



December, 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 NEW Website Home Page](#)



Trip Spotlight: Zoom Thailand

February 14 to 24, 2020

For those dreaming of a cuisine and culture immersed getaway, Thailand is an excellent destination choice. Food is a huge part of Thai Culture and can vary from region to region. There are four distinct styles of cooking in Thailand: Northern, Northeastern, Central and Southern.

Northern cuisine tends to be less sweet and less spicy, and is commonly paired with sticky (glutinous) rice. Sai Krok Isan (fermented pork sausage) is a popular street food in the Northeastern region. Due to the close proximity to the sea, people in the South tend to eat more fish than meat, and Central Thailand's cuisine tends to be salty, sour, spicy and sweet, like their famous dish, Pad Thai.



While some people think the overwhelming feature of Thai food is spice, the secret to why everything tastes so amazing is that each meal aims to provide a balance of five flavors: sour, sweet, salty, bitter, and spicy. In fact, you will never have to look far for your next meal or snack which embodies each of these.

From the humble street-food vendors, to the specialty seafood restaurants along the coasts, a plethora of fine dining and Michelin starred restaurants in the capital, or street food off the beaten path, Zoom Thailand is definitely one of our most delicious trips.

[Read more about this trip](#)



Zoom Vacations Peru Photos

Our Zoom Vacations tour to Peru was a lean, mean, traveling machine. For this month's newsletter, all the Peru photos have come from Zoom Vacations Peru traveler, Diego!

The photos he posted on Facebook really capture the trip experience beautifully.

You will see their paragliding in Lima, our welcome gourmet tasting menu dinner, the Sacred Valley of the Incas, historic Cusco, and of course, Machu Picchu. Enjoy!

[See the Photos](#)



Featured Traveler: Brad, from Randolph, NJ

Egypt, Featured Traveler, testimonial
Brad and his husband, John joined Zoom Vacations in Egypt last October. They have been on a number of trips with us, and it is always so much fun to travel with them. After this last tour, we received a meaningful email/testimonial from Brad. It's always nice to receive this kind of message, and so wonderful to share it. Truly, we hope all of our travelers feel they have the kind of experience that Brad has, and that we continue to do this (and even better) for years to come.
Traveling with ZOOM

My husband John and I have been on many tours and vacations with ZOOM Vacations. Tours have included, Australia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, India, Cuba, Jordan and Egypt. In addition to group tours, we have asked the ZOOM team to arrange for personal trips to places that are not on their regular tour list. We call ZOOM



when we are looking for a luxurious vacation with a knowledgeable local tour guide who will be sensitive to LGBTQ issues.

When on vacation I post a lot of pictures to Facebook to share with our grown children, family and friends. Whenever we return from a trip, friends always comment on the amazing pictures and the opulent luxurious hotel properties along the way. In addition to those comments, close friends and family also ask, "Is that with the agency you usually travel with?" They then ask about ZOOM and more details about the trip. It is so easy to see in the photographs the difference between a regular vacation and a ZOOM vacation.

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Zooming with Joel

Holiday Traditions Around the World

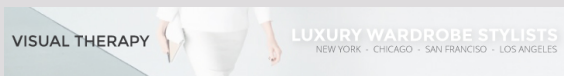
Having grown up in Puerto Rico until I was eight years old I recall Christmas was the longest holiday ever. It literally spanned three months of the year, from November to January. Seriously! It started sometime around Thanksgiving and culminated with Three Kings Day, or Epiphany, on January 6th. This was the day that the Three Kings are believed to have delivered gifts to the Baby Jesus on camel back.

I recall that although we had a Christmas tree and typical twinkling holiday light decorations, we would leave water and freshly cut grass for the camels under the Christmas tree on January 5th before going to bed. When we woke up on January 6th the Christmas tree was full of gifts and the water and grass were gone. Of course the camels took them! So, about this time of the year I always reflect on how other cultures and countries around the world celebrate Christmas. Here are a few observations:

[Read on](#)



Zooming with Bryan
Your Travel Clothing Capsule



"I under-packed for this vacation," said almost no one ever.

I decided to take a vacation to Miami because I needed an escape from the Chicago cold. I was traveling with my friend, Jesse Garza, who owns a wardrobe and luxury consulting company called Visual Therapy, based in New York City. I was talking to Jesse a few weeks ago, and he surprised me when he told me that he only travels with a carry-on. He always looks so polished and put-together, and I just figured that he must be the type of guy who brings several checked bags in addition to carry-on.

Before our trip to Miami, he and I spoke on the phone a little bit about what we each planned to pack and what we would need for the trip. We then continued our conversation about packing, under sunny skies around a pool in Miami, Jesse and I discovered that we have very similar views on packing for trips. Essentially, it is all about feeling liberated and enjoying the actual vacation instead of being a slave to your luggage.

[Read on](#)

Turkey and the Train

Our group tour to Turkey coupled with the All Gay Orient Express train from Venice to Paris

Our back-to-back trips create the perfect vacation steeped in culture, beauty, antiquity, and glam.

Zoom Turkey: October 31 to November 6, 2020
Orient Express Train: November 7-9, 2020

Selected Highlights from Zoom Turkey

- 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

Train Journey Highlights

- One night at the Belmond Hotel Cipriani, Venice
- Gala dinner in Venice
- One night on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express from Venice to Paris
- Private Cabins with 24-hour cabin Steward
- Fine Dining aboard - all meals included
- Wine, beer, and soft drinks included with meals
- Spectacular scenery and surprise entertainment
- Optional pre tour to Turkey and post tour to Paris

[Read more about our tour to Turkey](#)



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