



July, 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 Travelers: Stephen and Aaron from Rocklin, CA

Stephen and Aaron left their busy lives in Rocklin, including parenting their twin three-year-olds for a much-needed vacation to Israel with Zoom Vacations. These two were always open for anything, and truly immersed themselves in the local culture. Stephen made some time to talk with us a bit about their experience on Zoom Israel.

**Zoom:** Why did you decide to make this trip a Zoom Vacations?

**Stephen:** We came across Zoom Vacations many years ago at a Pride event, I think. Then I saw another advertisement in a gay magazine. By then I had already signed up for the monthly newsletter. I loved seeing people's travel notes and seeing the amazing



places that Zoom Vacations visited. All that was needed was for our schedules and one of our desired places to travel align and we would be off! Finally, it happened with the Jordan/Israel trip in June 2019. We wanted to explore and learn about this area of the world, but wanted to travel comfortably as ourselves – a gay couple. We knew Zoom would create this for us.

**Zoom:** Did you make new friends on this trip?

**Stephen:** We made several close friends on this trip and have already made plans to see them soon. Honestly, sharing this sort of great travel experience with other gay men was really a lot of fun. Several of us went to dinner together in many of the cities we visited and really bonded about our daily adventures.

**Zoom:** How do you think this trip would've been different if you had done this on your own rather than with Zoom's gay group?

**Stephen:** While I'm sure we would have seen some of the same places, we never would have had such an in-depth education on it as we did from our amazing guide. Also, the ease of transitions between sites as well as navigating customs at the airport/border were all arranged by Zoom and this took so much pressure and anxiety off of me.

[Read on](#)

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## Zoom Israel Photos

If you follow Zoom Vacations or Zoom's Bryan Herb on social media, then you likely saw many photos from our tour to Israel for Tel Aviv Gay Pride last month. Since a picture speaks a thousand words, these images will give you a great idea of what the trip entailed.

On our tour, we visited Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, Tel Aviv, and Bethlehem. Plus, several travels also joined us for Zoom Jordan, where we visited Amman, Petra, and the Dead Sea!

[See the photos](#)





## Zooming with Bryan

### Physical Fitness: An Essential Part of Your Vacation

One of the greatest gifts of traveling is the ability to leave our every day stresses miles away and for a short time enter a land of make-believe. For many of us, our vacation truly ends and reality sets in the moment we jump on the scale back home. Yikes! Suddenly, our happy vacation memories are replaced with guilt, and all that we can remember in the moment is how much we ate, and how little we exercised.



The fact is it can be very difficult to stick to our fitness regimen while we travel. We have an entirely new schedule, our sleeping patterns change, and we're busy having fun and eating everything in sight. And the real challenge is *who wants to travel to the world's most beautiful places, only to spend hours of your day in the gym?*

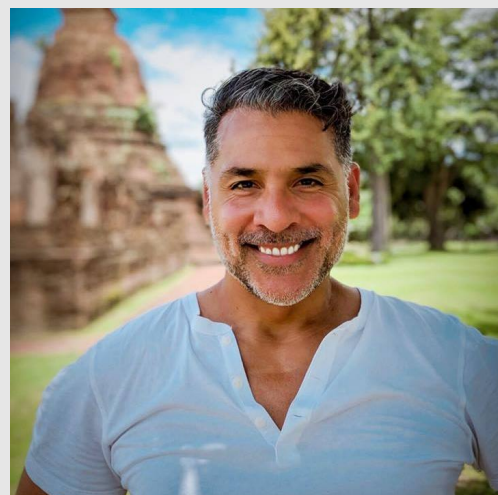
[Read on](#)

## Zooming with Joel

### Tips for Traveling to Conservative Countries

Many countries in the world have a conservative view on LGBTQ issues, to say the least. This issue is not lost on me since I travel to many "conservative" places, where, as a practical matter, the societies are permissive and have never been bothered me at all as a gay man traveling alone, with my partner, with friends, or in a group. With that being said follow these insider tips and you should be ready to go anywhere:

\* Cultural intelligence: Respect the local customs and laws when traveling, and you will be respected in turn. Just as we expect visitors in our country to abide





by our cultural rules and laws, you will have a positive travel experience when you do the same abroad.

\* Know the difference between reality and perception: Many conservative countries in the world are conservative on an official level due to their government structure and/or local customs, but that as a practical matter welcome the LGBTQ community without fanfare. So, chances are if other gays are going there, like myself, it's safe for you to go as well.

[Read on](#)



## Zoom Southern Africa

February 19-26, 2019

At Zoom, we travel not to escape life, but for life not to escape us. We invite you to join us September 20-30, 2019 to experience one of the most beautiful places on the planet: [Southern Africa](#).

South Africa is often referred to as the Rainbow Nation, a term coined by Archbishop Desmond Tutu to describe post-apartheid South Africa and made famous by President Nelson Mandela in his first month of office, when he proclaimed: "Each of us is as intimately attached to the soil of this beautiful country as are the famous jacaranda trees of Pretoria and the mimosa trees of the bushveld – a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world".

South Africa is a magnificent country with an incredible display of natural splendor, varying from the majestic coastal scenery around Cape Town in the south to one of Africa's most famous safari destinations, Kruger National Park, in the north, with the vast Karoo semi-desert across its heart. The nation also harbors one of Africa's most diverse cultural melting pots, a phenomena obscured by decades of enforced racial segregation, but now fully alive in the larger cities, creating a thrilling creative scene.

Our [Southern Africa](#) tour also includes the opportunity to experience one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World: Victoria Falls, in Zambia. The entire tour is loaded with special experiences that characterize Africa's finest – from extraordinary wildlife encounters, the best guides, food and wine, and most luxurious accommodations.

[Read about our tour!](#)

## Antarctica

### Two cabins left on Zoom Antarctica

Are you the adventurous type? Looking for a one-in-lifetime experience adventure? Would you like champagne with that?

Adventure is the very nature of an expedition to Antarctica. Traveling to Antarctica means exploring one of the most untouched destinations

on the planet. Zoom Vacations is excited to share this high-end travel experience and explore the mysterious continent at the bottom of the world with you. ‘

We have 2 available cabins open, book by August 1, 2019 to guarantee your spot on this otherwise sold-out trip. After this date, no cabins will be available.

1 Deluxe Suite: \$19,195 Per person  
(\$28,390 for single traveler)  
1 Owners Suite: \$19,995 Per person  
(\$29,990 for single traveler)

[Read about this trip](#)



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