



October, 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](#)

We just completed our recent tour to southern Africa, and what a tour it was! As usual we had a wonderful group, and this year the trip featured the incredible added value of having our luxury safari lodge all to ourselves. This allowed for so much customization and more than ever, the ability to truly unwind and be ourselves, enjoying the run-of-the-place.

Every time we go back to southern Africa, something different impacts us. This time, it was the realization of just how good the food is, across the board in South Africa, from Cape Town's restaurants to our safari lodge meals. The food and wine scene offers such high quality, and the prices are reasonable. Few places do farm-to-table as well as Cape Town.

The other thing that stood out was that the joy of being on safari extends far beyond animal viewing.

Several travelers mentioned that their favorite moment of the trip was the night that we parked our safari jeep in the middle of nowhere, turned off the engine and lights, and just listened to nature around us while observing the Milky Way. You can read more about this on Bryan's [blog](#).

[See the Photos](#)



### Featured Traveler: Jeff from LA

We appreciated having Jeff on the trip very much. He was a lot of fun, and always joyful, and his joy and light-heartedness spread to everyone. We especially appreciated his love and gratitude for everyone who had a roll in his vacation. He has the ability to put a smile on the face of all he encounters, and we look forward to having him on another Zoom Vacation.

**Zoom:** We know you have been following Zoom Vacations for a while. What drew you to Zoom, and what drew you to this particular trip?

**Jeff:** I have been following Zoom for well over two years and have done many of the trips offered but have not done the safari. So we started planning this and booked it two years ago. I have done mainly cruises and wanted to do a small gay escorted trip, especially one so far from home.

**Zoom:** Did the trip meet your expectations?

**Jeff:** Yes. 100% I had a really great time. The animals and the stars make the trip life-changing.

[Read on](#)

### Back to its Rightful Home

A 2,100-year-old coffin of a priest called Nedjemankh was recently returned to Egypt and will next be on display in Egypt in 2020. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City had bought the coffin for four million dollars two years ago from a global art trafficking network, which used fraudulent documents, officials said. The gilded coffin was smuggled out of Egypt in 2011, and first shipped to Germany where it was restored before going on to France.



Zoom Vacations travelers on our current Egypt trip

are seeing thousands of fascinating, ancient works of art, just like this. Spectacular finds are constantly surfacing around the world, and are even still being discovered in various locations throughout Egypt. The Egyptian Museum currently houses countless priceless objects, thousands of years old, and the new Grand Egyptian Museum, due to open in 2020 is about 88 percent completed!

[Read about our trip September 26 to October 4, 2020](#)



## Zooming with Bryan

### The Truth About African Safaris

During my recent Zoom Vacations tour to southern Africa, I posted a number of photos on social media while on safari. My Facebook friends couldn't believe how close we got to the animals, and some suggested that it couldn't be real.

Truly, when you see the photos, it is kind of unbelievable. While in our safari jeep, we could literally get within a few feet of lions. Apparently, while in the jeep, the lions and other animals view us as kind of one big moving blob. I imagine that they look at us in the same way that we consider clouds in the sky. They are just kind of an innocuous thing that doesn't really have an impact.

Our safari rangers instruct us to always stay seated, and not stand up even to get that amazing Kodak moment. I have been on safari drives in the past, where someone did indeed stand up, and it is amazing what happens. The animals who normally pay no interest at all, suddenly look up with attention. This is especially true with the big cats.

[Read on](#)

## Zooming with Joel

### You Can't Afford NOT to Visit India

Travel is my passion, as you know if you're reading this article. Last month I came out of the closet and revealed that shopping is also one of my passions, not so much at home but when I travel.

In September's newsletter I talked about shopping in Peru, a place where I know exactly what I want and where to get it. But, sometimes I want to be surprised when I'm shopping abroad. There are places around the world (like Peru or Argentina) where shopping is nirvana and other places where you need not bother (where there is literally is nothing to buy that you could not otherwise get at home).

Then there is a place where shopping is more than nirvana: it's a game of anticipation. That would be incredible [India](#)! India specializes in hand crafted items that would cost SO much more at home than in India that the trip practically pays for itself in savings if you like nice things.

[Read on](#)





## See our Zoom Egypt Tour Transpire in Real Time!

A tour to Egypt is happening right now! Zoom's Bryan Herb is leading a group of 12 through this wonderful destination. After two nights in Cairo, they are already taking their private cruise on the Nile, and will end the tour at the Pyramids of Giza, the only one of the Seven Ancient Wonders that is still visible.

Our luxurious boat on the Nile has 6 cabins, so the maximum number of guests we can take on this tour is 12. There is a crew of 24 on the boat, so we are very well taken-care-of, indeed.

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

[Bryan Instagram](#)

[Bryan Facebook](#)

[Zoom Vacations Instagram](#)

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Our Egypt tour sells out every year, and there is the possibility that we may add another voyage. Please [email us](#) if you are interested in this tour.

[Read about this trip](#)

**Next year's dates: September 26 -  
October 4, 2020**



## See our Zoom Puglia, Italy Tour Transpire in Real Time! October 12-21, 2019

Zoom Vacations is about to embark on our tour to Puglia, Italy. From the "White Town" of the Ostuni, to the fairytale village of Alberobello, to Lecce, known as "Florence of the South" for its baroque architecture, and so much in between, Puglia is sure dazzle our travelers with its old world charm.

Follow Joel Cabrera and Zoom Vacations in real time in Puglia, Italy on social media. You will see

tantalizing photos and videos of the region, and learn if this tour is right for you in 2020!

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[Read more about this tour](#)



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