increasingly extreme arid environments. In parallel, one of the most significant geographical features is the Jordan Valley, part of the larger Dead Sea Rift, which constitutes one of the deepest depressions on Earth. This system contains the Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee, central elements both from a water, historical, and symbolic perspective. To understand the complexity of this territory, it is necessary to consider its long historical stratification. The first Canaanite and Israelite civilizations developed in the area as early as the Bronze Age, followed by Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian dominations. Subsequently, the territory entered the Hellenistic sphere with the campaigns of Alexander the Great and was subsequently integrated into the Roman Empire, a period during which Jerusalem assumed a central role in the Abrahamic religious traditions. Subsequently, the region became part of the Islamic world starting in the 7th century, maintaining a strong spiritual centrality for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, until the Ottoman and British Mandate periods, which precede the contemporary political configuration.

In this framework, the territory is divided into distinct but closely interconnected geographical macro-areas:

- **MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL STRIP - REPRESENTS THE MOST URBANIZED AND DYNAMIC AREA, WITH MAIN CENTERS SUCH AS TEL AVIV AND HAIFA, WHERE ECONOMIC, PORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL ACTIVITIES ARE CONCENTRATED**
- **HILLS OF GALILEE AND SAMARIA - CONSTITUTE AN INTERMEDIATE AREA, CHARACTERISED BY RELIEFS, VILLAGES AND AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES THAT CONNECT THE COAST TO THE INLAND VALLEY**
- **THE JORDAN VALLEY AND THE DEAD SEA DEPRESSION - FORM A UNIQUE GEOLOGICAL SYSTEM, WITH THE DEAD SEA, LAKE TIBERIAS AND THE COURSE OF THE JORDAN AS ITS MAIN ELEMENTS**
- **NEGEV DESERT - OCCUPIES MUCH OF THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY, WITH ARID ENVIRONMENTS, CANYONS AND DESERT PLATEAUS THAT MARK THE TRANSITION TO THE SINAI**
- **WEST BANK - IS A HILLY INTERNAL REGION WITH STRONG HISTORICAL AND SETTLEMENT CONTINUITY, CHARACTERIZED BY CITIES SUCH AS RAMALLAH, NABLUS AND HEBRON**
- **GAZA STRIP - REPRESENTS A NARROW COASTAL STRIP ON THE MEDITERRANEAN, HIGHLY URBANIZED AND WITH AN EXTREMELY COMPACT TERRITORY**

As for the main access points, the airport network connects the different areas of the territory directly and functionally:

- **Ben Gurion Airport – The country's main international hub, located in the area between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the primary entry point for intercontinental and regional air traffic**
- **Ramon Airport – Main gateway to the south of the country and the Negev Desert area and Eilat, used for domestic and international connections**
- **Haifa Airport – Regional airport located in the north of the country, useful for internal connections and for the northern coastal area and the Galilee**

In short, Israel and the Palestinian territories form a highly concentrated yet extremely complex territorial system, where the Mediterranean coast, tectonic depressions, inland mountains, and desert areas coexist in a small yet geographically and historically stratified space. It is precisely this density of landscapes and the continuous overlap between natural and cultural elements that define the identity of the Mediterranean Levant.

BETWEEN MEDITERRANEAN CITIES, ANCIENT DESERTS AND TERRITORIES OF DEEP HISTORICAL IDENTITY

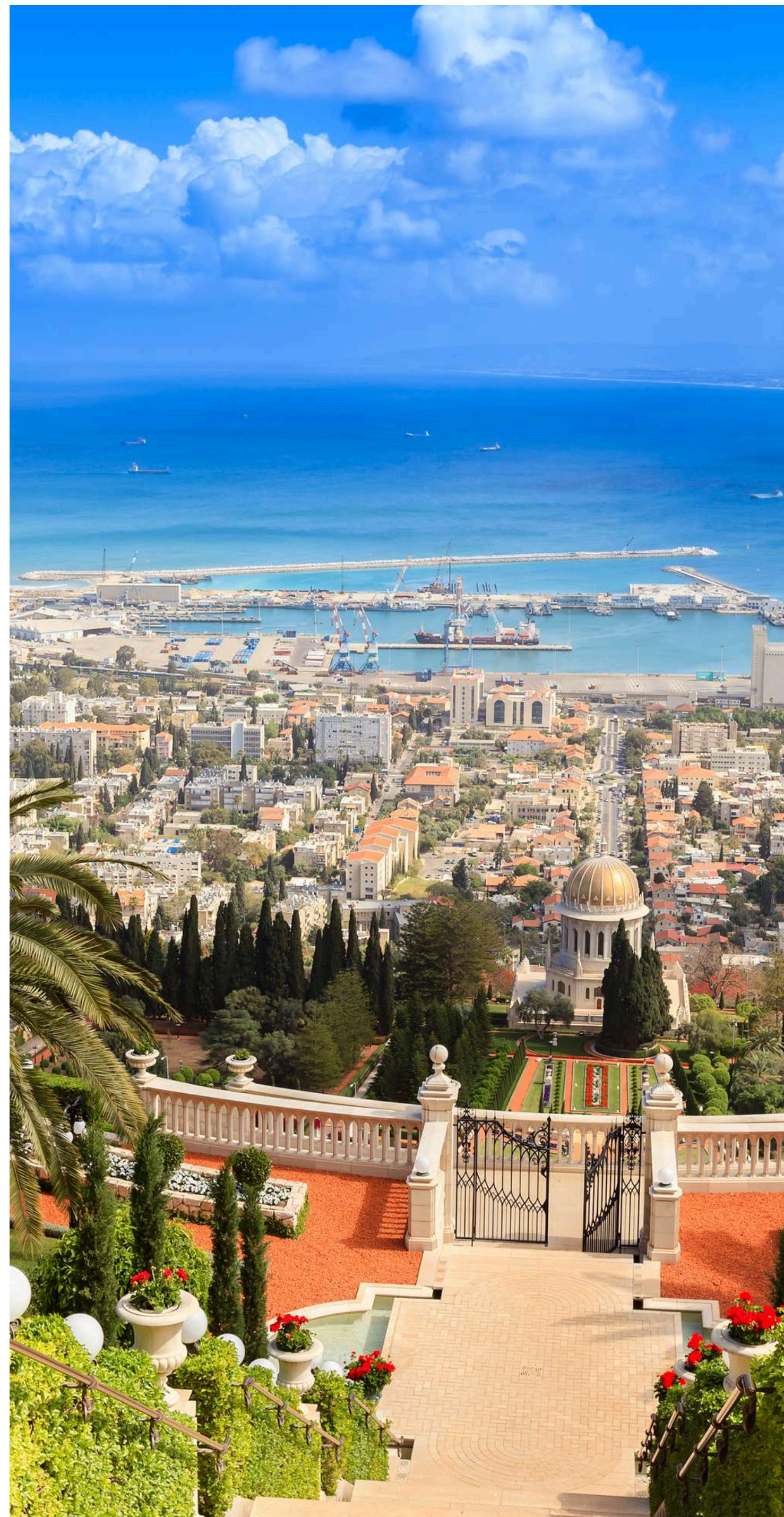
PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR SINGLES, COUPLES, AND FAMILIES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

- **Singles** – Along the Mediterranean coast, Tel Aviv offers creative districts such as Florentin, with local markets, Bauhaus architecture and contemporary cultural spaces, while Haifa combines its port, the Bahá'í Gardens and hillside areas overlooking the sea. In the hills of Galilee, villages such as Rosh Pinna preserve a quieter atmosphere among agricultural landscapes and stone streets, while in the West Bank, cities such as Nablus reveal historic souks, ancient workshops and a strong cultural continuity far from the main tourist routes.

- **Couples** – In the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea region, the landscape takes on an almost surreal dimension, with salt plains, arid mountains and isolated oases. Places such as Ein Bokek allow visitors to experience the contrast between water and desert in a relaxed setting, while around the Sea of Galilee, small towns such as Tiberias combine lakeside views with historical sites. In the Negev Desert, Mitzpe Ramon overlooks one of the Middle East's most spectacular erosion craters, offering natural viewpoints and exceptionally clear night skies.

- **Families with children** – In Jerusalem, the Israel Museum and the Mahane Yehuda Market introduce history and local life in a way that is accessible even for younger visitors, while along the Mediterranean coast, areas such as Caesarea combine Roman ruins, the sea and open spaces that are easy to explore. In Galilee, the Sea of Galilee offers outdoor activities and simple nature trails, ideal for more relaxed days.

- **Families with teenagers** – In the Negev Desert, Timna Park features rocky landscapes, ancient mines and routes through canyons and desert formations that are particularly engaging, while in the West Bank, cities such as Hebron and Bethlehem provide direct contact with places of major historical and religious significance. At the Dead Sea, the experience of natural floating and the extreme landscapes of the desert depression create a unique setting very different from classic Mediterranean itineraries.





DID YOU KNOW?

In northern Israel, in the Galilee region, lies the city of Safed, one of the most important centers of Jewish mysticism (Kabbalah). Its historic center is characterized by blue and white stone alleys and is home to historic synagogues such as the Ari Ashkenazi Synagogue, as well as small art galleries and local artists' workshops occupying old Ottoman houses.

On the Mediterranean coast, in the north of the country, lies Akko (Acre), a fortified Crusader city whose urban layout is still perfectly recognizable. Here you can visit the Ottoman walls, the tunnels of the Knights Hospitaller, and the ancient port, one of the busiest in the eastern Mediterranean during the Middle Ages, today integrated into a vibrant urban landscape.

In the Negev Desert, in the Makhtesh Ramon area, lies one of the largest erosional craters in the world. The Ramon Crater Visitor Center explains the desert's geology and the history of early human settlement, while scenic trails offer views of rock formations, canyons, and completely desert landscapes.

In the West Bank, in the city of Hebron, lies the Tomb of the Patriarchs (Ibrahimi Mosque), one of the holiest sites in Judaism and Islam. The building retains an imposing Herodian structure, with divided interior spaces and historic courtyards that bear witness to centuries of religious and cultural stratification.

Southern to the Gaza Strip, in the coastal area of Rafah, the landscape is dominated by sand dunes and traditional agricultural tracts, with a history linked to the ancient trade routes between Egypt and the Levant. The area is characterized by strong cultural continuity and a flat coastal geography.

Finally, in the mountainous region of central Palestine, the city of Nablus retains an Ottoman-era historic center with the old souk, historic mosques such as the An-Nasr Mosque, and artisanal traditions linked to the production of olive oil soap, still made today using traditional methods.

Taken together, these places reveal a complex and layered region, where historic cities, geological deserts, religious sites, and Mediterranean coastlines tell an intertwined story of vastly different civilizations, spiritualities, and natural landscapes.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – BETWEEN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA, THE PERSIAN GULF COAST, INTERNAL-CONTINENTAL DESERTS, AND HYPER-MODERN CITIES BORN FROM OIL AND GLOBAL TRADE



The United Arab Emirates is located in the southeastern part of the Arabian Peninsula, along the Persian Gulf coast, in a region characterized by a stark contrast between vast inland desert areas and a densely urbanized and highly developed coastal strip. The country, despite being relatively compact, has a complex geographical structure and a highly differentiated distribution of settlements between the coast, inland, and eastern mountainous areas. Physically, the territory is dominated by the Arabian Desert, with extensive sandy and gravelly areas occupying much of the country's surface, representing the natural continuity of the Arabian Peninsula's desert systems. However, along the Persian Gulf coast, a continuous urban belt develops, where the country's main cities, economic infrastructure, and business centers are concentrated. Dubai and Abu Dhabi stand out in particular, constituting the two main hubs of the national urban system. Dubai stands out for its vertical and coastal development, playing a central role in the sectors of trade, tourism, and global finance. Abu Dhabi, on the other hand, is the federal capital and is characterized by a more expansive and institutional urban plan, with large administrative and residential areas. Historically, the area was inhabited by Bedouin communities dedicated to navigation and trade along the Gulf routes. Before the establishment of the modern state, the territory was known as the "Trucial States" under British protection. With the discovery of oil and the formation of the federation in 1971, the country underwent a rapid and profound transformation, becoming one of the world's major economic and logistics hubs.

In this context, the territory is divided into the following geographical macro-areas:

- PERSIAN GULF COASTAL STRIP – MAIN AREA OF URBANIZATION, WHERE DUBAI, ABU DHABI AND THE OTHER WESTERN EMIRATES ARE CONCENTRATED, WITH PORTS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC CENTERS
- CENTRAL DESERT HINTERLAND – VAST ARID AREA CHARACTERIZED BY DUNES, SANDY PLATEAUS, AND SPARSELY POPULATED LANDS
- NORTHERN EMIRATES – INCLUDING SHARJAH, AJMAN, UMM AL QUWAIN AND RAS AL KHAIMAH, WITH MORE COMPACT URBAN CENTERS AND LOWER INFRASTRUCTURE DENSITY
- EASTERN FUJAIRAH AND GULF OF OMAN COAST – A DISTINCT REGION BORDERING THE INDIAN OCEAN, CHARACTERISED BY THE HAJAR MOUNTAINS AND A MORE RUGGED COASTLINE

As for air connections, the country's airport network is highly developed and allows direct access to all macro-areas:

- Dubai International Airport – Major international hub and gateway to the city of Dubai and the western coastal strip
- Abu Dhabi International Airport – The capital's hub and hub for the central and western regions of the country
- Sharjah International Airport – Serves the northern area and the urban area near Dubai
- Ras Al Khaimah International Airport – Connecting to the Northern Emirates
- Fujairah International Airport – Gateway to the eastern coast of the Gulf of Oman

In short, the United Arab Emirates represents a highly integrated territorial system in which desert, coast, and advanced urbanization coexist in dynamic equilibrium. The rapid transformation of the territory, combined with the strong differentiation between inland and coastal areas, defines a unique model of geographical and urban development within the Arabian Peninsula.

BETWEEN FUTURISTIC CITIES, VAST DESERTS AND COASTLINES STRETCHING FROM THE PERSIAN GULF TO THE INDIAN OCEAN

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR SINGLES, COUPLES, AND FAMILIES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

- **Singles** – Along the Persian Gulf coast, Dubai combines ultra-modern districts with lesser-known historic areas such as Al Fahidi, with traditional alleyways, inner courtyards and ancient souks along the Creek, while Abu Dhabi offers contemporary cultural spaces such as the Saadiyat Cultural District alongside quieter waterfront promenades. In the northern emirates, Sharjah features museums, markets and a more compact urban atmosphere, while Ras Al Khaimah blends arid mountains and coastal villages far removed from the vertical skyline of the main emirates.

- **Couples** – In the central desert interior, the vast dunes stretching toward Liwa create silent and minimalist landscapes, ideal for desert experiences among Bedouin camps and night-sky observation. Along the eastern coast of Fujairah, the Gulf of Oman introduces a completely different environment, where mountains meet the sea, rocky bays and small coastal towns such as Al Aqah offer a more relaxed atmosphere compared to the major cities of the Persian Gulf.

- **Families with children** – In Dubai, areas such as Dubai Creek and Al Seef reveal the city's historic side through easy walks, traditional boats and accessible markets, while Abu Dhabi combines large urban spaces, modern museums and green waterfront areas along the Corniche. In the northern emirates, Ajman and Umm Al Quwain provide quieter beaches and less crowded environments, ideal for relaxed family days.

- **Families with teenagers** – In Ras Al Khaimah, the Hajar Mountains offer outdoor activities through canyons, panoramic routes and mountain roads, while in the central desert, dune experiences, off-road excursions and desert camps introduce landscapes completely different from the urban environment. In Fujairah, snorkelling, diving and rocky coastlines facing the Indian Ocean add a more dynamic natural and marine dimension compared to the cities of the Persian Gulf.





DID YOU KNOW?

In the northern part of the United Arab Emirates, in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, lies the archaeological site of Julfar, an ancient medieval trading port now partially buried. Excavations have uncovered remains of dwellings, Islamic ceramics, and structures linked to trade routes between Arabia, Persia and the Indian Ocean, in an area that today appears as a coastal desert landscape.

In the inland area of the emirate of Sharjah lies the oasis city of Al Dhaid, surrounded by agricultural fields and traditional irrigation systems (falaj). This region represents one of the country's most important agricultural zones, with local markets selling dates, citrus fruits and desert produce, in striking contrast to the urbanised coast.

In the desert of Dubai, the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve stretches across vast golden dunes and is the largest protected area in the country. It is home to native wildlife such as the Arabian oryx and offers controlled routes to experience the desert in a relatively untouched state compared to the surrounding coastal urbanisation.

In the emirate of Abu Dhabi, on Sir Bani Yas Island, lies one of the region's most significant natural reserves. The island hosts the Arabian Wildlife Park, where reintroduced species such as gazelles and giraffes roam alongside the remains of an ancient monastery from the late antiquity period, a rare example of pre-Islamic religious presence in the region.

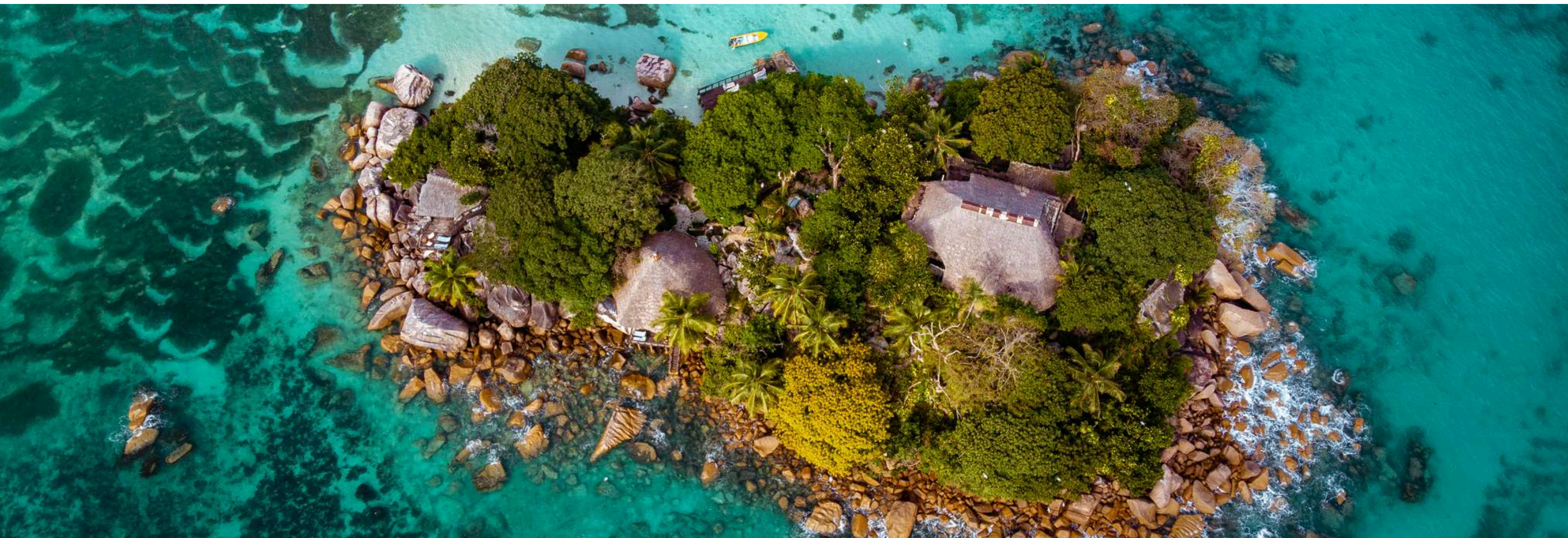
In the emirate of Fujairah, on the eastern coast, stands the historic Al Badiyah Mosque, considered the oldest mosque still in use in the country. Built in stone and mud, it features a simple structure with four domes, set between the mountains and the waters of the Indian Ocean.

Also in Fujairah, the Wadi Wurayah National Park represents one of the few protected mountain ecosystems in the country. The wadi features seasonal waterfalls, natural pools, and rare biodiversity, offering a landscape completely different from the urban coasts and central desert.

Taken together, these places reveal a lesser-known side of the United Arab Emirates—one made of archaeological sites, agricultural oases, desert reserves and coastal mountains, where ancient history, traditional culture and nature intertwine beyond the modern image of its great cities.



SEYCHELLES – BETWEEN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AN INTERNAL GRANITE ARCHIPELAGO, AND PERIPHERAL CORAL ISLANDS IN AN ANCIENT AND HIGHLY FRAGMENTED MARINE SYSTEM



The Seychelles is located in the western Indian Ocean, northeast of Madagascar, in an isolated yet strategically important geographical position along the sea routes between Africa and Asia. It is an archipelago of over one hundred islands, characterized by a clear distinction between the inner granite islands and the outer coral atolls, which define two profoundly different environmental systems within the same country. Physically, the territory is unique in the Indian Ocean: the inner islands are of granite origin, with hilly reliefs, dense tropical vegetation, and rugged coastlines, while the outer islands are of coral origin, low and flat, often surrounded by lagoons and coral reefs. This geological duality makes the country a rare case globally, with extremely diverse terrestrial and marine ecosystems in a small space. The main inhabited areas are concentrated in the so-called Inner Islands, where the urban centers and main infrastructure are located. Here, Mahé, home to the capital Victoria, Praslin, and La Digue, represent the country's residential and tourist hub. Mahé is the largest island and home to the majority of the population, while Praslin and La Digue are smaller and boast highly natural landscapes. Meanwhile, the Outer Islands comprise a collection of remote atolls and islands, including the Amirantes group, the Alphonse Archipelago, and more isolated areas such as Aldabra, one of the world's largest coral atolls and a globally significant natural site. These areas are characterized by low population density and high ecological value, with limited access and virtually pristine marine environments. Historically, the Seychelles were long uninhabited in pre-colonial times, although they likely gained indirect knowledge of them through Arab navigators and merchants who plied the Indian Ocean routes. The islands were subsequently sighted and recorded by Europeans in the 16th century, but permanent colonization did not occur until the 18th century, when France formally took possession of them in 1756, initiating a process of settlement and agricultural exploitation based on plantations, initially with slave labor from East Africa and Madagascar. Following the Napoleonic Wars and the redefinition of the colonial balance in the Indian Ocean, the Seychelles came under British control in 1814 with the Treaty of Paris, while retaining many administrative and cultural structures of French origin. This Franco-British dualism had a lasting impact on local society, contributing to the formation of a hybrid cultural identity, in which Seychellois Creole, French, and English coexist. Throughout the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, the economy remained strongly tied to plantation agriculture (particularly coconut and vanilla), while the archipelago maintained a peripheral position within the British Empire. Only after World War II did a process of progressive political autonomy begin, culminating in 1976 with independence and the creation of the Republic of Seychelles within the Commonwealth. In the post-independence period, the country experienced an initial phase of political instability, followed by the gradual establishment of a more stable and centralized institutional system. Today, the Seychelles is a democratic republic, characterized by a heavy dependence on international tourism and an environmental policy geared towards protecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems, which represent one of the country's key strategic resources.

In this framework, the territory is divided into two main macro-systems:

- **INNER ISLANDS – INCLUDE MAHÉ, PRASLIN, LA DIGUE AND NEARBY SMALLER ISLANDS, CHARACTERISED BY GRANITE RELIEFS, TROPICAL FORESTS AND A STRONG URBAN AND TOURIST CONCENTRATION**
- **OUTER ISLANDS – INCLUDE REMOTE ATOLLS AND CORAL ISLANDS SUCH AS THE AMIRANTES AND ALDABRA, WITH EXTENSIVE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND VERY LOW HUMAN IMPACT**

The Seychelles airport network is mainly concentrated on the inner islands, with limited but functional connections that allow access to the main areas of the archipelago:

- **Seychelles International Airport** – Located on the island of Mahé, it is the main international entry point to the country and connects the archipelago with Europe, Africa and the Middle East
- **Praslin Airport** – Domestic airport connecting Mahé with the island of Praslin, essential for internal mobility of the archipelago

In summary, the Seychelles is an extremely complex island system, where the distinction between inner granitic islands and outer coral atolls defines not only the physical geography but also the distribution of settlements and human activities. The constant relationship between land and ocean, combined with marked geographic isolation and highly valuable marine ecosystems, contributes to defining a unique territory within the Indian Ocean. It is precisely this combination of geographic fragmentation, exceptional biodiversity, and strong integration between the natural environment and limited human presence that makes the Seychelles a key archipelago for understanding contemporary tropical island systems.

BETWEEN GRANITE ISLANDS, TROPICAL LAGOONS AND LANDSCAPES SUSPENDED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR SINGLES, COUPLES, AND FAMILIES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

- **Singles** – In the Inner Islands, Mahé combines tropical beaches with mountainous inland areas crossed by forest trails, while districts such as Beau Vallon offer a more lively atmosphere with small cafés, local markets and coastal life. On La Digue, the pace slows completely: bicycles, sandy roads and beaches such as Grand Anse create a peaceful and natural environment far removed from more structured tourism.

- **Couples** – On Praslin, the Vallée de Mai offers an almost primordial setting among endemic palms and tropical vegetation, while beaches such as Anse Lazio combine granite rocks and crystal-clear waters in an especially scenic environment. In the Outer Islands, remote atolls such as the Amirantes introduce a more isolated and silent dimension, where the ocean and coral ecosystems become the central elements of the experience.

- **Families with children** – Mahé allows visitors to alternate between easily accessible beaches, short nature walks and small coastal villages, with environments that are simple to explore even with children. On Praslin, the Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve offers shaded trails and easily observable tropical wildlife, while calm beaches such as Anse Volbert provide swimming and seaside activities in generally tranquil waters.

- **Families with teenagers** – In the Outer Islands, marine-based experiences such as snorkelling, boat excursions and giant tortoise observation introduce ecosystems very different from classic beach destinations. On Mahé and La Digue, tropical trails, coastal paths and light outdoor activities make it possible to combine sea and nature in a more dynamic and engaging way.





DID YOU KNOW?

In the heart of the Seychelles archipelago, on the island of Mahé, lies the small historic site of Mission Lodge, one of the key landmarks of colonial and post-slavery memory. The site preserves the ruins of a school built for children freed from slavery, along with a panoramic viewpoint overlooking the central mountains and the western coast of the island.

Still on Mahé, within the mountainous region of Morne Seychellois National Park, much of the island’s interior is protected. Here, forest trails cross dense tropical vegetation, former abandoned tea plantations and scenic viewpoints over the ocean, offering a rare balance between biodiversity and agricultural history.

On the island of Praslin, the Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve represents one of the oldest ecosystems on Earth. This UNESCO-listed park preserves the endemic coco de mer palm and an almost untouched undergrowth, with trails through a primeval forest often described as a “window into the Jurassic era.”

On the island of La Digue, the historic settlement of L’Union Estate preserves a former colonial plantation. Visitors can explore the old coconut oil mill, the restored colonial house, and traditional agricultural areas, while reaching the famous Anse Source d’Argent beach via natural paths between granite rock formations.

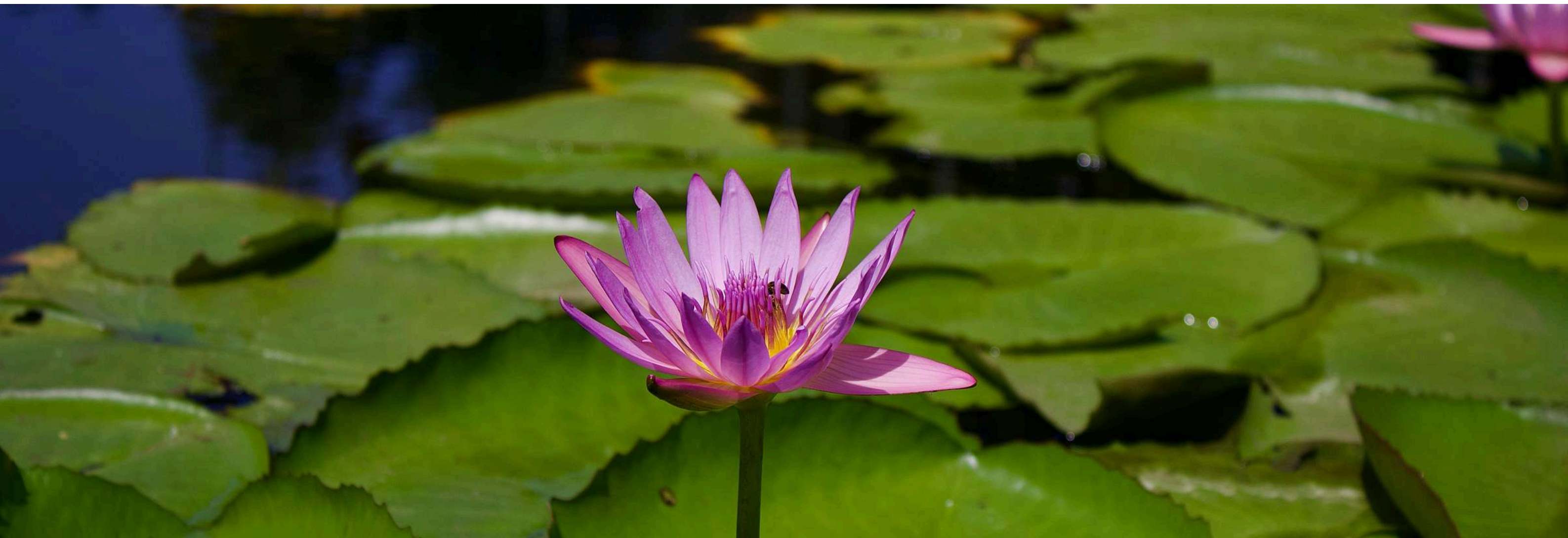
On the remote island of Silhouette Island, the surrounding Silhouette Island National Park protects one of the archipelago’s most untouched forests. A small local settlement is surrounded by tropical wilderness, home to endemic species and former colonial residences now integrated into the natural landscape.

Finally, within the protected marine area of Aldabra Atoll, one of the most isolated places on Earth, lies one of the largest raised coral atolls in the world. It is home to the famous Aldabra giant tortoises and an almost entirely pristine ecosystem, accessible only through special permits.

Together, these destinations reveal the Seychelles beyond its iconic beaches: an archipelago of ancient forests, historic plantations, remote atolls and colonial heritage, where nature and history remain deeply intertwined in a remarkably preserved balance.



MAURITIUS – BETWEEN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AN ANCIENT VOLCANIC PLATFORM, AND CORAL LAGOONS IN A HIGHLY BIODIVERSITY ARCHIPELAGO



Mauritius is located in the southwestern Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar, strategically positioned along the ocean routes between Africa, Asia, and Australia. The country comprises the main island of Mauritius and several smaller islands, including Rodrigues, the Agalega Islands, and the Cargados Carajos area, forming a volcanic island system surrounded by coral reefs. Physically, the territory is the result of an ancient, now inactive, volcanic hotspot. The main island has a relatively compact topography, with a central plateau, gentle relief, and an almost continuous coastline characterized by lagoons protected by a coral reef that surrounds much of the island. This natural system creates particularly stable marine conditions, with shallow waters and sandy beaches along almost the entire coastline. The main geographical areas are divided between the coast, the central plateau, and the mountainous interior. Among the most significant formations are the Black River Gorges National Park, which preserves the country's last indigenous forests, and the mountain range in the southwest, home to peaks such as the Piton de la Petite Rivière Noire, the island's highest point. Urban centers and tourist destinations, such as Port Louis, located on the northwest coast and the main administrative and economic hub, have developed along the coast. Rodrigues Island, located further east, has a smaller territorial scale and a less urbanized landscape, with a strong predominance of natural environments and rugged coastlines. The other smaller islands, such as Agalega and the Cargados Carajos Bank (also known as Saint Brandon), are largely uninhabited or sparsely populated and serve primarily conservation and ecological purposes, hosting marine ecosystems and birdlife of great naturalistic value. Historically, Mauritius was initially uninhabited and likely only indirectly known to Arab and Malay navigators who frequented the Indian Ocean. Europeans first discovered Mauritius in the 16th century, particularly the Portuguese, but the first stable colonization occurred with the Dutch starting in 1638. They introduced settlements and exploited natural resources, but were unable to maintain a stable presence over the long term. Subsequently, in the 18th century, the island came under French control in 1715, becoming Île de France. During this period, an agricultural economy based on sugar plantations developed, with the massive introduction of slave labor from East Africa and Madagascar, a factor that had a profound impact on the island's demographic and cultural composition. In 1810, Mauritius was conquered by the British during the Napoleonic Wars and, with the Treaty of Paris of 1814, it officially came under the rule of the United Kingdom, while retaining many administrative and cultural structures of French origin, including the spread of the French language and civil law derived from the Code Napoléon. During the British era, the economy remained heavily dependent on sugarcane plantations, while indentured labor from India and China was also introduced in the 19th century, further contributing to the island's ethnic and linguistic diversity. Mauritius gained independence in 1968 and became a republic in 1992, developing a stable political model and a highly multicultural society, in which African, European, Indian, and Chinese influences coexist. Today, the country is characterized by a diversified economy based on tourism, financial services, and light industry, with a strong focus on environmental protection and the sustainable management of island ecosystems.

In this framework, the territory is divided into well-defined geographical macro-areas:

- **COASTAL STRIP AND CORAL LAGOONS – CONTINUOUS AREA SURROUNDING THE MAIN ISLAND, CHARACTERIZED BY SANDY BEACHES, CORAL REEFS AND STRONG TOURIST DEVELOPMENT**
- **CENTRAL PLATEAU – A SLIGHTLY ELEVATED INLAND REGION WHERE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERNAL INFRASTRUCTURE ARE CONCENTRATED**
- **MOUNTAINOUS AREAS AND NATURAL PARKS OF THE SOUTHWEST – HIGHER AND MORE PRESERVED AREAS, WITH FOREST ECOSYSTEMS AND RESIDUAL VOLCANIC RELIEFS**
- **RODRIGUES ISLAND AND SMALLER ISLANDS – SECONDARY ISLAND SYSTEM TO THE EAST, WITH LOW POPULATION DENSITY AND STRONG NATURALISTIC VALUE**

Mauritius' airport network is concentrated on the main island, with a single international airport serving as a hub for the entire territory and for regional connections in the Indian Ocean:

- **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport – The country's main entry point, located in the southeast of the island, connects Mauritius with Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.**

In short, Mauritius is a volcanic archipelago in the Indian Ocean where inland mountains, central highlands, and coastal coral lagoons coexist in a compact yet distinct geographical space. The long colonial era and subsequent independence have helped define a multicentric cultural identity, today strongly linked to tourism and the enhancement of the natural environment.

BETWEEN CORAL LAGOONS, TROPICAL PLATEAUS AND VOLCANIC LANDSCAPES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR SINGLES, COUPLES, AND FAMILIES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

- **Singles** – Along the coastal belt, places such as Flic en Flac combine beaches, small villages and local markets in a relaxed yet lively setting, while on the eastern coast areas like Trou d'Eau Douce maintain a quieter atmosphere overlooking the lagoon. In the central plateau, towns such as Curepipe reveal a less tourist-oriented side of the island, with tropical gardens, colonial architecture and everyday markets far from the beach areas.

- **Couples** – In the mountainous and natural areas of the southwest, Black River Gorges National Park offers tropical forests, waterfalls and volcanic ridges immersed in dense vegetation, while coastal locations such as Le Morne combine dramatic mountains with beaches facing turquoise lagoons. On Rodrigues, the pace slows further among isolated bays, coastal villages and largely undeveloped landscapes, ideal for a more intimate and authentic experience.

- **Families with children** – The protected lagoons on the western coast allow for simple and safe marine activities, with shallow waters easily accessible even for younger children. In the central plateau, the Pamplemousses Botanical Garden introduces tropical flora and fauna through easy walking routes, while small coastal villages offer a balanced mix of sea and local life without long transfers.

- **Families with teenagers** – In the southwest of the island, light excursions through waterfalls, tropical trails and volcanic landscapes add a more active dimension to the trip, while snorkelling and boat trips along the coral reefs allow exploration of rich and extensive marine ecosystems. On Rodrigues, the more natural and less developed environment creates a more dynamic and immersive experience compared to the busier coastal regions of Mauritius.





DID YOU KNOW?

In the heart of Mauritius, in the inland district of Savanne, lies the UNESCO World Heritage Site Aapravasi Ghat, closely linked to the arrival of indentured labourers from India in the 19th century. The complex preserves remains of dormitories, administrative structures and landing areas, illustrating one of the most important chapters in the formation of the island's multicultural identity.

On the south-west coast, the area of Le Morne Brabant combines natural beauty with historical memory. Beyond its iconic mountain silhouette, the site is associated with the history of escaped enslaved communities. The Le Morne Cultural Landscape includes scenic trails and viewpoints over the lagoon, and is recognised by UNESCO for its powerful symbolic value.

In the north of the island, Cap Malheureux is known for the small church of Notre-Dame Auxiliatrice, with its distinctive red roof overlooking the sea. Beyond this iconic landmark, the area preserves less urbanised coastal stretches and views over the northern archipelago, including Coin de Mire.

In the central region lies the Black River Gorges National Park, the largest protected area on the island. It shelters endemic forests, deep canyons and rare species such as the Mauritius kestrel and the pink pigeon. Viewpoints like Macchabée and Alexandra Falls offer sweeping perspectives over the island's mountainous interior.

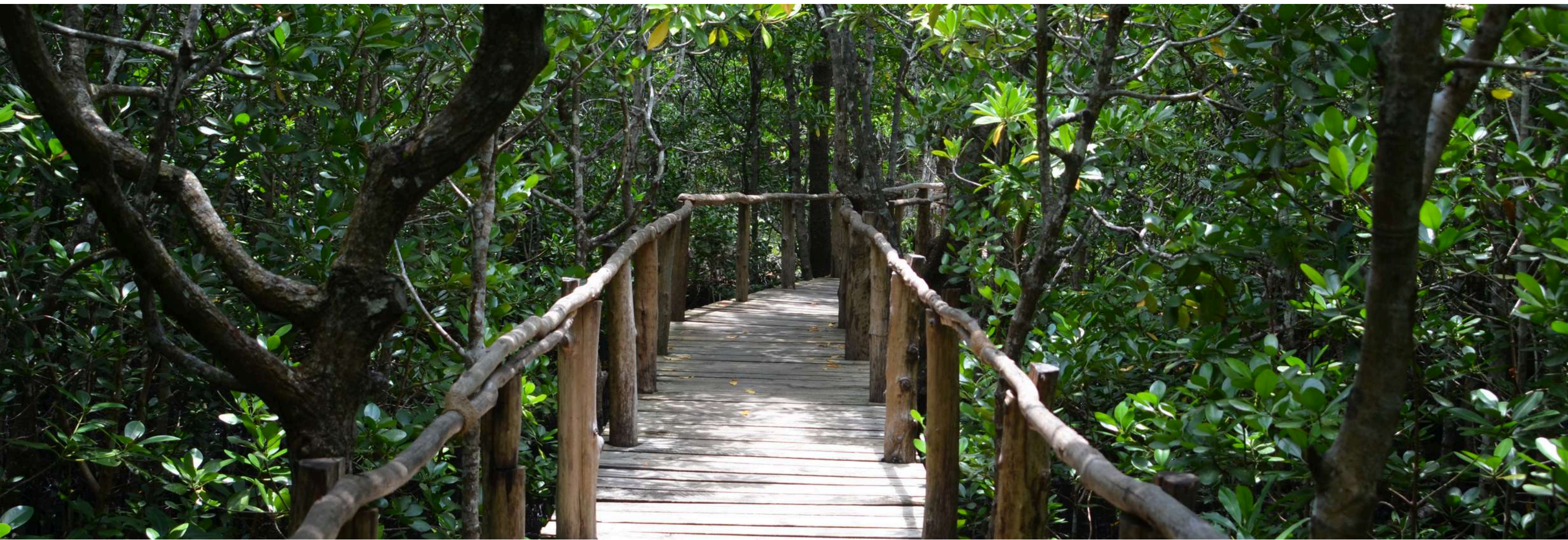
Along the eastern coast, Île aux Aigrettes represents a managed nature reserve dedicated to conservation. This limestone island hosts reintroduced native species such as the pink pigeon and the Aldabra giant tortoise, within a carefully controlled coastal ecosystem accessible only through guided visits.

Finally, in the south-east, the village of Mahébourg preserves a strong colonial heritage. The National History Museum of Mahébourg, housed in a former French château, recounts the naval battle of 1810 between France and the United Kingdom, while the waterfront bay offers calm views over one of the island's most authentic coastal settings.

Together, these destinations reveal Mauritius beyond its beach resort image: an island shaped by colonial memory, protected mountains, historic villages and nature reserves, where history, culture and biodiversity remain deeply intertwined.



ZANZIBAR – BETWEEN THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE SWAHILI COAST ARCHIPELAGO, CORAL BARBERS AND HISTORICAL STRATIFICATION BETWEEN AFRICA, MONSOONS AND INDIAN OCEAN ROUTES



Zanzibar is located in the western Indian Ocean, off the coast of Tanzania, and is an archipelago composed primarily of two major islands, Unguja and Pemba, along with numerous smaller islands and coral atolls. The entire island system is characterized by coral and sedimentary origin, with low coasts, sandy beaches, and a strong ecological connection to the coral reefs of the Indian Ocean. Physically, the main island of Unguja has a relatively flat topography, with a sandy coastline and a slightly undulating interior covered in tropical vegetation. Pemba, located further north, is greener and hillier, with more fertile soils and a greater presence of forests and crops. The smaller islands, often uninhabited or sparsely populated, include coral atolls and islets that play a key ecological role in protecting marine biodiversity. The archipelago's main urban and historical center is Stone Town, located on the island of Unguja. This city represents a rare example of a stratified Swahili urban settlement, with Arab, Persian, Indian, and European influences, and is now recognized as a cultural heritage site for its historic architecture and its role as a commercial crossroads in the Indian Ocean. Historically, Zanzibar has been a central hub on Indian Ocean trade routes for centuries, particularly for the spice, ivory, and slave trade. From the first millennium AD, the archipelago entered the Swahili cultural sphere, influenced by exchanges with Arab and Persian merchants. In the 19th century, it became the center of the Sultanate of Zanzibar, closely linked to Oman, and assumed a strategic role in trade between East Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. In 1890, it became a British protectorate, while maintaining strong cultural and administrative autonomy. After the 1964 revolution, Zanzibar united with Tanganyika to form the United Republic of Tanzania, while maintaining semi-autonomous status with its own government over certain local matters. This transition helped consolidate a unique political and cultural structure, in which Swahili identity, Arab influences, and African roots coexist in a layered way.

In this framework, the territory is divided into well-defined geographical macro-areas:

- **UNGUJA (MAIN ISLAND) – POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND TOURIST CENTER, WITH SANDY BEACHES, SPICE PLANTATIONS AND THE HISTORIC CORE OF STONE TOWN**
- **PEMBA – GREENER AND HILLIER ISLAND, WITH MORE RAINFALL, FORESTS AND TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE**
- **MINOR ISLANDS AND CORAL ATOLLS – SECONDARY ISLAND SYSTEMS WITH STRONG ECOLOGICAL VALUE AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY, INCLUDING MNEMBA ISLAND, CHUMBE ISLAND, TUMBATU ISLAND AND THE MISALI ISLAND AREA, ALL CHARACTERISED BY CORAL ECOSYSTEMS, PROTECTED SEABEDS AND LOW HUMAN INFLUENCE**

ZANZIBAR'S AIRPORT NETWORK IS CONCENTRATED ON THE MAIN ISLAND, WITH AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONNECTING THE ARCHIPELAGO WITH EAST AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE:

- **Abeid Amani Karume International Airport – The main gateway to the archipelago, located on the island of Unguja, serves the capital and the main tourist areas**

In short, Zanzibar represents an island system in the Indian Ocean characterized by the intersection of coral reefs, Swahili traditions, and a long history linked to ocean trade. The combination of complementary islands, marine biodiversity, and a strong cultural connection between Africa and the Arab-Indian world defines the archipelago's unique identity within East Africa.

BETWEEN SPICES AND CORAL ISLANDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR SINGLES, COUPLES, AND FAMILIES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

- **Singles** – On the island of Unguja, Stone Town offers a blend of historic alleys, spice markets and Swahili architecture, while along the eastern coast locations such as Paje and Jambiani combine long beaches and steady winds with small villages and a lively, informal local scene. The journey alternates between urban exploration and coastal life, with settings that allow for independent and flexible experiences.

- **Couples** – On Pemba, the greener and more hilly landscape introduces a more intimate dimension, with plantations, forests and secluded bays, while coral islands such as Mnemba Island offer a more exclusive and secluded environment, with crystal-clear waters, intact coral reefs and direct contact with marine nature in an extremely peaceful setting.

- **Families with children** – On Unguja, northern beaches such as Nungwi and Kendwa offer safe swimming and simple beach activities, while visits to spice plantations introduce aromas, crops and local traditions in an educational way, within an easy and accessible environment.

- **Families with teenagers** – On Pemba and smaller islands such as Chumbe and Misali, snorkelling, boat excursions and coral reef observation provide more active and engaging experiences, while less urbanised coastlines allow for a more direct connection with the ocean, through diving, unspoilt nature and outdoor marine activities.





DID YOU KNOW?

In the heart of Zanzibar, on the main island of Unguja, lies the Kizimkazi Dimbani Mosque, one of the oldest Islamic landmarks in East Africa. Built in simple coral stone, it preserves Arabic inscriptions and a small historic cemetery overlooking the southern coast.

In the central region of the island, the Jozani Chwaka Bay National Park is the only national park in the archipelago. It includes the Jozani Forest, habitat of the rare Zanzibar red colobus monkey, as well as a mangrove ecosystem crossed by wooden walkways that allow visitors to observe the coastal wetland environment without disturbing it.

On the north-eastern coast, Mnemba Island is a small private atoll surrounded by one of the most pristine coral reefs in the region. Its marine protected area is home to dolphins, sea turtles and tropical fish, making it one of Zanzibar's key biodiversity hotspots.

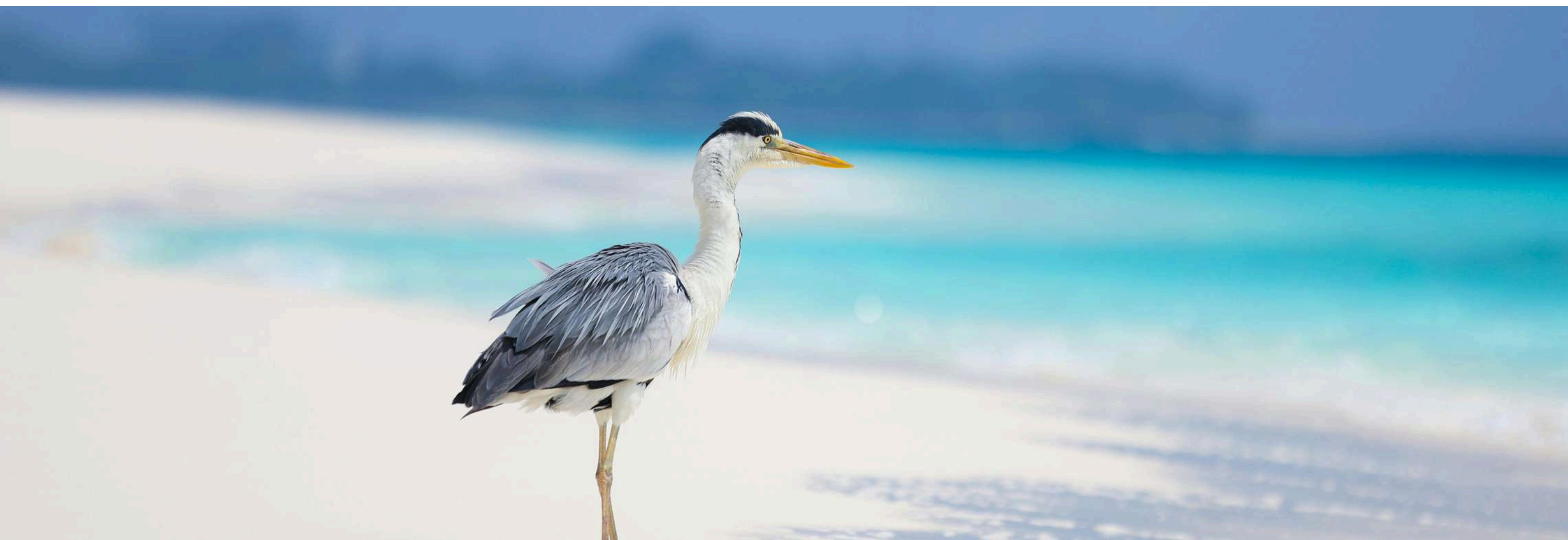
On the eastern coast, Mtende Beach offers one of the island's most secluded landscapes. Limestone cliffs and natural inlets create a largely undeveloped environment, where the ocean shifts with the tides and the scenery remains strongly natural.

Finally, Chumbe Island hosts one of the most important marine reserves in the western Indian Ocean. The Chumbe Coral Reef Sanctuary protects an intact coral ecosystem and a primary coastal forest, accessible only through controlled visits to preserve its ecological balance.

Together, these places reveal Zanzibar beyond its most famous beaches: an archipelago of tropical forests, ritual villages, historic mosques and protected marine reserves, where Swahili culture and nature intertwine in a deeply layered and continuous landscape.



MALDIVES – BETWEEN THE INDIAN OCEAN, CORAL ATOLLS IN CHAINS AND AN ISLAND SYSTEM WITH A SEDIMENTARY STRUCTURE AND EXTREME TERRITORIAL FRAGMENTATION



The Maldives are located in the north-central Indian Ocean, southwest of India and Sri Lanka, and constitute one of the planet's largest and geographically complex island systems in relation to its land mass. The archipelago is composed of approximately 1,200 islands distributed across twenty or so natural atolls, organized along a double submarine chain that follows the Laccadive-Maldives-Chagos Ridge. Physically, the territory is entirely of coral and sedimentary origin, with extremely low altitude (averaging a few meters above sea level), sandy coasts, and inland lagoons protected by continuous coral reefs. This conformation makes the Maldives one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels, but at the same time one of the most distinctive tropical atoll systems in the world. The islands are organized into natural and administrative atolls, some of the most significant of which are North Malé Atoll, South Malé Atoll, Ari Atoll, Baa Atoll, and Addu Atoll. These systems represent the main residential and tourist areas, with a highly dispersed population distribution across the various islands. The capital is Malé, located on a densely populated urban island, which concentrates administrative, port, and economic functions. Unlike most of the country, Malé features compact and intense urbanization, with a high concentration of infrastructure in a very small area. Historically, the Maldives exhibit a cultural stratification that reflects their strategic position along the Indian Ocean trade routes. The islands were inhabited since ancient times by populations linked to the maritime circuits of the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka, with strong cultural and linguistic influences from the Tamil and more generally Dravidian areas, complemented over time by Indo-Arabic contributions. These contacts contributed to the early development of an autonomous island culture, yet constantly open to the commercial and cultural flows of the ocean. A key moment occurred in the 12th century, when Islam was introduced to the archipelago, traditionally attributed to the arrival of the traveler Abu al-Barakat Yusuf al-Barbari. From this moment on, the Maldives transformed into a stable Islamic sultanate, with a centralized political structure that would last for several centuries. Islam became a fundamental element of identity, profoundly influencing language, law, and social organization. Between the 16th and 19th centuries, the archipelago gradually entered the orbit of European powers. The Portuguese briefly occupied the islands in the 16th century, imposing a military presence but without stable control. Subsequently, the Dutch, while dominating Ceylon, maintained an indirect influence over the area. In the 19th century, the Maldives became a British protectorate, while retaining the sultanate and a certain internal autonomy. During the British colonial period, the islands remained relatively marginal to major imperial interests, but were integrated into the Indian Ocean trade systems, particularly in fishing and the production of local goods. The process of political modernization was gradual and relatively stable compared to other colonies in the region. The Maldives gained independence in 1965 and became a republic in 1968. In the subsequent period, a significant economic transformation took place, with the transition from a traditional economy based on fishing and local trade to a model strongly oriented towards international tourism, which today represents the country's main income.

In this framework, the territory is divided into fundamental geographical macro-areas:

- **NORTHERN ATOLLS – INCLUDE SYSTEMS SUCH AS HAA ALIF, HAA DHAALU AND SHAVIYANI, CHARACTERISED BY MORE REMOTE ISLANDS AND LOWER TOURIST DENSITY**
- **CENTRAL ATOLLS – INCLUDE NORTH MALÉ, SOUTH MALÉ AND ARI, WHICH REPRESENT THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TOURIST HEART OF THE COUNTRY**
- **SOUTHERN ATOLLS – INCLUDE ADDU AND GAAFU, WITH GREATER TERRITORIAL EXTENSION AND A STRONG PRESENCE OF INHABITED ISLANDS**
- **OUTER ATOLLS AND PERIPHERAL SYSTEMS – MORE ISOLATED AREAS WITH LESS URBANIZATION AND STRONG ECOLOGICAL VALUE, INCLUDING HUVADHU ATOLL, ADDU ATOLL (IN ITS MOST PERIPHERAL PART), FUVAHMULAH AND THE REMOTE ATOLLS OF THE LAAMU ATOLL GROUP, CHARACTERIZED BY LOW POPULATION DENSITY AND STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY**

The Maldives' airport network is concentrated mainly in the central atolls, with intercontinental connections and seaplanes allowing access to the more remote islands:

- **Velana International Airport** – The country's main airport, located on the island of Hulhulé near Malé, represents the international hub for all connections
- **Gan Airport** – Located in Addu Atoll, it serves the southern part of the country and acts as a second international gateway

In short, the Maldives is an extremely fragmented and delicate coral island system, where the geographic structure of the atolls is intertwined with a long history of cultural exchanges and external influences. Today, the country stands out for its balance between historical identity, environmental fragility, and strong tourism specialization.

BETWEEN REMOTE ATOLLS, TURQUOISE LAGOONS AND ISLAND GEOGRAPHIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR SINGLES, COUPLES, AND FAMILIES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

- **Singles** – In the northern atolls such as Haa Alif, Haa Dhaalu and Shaviyani, the more isolated and less visited setting allows for an independent experience of the islands, with local villages and nature still largely untouched by mass tourism, while in the central atolls (North Malé, South Malé and Ari) the higher concentration of connections and services makes it easier to move between inhabited islands, enjoy diving and take part in lagoon-based activities.

- **Couples** – In the southern atolls such as Addu and Gaafu, the greater territorial extension and widespread presence of inhabited islands create wide yet intimate landscapes, ideal for more secluded experiences among calm lagoons and expansive marine environments, while in the outer atolls and peripheral systems such as Huvadhu, Fuvahmulah and Laamu, an even more remote dimension emerges, with intact ecosystems, few settlements and a strong sense of natural isolation.

- **Families with children** – In the central atolls (North Malé, South Malé and Ari), the presence of well-established infrastructure and short distances between islands allows for simple and safe activities such as shallow-water snorkelling, boat excursions and organised beach days, while in the northern atolls it is possible to discover quieter and more authentic environments with small villages and easily accessible lagoons.

- **Families with teenagers** – In the outer and peripheral atolls such as Fuvahmulah, Huvadhu and Laamu, the more wild and less developed setting offers more dynamic experiences connected to marine nature, including diving, ocean wildlife observation and travel between more isolated islands, while in the southern atolls such as Addu and Gaafu inhabited areas alternate with wide natural spaces, ideal for more active and varied exploration.





DID YOU KNOW?

In the heart of the Maldives, on the island of Utheemu in the Haa Alif Atoll, stands the historic residence Utheemu Ganduvaru, linked to Sultan Mohammed Thakurufaanu, a key figure in the resistance against Portuguese occupation in the 16th century. This perfectly preserved wooden house is one of the rare surviving examples of traditional Maldivian royal architecture.

In the Laamu Atoll, the island of Isdhoo preserves one of the country's most important archaeological sites, featuring ancient pre-Islamic Buddhist remains, including stupa foundations and carved stone blocks. These artefacts reflect a historical phase that predates the nation's conversion to Islam, still largely invisible across most of the archipelago.

In the Baa Atoll, Hanifaru Bay is one of the most significant marine protected areas in the Indian Ocean. It is known for seasonal gatherings of manta rays and whale sharks, driven by unique plankton-rich conditions that make it one of the most studied marine ecosystems in the region.

In the Addu Atoll, the island of Gan preserves infrastructure from a former British military base dating back to the Second World War. Its internal road network connects multiple islands within the atoll, creating an unusual semi-urban configuration for the Maldives, with remnants of airstrips and colonial-era buildings.

In the Noonu Atoll, the island of Kendhikulhudhoo is defined by a strong fishing tradition and a close-knit island community organised around local mosques, schools and small harbours, set within a relatively undeveloped lagoon rich in marine biodiversity.

Finally, in the Raa Atoll, the island of Alifushi is renowned for its traditional wooden boatbuilding (dhoni construction), one of the oldest nautical crafts in the Maldives, still practised today using artisanal techniques passed down through generations.

Together, these places reveal a side of the Maldives beyond its resort image: an archipelago of historic residences, pre-Islamic Buddhist traces, colonial outposts, natural atolls and maritime traditions, where culture, history and the ocean are deeply and quietly intertwined.



JAPAN – BETWEEN THE PACIFIC ARCHIPELAGO, AN ACTIVE VOLCANIC ARC, AND HISTORICAL STRATIFICATION BETWEEN ISOLATION, MODERNIZATION, AND CONTINUOUS CULTURAL IDENTITY



Japan is located in East Asia, in the northwestern Pacific Ocean, and consists of a vast archipelago of over 14,000 islands, the largest of which are Honshū, Hokkaido, Kyūshū, and Shikoku. The country's position is determined by the interaction between the Pacific Plate, the Eurasian Plate, and the Philippine Plate, which have created a highly mountainous, seismic, and volcanic territory, located within the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire. The landscape is dominated by mountain ranges and inland ranges that cross the main islands, giving way to limited but densely urbanized coastal plains. This configuration has fostered a strong relationship between communities and the natural environment, with continued adaptability to geographic and climatic conditions. Temperate and subtropical forests still cover large portions of the territory, alternating with alpine zones and volcanic environments, often protected by an extensive network of national parks. Climatic conditions vary significantly from north to south, ranging from harsh winters with heavy snowfall in the northern regions to subtropical climates in the southern areas, contributing to remarkable ecological diversity. This environmental variety makes Japan one of the most complex and naturally diverse island territories in the entire Asian continent. Historically, Japan has one of the longest political continuities in the world, with origins dating back to the Jōmon period (c. 14,000–300 BCE), characterized by hunter-gatherer societies and one of the oldest known ceramic traditions in the world. Subsequently, in the Yayoi period (300 BCE–300 CE), rice cultivation, metalworking, and a growing hierarchical social organization spread, likely influenced by contact with the Korean Peninsula and China. During this phase, the first proto-state political nuclei began to form. During the Kofun period (3rd–6th century AD), a centralized political structure was consolidated around the imperial figure, while between the 6th and 8th centuries, Japan deeply absorbed Chinese and Korean cultural influences, introducing Buddhism and structured administrative systems that strengthened the state. During the Nara period (710–794), a first stable capital was established and the bureaucratic organization was further formalized, while in the subsequent Heian period (794–1185), the capital was moved to Kyoto and a highly refined aristocratic culture developed, with a strong artistic and literary apogee. From the 12th century, political power fragmented and the feudal system led by the samurai class asserted itself, with a progressive centrality of military power over imperial power. Between the 17th and 19th centuries, the Edo period (or Tokugawa shogunate, 1603–1868) developed, a phase of strong political and social stability under the control of the shogunate with its capital in Edo (present-day Tokyo). This period was characterized by a rigidly hierarchical system, significant urban growth, and a policy of relative isolation (sakoku), which severely limited external contact while maintaining controlled trade with China, Korea, and the Netherlands. The end of the Edo period coincided with the Meiji Restoration of 1868, which marked the end of the feudal system and the beginning of rapid political, industrial, and military modernization. In just a few decades, Japan transformed into a modern imperial power. In the 20th century, the country underwent a phase of expansion and subsequently the Second World War, which ended in 1945 with defeat and Allied occupation. The postwar period marked a profound economic and institutional transformation, with the birth of a constitutional democracy and industrial growth that led Japan to become one of the leading contemporary world economies.

The division of the territory covers the whole of Japan without exclusions, including all the main islands and peripheral systems:

- HONSHŪ (MAIN ISLAND) – POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CENTRAL AXIS OF THE COUNTRY, HOME TO TOKYO, OSAKA, KYOTO AND NAGOYA
- HOKKAIDO – A NORTHERN REGION WITH A COLD CLIMATE, VAST NATURAL AREAS, AND LOW POPULATION DENSITY
- SHIKOKU – A MOUNTAINOUS AND LESS URBANIZED AREA, WITH STRONG TRADITIONAL CULTURAL CONTINUITY
- KYŪSHŪ – SOUTHWESTERN REGION WITH HIGH VOLCANIC ACTIVITY AND HISTORICAL OPENNESS TO EXTERNAL CONTACTS
- OKINAWA AND THE RYUKYU ARCHIPELAGO – A SUBTROPICAL ISLAND SYSTEM WITH DISTINCT CULTURAL IDENTITY AND STRONG HISTORICAL SPECIFICITY
- MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS – INCLUDE REMOTE SYSTEMS SUCH AS THE OGASAWARA ISLANDS, WITH STRONG ECOLOGICAL VALUE AND GEOGRAPHICAL ISOLATION

In this complex and highly interconnected geographical context, the air network plays a fundamental role in ensuring mobility between the different areas of the country and in relations with the rest of the world:

- Tokyo Haneda International Airport – The capital's main urban hub
- Narita International Airport – International hub for the Tokyo region
- Kansai International Airport – Gateway to Osaka, Kyoto, and the Kansai area
- Chubu Centrair International Airport – Serves central Japan (Nagoya)
- Fukuoka Airport – Main gateway to Kyūshū
- New Chitose Airport – Main gateway to Hokkaido

In short, Japan represents a complex and highly integrated island system, combining a mountainous and fragmented geographical structure with extraordinary historical and institutional continuity. The balance between main islands, peripheral regions, and subtropical areas, combined with a long history of political and cultural evolution, defines a unique territorial model within the context of East Asia and the Pacific.

BETWEEN METROPOLISES, REMOTE ISLANDS AND LANDSCAPES BLENDING TRADITION AND NATURE

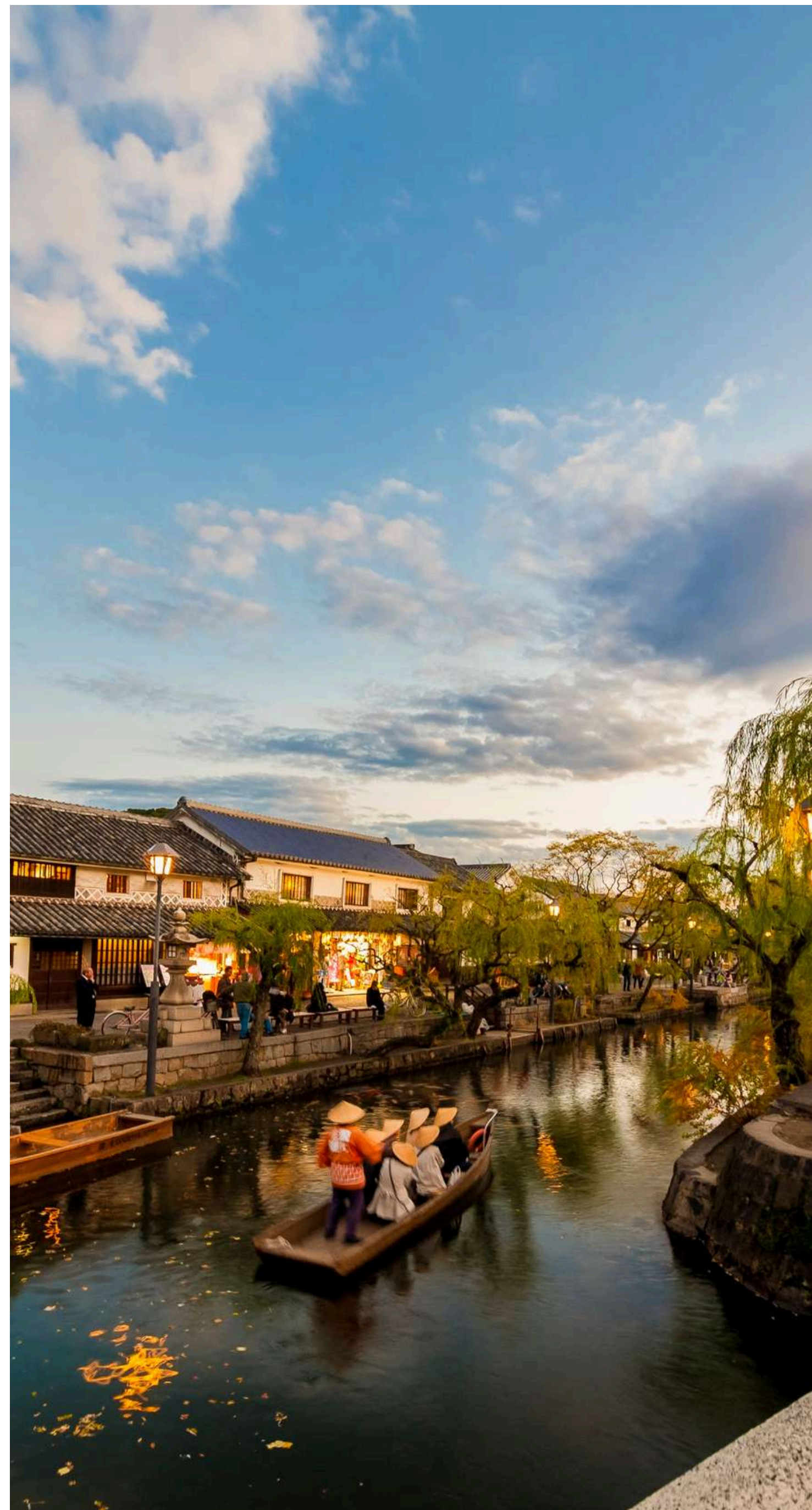
PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR SINGLES, COUPLES, AND FAMILIES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

- **Singles** – In Honshū, the country's main island, urban life alternates between dynamic districts such as Shibuya in Tokyo, cultural quarters in Kyoto and creative areas in Osaka, where modernity and tradition coexist seamlessly. In Kyūshū, cities such as Fukuoka and Nagasaki introduce a more open dimension, historically shaped by international exchanges, with ports, historic districts and less congested urban atmospheres.

- **Couples** – In Shikoku, the mountainous landscape and small historic towns along the 88-temple route create a more intimate and reflective environment, while in Hokkaidō lakes, national parks and vast natural spaces offer wide, silent scenery ideal for nature-based experiences. In Okinawa and the Ryūkyū Islands, the subtropical climate and coral beaches introduce a more relaxed, tropical dimension with a strong local cultural identity.

- **Families with children** – In Honshū, cities such as Tokyo and Kyoto allow a balance between interactive museums, urban parks and easily walkable districts, supported by an efficient transport system that simplifies travel. In Kyūshū, natural attractions and smaller cities offer simple experiences among volcanoes, hot springs and theme parks suitable for younger visitors.

- **Families with teenagers** – In Hokkaidō, vast natural areas and national parks support outdoor activities such as trekking, wildlife observation and seasonal sports, while in remote islands such as the Ogasawara, geographical isolation and untouched environments offer more adventurous experiences among marine nature, biodiversity and remote volcanic landscapes.





DID YOU KNOW?

In northern Japan, on the island of Hokkaido, lies the port city of Otaru, which flourished during the Meiji era as a key commercial hub. Its historic canal is still lined with stone warehouses (kura), now converted into museums and craft workshops, including the Otaru Music Box Museum, home to hundreds of antique music boxes and historical musical objects.

Also in Hokkaido, the area of Noboribetsu is famous for the volcanic valley of Jigokudani (Hell Valley), where fumaroles, sulphur springs and scenic trails reveal the island's geothermal origins. Nearby, the Noboribetsu Date Jidaimura recreates an Edo-period village with samurai residences and traditional theatres.

In the central region of Chubu, the city of Takayama preserves one of the best-maintained historic districts in the country. The Sanmachi Suji area features Edo-period wooden houses, active traditional sake breweries, and the Takayama Jinya, a former feudal government administrative building.

In western Japan, the city of Matsue is known as the “city of water” due to the canals surrounding its castle. The Matsue Castle, one of the few remaining original wooden castles in Japan, dominates the city alongside historic gardens such as the Gessho-ji Temple Garden, linked to samurai culture.

On the island of Kyushu, in Kumamoto, stands the iconic Kumamoto Castle, originally built in the 17th century and partially restored after the 2016 earthquake. The complex includes fortified walls, historical museums and feudal gardens such as Suizenji Jojuen Garden, designed to represent miniature landscapes of Japan.

Finally, in Aomori Prefecture, the Sannai-Maruyama Site is one of the most important Jomon-period archaeological sites. Its museum and excavation area showcase reconstructed prehistoric dwellings, communal structures and artefacts from one of the oldest known cultures in the Japanese archipelago.

Together, these places reveal a lesser-known but deeply layered Japan—made of historic ports, feudal cities, volcanic landscapes and prehistoric settlements, where history, culture and nature intertwine in a continuous and striking narrative.



CONTACT US

OUR EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT
TO PERSONALIZE YOUR
ITINERARY ACCORDING
TO YOUR NEEDS AND
WISHES



WOULD YOU LIKE TO REQUEST A QUOTE?

We hope you enjoyed this travel planner and inspired your next leisure trip.

If you want to organize your next leisure trip with us, we want to have a very transparent relationship with you and we ask you to pay close attention to the following aspects:

With the advent of the internet and booking sites open to the public, the travel industry has witnessed a great decline in terms of professionalism, quality of services offered and, unfortunately, also many scams. We recognize that organizing a good leisure trip is a **very complex operation**, for the reason that it is not a question of selling an item but a series of services that require **careful research and planning** and consequently also **a lot of time** in order to be able to offer customers the best in terms of quality - price.

We aim to offer travelers high standards of quality and care, but **we also want to work with customers who understand our value and commitment.**

For the reasons indicated above, before proceeding with the preparation of a leisure travel itinerary, we require aspiring leisure travellers to examine and choose between the two options indicated in the following pages.



ATLANTIC CLASSIC BASIC

It does not include any type of club or related benefits but only the classic tailor-made travel itinerary and quotation preparation service. In this case, to receive the above, you will have to proceed following the instructions indicated in the sub-heading "Steps to Follow".

QUOTATION FEE

- For US based customers \$15.00
- For UK based customers £15.00
- For EU based customers €15.00
- For Canada based customers Can\$ 25.00
- For Australia based customers AU\$ 28.00

If, after you have received our itinerary and tailor-made quotation, you decide not to proceed with the booking, the quotation fee is non-refundable but we will do everything possible to help you find the best travel solution.

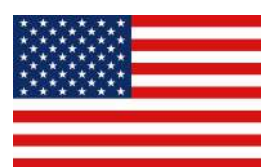
STEPS TO FOLLOW

1) If you need to request a travel itinerary and quotation, click on the first and second button. Fill out and submit the relevant forms.

TRAVEL CATEGORIES - ANCILLARY SERVICES

TRAVEL ITINERARY QUOTATION FORM

2) Click on the image relating to your country of residence and you will be able to finalize the process of paying for the quote by credit/debit card via PayPal by following the various steps that will be indicated.



3) In a short time, you will receive your travel itinerary and quotation from one of the partner agencies, Atlantic Travel & Tours Booking Point Agency, located in the country where you live, to which you can also ask to modify / adjust your travel itinerary.



ATLANTIC TRAVELERS CLUB

A club open to all but mainly frequent travellers that opens the doors to the following benefits:

- Request unlimited itineraries and quotes without paying the Atlantic Classic Basic quote fee every time
- 20% discount always active for all inclusive travel
- Assistance before / during / after the travel
- Constant updates concerning the travel industry
- Discounts and gifts based on availability

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP FEE

- For US based customers \$9.00
- For UK based customers £9.00
- For EU based customers €9.00
- For Canada based customers Can\$ 16.00
- For Australia based customers AU\$ 17.00

To join our Atlantic Travellers Club, follow the instructions indicated in the sub-heading "Steps to Follow".

You can cancel your membership at any time by writing to us by email.

1) Click on this button and you will be able to access membership form to fill in and send.

MEMBERSHIP

2) Click on the image relating to your country of residence and you will be able to finalize the payment process of the monthly membership fee by credit/debit card via PayPal by following the various steps that will be indicated.

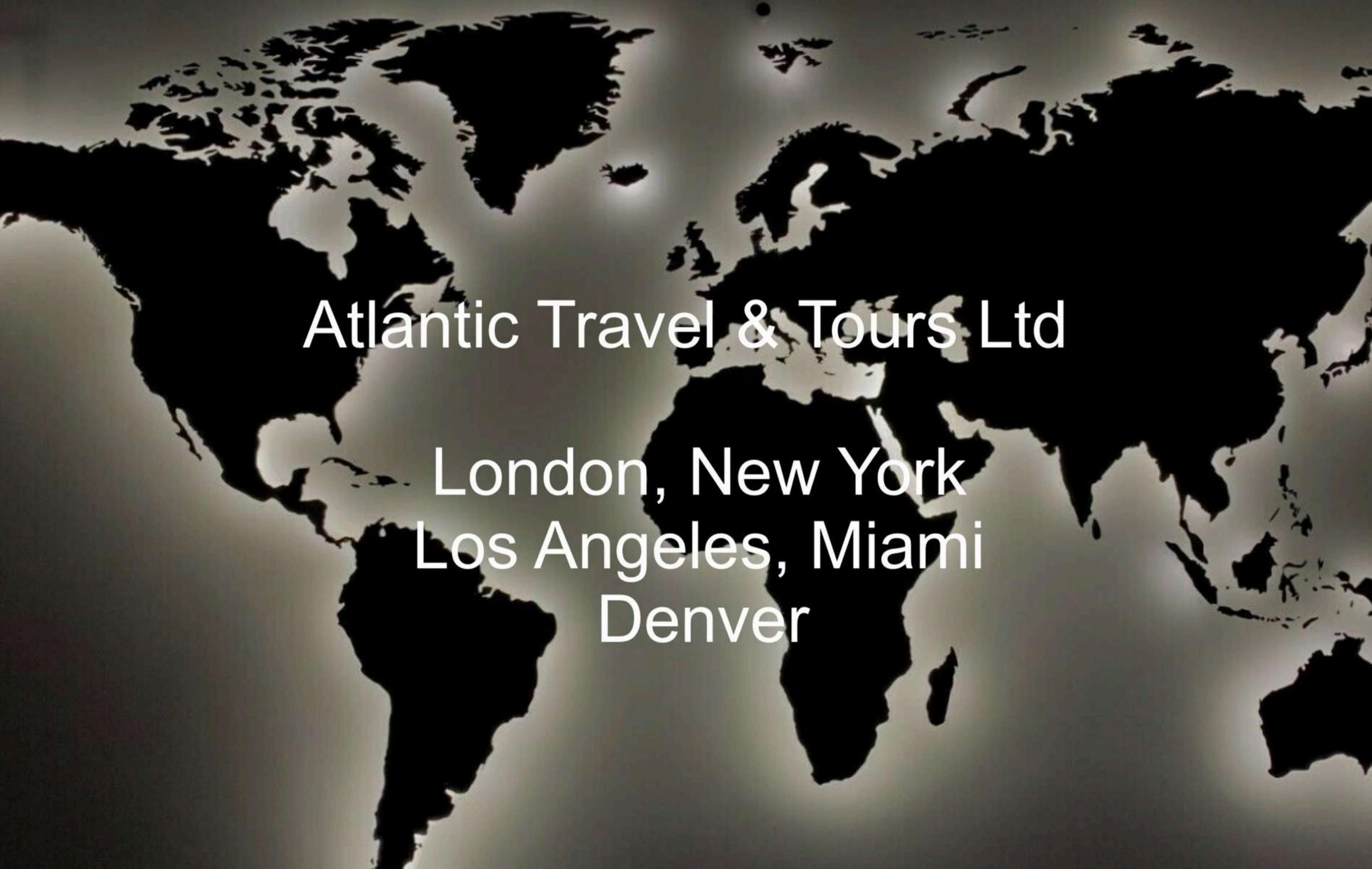


3) In a short time, you will receive welcome confirmation and you will be able to start enjoying the benefits described above.

4) Remember that you can request itineraries and quotes at any time by clicking on the first and second button. Fill out and submit the relevant forms.

TRAVEL CATEGORIES - SERVICES

TRAVEL ITINERARY QUOTATION FORM



Atlantic Travel & Tours Ltd

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