

"I'd rather wake up in the middle of nowhere than in any city on earth."

Steve McQueen



Touring in high places.

Tour update:

Turkey: 21 days.

Istanbul, Gallipoli, Kusadasi, Cappadocia, 5 day yacht cruise.

Sept. 3, three places left.

Sept. 9, two places left.

Peru 2009, 21 days.

with optional Galapagos extension.

May 15, two places left, Galapagos extension full

May 22, eight places left, four Galapagos places left.

China 2009, 24 days.

Mongolia, Tengeli Desert, train to Lhasa, Shengdu, Shanghai.

Sept. 3, Five places left.

Our Rajasthan, Amritsar and Nepal tour departing October 18 is sold out

Hello again. On April 5th I returned from escorting our Roof of the World tour. Our start was somewhat exciting as we found out just before checking-in at YVR that riots had broken out in Tibet; one of our destinations. After being in the Himalayas for a few days it became apparent that we would not be driving from Lhasa into Nepal as planned. Instead we amended our itinerary to spend extra time in Nepal. While we could not drive across the Himalayas we were able to get good views of the mountains and especially Everest during a flightseeing trip which was one of the last minute amendments to our plans.

The date of our departure was chosen to coincide with a Tsechu (dance) festival taking place in Bhutan and we spent a week in this

wonderful, largely unspoiled Himalayan Kingdom. Obviously, many group members enjoyed Bhutan as they have asked me to organize another tour which will permit a longer, two week stay and allow us to visit the central and eastern parts of the country; areas which receive few if any tourists. This tour which will also include a week visiting the Darjeeling area and the former Kingdom of Sikkim is slated for October of 2009. Unfortunately the Government of Bhutan in its effort to limit the number and impact of tourists has increased the mandatory daily fee that tourist must pay for meals and accommodation from \$200 per day to \$300. This action also reflects the weakness of the U.S. Dollar; as a result it has, of course, increased the cost of our tour. I hope to have full details of this tour in a few weeks.



Bhutan photos, clockwise: Monastery dancers, Local children, Tiger Nest Monastery, Giant "Thondroel" tapestry

Not just a tour company!

Not Just a Tour Company! Elan Travel is a diverse travel company with offices in Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert and 19 full time employees. Most have been with Elan for more than ten years, and some have put in over twenty years with Elan.

Many out of town clients who have got to know us through our tours are now booking all their travel with us. Like our local clientele they have found that we often meet or even beat Internet prices. So, whether your next adventure is a beach vacation, an exotic cruise, a weekend to Las Vegas or to visit family in another province, we are here to help you with all your travel needs.

We also have a Corporate Travel Team dealing exclusively with our business clientele who include: Rio Tinto Alcan, WorkSafe BC (WCB), various Provincial Ministries and the Nisga'a Lisims Government, Eurocan Pulp and Paper to name a few.

Elan Travel is one of two agencies in BC who have a contract with Air Canada to provide fishing lodges with exclusive air fares for anglers traveling to BC to experience our world class fishing.

We provide nature based shore excursions to the Alaskan cruise ships now making regular calls to Prince Rupert.

We would love to be your Travel Agent!

L to R. Staff; Renee, Debbie, Genniene, Kevin (Orchestra piper) & Barb. Bonnie and Trina.



How the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra became our client is a long story but we are proud to have made the travel arrangements for their three very successful North American tours.

Weird facts # 2
You can only see a rainbow if your back is to the sun.



Serengeti sunset



Kilimanjaro, the snow maybe gone by 2010.



Bwindi resident



Ngorongoro crater



Masai villagers

In our first newsletter we asked for your ideas regarding future destinations, many of you suggested Africa, specifically a wildlife tour. I believe that one way to preserve the habitat of endangered species is to use tourism to provide the local population with a greater income than they could derive from poaching or by destroying the natural habitat of the animals in question

With that in mind my colleague Stephanie and I have started work on a 21 day trip which would include a stay at the Bwindi Gorilla Reserve in Uganda, and also a nearby Chimp preserve. We would then spend a further 14 days game viewing in Tanzania; featuring, Mnt. Kilimanjaro, Lake Manyara, Serengeti, Ngorongoro with a couple of days to rest up at an Indian Ocean resort, perhaps even Zanzibar, before flying home.

The Gorilla and Chimp viewing will involve trekking so a certain level of fitness will be required. We are

negotiating prices right now and hope to have something more definite within a month. Keep in mind that there is a \$700 entry fee at the Bwindi Reserve with all proceeds going to Gorilla conservation.....fair enough! And the better safari lodges can be quite expensive.

The tour will take place in October 2010. October is an optimum month for weather and game viewing

While animals would be a common denominator, Antarctica could not be more different from a scenic and



Antarctic seascape

climate point of view. This was another suggestion that some of you mentioned. We are therefore looking into a tour combining a ten day cruise with a week or more in Patagonia. The tour will depart in January of 2010 peak time to visit the penguins. February is not such a good month to see



penguins but the whale viewing is better; my view is that we already have pretty good whale watching on Canada's west coast.

In Patagonia we would visit the Lanin volcano area, Glacier National Park, and Tierra del Fuego National Park. Our ship would depart from Ushuaia, the worlds most southerly city. Like our proposed Africa tour this trip will involve hiking in order to appreciate the unique scenery and flora.



Patagonia

Our school project in Nepal.

When I first visited the Himalayas four years ago, I was impressed at how far small children had to walk, sometimes over rough terrain, to get to and from school. When I mentioned this to our guide his response was that these children were lucky, in his home country of Nepal, many areas were still without a school of any kind. Literacy in Nepal is only 24% for women and 57% for males. Now that peace has returned to Nepal, hopefully for good; I was able to take a group there in March of this year. The lack of adequate schooling in remote areas was immediately apparent. Even in a fairly affluent (By Nepali standards) village the primary school was woefully inadequate.

Since my first Himalayan trip 2003 I have always wanted to help build a school in rural Nepal, and having now seen the need first hand I am more determined than ever. A retired house builder who still

resides in Terrace along with a friend are proposing to travel to Nepal this Fall and undertake such a project. Fortunately the owner of the Nepali tour company I have used for many years, is involved with a reliable NGO that has a building program. Elan Travel along with a local school is undertaking the fundraising not only for the school itself but supplies and on going funding. I'll keep you posted on progress.



The very pretty & relatively prosperous town of Bandipur and its one room school