

IN HONOR OF WORLD WILDLIFE DAY, USTOA GATHERS TOURS DESIGNED FOR NATURAL AND CULTURAL EXPLORATION

Itineraries Include Hot Air Balloon Rides Over Masai Mara, Bird Watching in Iceland, and More



(Game drive in Amboseli National Park, Photo Courtesy of Tauck)

NEW YORK – **February 16, 2022** – <u>The United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA)</u> is making special note of World Wildlife Day on March 3, 2022, by spotlighting programs from its tour operator members that focus on wildlife education and appreciation. From observing endangered mountain gorillas in Uganda to trekking through the rainforest of Bako National Park in Malaysia, each tour program offers up-close-and-personal experiences with abundant opportunities for natural and cultural immersion in each destination.

"As USTOA turns 50 this year, our tour operator members are looking '50 years forward' to provide sustainable and responsible travel experiences," said Terry Dale, president and CEO. "World Wildlife Day is an ideal way to raise awareness of the fragile flora and fauna that populates our planet, and that our members take great care to preserve and protect."

Here's just a sample of programs to inspire travelers in 2022:

Tauck offers a thirteen-day <u>Kenya & Tanzania: A Classic Safari 2022</u> tour to those yearning for outdoor adventure. This itinerary takes a group of no more than 30 Tauck travelers to visit Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary, and the Willian Holden Wildlife Education Center to observe the flora and fauna of Kenya and Tanzania. Travelers will end their trip activities by floating in a hot air balloon over Masai Mara. Departures are available between May and December 2022 with prices starting at \$10,890 for two people. <u>www.tauck.com</u>

Travelers will enjoy excursions to Thingvellir National Park, the mesmerizing Gullfoss Waterfall, and the Geysir geothermal area on a four-to-six-day <u>Iceland Escape: Golden Circle and Whale Watching</u> tour with **Great Value Vacations**. This itinerary includes traveling to Reykjavik, the northernmost capital of the world, to go whale watching, observe sea birds and other sea life, climb the famous Hallgrímskirkja Church, and more. Departures are available between April 2022 and December 2022 with prices starting at \$1,153 per person. www.greatvaluevacations.com

Travelers will have the opportunity to explore one of the last truly wild places on the planet on a ten-day <u>*Wild Sarawak*</u> tour with **Intrepid Travel**. The itinerary includes exploring Southeast Asia's labyrinthian caves in Mulu National Park, searching for monkeys through the rainforest and jungle stream of Bako National Park, trekking through the jungle of Labuan Island and more. Departures are available between April and December 2022 with prices starting at \$1,620 per person. <u>www.intrepidtravel.com</u>

Abercrombie & Kent offers a five-day <u>Tailor Made Uganda: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest</u> itinerary jampacked with mountain hikes through Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, trekking through the park's dense vegetation to observe the endangered mountain gorilla, and more. Departures are available between March and October 2022 with prices starting at \$3,995 per person.

www.abercrombiekent.com

Find all itineraries offered by USTOA tour operators at https://ustoa.travelstride.com/trip-list/wildlife

When booking with a USTOA tour operator member, travelers will have peace-of-mind under the protection of the USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program. All USTOA tour operators also follow the TOURCARE guidelines, which support the implementation of sanitization and operational procedures to help prevent the transmission of COVID-19. For more information, visit www.ustoa.com.

About USTOA:

Representing nearly \$19 billion in revenue, the member companies of U.S. Tour Operators Association provide tours, packages and custom arrangements that allow 9.8 million travelers annually unparalleled access, insider knowledge, peace-of-mind, value, and freedom to enjoy destinations and experiences across the entire globe. Each member company has met the travel industry's highest standards, including participation in the USTOA's Travelers Assistance Program, which protects consumer payments up to \$1 million if the company goes out of business. As a voice for the tour operator industry for 50 years, USTOA also provides education and assistance for consumers and travel agents.

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