

Pettitts

# NEWS



Winter/Spring 2007

JOURNEYS FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER

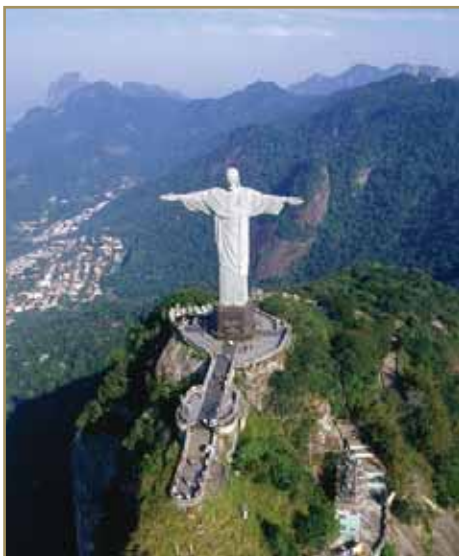
NEWS, VIEWS, IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM A PORTFOLIO OF WORLD-CLASS TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

## Unlock the wonders of South America with Pettitts

**Pettitts has launched a new 68-page South America brochure bringing together the sights, locations and attractions of Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador. It features a selection of ideas, journeys and special places to stay and has enough to inspire even the most seasoned traveller.**

Crucially – and as a year-round destination – it also complements the company's other brochures serving parts of the world where travel can be determined by season.

Managing director Steve Pettitt says: "We have been creating high quality tours to India, China and the Far East for



almost 20 years and have built a reputation among our clients for imaginative itineraries and inspired suggestions."

"But we also know travellers have become more adventurous and expect new and original ideas. By partnering with one of South America's leading ground operators we have created this new programme of exploration in this vast continent. With the emphasis on flexibility, the brochure is designed to give a flavour of what we can offer and it superbly showcases a wonderfully rich and diverse part of the world."

Among the highlights of the new brochure are Argentina with its stylish capital Buenos Aires, old colonial towns and spectacular natural landscapes; Ecuador featuring the World Heritage city of Quito, famed markets and pre-Incan legacies; Brazil and its postcard landmarks, colourful people and the Amazon rainforest; a Peruvian journey to *The Land of the Incas*; a chance to combine the Galapagos Islands with Peru, and a 12-day tour of Chile in which all that this *Land of Fire and Ice* offers comes to life.

### REQUEST YOUR BROCHURE NOW

To order your copy simply:

Phone: **01892 515966**

Fax: **01892 521500**

Email: **pettitts@btconnect.com**



Pettitts

SOUTH AMERICA

JOURNALS FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER

[www.pettitts.co.uk](http://www.pettitts.co.uk) ♦ 01892 515966



## Discover Vietnam's unexplored North

**Vietnam is now a successful and well-established destination, but there is still much to explore in a country that has successfully shaken off a troubled past.**

While those making for the country's northern hills tend to head for Sapa, the more adventurous are discovering the area around Ha Giang – the highest point of latitude in Vietnam on the border with China.

A six-hour drive from the capital Hanoi and reached via a network of good roads, Ha Giang has much to engage the visitor. Besides stunning mountain landscapes and terrains of pristine rice paddies and terraces, the area affords views seen nowhere else in an elongated land that also neighbours Laos and Cambodia.



A chance to glimpse the lives and share the hospitality of some of Vietnam's most secluded ethnic minorities, to wander around atmospheric local markets and discover some of the country's most ancient villages and settlements all combine to provide an engaging stay, while the more energetic may wish to enjoy a series of treks and hikes.

This is off-the-beaten track Vietnam with clean, simple accommodation and is best enjoyed in the spring.

**Contact: Peter Holroyd on 01892 515966.**

## Relax in the Himalayan foothills



**Think of the relaxed pace and greenery of the Indian hills and it is Shimla that probably springs to mind. But there is much more to this regional retreat of the British Raj, with an area providing a haven of peace to rival the country's beaches.**

This spring why not visit the Nabha Palace at Mussoorie? Shrouded in 13 and a half acres of cedar forest and perched atop its own hill this tranquil retreat, 270km north of Delhi, was once the sprawling summer residence of the Maharaja of Nabha and basks in the song of jungle birds and the hum of gentle breezes.

The 22 rooms are simple yet comfortable, but it is the views and superb natural setting that makes the Nabha Palace a rather wonderful escape from modern life.

Pettitts can combine a tour of Rajasthan with a stay at Mussoorie, creating the ideal match of history and culture, rest and relaxation. Other properties are also available in the hills such as the Naini Retreat in Naini Tal, the Windemere Hotel in Darjeeling or the nearby Glenburn Tea Estate, details of which can be found in our main brochure and on our website - [www.pettitts.co.uk](http://www.pettitts.co.uk).

**Contact: Steve Pettitt or Nigel Berry on 01892 515966**

## COMBINE THE ROMANCE OF THE TAJ MAHAL WITH THE MYSTIQUE OF FABLED PETRA

**One is described as the Red Rose City, the other is the greatest testament to love – and together they are two of the world's most famous sights.**

Pettitts is now giving clients the chance to see the great archaeological site of Petra and the splendour of the Taj Mahal in one trip.

Using Royal Jordanian flights connecting Jordan with the sub continent, travellers can now combine two of the world's "must see" destinations, unlocking breathtaking man-made wonders with desert excursions and the majesty and splendour of northern India.

And with all tours tailor-made, itineraries can be adapted to suit available time and budget.

**Contact: Peter Holroyd on 01892 515966.**



## RAJASTHAN GETS IMPRESSIVE NEW WILDERNESS CAMP

**Noted for its traditional Rajasthani style and within a rural setting flanked by a lake and gardens, the 32-room Rohet Garh has long been a favourite of Pettitts' clients travelling through Rajasthan.**

The ancestral family – noted for introducing guests to local tribal villages and farming communities – has now opened an attractive Wilderness Camp a short distance from Rohet Garh.

Five comfortable tents sit on a small sand dune with spectacular views. Ideal for a tour extension, this is a location in which you can take a jeep or horse safari in the morning, indulge in a sumptuous high tea in the afternoon and spend the evening stargazing.

**Contact: Lucy Sawyer on 01892 515966.**





## Peace deal sees Nepal reopen its doors

**Following the peace accord signed in November 2006, Nepal has returned to stable rule and is, once again, a viable tourism option for those attracted by the allure of a landlocked Himalayan kingdom where life goes on as it has for centuries.**

With incredible palaces and temples and vibrant culture, the medieval towns of the Kathmandu Valley cater for many tastes from the nature enthusiast, novice and experience trekker through to visitors who simply want to marvel at breathtaking scenery, take to a hilltop retreat or go in search of the elusive Royal Bengal Tiger.

Pettitt's long-established Nepalese programme features a number of recommendations, including a network of four mountain lodges in the Annapurna region and a rafting lodge on the Seti River.

Run by former Gurkha officers and ensuring high standards, the emphasis is on simple but comfortable accommodation with a superb range of activities suited to all ages.

Other destinations within the Nepalese programme include the 74-room Dwarika's Hotel in Kathmandu. A work of art in

itself, the property has the feel and look of a palace with the spirit of a bygone era. Featuring intricate wood and terracotta work and handmade bricks, Dwarika's oozes history and fine craftsmanship at every turn.

The spring is good time to visit Nepal.

**Contact: Steve Pettitt on 01892 515966**



## Cruise the Hooghly aboard the RV Charaidew this summer

**2007 is a significant year for India with the 150th anniversary of the Indian Mutiny and 250 years since Clive's victory at Plassey changed the country's historical path. It is also the year that sees the launch of the first ever passenger cruise ship along the entire length of the River Hooghly.**

Flowing 250 miles from the Ganges to the sea – and once a main trading artery for the East India Company – the river is now navigable all year round and provides a pleasant stay in the sub continent at a time of year usually best avoided.

Bengali terracotta temples, early Islamic monuments and the handsome Georgian mansions of Calcutta can all be seen from the river or close to its banks, while the former Nawabian capital of Murshidabad and the striking new ISKCON (The International Society for Krishna Consciousness) headquarters demonstrates how

this little known part of India blends ancient and modern to great effect.

A new seven-night cruise with Assam Bengal Navigation allows travellers to experience the region from the comfort of a small ship. Departures are scheduled for July and August 2007 – close to the actual date of the Plassey anniversary, when the surrounding countryside is at its most lush and when some rain is accompanied by sunlight hours comparable to a western European summer.

**Contact: Steve Pettitt on 01892 515966**





## Five-star style in ancient capital of Laos

**“Sleepy” is a phrase most commonly used to describe Laos. And it’s a word that perfectly sums up this land-locked south-east Asian country bordering Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.**

Deserted temples with lone Buddhist monks, untouched tribal villages and the mighty Mekong River dominating everyday life – all trademarks of a destination that has embraced tourism in a slow and considered way somewhat typical of its people.

Part of that development has been the arrival of four- and five-star accommodation that more than holds its own against the more established hotels of its neighbours. And at La Residence Phou Vao in the ancient capital and World Heritage Site of Luang Prabang, there is no mistaking the hallmarks of Far Eastern style and hospitality.

The hotel has 32 deluxe rooms and suites within three hectares of lush gardens, architecture that evokes the heritage of Laos and guest comforts among the best in the region.

A stay at La Residence Phou Vao can be combined with many elements of Pettitts’ Far East itineraries. A good time to visit Luang Prabang is from November to April.

**Contact: Katie Hanes on 018962 515966.**

## Pingyao - China’s treasure

**Pingyao is one of China’s most alluring destinations. Capital of Shanxi province, the city still preserves a layout dating back to the 14th century with streets and storefronts that retain their historical heritage and a number of well-preserved residences from the Ming- and Qing-era that numbers well into the thousands.**

The UNESCO World Heritage Site – some 700 km from Beijing – is a treasure trove for anyone enchanted by Chinese and Buddhist history and traditions. The Yugang Grottoes, Xuani (*Hanged in the Air*) temple, three-storey market tower and an abundance of public buildings and sights of religious significance make a few days in Pingyao an enchanting step back in time.

Pettitts can combine a four-day extension in Pingyao with many of its China

itineraries and the best time to visit is in April and May.

**Contact: Katie Hanes on 01892 515966**



## PLAN NOW FOR NORTH AFRICA AT ITS BEST

Now is the time to think about planning a trip to North Africa with the climate between March and May representing one of the most pleasant of the year to explore the gems of Libya, Morocco, Jordan and Syria.

*For a copy of our dedicated North Africa brochure – or to discuss your travel plans – call 01892 515966.*

## TALK TO THE EXPERTS, CREATE THE PERFECT TRIP

**If you would like to find out more about any of the suggestions featured in this newsletter or would like to discuss an idea you have with an expert in greater detail, please call us on 01892 515966.**

**We like to talk to our clients in-depth, truly understand their plans and give them the benefit of our vast knowledge. And whilst we can, of course, make all your travel arrangements by phone and email we also welcome clients to our offices.**

**Why not tie-in a visit with a day or two in the Spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells? We are pleased to recommend the excellent Hotel du Vin – one of Kent’s finest and just a few minutes walk from our offices. The hotel can usually offer Pettitts’ clients a free room upgrade on Sunday evenings and on other nights during the week subject to availability. To make a reservation call Hotel du Vin on 01892 526455 or visit [www.hotelduvin.com](http://www.hotelduvin.com). Remember to mention Pettitts when booking.**

**For further details contact Pettitts on 01892 515966.**



[www.pettitts.co.uk](http://www.pettitts.co.uk)

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The information contained in this newsletter and details of the itineraries featured were correct at the time of publication. However, travel arrangements and seasonal fluctuations can result in necessary changes and we therefore recommend you speak to us at the initial stages of your holiday planning.  
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