

# Global citizen

From pole to pole, mountain-top to ocean bed, frozen giant to searing safari – *Upward Curve* explores the space where opulent travel meets adrenaline-filled authentic adventure

**B**lending international business, family and personal time is a complex task – especially for the jet-bound businessperson. Mountain Travel Sobek (MTS), Geographic Expeditions (GeoEx), Quark Expeditions and Travcoa offer a luxury escape to some of the planet's most breathtaking destinations.

Illustrating the adventure travel experience, MTS CEO, Kimberly Daley, quoted Tenzing Norgay (who reached Everest's summit first with Sir Edmund Hillary): "To travel, to experience and learn: that is to live."

## GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS

A pioneer of travel to remote and challenging destinations,

**Right: Geographic Expeditions, Mountain Travel Sobek, Quark Expeditions and Travcoa all offer once-in-a-lifetime experiences to the far corners of the earth – like GeoEx's trip to Iceland**

Geographic Expeditions (GeoEx) was hatched at 16,500ft on the Tibetan side of Mount Everest by a group of trekkers in 1981. They were the first American contingent permitted into Tibetan back country. And they have not looked back since.

Today, carefully planned itineraries trail into more than 75 destinations over seven continents for the romantic, trailblazing, philanthropic and educational adventure-seekers. "We cater to the intrepid traveller, said Story Kirshman, GeoEx's Director of Digital Marketing.

"Our clients want to get an insider experience and to learn more than you ever can on a bus."

From the Kangshung Face of Everest and far western China to South Georgia Island; the length and breadth of Bhutan; the mountains of northern Myanmar (Burma); Kilimanjaro's Western Breach and new corners of Patagonia; GeoEx has discovered the sweet spot between cultural,

adventure, authenticity and luxury.

"We take time to understand the interests of each client," said Kirshman. "We will either find the perfect fit for a customer or create something bespoke. To provide an experience that it is impossible to discover on your own with connections that are not online.

"The energy and adventurous spirit of our founders runs deep. When George Doubleday comes into the office, there are hugs and high fives everywhere and we all get that fuzzy feeling listening to his latest reconnaissance mission. All of the staff are encouraged to get into the field as much as possible.

"I recently travelled to Morocco where our itinerary provide adventurers with a stellar service in stunning converted riads and private candlelit camps in the Sahara Desert."

*A 14-day cruise to an exclusive Emperor Penguin rookery in Antarctica (from Argentina) starts at \$19,995pp. [geoex.com](http://geoex.com)*

## MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

Considered by many to be the 'original adventure travel company', Mountain Travel Sobek (MTS) will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019. Since its inauguration, MTS has been driven by a passion for exploration and sharing special places with others, specialising in handcrafted, small-group and custom adventures.

Today, it offers more than 200 treks, hikes, safaris, voyages, and cultural explorations across the globe. "The company was launched with intent to share the world," said CEO Kimberly Daley.

"We believe in digital detox – reconnecting with yourself – to understand the importance of community and culture."

The buzz words around the corridors of its Californian head office are 'trusted heritage'. MTS is innovating and transforming the industry



by building on the tenants of its history. “We believe we are not owners of the world, but caretakers and pioneers. We have a responsibility to celebrate and share nature’s beauty in order to build a legacy,” explained Daley.

MTS acts on this belief by exploring destinations that are both geographically and politically challenging to reach – as well as discovering cultural diversity in unexpected destinations – such as Provence. “We want to inspire the future rather than just be a part of it,” added Daley.

*The 13-day Northwest Passage Polar Expedition cruises above the Arctic Circle from Greenland to Nunavut, discovering the beautiful bays and inlets of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago from \$9,595pp. [mtsobek.com](http://mtsobek.com)*

#### QUARK EXPEDITIONS

Polar adventures specialists, Quark Expeditions, unlock some of the hardest-to-reach regions in



**Pictured: Experience Antarctica on canoe (above) remote Japan (below left) and see polar bears on the Northwest Passage Polar Expedition cruise with Mountain Travel Sobek (below right)**

the Arctic and Antarctica, while holding forth the spirit of great explorers – and a passion to ensure its passengers have the experience of a lifetime. “We see ourselves as polar ambassadors,” explained Thomas Lennartz, Vice-President, Sales.

“We are a champion of the polar regions where we enlighten travellers to a spectacular and rarely visited region. This creates more polar ambassadors.”

With more than 25 years operating in Antarctica and the Arctic, Quark has some of the most experienced itinerary planners in the industry. Travel to the North Pole aboard a powerful Russian nuclear icebreaker or discover exuberant luxury onboard the *World Explorer* which heads south to Antarctica.

“We believe in maximising the ‘off-ship’ experience by giving our travellers the options to curate their experience to be as leisurely or as active as they would like,” added Lennartz.

“The Quark experience is about making the hard look easy; about guiding guests out of their comfort zone in comfort; about

personalising their polar vacations to be as active or as leisurely as guests would like; to maximise time in the world’s remotest region with the ultimate goal of delivering a ‘trip of a lifetime’. All the time with total peace of mind that they are with the best of the best.”

*18-day tour of the Falklands (Malvinas) and South Georgia: Islands – triple cabin from \$13,595pp. [quarkexpeditions.com](http://quarkexpeditions.com)*

#### TRAVCOA

On its very first journey in 1954, Travcoa travelled overland through the Khyber Pass along the ancient Silk Route. In Nepal they were able to stay at the Maharajah’s palace in Katmandu. In Zaire, a gorilla tracking safari was led by Pygmy guides and in the Gobi desert,

they visited sites where dinosaur eggs and bones were discovered.

Since then the company has evolved to focus on experience, choice, style, quality and personal attention – all revolving around ultra-luxurious travel.

Travcoa offers three styles of luxury travel experiences: small-group escorted journeys with the services of a full-time Travel Director, private journeys with ready-to-book itineraries and tailor-made journeys.

Alternatively, small-ship cruises and luxury private jet expeditions are available to many regions.

*An 8-day Galápagos and Ecuadorian Andes Safari starts from \$11,540pp. [travcoa.com](http://travcoa.com)*

