



Beant Deacock with Mississippi Horizons (2012)

As you read this Beant and I are with our Mississippi Horizons group in the United States. Far Horizons' credo has always been travel to 'unique and unusual, off-the-beaten-track and hard to reach' destinations and on this tour we are doing just that... by combining the wine country of California with the ancient Native Indian sites of New Mexico; the gold mining history of Colorado with the Civil War, plantation and slave history of the Deep South; cruising the Mississippi and visiting the three music meccas of New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville; and experiencing the wild west of Wyoming with the scenic splendours of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

## North East India : Recce Trip

22 days commencing Delhi 16 November 2017



people who still adhere to stone age traditions and rites.

Our visit will coincide with the spectacular Hornbill Festival at Kohima (Nagaland), where we stay for three days

Space is strictly limited and we already have several people keen to join us. If this journey interests you contact us for further information. Costs will be reasonable, and will be determined by final numbers and pre/post arrangements, which we are happy to assist you with.

**Price on application (determined by final numbers and program)**

### Visiting

#### Arrive via

Delhi (Open)

#### Assam

Guwahati 1 night

#### Meghalaya

Bara Bazar

Shillong 2 nights

Kaziranga National Park 2 nights

#### Arunachal Pradesh

Dirang 2 nights

Thambang

Sangti Valley

Chug Valley

Sela Pass (4267m)

Tawang 1 night

Zimithang

Jang 1 night

Bomdila 1 night

Baideoes

Itanagar 1 night

Nishi villages

Ziro 2 nights

Valley of the Apatanis

Pasighat 2 nights

Siang Valley

Minyong villages

Sibsagar 1 night

#### Nagaland

Kohima

Hornbill Festival 3 nights

Khnom village

#### Manipur

Imphal 2 nights

Kangla Fort

Loktak Lake

#### Depart via

Kolkata or Delhi (Open)

We are always looking for new ideas and we scout potential new off-the-beaten track destinations to ascertain their viability for a future Far Horizons tour.

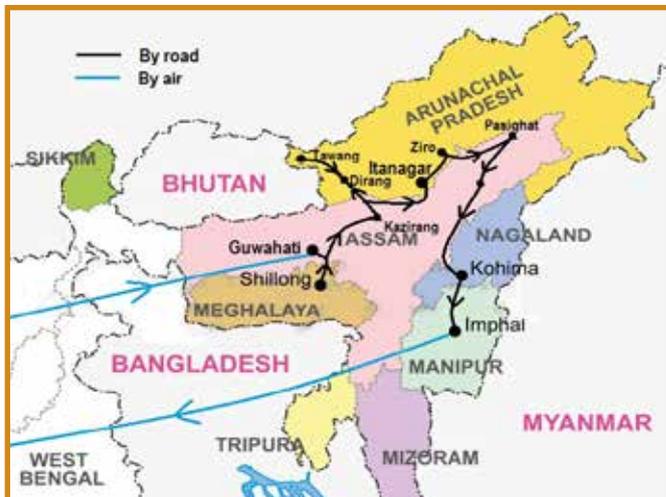
The remote and developing states of North East India have been on our radar for some time. The region boasts spectacular scenery, wild elephant and one-horned rhinoceros, centuries-old monasteries, diverse tribal cultures and people who have seen little of the outside world.

On the other side of the coin, with some exceptions, accommodation can be basic and the roads are far less travelled.

On the 16th of November Beant and I will fly from Delhi to Guwahati to undertake a reconnaissance trip through five of the seven states - Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur (there is an option to visit Tripura and Mizoram on a 'fly in/fly out' program at the end).

This is not a normal 'Far Horizons tour' - it is a scouting trip that does not promise luxury accommodation with all the comforts of home or five star dining.

What it does promise is an eye-opening journey to the edge of civilization along the India/China/Bhutan border, to archaic fortified-villages, ancient temples and contact with



Descriptive tour brochures, Newsletters, and important information can be found on our website. Due to an ever increasing demand we will soon include ideas for individual and private group travel arrangements with our overseas tourism partners around the world.

See <https://farhorizons.com.au/>

# Caucasus Horizons

22 days departing 30 September 2017



In Armenia we visit Haghartsin Monastery (pictured at left) overlooking Lake Sevan, before reaching Yerevan where we stay four nights to fully explore this attractive city and make a short visit to the ruins at Ani, just across the Turkish border. Zvartnots (meaning "celestial angels") cathedral, dedicated to St Gregory, was built by the order of Catholicos Nerses III (Nerses the Builder) from 643-

The three countries which make up the Caucasus - Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan - are all former Republics of the Soviet Union, situated to the south of the Caucasus Mountains between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. They offer a fascinating mix of unique cultural activities, superb examples of Christian and Islamic architecture, and dramatic scenery of mountains and lakes - from the largest lake in the world, the Caspian Sea, to one of the highest, Lake Sevan.

**Caucasus Horizons** journeys overland from the Azerbaijan capital of Baku on the shores of the Caspian Sea to the Zoroastrian fire temple at Surakhani and remarkable 12th Century BC petroglyphs of Qobustan, via Maraza to the ancient tombs at Shemakha and Sheki.

In Georgia we visit the 15th Century Gremi Fortress, Nekresi Monastery and all the major sights around Kakheti before continuing to the capital Tbilisi where we stay three nights at the comfortable Marriott Hotel. We take the tiny train from Bakuriani to Borjomi where we visit the Palace of the Russian tsars, then visit Kutaisi, the ancient capital of the Kingdom of Colchis.

652. Now in ruins, it is located at the edge of the city of Vagharshapat (Etchmiadzin) in Armavir Province of Armenia.

The cathedral was built at a time when much of Armenia was under Byzantine control or influence and during the early invasions by Muslim Arabs.

According to the medieval Armenian historian Movses Kaghankatvatsi, the cathedral was consecrated in 652. Following the Arab occupation of Dvin and the intensifying wars between the Byzantine and Arab armies on the former's eastern borders, Nerses transferred the patriarchal palace of the Catholicos from Dvin to Zvartnots.

Pictured at right, Zvartnots remained standing until the end of the 10th century, but historical sources are silent as to the cause of its collapse.

The ruins remained buried until they were uncovered at the start of the 20th century.



## Visiting

<b>Azerbaijan</b>	
Baku	3 nights
Surakhani, Qobustan	
Shemakha	
Sheki	1 night
<b>Georgia</b>	
Lagodekhi, Gremi	
Telavi	1 night
Tsinandali	
Tbilisi	3 nights
Mtskheta	
Bakuriani	2 nights
Vardzia	
Train to Borjomi	
Kutaisi	1 night
Gori, Uplistsikhe	
Gudauri	1 night
Kazbegi	
Tbilisi	1 night
Sadakhlo	
<b>Armenia</b>	
Lake Sevan	1 night
Haghartsin	
Yerevan	4 nights
Garni, Geghard	
Echmiadzin	
Zvartnots	
Sardarapat	
Gyumri	
<b>Dubai</b>	1 night



The site was excavated between 1901 and 1907 under the direction of Vardapet Khachik Dadyan, who uncovered the foundations of the cathedral as well as the remains of the Catholicos palace and a winery. The excavations revealed that Zvartnots had been constructed on the remnants of structures that dated back to the reign of the Urartian King Rusa II.

We visit Zvartnots during a full day excursion from Yerevan to Echmiadzin, Hripsime and Sardarapat.

Caucasus Horizons departs on 30th September. **Limited vacancies** remain so if you are interested in joining us on this incredible journey we urge you to contact us as soon as possible.

**From \$18,585 per person [share twin] ex Sydney or Melbourne.** For further details request our descriptive brochure.

# Myanmar Horizons

25 days departing 18 January 2018



Burma's history can be traced back to the 2nd century AD, when the Rakhine ruled the west coast and the Pyu civilization flourished in the central regions. Great kingdoms came and went until 1885 when the Third Empire fell to the colonial British, who held power until independence in 1948. In 1989 the ruling military junta renamed the country Myanmar.

Our journey begins with an 8-day cruise on the Irawaddy River from Mandalay to Bagan

and culminates with a 7-day cruise through the Mergui Archipelago on the southern Myanmar coast. In between we visit the major attractions of the capital Yangon where we stay a total of five nights at the historic Strand Hotel; Mandalay; Bagan; Heho and Lake Inle, where we stay three nights at the classic Inle Princess Hotel.

Launched in 2008, the Irawaddy river boat **Orient Pandaw** carries 56 passengers in comfortable air-conditioned cabins with ensuite facilities.

**Andaman Explorer** has 11 generous suites and much of the flooring is marble. The ship is the sort of plaything associated with more glamorous times, and an ideal vessel for exploring Myanmar's islands.

Cabins on both cruises are strictly limited, sell quickly, and can only be reserved on payment of deposit.



## Visiting

<b>Thailand</b>	
Bangkok	1 night
<b>Myanmar</b>	
Yangon	1 night
Mandalay	
<b>Irawaddy River Cruise</b>	7 nights
Mingun	
Amarapura	
Yandabo	
Pakokku	
Tan Chi Taung	
Min Nan Thu	
Salay	
Pakhanngone	
Bagan	2 nights
Heho	
Lake Inle	3 nights
Yangon	4 nights
<b>Mergui Archipelago Cruise</b>	6 nights
Kawthaung	
Nyaung Wee Island	
Lampi Marine National Park	
Kyun Pila Island	
Nga Man Islands	
Cockscorb Island	
<b>Thailand</b>	
Ranong	
Bangkok	1 night

**From \$29,590 per person [share twin] ex Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Perth.** For further details request our descriptive brochure.

# Shangrila to Tibet

29 days departing 9 June 2018



total population. Major ethnic groups include the Yi, Bai, Naxi, Hani, Zhuang, Dai and Miao. The province contains snow-capped mountains, meadows, grasslands and tropical environments supporting a full spectrum of animal species and vegetation types.

Our journey from Kunming to Shangrila encounters many

From time immemorial the idea of 'Shangrila' has evoked visions of mystical wealth and spiritual well-being, immense treasure and scenic splendour. But no one has ever truly found 'Shangrila' - until recently...

Shangrila (also known as Gyalthang) does exist. In the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan, which lies at the far eastern edge of the Himalayan uplift, is a culturally rich, stunningly scenic and diverse geological region that we will explore in great detail over the course of our journey from Kunming to Lhasa (which has also been referred to as the mystical 'Shangrila').

Yunnan is one of the most biologically and ethnically diverse provinces of China, with ethnic minorities accounting for about 34 percent of its

diverse scenic, cultural, historical and natural attractions of this less visited region of China before flying to Tibet to see the wonders of ancient Lhasa, crossing the remote grasslands of Qinghai to Xian by the highest train in the world to the Silk Road capital and Terracotta warriors of Xian, before culminating in Chengdu.



## Visiting

Kunming (Yunnan)	2 nights
Yuanthong	
Lufeng Dinosaur Museum	
Dali	2 nights
Weishan	
Xizhou	
Shaxi	2 nights
Lijiang	2 nights
Yuhu, Mt Wenbi	
Shegu	
Tacheng	2 nights
Golden Monkey Reserve	
Meili	2 nights
Dechen	
Mt Kawakarpo pilgrimage route	
Gyalthang (Shangrila)	3 nights
Ganden, Ringha Valley	
Zethang (Tibet)	1 night
Samye Monastery	
Lhasa	3 nights
Sera Monastery	
Lhasa/Xian train	1 night
Xian (Shaanxi)	3 nights
Terracotta Warriors	
Hui	
Shaanxi Museum	
Chengdu (Sichuan)	3 nights
Panda Breeding Sanctuary	

**From \$30,435 per person [share twin] ex Sydney.** For further details request our descriptive brochure.

# Central America Horizons

31 days departing 20 October 2018



We cross the border into Belize (formerly British Honduras) to visit the Mayan sites of Xunantunich and Altun Ha, and tour Belize City then fly via Cancun to Mexico City for an overnight stop before returning to Australia.

## Visiting

Panama City ( <b>Panama</b> )	3 nights
Panama Canal	
Santiago	
David	1 night
San Isidro ( <b>Costa Rica</b> )	
Cartago	3 nights
San Jose	
Orosi, Irazu Volcano	
Tortuguero National Park	2 nights
Sarchi	
Arenal Volcano	2 nights
Granada ( <b>Nicaragua</b> )	2 nights
Lake Nicaragua	
Masaya Volcano	
Managua	2 nights
Antigua ( <b>Guatemala</b> )	2 nights
Panajachel	1 night
Lake Atitlan	
Santiago	
Chichicastenango	1 night
Guatemala City	2 nights
Copan ( <b>Honduras</b> )	1 night
Quirigua ( <b>Guatemala</b> )	
Puerto Barrios	1 night
Rio Duce	
Lake Izabel	
Tikal	2 nights
Xunantunich ( <b>Belize</b> )	
Belize City	2 nights
Altun Ha	
Mexico City ( <b>Mexico</b> )	1 night

First operated by Far Horizons in 1991, this fascinating journey explores in depth the little known regions of Central America from Panama to Mexico, in part following the historic Mayan Route ("La Ruta Maya").

La Ruta Maya is the name given to the regions of Southern Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras, which were populated by the ancient Mayans from 2000 BC to AD 900. These remarkable people built 21-storey stone palaces without tools or the benefit of the wheel, and developed a calendar which is more precise than the one we use today.

The first stage of our journey through Central America includes a visit to the Panama Canal and the 'Bridge of the Americas', then takes us along the Pan American Highway (which

links southern Chile with Alaska) through Panama and Costa Rica into Nicaragua.

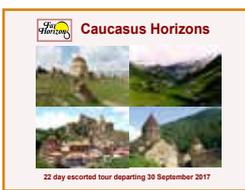
The second stage of our journey is through the highlands of Western Guatemala then neighbouring Honduras to the Mayan city of Copan.

From here we follow La Ruta Maya via Quirigua, Puerto Barrios and a cruise on the Rio Dulce to the impressive ruins at Tikal.

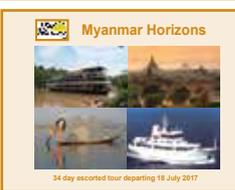
For further details request our descriptive brochure (due for release in late June)



Please call or write for a brochure or to register your interest in a future tour, a particular destination, or to organise a private group or individual travel program.



**Caucasus Horizons**  
22 days departing 30 Sept 2017  
**Limited vacancies**



**Myanmar Horizons**  
25 days departing 18 Jan 2018  
**Bookings open**



**Shangrila to Tibet**  
29 days departing 9 June 2018  
**Bookings open**



**Central America Horizons**  
32 days departing 20 Oct 2018  
**Brochure available by end June**

**Far Horizons Tours Pty Ltd**  
PO Box 555, Cammeray  
New South Wales 2062  
Tel: (02) 9955 0444  
Email: info@farhorizons.com.au  
Website: farhorizons.com.au

