

Dear Fellow Travelers,

Well the ground-hog told us that there were six more weeks of winter, but don't despair-- your next summer vacation and something to look forward to, is around the corner!
Travel is On-Fire these days. I can't tell you how fast things are booking up all over the world. So this newsletter is going to focus on what we are offering on this summer
and we need you to let us know if you're in.
Our summer trips include:
Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Tanzania and Rwanda!

We need to know if you're joining us on these as soon as possible.
Anyone who signs up before Feb. 13th for any of the above will receive $100 off AND a three-month extension in an installment plan beyond the trip.
And Bring a Friend And Get an Additional $50 off

Contact us TODAY!



- Croatia 2025 Itinerary
- The People We Meet Series in Croatia
- Bulgaria & Romania June - July Summer ‘25
- Explore Africa's Safaris & Culture
- Robin's Travel Planning Services--
- Five Percent off your Backroads Bookings
- Book Club Meeting with the Author
- Guide for Choosing the Right Luggage



Travel to Croatia's Coast

June 17-25, 2025

Break free from the cold winter weather and start planning your unforgettable Summer 2025 adventure! 🌞✨

Join us on an unforgettable 9-day journey along the stunning Croatian coast. From historic cities to pristine islands, this adventure takes you beyond typical tourist destinations. Whether you're an explorer at heart or someone who enjoys discovering a place through its culture and people, this trip is designed for you.

Croatia is on everyone's bucket list for a reason with its sparkling Adriatic coastline, medieval charm, and untouched beauty. Add to that our ***luxurious*** accommodations, and this trip will provide you with the vacation you've been dreaming about. Imagine sailing the Adriatic, indulging in boutique wine tours, and learning to cook traditional Dalmatian dishes. Hike serene mountains, kayak along Dubrovnik's ancient walls, and enjoy wines from family-owned vineyards. Croatia is a magical blend of culture, adventure, and unforgettable moments.

Unfortunately, it's not such a secret, although our time frame before the July crowds start, is better-- but you need to act now. Even our specialized guide is giving us a deadline.

We've created a video showcasing each day's itinerary and the incredible experiences awaiting you. **[Watch the Video Here]**

Quick look at Croatia Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Split, Croatia! Explore ancient ruins, charming streets, and lively markets.

Day 2: Hike the stunning Dalmatian Hinterlands, boat tour of Cetina River Canyon, and hands-on Croatian Soparnik cooking class!

Day 3: Hike Krka Falls, see the National Forest with 200 species of native birds and 800 species of native plants, along with exploring the UNESCO site of Trogir.

Day 4: Speedboat to Hvar, hike Vis Island, and discover the Blue Caves!

Day 5: Explore Hvar's historic town, enjoy wine tastings at a family owned winery, agave leaf lace making, & more surprises.

Day 6: Sail to Pelješac Peninsula, explore Korčula, and savor a seaside lunch before a boutique wine tour and tasting.

Day 7: Stroll Dubrovnik's ancient city walls and enjoy an olive oil tasting & silk workshop in nearby Konavle.

Day 8: Kayak around Dubrovnik's walls, explore the lush Lokrum Island, and give back with a Beach Day cleanup to protect the Adriatic with Maritimo Recycling Program.

Day 9: Bid farewell to Croatia with unforgettable memories as we depart from Dubrovnik.

If the Croatia trip dates don't work for you, or you're interested in a tailored experience for you and your chosen group, **email us** so we can plan the perfect trip for you!

Croatia Group Trip Details - June 17-25 2025





The People We Meet On Steppin Out Adventures

In our latest blog post, we explore the remarkable *people we meet* on our travels, like Marjan Žitnik, whose inspiring journey is transforming the future of the Adriatic Sea. During Steppin' Out's upcoming June trip to Croatia, travelers will have the unique opportunity to join Marjan in his mission to **combat plastic pollution** through his initiative, Maritimo Recycling. With a deep personal connection to the sea, Marjan founded **Maritimo Recycling to turn ocean plastic into valuable, functional products, which we will get to witness and partake**—like limited-edition recycled sunglasses, fishing accessories, and even stylish bracelets. These innovative creations not only raise awareness but also help fund ongoing clean-up efforts to preserve the Adriatic for future generations. Marjan's story is a

powerful reminder of how one person's passion can spark a movement, and we're excited to share how you can be part of the change.

Read more about Marjan's vision and how you can contribute to a cleaner Adriatic on our blog.

Read our Recent Blog Post

Continue Your European Summer '25 Adventures in *Bulgaria and Romania*

We're beyond thrilled to introduce brand **NEW** adventures to Romania and Bulgaria this summer! Following our Croatia trip, we're diving into two of Eastern Europe's most captivating yet underrated destinations. **These countries boast storybook villages, rugged mountains, and deep-rooted traditions.** Whether you're drawn to exploring medieval castles, hiking through breathtaking landscapes, or immersing yourself in local culture, this is your chance to venture beyond the usual European hotspots. Add it on to your Croatia trip or join us for just this leg—either way, it's going to be a special adventure. **Do one, do both or do all three Eastern Europe Adventures! We are offering thinking that Bulgaria and Romania would be together and will make the flight arrangements to get from one to the other, but wanted to put them out separately as well.**

BULGARIA: June 26 - July 3, 2025

A land where ancient Thracians, Romans, and Ottomans all left their mark, Bulgaria is one of Europe's most overlooked gems, brimming with history, mystery, and adventure. Sofia, the capital, sits atop layers of civilizations, where Roman ruins peek out from beneath modern streets, in fact a city was found just ten years ago when they were building out the underground train station!
But Bulgaria is more than its past—it's a country of wild landscapes and untamed traditions. We'll hike through the Rila Mountains to the Seven Rila Lakes, where glacial waters shimmer in seven shades of blue, and stand in awe before the golden domes of Rila Monastery, a spiritual stronghold since the 10th century. Deep in the Rhodope Mountains, we'll descend into Devil's Throat Cave, said to be the very place Orpheus entered the underworld to retrieve his lost love. As night falls, we'll feast on sizzling banitsa pastries and sip fiery rakia with locals, maybe even joining in on a traditional fire-dancing ritual that has been performed for centuries.

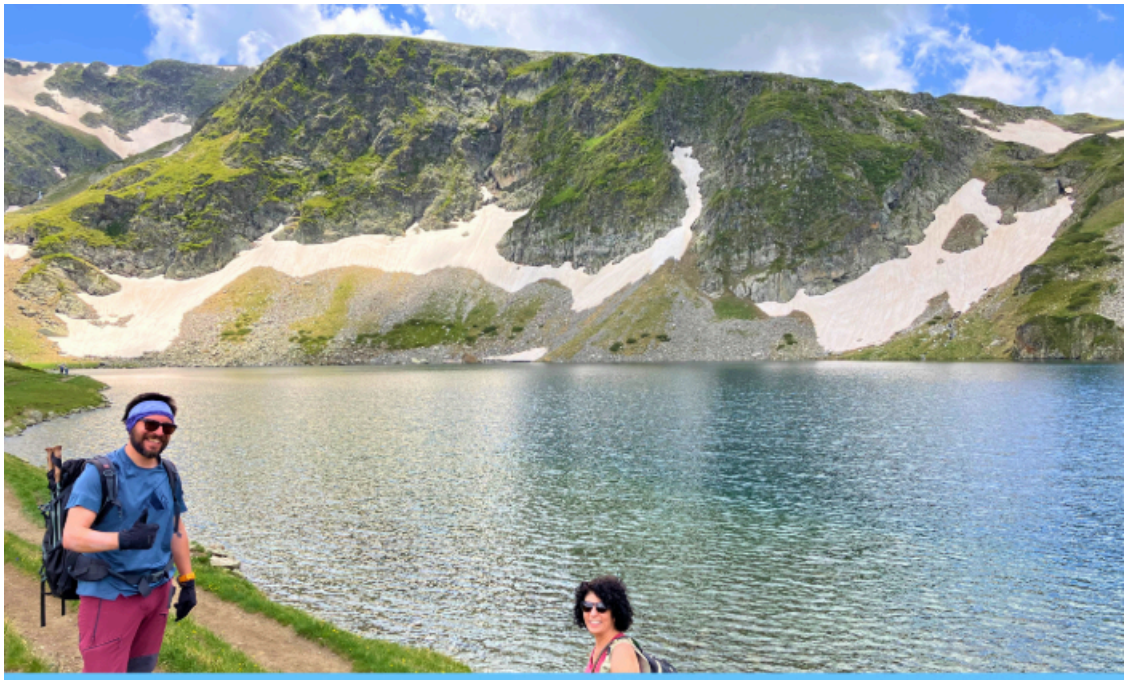
ROMANIA: July 3 - July 8, 2025

More than just Dracula’s homeland, Romania is a place where medieval villages, vast forests, and haunting legends collide. Our trip includes an exclusive candlelit tour of Dracula's castle after regular hours.

We’ll explore Transylvania’s gothic Corvin Castle,where we'll indulge in a gourmet lunch and Romania's finest wine for tasting. cross the cobbled streets of Brasov, and hike into the wild Carpathians mountains to hike the stunning Piatra Craiului National Park, one of Romania’s most picturesque and unspoiled natural reserves In the world. In Saxon village of Viscri, where Prince Charles owns a home, we will hop on e-bikes to discover villages set back in time-- where horse-drawn carts outnumber cars, and ancient traditions still thrive. Romania is a land of contrasts—old-world charm, untamed nature, and thrilling surprises at every turn.

Bulgaria Trip Details - June 26-July 3, 2025

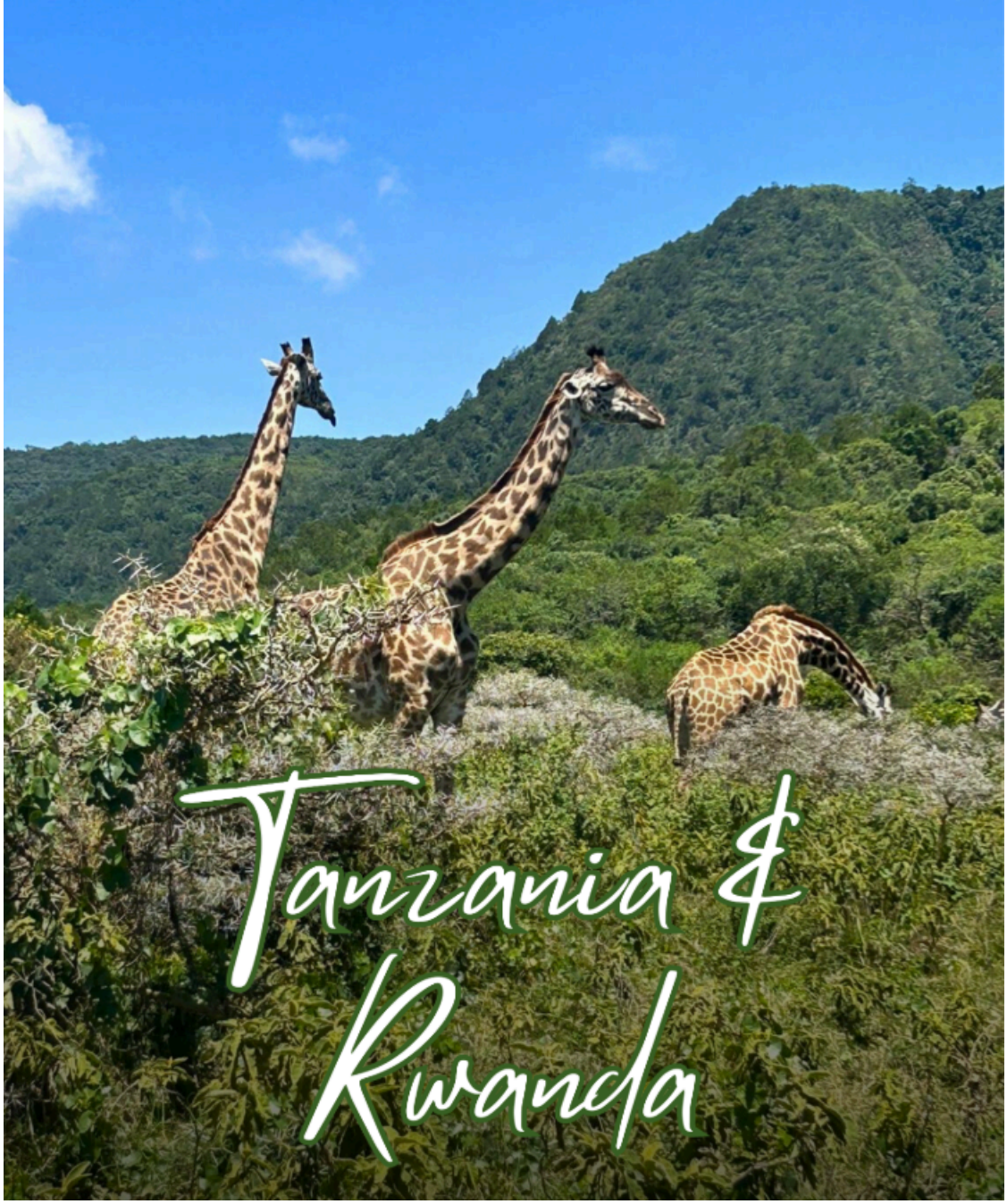
Romania Trip Details - July 3-8, 2025




Bulgaria




Romania



The Magic of East African Safaris and Culture

Some trips change the way you see the world- Tanzania and Rwanda do more than that They awaken your sense of adventure, immersing you in breathtaking nature, rare wildlife encounters, and rich cultural traditions. It's an experience that stays with you forever.

TANZANIA: August 21–31, 2025

Step into a world where nature's greatest spectacle unfolds before your eyes. This isn't just a safari—it's front-row seats to the Great Migration, where wildebeests, zebras, and gazelles thunder across the savanna, dodging crocodile-infested rivers while lions, elephants, and giraffes roam freely around you.

But the adventure doesn't stop there. You'll step beyond the ordinary, walking alongside the Hadzabe tribe as they teach you the secrets of survival, hunting,

and gathering in the wild or meeting Mama Anna and her women's co-op. Luxury meets authenticity as you unwind in world-class accommodations each night, sipping cocktails under the African sky, swapping stories of the day's unforgettable encounters.

This isn't just a regular trip—it's a rare, pulse-racing, soul-stirring journey into the heart of Africa.

RWANDA: August 31 Sept. 3 2025

From the golden savannas of Tanzania, we take you deep into the emerald jungles of Rwanda, where an encounter with the world's last wild mountain gorillas will leave you breathless. As you trek through the misty slopes of Volcanoes National Park, the moment you lock eyes with a silverback is one you'll never forget.

Beyond the jungle, Rwanda's culture comes alive. Dance, drum, and celebrate at the Rwanda Cultural Festival, immersing yourself in traditions that pulse with history and resilience. Get up close with golden monkeys, explore Kigali's vibrant art scene, and relax in ultra-luxurious lodges that blend seamlessly into the landscape.

This is adventure with heart and soul—an experience that will change the way you see the world.

Tanzania Group Trip Details

Rwanda Group Trip Details

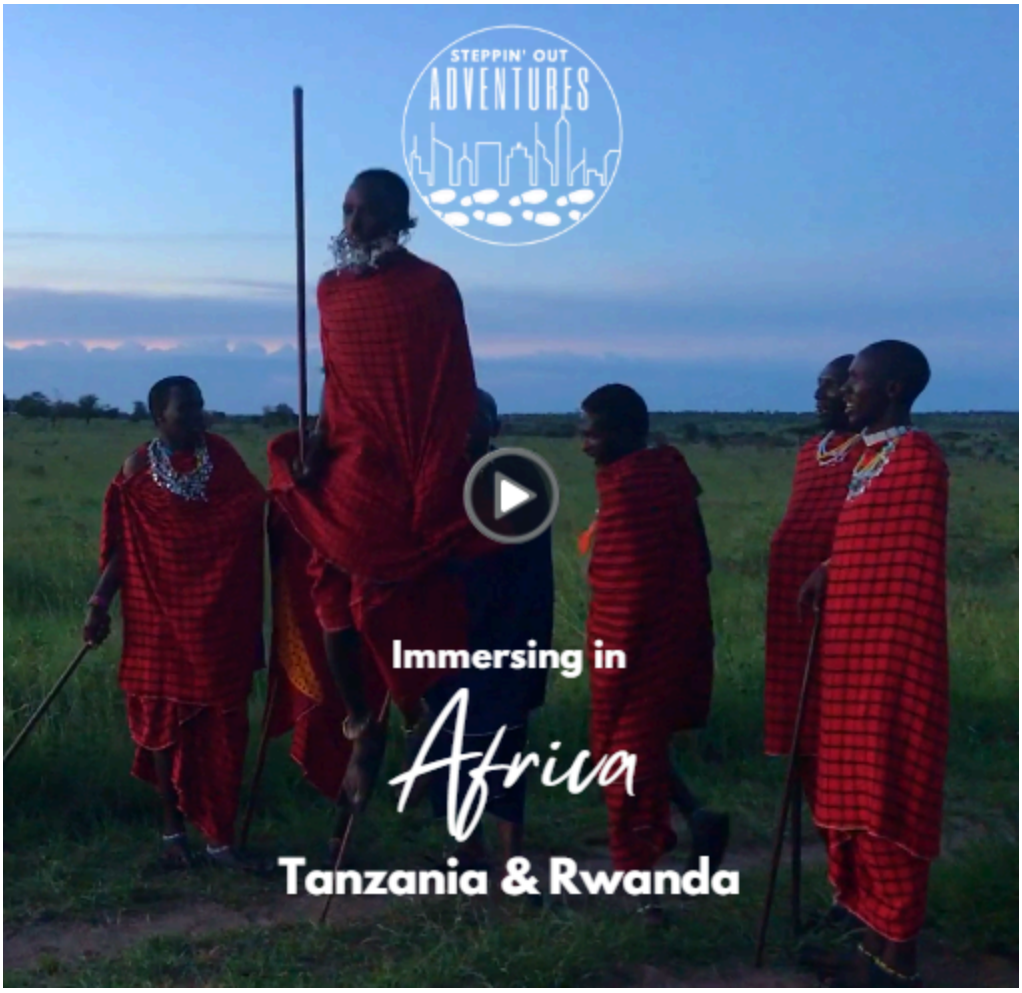


Take a Look at What Awaits You!

Don't take our word for it! Hear from *Steppin' Out travelers John, Lisa and Arthur* who've experienced the magic of Tanzania and

Rwanda firsthand. Watch the video below to see their unforgettable experiences and moments.

Watch now and start imagining yourself on the adventure of a lifetime! ↓





Traveling With Steppin' Out Adventures You'll Enjoy:

- **Stress-Free Travel** – We handle all the details, so you can simply relax and enjoy the journey.

- **Immersive Experience**s – Go beyond the typical tourist spots with unique cultural and adventure activities.
- **Like-Minded Travelers** – Connect with an active, social group (typically ages 40-60+).
- **Luxury & Adventure** – A perfect balance of exploration and relaxation in top-tier accommodations.
- **Personalized Trips Available** – Bring your own group for a personalized, private experience.



Robin's Travel Agent Services are Here!

For over 30+ years, Robin has been crafting unforgettable journeys through Steppin' Out Adventures—bringing travelers together for immersive group trips and curating custom adventures tailored to their interests. Now, she's taking it a step further.

Beyond our signature group and custom trips, **Robin is here to help with *any* part of your travel planning.** From booking flights and securing the perfect hotel to arranging transportation, activities, and restaurant reservations—she's got you covered. Need a guided itinerary for a bucket-list destination? Want insider recommendations for a place you've never been? Whether it's a fully planned getaway or just a few key details, Robin can make your trip seamless and stress-free.

Robin is your travel go-to. Let her take the stress out of planning so you can focus on the fun. Reach out today and start your next adventure—your way!

✔ **Flights**

✔ **Itinerary**

✔ **Hotel and Restaurant Reservations**

✔ **Activities**

Feel free to email Robin, or give her a call

Exclusive Offer: Save on Your Backroads Adventure!

Love biking-focused trips or destinations outside of Steppin' Out's lineup? You may have considered ***Backroads***—and now, we're making it even better!

Backroads is a premier travel company specializing in active adventures, offering incredible biking, hiking, and multi-sport trips in stunning destinations worldwide. Whether you dream of cycling through the vineyards of France, hiking in Patagonia, or exploring new places at your own pace, Backroads provides expertly planned, adventure-packed experiences.

Now, Steppin' Out is partnering with Backroads to give our travelers more options. When you book a Backroads trip through us, we'll **— we'll offer a 5% reimbursement on your trip cost!**

Enjoy the same world-class biking and adventure trips, with the added perk of savings. Let us handle the booking, and you'll get rewarded just for planning your next journey with us.

Ready to ride? Reach out to Robin today to learn how to get this deal!





Steppin' Out Adventures Book Club is Back!

March 3rd

7pm CT on Zoom

Our next Book Club pick brings a powerful story to the table—one that sparks conversation, inspires change, and takes us into a world few truly know featuring *I Will Scream to the World: My Story. My Fight. My Hope for Girls Everywhere* by Jaha Marie Dukureh. (🔗 link to book here)

A powerful memoir of survival, resilience, and advocacy. Jaha's journey—from enduring female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage to leading a global movement, her journey is one of resilience, courage, and activism. Beyond her personal story, the book also offers a glimpse into The Gambia—an African country many know little about but one Jaha hopes to take us to someday.

✨ Special Guest: Jaha herself will be joining us live! This is a rare opportunity to hear directly from her and take part in an important conversation on advocacy, survival, and hope.

🗓️ **When**: March 3rd, 2025 at 7PM CT

📍 **Where**: Zoom

🔗 **Register Here**

Be sure to grab your copy of the book now so you can participate in this powerful conversation. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing in this unforgettable experience together!

Guide to Choosing the Right Luggage

Your Guide to Choosing the Right Luggage for Summer Travel. When traveling, your luggage should make things easier, not harder. Here's what to look for and some product recommendations to help you pack smarter.

1. Wheels That Work for You



360-degree spinner wheels are great for airports. They roll smoothly and are easy to steer. But if you're traveling on rough terrain like cobblestone streets, go for two larger, fixed wheels. They are more durable and don't get stuck as easily.

For trips like Croatia, where you'll be exploring historic cities with cobblestone streets, or Romania's charming towns, durable wheels are a must to avoid the hassle of getting stuck.

- **Recommendation:** Samsonite Freeform Hardside Expandable Luggage (comes in 12 + colors)

2. Durability and Warranties



On rugged trips like Tanzania's safari or Rwanda's gorilla trekking, you may encounter varying transport methods such as planes, jeeps, and boats. A durable suitcase ensures your belongings are safe through every leg of the journey.

Your suitcase should be strong enough to handle heavy use. Look for reinforced handles, sturdy zippers, and materials that last. A lifetime warranty can be a lifesaver for frequent travelers.

- **Recommendation:** Travelpro Maxlite 5 Softside Expandable Carry-On

3. Built-in Organization



For multi-stop trips like our back-to-back adventures in Tanzania and Rwanda, staying organized is key. Built-in compartments will help you easily find what you need without fully unpacking at every stop.

Packing cubes are useful, but built-in features like front pockets and compression straps help too. Look for suitcases with inside compartments to keep items in place and front pockets for easy access.

- **Recommendation:** Amazon Basics Hardside Spinner Luggage

4. Hard-Sided or Soft-Sided?

For ski trips like Telluride, soft-sided luggage may be better to accommodate bulky winter gear. But for Croatia, where you might bring back fragile souvenirs, or Tanzania's markets, a hard-sided suitcase is the safer option for keeping delicate items secure and protected. Soft-sided luggage is flexible and can squeeze into tight spaces. Hard-sided luggage protects fragile items and often resists water better. Choose based on what you'll be carrying and where you'll be going.

5. Travel Accessories You'll Need

- TSA-Approved Locks
- Protective Luggage Covers
- Packing Cubes

With the right luggage, you can focus on enjoying your trip instead of worrying about your bags.

Steppin' Out Adventures is here to be your trusted travel resource for custom and international trips. We also provide curated product recommendations and practical advice to ensure every journey is memorable and stress-free.



Telluride | Feb 22 - March 1, 2025

A renowned Colorado ski destination, combines world-class skiing with charming Victorian architecture and stunning mountain views, offering the perfect winter escape for adventurers and relaxation seekers alike.

Discover More ››



Croatia | June 17 - June 25, 2025

Experience the Dalmatian Coast, where history, culture, and natural beauty meet in an intimate, small-group adventure filled with private boat rides, local wine tastings, and hands-on culinary experiences.

Discover More ››



Bulgaria | June 27 - July 3, 2025

Step into a land of stunning mountains, secret lakes, and ancient ruins. Hike the Seven Rila Lakes, discover hidden villages with timeless traditions, and immerse yourself in Bulgaria's rich culture with traditional cooking, folklore dances, and visits to charming mountain villages.

Discover More ››



Romania | July 3 - July 8, 2025

Explore medieval castles, charming cities, and dramatic mountain landscapes. Wandering through Bucharest’s grandeur, uncover the legends behind Peleș and Bran Castles, and lose yourself in the picturesque streets of Transylvania. From hiking the Carpathian peaks to tasting local delicacies. Romania offers a blend of experiences.

Discover More ››



Tanzania | August 21 - 31, 2025

Venture into the thrill of Tanzania’s wild heart, from witnessing the world’s largest animal migration to immersing yourself in the Hadzabe tribe’s ancient dances, songs, and food-making traditions, all set against a backdrop of East Africa. With or without Rwanda

Discover More ››



Rwanda | August 31 - September 5, 2025

Get up close to Rwanda’s majestic gorillas on an unforgettable trek and golden monkeys, engage with the local community through vibrant traditions and stories at a cultural festival, all while discovering the country’s passion for conservation and its inspiring journey of renewal. (Option to add on for those who only to go to Rwanda.

Discover More ››



Morocco | October 10 - 19, 2025

Although we're not hosting a trip to Morocco, a trusted partner (DC Internationals) is offering an beautiful cultural adventure with camel rides into the desert, stays with local families, cooking classes, and guided tours through vibrant cities like Marrakesh and Fes, all while immersing in the rich history and traditions of this magical country.

More Info››



Peru | Nov. 2 (TBD)

Discover the vibrant soul of Peru, where ancient Inca heritage meets colorful local cultures, from bustling markets, biking, learning to cook traditional meals, sacred rituals with indigenous shamans, express hike to the famed Machu Pichu, with extensions to Lima, flight over Nazca lines and Rainbow mountain. An unforgettable adventure that brings you face-to-face with the heart of this extraordinary country.

More Info ››



Custom Travel

There's no better time than now. Create your dream adventure — tailored to your group's unique interests and style. Take a look at what we have to offer.

All Aboard ››

We Sell Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance: The best you can do to prepare for the unexpected. Whether you're signing up for our trip or others, or just traveling on your own, be protected.



Do Good By Shopping Here

WE USE PROCEEDS FROM AMAZON, OUR SPONSORS AND OTHER FUNDRAISERS TO GIVE BACK TO THE PEOPLE IN THE PLACES WE VISIT. So please start your amazon shopping here.

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Questions? Contact us today (847) 414-4956

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