



THE EXPLORER'S PASSAGE  
Where History Becomes Your Adventure!

*The Adventure Journal of*  
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**THE EXPLORER'S PASSAGE**  
Where History Becomes Your Adventure!

Toll Free: 855-208-6800 • Phone: 201-523-9900 • Fax: 201-523-9901  
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**Follow Us On Our Adventures!**

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Greetings, Explorers

Welcome to The Explorer's Passage – a new, creative approach to adventure travel. We thought we'd take a moment to introduce ourselves, and to give you a snapshot of what makes The Explorer's Passage experience unlike any other in the industry.

First, at The Explorer's Passage (TEP), we are extremely selective when it comes to choosing where on the map we'd like to explore. Each of our far-flung destinations is rich in spectacular scenery and opportunity for adventure. From canoeing the mighty Yukon River to riding horseback across the Andes, our adventures are carefully crafted to showcase the places we visit in the most intimate, exhilarating way possible.

Second, TEP destinations are unique in that they tell a story. Our adventures offer a step back in time, and into the boots of some of the world's most profound explorers, leaders and luminaries whose courage, virtue and vision changed the course of history. This element of the The Explorer's Passage experience, which we simply call *The Story*, unfolds seamlessly throughout your travels, bestowing on you a newfound appreciation and understanding of the people and places we visit.

Finally, it is our mission at The Explorer's Passage to make our name synonymous with excellence. Every detail of your adventure, from start to finish, has been meticulously considered. From personalized attention and support on the trail to an innate ability to wow you when you least expect it, we are committed to setting the industry standard for customer service, and to exceeding your expectations at every turn.

Thanks for your interest in The Explorer's Passage. Visit us online and don't hesitate to reach out to one of our Adventure Consultants with questions. We look forward to hearing from you, and to helping you pen a chapter of your own personal story as we embark together on the journey of a lifetime.

See you on the trail,  
The Explorers Passage Team



# *Redefining Adventure Travel*

*"There must be a beginning of any great matter, but the continuing to the end until it be thoroughly finished yields the true glory."*

~ Sir Francis Drake, the great 16th century English explorer and 2nd person to circumnavigate the globe

Explore an eye-popping frontier unchanged since the days of the Klondike Gold Rushers. Embark on a mystical trans-Himalayan trek, reliving the legend of the Second Buddha. Ride horseback across the Chilean and Argentinean border in the hoof prints of General José de San Martín's Army of the Andes.

At The Explorer's Passage, we define adventure as immersing ourselves in the world's most spectacular scenery, while walking in the footsteps of history's greatest adventurers and visionaries – with the comforts, of course, of expert guides, highly personalized service and all the amenities you would expect from modern-day travel.

Join us as we peel back the curtains of time and dive head first into some of the most beautiful places on the planet. With TEP you'll undoubtedly return home invigorated, and with newfound perspective – of a new land, its people, and its storied past.



# Why Explore With Us?

At TEP we take great pride in the research and creativity that goes into each of our itineraries. Our goal is to take care of everything – the guides, the hotels, the restaurants, the day-to-day activities – so all you have to do is sit back, relax and enjoy the ride. We simply ask that you bring an open mind and a thirst for adventure. Perhaps a journal. And a pair of broken-in hiking boots. The rest you can leave to us.



## EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

- Small group sizes (average 10, max 16)
- 6:1 average guest-to-guide ratio (one of the lowest in the industry)
- Highly personalized, rigorous attention to detail



## INSIDERS ACCESS

- Local guides (the world's best) with 20+ years average tenure
- Intimate immersion into culture, history, people & land
- *The Story*: unfolds with historical insights & deep local knowledge



## CREATIVE ITINERARIES

- No cookie-cutter tours
- Itineraries custom-crafted for each destination
- Structured activities, with room for spontaneity



## ADVENTURERS AT HEART

- Exhilarating activities that showcase the beauty of the region
- Flexible pace/level of difficulty
- Wrap up every day with a sense of accomplishment



## SLEEP WELL. EAT WELL.

- The best accommodations each region has to offer
- Tented camps with full support on remote excursions
- Emphasis on local fare, authentic to the region



## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

- Low impact to the environment
- Utmost respect for the local people and culture
- Leave No Trace principles incorporated into each trip



## WHO EXPLORES WITH US?

At TEP, we believe that everyone – from history's greatest adventurers to first-time travelers – is born with the impulse to explore. While our guests are diverse in age, interests and fitness, they share a sense of curiosity, and a passion for the great outdoors. So whether a novice adventurer or a seasoned globe-trotter, TEP has a trip which is perfect for you.

# Trip Leaders

What truly sets The Explorer's Passage apart are our Trip Leaders. Simply put, they are the best in the industry, selected not only for their professionalism, contagious energy and deep-rooted expertise, but also for their ability to weave *The Story* seamlessly throughout your travels.

With an average of 20 years of experience, our Trip Leaders have clearly found their calling. Committed to taking care of your every need and to wowing you with an uncanny attention to detail, there's nothing TEP leaders enjoy more than sharing their intimate knowledge of the land, culture, traditions and legends unique to the beautiful places they call home.



To get to know a sampling of our trip leaders, please visit us at:

[www.explorerspassage.com/about/leaders](http://www.explorerspassage.com/about/leaders)



# Featured Adventures

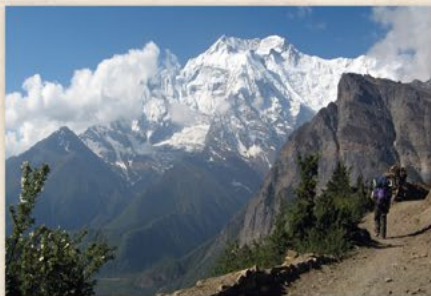


## IN SEARCH OF GOLD

*Trek the pine-clad Pacific Northwest path of the 1898 Yukon Gold Rushers.*

## THE MYTH OF MUSTANG

*Follow in the footsteps of a legendary Buddhist sage in the stunning, snow-peaked Himalayas.*



## CROSSING OF THE ANDES

*Ride horseback through the Andes, taking in the spectacular scenery through the eyes of the great Argentine general, Jose de San Martin.*



In order to cater to travelers with varying fitness levels, interests and time constraints, TEP offers a diverse selection of itineraries. For details on what makes each itinerary unique, please visit us online or give us a call. And keep in mind if you don't see the trip your looking for, our adventure consultants can custom craft a trip to your liking.



# *In Search of Gold*

From Glaciers to Gold Fields: An eye-popping frontier unchanged since the days of the Klondike Gold Rushers

It was 1897 when gold was discovered in a creek in the heart of Canada's Yukon Territory, placing the small town of Dawson City abruptly on the map. Soon after, over 100,000 would-be miners, carrying a year's worth of provisions, set off to tackle miles upon miles of rugged mountains and rushing rivers in search of riches. Join us as we journey from Skagway, Alaska to Dawson City, Yukon by foot, train, canoe and floatplane, reliving a chapter in Canada's history defined by irresistible opportunity, indomitable spirit, and irrefutable grit – and taking in some of the most majestic scenery the great Northwest wilderness has to offer.

SNAPSHOT

Countries: United States, Canada

Host City: Whitehorse, Canada (YXY)

Duration: 8-12 days\*

Start Dates: June, July, & August

Activities: Hiking, Canoeing



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the Yukon's vibrant capital city of Whitehorse alongside a special guest with strong family ties to the Klondike era, and ride the White Pass Railway through a panorama of glaciers, gorges and waterfalls to the historic town of Skagway, Alaska
- Set off from the one-time boom town of Dyea, Alaska on a 4.5 day trek along the Chilkoot Trail, walking in the footsteps of the 1898 Gold Rushers as you traverse coastal rainforest, high alpine tundra and sub-alpine boreal forest
- Ascend the Golden Stairs over Chilkoot Pass into Canada, marveling at the remnants of stamper supplies, over a century old, discarded along the trail, and trek to Bennett Lake, where logs were once whipsawed into boats, and where a float plane will whisk you away over the imposing Coast Mountains
- Canoe the mighty Yukon River, pausing to reel in a massive inconnu fish, or to watch a black bear feast on his own catch at river's edge, before basking in the warmth of a willow branch sauna and listening to campfire stories of life at the turn of the 20th century in the great northern frontier
- Explore what was once the largest mechanized gold extraction apparatus in North America and learn the proper techniques of panning for gold from a local miner at an active dredge on a visit to Dawson City, a one-time tent-city turned bona-fide historical landmark



\* Call us toll-free at 1-855-208-6800 or visit [www.explorerspassage.com](http://www.explorerspassage.com) for pricing, dates, and more details.



# The Myth of Mustang

In the footsteps of Guru Rinpoche, a trans-Himalayan journey into the sacred Kingdom of Mustang

*The Story* behind this epic Himalayan trek is embedded not only in ancient Buddhist myth, culture and art, but also in the snow-capped peaks, wind-carved canyons and verdant valleys that dominate Nepal's surreal and spectacular landscape. Welcome to the world of Guru Rinpoche, also known as Padmasambhava, an eminent Indian sage called upon by King Trisong Detsen in 760 AD to subdue demonical spirits hindering the introduction of Buddhism in Tibet. According to legend, the king's request spurred a heroic battle as Rinpoche pursued these spirits throughout the Kingdom of Mustang and into Tibet, carrying with him the 'great truth,' or dharma, until finally, he prevailed. A once-in-a-lifetime adventure marked by myth, majesty and mind-boggling natural beauty.

SNAPSHOT

Countries: Nepal

Host City: Kathmandu, Nepal (KTM)

Duration: 10-17 days\*

Start Dates: April, May, September, October & November

Activities: Trekking



## HIGHLIGHTS



- Visit Yangleshö Cave in the sacred village of Pharping where Guru Rinpoche is said to have attained enlightenment, and relax in traditional Nepalese gardens during your stay at Kathmandu's exquisite Shangri-La hotel
  - Take in a birds-eye view of Kali Gandaki gorge and the towering summits of Annapurna (26,502') and Dhaulagiri (26,811') on a flight to Jomsom and descend beneath a palette of blue sky and red fluted pinnacles to Dhakmar where story has it, the cliffs, etched in crimson, were stained by the blood of a demon slain by Guru Rinpoche
  - Trek to the village of Ghami to observe locals spinning ancient prayer wheels and to marvel at the six-syllable mantras carved into the stones of the longest Mani (prayer) wall in Nepal, built upon the remains of the same slain demon
  - Explore the walled city of Lo-Manthang, home to the reigning King of Mustang, four monasteries and countless works of ancient art; try your hand at making butter tea in the home of a local, immersing yourself fully in Mustang culture
  - In Kathmandu, visit the ancient palaces, temples and exquisite wood-carved shrines in Patan Durbar Square, and walk in Guru Rinpoche's footsteps at Boudinath, a massive Buddhist stupa – one of the largest and holiest in the world
- \* Call us toll-free at 1-855-208-6800 or visit [www.explorerspassage.com](http://www.explorerspassage.com) for pricing, dates, and more details.





# Crossing of the Andes

A horseback ride in the hoof prints of José de San Martín's Army of the Andes

On the morning of January 19, 1817, Argentine General José de San Martín led a cavalry of 4,000 soldiers across the Andes Mountain Range; if they could enter Spanish-ruled Chile unnoticed, San Martín hoped, they could attack Royalist forces by surprise, and pave the way to independence from Spain. The crossing culminated 40 miles north of Santiago with the epic Battle of Chacabuco. Join us as we retrace the route of the Army of the Andes, riding horseback across the postcard-perfect Los Patos mountain pass, imagining the sheer bravery required of San Martín and his cavalry as they set off, their odds seemingly insurmountable, on the quest for freedom.

## SNAPSHOT

Countries: Argentina, Chile

Host City: Santiago, Chile (SCL), Mendoza, Argentina (MDZ)

Duration: 7-13 days\*

Start Dates: January, February, March & December

Activities: Horseback Riding

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore La Moneda Palace, the 18th-century Cathedral Metropolitana, the Parque Forestal and the bohemian center of Bellavista in Santiago, a city perched against a backdrop of the snow-capped Andes, Coastal Range and 21,555-foot Tupungato volcano
- Saddle up in Los Patos, for your first day of horseback riding up the Rocín River Canyon with a team of friendly gauchos; at the border, swap to Argentinean mounts and continue on past towering Mount Aconcagua (22,841'), the tallest peak in the Western & Southern Hemispheres



- Visit the site of The Battle of Chacabuco, where, in February of 1817, General San Martín defeated Spanish forces, paving the way for independence
- Reward yourself after your days in the saddle with a day of wine tasting in Mendoza, a city renowned for its nutrient-rich soil and sundrenched plateaus, and an evening of relaxation at the elegant Finca Adalgisa.

\* Call us toll-free at 1-855-208-6800 or visit [www.explorerspassage.com](http://www.explorerspassage.com) for pricing, dates, and more details.



# Private Travel

At TEP, hand crafting itineraries around a specific region or a particular event in history is our passion. So if you're traveling with a group – small or large – and have a dream trip in mind, give us a call – our Adventure Consultants are ready and waiting to work with you to transform that dream to reality.

The Explorer's Passage offers two modes of Private Travel:

## **CUSTOMIZED ADVENTURES**

Entirely new trips built from scratch, to your definition of perfection. Fascinated by a particular place and time in history? Interested in retracing your "own" story - the route your ancestors took to settle in the States? Perhaps you've always dreamt of trekking to Machu Picchu, exploring the Tiger's Nest in Bhutan, or dog sledding under the Northern Lights in the Yukon. Let us take you to the most beautiful locations on Earth.

## **TAILORED ADVENTURES**

Choose from our collection of carefully-crafted trips, with room to adjust various elements to your liking. Prefer less time in the saddle, more on foot? An extra day or two in Kathmandu? Looking to travel on a particular date? No problem. We'll weave your interests and your timeframe into our existing itineraries so that every detail of your extraordinary trip unfolds just the way you want it to.



Let Us Build Your Dream Adventure!

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Visit: [www.explorerspassage.com](http://www.explorerspassage.com)  
Email: [info@explorerspassage.com](mailto:info@explorerspassage.com)



# The Explorer's Passage: Trip Terms & Conditions

## RESERVATIONS

Payment for reservations may be made by either check or major credit card by one of the following methods:

1. Call us Toll-Free at: 1-855-208-6800 (201-523-9900) or book through your travel agent
2. Email us at: [info@explorerspassage.com](mailto:info@explorerspassage.com)
3. Fax us at: 201-523-9901
4. Mail us at: The Explorer's Passage, P.O. Box 181, Ridgewood, NJ 07451 United States

All payments should be made in USD and checks should be made payable to: The Explorer's Passage.

## PAYMENT TERMS & SCHEDULES

### Standard Trip Payment Schedule

- A \$500 deposit is due at the time of booking a trip.
- An additional deposit of 20% of the total trip cost is due 120 days prior to departure.
- Final payment is due no later than 95 days prior to departure.
- For reservations received within 95 days, full payment is required.

### Custom Trip Payment Schedule

- A \$750 deposit is due at the time of booking a trip.
- An additional deposit of 20% of the total trip cost is due 120 days prior to departure.
- Final payment is due no later than 95 days prior to departure.
- For reservations received within 95 days, full payment is required.
- If payment is not made on-time, your reservation may be subject to cancellation. In such an event, no refund of deposit will be given.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations must be sent to us in writing, via mail, fax, or e-mail. Cancellations will be effective based on the date of postmark or email/fax receipt and confirmation of receipt must be received from The Explorer's Passage. If you must cancel your reservation, your cancellation fee will be determined according to the policy outlined below. Exceptions to our cancellation policy cannot be made for any reason, including weather, terrorism, civil unrest or personal emergencies. There is no refund for arriving late or leaving a trip early. Single Supplement, internal air charges, permits, and all other line items included in your invoice are considered part of the total trip cost and are subject to cancellation fees. Percentage charges are calculated on total trip cost. Due to this, we highly recommend purchasing travel insurance from a third-party service provider.

### Standard Cancellation Fees for Group Trips:

Number of Days Prior to Your Trip

- 95+ Days - Non-refundable cancellation administration fee: \$200 per traveler.
- 61-95 days prior to departure: 30% of total trip cost.
- 31-60 days prior to departure: 60% of total trip cost.
- 30 days or less to departure: 100% of total trip cost. No refund.
- At or after trip departure: 100% of total trip cost. No refund.

### Standard Cancellation Fees for Custom Trips:

Number of Days Prior to Your Trip

- 95+ Days - Non-refundable cancellation administration fee: \$750 per traveler.
- 61-95 days prior to departure: 50% of total trip cost.
- 31-60 days prior to departure: 75% of total trip cost.
- 30 days or less to departure: 100% of total trip cost. No refund.
- At or after trip departure: 100% of total trip cost. No refund.

### Standard Cancellation Fees for Extension Options or Trip Options: (including extra hotel nights)

Number of Days Prior to Your Trip

- 95+ Days - Non-refundable cancellation administration fee: \$100 per traveler.
- 61-95 days prior to departure: 25% of total trip cost.
- 31-60 days prior to departure: 50% of total trip cost.
- 30 days or less to departure: 100% of total trip cost. No refund.
- At or after trip departure: 100% of total trip cost. No refund.

## TRIP PRICING

Our trip pricing is based on double occupancy. For individuals who would like their own room and/or tent, each of our itineraries have an additional single supplement charge. If you request a roommate and we are unable to accommodate then you will receive a private room and be charged 50% of the customary single supplement charge (on most trips). The Explorer's Passage will take care of the rest.

We will make a strong effort to maintain price. As per industry norm, the trip price is subject to increase based on unforeseeable changes beyond our control. The changes may include a change in the cost of airfare, currency fluctuation, taxes, fuel surcharges, security costs, or unavoidable charges imposed by our activity providers. These fees are to be paid upon notification if such a situation does arise. Typically, we work to absorb or minimize these increases but at times we will need to share the costs with our clients. In order to be as transparent as possible, we break out our internal flight costs on each itinerary page.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Given the active, often remote and international nature of our trips, and our strict refund policy, we strongly urge you to purchase travel insurance. We have made it easy for you to secure this peace of mind through the convenient services of MH Ross, one of the leading travel-insurance providers. Choose from a number of plan options that include evacuation, medical, and cancellation protection. To learn more, please visit [www.explorerspassage.com/support/insurance](http://www.explorerspassage.com/support/insurance), or call one of our adventure consultants at 1-855-208-6800.

## SUBSTITUTIONS

Our goal is to provide you with an unforgettable trip. We take a lot of pride in our itineraries, as we have invested an enormous amount of time and energy into creating and organizing them. Sometimes, however, due to unexpected circumstances trips don't always go according to plan. Because of this, we reserve the right to cancel or change aspects of the itinerary at any time, and for any reason. When necessary, we will substitute hotels, airlines, events, and activities. Each time we do so, we will on a best efforts basis keep the quality the same, ensuring that the category of service substituted is the same as what is in the itinerary.

We also reserve the right to cancel and re-book itineraries if the minimum number of guests is not met. In such an event, our only liability will be to provide a prompt refund of the amount we have received for booking. We will not be responsible for cancellation penalties incurred on other travel arrangements made directly by the guest, non-refundable or otherwise.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

The Explorer's Passage, its affiliates, officers, members, agents, and assigns (collectively "The Explorer's Passage") does not own or operate any entity which is to, or does provide goods or services for your trip, including but not limited to hotels, airlines, transportation, guide service, activity providers, ground operation, food service providers, etc. All such entities and persons are independent contractors. As a result, The Explorer's Passage is not liable for any negligent or intentional act or failure to act of any such person or entity. All trip services are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier of such services and to the laws of the countries in which the services are supplied. The passage contract (Conditions of Carriage), when issued by the airlines concerned, shall constitute the sole contract between such airlines and the client. In addition, by making this reservation you acknowledge you fully understand the nature and fitness requirements of the trip which you have signed up for.

As agents, our responsibility is to organize and administer your trip. Therefore, we shall not be liable for any personal injury, property damage, loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason (1) any act of omission of any of the suppliers (2) any matter beyond our exclusive control, including for example acts or failures to act by governments, acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, epidemics, quarantine, lack of medical attention in rural/urban areas, and theft.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please refer to our website at [www.explorerspassage.com/terms](http://www.explorerspassage.com/terms) or contact us at 1-855-208-6800 or email us at [info@explorerspassage.com](mailto:info@explorerspassage.com) to see our complete terms and conditions.

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PROUD PARTNER



leave no trace<sup>™</sup>  
CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS



**SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL  
INTERNATIONAL<sup>™</sup>**

*Leave the world a better place<sup>®</sup>*

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