



March, 2020

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



Zoom Antarctica Photos

If you feel like you have heard a lot about Antarctica lately, you are probably right. It has been in the news for several years, as scientists evaluate the effects of global climate change. Most recently, it has been in the news as the only continent untouched by the Corona Virus. What you may not have heard, is how stunningly beautiful it is, rich with magnificent glaciers, mountains, icebergs, and truly abundant marine wildlife.

[See the Photos](#)

Cooking With Zoom

Marvelous Malva Pudding

Malva Pudding is a traditional [South African](#), sweet, decadent sticky dessert. With a caramelized exterior, and liquid soaked cake interior, this dessert is easy to make using all standard pantry ingredients.

Cake ingredients

1 cup sugar
2 large eggs, room temp
3/4 teaspoon fine sea salt
1/4 cup apricot jam
1 1/2 tablespoons melted unsalted butter
1/2 teaspoon vinegar
1 cup whole milk
1 cup AP flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 teaspoon baking soda

[Get the Full Recipe](#)



Featured Traveler: Jeff, from Naples, Florida

Jeff came to Antarctica on a large cruise ship years ago, but on that trip, they weren't allowed into the smaller bays and were not allowed to step foot on the continent. So, he had to see the world's most untouched continent from a distance. Zoom Vacations' tour to Antarctica on Quark Expeditions' ship gave Jeff the up-close-and-personal experience that he was looking for.

Zoom: How have you valued vacationing in the past?

Jeff: As a physician, I value vacation as a much needed stress reliever and getaway from the trials and tribulations of a demanding career and hectic social schedule. I look for vacations that are going to completely transport me to a new and totally different perspective on life.

Zoom: Did you have any epiphanies during the trip?

Jeff: Visiting Antarctica made me realize how such a very small world we live in, and that Mother Nature is truly magnificent and a force to be reckoned with.

Zoom: What was the best part or highlight of the trip?

Jeff: The highlight for me was seeing all the penguins, my favorite bird, including the Adelle penguin which is 1 of only 2 penguin species to breed solely in Antarctica; and doing the Polar Plunge into the cold waters of the Southern Ocean (so now I've swam in 4 of the 5 oceans of the world - all I have left is the Arctic). Oh, and stepping foot on the Antarctic continent! (I guess there were more highlights than I expected)!



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The Highly Anticipated Grand Egyptian Museum To Open This Year

When it opens, the \$1 billion mega-structure will display 50,000 artifacts, with thousands more in rotation.

The vast 5.2-million-square-foot museum will house more than 100,000 objects, including 30,000 that have never been exhibited before. Highlighted will be the entire 5,000-piece funerary collection of King Tutankhamun, including his sandals, chariot, and cheetah-skin shield – the first time in history that the full collection will be on display.

For our Zoom Egypt tour, we are adjusting our Cairo itinerary to account for the sheer scale of the new museum. We have one space left for our next Egypt tour, so act now to avoid disappointment.

[Read about our tour to Egypt](#)



Zooming with Bryan

Antarctica: More Than Just a Cool Place

Many of our travelers have traveled extensively to the world's most popular destinations, but Antarctica remains a place many have not visited. Since no country owns Antarctica, (although several countries claim various areas) there are no antigay laws in place. Various treaties have set up Antarctica exclusively for scientific research, and have banned military activity.

As I mentioned, while a few of these countries have mutually recognized each other's claims, the validity of these claims is not recognized universally. So, in a strange way, Antarctica is one of the safest, most open places in the world for LGBTQ+ travelers. It is a destination where all are welcome.

It is also a simply spectacular place to visit, and one of the most beautiful, pristine places on the planet. Having just come back from Antarctica with a Zoom Vacations group, I can tell you that our gay group absolutely loved it. We were on an expedition ship that allowed us to access Antarctica's wildlife-rich peninsula and islands. Leaving the ship on Zodiacs, we took Zodiac cruises, observing whales, seals, gorgeous icebergs, and more. These same Zodiacs took us the continent itself, where it was all about walking with penguins.

While a few companies do offer luxury tent options in Antarctica, where one lands on an ice runway, and makes camp at Union Glacier Camp, most people will visit Antarctica via ship, and explore the Antarctica Peninsula.

The Antarctic peninsula is a mountainous area where one will see icebergs, glaciers and a great amount and variety of wildlife. It is the most scenic of all Antarctic regions, making it a photographer's paradise.

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Zooming with Joel

The Reason Airlines Canceled Flights to China And Beyond During the Coronavirus May Surprise You

Every so often the universe throws us a curve ball. Just when you think everything is going great - the economy is roaring, the weather is beautiful, the birds are chirping and SURPRISE— a new virus is born. Hello Coronavirus (Covid-19)! This latest virus started in Wuhan, China and it is has reared its head in many places around the world.

The Coronavirus is no joke. Many people have been infected globally and some have died. Understandably, China took measures to quarantine part of their population. Some countries around the world instituted measures to protect their citizens by preventing anyone coming from China, whether Chinese or other, to enter their country. As a result we saw airlines cancel flights to and from mainland China and Hong Kong. But the real reason for the cancelations caught me by surprise.

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