

## PEOPLE POWER

The who's who of who you really should meet in your travels around the world  
**P18**

### SHIP SHAPE

Ten of the best insider cruise tips P10



### SMARTER TRAVELLER

Test your travel nous in weekly quiz P30



## Chicago is a go

We're excited to announce that from November 30, 2018 we will be flying from Australia to Chicago, via Auckland three times a week. Chicago is a vibrant city waiting to be explored and perfect for onward travel to the East of the USA and Canada. Tickets are on sale now.

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Cover story PEOPLE

THE FULL STORY  
There's more people to meet at our website  
traveller.com.au



# Human league all of its own

Brian Johnston, along with other Traveller writers, introduces us to the most memorable and inspiring people encountered along the road.

**THE ECCENTRICS**  
**NELL BROOK**  
**'Queen of Birdsville',**  
**Queensland, Australia**

It started as a romance between two school kids from opposite sides of the world, and has now blossomed into a deep love for one of Australia's most remote outback towns, South African Nell Schulenburg met fourth-generation Birdsville local David Brook on a school trip to Roma. Now she's considered the unofficial "Queen of Birdsville", with her family running the annual Birdsville Races, part-owning the Birdsville Hotel and a sibling of organic beef properties. Have a drink at the Birdsville Hotel, a favourite on the races in September every year and enjoy a chat with Nell Brook.  
See [birdsvilleroads.com.au](http://birdsvilleroads.com.au)

**JOE OKADA**  
**Walking tour guide,**  
**Kyoto, Japan**  
You won't have any trouble recognising 87-year-old "Samurai" Joe Okada outside Kyoto's City Hall. He'll be the one with the wispy grey beard, traditional samurai top knot and flowing brown robes. Okada runs entertaining walking tours around the city that include a dramatic interlude - a samurai sword battle where intrigued visitors become human chopping blocks as he slices through stacks of vegetables

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Andrew Bain, Ben Groundwater, Brian Johnston, Uta Junker, Nina Karmilowski, Katrina Lobley, Rob McFarland, Catherine Marshall, Sally Macmillan, Steve Mascham, Louise Southerden, Alison Stewart, Kerry van der Jagt and Sue Williams

balanced on their stomachs.  
See [awarajournalists.com/f2.com](http://awarajournalists.com/f2.com)

**BERT JAMES**  
**Gastronomic, cultural**  
**and historical raconteur,**  
**New York, US**  
A New York visit should not pass without meeting Alabama-born, Brooklyn-based Bert James. This culinary Pied Piper, actor, stand-up comedian, drag queen and clown is the star of a fabulous "walking picnic". "The Original Greenwich Village food and culture walking tour. In his own words, "I'm always full of fun facts and french fries. I'm like a honey ham-sweet, salty and scrumptious. I am Bert James and I am why birds suddenly appear." He



will lead you a merry dance through the village, stuffing you with food, wearing wonderful hats.  
See [foodandwine.com](http://foodandwine.com)

**BARNABY TUTTLE**  
**'Rock'n'roll winemaker',**  
**Portland, Oregon, US**  
When you arrive for a tasting at Tonic Wine, don't be surprised if owner Barnaby Tuttle offers you a Winser - a surprisingly refreshing mix of muscat and beer. "I don't like stiffness," he says, pushing up the peak of his fishing cap. What he does like are readings from Germany's Mosel Valley. So much so that in 2008 he quit his job and started recreating them in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Today, the former iron worker mixes 30 different varieties - in between fixing his Dodge pickup and playing in a punk band.  
3009 SE 20th Avenue, Portland. See [tonicwines.com](http://tonicwines.com)

**PIERRE FAUCHER**  
**Sugar Shack owner**  
**and raconteur,**  
**Quebec, Canada**  
With his bushy white beard, drooping countenance and old-timey coat and trousers, Pierre Faucher could easily be mistaken for Father Christmas. But after a few minutes in his teasing company, you realise you're in fact laughing out with Red Santa. Faucher runs a sugar shack - creating maple syrup from the surrounding forest - about an hour's drive from Montreal.



Drop in for the traditional sugar shack feast (unlike most sugar shacks, this one's open year round) or spend the night in an old-fashioned log cabin.  
See [sacredcanaan.com](http://sacredcanaan.com)

**SIR LACHLAN MACLEAN**  
**Duart Castle,**  
**Isle of Mull, Scotland**  
Should you visit Duart Castle - the ancestral home that has been the home of the Clan MacLean since 1580 - watch out for the doleful pensioner serving you the whisky-flavoured fruit cake for afternoon tea. If he's wearing old "cowcows" in the handsome green MacLean tartan, chances are that it's the 28th clan chief. He also sometimes greets visitors before the guided tour to his home, an imposing fortress on one of Scotland's most beautiful and accessible islands.  
See [duartcastle.com](http://duartcastle.com)

**VINCENT BRUNETTI**  
**Artist, Puglia, Italy**  
The greeting spelled out in bold messages on the doorstep of this artist's studio on the road between Turanto and Lecce - "Welcome to Vincent!" - is as important, for he will continue as though your presence is entirely expected as you enter his psychodelic sanctuary of creativity. Called "Vincent City", this compound is an installation of works, filled with music-chip



outbuildings, a miscellany of kitsch and artworks in progress. In his studio you can watch him paint as though possessed, smoking, rambling unintelligibly and swivelling his hips as he goes.  
See [artsofobscure.com](http://artsofobscure.com)

**BILL "CAVEMAN" DONALDSON**  
**Dawson City, Canada**  
In the Yukon town of Dawson City, where temperatures drop in your whisky (really), and lunch get us for breakfast beers at a bar called the Snake Pit, Bill Donaldson barely even registers as an eccentric bloke. But to the rest of the world he's Caveman Bill, having lived in a cave across the Yukon River from the town since 1996 - even through the harsh winters that average minus-28 degrees. Bill is no standard hermit. His self-funded cave has the likes of a refrigerator and TV and he's always up for a chat with any visitors who swing by. Caveman Bill lives immediately opposite Dawson City. If you visit, come in winter and you can walk across on the frozen river.

**THE TOUR GUIDES**  
**NADIA BADEE**  
**Tour guide, Shiraz, Iran**  
Dressed in boho chic, sporting scarlet lips and nails and possessed of a solid knowledge of American sitcoms (she's watched Friends "a million times"), this firebrand from Shiraz will challenge visitors' perceptions about the life of an Iranian woman. Female tour guides were almost unheard of here a decade ago, but Nadia is one of the people changing that.  
See [exploreiran.com](http://exploreiran.com)



## Ten people you may not want to meet on your travels

**EGYPT PYRAMID SINGERS**

Young men at the Pyramids outside Cairo are infamous for harassment and well-practised in deceptive arts. No, the attention is not on the men, but on the carriage and that bit of king 'tut' isn't authentic. Block your ears and keep walking.

**MUMBAI BEGGARS**

While some are genuine, most are members of organised gangs or human-trafficking rings. Children are occasionally used as beggars and some beggars use real babies to garner sympathy. Donate in registered charities instead.

**KUALA LUMPUR TAXI DRIVERS**

Only divine intervention will find you a taxi meter in Malaysia's capital that isn't mysteriously "broken". Drivers overcharge and take circuitous routes to bump up fares. Establish an upfront fee and keep a beady eye on your route.

**BANGKOK TUK-TUK DRIVERS**

Tuk-tuks are sadly fading away in Bangkok, and most that remain are commandeered by drivers who target tourists, insisting that your righteousness about them is chased and taking you instead to overpriced shops. Be wary, or bail a taxi.

**COLUMBIAN SOCCER FANS**

South American soccer matches can be a frenzied, spectacular experience, but wild behaviour - throwing, fighting of fans, attacks on players and referees and full-scale riots aren't uncommon. Make sure you're wearing the right colours.

**BARCELONA PICKPOCKETS**

Pickpockets and bag snatchers, dozens of heavily touristed zones such as metro stations, Las Ramblas and cafe-filled squares, are seldom violent but an omnipresent annoyance. Only carry what you need and be vigilant in crowds. Brian Johnston



Go away: Young Cairo men are well-versed at pestering foreign tourists at Egyptian hotspots such as the Pyramids. Photo: Alamy

'I'm always full of fun facts and french fries.'

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# Cover story

PEOPLE

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**SHANJEE PERUMAL**  
**Tour Guide, Galle, Sri Lanka**  
 Shanjee Perumal is not like other tour guides. Certainly not in Sri Lanka, anyway. He sports a beard that would make a lumberjack blush. He drinks beer. He listens to heavy metal. He's like an anti-tour guide, a breath of fresh air in a country where not everyone "gets" the tourism industry. Shanjee gets it. He tailors his walking tours of the Galle Fort area to the group he's showing around. He's the super-knowledgeable Sri Lankan friend everyone should have. See [gallefortwalks.com](http://gallefortwalks.com)

**RUTH GANAMBARR AND DJAWANDU MAYMURU**  
**East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Australia**  
 What better way to reach a country's heart than through the people who've occupied it since the dawn of time? At Bawka, homestead in East Arnhem Land on the Gulf of Carpentaria, Yolngu elder Ruth Ganambarr and her niece Djawandul Maymuru introduce visitors to their ancient culture through traditional practices, patiently explain the complex Yolngu culture and share the rich, captivating stories they've grown up with. See [irrawaddy.com.au](http://irrawaddy.com.au)

**WESTLEY LOMBARD**  
**Wildlife Guide, Shamwari Game Reserve South Africa**  
 It's not the lions. Anyone could get excited about lions; anyone could make that interesting. No, Westley Lombard's real skills lie in making everything else about a safari at Shamwari Game Reserve in South Africa a thrill. He makes you realise that the true beauty of South Africa lies not in the Big 5, but in the small details that would elude a novice pass by. See [shamwari.com](http://shamwari.com)

**DAVID MCMAHON**  
**Tour Guide, Venture North, Darwin, Northern Territory**  
 From the tip of his battered hat to the soles of his bare feet David's your quintessential Top End guide. He can spot a croc at 100 paces, negotiate flooded waters with a single hand and spear a mud crab for dinner - all with a grin on his face. He'll then cook and serve the crab these ways, pour champagne, and share stories about the local Binj people. See [venturenorth.com.au](http://venturenorth.com.au)

**ROB WOODFORD**  
**Black Cab Tours, London**  
 London-born and bred black-cab driver Rob Woodford is proud of his knowledge of his city, and 10 years ago started running his own tours in his tax for visitors. "There's no better way to get up close and personal with London's famous landmarks than in an iconic London black cab," says Rob. "Taking a ride in one can be considered an attraction in itself!" See [blackcabtours.co.uk](http://blackcabtours.co.uk)

**OBIED NASER AL-AMAMREH**  
**Bedouin Tribesman,**  
 In 1990, he used to show down rental cars and cars, inviting people to take a trip in his little



- an archaeologist who divides his time between guiding and excavating - to look for other great things: getting his groups in and out of monuments before the crowds arrive. See [sanctuarytours.com.au](http://sanctuarytours.com.au)

**SAMUEL LENARD CHIHANA**  
**Wildlife Safari Guide, Liwonde National Park's Mvuu Lodge, Malawi**  
 The best safari guides are those who intricately understand nature's complex jigsaw from humblest micro-organism to mightiest beast. Gentle-mannered Samuel Chihana is such a man. Ranked 20 of 26,000 guides from 208 countries, Chihana is the only Malawian guide to make tourIQ's world's top 100 guides in 2017. The Central African Wilderness Safari's field and birding guide from Liwonde National Park's Mvuu Lodge on Malawi's spectacular Shire River offers guests a poetic turn of phrase that enriches the experience. See [www.wild.com](http://www.wild.com)

**BART PIGRAM**  
**Indigenous Guide, Broome, Western Australia**  
 Born in Broome, Pigrum is a Yawuru man from the Kimberley and the initiator of several Indigenous walking tours which explore not just the Aboriginal pre-history of this most beautiful corner of the Australian continent, but also its colonial, ethnic and modern chapters. He's a talented musician and singer, which is only to be expected given he's a son of the Pitman Brothers (legendary in the Kimberley). See [toursbroome.com.au](http://toursbroome.com.au)

**TIM COPE**  
**Tour Leader, Mongolia**  
 Award-winning author, filmmaker and adventurer Tim Cope is best known for his three-year odyssey on horseback from Mongolia to Hungary, which won him the Australian Geographic's Adventure of the Year award in 2006, but he has also rowed the length of Russia's Yenisey River and cycled across Siberia. Softly spoken, in English or Russian, he now takes small groups of travellers deep into Mongolian nomad life, generously sharing his hard-won insights and experiences. See [worldwideadventures.com.au](http://worldwideadventures.com.au)

**DEAN HISCOX**  
**Nature Guide, Lord Howe Island, Australia**  
 Don't be fooled by Dean Hiscox's quiet nature; what this former ranger doesn't know about Lord Howe's world is more. A mainland by birth, Hiscox runs Lord Howe Island Environmental Tours and leads day treks up Mount Gower, plus walks and adventure weeks for Pinetrees Lodge. An expert storyteller, he's lived on the island and more; he was 16 and been running nature-based tours there, on land and sea, for 20 years. See [lordhoweislandtours.com](http://lordhoweislandtours.com)

**HASSAN ABDELRAZEK**  
**Ancient History Guide, Egypt**  
 The first thing you notice about Egypt's mighty monuments is their scale. What you remember most, however, is the details, such as the spot where a carver started a

mid-to-high figure, before realising it was in the wrong place and starting again. Finding such details is where Hassan Abdelrazek

Alkareem is the kind of guide every guide aspires to be. Born in Amman, he studied archaeology (and sustainable tourism) before training to be an outdoor guide. He's inclusive, always seeking to connect visitors with Jordan, and its people; by, say, teaching Arabic words or starting conversations with Bedouins encountered along the way. See [experiencejordan.com](http://experiencejordan.com)

**DARREN CAPEWELL**  
**Wula Gura Nyinda Eco Cultural Adventures, Shark Bay, Western Australia**  
 To some, Shark Bay is synonymous with the dolphins of Monkey Mia, but Darren "Capes" Capewell, the boy is Outharagada, a powerful body of water where red sand country meets white desert country. Capes, who was born to a Malgana father and a Nhandu mother, shares his culture through didgeridoo dreaming tours, kayaking trips and catch-and-cook overnight adventures on the beaches, canals and lagoons of Shark Bay. See [wulagura.com.au](http://wulagura.com.au)

**THE FOODIES**  
**JULIE HARBUIT aka "The Cheese Lady", New Zealand**

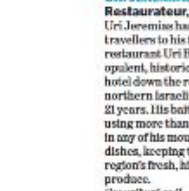
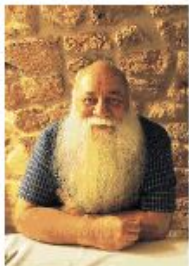
Julie Harbutt knows a thing or two about cheese. During her 20-year career, she's run an exclusive cheese shop in London, founded the British Cheese Awards and written the *World Cheese Book* - a definitive guide that's been translated into nine languages. Little wonder she's become known as "the Cheese Lady". Today, she hosts lunchtime food and wine tours in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand. Depending on the season, you might forage for mushrooms, collect pine nuts or pick blackberries. Rest assured, you'll also taste plenty of excellent cheeses. See [cheeseonline.com](http://cheeseonline.com)

**GAGGAN ANAND**  
**Chef, Bangkok, Thailand**  
 The energy changes the moment Gaggan Anand, the world's most celebrated Indian chef, whirrs into his eponymous Bangkok restaurant. Wearing sneakers (Japan's Onitsuka Tiger), the mad scientist is likely to switch the music to 1980s rock and synth-pop to accompany his culinary performance.

Dishes are whimsical - think Indian flavours presented with Japanese finesse - but serious enough that Gaggan sits at No. 7 on the world's 50 Best Restaurants list, and just this week took first spot for the fourth year running on Asia's 50 Best Restaurants list this year. See [catering.gaggan.com](http://catering.gaggan.com)

**PAUL GOLDSCHMIDT**  
**Winemaker, Bordeaux, France**

Paul Goldschmidt is a happy winemaker thrilled at his good fortune at marrying into the family who've owned Chateau Siorac in Bordeaux wine country since the 18th century. Best of all, this smiley, chatty man has a knack for making a fine wine, growing and wine-making and making it fun. See [chateau-siorac.com](http://chateau-siorac.com)



out of my door every day and go, 'Wow!' says Gillison. "I love the culture, the warmth of the people, the architecture, the food and wine, the carpe diem attitude that makes every day special, and I love sharing it with others." See [madridlive.com](http://madridlive.com)

**BOB (PENUKA) TAYLOR**  
**RT Tours, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia**  
 Bridging cultural barriers can be a tricky business, but a guide like Bob - a Central Arnhem man, who has lived and worked in Europe as a trained chef - makes the crossing an easy one. Through his tours of the MacDonnell Ranges, gourmet bush tucker dinners and extended tours to Uluṛu, Kata Tjuta and Watarrka, Bob shows visitors how to connect with culture, and what it means to be an Aboriginal in modern Australia. See [rttoursaustralia.com.au](http://rttoursaustralia.com.au)

**JOHANNA MAIER**  
**Chef, Filzmoos, Austria**  
 Few celebrity chefs are charming or calm, but Johanna Maier is a lovely exception. She wants guests to slow down, take their time and feel good, and her own personality reflects that commensurable ethos. The former Michelin-starred and multi-award-winning chef recently simplified her cuisine to her 14-room hotel and restaurant, Das Maier, an hour south-east of Salzburg in the alpine village of Filzmoos. But it still features scrumptious, regionally influenced dishes enjoyed in relaxed surrounds, and you're welcome to wander into the kitchen and chat about "cooking with your heart". See [relaxhotelmaier.com](http://relaxhotelmaier.com)

**STEPHANIE HELM**  
**Winemaker, Vintner's Daughter, Murrumbateman, NSW**  
 It's the only winery in the Canberra region with a full-size Tardis outside the cellar door, but that's not what makes The Vintner's Daughter worth a visit. Although her winery is one of the newest - and one of the smallest - in the area, winemaker Stephanie Helm is already winning awards. Mind you, she learned from the best: her father Ken founded one of Canberra's first wineries, Helm Wines. You will often find Stephanie and her husband Ben manning the cellar door. See [thevintnersdaughter.com.au](http://thevintnersdaughter.com.au)

**THE WINEMAKERS ALONG THE PELJEŠAC PENINSULA**  
**Croatia**  
 The wine growers of the Pelješac Peninsula are as much a product of the flinty limestone mountains as the wines themselves. While grapes have been grown here since ancient Greek times, it's only since the fall of communism in the early 1990s that the industry has flourished, thanks to a group of progressive viticulturists. Most love nothing more than sharing a tasting of a dry plavac mali, a sticky dessert wine or olive oil with visitors. Milos Winery, an easy one-hour drive north of Dubrovnik, is one of the best. See [eolika.hr](http://eolika.hr)



# Cover story

PEOPLE

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## THE PEOPLES

### BAHNA TRIBESMEN Ono Valley, Ethiopia

With their bright "miniskirts", patterned singlets, vibrant beaded jewellery and armfuls of bangles, the Bahna tribesmen of Ethiopia's Ono Valley are endlessly fascinating. Head to the dusty main drag of Tying in small gear or one of the ramshackle outdoor bars and watch the tribesmen work the street like a catwalk, dangling the customary tiny carved wooden stool from their fingertips.

### MONGOLIAN NOMADS

**Mongolia**  
If you need reminding of how little life we need to be happy, a visit to the Mongolian nomads could be in order. Living in small ger (the Mongolian version of a yurt), the nomads dismantle their homes seasonally, packing them onto the backs of yaks before relocating to more weather-appropriate locations. A stay with them gives you a taste of the nomadic lifestyle, including the traditional, cuisine (if brewed just and wild yaks count as cuisine), these kind communities and daily life.

### ONE-LEGGED ROWERS

**Into Lake, Myanmar**  
Never will you witness acrobatics like the one-legged rowers of Inle Lake - fishermen who steer, paddle and propel their wooden fishing boats with one leg, while balancing on the other and simultaneously carrying their conical-shaped nets into the water. Known as Intha or "Inle people", these men can be found fishing at sunrise or sunset, or when traversing the canals. If the fish aren't biting, they'll happily pause and chat to interested tourists (most likely in exchange for a cigarette).

### SHERPAS

**Nepal**  
Their name has become synonymous with everything mountains and guiding, and they're built as tough as granite, but Sherpas are first and foremost a people. Trek through Nepal's Khumbu region towards Everest Base Camp and you'll get to meet them, share the trail with them and be sheltered and fed in their lodges and homes. Marvel at their mountain skills but also feel their beautiful and calm gentility.

### EMBARA QUERA

**Paraná**  
Adventure in Embara Quera is an adventure in itself. After being collected by a traditional wooden canoe, you'll motor up the chocolate-coloured Gatao River until you reach a cluster of thatched huts surrounded by jungle. This is home to 22 independent Embara families, many of whom have eschewed city life for a simpler, subsistence existence. As you tour the village and interact with the local, lead-in-the-hut residents, it's hard to believe Paraná City is only an hour away.



## THE CRUISERS

### DAGNY IVARSDOTTIR Expedition Guide, Lindblad Expeditions

Born under the midnight sun, Dagny ("diney") Ivarsdottir is a Viking soul firmly rooted in the 21st century: she might believe in elves, as most Icelanders do, but she also holds a master's degree in international business. Now an expedition guide for Lindblad Expeditions, she's in her element, whether giving lectures on Icelandic culture, bird-spotting on shore excursions or cheerfully driving inflatable Zodiacs across the icy North Atlantic.



### ETIENNE GARCIA Captain, Ponant Cruises

When you're smuggled up in bed on a luxury ship in Antarctica, it can take a miracle to prise you out and onto the glacial deck for sunrise while watching. That miracle, however, takes human form in Etienne Garcia, French cruise operator Ponant's most acrobatic captain, who has been sailing to Antarctica for 15 years. His

boundless enthusiasm, quirky sense of humour and affable waka-up announcements of "OH MY GOD! Got out of bed quick! You would be completely MAD to miss those whales!" make Antarctica all the more magical.

### MAO SOKHEM Scenic Mekong River Guide, Cambodia

Born under the midnight sun, Dagny ("diney") Ivarsdottir is a Viking soul firmly rooted in the 21st century: she might believe in elves, as most Icelanders do, but she also holds a master's degree in international business. Now an expedition guide for Lindblad Expeditions, she's in her element, whether giving lectures on Icelandic culture, bird-spotting on shore excursions or cheerfully driving inflatable Zodiacs across the icy North Atlantic.

### MICK FOGG Cruise Expedition Guru, Ponant

He would be embarrassed to be described as "charismatic" but this award-winning photographer, marine biologist and veteran of hundreds of expeditions to the world's most remote places is just that. Fogg's enthusiasm for discovery, whether it's a minuscule sea creature or an ancient piece of rock art, is contagious - he is also a

master of onboard presentations, bringing an earthy sense of humour to complex scientific topics. Fogg leads Ponant's Kimberley expeditions and is a passionate supporter of indigenous communities and wildlife conservation.

### SERGEY UTSYNSKY Captain, Star Flyer

Few cruisers have the chance to meet ships' officers, but on Star Flyer they work all around you on the ship's open decks. Passengers can take time at the wheel, climb the mast and learn how to read sea charts. Utsynsky, trained by the Soviet navy, is also a natural raconteur, full of lively tales about his seafaring decades and insightful information on how to sail a four-masted brigantine.

### JOHANNES THYSSEM Captain, Azamara Club Cruises

Captain Thysem has a loyal following among regular cruisers on Azamara Journey, a ship that he describes as his baby. "It's like a compressed big ship - it has restaurant options and lots of entertainment, but on a smaller scale." He loves chatting with passengers (who love his mellifluous voice) and has been known to do unorthodox things such as turning the ship around 360 degrees so everyone on board can appreciate a sunset,

## Big impression

Clockwise from main: A Sherpa near Dingboche hauling gear to Everest Base Camp for the climbing expeditions, Kusumbu Region, Nepal; Dr Peter Nilsson; Gemma Sisia; Anoop Mehrotra; Lady Carnavon of Highclere Castle, Alexander Sasha Danilov, Dagny Ivarsdottir; Mick Fogg; Keiko Ando.

fishing off the tender platform and stopping mid-ford in Norway to hug seafood from a local fisherman.

### ALEXANDER DANILOV Cruise Director, Viking River Cruises

Days onboard Viking Ingvar's Russian river cruise start with a cheery greeting over the broadcast system from our charming cruise director: "Good morning, Sasha from Russia here," and from then on he's on the go until late at night. Danilov is in his 30s, speaks fluent English - plus few other languages - and is passionate about sharing his extensive knowledge about Russia. He is a gifted lecturer and a font of helpful, humorous advice, such as: "Never try to be nice to Russian officials, just keep your face as expressionless as theirs."

### THE HUMANITARIANS ED SHUTTLEWORTH See beyond borders, Cambodia

Changing the world is far harder than Ed Shuttleworth ever imagined it would be, but that hasn't stopped this gentle, self-effacing English-Australian from devoting himself to an education system broken by war. The organisation he founded with his

wife, Kate, won a UNESCO prize in 2016; it harnesses the contributions of volunteer teachers and other professionals to enhance the skills of Cambodian teachers so that they, in turn, can transform public education in that country.

### GEMMA SISIA School of St Jude, Arusha, Tanzania

Sixteen years ago, the daughter of a Zimbabwe sheep farmer visited Tanzania, fell in love with a safari guide and started her own school with three students on a piece of land donated by her new father-in-law. Today, Gemma Sisia's School of St Jude in Arusha educates 1800 pupils for free, employs 350 staff and is recognised as one of the best schools in the nation, with 80 per cent of its funds coming from Australian donors.

### THE STUDENT ON CULION ISLAND The Philippines

This paradise was a personal hell for the leprosy bandaged here at the turn of the 20th century. Today, their descendants are working hard to transform the island into a tourist destination at the Hotel Maya, a laboratory for tourism students at the Loyola College of Culion. Built on the spot where a

## Highclere was famous long before it became the set of Downton Abbey.



## LADY CARNAVON Highclere (aka Downton Abbey), England

Highclere was famous long before it became the set of Downton Abbey. The house is a Jacobean masterpiece, while the landscape is one of Capability Brown's greatest works. The present Eighth Earl (George) is the great-grandson of another George who financed Howard Carter's excavation of Tutankhamun's tomb (there's a great Egyptology museum in the basement). Lady Carnavon (author, historian and blogger) often hosts prearranged afternoon teas or signs her works in the bookshop.



## DR PETER NILSSSEN Archaeologist, Mossel Bay, South Africa

Peter Nilsson's excavating tour experience resembles the plot of a science fiction bestseller, only with actual facts. This passionate archaeologist helped discover the archaeological wormholes into the Middle Stone Age known as the Point of Human Origin Caves at Pinnacle Point, near South Africa's Mossel Bay. The caves have allowed us to stand where archaic hominids lived, modern human behaviour began at the southern tip of Africa, about 180,000 years ago.



## ANOOP MEHROTRA Owner, Inn Seventh Heaven, Pushkar, India

One of the oldest and most hallowed places in India, Pushkar is home to a holy lake, a famous annual camel fair and a charming hotelier by the name of Anoop Mehrotra. The owner of the excellent Inn Seventh Heaven, Mehrotra is likely to whisk you off through the desert on his Royal Enfield motorbike to introduce you to local gypsies, walk you around town as he feeds stray dogs (rats from his park) and maybe even take you out for a wine, though dried in this dry city where neither meat nor alcohol is allowed.

## THE BEST OF THE REST

### KEIKO ANDO Dollmaker, Kyoto, Japan

One of travel's big joys is meeting people willing to share their passions, and who provide insights into interesting topics you wouldn't otherwise consider. Enter smiling, bowing, enthusiastic Keiko Ando, who heads Japan's most prestigious traditional dollmaker's, together with her quiet husband, master craftsman Keicho Ando. "I'm so energetic because I love good luck from my dolls every day," she says, as she imparts information about their history, cultural significance and clothing styles. Ando Japanese Doll Shop is in Kyoto and has two-hour tours that include a doll fitting.



### MARKUS JENNY Ski instructor, Arberg, Austria

Few ski instructors feature on huge posters as the face of their ski school, and few have experiences and crazy tales to match - in alpine army units. Jenny also has a quirky way of conveying ski technique: he might compare your posture to sitting on a bar stool or wearing a tie. "The difference between god and a ski instructor is that god knows how to ski and I don't." Say no more.