



# SEE YOU THERE

## September 2021

### For the active weekend getaway:

#### Bend Oregon Multi-Adventure Tour

##### Day 1:

Our adventure starts in the high-desert landscape of Central Oregon • Hike amid the unique geology of Smith Rock State Park, where cliffs and rock spires tower above the Crooked River • Revel in majestic mountain views and the rugged landscape where sport climbing was born | Enjoy a picnic and a swim on the banks of the mighty Deschutes River before biking on to Bend, Oregon's adventure capital • Settle into our eco-chic hotel in the heart of this beloved city.



##### Day 2:

Bike north out of Bend on a scenic loop ride—you'll quickly see why it's a local favorite • Soak up expansive views of the Cascades as you cycle past sprawling ranchland and lush forest • Pop by one of Oregon's legendary food trucks for lunch before exploring downtown Bend, packed with art galleries and cafés • Thirsty? Find out what's on tap at over 20 local craft breweries, perhaps opting for a tour of iconic Deschutes • If the water beckons, skip the beer garden and hit the river for an epic afternoon of tubing | Cap off the day with some quality time in the sauna or steam room at our welcoming retreat.



##### Day 3:

Set out for an exhilarating rafting trip down the Upper Deschutes River • Paddle renowned Class II-III rapids, including the Big Eddy, as you wind through peaceful woodlands and breathtaking lava fields • Extend your journey in this idyllic slice of the Pacific Northwest.

## Welcome to the Fall

I love this season because it is the start to all of the fun milestones like Halloween, Thanksgiving, the festive holidays and ending with New Years!



### Have you started planning your festivities for these milestones?

Kids are back to school, routines are in full swing again and we are all hoping for an easier, more relaxed festive season compared to the previous two! Multigenerational travel is at an all time high with a lot of families planning to meet in destinations that are off the beaten path, where they can have space to do activities together and still social distance. Staying closer to home is always an option and there are a lot of wonderful places to experience something special. Festive season is around the corner and selling out at a rapid pace so if you are on the fence about planning something, sooner than later is a safer bet. The best spots go first and prices start to climb.

This newsletter I will be spotlighting a few fun, popular destinations and itinerary examples to consider or if you have something else in mind, I would be more than happy to help you find something else. Remember, all itineraries are examples and can be amended to suit you and your family's needs and interests.

### Celebrate the beauty and bounty of New England on an 8 day guided tour:

Embrace the beauty of New England during this 8-Day guided tour. Behold Boston, one of the oldest cities in the U.S. and where much of the country was formed; here, you will traverse the red-brick Freedom Trail, where you will see the hall that housed the country's first-ever town meeting and many more historic sites. Admire the bronzing leaves of Vermont's lush trees as you travel to Stowe, where the real Von Trapp family of 'The Sound of Music' chose to live — and where you will stay. In Montpelier, visit a maple syrup farm where you can taste the sweet golden liquid tapped straight from the trees. Ride a gondola at Loon Mountain Resort into New Hampshire's White Mountains and see as far as Canada. See Maine's oldest lighthouse in Portland, then celebrate your trip with a decadent fresh lobster dinner.



Visit a maple syrup farm and see how it's done

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**New & noteworthy**

**Virtuoso Travel Week was amazing**

I met with so many wonderful contacts across the globe in various divisions from rental cars, remote guides, cruising, hotels, resorts, villas, rentals, exclusive buy out options... you name it. Do you know one thing everyone I met with had in common apart from a love of travel!?! Excitement to spoil YOU, my valued clients. Everyone is so excited to connect and help create special memories for you and your family, it is really quite amazing. When was the last trip you took where you felt really valued? We care, we are here for you, we are in this together!

**Some other experiences to inspire:**

1. Artichoke Farm Tour in California
2. Experience the California coast by rail
3. The American West



VIRTUOSO.

*Valerie Wilson Travel*

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**Spotlight on... the Arctic & Antarctic**



**I recently completed a few trainings on both the Arctic and Antarctica.**

Two absolutely fascinating destinations! Both quite different in terms of offerings and this is definitely something I want to experience in the near future. There are a lot of options of how to do them and what is best suited for your needs. I really loved one option in particular, Lindblad Expeditions who has got two absolutely stunning, state of the art ships ready to take you to these phenomenal destinations in comfort, yet at the same time will also get you right in the action to experience it 'properly'. Too many details to cover in this newsletter but here is a summary about their offerings. Something very important to me especially when interacting with delicate nature and animals is...

**Sustainability**

Lindblad Expeditions has been committed to sustainability and responsible travel for more than 50 years. We define sustainability in four broad categories: (a) environmentally-friendly operations; (b) conservation of nature; (c) preservation of cultural heritage; and (d) using travel to create social and economic benefits for local people. We aim to address each of these four main categories through our travel programs. We promise our guests that traveling with us means traveling for good.

We are a 100% carbon neutral company, offsetting the carbon emissions of our fleet, our NYC/Seattle offices, all land-based operations, employee travel, and additional small but measurable contributors.

Our ships are free of single-use plastics, including plastic bottles, cups, straws, and stirrers; and our culinary program aboard is rooted in a robust sustainable seafood and locally-sourced food policy.

We actively seek out ways to be more sustainable across all departments of our company and attract and retain employees who share our commitment to sustainability. We believe in preserving the planet and making it better for the next generation, educating/inspiring our guests, providers, and local partners about our philosophy and commitment.

**Now for the fun extras:**

A next-generation expedition ship, purpose-built for polar navigation. A fully stabilized, ice-class Polar Class 5 vessel designed to navigate polar passages year-round and safely explore uncharted waters while providing exceptional comfort. Her X-BOW® offers a smooth ride even in adverse conditions.

Antarctica may be at the end of the Earth, but we've been bringing guests here for decades—safely sharing all the wonders of this vast land

and sea. Join us to experience the thrill of crunching through the sea ice aboard our fleet of three state-of-the-art expedition ships to see scores of penguins and whales. People come for the wildlife but fall in love with the ice: an entire museum of colossal and magical ice forms defying description. And you'll get a front seat to the dashing history of the Heroic Age of Exploration. Armed with

a flexible itinerary that allows us to go where conditions are best and wildlife is most active, we'll experience all the splendor of Antarctica. Venture into channels and coves framed by towering peaks. Watch whales play off the bow; glide around enormous icebergs in Zodiacs; photograph penguin colonies with a National Geographic photographer; hike, kayak, and even possibly cross-country ski in complete tranquility.

One of Earth's grandest wildlife experiences: Sail to the high Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, the best place on the planet to see polar bears—wild and majestic in their native habitat. Over the past 30+ years, our ace spotters have given our guests multiple opportunities to experience close sightings. In addition to the bears, we'll have the opportunity to see and observe walrus, fascinating creatures and wonderful photo subjects, reindeer, elusive arctic foxes, fur seals, and a glory of birds. The islands of the archipelago are ideal for walking, with some hikes revealing artful, sculptural arrangements of whale bones on pebbled beaches, and the ghostly remains of trapper's huts.

Photos courtesy of @Lindbladexp



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