

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.

Fun Facts From Around the World

Egypt: Dead Mouse Paste. Who would put a dead mouse in their mouth? Ancient Egyptians did, with the hope that doing so would ease toothache pain. In some cases, mashed mouse was blended with other ingredients, and the resulting poultice was applied to the painful spot.

New Years Eve in Playa del Carmen

DECEMBER 28, 2020 to JANUARY 2, 2021
6 DAYS FROM \$3999

Known for its palm-lined beaches and coral reefs, Playa del Carmen, Mexico is the perfect New Years Eve getaway. Zoom Vacations has arranged gay-friendly 5 star OCEAN FRONT accommodations in the heart of everything, right on the beach, at the beautiful Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Visit the ruins of Tulum, swim in gorgeous cenotes in underground caverns, visit the charming 16th century town of Villadolid, and soak up the sun with plenty of beach and pool time.

Plus, enjoy a special Zoom Vacations New Years Eve celebration!

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All Gay Venice Simplon Orient Express Journey Moved to 2021

New Dates: November 2-4, 2021

For the first time ever, you can take the Venice Simplon Orient Express on an all-gay journey!

ITINERARY

NOVEMBER 2, 2021 - VENICE

Transport yourself into a realm of vintage glamour that knows no bounds as you begin your journey with an overnight stay at the legendary Belmond Hotel Cipriani on Giudecca Island in Venice. Party with us this evening at the Granaries of the Republic, restored to their 19th century glory, and the setting for countless celebrity celebrations.

NOVEMBER 3, 2021 - VENICE

Step aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, the most storied set of carriages in the world, that has been transformed into an outstanding party venue for this special journey! Gather in Bar Car



'3674' where our waiters serve wicked cocktails created exclusively for this journey. Your one-night journey includes a plush private cabin with round-the-clock steward, delicious fine dining with plenty of fun surprises as you enjoy a sense of community with your fellow LGBTQ+ travelers.

NOVEMBER 4, 2021 - PARIS

Arrive in Paris, the city of lights and love, where the journey ends, but a lifetime of friendships and memories have been created along the way!

Prices starting at £2,695 per person. Plus, Zoom Vacations has a special rate at a beautiful 5 star hotel in Paris. **360 €** per night, per room (*instead of 690 €*).

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Zoom Turkey

New Dates: October 26 to November 1, 2021

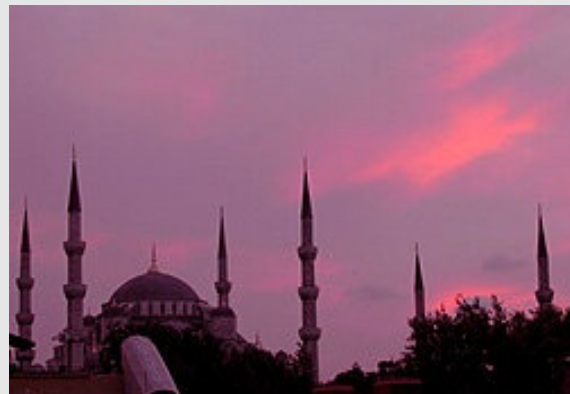
We have moved our Turkey tour dates to coincide with the Venice to Paris train journey.

Zoom Vacations tour to Turkey starts in the cosmopolitan city of Istanbul, whose incredible geographical location is the reason wars have been fought and lives lost. After Istanbul, we then take you to the fairytale land of Cappadocia, where man and nature have competed (or have they worked together) to create an otherworldly landscape of towering stones, caves, and other formations, amidst cliffs and mountains.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Accommodations at two of the best hotels in Istanbul and Cappadocia
- Several Zoom Signature events throughout
- Private tours of Istanbul & Cappadocia
- Yacht cruise of the Bosphorus
- Most meals, with wine included as well
- Hot air balloon over Cappadocia
- Optional post tours

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Zooming with Joel

While we haven't been able to do any international travel for a while, travel has certainly been on our minds. Mainly, we have been thinking a lot about how much travel inspires us in our everyday lives back home, touching all of our senses. In this 12 part series, Joel will take us through a journey,

showing how our travels continue to inspire all of us at Zoom Vacations.

Travel Inspires Cuisine

When we conducted our first trip to the Finnish Lapland several years ago, we had the best salmon of our lives, cooked over an open fire in our lodge. Since then, Bryan and I have been trying to recreate it. We finally discovered that grilling salmon over a soaked cedar plank, with steak seasoning on top was pretty darn close.

We also knew that as delicious as it was, it would go perfectly over our take on elotes (grilled Mexican street corn), a special recipe we learned while in Playa del Carmen, researching our tour for New Years Eve.

[Read on](#)



Zooming With Bryan

To Mask or Not to Mask

In America, no matter what side of politics you are on, I think we can all agree that the topic of Covid-19 masks has been quite controversial. I have seen people get incredibly upset at others for not wearing masks, and I have had people yell at me because I AM wearing a mask.

Dr. Fauci has received death threats, and his adult children have been harassed. Friends of mine who have dual citizenship in Canada and the USA just returned from a one month trip to Canada and said that it is literally hard to be back in the States because of the palpable tension they can feel here.

Perhaps because of my love of travel and interest in different cultures, I have been especially curious how citizens in different countries are handling the issue of wearing masks. Since I am part of an international travel expert social media group, I decided to ask them how people in their respective countries were adapting to wearing masks. Here were the responses I received.

South Africa

In South Africa, shops will not let anyone in unless they have a mask - no protests about wearing masks - everyone accepts that it is necessary and needed. People do heavily question government decisions and rules and regulations, so there are quite a few cases going to court on this.

~Luke Lalin

[Read on](#)





Book any 2021 Zoom Vacations Tour with no Deposit Down!

Book any 2021 tour with no deposit down until 6 months before departure, at which point you can cancel or deposit. This way you will have a spot reserved on one of our small luxury tours, with no commitment and no risk!

Also, you will be guaranteed our current rates, so you can ***dream now, and travel soon!***

For those of you who are dreaming of a getaway, visit our website to see tours from October 2020 through 2022.



At Zoom Vacations, we have always tried to create more than just the best vacation experiences for the LGBTQ+ community and straight allies. We are creating community, camaraderie, and a supportive brotherhood/sisterhood of likeminded travelers.

We hope that this email finds you safe and healthy, and if there is anything we can do to help you during this time, or if there is content you would like to see us create, please let us know. Our goal is to be a positive light for our community, both now and as we look to the future.

zoomvacations.com

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

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