

# Travel Adventures!

January - September 2018

AAAS Travels · Sigma Xi Expeditions · ACS Expeditions · Planetary Society · Betchart Expeditions Inc.

*Join us!...For Delightful Travel Opportunities for You & Your Friends!*



## *Uzbekistan Uncovered!*

**April 21 - May 6, 2018**

Join us as we explore the jewel of central Asia, Uzbekistan - including the heart of the Silk Road - and the UNESCO Heritage sites of Samarkand, Khiva, and Bukhara with **Dr. Nathan Brooks**. Enter Khiva as the traders would have - through fortified gates leading to a vibrant, well-preserved ancient walled city. Bukhara's Old Town remains one of Central Asia's best preserved Islamic cities of the 10th-17th centuries. It is an archaeological preserve, with more than 140 protected buildings to enchant you. A visit to a small village will delight you with ceramics created by methods passed down through generations. Also discover Samarkand, a breathtaking oasis in the Zerafshan River valley, known as the Crossroads of Culture for its important position on the Silk Road trading route. \$4,295 + air.

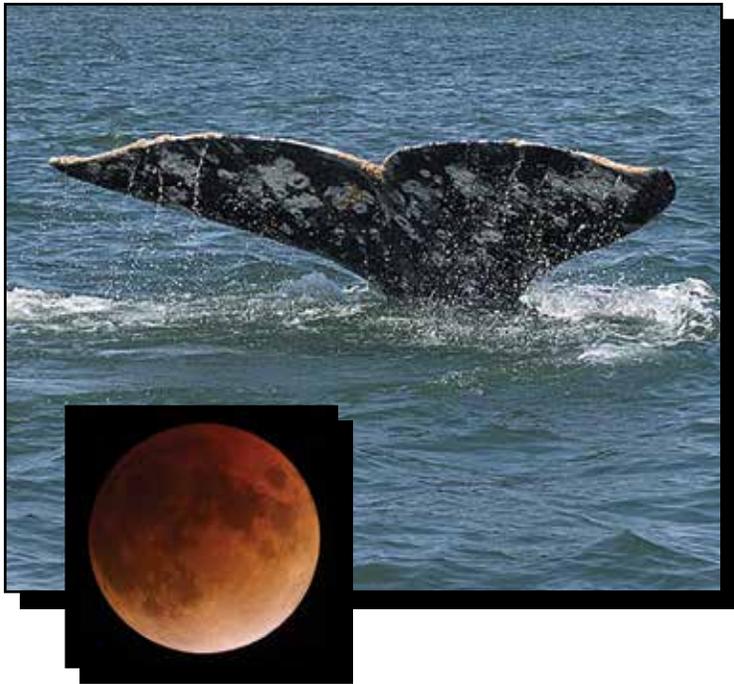


## *World Heritage of Poland & the Czech Republic*

**September 27 - October 9, 2018**

Discover the highlights and hidden treasures of Central Europe with our excellent leader **Dr. Christopher Skutela**! Poland and the Czech Republic's stirring history and natural beauty will astound you. In Poland, view medieval castles perched on limestone cliffs in Ojcow National Park. Stroll through Warsaw's Old Town, which has risen like a phoenix from the ashes of WWII into a colorful destination. Krakow's charm will enchant you from the Royal Road and Wawel Castle, to the Jewish Quarter and the bustling Market Square. Float down the Dunajec Gorge in Zakopane on traditional rafts that give you a unique perspective of the countryside. In the Czech Republic, explore Prague, both reverently ancient and cosmopolitan. Step onto the Charles Bridge and walk through the quarter of Kafka's birthplace. Join us for a fascinating look at these charming countries with a local expert!





## Great Whales of Baja & Lunar Eclipse!

**January 27 - February 3, 2018**

Travel with us on board *National Geographic Sea Bird* to explore Baja and discover the whales, dolphins, diving seabirds, and pelicans of the desert paradise of Baja California! You'll have the rare privilege of seeing the California gray whale birthing lagoons aboard expedition landing craft and get close to these magnificent whales. You can immerse yourself in the solitude of Baja and delight in the 70° days and the Total Lunar Eclipse January 31, 2018! With leadership by astronomer **Dr. Tyler Nordgren**, this voyage is an exceptional opportunity! From \$6,590 per person twin share + air



## Belize to Tikal!

**Barrier Reef & Mayan Wonderland**

**February 18-26, 2018**

Join us on board *National Geographic Quest*, and discover the marine wonderland in Belize, plus the ancient Mayan heritage of Belize and Guatemala! From the Belize Barrier Reef, the largest reef in the Northern Hemisphere, to the lush jungles of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, an array of wildlife calls these ecosystems home. Discover a dazzling bounty of tropical fish and colorful corals at Laughing Bird Caye, Half Moon Caye, and Lighthouse Reef. Kayak with **Margaret Betchart** and stand-up paddleboard on turquoise lagoons and explore the impressive archaeological site at Quirigua. Fly to Guatemala to visit Tikal, Yaxha, and Topoxte Mayan sites. Learn about Mayan history and archaeology and delight in the monkeys and birds of the tropical rainforest. From \$5,490 per person twin share + air.



## Contacts & Questions!

Please call **Betchart Expeditions Inc.**, or write for detailed brochures and more information.

**Betchart Expeditions Inc.,**  
17050 Montebello Road  
Cupertino, California 95014-5435  
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Fax: (408) 252-1444  
Email: [Info@betchartexpeditions.com](mailto:Info@betchartexpeditions.com)

See pdf's of brochures on our web site:  
[www.betchartexpeditions.com](http://www.betchartexpeditions.com)

If you are unable to travel and wish to be removed from the mailing list, please let us know.

Prices are per person based on twin share + air.

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## *Alaska Aurora Borealis!*

**March 15-21, 2018**

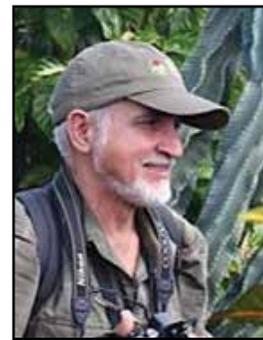
Join **Bob Nansen** on this thrilling adventure to Alaska in winter to see the Aurora Borealis! Come discover the great beauty of Alaska in winter, and see the greatest light show on earth! Also see Alaskan wildlife in winter near Seward, and then take the train from Talkeetna to Fairbanks, passing lofty 20,320 foot Denali (Mt. McKinley) en route. See the Ice Festival in Fairbanks and learn about the Aurora at the Geophysical Institute. Watch a local sled dog team, and see the Aurora Borealis dance across the night sky. \$2,995 + air.



## *Discover Cuba!*

**March 30 - April 7, 2018**

Discover this fascinating island's culture and history as we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Havana, Trinidad, Cienfuegos and Vinales Valley with popular Cuba leader University of Havana professor **Dr. Carlos Sanchez**. Visit the lively plazas and squares of Old Havana, including its museums, Planetarium, the home of Hemingway "Finca La Vigia," and the National Botanical Garden. Explore the Vinales Valley's picturesque landscape and unique culture framed by pine and oak forests. See small towns and sugar cane fields en route to the majestic Sierra de Escambray Mountains. Look for unique flora and fauna including the smallest bird in the world (the bee hummingbird). The cobblestone streets, music, art studios, and colorful church and cathedral in Trinidad, a 500-year-old UNESCO World Heritage City, will be a treat, as will the music and art in Cienfuegos! \$4,595 + air.



## *Discover Taiwan!*

**April 13 - 25, 2018**

Exploring Taiwan provides a rich natural history and cultural experience on a dramatic island, with spectacular peaks, deep canyons, and a unique political/cultural background. Begin in Taipei, a cosmopolitan city with 8,000 years of history, a monument to Chiang Kai-Shek, and vibrant traditional shopping districts. Then travel inland to see Yangmingshan National Park, and the dramatic East Coast National Scenic Area. Visit villages of the Amis aboriginal tribe and learn about their fascinating matrilineal society. At Taiwan's southern-most point, see the "Light of East Asia", and visit a spectacular Buddhist center and the National Museum of Taiwan History. Enjoy a boat trip on Sun-Moon Lake and traditional culture, songs, and dancing of the Thao tribe. Soar to the top of the Taipei 101 building, once the tallest in the world, and enjoy superb leadership by a local guide and **Dr. Chris Carpenter**. \$4,995 + air.





## Heritage of Japan!

**May 13 - 25, 2018**

**Including Takayama in the Japanese Alps, historic Kyoto & Nara**

Explore the heritage and delights of the amazing country of Japan! Visit World Heritage Sites, National Treasures, palaces, and gardens. Venture up Mt. Fuji to the 5th station, and ferry across the Inland Sea to the Itsukushima Shrine on the little island of Miyajima. Take the Express Train to Nagoya and Kyoto and the Komagatake Ropeway (cable car) to the summit of Mt. Komagatake for spectacular views. Discover the ancient heritage of Japan in Takayama in the Japanese Alps, and more! A very special look at Japan with an excellent Japanese guide and Betchart Naturalist **Cynthia Manning!** \$5,495 + air.

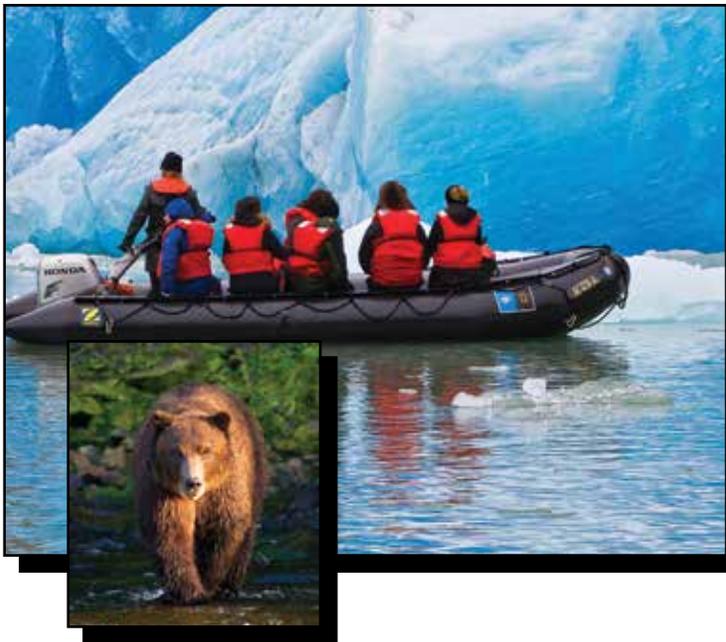
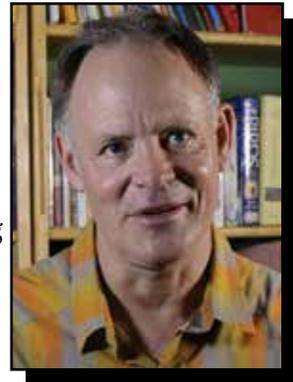


## China by High Speed Rail!

**May 18 - June 1, 2018**

**Including the new link Xian to Chengdu**

Discover this innovative, engaging way to explore China with **Chris Carpenter!** Discover sacred mountains, the Grand Canal, ancient cities, and temples that honor quintessential Chinese institutions like Confucianism and the martial arts. Travel from Shanghai to Hangzhou and Tai Shan, then Song Shan, China's Middle Mountain. Visit Luoyang, one of China's ancient capital cities, and the Longmen Grottos, with fantastic Buddhist iconography. En route to Xian, visit Hua Shan, the Western Sacred Mountains, with great precipices, arching ridgelines, and narrow paths. This is one of **Chris Carpenter's** favorite trips. Come see why! \$4,695 + air. Optional Yangtze Ext. to June 6th.



## Alaska Voyage!

**May 27 - June 3, 2018 or July 1 - 8, 2018**

**(With Optional Denali Post trip June 3 - 9 or Pre trip June 25 - July 1 with David Wimpfheimer.)**

Enjoy fantastic bays and fjords of Southeast Alaska on board the new *National Geographic Quest* (May 27th) or *Sea Lion* (July 1st). Discover awesome glaciers, remote islands, pods of whales, bears, bald eagles, and more. Go kayaking in remote inlets and hiking in some of the most spectacular scenery in North America. From Sitka sail to the Inian Islands and Icy Strait for Steller sea lions and sea otters. Then explore Glacier Bay National Park, Frederick Sound, Chatham Strait, Petersburg, and Tracy Arm - Ford's Terror Wilderness. **May 27:** From \$6,590 twin share + free air. **July 1:** From \$5,990 + air. **Extensions:** \$3,995 + air.





## Wild Iceland!

**Land of Fire and Ice & Nature's Paradise!**

**June 13 - 22, 2018**

Iceland has a proud heritage and truly magical wildlife and natural wonders! Visit Pingveiller Plain, birthplace of democracy in Iceland, and Gullfoss Falls, Iceland's most notable landmark. See the Snaefellsnes Peninsula, with its fantastic glacier, birds, seals, orcas, and minke whales. Then drive to Stykkisholmur and Breidafjordur Bay to see millions of seabirds. See the magnificent Latrabjarg seabird rookery, and pass through spectacular fjords and past thundering waterfalls to Lake Myvatn. Celebrate the summer solstice in the far north with superb leadership by **Oskar Halldorsson!** \$3,995 + air

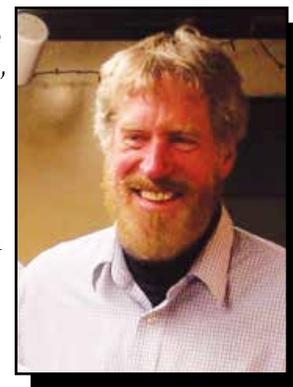


## French Polynesia!

**July 12 - 21, 2018**

**With Free Air from Los Angeles!**

Join **Bob Nansen** in legendary French Polynesia on board the *National Geographic Orion*! Fly from Los Angeles to Papeete, then fly to Rangiroa. Explore this dazzling atoll, and delight in the unmatched beauty of its lagoon, ideal for kayaking, snorkeling, and marine life. See large schools of fish, manta rays, dolphins, and sea turtles. Explore the Tuamotu Archipelago, including Fakarava atoll and the island of Makatea. Sail to Huahine, once the home of Tahitian royalty. On Raritea, explore Marae Taputapuatea, one of the most important cultural sites in Polynesia. Then continue to Tahaa and renowned Bora Bora for dazzling photographs! From \$7,690 with free air from Los Angeles.



## Discover Tibet!

**July 15 - 31, 2018**

Explore the heritage of Tibet from the grasslands of the Eastern Plateau to the heartland of the Tibetan world around Lhasa with popular leaders **Dr. Chris Carpenter** and **David Huang**. We'll begin our journey in the fascinating city of Chengdu and the UNESCO World Heritage Jiuzhaigou National Park in the Min Shan Mountains which has dazzling aqua lakes. We'll then ascend the Tibetan Plateau to Ruoergai National Wetland Reserve, a breeding habitat for the rare black-necked cranes. Continue to the valleys of Gansu to explore Labrang Monastery then enjoy the adventure of an overnight train Xining to Lhasa. Explore the Potala, the former winter palace of the Dalai Lama, and Norbulinka, his summer palace, and the fascinating old section "Barkhor," Jorkang Temple, and Ganden Monastery. \$4,595 + air.



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BETCHART  
EXPEDITIONS Inc.

**SigmaXi • Planetary Society  
AAAS Travels • ACS Expeditions**

*For Members & Friends of AAAS, Sigma Xi, ACS & Planetary Society*  
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

**FIRST CLASS**

Photo courtesy of Kevin Fraser



*Join us in 2018 ... for delightful  
Winter, Spring, and Summer Travel!*

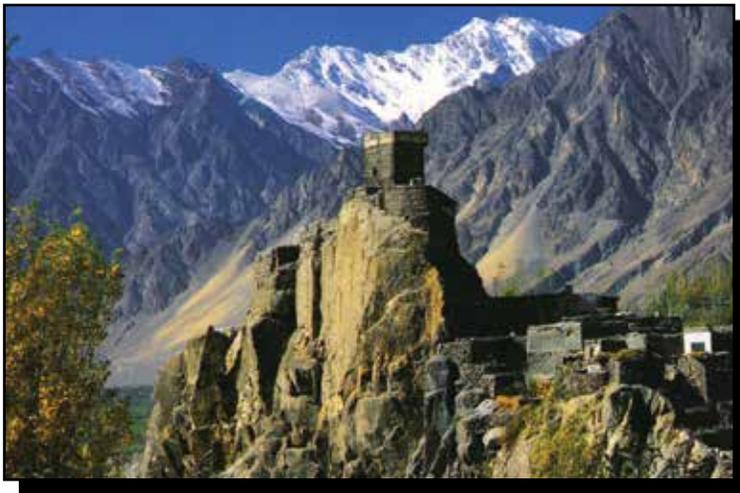
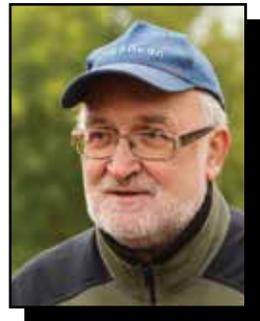


## ***Kamchatka & Lake Baikal***

**July 29 - August 13, 2018**

Explore the two finest natural areas in Russia, the Kamchatka Peninsula and Lake Baikal, and take the Trans Siberian Express from the Russian Far East across the vast taiga of Russia to Irkutsk and Lake Baikal. Baikal is the richest single location in Russia for endemism, a fabulous reservoir of unique flora and fauna. It is the oldest and deepest lake in the world, storing nearly 20% of the fresh water on earth!

Travel with our long-time colleague Dr. **Victor Kuzevanov**, who will enchant you! \$5,995 + air.



## ***Xinjiang & Hunza***

**August 26 - September 12, 2018**

Explore the rich cultural heritage of far western China plus the extraordinary landscapes of Hunza with **Dr. Chris Carpenter**.

On our journey along the Silk Road we will visit the desert oases of Turpan and Kashgar in Xinjiang Province of northwest China. We will follow the Karakoram Highway across Khunjerab Pass and the high valleys of the Pamir in the Hunza Valley. The Hunza Valley, with its knife edged mountains, brilliant glaciers, and protected valleys, is breathtakingly beautiful.

We hope you will join us for this fascinating adventure! \$3,995 + air.

