



# Elbowroom Inspired Travel Experiences

Those who revel in them invariably come back for more.

Lakáma  
LUXURY  TRAVEL

Hi there!

THANK YOU for downloading "Elbowroom Inspired Travel Experiences", focused on intimate modes and settings with nature, wildlife, culinary, cultural and active experiences woven throughout. Soul stirring adventures that stay with you for a lifetime. Places with room to roam. The luxury of space.

Why this type of travel? I believe it has you bringing home your absolute best stories with the most lasting memories, and invariably wanting more.

Following are 21 ideas for 2021 and beyond - inspiration to take a trip (or two, or three)! Enjoy.

*Laurie*



# 01

## Small Ship Adventures

The best gifts come in small packages - so true with small ship adventures.

Discover intimate ports of call where big ships can't even dream of going. Explore remote areas by zodiac. Up close and personal nature and wildlife experiences. No lines. Never a crowd. The luxury of space.

High crew to guest ratio offers exceptional customer service and truly one of a kind experiences.

Small ship adventures come in a variety of styles - expedition, sailing, coastal, adventure, premium, luxury, ultra-luxury, yacht style - a style for just about every type of traveler.

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# 02

## Western Australia

Western Australia is Australia's biggest state and is best known for wide open, spectacular landscapes. In the north, the Kimberley Region is home to Aboriginal rock art, the Bungle Bungles, King George Falls, Broome and beautiful Cable Beach. Further south discover the world's largest fringing reef, Ningaloo Reef. On the southwest coast is Perth, the state's capital - a great base from

which to explore the surrounds, including Fremantle and Rottnest Island, home of the Quokka.

The foodie scene is active and growing, especially in the Margaret River wine region, which produces 25% of Australia's premium wine.

Best time to visit: March - November (best month depends on what you want to experience.)



The last great frontier. Spectacular , pristine wilderness, abundant wildlife and mind blowing landscapes. An assault on your senses. A place you have to experience in person to understand the effect on your soul.

Here you'll never see crowds. To land in the region ships must carry fewer than 500 passengers, though most will carry fewer. No more than 100 passengers can be onshore at any given time.

Sailings to Antarctica are between November and March, the Austral summer. Best time to go? Really any of these months, but it also depends on what you want to see (i.e. penguin chicks fluffiest and most photogenic in January). The warmest months are January and February.

## 03 **Antarctica**

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# New Zealand **04**

New Zealand may be similar in size to Japan and the UK, but it is far less crowded. Japan's population - 129 million, UK - 64 million, New Zealand - 4.7 million. A third of the population live in Auckland.

New Zealand is known for its warm and welcoming people, spectacular scenery, unique wildlife, lovely walking, hiking and biking trails and adventure activities (i.e bungee jumping, mountain biking, etc.) A wide variety of experiences await.

The North Island is warmer, more cosmopolitan with shorter driving distances between major cities and sites. The South Island is cooler, less populated and offers more dramatic scenery, including Milford Sound and Mount Cook. Wine lovers will enjoy hundreds of cellar doors waiting for you to drop by.

Best time to go: December to February (summer) has the best overall weather, but shoulder season is best to avoid possible crowds.



# 05

## Sea of Cortez

Baja California is often described as the aquarium of the world without the crowds. A small ship cruise through this pristine spot in the world is truly a break from the ordinary.

Beautiful waters, secluded bays, unique flora and fauna await you.

What makes a trip here too much fun are all the experiences - snorkeling with whale sharks and frisky sea lion pups, whale watching, bird watching, kayaking, a mule ride with local rancheros and hiking the rugged landscapes. Truly paradise for lovers of nature and wildlife.

Best time to go: December through April.

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# 06 **Barging**

A wonderful way to explore the beautiful European countryside is on a luxury barge hotel cruise. Escape the hustle and bustle of the city and discover what it means to slow down and truly relax.

With comfortable accommodations, gourmet meals, fine wines, interesting excursions and an

attentive crew, these are truly one of a kind experiences. The boats have a max of 22 guests. Great for a couple who love to travel with like-minded souls or a group of friends who want to charter an entire boat.

**When to go:** The season is a little shorter than river cruises, with sailings from late March to October.

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# 07 The Outdoors

Discover active vacations - walking, hiking, biking, multi-sport (hiking, biking, rafting, horseback riding, kayaking).



These adventures take you off the beaten trail, into the countryside, away from crowds. Rain or shine, you are exploring the outdoors.

Imagine walking through the Alps, hiking the trails of Cinque Terre or the Canadian Rockies, cycling through Sicily, hiking through Iceland using a ship as your base.... so many options.



Best part? You enjoy getting from point A to B, and your luggage, a hot shower, gourmet meals and comfy beds wait for you.

If you like being active but not so much into camping - this is for you!



## Go Private

# 08

Sometimes private simply provides the best experience.

Custom and tailor-made, designed just for you and the people you want to be with is a perfect way to get away from the crowds, a perfect way to incorporate wow factor. The options are endless: privately chartered aircraft, transfers and accommodations (ie villas, private homes), private days tours or longer tours just for you or your group.

Imagine seeing the Sistine Chapel before the hoards of people arrive, a private guide through the Louvre, a tour of Vietnam (or any country) with your own private driver.....

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# 09

## Iceland

Iceland has been discovered, and unfortunately that has also brought the crowds. However, there are ways to experience this beautiful destination without the mobs of people.

Summer is the most popular, so go during shoulder season or winter.

If summer is preferred, visit the major sites off hours. The days are long, but most guided tours are between 9am - 6pm, so simply avoid these times. And get out of Reykjavik - lots of space outside of the city.

Iceland - beautiful scenery, stark landscapes, welcoming locals .... a destination that should be on many a bucketlist.

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# Tasmania **10**

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Did you know that one of the top 10 wine routes in the world is in Tasmania? Indeed it is. The Tamar Valley is a cool climate region with 30+ wineries producing wonderful Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir. There are around 160 wineries in all of Tasmania.

Tasmania is also paradise for nature and wildlife lovers - 40% of

the country is designated as national parks and reserves.

When to go: The summer months December - February are peak season but Tasmania doesn't have the crowds like other areas, so it's a good time. March and April are still warm, with nights cooling off and glorious red and yellow fall foliage beginning to appear.



# 11

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## River Cruises

Small intimate ships have you sailing through the heart of a country, discovering history, culture and culinary delights while exploring cobblestone walkways, iconic cities and quaint villages along storied waterways.

Europe is top of mind when it

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comes to river cruising, but did you know there are over 20 rivers around the world you can cruise?

Enjoy exotic options in Africa, Asia and South America, wine appreciation sailings throughout Europe and North America and explore former Soviet ruled destinations. One can even cruise rivers in Australia.

# 12 Patagonia

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Chile is such a diverse country, from the Atacama Desert in the north, the Andes to the east and pristine lakes, volcanoes and the Patagonia wilderness in the south.

Mind boggling scenic beauty.

Of all the regions in Chile, Patagonia is one of the most scenic, and least populated. Wild, untamed landscape, a place to feel one with nature.

The jewel of the region: Torres del Paine National Park. The park offers wonderful trekking opportunities - multi day or day trips, with beautiful lakes, glaciers and granite peaks waiting for you.

Best time to visit: November to March.





# 13

## **Vancouver Island**

Vancouver Island - a land of extremes. Vast wilderness, exceptional walking and hiking trails, rugged coastlines, cozy beaches, abundant wildlife (furry, feathery and finned), quaint towns, small harbors, golfing, world class wines, beers and spirits, farmers markets, culinary delights, indigenous cultures, marvelous gardens, boutique inns, seaside lodges and elegant hotels.

Victoria is a delightful city, full of history and charm. To experience the true essence of the island drive to Tofino, on the west coast. Words can't describe the scenery any better than this picture.

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# Galapagos 14

Ships that sail through these islands are small - a max number of 100 passengers, which makes for a nice, uncrowded, intimate experience on board ship.

On land, you must be accompanied by a naturalist guide, and the max number of people per guide is 16.  
Nice!

The Galapagos area is highly regulated - a limited number of ships are approved to sail and they can visit the same site only once every 14 days.

Best time to visit: Any time of year, with December to May having the lowest temps.



Spitsbergen, a Dutch word meaning "pointed peaks", is the largest and only permanently inhabited island in the Svalbard archipelago.

Although 60% of the island is covered by glaciers, it is a quite diverse wilderness, home to over 4000 polar bears, as well as walrus, arctic fox, reindeer, seals and whales.

Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost city, is the main city on Spitsbergen with 2000 permanent residents. The main reason people come is because the area has some of the best polar bear viewing in the world. The bears are highly protected, and thus their numbers have grown over the years. Great for the species, and equally great for those of us wanting to observe and photograph these majestic animals in their natural habitats.

# Spitsbergen 15





# Marquesas **16**

Located over 900 miles from Papeete, Tahiti (almost 4 hours flying time), the Marquesas are relatively untouched. They have been described as Hawaii 100 years ago. This isolation has created a unique language and unique culture among the people who reside there. The islands may be part of French Polynesia but the

people are not Tahitians - they are uniquely Marquesans.

Because of the distance, fewer people take the opportunity to visit the islands. A perfect crowd free destination.



# Slovenia **17**

Nestled between Italy, Austria, and Croatia, Slovenia has dramatic natural features (stunning caves, scenic beauty), historic towns, hilltop fortresses and an amazing food scene. They have a centuries old wine culture and produce some of the finest wines in the world.

Slovenians love festivals - hundreds happening year round to enjoy.

Slovenia is a wonderful year round destination, given its unique combination of Mediterranean sun and snowy Alps.

May through September are best to take advantage of the many outdoor activities. Spring and Fall are the best times to avoid the summer crowds.



# 18

## Namibia

Namibia - a stunning country with incredible landscapes and amazing wildlife. It's known for its vast desert landscapes and the wide array of animal life - over 100 species of mammals and over 300 species of birds.

Fun fact: Namibia is home to the world's largest population of free-roaming cheetahs.

Namibia is aptly named. "Namib" means vast place, and is one of the least populated places on earth (only Greenland, Mongolia and Falkland Islands have fewer people per sq. mile).

Best time to visit: July to October when the temps are in the high 60's and lowest chance of rain.

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# 19 Alaska

Alaska is more than big ship cruising. A great way to avoid the big ship crowds? A small ship cruise adventure or your own land journey. The small ship itineraries go into the fjords, bays and towns never seen by the bigger ships. Some itineraries see only marine ports - no docks, just zodiac landings. Guaranteed no crowds. And a good chance you won't see another ship until you head back to port.

Other ways to avoid the cruise crowds? Visit between September and May, escape to one of the fabulous fishing lodges or explore off the beaten track towns along with the top sites.



# 20

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## Azores

The Azores are truly an under the radar hidden gem destination and just 4 hours flying from Boston. Often described as the Atlantic's version of Hawaii, this archipelago of 9 beautiful and unique islands is an autonomous region of Portugal. The islands are full of pristine and natural beauty, unique scenery, quaint fishing villages, historical centers and so much more.

The Azores offer something for just about every taste - from foodies and history lovers to those interested in gardens, the outdoors, yachting and hiking.

When to go: The Azores is a perfect year round destination. Avoid June through August, as these are the busiest months with many European visitors.

# 21 Madagascar

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Tourists don't gather in large numbers here, but sea turtles, humpback whales and lemurs do!

The #1 reason people visit Madagascar is to see the lemurs, an endangered species found nowhere else in the world. It is also home to some of the world's most unique flora and fauna, including colorful chameleons, stunning orchids, and towering baobab trees.

The remote island nation is well worth a visit, especially for nature lovers.

Best time to go: April through mid December. Best to avoid cyclone season between mid December and late March.





I'm in the business of helping you make the best decisions for your valuable and precious travel investment.

**My expertise:** Matching you with the best experiences for your personality, travel style and budget AND taking on the things you don't have time for, that frustrate you or you'd rather not do (but are required in order for you to have a really nice, well thought out trip).

**The end result?** An expertly planned and professionally managed itinerary with all the details and so much more! I work for you - your trusted resource and partner in travel. I care that what is recommended is right for you and in your best interest, putting as much into planning your vacation as I do my own.

**Next step?** Check out *How I Help You* [here](#), and when you are ready to start planning,

[Click here to schedule your complimentary discovery call](#)

Until then, I'll be in your inbox sharing a lot of great content.

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