



June, 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: Alexis, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin

We always say that the more mixed our trips are, the better. So, when Alexis joined our [China](#) trip, we were excited for the additional diversity, and even more thrilled because she is such a wonderful person to travel with. Alexis spoke with us about her recent trip with Zoom Vacations to China!

**Zoom:** How did you learn about Zoom Vacations?

**Alexis:** It was between Christmas and New Years break and I was thinking about how as of January 1st my vacation gets replenished. I wanted to start thinking about where I wanted to go in 2019. I wanted to do something a little more outside of my comfort zone. In the beginning of 2018, I had



travelled to multiple countries in Europe and then in the fall did an Iceland trip so I really wanted to do something in Asia next. I did an internet search for gay friendly tour companies since I didn't want to do my first Asian trip on my own. [Zoom](#) was one of the first companies that popped up in my search. I loved the trips that Zoom had on their list. So many of the countries that were listed on the website I was interested in but they were more exotic so harder to necessarily plan yourself. I am totally comfortable planning my own stuff for places like Europe, Canada, etc but I wanted more help with something like [China](#). I sent Zoom an email and Joel actually called me the next day which was unexpected. He seemed really nice and welcoming on the phone and encouraged me to come even though I would likely be the only lesbian on the trip. I was pretty much sold after that conversation.

**Zoom:** You booked the trip solo. Do you like traveling alone?

**Alexis:** This was my first really big trip alone. I have done smaller trips where I was going somewhere in the United States to visit a friend and maybe I would take a couple days to do something myself. I admit I didn't really feel alone since we had a small tour group.

[Read on](#)



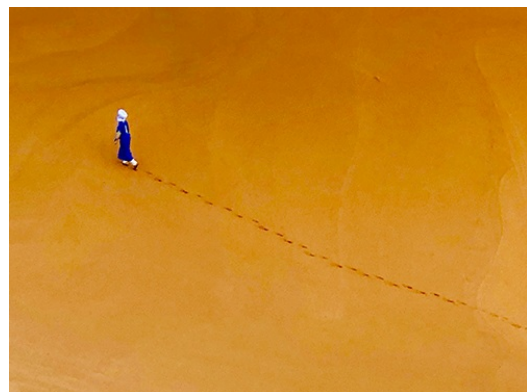
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## Zoom Morocco Photos

If you follow Zoom Vacations or Zoom's Joel Cabrera on social media, then you likely saw many photos from our tour to [Morocco](#) 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 Casablanca, Tangier, Chefchaouen, Fez, Sahara Desert, Ouarzazate, and Marrakech, while enjoying some of the best hotels and restaurants in the country! Enjoy! You may also see more photos from this trip and others if you follow [Joel Cabrera](#) on Instagram.

[See the photos](#)



[See our tour to Morocco, April 4-15 2020!](#)

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## Zooming with Bryan

### Travel, the Anecdote to Prejudice

This famous quote by Mark Twain has long been one of my favorites: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

While I know that what Mark Twain wrote is true, I have been pondering lately about the extent to which it manifests itself today, not just in the US where I live, but also around the world where I travel. For instance, a friend of mine recently left Oregon to visit the Southeast of the United States. He is a straight white male, and was traveling with a black male colleague.

When they got to their hotel, a man at the hotel front desk told them that he was surprised that they had not been arrested yet. They looked at the front desk attendant quizzically, and it turned out that he was making the reference to the colleague being black, and to their both being from Oregon, and traveling in the South.

My friend knew on some conceptual level that racism exists in the South and perhaps in a different way than it does in the Pacific Northwest, but being there and seeing it firsthand was a completely different story. It was eye-opening, to say the least, how overt the negativity and racism was that they were experiencing, and that exists for so many Americans as well as other people around the world on a daily basis.

Of course, it went beyond just this experience with this front desk worker. On the streets he saw more confederate flags than he ever saw in his life, as well as overtly racist bumper stickers.

[Read on](#)



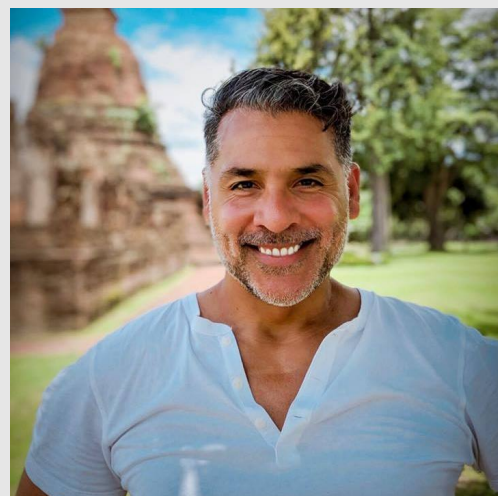
## Zooming with Joel

### The Next "It" Destination: Antarctica

I often get asked what is the next "it" destination and where I would like to go next. Well the next "it" destination in my book is a place that has become famous because within my lifetime it will go from one of the coldest, most desolate places on earth to a warmer more populated region: [Antarctica](#).

Whether you believe in global warming or not and whether you prefer to call it something different based on your beliefs, the reality is that Antarctica is changing due to the human footprint in other parts of the world. Today, Antarctica remains a desolate and eerily quiet, pure, pristine continent.

The few cruises that go there do their best to leave as little a human footprint as possible. Of course that pristine nature will change in the not-so-far future And that is why I want to go to Antarctica now before it changes irrevocably.

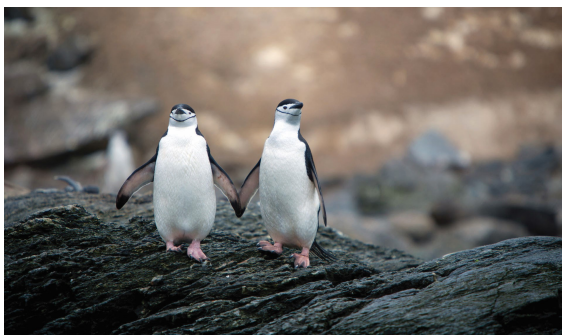


Zoom Antarctica will be the first gay group Antarctica cruise we offer, and the way Antarctica is melting it may be the last. But we also have booked many guests on private trips to Antarctica this year and each guest has come back awestruck and in disbelief about the beauty and complete sense of majesty that Antarctica holds.

They are all well-traveled people, and each has come back to say that there is no place on Earth quite like it because currently there is no sign of humanity; no power lines, no jet plane exhaust lines crossing the sky, no windmills, no highways, no anything. Just them and the penguins, water, icebergs and whales, just to name a few things one can expect to see in Antarctica.

Book by August 1st to confirm your spot on this trip. After that time we need to give back the unsold cabins and we will *never* see them again because the cruise is sold out. They have a waiting list which will eat up all the cabins we give back immediately.

[Read about next year's tour to Antarctica.](#)



## Antarctica! February 19-26, 2020

Did you know that Antarctica is melting three times as fast as a decade ago? A continent roughly the size of the United States and Mexico combined, Antarctica is indeed melting, and a recent study shows that the melting is speeding up.

So, literally, the time to go to Antarctica is now! Zoom Vacations is bringing our gay group on Quark Expeditions' **new boat!** We wanted to bring a group in 2019, but our desired boat wasn't ready in time. Now, things are a go, and we have a limited number of cabins reserved. Once the ship is full, there is nothing we can do to accommodate last minute requests. So if you have always wanted to visit Antarctica, act now!

In the Antarctic, crossing the Drake Passage is first on the agenda. While most companies have you sail its sea-sickness inducing, notoriously rough waters, that isn't how we do things at Zoom Vacations. We take this wild card out of the equation, by flying over the Drake Passage.

***We are currently holding the following cabins on this voyage.***

Triple: \$9,995 Per person  
SOLD OUT, Waitlist only

Veranda Suite: \$16,495 Per person (\$28,042 for single traveler)

Deluxe Suite: \$19,195 Per person (\$28,390 for single traveler)

Owners Suite: \$19,995 Per person (\$29,990 for single traveler) SOLD OUT, Waitlist only

[Read about our tour!](#)

## Our Israel Tour in Real Time

Zoom Vacations is currently on our tour to Israel, including Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and Tel Aviv for Gay Pride!

Follow Bryan Herb and Zoom Vacations in real time in Israel on social media. You will see tantalizing photos and videos of the region, and learn if this tour is right for you this November, or for June, 2020!

[Bryan Instagram](#)

[Bryan Facebook](#)

[Zoom Vacations Instagram](#)

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[Read about our tour](#)

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 ZOOMVACATIONS.COM

[www.zoomvacations.com](http://www.zoomvacations.com) | 1.773.772.ZOOM (9666) | [info@zoomvacations.com](mailto:info@zoomvacations.com) |

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