Phone: 415-381-5861 ◆ Fax: 415-367-3081
inquire@originalworld.com ◆ www.originalworld.com
CST Permit #2057026-40

Private Custom Tours: Original World offers private custom tours to all destinations below as well as additional ones not offered as group tours including: Southeast Asia, Taiwan, Korea, Spain, Italy, Scotland, Ireland, Turkey, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda.

2027 Calendar of Tours

INDIA & ASIA

North India Highlights: February 1-15 & Oct 30-November 12. A diverse exploration of North India including the Golden Triangle, Rajasthan, spectacular Chandela temples of Khajuraho, Varanasi on the Ganges. Fall tour incl Pushkar Fair. Ellora/Ajanta Caves post extension. Also offered as Private Classic Tour for 2-4 people; select your own dates

North India Royal Rajasthan: February 10-27 & November 2-19. Travel thru colorful exotic Rajasthan, land of the Maharajas! Visit India's majestic palaces, forts, the golden desert, picturesque Udaipur; the pink city Jaipur, exquisite Taj Mahal; stay at a Leopard camp with safaris. Jan with *Jaisalmer Desert Fair*; Nov with *Pushkar Fair.* Also offered as Private Classic Tour for 2-4 people; select your own dates.

North India In-Depth: November 3-23, 2027. One of the most comprehensive itineraries of North India. Travel through a diverse cross-section of India, both geographically and spiritually, from the Himalayas to the Ganges and through Rajasthan; Visit important sites of Buddhists, Hindus, Jains, Sufis, Sikhs & Muslims.

Ultimate India: North & South India: February 14-March 8 & October 28-November 19. The ultimate India tour! Historic sites, cultural traditions, stunning landscapes. Visit all the highlights at a comfortable pace; includes day trip on Kerala backwaters & overnight on a private island. November tour includes Pushkar Fair. This is a wonderful "first-timer" option. Also offered as Private Classic Tour for 2-4 people; select your own dates.

South India Highlights: February 2-17 & October 31-November 15. Explore the architecture and history of South India's temples and palaces and enjoy the peaceful ambiance of its abundant natural beauty. Extension to Ellora-Ajanta caves. Also offered as Private Classic Tour for 2-4 people; select your own dates.

South India In-Depth: February 2-24 & October 31-November 24, 2027. Continue from the highlights tour from Hassan to Hyderabad. We visit the remarkable ruins of Hampi as well as other well-preserved ancient sites in less touristic places.

Soul of Sri Lanka: February 18-March 6, 2027 with Nawan Maha Perahara. Journey through history from Colombo to the cultural heartland. Visit UNESCO cities Polonnaruwa, Sigriya, Dambulla and Kandy; see traditional performances; enjoy private lunches with distinguished literary and artistic residents.

Tribes, Textiles & Crafts of Gujarat: February 3-18 & November 6-21. Experience a diversity of tribal groups, wildlife and village festivals. Gujarat is known for its intricate, vibrant hand embroidered and woven textiles. Interact with textile families; observe traditional techniques and way of life.

Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam: February 22-March 13 with Sekrenyi Festival. December 2-21 with Hornbill Festival annually. Bordering Bhutan, China & Myanmar, approximately 76 different tribes inhabit this region & 80% of the land is still forested. The communities live by ancient tribal knowledge systems. Closed to foreigners for many years, its lush landscape and native cultures have remained virtually untouched.

Rural Rajasthan & Tribal Gujarat: November 13-December 4. After you have seen the Taj and visited the "Golden Triangle;" after the forts and castles of the glorious Maharaja period; after beautiful South India - return to India to see the traditional rural lifestyles of the people. Venture away from the chaos and congestion of India's cities and into the vast rural heartland of the fascinating states of Rajasthan and Gujarat. Feb: *Naguar Cattle Fair & Baneswar Tribal Fair.* Nov: *Pushkar, Shymalaji & Vautha Tribal Fairs.*

Villages, Culture & Crafts of Odisha: January 11-27 & November 30-December 15. The tribal groups in this region have highly developed artistic skills as seen in their body painting, weaving and wall paintings. Tour dates coincide with weekly village market days. Jan tour incl tribal fair; Nov incl Konark Dance Festival.

Pakistan North & South: October 15-November 2; Oct 19-Nov 6, 2027. Visit UNESCO sites of the Indus civilization, monuments and excellent museums of Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar & the renowned Hunza Valley. Option to join just the South or North separately.

Mongolia-Naadam Festival: July 10-25, 2027. Attend the exciting national festival honoring the nomads; visit cultural sites in Ulaanbaatar. Enjoy beautiful countryside & Gobi Desert.

Mongolia Eagle Festival: September 12-24. Travel to the remote region Bayan-Ulgii, visit the home of Kazakh eagle hunters; experience falconry activities, attend the exciting Eagle Festival. Both Mongolia tours are also offered as Private Classic Tour for 2-4 people; select your own dates.

Discover Bangladesh!: February 6-18 & November 6-18. Bangladesh is a colorful diverse nation and one of the least visited travel destinations! Visit the intriguing tribal culture of the Bandarban. Also offered as Private Classic Tour for 2-4 people; select your own dates.

THE HIMALAYAS: India, Bhutan, Nepal, Tibet

Kashmir & Ladakh: August 22 – September 3. Visit Kashmir; Fly to Leh visit remote ethnic groups and villages; spectacular landscapes. Precedes Ancient Cultures.

Ancient Cultures of the Indian Himalayas: September 3-20. Visit traditional villages and ancient monasteries in remote districts Kinnaur & Spiti Valley. Stunning landscapes; friendly locals. Few westerners! One of our flagship tours & dear to my heart.

Darjeeling-Sikkim Post Extension to Ancient Cultures Tour: September 20-25. Fly to Bagdogra; travel overland to Darjeeling and Sikkim. Visit Pemayangtse & Gangtok.

Bhutan Paro Festival with Darjeeling & Sikkim: Mar 13-April 3. Travel overland to Paro via Darjeeling and Sikkim. The drives are stunning thru through forests of oak, pine and orchids with the beauty of the Kangchendzonga range in the background. Option to join in Paro. Bhutan Only: Mar 20-April 3. Arrive by flight into Paro.

Bhutan Fall Festivals: October 10-22. Attend 3 different festivals on this exciting tour! Thimphu—the grandest of them all, and other festivals located in villages where lifestyle and traditions remain unchanged through the centuries.

Nepal & Tibet: April 3-15 & Oct 22-Nov 3. Magnificent monasteries and palaces with extraordinary ancient art and architecture; museums, bazaars; scenic Yamdrok Lake; soak up the stunning beauty of Tibet's landscape. Follows Bhutan Tours.

Tibet-Saga Dawa Pilgrimage: June 12-18, 2027. Tour Tibet & walk the Kora. Offered only as Private Classic Tour for 2-4 people.

CENTRAL ASIA

Heart of the Great Silk Road- 5 Stans: May 2-24 & Oct 8-30. Journey back in time on an epic Silk Route tour across Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan. Plus autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan. Precedes The Caucasus Tour.

AFRICA

West Africa: January 7- Feb 7 annually; October 28-Nov 28, 2026. Eight nations: Togo, Benin, Senegal, Gambia, Ghana, Cote d' Ivoire, Guinee, Sierra Leone. Jan tour with Voodoo Festival; Nov with Abissa Festival Embark on this exciting insightful tour; explore the exotic culture & enjoy immense beauty! Half Tour Offered.

Ethiopia: Historic North & Omo Valley: January 16-February 3 with Timket Festival. Explore old ruins and wonders including early churches carved from solid rock. In the Omo Valley, encounter the tribal cultures of the Hamer, Mursi & Dorze. Flexible, adventurous travelers will be enchanted; others may find travel in Ethiopia too stressful. Option to join North Jan 16-25 or Omo Valley Jan 24-Feb 3.

Europe

Bulgaria (7 Days) Romania (12 Days) Bulgaria & Romania (18 Days) with Moldova (21 Days). Bulgaria: Ap 23-30, Ap 30-May 7, May 12-19; May 30-June 6, Jun 8-15, Sep 4-11, Sep 18-25, Oct 3-10. Romania: Ap 29-May 10, May 6-17, May 18-29, June 5-16, Jun 14-25, Sep 10-21, Sep 24-Oct 5, Oct 9-20. Visit the painted monasteries, museums, art galleries, rural villages; exclusive invitations to a local egg painter & home of traditional "ceterasi" player; 10 UNESCO sites in the combined Bulgaria-Romania tour. Moldova Post Extension

THE BALKANS MODULES

Historic Villages of the Adriatic: Ap 30-May 17 & Sep 3-20. Start in Ljubljana and end in Dubrovnik (10 days) or end in Tirana (18 days). Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro.

Explorer: Bosnia-Montenegro-Albania-Macedonia-Kosovo-Serbia: May 10-30 & September 13-October 3. Arrival in Sarajevo and travel thru Bosnia visiting magical Mostar; continue to Montenegro. We cross the border into Albania visit Shkodra Lake and the traditional village of Kruja before arriving in Tirana where we meet the Albania group and travel together for the remainder of the tour. Ends in Belgrade. Option to add Bulgaria or Bulgaria-Romania post tour.

Undiscovered Albania-Macedonia-Kosovo-Serbia: May 15-30 & September 18-October 3. Visit historic sites, ancient ruins, and beautiful towns with fascinating history. Meet nuns and priests residing in orthodox churches. Option to end in Kosovo.

Comprehensive: Slovenia-Croatia-Bosnia-Montenegro-Albania-Macedonia-Kosovo-Serbia: April 30-May 30 & September 3-Oct 3. Arrival in Ljubljana travel thru the Balkans, ending in Belgrade. Eight Countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia. Option to add Bulgaria or Bulgaria-Romania post tour.

Baltics Immersion: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania: May 1-13 & September 4-16. This region is an exhilarating breath of fresh air! We'll soak up the history, architecture, beautiful countryside & quaint towns at a leisurely pace. This quiet pocket of Europe is not yet so visited by Americans.

Belarus Post Tour from The Baltics: May 13-19; September 16-22. Belarus Post Tour from The Caucasus: May 2-8; October 8-15. Belarus is a beautiful country with fascinating history, artistic gems, impressive architecture and old world charm.

The Caucasus: April 14-May 2 & September 20-October 8. Visit Armenia, Georgia & Azerbaijan, fascinating countries with rich ethnic complexities. Precedes Central Asia tour.

Treasures of Poland: May 1-17 & September 18-October 4. This hidden jewel of Eastern Europe is highly under-rated and largely forgotten by the North American traveler and what a pity! The country is laden with significant world history, diverse beautiful landscapes, traditional culture. Follows our Baltics Tour.

Poland Christmas Markets: Dec. Visit the traditional Christmas markets in Krakow & Warsaw and tour these cities. Offered only as Private Classic Tour for 2-4 people; select your own dates.

Madagascar Culture, Wildlife & Beauty: August 21-September 6. Rainforests, semi-arid desert huge canyons, oases, lunar landscapes and the unique eco-system of the "spiny forest." Ample opportunities to view wildlife close up. Easy hikes in the parks. Offered as Private Classic Tour for 2-4 people; select your own dates.

Morocco: March 21- April 6; September 26-October 12. Bustling markets, Roman ruins, Sahara, Atlas Mtns, Atlantic & Mediterranean coastline. Classic casbahs, wonderful handicrafts, a mélange of ethnic music. Includes medieval Fez, Rabat, Marrakech, Chefchaouen & Essaouira. Precedes Tunisia Tour. Also offered as Private Classic Tour for 2-4 people; select your own dates.

Tunisia: April 6-20 & October 12-26, 2027. Experience the splendor of historical & cultural sites; includes Carthage, the sacred site of Kairounan, north mountain region; many UNESCO sites. Pre-Tour Malta March 31-April 6; October 6-12.

Algeria: April 20-May 5, October 26-November 10, 2027. A vast country of breathtaking scenery, well-preserved Roman ruins, pre-historic cave paintings and a strong Berber culture. Travel from the sweeping shoreline to the majestic mountains, through the huge wilderness of the Sahara Desert into the palm-fringed oases.

MIDDLE EAST

Egypt-Jordan: April 17-May 5 & October 9-27, 2027. Immerse in these ancient biblical lands. Bask in the immense beauty, explore charming villages and enjoy friendly hospitality of the local people. Starts in Cairo and ends in Amman.

Mysteries of the Arabian Peninsula: U.A.E & Oman: October - November TBA. An immersive tour traveling to 5 of the United Arab Emirates: Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Ras al Kalmah & Abu Dhabi. Oman tour: Muscat, Sur, Nizwa, Salalah & Kasab (Musandam Peninsula), Wahiba Desert, Wadi Bani Khalid + more.

MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS MODULES

Corsica-Sardinia-Malta-Sicily-Cyprus- Crete: April/May & Sept/Oct. Six Islands-Five Countries! Visit these historic beautiful islands in one tour. Option to join only one country or any multiple of consecutive tours. Option to add Mainland Greece.

Corsica-Sardinia: Ap 21-May 2; Sep 26-Oct 6, 2027
Malta: May 2-8 & Oct 6-12, 2027
Cyprus: May 8-18 & Oct 12-22, 2027

Sicily: May 8-20 & Oct 6-18, 2027
Cyprus: May 20-May 30 & Oct 18-28, 2027
Add Crete following any Cyprus tour: 6 Days.
Mainland Greece: Jun 3-10; Nov 1-8, 2027

Malta: Mar 31-Apr 6 & Oct 6-12, 2027
Tunisia: April 6-20; Oct 12-26, 2027
Algeria: April 20-May 5 & Oct 26-Nov 10, 2027

Gulf States: Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar: November TBA. An intriguing region of the Arab world. We pack a lot of sightseeing into this short tour. Follows Arabian Peninsula.

Saudi Arabia: February & November. A nation seldom exposed to outsiders. UNESCO site Madain Saleh, colorful markets, desert landscapes, ancient monuments and hidden treasures. Precedes Gulf States tour. Drive across The Causeway. On hold.

Lebanon: April & September TBA (pre-tour to Egypt tours). Explore Lebanon's rich history of Phoenician, Egyptian, Greek, Persian, Roman, Arab and Ottoman cultural sites. On hold.

"Together We are One – Honoring our Diversity, Celebrating Our Connection." Thich Nhat Hanh




