

# 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](http://www.socrates-projects.com)

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# FROM ANCIENT EGYPT TO THE WONDERS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



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Experience the flexibility of flying by private plane through Egypt, Oman, the Seychelles, Malawi, Zambia, Namibia and South Africa.

**A** **Day 1** Fly to Cairo International Airport by private plane, from where your driver will take you to one of the most unique hotels in Egypt, located close to the pyramids.

**Day 2** A personal guide will take you to the Egyptian Museum and the famous Khan el-Khalili bazaar.

**Day 3** A day you'll remember for years to come, today you visit the pyramids accompanied by your personal guide. In the afternoon you'll trek past the pyramids and into the desert on horses or camels.

**B** **Day 4** From Cairo you'll fly to Muscat, the capital of Oman. Upon arrival, you'll be taken to your hotel, a real gem that combines modern luxury with timeless charm.

**DAY 5** Explore Muscat city with the expert local knowledge of your private guide.

**C** **Day 6** Today you'll fly from Muscat to beautiful Mahé, the main island of the Seychelles.

**Days 7-8** Days 7 and 8 are reserved for relaxation. When you get here you'll understand.

**Day 9** Hop aboard your private helicopter and zip along to La Digue, home to the country's most breathtaking beaches.

**D** **Day 10** From Mahé to Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi. Here a private charter plane will be waiting to take you to Likoma Island, on Lake Malawi, where you'll stay in your own private residence.

**Day 11** Explore the island on foot or by mountain bike and enjoy water activities such as kay-

ing, water skiing, kite surfing, scuba diving, etc.

**E** **Day 12** Your private plane will take you to Lilongwe airport for the next leg of the trip. From here you'll be flown to Livingston, Zambia, where you'll stay in a lodge on the Zambezi river.

**Day 13** An idyllic day kayaking on the Zambezi river, stopping for a picnic along the way. Round off a perfect day with a sunset boat trip.

**Day 14** An adventurous start to the day with a scenic helicopter flight right over Victoria Falls, one of the world's natural wonders!

**Day 15** The natural beauty continues this morning as you breakfast on Livingston Island and swim in the ponds.

**F** **Day 16** Today you'll fly out to Walvis Bay, Namibia. Here your guide will take you quad biking in the desert. An unforgettable evening!

**Day 17** In the morning you'll return by quad to Swakopmund before taking a private plane to Sossusvlei to stay at a private camp.


**Day 18** Rise and shine for a private safari!


**G** **Day 19** Your private plane will take you to Pilanesberg, South Africa, before hopping aboard a small private charter to the Madikwe Game Reserve. After a day of exciting travel, settle into the reserve's exclusive safari bush retreat for a night's rest.

**Day 20-21** Days 20 and 21 are reserved for an incredible two-day private safari.

**Day 22** After a short flight to Pretoria, you'll be returned to the airport in Johannesburg for your journey home.

## Practical

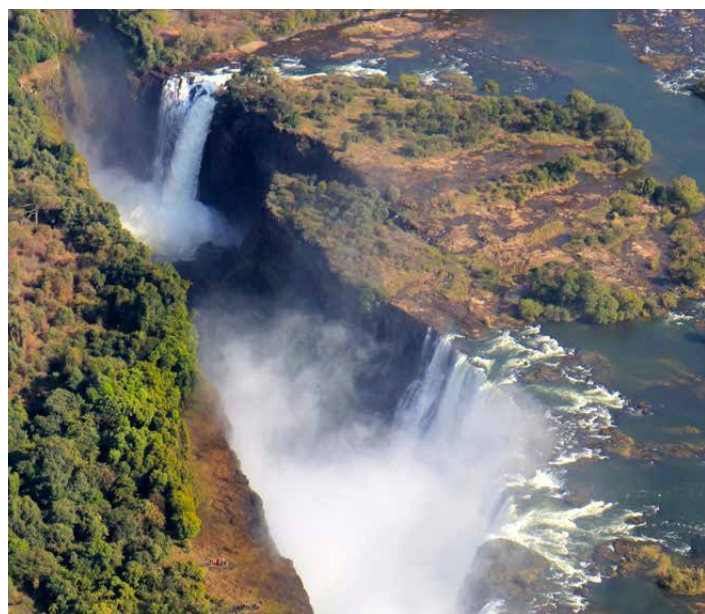
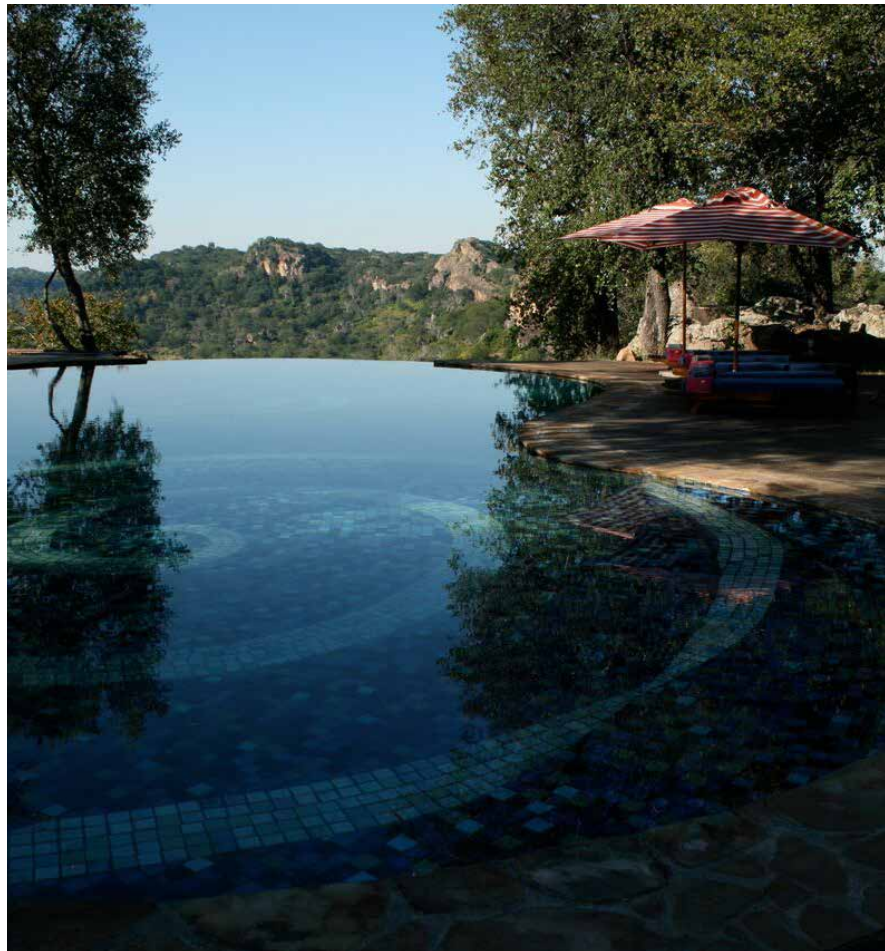
 This trip is best suited for groups of four to six people.

 There are pros and cons, whichever time of the year you choose to go. Contact us to discuss this in detail.

 Prices vary depending on the period of travel, the type of accommodation, the activities undertaken, the number of guests, the modes of transportation used, and so on. Prices typically range from €45,000 to €65,000 per person.

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

[www.socrates-projects.com](http://www.socrates-projects.com)





# 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.

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## 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!

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## 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.

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## 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.