



November, 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 Rwanda and Tanzania: Gorillas, the Great Migration, and More

October 30 to November 9, 2020

If you ask Zoom's Bryan Herb what his all-time favorite Zoom Vacations moment was, he would tell you that it was encountering a herd of migrating wildebeests at sunset during our Zoom Vacations tour to Rwanda and Tanzania.

During our tour, we literally lodge-hop on executive-class Cessnas throughout Tanzania until arriving in Rwanda for our gorilla safari. The planes have custom-designed interiors, replete with bespoke white leather seating and mahogany embellishments.



Of course, the planes undergo rigorous and regular safety maintenance, meeting the highest international standards. Each plane hosts 9 seats, meaning space is limited for this trip!

As you can see, this is not your run-of-the-mill Africa safari experience. This is something truly spectacular; something that will bring you face-to-face with gorillas and safari animals like never before; something that will pamper and thrill you every day; something that will live in your memory forever. This is Zoom Rwanda and Tanzania.

[Read on](#)

Zoom Vacations Egypt Photos

Our Zoom Vacations tours to Egypt have been so popular, that they have sold out, encouraging us to add additional Egypt tours running back-to-back. Why so popular? Firstly, Egypt is just a spectacular destination, with some of the world's most captivating and at times *unbelievable* treasures.

Then there is the fact that Zoom Vacations' tour is, well, pretty darn amazing. We have our own beautiful historic yacht on the Nile, and stay in the best hotels in Cairo and Giza.

Like all Zoom Vacations tours, the trip features several signature events, and our guide is one of the country's best Egyptologists! This is a tour where the photos simply do not do it justice.

You can read more about this on Bryan's [blog](#).

[See the Photos](#)



Featured Traveler: David from NYC

David is one of the most interesting, kind-hearted, insightful, open-for-anything people you could ever hope to meet, so having him on our first of two tours to Egypt was an absolute pleasure. David shared with us a bit about what captivated him about Egypt.

Zoom: What would you say to someone considering a trip to Egypt?

David: Anyone considering going to Egypt, as Nike says, should Just Do It. Suspend all the fear based-media, and open yourself to possibilities. You will be thrilled, excited and it will be memorable.

Zoom: What was your favorite part of our private



yacht ride down the Nile?

David: I was truly amazed at the sites along the Nile. It felt so surreal. A major highlight was waking up early, taking a ride on a horse and going to the Temple of Edfu. Oh, and who can forget the warmth of our boat hosts who whenever I would make a request, the response was always, 'With pleasure'.

[Read on](#)

Thailand and its Elephants

From intricately designed temples to one of Thailand's most famous beers, elephants in Thailand certainly have quite the reputation as a cultural icon. Chang, meaning elephant, is a symbol of royalty and fortune.

Recently, the strong, calm, gentle giants have been used for such non-royal tasks as transporting timber in teak forests and walking the streets of Bangkok. In recent years the discussion of riding elephants anywhere in the world has been a huge ethical issue. Elephant tourism in Thailand has gone through a transitional phase.

Zoom Vacations only takes our travelers to virtuous compounds that dedicate their lives to providing a happy, healthy, and safe home for elephants to thrive. Visitors can interact with the animals in totally natural ways - like bathing them or walking with them through the jungle greenery. Do we get on top of the elephants? Well, yes, but that is only to bathe them, not ride them, and the elephants LOVE it. You know that feeling when you have an itch you can't scratch, and then someone helps you out? Well, we are that person for these sweet and gentle beasts.

If you are looking to enjoy world-renowned cuisine, breathtaking beaches, and spectacular Buddhist temples, and want to see just how majestic these creatures are, join us on our Thailand 2020 trip. The magic of Thailand is truly unfiltered and unforgettable.

[Read about our tour to Thailand, February 14-24](#)





Zooming with Bryan

This Popular Destination for Gay Travelers May Surprise You

When people ask me what our most popular destination is that we offer, they are always surprised by the answer. For the past three years our trip that sells out every time is our trip to Egypt. In fact, two years ago, our trip sold out within two days. So, we added another trip to Egypt back-to-back with the first. That sold out within a week. With that, we added another trip, and that sold out as well. So yeah, apparently there are a lot of gay people who really want to go to Egypt.

Having just been there with the group, I was struck by what the appeal is to go to Egypt. I have been able to travel to Egypt a few times, but seeing it through the eyes of people experiencing it for the first time is really special. In Egypt you have the opportunity to see unbelievable architecture, carvings, and other ancient artifacts that simply blow your mind.

[Read on](#)

The Train, The Train

All Gay Venice Simplon Orient Express, November 7-9, 2020

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

Itinerary

NOVEMBER 7, 2020 - 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 8, 2020 - 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 9, 2020 - 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, we are adding a pre tour to Turkey, and post tours in Paris! Stay tuned for more information.

[Contact us for more information](#)





Zooming with Joel

Mosaics, Myrrh, and More in Morocco

Travel is my passion, which you probably know if you've been reading my blog. Over the last few months I've revealed my passion for shopping while I travel. The funny thing is that I don't enjoy shopping at home as much. I don't have patience for it, and so I'd rather shop online. Yes, I have a bromance with Amazon Prime.

But when I travel it's different. I'm in the moment, and I really enjoy shopping in places that have surprised me. Most recently, the place where for me shopping was a revelation (because I really had no expectation and didn't really know there was that much to buy) was Morocco. Oh Lordy! I was not alone. Everyone in our group, even those that consider themselves confirmed non-shoppers, shopped till they dropped.

Yes, Morocco is not only an architectural, cultural and gastronomic marvel: much to my surprise it's a shopping heaven. To date, one of my favorite things I bought in Morocco was a sheer tunic that one would wear as an outer garment to simply add that touch of elegance. I am sure I will have this dress item for many years. It is beautiful items like this that had to have at least partially sparked Yves St Laurent's love-affair with Morocco.

[Read on to discover 10 popular things to buy in Morocco...](#)



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