

Planning

Have a question for T+L's Trip

Doctor? Contact us at [tripdoctor@](mailto:tripdoctor@travelandleisureasia.com)

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Colorful
tapestries
ripe for
photographing
in Bhutan.



Tour
China with
a whole host
of historians,
artists and
journalists.



History buffs
can revel in the
ancient ruins of
Siem Reap.

Q: I'M LOOKING TO LEARN SOMETHING ON MY NEXT ADVENTURE. ANY IDEAS?

One of the benefits of an organized tour is the chance to travel with experts and discover their insights. Here are some of our favorites. By Diana Hubbell

FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Bhutan, Black Tomato

If your snapshots aren't living up to their original subject matter, then this trip might be the one for you. Black Tomato pairs aspiring photographers with professional snap-happy experts, ensuring pictures that are leagues above the usual vacation selfies. With stops at a local monastic school, remote villages, the prayer-flag strewn Chelela Pass, and an archery contest, there's plenty of material to capture. The resulting albums are sure to be the envy of your Instagram-followers and friends back home. blacktomato.com; 12-night Bhutan: Click the Thunder Dragon tour from £2,149 per person.

FOR ART HISTORY

Cambodia and Laos, Cox & Kings

On-site lectures by Denise Heywood, a renowned art historian, set this sojourn to the temples of Angkor apart. In addition to five days of exploring the majestic ruins around Siem Reap, travelers can traipse through the serene surrounds of Luang Prabang, cruise the Mekong River, and spelunk through the caves around Pak Ou, Laos, to find ancient images of Buddha. So slide into the Venn diagram crossover of appealing pursuits for action-junkies and history buffs. coxandkings.co.uk; November 7-19; 13-day The Temples & Treasures of Laos & Cambodia from £3,495 per person.

FOR MARINE BIOLOGY

Australia, Coral Princess Cruises

Sail to the Great Barrier Reef with a resident marine biologist aboard the *Coral Princess* and get ready for guided snorkeling and scuba sessions, as well as trips on a glass-bottomed boat and forays onto sun-drenched islands. With no more than 50 passengers, guests are guaranteed an intimate experience as well as top-notch lectures about the region's flora and fauna. The ship stops places many tourists miss, such as the Savannah Hinterlands, which have rich ecosystems to explore. coralprincess.com.au; seven-night cruises of the Great Barrier Reef from A\$2,968 per person, double occupancy.

FOR ANTHROPOLOGY

China, Kensington Tours

This journey from the Terracotta Warriors of Xi'an to the fabled Shangri-la in Yunnan partners travelers with a whole host of historians, artists and journalists. The A-list tour guide is Jeff Fuchs, an author and explorer specializing in Himalayan trade routes, oral history, and both Han and indigenous cultures. The journey begins at a Beijing craft brewery and then roams from the picturesque town of Lijiang to the heights of Tiger Leaping Gorge. kensingtontours.com; departure September 14; 13-day China & The Tea Horse Road with Jeff Fuchs from US\$8,195 per person based on double occupancy.

Explore
China with
author and
explorer Jeff
Fuchs.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF BLACK TOMATO; COURTESY OF KENSINGTON TOURS; COURTESY OF COX & KINGS; COURTESY OF KENSINGTON TOURS