

AUDLEY



Moments in Travel

Experiences you'll keep for a lifetime





Foreword

Any anniversary encourages nostalgia, but I also relish the way these milestones encourage us to look forward. Audley turns 25 this year, and we've come a long way from our beginnings as a tiny start-up, offering a new, personal style of travel.

Today, we offer trips to destinations worldwide, but we still hold to our founding belief that travel means the most when it's created for you.

That's the inspiration behind this new book, which charts 25 experiences that encapsulate what we do — connect you to destinations through their culture and their people in deeper ways that excite your own passions and interests.

In celebration of our 25th anniversary, we're gearing up to bring you even more ideas to ignite your love for travel.

Richard Prosser
Chairman

A wide-angle photograph of a massive cave interior. The cave walls are composed of layered rock formations, some appearing greenish-grey and others more brownish. A sandy beach runs along the bottom of the cave, with several tents and people visible in the distance. A river flows through the cave, reflecting the light. The overall atmosphere is one of a vast, ancient, and adventurous space.

Cave adventuring in Vietnam

As you scramble over a pile of boulders, the cave roof soars above, opening out into a cavern that could fit the Statue of Liberty inside. The floor drops down to meet the blue-green waters of a subterranean river. A row of tents wait on its sandy shores — your home for the night.

Vietnam specialist Mark says

This is Vietnam at its most intrepid. You stay overnight in Hang En Cave, one of the largest in the world, on a two-day trek through the jungle of Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park.

Make this experience yours

You can include this cave trek as part of an adventurous tour of Vietnam.

Contact your local travel agent for more information



*Vietnam was our first
destination, where it all
began 25 years ago*



An epic train journey across Asia


You lean back into your seat with a steaming bowl of stroganoff from the restaurant carriage. As you start your meal, the train leaves the industrial sprawl of Ulaan Baatar behind. The landscape outside your window gradually empties into the wild, open Mongolian tundra, punctuated by rocky outcrops and a skyline of serrated mountain peaks.

Trans-Siberian specialist Matt says

You reach the Mongolian capital, Ulaan Baatar, after starting your Trans-Siberian journey in Beijing. En route, you can stop in Mongolia for a night in a traditional Ger camp. You'll then continue on to Russia.

Make this experience yours

*You can enjoy this journey on a Trans-Siberian
tour from Beijing to Moscow.*

A person wearing a blue robe and a purple helmet with a circular emblem is riding a brown horse. The rider is seen from the back, looking out over a vast, open landscape under a warm, golden sky. The horse is standing on a rocky, sparsely vegetated ground. In the background, there are some white, rounded structures, possibly tents or haystacks, and a body of water. A large white number '2' is overlaid on the image, partially covering the horse and the rider's legs.

*Matt enjoyed the
Trans-Siberian
journey so much,
he's done it twice*

Tasting Croatia's gourmet cuisine

Sporting a black chef's jacket and ponytail, Robert produces the third course with a flourish — grilled squid bathed in local olive oil. His friend, Ivan, pours you a glass of delicate plavac mali wine, and you sip slowly, enjoying the view of the sun-drenched grapevines spread out below your table.

Croatia specialist Casey says

Croatian cuisine is often overlooked, but it's just as impressive as Italy's, as this experience demonstrates. You'll meet one of Croatia's foremost chefs for a private market tour and gourmet alfresco lunch in a vineyard.

Make this experience yours

*Enjoy this gastronomic afternoon as part of
our culinary tour of Croatia.*

A man with a full grey beard and glasses, wearing a black t-shirt and a black bandana with a white skull pattern, is leaning over a table. He is plating a dish in a white bowl. The table is set with several wine glasses and cutlery. The background is a lush green vineyard.

3

*The ranking that
your cook placed
in his season on
MasterChef Croatia*

A woman wearing a blue and white patterned dress is seated on a dark, ornate patterned cushion. She is reaching her hand towards a small, ornate metal pot on a tray. In the foreground, there are two larger, ornate metal pots and a red knitted cloth. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Delving into Berber life in Morocco

Seated on a low stool, you watch Rabiaa pull a loaf of bread from the clay oven, the warm yeast scent mingling with the fragrant steam from the mint tea and the spiced tagine. In the quiet of the verdant courtyard, you take your first bite of the meal that you helped her make.

Morocco specialist Olivia says

The Berbers have lived in the Atlas Mountains for millennia. Sitting down for lunch with a family in their adobe house lets you glimpse their culture.

Make this experience yours

*This local lunch is one of the highlights of
our tour across the Atlas Mountains.*

Contact your local travel agent for more information



4

*It takes four minutes
to brew whiskey
Berbère — the mint
tea you'll drink with
the family*



Into the heart of Italy's Slow Food movement

Sheep bleat contentedly as they roam the gently rolling hills. The creamy cheese melts on your tongue, unfolding floral and herbaceous notes over the buttery richness. Silvio, the wiry shepherd and cheesemaker, enthuses about his efforts to revive the rare Langhe sheep breed and explains how he milks his small herd by hand each day.

Italy specialist Caroline says

Piedmont is the birthplace of the Slow Food movement, and this tour to meet Silvio, a hazelnut farmer and a small-scale vintner, is one of the best ways to explore the traditions of the region's small producers.

Make this experience yours

*You can take this Audley-exclusive tour on
a gastronomic visit to Italy.*

*The age, in days, of
the most mature of
Silvio's fresh cheeses
that you'll sample*

5

Dark-skies stargazing in Namibia

After a day spent walking among apricot-hued dunes, past scatterings of antelope, you climb into bed. But you don't close your eyes. Instead, you gaze up at a diamond-encrusted sky, spangled with constellations. Satellites glide past, you spot a shooting star or two, and the cloudy glow of the Milky Way takes your mind beyond any Earthly worries.

Namibia specialist Philippa says

Kwessi Dunes is made for stargazing. The lodge is set in the NamibRand Nature Reserve, which has an International Dark Sky accreditation, and your chalet has an open-air bedroom so you fall asleep beneath the stars.

Make this experience yours

*You can stay at Kwessi Dunes as part of our
classic Namibia self-drive safari.*

Contact your local travel agent for more information

6

*You can see the night sky's sixth-largest constellation,
Eridanus, while stargazing from Kwessi Dunes*





To the ends of the Earth in Antarctica

You stand at the railing of the ship, admiring the arching blue sky and still air, the mirror-calm ocean dotted with white-blue ice. A pod of orcas appears with a splash and a calf approaches, playfully swimming on its side next to the ship. Through the glass-clear water, you make eye contact across species.

Polar specialist Tom says

Of all the ships in the Antarctica fleet, I like the *Ocean Adventurer* for its balance of luxurious amenities, experienced guides, its classic style and small size. You can take photo workshops, kayak or sleep on the ice.

Make this experience yours

*You can take an 18-night Antarctic cruise
on the Ocean Adventurer.*

A scenic photograph of an Antarctic landscape. In the foreground, dark blue water reflects the sky and the distant mountains. To the left, a large, jagged ice formation is partially submerged. In the background, snow-covered mountains rise under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A large, white, stylized number '7' is superimposed over the center of the image, partially obscuring the mountains and water.

7

*There are seven churches on
the continent of Antarctica
(but there's only one ATM)*

Australia's great coastal road trip

Standing near the edge of the scrub-covered cliff, you turn your face into the wind, looking out to sea. Waves break in swirls of white foam around the limestone feet of the Twelve Apostles. Their bulk is dwarfed by the enormity of the Southern Ocean, shading into deepest blue in the distance.

Australia specialist Alex says

The Apostles are just one stop on the Great Ocean Road, which skirts Australia's southeast coast. While the route is popular during summer, I prefer to drive it in October or November before the crowds increase.

Make this experience yours

You can include a section of the Ocean Road on our tour of southeast Australia.



8

*There were only eight
apostles when they got the
name — and seven remain*

The quintessential Japanese stay

Your first step into the steaming water is almost too hot to bear. But slowly, as you adjust, you can slip further into the mineral-rich spring bath. Your muscles relax as you sit and look out across the manicured bamboo garden, the fresh scent of cypress wood in the air.

Japan specialist Tesia says

A stay in a traditional ryokan is one of the best ways to experience Japanese culture, including an elaborate multi-course kaiseki dinner. But the best bit? The rejuvenating waters of your ryokan's hot spring baths.

Make this experience yours

You can stay in a ryokan as part of a tour exploring Honshu's culture and hot springs.



*You're likely to enjoy at least
nine courses as part of a
traditional kaiseki dinner*

Off-grid on a private Caribbean island

It's a few steps from your bedroom out into the Caribbean sun and onto your deck. You slip onto your lounger, which looks out across water so calm and inviting this private island retreat has no need to build a pool. As you settle in, your butler arrives with freshly brewed morning coffee, just how you like it.

Caribbean specialist Anna says

If you're looking to disconnect from daily life, you can't beat Petit Saint Vincent (PSV), with its 22 secluded cottages. Wi-Fi is seen as superfluous, you raise the flag outside your cottage for service.

Make this experience yours

*You can combine PSV with Saint Lucia on
an island-hopping Caribbean tour.*

10

*It's just a ten-minute
walk to the top of
Marni Hill, the island's
(tiny) highest peak*

Master wine tasting in South Africa

Sparkling wine fizzes on your tongue. In the manicured gardens of a Cape Dutch winery, you clink glasses of red while hearing about the estate's heritage from South African-born guide and national wine expert Pietman Retief. In a little while, you'll stroll through vineyards bursting with plump grapes, before lunching beneath the boughs of an oak.

South Africa specialist David says

Whatever your interests and wine preferences, esteemed connoisseur, historian and guide Pietman knows exactly where to take you in South Africa's Cape Winelands, tailoring the day around you.

Make this experience yours

Include time in the Winelands on our Cape Town, Kruger and Victoria Falls trip.





11

*Pietman won the Cape
Wine Masters' Wine
Personality of the Year
award 11 years ago*

Canada's wildest bear watching experience

From your isolated viewing platform beside the boulder-strewn river, you watch heart-in-mouth as usually solitary grizzly bears unite. Their common goal? To swipe, scoop and grab the glut of salmon struggling upriver in the early morning light. Each slap and splash of the water sounds out the frenzy of the catch, before the bears grapple with their slippery meal on the bank.

Canada specialist Lauren says

You can watch the drama unfold from Great Bear Lodge. Far from any town, the lodge is tucked in temperate rainforest along British Columbia's coast, accessed only by seaplane. The salmon run lasts from late August to October.

Make this experience yours

You can have this experience on our bear-focused British Columbia self-drive tour.

Contact your local travel agent for more information



12

*The number of
salmon a grizzly
bear averages
just for breakfast*

Indian hospitality at its finest

As you walk through the archway into the courtyard and the shade of the frangipani trees, brothers Jairaj and Mahraj stride forward to greet you. They place a garland of marigolds around your neck and usher you to a table of fresh lime soda and Rajasthani nibbles. You take a crispy mathri, and they regale you with the history of their family home.

India specialist James says

Chanoud Garh is a fort-palace-turned-hotel containing a series of guest suites. I've arranged for many clients to stay here over the years and, so far, there isn't anyone who hasn't loved it for its warm hospitality.

Make this experience yours

*You can include a stay at Chanoud Garh
on a classic tour of Rajasthan.*



13

*Chanoud Garh has been
the Singhs' family home
for 13 generations*



Seeing New Zealand through Maori eyes

Your guide sings a melodic chant in Te Reo, the Maori language. The sacred song blends with the croaking of the ruru owl, part of the twilight chorus of the Waipoua Forest. Suddenly, out of the gloaming, looms the massive bulk of Te Matua Ngahere, a revered kauri tree which your guide tells you is 3,500 years old.

New Zealand specialist Christine says

A twilight walk through the Waipoua Forest with a Maori guide is without doubt one of the best ways to glimpse the spiritual landscape inhabited by New Zealand's indigenous people.

Make this experience yours

You can incorporate this walk into our cultural tour around the North Island.

Contact your local travel agent for more information



14

*Number of kiwi birds,
beak to tail, it would
take to circle the
trunk of Te Matua
Ngahere*



On foot in the Serengeti's far corners

The rising sun casts a buttery light over the gentle hills and open grassland as you set off from camp. A tower of giraffe nibble at acacias, so close you don't need your binoculars, and you pass wildebeest whose deep grunts mix with a rousing chorus of birdsong. Your guide signals you to halt. You turn to spy what looks like a rhino in the distance...

Tanzania specialist Tom says

On this private multi-day walking safari, you'll experience areas of the Serengeti that are usually off-limits. As you walk between camps set up just for you, your guide identifies animal tracks and unfamiliar species.

Make this experience yours

*You can include this safari as part of our
classic trip to northern Tanzania.*

A savanna landscape under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, three giraffes with brown and white spotted patterns stand in tall, golden-yellow grass. A large, spreading acacia tree with green leaves and a thick, gnarled trunk is positioned behind them. The background shows a vast, flat plain with scattered trees and a distant horizon line.

15

*Just 15 steps separated
Tom from a giraffe family
during one of his walks*



The authentic Thai elephant experience

As you squeeze between tall jungle grasses, the vegetation crunches and the crown of a grey head emerges. An explorative trunk sniffs the air and your guide holds out a banana as he explains how the rescued female was once a logging elephant and is now too old to be rewilded.

Thailand specialist Mat says

We work with the Pa Kaolam community to offer a two-night stay with a family, helping to feed the elephants in their care. You also have time to hike the surrounding hills and learn traditional cooking techniques.

Make this experience yours

You can include this Audley-exclusive stay as part of our Thailand cultural tour.

A photograph of a man in a straw hat and a red and white striped shirt, looking up at the head of an elephant in a field of tall green grass. The elephant's head is on the left, and the man is on the right. The background is a dense field of green grass.

16

*The average number
of hours per day an
elephant spends eating*



An intimate moment with an Egyptian icon

The Great Pyramid rises behind the distant crowds as you descend from the public viewing platform, right up to the Sphinx's mammoth feet.

The sunbaked stone radiates heat onto your skin, and you squint against the glare as you look for the damage left by treasure-hunting archaeologists in the 19th century.

Egypt specialist Amira says

A highlight of any visit to Egypt is a private tour of Giza's monuments — the climax is a chance to stand at the feet of the Great Sphinx, far from the crowds. We'll arrange the necessary permits for this up-close access.

Make this experience yours

*You can include this tour in any of our
Egypt itineraries, including the one below.*

A large, ancient limestone statue of a sphinx with a human face, known as the Great Sphinx of Giza. The statue is shown from the chest up, with its head turned slightly to the right. The background is a clear blue sky and a desert landscape with sand dunes and some small structures in the distance.

17

*It's 17 yards from the soles
of your feet to where the
Sphinx's nose should be*

Immersive wildlife of Isabela Island

Iguanas scuttle across dark lava fields. Blue-footed boobies and frigate birds perch on rocks too sharp and steep for predators to navigate. Penguins join you in the warm water as you snorkel among hammerheads and blacktip reef sharks. On Isabela Island, you don't go in search of the wildlife — it's all around you.

Galapagos specialist Jonny says

Seahorse-shaped Isabela Island has the broadest range of wildlife in the Galapagos, some of it endemic. You'll see more than half of the Big 15 species here at any time of year on guided walks and snorkel trips.

Make this experience yours

Stay on Isabela Island as part of our land-based Galapagos island-hopping tour.



18

*There are 18 major
volcanic islands that form
the Galapagos archipelago*

Seychelles with a local

It's been a day spent sampling dark spiced rum at a family-run distillery, wandering through a spice garden rich with cinnamon trees, the air sweet with vanilla orchids, and visiting a local artist's studio. Now, as the sun fades, you're walking along the powder-soft sands of Anse Soleil Beach, staring out across the Indian Ocean.

Seychelles specialist Ludo says

We've thoroughly explored the island of Mahé and, working with our partners in the Seychelles, we've created this privately guided experience that visits a selection of local producers and artisans before finishing on one of the island's best beaches.

Make this experience yours

You can include this Audley-exclusive experience on a Seychelles island tour.

A scenic photograph of a beach at sunset. The sky is filled with large, golden clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the water and rocks. In the foreground, several large, dark, rounded boulders are scattered across the sandy beach. Gentle waves are washing onto the shore, creating a soft, misty effect around the rocks. In the background, a line of lush green trees and foliage borders the beach. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

19

*Takamaka distillery opened
19 years ago, armed with a
secret family rum recipe*

Traditional ranch life in the US

Swaying gently with each step of your carefully matched horse, you take a moment to look around. Sagebrush scatters the hills, snow caps the mountain peaks, the spotless blue sky seems double the size of the one back home. You ride on, breathing in the pine-scented air while listening to the babbling flow of the creek and the easy conversation of your wrangler-guide.

USA specialist Victoria says

Staying at The Ranch at Rock Creek, you can also try fly fishing, archery and sapphire panning, and attend painting workshops. And, with most activities, food and drink included, you can put your wallet away.

Make this experience yours

Add this ranch stay to the start of a road trip through Yellowstone National Park.

Contact your local travel agent for more information

*Owner Jim Manley
searched the American
West for 20 years to find
his perfect ranch*

20





Nature's cosmic lightshow in the wilds

From the steaming waters of the Jacuzzi, you look up. It's the sight you've been waiting for, and the reason you made this journey — the celestial green glow of the aurora borealis in the inky night sky. Before your eyes, it forms rippling curtains of light, waving streamers of deep purple and fast-moving dots.

Canada specialist Anna says

There's nowhere better in Canada to witness this natural spectacle than the family-run Northern Lights Resort & Spa, deep in the countryside of Yukon territory. The best sightings are between December and March.

Make this experience yours

*You can travel to the Yukon as part of our
wider trip to British Columbia.*



21

*The average number of minutes
you'll see the northern lights,
though it can last hours*



The best view in Sri Lanka

Breathless, you take the last few steps onto the top of the smooth grey rock. The sun warms the back of your neck and you inhale the cool breeze that lifts the tropical heat. Across the plains, Sigiriya Rock rises out of the thick jungle — and you have the view all to yourself.

Sri Lanka specialist Alison says

Sigiriya, the 5th-century palace complex, is one of Sri Lanka's most impressive and busiest sights. You can view it in serenity from the top of nearby Pidurangala Rock, a quieter but equally rewarding site.


Make this experience yours

*This experience can feature as part of our
Sri Lanka highlights tour.*



22

*You can see 22 ancient
reservoirs from the top of
Pidurangala Rock*

A wide-angle photograph of a volcanic landscape. In the foreground, a person wearing a grey jacket and blue jeans stands on a rocky, brownish-orange cliff edge, looking out over a vast, teal-colored lake. The lake is nestled within a volcanic crater. The surrounding hills are barren and brown, with some distant mountains visible under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, elegant serif font.

A volcanologist's impression of Iceland

Treading through Krafla's black, twisted lava fields, mud pots bubble furiously, smoke curls up from fissure vents and fumaroles emit steam pungent enough to make your nose crinkle. You find yourself on the rim of a gaping crater, a teal-green lake at its heart. Your private volcanologist guide tells you that 29 eruptions created this raw, restless landscape.

Iceland specialist Ian says

Being in the company of an expert volcanologist really brings Iceland's landscape to life. You'll hear how geological features were formed as you feel the geothermal heat beneath your feet.

Make this experience yours

Enjoy this private tour as part of our self-drive trip around Iceland's ring road.



23

*The average daily number
of minor earthquakes that
occurred during Ian's trip*

An aerial photograph of a luxury lodge complex nestled deep within a lush, dense tropical rainforest. The lodge features several buildings with thatched roofs and wooden exteriors, elevated on stilts above the forest floor. A large, modern building with a white section and a wooden deck is prominent in the middle ground. Another building with a thatched roof is visible in the lower right, featuring a small swimming pool. The surrounding forest is thick with various types of trees, including palm trees, creating a vibrant green canopy. The overall atmosphere is one of a secluded, eco-luxury retreat.

Luxury amid Costa Rica's biodiversity

Dawn breaks in the rainforest to a chorus of howler monkey calls. The jungle around you teems with life — macaws flash rainbow plumage, squirrel monkeys scamper through trees, jewel-like hummingbirds flit among flowers. You might add five bird species to your life list while eating breakfast in the restaurant high in the canopy.

Costa Rica specialist Maddie says

Perched between the rainforest and the ocean, Lapa Rios offers the best balance between luxury and sustainability of any wildlife lodge on the Osa, with private cabins and wide-ranging wildlife experiences.

Make this experience yours

You can build time at Lapa Rios into our wildlife tour of Costa Rica.

A high-angle photograph of a tropical lodge nestled in a dense, lush forest. The lodge features a thatched roof and a wooden deck with a small swimming pool and lounge chairs. The scene is surrounded by thick green foliage and large trees.

24

*Maddie saw 24
hummingbirds just from
the balcony of her lodge*



The ultimate journey's end in Peru

As you approach the Sun Gate, you know what's in store — your first sight of Machu Picchu, framed between the gate's stone buttresses. At first, the view is opaque with cloud, and you only hear the churn of the Urubamba River below. Then, the surrounding mountains fade in and out of view as the mist lifts and falls, and the Inca city is revealed.

Peru specialist Katie says

The KM 104 Trail is a shorter, quieter alternative to the Inca Trail that still packs in the highlights. On this day hike, you'll visit the Wiñay Waya ruins before joining the main trail to the Sun Gate.

Make this experience yours

You can include this private guided hike as part of our Incas uncovered tour of Peru.



25

*If you don't fancy a hike, it's
a 25-minute drive with 13
switchbacks to the ruins*

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For more information and inspiration
speak to your local travel agent