

THE WORLD IS YOUR DESTINATION



SOCRATES PRIVATE TRAVEL: THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY TRAVELLERS

“Then listen, Socrates, to a tale which, though strange, is certainly true.”

Plato, *Timaeus and Critias*, 360 BC

Long before they shed their sedentary shackles and became worldwide exploiters of mother Earth's richness, men occupied themselves with the land they were given by the Gods. Boxed in by the outer edges of visibility, intimidated by the occurrence of natural phenomena, and narrowed-minded in se, World's most advanced inhabitants were blind to the possibilities that lay ahead of them.

As time passed, generations changed, and civilizations occurred; mankind also evolved. But it wasn't until one pioneer started to use common sense and question accepted truths, that such an evolution could arise. To us, that pioneer was Socrates. Quickly he understood that curiosity is the driving force of knowledge. Though focused on local politics and life in general, Socrates questioned everything and everyone in his pursuit of wisdom, and conveyed this attitude to his disciples. As such, Plato, his first and foremost student, travelled the Ancient World for twelve consecutive years in search of true meaning. During his many travels Plato came into contact with numerous people, all of them telling stories of ancient and not so ancient legends. Twelve years travelling the Ancient World inspired him to start a legacy. A legacy that soon gave rise to a League.

There are only a handful of people who truly changed the world. They did that not by sitting behind their desks, but by questioning what is true, travelling the world, exploring new options, meeting different people, inhaling

new atmospheres, and exhaling their enthusiasm. By not accepting their lives to be limited by human-made boundaries. They reinvented themselves and thereupon the world. That is what the League is all about. Many renowned people have passed since Socrates moved his disciples to travel and question the world. Each and every one of them started off by asking a question. Alexander the Great ended up establishing the greatest empire of the Ancient World by simply asking the question: “Where does it end?”. Christopher Columbus discovered the New World by wandering if he could reach India by crossing the Atlantic Ocean. All of those people contributed to the collective storytelling of this World. They built upon Plato's legacy by creating their own stories. They are extraordinary people travelling to exotic places yet undiscovered by humanity. They are missionaries of the League of Extraordinary Travellers. In the same fashion we continue that tradition of pushing limits, of redefining standards.

Curiosity is a virus. It bites whoever wants to be bitten by it. The League wants you to ask that one defining question that could change your lives. The League builds upon past experiences to create custom-made journeys to the modern-day Atlantis's of this World: from a journey to the cradle of our civilization to a luxurious re-enactment of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Caribbean Sea. That and many more comes within your reach. The League brings you to places that let you create your own stories. Stories that will become legendary. Stories that, though extraordinary, will certainly be true. Maxim Van Eeckhout

Continue the Legacy, join the League.

www.socrates-projects.com

NORWEGIAN
SEA



LAPPISH
ADVENTURE



LAPPISH ADVENTURE

Discover Northern Finland at its most authentic on this seven-day trip.

- A Day 1** After a relaxing flight, the excitement begins upon arrival at Rovaniemi airport: from here a local guide will bring you by snowmobile to the Ice Hotel (45 minutes). Here you'll stay the night in a glass igloo, or for the ultimate experience, try one of the Ice Hotel's beautiful suites.
- B Day 2** Time to pick up the pace! Today you'll be taken to the husky farm for a two-day dog sled adventure. All participants will have their own team of huskies pulling them through the magical Lappic landscapes. If you like, try your hand at building your own snow igloo. Confident in your handiwork? Then you can even spend the night in it! But if you're ready for the cosy warmth of a cabin, that's fine too, as there are plenty around.
- Day 3** Travel (for part of the way by dog sled) to a private chalet, where you and your guests will stay for the remaining nights, with catering provided by your very own chef.
- A Day 4** Rest up and indulge in some sauna treatments and massages. Don't feel like slowing down yet? We can also arrange a game of ice hockey in this perfect environment.
- C Day 5** Off to a rally circuit for a thrilling day of ice driving.
- Day 6** Work up an appetite in the morning snowmobiling and ice-fishing, and then satisfy it with a three-course meal in a traditional Finnish tent. Round off the day with a charming reindeer trip.
- D Day 7** After a busy day yesterday, it's time to recharge your batteries before the trip home. Enjoy a hearty lunch at a luxury lakeside chalet. Don't want to rest until you're back home? Just say the word and we'll arrange a cross-country ski trip.

Practical

 This trip is best suited for groups of two to ten people.

 November to March.

 Prices vary depending on the period of travel, the type of accommodation, the activities undertaken, the number of guests, modes of transport, and so on. Prices typically range from €6,000 to €10,000 per person.

Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you have or to discuss your tailor-made adventure.

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OUR STORY

“Every Socrates trip is distilled from the best of our own experiences. Each adventure is a story we’ve lived.”

We’re Michou and Alain and, together with our four children, we’ve made a habit of pushing our travel experiences to the limit. Our friends jokingly refer to us as the ‘League of Extraordinary Travellers’. We take that as a great compliment as it’s in the same fun spirit that we organize trips for our clients and our own family.

“Take us with you next time!” people have always said upon hearing about what we get up to on our travels. This got us thinking... why not share what we’ve learned? After all, with my husband Alain — an experienced pilot — and my oldest son Mathieu — whom you might call an ‘early adopter’ of the Socrates travel concept — we have the combination of experience and know-how required

to design legendary family vacations. We understand exactly what families want and need when travelling and over the years we’ve built up a vast network of contacts all over the world.

Every Socrates adventure is distilled from the best of our own experiences. Each adventure is a story we’ve lived. We’ve done everything from game watching in South Africa, to driving cattle with cowboys on the American prairielands, to mountain climbing in the Grand Canyon and training with ex-Special Forces soldiers in North Carolina. And that’s just the tip of the iceberg. If you want to visit an iceberg, we can arrange that, too, by the way.

OUR TEAM

MICHOU

Meet the organisational mastermind behind this ‘League of Extraordinary Travellers’.

Michou grew up with the kind of pleasant-but-traditional approach to family vacationing that most of us have shared with our parents and siblings: staying at hotels, seeing the sights, remaining in close proximity but doing little that everybody can enjoy together. It wasn’t until Michou started travelling with her own family of six that she discovered what a vacation could truly offer: memories that last a lifetime, mind-expanding revelations and soul-enriching experiences that bring the family closer than ever before. She now funnels the passion born of this discovery into every Socrates vacation.

ALAIN

The CEO of a successful Belgian textiles company and a trained airline pilot, Alain is the driving force — or flying force — behind the adventurous spirit of Socrates.

Ever since childhood, he has been blazing his own trails and finding ways to quench his thirst for travel and excitement. As a boy he always wanted to be an

astronaut, and he still hasn’t given up on his dream of reaching the stars. His motto is ‘Dream it, plan it, do it!’

MATHIEU

‘There’s always room for improvement’ could be the family motto, according to Mathieu, Socrates’ self-appointed quality control manager. Like his father, Mathieu isn’t satisfied with the mediocre. Growing up, Mathieu enjoyed first-hand the kind of far-flung adventures most children can only dream of. This perspective has made him the perfect consultant when it comes to planning vacations the whole family will enjoy.

In addition to making sure every trip surpasses his own high expectations, Mathieu is also involved in client relations. He is convinced that getting to know what excites his clients is vital in designing them a tailor-made experience that will be remembered fondly for years to come.

HOW WE WORK

“We’re not your typical travel agency – expect more.”

We’re not your typical travel agency or tour operator. True, we plan trips, but that’s where the similarity ends.

In a nutshell, you can expect a highly personal approach and a tailored service that takes every aspect of your trip into account. You can also rest assured that we care just as much about your vacation as you do!

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Socrates was born out of our own love and passion for extraordinary travel. We know that every family is different and so we take the time to discuss your preferences in detail. Flexibility and resourcefulness are our speciality; you’ll be amazed by how much fun and excitement we can puzzle into your itinerary.

We do all the legwork, arranging everything from the big picture (travel arrangements, accommodation, guides)

to the smallest details (restaurant reservations, special activities, you name it).

When it comes to the planning phase, we won’t be content until you’re bubbling over with excitement for the trip ahead. And we won’t rest until you’ve returned home safely, many happy memories richer.

OUR PROCESS

- 1** We meet you and get to know you and your family. You tell us about the kind of things you’d like to do and set a timeframe for your trip. When we have a sense of what appeals to you and excites you, we move on to the next step.
- 2** The planning phase. We set to work marrying everything we know about you with everything we know about creating incredible vacations. We work out the logistics of the trip and build the itinerary around this. We consult with you to ensure you’re happy with the planned activities and the proposed pricing.
- 3** Now that you’re happy with the minutiae of your itinerary, you confirm the trip and we move on to booking the accommodation and confirming the different activities. You start crossing off the days to your vacation.
- 4** Bon voyage! It’s finally time to set off on your trip. While you’re enjoying every moment, we’re busy ensuring that everything runs smoothly for you. We’ll be standing by at all times, from the moment you leave until you’re back on terra firma.