



August, 2019

Welcome to this month's e-newsletter! Thank you for reading and for being part of the Zoom family, opening minds and hearts through travel while having an incredible time doing so.

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness," Mark Twain

[Visit our Website](#)

Featured Traveler: Wil, from Atlanta

Stephen and Wil have traveled extensively all over the world with Zoom Vacations. They have wanted to go to Russia with Zoom for some time now but did not want to wait until [Zoom Russia 2020](#). Given all the rhetoric about Russia, they also wanted a travel company they could trust to create a private trip for them that highlighted the best of Russian culture, history, architecture, and arts, and make them feel safe with gay-friendly guides and accommodations. So, of course they called Zoom. Here is what they had to say about their experience.

Zoom: What made you decide to have Zoom Vacations plan this trip you?



Wil: Because Zoom consistently thinks of the little details that make any trip great! I am a notoriously lazy planner, but also don't want to miss out on anything. Zoom is great at asking questions and putting together the pieces of the puzzle.

Zoom: What made you want to go to Russia in the first place?

Wil: Growing up, I was incredibly interested in learning about Imperial Russia, particularly the Romanov's. Being able to tour the grand palaces, view the exquisite art collections, and walk the down majestic embankments in St. Petersburg was a dream come true! Moscow, which wasn't even on my radar initially, proved to be a wonderful experience as well. It showcased a much more modern side of Russia.

Zoom: What was your favorite part of the trip?

Wil: The Peterhof Palace and its fountains. It was essential to tour Russia between May and September to see the fountains. They did not disappoint.

Zoom: We couldn't agree more, which is why this is part of our [tour September 5-14, 2020](#).

[Read on](#)



Zoom India

Colorful, outrageous, romantic and wild, India is a beautiful enigma. Its vibrancy will astound you, as will the warmth of its people.

India's rich history is palpable on every street corner, from its colonial and Mughal buildings to the battle-scarred forts and jewel-like palaces. From the charming rickshaws, to super-lux palace-hotels - a vacation to this incredible country will delight your eyes, nourish your soul, and open your heart on a journey you'll never forget.

Especially in a place like India, our Zoom Vacations guide will make the difference between a good vacation and one that completely blows your mind.



Zooming with Bryan

Mykonos is Calling

People often ask me where I recommend that they should vacation in the world, and for years I have been saying to place [Machu Picchu in Peru](#) at the top of the list. Reason being that every year I go back to Machu Picchu, there is less of Machu Picchu that is accessible to tourists. So, it is a place you want to visit now, so you can have the best experience.

Having just returned from Mykonos, I am placing it second on the list after Machu Picchu, but for totally different reasons. I think for a lot of gay people, when they come to Mykonos, they are expecting it to be mostly gay. It isn't. Don't get me wrong, there is still a huge amount of gay tourists coming to Mykonos, and the island is incredibly gay friendly, but as you walk around, it feels maybe 10% gay.

Some of my friends who live there, or own businesses there have told me that Mykonos is trending less and less gay every year. Another trend is that the island is becoming more and more expensive. You see this in the pricing of accommodations, but especially in cuisine and nightlife. When you're spending €15 for a vodka drink, a simple night out can get very expensive. Expensive, but still totally worth it, I must say. Still, the time to come to Mykonos is now, before the prices get much bigger, and the gay following becomes much smaller.

As an Island geared especially towards tourists, you would think that this influx of people would make shop and restaurant owners a little beat-down and less friendly. However, I was really blown away with this visit with just how nice people were. I found this to be true with both people



working on the island, as well as fellow tourists. It's as if people arrive in Mykonos just ready to be nice to each other. Service is excellent, food is really high-quality, and the shopping on the island is a really pleasant surprise.

[Read on, including tips for restaurants, hotels, and nightlife](#)

Zooming with Joel

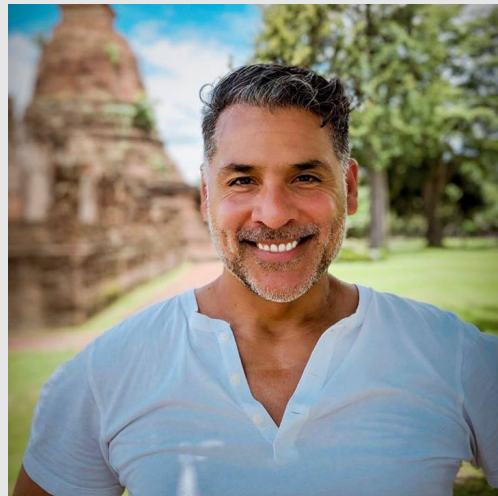
Israel in November

With Israel on so many people's minds these days as a tourist destination, I'm often asked when is the best time to visit Israel. I love mild weather, that is why Zoom Israel in November is heaven on Earth!

The weather is cool enough to make touring delightfully pleasant. In addition, the crowds of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv Gay Pride, and European summer vacation are gone, which gives us plenty of time to focus on the most historic places in the planet mostly all to ourselves.

I have to admit that just as important as the places that we visit is who we are visiting with, and our Zoom Guide in Israel is top notch, the best of the best. She is all at once den mother, archeological site curator and best friend. Plus the icing on the cake: I've always believed that life is about relationships and we have a wonderful friend in Tel Aviv that invites our Zoomers into her palatial home for a farewell dinner that stands out as one of our most memorable Zoom Signature Events ever. How could you ask for more?

[Read about our tour to Israel](#)



Zoom Southern Africa

September 20-30, 2019

With summer here, all we can think about is where we're going to spend our vacations. From lounging on the beautiful beaches of Mykonos, to island hopping in Croatia, our options for adventure this season are infinite. However, one destination continues to hold the number one spot in our

adventure-filled hearts: Southern Africa.



Few countries in the world have such a diversity of offerings, from dazzling city to remote safari. One really can't overstate the case for visiting Cape Town, this pulsating city that will leave you hungry for more. There's the in-your-face beauty of the most scenic stretches of coast in the world, the enormity of Table Mountain, incredible cuisine, and beautiful wine lands. Feel the immense power of nature as you marvel at the roaring spectacle of Victoria Falls. On our safari tour through Kruger National Park, and come face-to-face with lions, elephants, leopards, zebras, cheetahs and other creatures during sunrise and sunset game drives. Our safari guides will take you closer to the action than you ever imagined possible. Southern Africa's staggering natural beauty and awe-inspiring wildlife will touch your soul in surprising and unforgettable ways.

[Read about our tour!](#)



Egypt Dates Announced for 2020

September 26 - October 4, 2020

If you are wondering if people are traveling to Egypt like they used to, the answer is, "YES!"

Last year, Zoom Vacations announced our Egypt trip, and it immediately sold out. So, we added another, and it sold out. We added a third, and it sold out.

For 2019, both our upcoming Egypt trips are sold out.

While Egypt is obviously popular, perhaps the biggest draw of our trip is that we charter our own private yacht for 4 nights on the Nile, giving our travelers a truly carefree, luxe experience. Our travelers always rave about our Egyptologists, and every component of the trip is curated to be the best.

Limited to 12 guests, If you are considering Zoom Egypt, the time to act is now, as **the new dates were just announced today**. As members of Club Zoom, you are the first to hear about it!

[Read about this trip](#)



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