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Beginning the Journey with YP journeys

The best journeys answer many questions while inspiring the adventurer to explore many more.

Welcome to the YP journeys monthly newsletter. I am Yuri Pross, your guide. With extensive (and expanding) travel experience, I hope to inform and excite you in contemplation of your future journeys. Read more about me at https://www.ypjourneys.com/about.html

Each month, I will tell you about my latest adventures, trends in the world of travel, and exciting new opportunities for your next journey.

Christmas Markets on the Rhine 2023

In mid-December, my husband and I took a long-anticipated trip to enjoy the best of the European Christmas Markets. We had a taste of the Markets two years prior on a Danube River cruise – an absolutely amazing trip on AmaWaterways with Miriam as our Cruise Manager and only 28 guests aboard (post-pandemic travel was just opening up). This past Christmas we had about 140 guests on board – about 95% capacity. With Christmas-like weather (lots of snow) just prior to our trip, we had visions of a winter wonderland. Instead, the weather was rainy and the snow melted, the Rhine swelled in its banks and the current flowed significantly stronger than normal. Consequently, the river ships could not pass under the bridges along the river! These complications did not detract at all from the fun and excitement of the trip! Our Cruise Manager, Krisztian, was on top of everything. The cruise line altered our original itinerary (Basel to Amsterdam) to a series of luxury bus transits from our ship, AmaPrima docked in Strasbourg, France, to various sites that had spectacular Christmas Markets. After a few days, we took another luxury bus via a wonderful stop in Luxemburg to join our new ship, AmaCerto, in Antwerp, then Rotterdam, and completed this amazing trip with an overnight stay in Amsterdam.



2022 saw the end of pandemic travel limitation. 2023 brought a surge in travel as people pursued their delayed travel plans and bucket lists, and they explored in luxury. In 2024, travelers will continue to reach for and invest in their most important travel goals.

Is it FOMO – or the early bird gets the worm

All too often, people will try to make plans for a special trip only to find that what they want is not available. Other travelers, planning well in advance, successfully secure the reservations they desire for the best seats, rooms, tours etc. While not so frequent pre-pandemic, this is increasingly the case for any trip planning these days. Some travelers end up trying to plan without enough advanced notice to get what is envisioned for the available budget in the timeframe desired; the tours, hotels, airline tickets, staterooms, excursions, etc. are all booked up. Airports are crowded; flights and cruise ships are booked to capacity. These travelers are left with whatever remains (the leftovers) that won't truly meet their intended vision for the trip. Those who don't plan early simply don't get what they want; and that trend is only increasing. We often like to think that our ideas for vacations, explorations, and getting away are unique, but they generally are not. Whether for FOMO (fear of missing out) or like the early bird getting the worm, the fact remains that 1-6 months of advanced planning does not allow many options to meet the travel desires for any specific trip – and you will miss out! The best way to get what you want, where you want it, delivering the adventure and value you expect, is to work with a trusted travel advisor 12+ months in advance, then orchestrate your other plans around those travel plans. The days of fitting your travel plans in around your other plans, and expecting to get what you want are gone. Be the early bird and don't miss out!!

Upcoming Opportunities!!

Antarctica January 2025



We've put together some unique opportunities for 2025 that you will want to take a look at! The first one for January 2025 is a luxury expedition cruise to Antarctica. This is a bucket list trip, to be sure! If it isn't on your bucket list, it should be! Atlas Ocean Voyages is a premier luxury expedition cruise line. YP journeys, working with Atlas, has assembled a terrific, once-in-a-lifetime visit to the world's southernmost continent.

On this exclusive trip aboard an Atlas intimate yacht, you will experience the best of all-inclusive comforts and an epic expedition. With the guidance of historians, naturalists, photographers and other experts in their fields, as well as a world-class expedition team, you and your fellow explorers will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for these pristine environments. Extraordinary wildlife abounds, leaving you with a greater sense of awe. January to February brings more activity among leopard seals and penguin chicks as they hatch and learn to swim.

Details for this amazing trip can be found here or by clicking on the picture to the left. Look for more opportunities in the next issue!





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