



**For Immediate Release**

**June 1, 2011**

**From Erotica to Exotica:**

**Four Unusual International Vacation Experiences from USTOA**

- Explore Mt. Everest base camp and the world's highest monastery,
- View gorillas in the wild,
- Learn about erotic pre-Columbian pottery
- Go on an eastern European scavenger hunt.

These are just some of the unique experiences offered by members of the [U.S. Tour Operators Association](#). From short trips that can be added to a longer itinerary, to vacations of a week or more, USTOA members offer a full array of enriching and one-of-a-kind activities to destinations worldwide. Since each tour operator takes care of the arrangements, travelers are assured a hassle-free vacation that would be harder to arrange, and in many cases more costly, than doing it on your own.

Below are four selections ranging from one- to 10 nights.

**Pre-Columbian Erotica in Lima, Peru: 1 night/1 day**

If you're visiting Machu Picchu or the Amazon, start out with an overnight pre-trip to Lima, including a guided morning visit to the Larco Herrera Museum to view the world's largest private collection of pre-Columbian art. Representing 3,000 years of pre-Columbian history, the museum's artifacts include a huge collection of erotic pottery and statuary crafted by ancient Peruvian cultures. This excursion from International Expeditions is available as part of a custom itinerary or a pre-extension in combination with a longer tour. The \$178 per person price includes private airport transfer, overnight hotel accommodations, local guide and museum tour, and is available with Thursday departures throughout the year. For more information phone 205-633-4734 or visit [www.IETravel.com](http://www.IETravel.com).

**Gorilla Trek in Rwanda. 4 days/3 nights**

Take a once-in-a-lifetime guided trek from Kilgali to Volcanoes National Park to view gorillas in their natural habitat. Recommended for those in good health, the 4 day/3 night package from Great Safaris includes accommodations and all meals. The package, which can be added on to a longer Africa itinerary, is available for booking through November 1 with travel through December 15. Per person cost is \$2,655, which the company estimates saves travelers 10 - 15% over making the same arrangements on their own. For more information phone 800-409-7755 or visit [www.GreatSafaris.com](http://www.GreatSafaris.com).

### **Family Scavenger Hunt in : Bratislava, Slovakia, 8 days, 7 nights**

Compete in a fast-paced scavenger hunt with the whole family in Bratislava, Slovakia, as part of Tauck Bridges' "Blue Danube: Riverboat Adventure." The 8-day/7 night river cruise, is priced from \$2,990 per person, including virtually everything. Beginning in Budapest, Hungary the cruise ends in Regensburg, Germany. Tauck estimates that travelers save 30 - 40% over arranging the same itinerary on their own. Air fare is additional. For more information, phone 800-468-2825 or visit [www.Tauck.com](http://www.Tauck.com).

### **Travel Tibet to Katmandu: 10 days/9 nights**

Join experienced mountain guides on a small-group journey across the "Roof of the World," from Tibet to Katmandu. En route travelers see spectacular high-mountain passes, visit Rongbuk Monastery, world's highest, and the Mt. Everest Base Camp. General Tours World Traveler's 10 day/9 night "Across the Himalayas" tour spends two nights each in Lhasa, and Tingri, Tibet, with an overnight in Shigatse, and a final three nights in Nepal at the Hyatt Regency Resort and Hotel. The overland adventure takes travelers along the Kanabala Pass and the 17,000 ft. Gyatsola Pass, and includes 20 meals, small group sightseeing, services of mountain guides and drivers, and all on-tour transportation. Priced from \$2,699 per person, the tour is available for booking until April 13, 2012, for travel valid through May 15, 2012. International air fare is additional. For details phone 800-221-2216 or visit [www.GeneralTours.com](http://www.GeneralTours.com).

### **More Information**

All prices are based on double occupancy. International airfare is additional. Restrictions and additional security fees, departure and local taxes and fees may apply. Prices may vary based on departure date.

For more information on domestic or international vacation arrangements with culinary or wine interest visit: [www.USTOA.com](http://www.USTOA.com), or [www.USTOA.travel](http://www.USTOA.travel). USTOA member companies have met the travel industry's highest standards, including participation in the association's Travelers Assistance Program, which among other things protects consumer payments up to \$1 million in case the company goes out of business.

USTOA is the premier association of companies providing vacation packages, tours, and custom travel itineraries for more than 11 million people yearly.

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Editor Note: Information was provided by individual companies and was correct at time of writing. International prices may vary from time of writing, based on currency fluctuations.

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