WWF Insider Journeys

2022-2023 Insider Journeys

Alaska’s Conservation Frontier
The Great Apes of Uganda
The Eastern Himalaya: Bhutan & Nepal
Kingdom of the Monarchs: Mexico
Costa Rica’s Natural Legacy
**WWF Insider Journeys** are for those who have a thirst for travel and a passion to preserve the wild places and creatures that inhabit our planet. These custom-designed trips offer an exclusive opportunity to journey with WWF experts and other conservation insiders to learn about and experience the wildlife, ecosystems, and communities we are working together to protect. **Come explore the best of the natural world and see how, together, we are making a difference for the planet.**
WWF Experts

Costa Rica’s Natural Legacy: February 20–March 1, 2023

Esteban Brenes is based in Costa Rica and joined WWF’s Conservation Finance team in July 2001. As the Conservation Finance Director, he leads major initiatives to design and implement conservation finance mechanisms, such as debt-for-nature swaps that support long-term, self-sustaining conservation programs.

Alaska’s Conservation Frontier: June 30–July 12, 2022

Dave Aplin is based out of Homer, Alaska and recently retired from his role as Senior Program Officer for WWF’s Arctic Program. For nearly a decade, he developed a special relationship with Bristol Bay as he fought to protect the region from numerous threats—collaborating with his Arctic teammates on issues like Arctic oil development, trans-Arctic shipping, and commercial fishing. He holds a BS and MS from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The Great Apes of Uganda: July 6–15, 2022

Allard Blom is the Managing Director for WWF’s Congo Basin Program. Before joining WWF, he spent more than 16 years working in central Africa. In Dzanga-Sangha in the Central African Republic, he initiated a long-term sustainable funding strategy which includes a successful gorilla habituation program where tourists can visit the elusive western lowland gorillas. Allard holds a Ph.D. in ecology and wildlife management from Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

The Eastern Himalaya: Bhutan & Nepal: December 4–15, 2022

Dechen Dorji is WWF’s Director for Asia, Wildlife Conservation and was previously Country Representative for WWF-Bhutan. After receiving a Master of Environmental Studies degree from Yale University, Dechen worked in Bhutan managing regional forestry and agriculture development projects, and later served as Public Policy Researcher and Professional Assistant to His Majesty the King of Bhutan.

Kingdom of the Monarchs: Mexico: January 15–20, 2023

María José Villanueva has worked with WWF-Mexico for over 10 years, helping establish nationwide partnerships with Indigenous communities, local and federal governments, and private sector businesses to conserve Mexico’s unique biodiversity. As the Conservation Director for WWF-Mexico, she leads the Ocean, Terrestrial Ecosystem, Climate Change, and Freshwater programs.

Costa Rica’s Natural Legacy: February 20–March 1, 2023

Esteban Brenes is based in Costa Rica and joined WWF’s Conservation Finance team in July 2001. As the Conservation Finance Director, he leads major initiatives to design and implement conservation finance mechanisms, such as debt-for-nature swaps that support long-term, self-sustaining conservation programs.

These journeys are being arranged in collaboration with Natural Habitat Adventures of Boulder, Colorado. Since 2003, WWF has partnered with Nat Hab to take travelers to view nature’s greatest sights. WWF selected Natural Habitat as its partner because of its long-standing commitment to conservation and the exceptional quality of its adventures.
**ALASKA’S CONSERVATION FRONTIER**

June 30 –July 12, 2022

**Home to stunning landscapes of rugged coastal areas, mountains, rivers, and lakes, Alaska boasts some of the greatest natural scenery and wildlife on earth. Join Alaska resident and WWF Expert Dave Aplin as we discover WWF’s role in protecting the state’s spectacular national parks, teeming wildlife areas, and rich Native Alaskan heritage.**

We’ll begin in remarkable Denali National Park, where we’ll experience genuine wilderness in the Denali backcountry, as we overnight at one of the few lodges located deep within the park’s remote interior. On the Kenai Peninsula, ride the Alaska Railroad through the great interior, and float the Placer River beneath the icy peaks of the Chugach Range. Cruise to the face of a calving glacier, look for whales, otters, and puffins on a chartered cruise in Kenai Fjords, and overnight on a private island. We will then fly to King Salmon in the heart of Bristol Bay. Along the way we will stop to witness the grizzly bears of Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park. Finishing in King Salmon, we will experience the region’s bustling commercial fisheries and WWF’s work with Native communities.

**ITINERARY AT A GLANCE** 13 Days

Day 1: Fairbanks, Alaska
Day 2-5: Denali National Park–Kantishna / Alaska Railroad / Talkeetna / Alyeska
Day 6: Spencer Glacier / Placer River Float
Day 7: Kenai Peninsula / Private Fox Island
Day 8: Kenai Fjords National Park–Private Cruise
Day 9: Seward / Anchorage
Day 10&11: King Salmon / Katmai National Park – Brooks Falls
Day 12&13: Katmai / King Salmon / Anchorage

For reservations and additional information, please contact Court Whelan at Natural Habitat Adventures at 888-993-8687, (Int’l) 303-449-3711 or courtw@nathab.com
HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy a Rail and Float Adventure — Ride the Alaska Railroad to the Spencer Glacier whistle stop, float among the icebergs on Spencer Lake, and raft the gentle Placer River through the Chugach Range.

Stay on a Private Island — Cruise Kenai Fjords aboard our chartered boat, surrounded by glaciers, seabirds and marine wildlife, and stay in quiet isolation on private Fox Island.

Meet the Bears of Brooks Falls — Spend unhurried time with the brown bears of Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park.

Experience WWF’s Work Firsthand — See King Salmon’s commercial fisheries and learn how WWF works alongside conservation groups, Indigenous leaders, Alaskan citizens, and businesses.

Trip Information

Dates: June 30–July 12, 2022
Price: $13,995 (+ internal air)
Internal Air: $1,295
Group Size: Limited to 12 guests

worldwildlife.org/insiderjourneys

For itineraries and additional information please visit: worldwildlife.org/insiderjourneys
**Trip Information**

**Dates:** July 6–15, 2022  
**Price (4–6 Guests):** $12,615  
**Price (7–9 Guests):** $11,995  
**Internal Air:** $980  
**Trekking Permits:** $1,800  
*(prices based on 2021 and subject to change slightly)*  
**Group Size:** Limited to 9 guests

For itineraries and additional information please visit: worldwildlife.org/insiderjourneys

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

**An Extended Gorilla Immersion** — Two separate treks through the rain forest of Uganda’s Bwindi Impenetrable National Park offer captivating close encounters with endangered mountain gorillas.

**See Chimpanzees & Other Wildlife** — Observe wild chimpanzees on two treks in Kibale National Park, and view a wide array of classic African plains game in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Exclusive Features for a Premier Safari** — Our WWF Expert, outstanding Expedition Leaders, the finest ecodges close to wildlife, plus two chartered flights (avoiding long drives) set this Uganda primate safari above the rest!
Travel with WWF’s Allard Blom, Managing Director for the Congo Basin Program, to experience Uganda’s incredible diversity of habitats and animals up close on a variety of wildlife adventures. Search for iconic safari wildlife in Kibale and Queen Elizabeth National Parks like elephants, hippos, and the elusive tree-climbing lions of Ishasha and the Kazinga Channel; admire the soaring Rwenzori mountains; watch for birds, hippos, and crocodiles on a river tour; and interact with chimpanzees in the Kibale Forest.

The trip ends with two days of trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and the chance to encounter the ever-charismatic mountain gorilla—a truly unforgettable experience.

Here WWF has worked for more than 40 years to save the mountain gorilla and its forest habitat. In 1991, Fauna and Flora International and WWF partnered to create the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP). With the IGCP and other partners, we work to conserve gorilla habitat and populations, and work alongside the local community to help improve their quality of life.

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ITINERARY AT A GLANCE 12 Days

Day 1: Kathmandu, Nepal
Day 2-4: Bharatpur / Chitwan National Park
Day 5: Bharatpur / Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Tour
Day 6&7: Paro, Bhutan / Thimphu
Day 8&9: Punakha Valley
Day 10&11: Paro / Tiger’s Nest & Kyichu Lhakhang
Day 12: Paro / Bangkok, Thailand / Depart

THE EASTERN HIMALAYA
December 4–15, 2022

Join expert Dechen Dorji, WWF’s Senior Director for Asia, Wildlife Conservation, and explore mountain heights and tropical lowlands on a soulful journey through the cultural and wildlife treasures of two Himalayan kingdoms—Bhutan and Nepal. With a presence in the eastern Himalaya since the early days of the conservation movement, WWF works here to combat wildlife crime, protect forests, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Geographically diverse, Nepal contains the world’s highest mountains, subtropical forests, and captivating cultures. During a private guided journey in Chitwan National Park, see how WWF is leading efforts to protect Bengal tigers, rhinos, leopards, and other majestic animals from poaching. Bhutan is one of the world’s little-known treasures, a nation dedicated to preserving its Buddhist traditions and pristine landscapes. Our journey will take you to ancient monasteries, Himalayan peaks, glacial rivers, and peaceful villages. Along the way, you will learn how WWF is working with the royal government on an ambitious plan to maintain almost 400,000 acres of “wildlife highways” that connect protected areas across the country.

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HIGHLIGHTS

**Experience WWF’s Work Firsthand** — Get an in-depth look at how WWF is working with governments and local communities to combat wildlife crime, protect forests, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

**Explore Jungle Wildlife in Chitwan** — Nepal’s Chitwan National Park is home to Asian elephant, one-horned rhinoceros, sloth bear, spotted deer, golden jackal and more.

**Visit Ancient Cultural Treasures** — Taktsang Monastery, Bhutan’s famous “Tiger’s Nest” temple, is steeped in legend and perched half a mile up on a sheer mountain cliff.

**Celebrate Tiger Recovery** — Visit two tiger range countries in 2022, the Chinese Lunar Year of the Tiger, when WWF will mark the closing of Tx2, a bold global initiative to double the number of tigers in the wild.

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**Trip Information**

- Dates: December 4–15, 2022
- Price: $11,295 (+ internal air)
- Internal Air: $1,848
  
  (prices and dates based on 2021 and subject to change slightly)

- Group Size: Limited to 9 guests

For itineraries and additional information please visit: worldwildlife.org/insiderjourneys
HIGHLIGHTS

Visit Monarch Migration Groves — On foot and horseback, enter the remote fir forests of Mexico’s Central Highlands, where millions of monarchs roost and breed each winter.

Listen to the Sound of Butterfly Wings — When the sun emerges, hear the gentle hum of gossamer butterfly wings as tens of thousands of monarchs take flight, fluttering overhead in a cloud of orange.

Local Culture with Local Guides — Explore traditional Mexican mountain villages and visit an authentic market, witnessing the benefits of butterfly tourism for local people.

Trip Information

Dates: January 15-20, 2023
Price: $4,295
Group Size: Limited to 14 guests
(prices based on 2022 and subject to change slightly)
worldwildlife.org/insiderjourneys

For itineraries and additional information please visit worldwildlife.org/insiderjourneys
Join us in Mexico to experience one of the most astounding natural events on Earth, featuring an unlikely creature: the delicate monarch butterfly. Every year, at the end of the summer, millions of monarchs take flight on a remarkable 2,500-mile journey, from the Northeast United States and Southeast Canada to their ancestral wintering grounds in the volcanic mountains of central Mexico.

Journey with WWF-Mexico’s conservation Expert María José Villanueva to her homeland’s Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve for a unique chance to get up close to these amazing creatures.

Immerse yourself in the monarchs’ fascinating world and learn directly from WWF Experts and local communities about how, since 2000, we have worked together to preserve vital monarch habitat and protect the species’ migration phenomenon from the impact of climate change. Today, local people grow fir trees for re-forestation; produce mushrooms for consumption and income; serve as guides for visitors; and volunteer in brigades that patrol the forest on the lookout for illegal logging and forest fires.

**ITINERARY AT A GLANCE 6 Days**

**Day 1:** Mexico City, Mexico  
**Day 2:** Angangueo–El Rosario Sanctuary  
**Day 3:** Angangueo–Chincua Sanctuary  
**Day 4:** Angangue–El Rosario Sanctuary / Valle de Bravo  
**Day 5:** Valle de Bravo / Toluca / Mexico City  
**Day 6:** Mexico City / Depart

For reservations and additional information, please contact Court Whelan at Natural Habitat Adventures at 888-993-8687, (Intl) 303-449-3711 or courtw@nathab.com
Join Costa Rica local and WWF Expert Esteban Brenes to discover how Costa Rica has been a pioneer in protecting its natural assets. Since the 1970s, WWF has been working on initiatives that are now sustained independently, and Costa Rica’s conservation legacy can be celebrated and enjoyed across the country.

Perhaps no itinerary shows you more of its varied wild treasures than this one. Flanked by miles of empty beaches on the Pacific and the Caribbean, Costa Rica’s interior is a lush tangle of rain forest, mist-veiled mountains, rushing rivers, active volcanoes and habitat for some of the greatest biodiversity on Earth. Within the layers of green upon green, thousands of species thrive: gigantic ferns, magenta orchids, neon-bright parrots, iridescent hummingbirds, three-toed sloths, monkeys, peccaries, agoutis, crocodiles, sea turtles, iguanas and frogs...and that’s just for starters! Amid the colors and cacophony of the tropical jungle, your senses have never been so engaged.

**ITINERARY AT A GLANCE** 10 Days

Day 1: San Jose, Costa Rica
Day 2&3: Tortuguero National Park—Private Boat & Rain Forest Walk
Day 4&5: Osa Peninsula—Exploring Corcovado National Park
Day 6: Corcovado / San Jose / Monteverde Cloud Forest
Day 7: Canopy Skywalk / Coffee Farm / Curi-Cancha Reserve
Day 8: Lake Arenal Private Cruise / Danaus Eco-Center / Night Walk
Day 9: Arenal Hanging Bridges / Hot Springs
Day 10: Bird Walk / San Jose / Depart

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HIGHLIGHTS

**Private Boat Cruises in Tortuguero & Arenal** — By private boat, look for endangered green sea turtles and abundant wildlife in Caribbean lowland jungles, and view Arenal Volcano from Lake Arena.

**Resplendent Quetzals in Monteverde** — With just 10 guests divided between two guides, we up our chances for encounters with cloud forest wildlife including rare quetzals and sloths.

**Remote Corcovado National Park** — Discover the hidden beauty of the little-visited Osa Peninsula as we explore pristine coastal rain forests and wild Pacific beaches—a rare inclusion!

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**Trip Information**

Dates: February 20–March 1, 2023
Price: $7,495 (+ internal air)
Internal Air: $1484
Group Size: Limited to 8 guests

[worldwildlife.org/insiderjourneys](http://worldwildlife.org/insiderjourneys)

For itineraries and additional information please visit [worldwildlife.org/insiderjourneys](http://worldwildlife.org/insiderjourneys)
Reservation Information and Trip Details

INCLUDED:
Trip prices are per person, based on double occupancy, and include: Accommodations, services of Nat Hab’s professional Expedition Leader(s), travel costs for your WWF Expert and local guides, most meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, most gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Internal air cost includes: On trips with internal flights, all flights within the itinerary are included (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

NOT INCLUDED:
Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees if required, optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, required medical evacuation insurance, and optional travel protection insurance.

PAYMENTS:
A deposit of $500 or $1000 confirms your space, depending on the trip. Payments are accepted by credit card or by check made out to Natural Habitat Adventures. Some deposits are nonrefundable.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:
Cancellations must be received in writing at Natural Habitat Adventures by US mail, email, or fax. At the time Natural Habitat Adventures receives your written cancellation, the following per person penalties apply: On or before 120 days before the trip: Full refund minus $1000 nonrefundable deposit. On or before 60 days before the trip: Forfeit 50% of tour cost. After 60 days before the trip: No refund.

INSURANCE:
Since the areas we travel to on this trip are remote and wild (that’s why we go there!), we require medical evacuation insurance for our guests’ safety. If you decline the medical evacuation insurance coverage offered by Natural Habitat, we request that you send us documentation of the independent coverage you have selected. We will add the cost of a medical evacuation policy to your tour invoice until you provide our office with proof of coverage including your insurance company’s name, contact number, and your individual policy number. Thank you for understanding that our policy exists exclusively in the interest of our guests’ safety.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

GETTING THERE AND GETTING HOME:
Natural Habitat Adventures can best serve you if their Travel Desk makes your reservations, as they are intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Please call 800-543-8917. Note that while they offer you the best possible rates available on airfare and additional nights’ accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS
Each adventure has different physical requirements varying from easy to difficult.

While adventures are designed specifically for WWF’s closest supporters and enhanced with WWF Experts, exclusive site visits, and enriched content, a minimum number of guests is required to run each trip. To avoid canceling, WWF and Nat Hab may fill unsold spots with WWF and non-WWF members.
Here are some of the advantages when you Make It Private:

- Your private group of family or friends, with special activities for kids
- Exclusive occupancy of our small luxury camps and lodges in select destinations
- Your own private naturalist Expedition Leader
- Your own vehicle for the utmost in flexibility
- Private meals whenever possible
- Surprisingly affordable pricing

Make it Private

Choose Your Travel Companions on a Private Group Journey

If any of the dates, destinations, or style of travel do not work well for you, these journeys and many more can be offered on a private basis, but without a WWF Expert.

With private options, you get the benefit of experiencing our carefully-crafted, remote itineraries while gaining the peace of mind of traveling only with your own select group of immediate family, multi-generational family, or group of friends.
Wilderness is not a luxury
but a necessity of the human spirit.
—Edward Abbey