



# The California Native

International Adventures

2011

## ¡Viva Mexico! 200 Years of Independence

The year 2010 was a year for celebration in Mexico. It was the bicentennial of Mexico's War of Independence as well as the centennial of the Mexican Revolution. Two hundred years ago the first of these events set our southern neighbor on the path to becoming the 14th largest independent nation on Earth, as well as the world's largest Hispanic country. It was the inspiration and leadership of one man which led Mexico to throw off the shackles of Spain after almost three centuries.

That man was a 57-year-old priest whose parish was in the city of Dolores, Guanajuato. The date was September 16, 1810. Early that morning Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla had the church bells rung to summon the townspeople to the church, where he told his followers that the time had come to expel the Spaniards who had misgoverned Mexico for so long. His speech, known as



the *Grito de Dolores*, the "Cry of Dolores," set off the Mexican War of Independence.

Hidalgo was born in 1753 on

the hacienda where his father was administrator. At twenty years of age he received his Bachelor of Theology degree and lectured in phi-

losophy and theology at San Nicolás Obispo and, after being ordained as a priest, became rector of the school. His ideas and conduct were extremely liberal, which led to his being dismissed from that post, and twice being investigated by the Inquisition, who accused him of reading prohibited books, advocating doctrines of the French Revolution, doubting the virgin birth of Mary, gambling, and keeping a mistress. His last clerical position was that of parish priest in the little town of Dolores.

Hidalgo worked hard to improve the lives of his parishioners, mastering their Indian language and teaching them crafts and skills. He also introduced winemaking and silk culture, which the government declared illegal in the colo-

nies, and one day government officials destroyed the vines and mulberry trees.

Late in the eighteenth century it became fashionable among cultured *criollos*, persons of Spanish descent who were born in Mexico, to form literary societies, which met for tea and cakes and discussed the classics. They also smuggled into the country books which were banned by the Church.

*Continued on Page 14*

## Lunch With the Prez



Mexico's president, Felipe Calderon and California Native's Lee Klein.

California Native owners Lee and Ellen Klein were guests of Mexico's President Felipe Calderón at a luncheon he held in Mexico City at Los Pinos, Mexico's official presidential residence. Guests at the luncheon were specially selected international tour operators, and members of the international press corps.

The event kicked-off of an initiative to spur tourism in Mexico's many beautiful and fascinating "non-beach-resort" destinations, and commemorate Mexico's Bicentennial. At the luncheon we met Gloria Guevara, Mexico's new tourism minister and the President himself, who spoke of the many cultural and historical sites in Mexico, including Copper Canyon and the town of Batopilas, which is a highlight of many of California Native's Copper Canyon tours.

**1-310-642-1140**

**1-800-926-1140**

**www.calnative.com**  
**travel@calnative.com**



## Letter From Lee:

**W**e are always seeking new ways to improve our trips and offer you more ways to enjoy your California Native Adventure. This year we have made additions to three of our destinations, China, Patagonia and the Yucatan.

### The Yucatan

On our Yucatan Explorer Trips, you now have the option of beginning and ending your vacation in either Cancun or Merida. With the large number of airlines flying into Cancun daily, starting your Yucatan adventure in this beach resort allows you to take advantage of the competitive airfares and direct flights from the U.S. and Canada.

### China

In China, we have added a fantastic once-in-a-lifetime journey which starts out visiting China's "must see" sites—the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Terra-Cotta warriors, and then continues on, high into the Himalayas, to Tibet and Mount Everest Base Camp.

### Patagonia

We are introducing two new adventures in Patagonia. They are independent, allowing you greater flexibility, and are economically priced. Both trips visit Buenos Aires, Ushuaia (the world's southern-most city), Tierra del Fuego National Park, the Beagle Channel, the Perito Moreno Glacier (with the opportunity to trek on the glacier with crampons), Chile's Torres del Paine National Park, and more. The 12-day trip adds a fantastic 3-night expedition cruise, through the Straits of Magellan and around Cape Horn.

Please join us one of our California Native Adventures. I know you will have a wonderful vacation.

### The California Native Newsletter

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#### **The California Native**

6701 W. 87th Place, Los Angeles, CA 90045

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## Dear California Native,

Your attention to details and your total service were excellent. There were no "glitches" in our trip. Before the trip when we had questions, we felt that you "bent over backwards" to help us. We really appreciated that. I know it was a bit complicated because you were dealing with us in Puerto Vallarta. You answered our emails promptly—thank you!

[On the trip] everything went like "clockwork." We were struck with the grandeur and immenseness of the Copper Canyon. The Torres Hacienda boutique hotel in El Fuerte "blew our socks off"!!! We were unprepared for such luxury on this trip. It was beautiful, comfortable, friendly and the service was beyond excellent. World Class restaurant!! Thank you for making our trip such a happy memory!

**Frank & Carol Chandler**  
Halifax, NS Canada

Once or twice in a lifetime we get to experience and feel an adventure that exceeds our loftiest expectations. This trip [to Copper Canyon], from the primitive woods to the elegant city of Chihuahua, has been such a trip. Thanks for the excellent tour.

**Ginny & Bob Schultz**  
Tucson, AZ

We have traveled quite a bit in the last two years and this is the best time we have had. All the stresses of travel were taken care of for us, which just left fun. Great guide. Great group.

**Teresa Grabham**  
Markleeville, CA

More fun than advertised. The small group size and like-minded travelers made for an exceptional experience all around.

**Eric & Wendy Bardrof**  
Williamsburg, VA

Our guide [on our Ireland bicycle trip] was excellent. The selection of restaurants and bed and breakfasts get an A+. I loved Galway. It was nice to have a rest day in Roundstone. The trip was well planned and excellent, as usual. Loved the charm and beauty of the countryside.

**Jo Rhoton**  
West Point, UT

Jessica [our guide] has a true passion for Mexico and it shows in her enthusiasm. She was able to share this passion with all group participants.

**Jane E. Herring**  
Houston, TX

We had never been on a tour [before] but will certainly think of one in the future—but not those ugly 30 to 45 person bus tours. Thank you.

**George & Roma Croy**  
Duncan, BC, Canada

Fantastic trip. We learned so much. Our guide was excellent and very attentive to individual needs and preferences. She tailored the trip to the combined personalities of this group such that everyone was truly delighted by their experience.

**Tina Shelton**  
Pomona, CA

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"The Desktop Traveler,"  
send your e-mail address to:  
travel@calnative.com**

# We've Yet to Meet a Yeti



***"No one...had mentioned the yeti. No one had warned me...that something might be afoot in the ravines beneath the mountain peaks. That evening I saw four more footprints."***

**Reinhold Messner, *My Quest for the Yeti***

By Lee Klein

**T**HE YETI, "ABOMINABLE Snowman," or *mirgu*, as it's called in Bhutan, has been a legend throughout the Himalayas for centuries. They are even depicted in ancient Tibetan and Bhutanese manuscripts.

The Kingdom of Bhutan has set aside an area specifically for the yeti, the Sakten Wildlife Sanctuary—a sanctuary for a creature that local lore claims is invisible! While in Bhutan, I was told that not only is the yeti invisible, but his feet point backwards to avoid being tracked.

On their unsuccessful attempt to climb Mount Everest in 1923, a British expedition spotted a line of creatures moving along a cliff face. When they arrived at the location they found huge humanoid footprints in the snow. Twenty-six years later, Tenzing Norgay, who along with Sir Edmund Hillary, was the first to reach Everest's summit, saw a Yeti playing in

the snow.

The yeti has been described as a wildman, half-man half-beast, covered with reddish brown hair but with a hairless face. The descriptions are similar to North America's "Big Foot." Many theories have been advanced as to the identify of this "abominable snowman." Some scientists believe that the yeti is a form of ancient man, a "missing link." It has been theorized that it is a form of *Homo Giganticus*, an unproven subspecies of humans. So far expeditions which have set out to capture or photograph the yeti have returned without positive proof of the creature's existence.

Reinhold Messner is a writer, film maker, and a member of the European Parliament. He is also considered to be one of the world's greatest mountaineers, having climbed all of the world's 8,000 meter peaks, and being the first man to climb Everest solo and without oxygen. In 1986, while leading an expedition in Nepal,

he encountered a yeti.

"I thought it was a fairy tale (until) I saw a yeti for myself. I could only see a shadow because it was very late. When I approached the place where the yeti (had) stood, I found a footprint of a two-leg-going animal."

This led Messner on a twelve year quest for the yeti. His conclusion, "The yeti is the sum of many tellings of a legend. The local people have a lot of fantasy creatures because they live without television and without Hollywood, so they have to create their own myths. Most of these figures, like the yeti, are built on real, existing beings out of nature. The local people tell each other the story. And from time to time somebody brings along a new part because they've been in touch, in the night, with one of these creatures. So the yeti is the sum of this fantasy figure and the zoological reality behind it—a Tibetan bear!"

The Tibetan bear, a rare species related to the grizzly, while traveling through snow, puts his back foot in the footprint of his forefoot, giving the appearance of a two-legged animal.

"The legends all describe the yeti as two and a half meters [eight feet] high. If it's big, they say it is black. If it's very small, they say it's reddish, because the small Tibetan bears are reddish. Everything matches perfectly. It goes on two legs when it meets people, to show that he is big and strong."

Messner came across the footprints of a yak, followed by the footprints of a yeti. He followed them to the carcass of the yak, killed by a single blow. It had been stored underground in the same manner a bear stores his kill.

He journeyed to a remote village in Pakistan, where legends tell of a woman who was kidnapped by a yeti and lived with it for two years. Traveling with a local guide, Messner came across a sleeping "yeti" and got to within 20 yards of it. It turned out to be a Tibetan bear, and very angry at being awakened. Messner jumped and yelled and the bear ran away.

Adolph Hitler sent an SS man, Professor Ernst Schaefer, to search for the yeti in the hope that it would turn out to be the progenitor of the Aryan race. Schaefer reached the conclusion that the yeti was the Tibetan bear, but kept this theory to himself, "If I had said this to the Nazis, they would have killed me."

And our own Big Foot or *Sasquatch*? Messner believes it is probably a grizzly bear.

# Copper Canyon



**C**opper Canyon, located in the Sierra Madres of northern Mexico, is a vast scenic area of pine-forested mountains and deep canyons. Four times larger than the Grand Canyon and almost 300 feet deeper, this is the homeland of the Tarahumara Indians, who in spite of encroaching civilization have managed to preserve their ancient lifestyle living in caves and simple shelters while practicing subsistence farming. They are the world's greatest long-distance runners, racing up and down the canyons for transportation and sport.

The Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad, which traverses the area, is one of the most spectacular train rides in the Western Hemisphere, passing through 86 tunnels and crossing 37 bridges as it climbs into the rugged Sierra Madres.

For more than a quarter of a century we have been operating the very best trips through Copper Canyon. Many of our trips also visit the remote areas of the canyon bottom. Our guides are known throughout the area for their work with the Tarahumara and we have become a major source of information on this remote area of Mexico.

## Fabulous Escorted Trips

These small group adventures are the best way to see Copper Canyon. They are fully escorted by our experienced bilingual American guides, who enjoy sharing their extensive knowledge of the area and the culture of the Tarahumara Indians.

Prices include transportation, accommodations, excursions, tips, most meals, and roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles or Phoenix. Check with us for discounted air rates from other cities. Additional dates available for groups of eight or more.

### 7-Day Classic

Our original Copper Canyon trip visits El Fuerte, a charming colonial city; Divisadero, with its spectacular views of the canyon; Creel, a mountain community; and Chihuahua, home of Pancho Villa.

**2011 Dates:** **\$2380\***

Jan 16–22	Aug 14–20
Feb 27–Mar 5	Oct 9–15
Apr 19–25	Nov 7–13
May 28–Jun 3	Dec 26–Jan 1

### 11-Day Ultimate

These trips include all that is in our 8-Day Special trip, with the addition of a night at Norítari; a day trip to Basaseachic Falls; two nights in Cerocahui, the prettiest little village in the Sierras; and a day trip to Urique, in the canyon bottom.

**2011 Dates:** **\$2990\***

Feb 5–15	Oct 6–16
Feb 17–27	Oct 27–Nov 6
Mar 5–15	Nov 6–16
Mar 20–30	Dec 23–Jan 2
Apr 3–13	

### 8-Day Special

These trips travel to the canyon bottom and spend two nights in the historic mining town of Batopilas, as well as visiting all of the destinations included in our 7-Day Classic trips.

**2011 Dates:** **\$2570\***

Jan 15–22	Oct 1–8
Feb 12–19	Oct 16–23
Feb 26–Mar 5	Nov 12–19
Mar 19–26	Nov 19–26
Apr 2–9	Dec 20–27
Apr 18–25	Dec 28–Jan 4

### 14-Day Everything

We've extended our 11-day Ultimate trip by adding a second day in El Fuerte, Norítari and Chihuahua to allow us more time to leisurely explore and appreciate the tranquility and beauty of the Copper Canyon.

**2011 Dates:** **\$3590\***

Jan 30–Feb 12	Oct 2–15
Mar 12–25	Dec 3–Dec 16

**For more information on Copper Canyon, please phone us for our booklet or visit our website, [www.calnative.com](http://www.calnative.com)**

# Great Independent Trips

Do you like to travel on your own? Then our independent Copper Canyon adventures are for you. Trips along the rim can be arranged for one or more persons and are great any time of year. Trips to the canyon bottom require a minimum of two persons and are best between October and March. Prices include transportation, Copper Canyon train ride, accommodations, excursions and some meals. Airfare is not included. Trips depart daily.

## Along the Rim

**4-Day** - This four-day, three-night trip is designed for those who wish to see Copper Canyon but only have minimum time to spend. It can begin in either El Fuerte or Chihuahua, and includes two nights in Chihuahua or El Fuerte and one night in Divisadero, with its spectacular views of the canyon. **\$840\***

**5-Day** - This trip begins the same as our 4-Day Adventure, visiting El Fuerte or Chihuahua, and Divisadero, then continues on to spend one night in the Sierra Madre mountain community of Creel, with a tour of the surrounding areas that includes missions and caves. **\$980\***

**6-Day** - This trip adds an additional night in Creel to our 5-Day Adventure, allowing us more time to visit the many sights of this fascinating area. **\$1040\***

**8-Day** - The Paraiso del Oso Lodge is located in a beautiful valley a few miles from the little village of Cerocahui. This trip adds a two-night stay at the lodge to our 6-Day Adventure and the opportunity for horseback riding and exploring the countryside, village and Tarahumara school. A great all-around tour of the Copper Canyon area. **\$1210\***

## To the Bottom

**7-Day** - We travel down a winding mountain road to the canyon bottom to visit the historic mining town of Batopilas. The trip begins in El Fuerte or Chihuahua, spends two nights in Creel and two nights in Batopilas. **\$1270\***

**8-Day** - This trip is the same as our 7-Day Adventure to the Bottom, but in addition we spend a night in Divisadero, where we enjoy the spectacular views from the canyon rim. **\$1390\***

**9-Day** - We add two nights to our 7-Day Adventure to the Bottom to visit Cerocahui and the Paraiso del Oso Lodge. Here we have the opportunity to take an excursion to the town of Urique or spend a day exploring the countryside on horseback. **\$1480\***

**10-Day** - On this comprehensive trip we visit El Fuerte or Chihuahua, Cerocahui, Divisadero, Creel and Batopilas—a wonderful, well-rounded vacation in Copper Canyon. **\$1620\***

**11-Day** - This trip travels from El Fuerte to Chihuahua and includes one night in El Fuerte, two nights in Cerocahui, one night in Divisadero, two nights in Creel, two nights in Batopilas and two nights in Chihuahua. **\$1680\***

## Copper Canyon Add-ons

**Baja Resort** - Spend four nights at a great beach resort, soaking up the sun, sipping margaritas and unwinding by the pool. You can also fish, scuba dive, snorkel or whale watch. Includes hotel, transfers and airfare from Los Angeles.

**Whale Watching** - From late January through early March, the California Gray Whales arrive in the calm lagoons of Baja on their annual migration from the Bering Sea. Here they spawn, calve and have one heck of a party. This trip is the same as our Baja Resort trip above, but also includes a trip to Magdalena Bay and a panga boat ride to see the whales up close—sometimes even close enough to touch!

**El Fuerte** - Add an extra night in the colonial city of El Fuerte and enjoy exploring the town, floating down the river and visiting with the Mayo Indians.

**For more information on Copper Canyon, please phone us for our booklet or visit our website, [www.calnative.com](http://www.calnative.com)**

### The California Native Copper Canyon Companion

**Only \$14.95**  
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**The California Native**  
**6701 W. 87th Place, Los Angeles CA 90045.**

\*Prices are subject to change without notice.

Visit [www.calnative.com](http://www.calnative.com)

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# Yucatan & Chiapas



**B**ordering Guatemala, Mexico's state of Chiapas encompasses mountains, rivers, jungles and remote Indian villages where people still wear traditional costumes. Here are beautiful colonial cities, magnificent waterfalls, the awe-inspiring Sumidero Canyon and the jungle-draped Mayan ruins of Palenque.

West of Chiapas, the Yucatan Peninsula is the homeland of the Mayan people, whose mighty empire lasted over a thousand years. Throughout the peninsula are the amazing ruins of their great cities—Chichén Itzá, Uxmal, Edzna, Ek Bakal and many more. With its colonial cities and Caribbean beaches, the Yucatan is a great place to vacation.



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[www.calnative.com](http://www.calnative.com)

## Small Group Tours

These small group tours are escorted by our experienced American guides. Prices include land transportation, accommodations, entrance fees, guided tours, many meals, and most tips.

### 7-Day Mayan Adventure

We explore the wonders of the Yucatan—ancient Mayan ruins of Chichén Itzá, Uxmal, Ek Balam, Tulum and Edzna; colorful colonial cities of Mérida, Izamal, Valladolid; and Campeche, fortified to fight off Caribbean pirates. The trip begins and ends in Cancun.

<b>2011 Dates:</b>		<b>\$1840*</b>
<b>Feb 13–19</b>	<b>May 22–28</b>	<b>Nov 28–Dec 4</b>
<b>Apr 10–16</b>	<b>Oct 24–30</b>	

### 13-Day Chiapas & Yucatan

In addition to the highlights of our 7-Day Mayan Adventure, we visit the jungle-draped ruins of Palenque, the charming mountain towns of Chiapa de Corzo and San Cristóbal de las Casas, the Indian villages of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantán, spectacular Sumidero Canyon and Agua Azul Falls. The trip begins and ends in Cancun.

<b>2011 Dates:</b>		<b>\$2960*</b>
<b>Feb 23–Mar 7</b>	<b>Mar 28–Apr 9</b>	<b>Nov 14–26</b>

## Exclusive Adventures

These private tours are guided by experienced bilingual guides. Prices include transfers, accommodations, land transportation, admission to sites, and many meals. Minimum of two persons. Trips depart daily.

### 6-Day Chiapas

We visit the ruins of Palenque, the Indian villages of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantán, the colonial towns of Chiapa de Corzo and San Cristóbal de las Casas, Sumidero Canyon, and Agua Azul Falls. The trip begins in Tuxtla Gutierrez and ends in Villahermosa.

**\$810–\$1780\***

### 7-Day Yucatan

We explore the Mayan ruins of Chichén Itzá, Ek Balam, Uxmal, Kabah and Edzna, the colonial cities of Mérida, Izamal, Valladolid and Campeche, and seacoast fortified to fight off Caribbean pirates. The trip begins and ends in Mérida or Cancun.

**\$740–\$1420\***

### 13-Day Chiapas & Yucatan

This outstanding journey combines the best of our 6-Day Chiapas and our 7-Day Yucatan Explorer trips. Beginning in Tuxtla Gutierrez and ending in Cancun, we visit colonial cities, Indian villages, waterfalls, archaeological sites and beach resorts.

**\$1490–\$2970\***

# Costa Rica



**L**ocated at the exact center of the Americas, between Nicaragua and Panama, Costa Rica is a small, peaceful country that has made the preservation of its natural heritage a top priority. More than 23 percent of its mountains, valleys and shoreline is protected in national parks, forestry reserves and wildlife refuges. Its twelve distinct ecological systems contain more than 8,000 species of plants, including 1,500 varieties of orchids and more types of birds than in all of North America.

The unique routing of our Nature Explorer itineraries allow you to make the most of your time experiencing the many wonders of this beautiful country.

## Learn Spanish at Home



You will have more fun when you travel to Latin America if you can speak a bit of Spanish. Learn at home and at your own pace with our free online lessons—just click the “Learn Spanish” button on our website. If you really get into it, you can order the entire course on CDs, but you may find that the free lessons are all that you need.

## Costa Rica Adventures

If you enjoy guided independent travel, then our Costa Rica Nature Explorer trips are designed for you. They include transfers, transportation, accommodations, guided tours, many meals and more. You can also customize your trip with special add-ons. Trips depart daily.

### 7-Day Nature Explorer

This trip is perfect for those who want to see the most of Costa Rica but only have a week to spend. The trip visits Tortuguero National Park, Tilajari Resort, Arenal Volcano, Caño Negro Wildlife Preserve, and San José. **\$1540\***

### 11-Day Nature Explorer

This trip adds the excitement of a two-day river rafting trip on the Pacuare River to our 9-Day Nature Explorer. **\$2490\***

### 9-Day Nature Explorer

This trip is the same as our 7-Day Nature Explorer but adds two days to explore the Monteverde Cloud Forest, the Poás Volcano, and the crafts town of Sarchi. **\$2120\***

### 14-Day Nature Explorer

This trip adds a 4-day adventure to Corcovado National Park and Caño Island, plus a one-day river rafting trip on the Reventazón River, to our 9-day Nature Explorer. **\$3290\***

### Costa Rica Add-Ons

Customize your trip with these activities. See our Costa Rica booklet for details.

**Canopy Tours**

**Beach Resorts**

**Whitewater Rafting (1 to 3 days)**

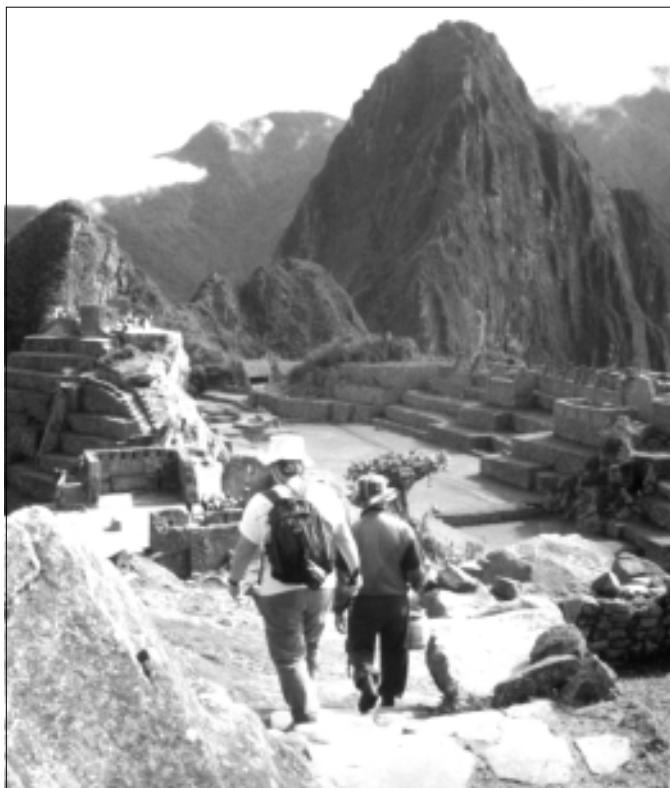
**Calypso Island Cruises (1 day cruises)**

**Extra nights in San Jose**

**For more information on Costa Rica or Mexico, please phone us for our booklets or visit our website, [www.calnative.com](http://www.calnative.com)**

\*Prices are subject to change without notice.

# Peru & The Galapagos



## Peruvian Adventures

If you're a person who enjoys independent guided travel, these trips are designed for you. They include air travel within Peru, transfers, transportation, accommodations, guided tours, many meals and more. You can also customize your trip with our special add-ons.

### 5-Day Explorer

Explore Cusco, the Sacred Valley, Pisac, Urubamba, Machu Picchu and Lima. **\$1870\***

### 7-Day Explorer

Cusco, the Sacred Valley, Pisac, Urubamba, Machu Picchu, Lima, Puno and Lake Titicaca. **\$2510\***

### 10-Day Explorer

Cusco, the Sacred Valley, Pisac, Urubamba, Machu Picchu, Lima, Arequipa, Colca Canyon. **\$3380\***

### 11-Day Explorer

Cusco; the Sacred Valley; Pisac; Urubamba; Machu Picchu; Lima; Arequipa; Colca Canyon, the world's deepest canyon; and Nazca, famous for its mysterious giant figures, which we view from a small airplane. **\$3750\***

### 12-Day Explorer

Cusco, the Sacred Valley, Pisac, Urubamba, Machu Picchu, Lima, Arequipa, Colca Canyon, Nazca, Paracas and a speedboat trip to the Ballestas Islands. **\$3990\***

**Special Add-Ons** Add any of the following packages to design an individual vacation that is perfect for you.

### The Inca Trail

Spend four days hiking to Machu Picchu on one of the most beautiful trails in the world. Our porters carry the gear and our cook prepares delicious meals. **\$785\***

### Urubamba River

Spend a day whitewater rafting down the mighty Urubamba River, plus an additional night in the Inca town of Urubamba. **\$340\***

### Amazon Jungle

Fly from Lima to Puerto Maldonado, then travel up the Tambopata River for a four-night adventure in this remote rainforest. **\$1190\***

### Chan Chan

Fly from Lima to Trujillo to explore the many archaeological sites on the northern Peruvian coast. Visit the ancient city of Chan Chan and the ruins of Sipan. **\$1080\***

**For more information on Peru, Galapagos, or Patagonia, please phone us for our booklets or visit our website, [www.calnative.com](http://www.calnative.com)**

\*Prices are subject to change without notice.

**T**he name Peru is derived from a Quechua Indian word meaning "Land of Abundance." For the traveler, the name is especially fitting. High, snow-covered Andean peaks contrast lush rain forests. The country is a treasure trove of archaeological wonders. Machu Picchu, Nazca, Chan Chan and the ruins of many other ancient civilizations transport visitors back in time to the days of the Incan Empire and the Spanish Conquistadores.

Our Peruvian Explorer trips are guided tours arranged just for your party. If you're adventurous you can hike along the Inca Trail, one of the world's most spectacular treks, to the ancient city of Machu Picchu.

North of Peru, off the coast of Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands were long a stopover for explorers, pirates and whalers. In 1835 they were visited by British naturalist Charles Darwin, who in pondering how each island hosted unique species, developed his Theory of Evolution. Follow in Darwin's footsteps as you cruise through the islands aboard a comfortable yacht.



# Galapagos Islands

You begin your Galapagos adventure in Quito, Ecuador, where you spend a night before flying to the island of Baltra. Here you board the yacht that will be your floating base for exploring these wonderful islands, where you discover the Galapagos' unique species of plants and animals—giant tortoises, Blue-footed Boobies, flightless cormorants, marine iguanas and so many more. You have plenty of time to hike, snorkel and relax. Then fly back to Quito for your final nights and tour the city, including the *Mitad del Mundo*, the "Center of the Earth," where you can stand right on the equator.

## Patagonia



**P**atagonia is nature's hideout—a magical land of gigantic spaces and celestial skies. Located near the bottom of the world, it straddles two countries, Chile and Argentina. Its rugged, wild beauty is so unique that most of it is protected under World Biosphere, national park, or national reserve status. Here, glaciers gouge out valleys, tree-studded cliffs flank rivers of ancient ice, and wildlife roam freely.

## 8-Day Adventure

This trip visits the islands of Baltra, Bartolomé, Isabela, Rabida and Puerto Ayora. It includes four nights aboard ship and three nights in Quito, as well as a tour of Quito, flights between Quito and Baltra and all meals aboard ship. National Park Fee of \$110 not included.

**\$3160\***

## 12-Day Adventure

In addition to all that is included in our 8-Day Adventure, this trip also visits the islands of North Seymour, Cerro Brujo and Española, and adds an additional night in Quito and a tour to the Indian town of Otavalo, famous for its craftsmen and weavers. Included are seven nights aboard ship, four nights hotel and all meals aboard ship. National Park Fee of \$110 not included.

**\$4830\***

## 10-Day Patagonia Adventure (New)

Beginning in Buenos Aires, Argentina, we travel to Ushuaia, the world's southern-most city, where we visit Tierra del Fuego National Park and navigate the Beagle Channel. Then we fly to El Calafate to explore Los Glaciares National Park and the Perito Moreno Glacier. We cross into Chile to visit beautiful Torres del Paine National Park. The price includes domestic airfare, accommodations, tours, transfers, ground transportation and many meals.

**\$3270\***

## 12-Day Patagonia Adventure (New)

This trip extends our 10-Day Adventure to include a luxurious expeditions cruise, from Ushuaia to Punta Arenas around Cape Horn, aboard the *Mar Australis*.

**\$5390\***

## 8-Day Patagonia Explorer

Beginning in Buenos Aires, Argentina, we travel to Los Glaciares National Park, the Perito Moreno Glacier and Punto Tombo. Then cross into Chile to visit Torres del Paine National Park and Puerto Natales. The price includes domestic airfare, accommodations, tours, transfers, ground transportation and many meals.

**\$3190\***

## 13-Day Patagonia Explorer

This trip extends our 8-Day Explorer to visit the Valdes Peninsula, the Beagle Channel, Ushuaia and Tierra del Fuego.

**\$4850\***

## Patagonia Add-ons

**Iguazú Falls Add-on (2 nights)**

Call for Price

**Atacama Desert (3 nights)**

" " "

**Easter Island (4 nights)**

" " "

# Myanmar (Burma) & Laos



**C**losed to the outside world for many years, the country of Myanmar (formerly Burma) is a treasure to be discovered. The people, among the friendliest in the world, still wear traditional dress, and oxcarts and horsecarts share the highways with bicycles and motor vehicles. Splendid archaeological sites, beautiful temples and wonderful scenery make Myanmar truly unique.

On the opposite bank of the Mekong River from Myanmar lies Laos, the “Land of a Million Elephants.” A beautiful country shrouded in mystery, its slow pace of life and gentle, welcoming people make it a destination for travelers looking to escape the beaten path. The Mekong plays a central role in Laotian life, and a cruise down its waters is an ideal way to explore its remote regions and villages.

**For more information, please phone us for our booklet on Southeast Asia or visit our website, [www.calnative.com](http://www.calnative.com)**

## Myanmar Adventures

These trips are fully escorted by our English-speaking Myanmar guides. They include transfers, transportation, deluxe accommodations, all meals and airfare within Myanmar. Minimum of one person. Prices listed below are based on two persons traveling. Trips depart daily.

### 5-Day Explorer

This trip begins in exotic Yangon (Rangoon), then continues on to Bagan, one of the most spectacular sights in Southeast Asia. In the cities, countryside, villages and marketplaces we discover the wonderful friendliness of the Myanmar people. **\$990\***

### 9-Day Explorer

To our 7-Day Explorer we add a trip to Mandalay, a visit to Amarapura, the Mahagandayon Monastery, U Bein's bridge and a boat trip up the Ayerawaddy River to Mingun, where thousands of slaves were used in an attempt to build the world's largest stupa. **\$1920\***

### 7-Day Explorer

To our 5-Day Myanmar Explorer we add a trip to Inle Lake, where we spend two nights at a hotel built on stilts right in the lake and see the famous leg-rowing fishermen, floating farms, monasteries and crafts shops. **\$1490\***

### 11-Day Explorer

To our 9-Day Explorer we add a trip to Kyaiktiyo, stay at a mountain lodge and hike to one of the most sacred Buddhist sites, the Kyaukthanban, a huge gold-leaf-covered boulder balancing on the edge of a cliff. **\$2320\***

## Mekong Luxury Cruise

Cruise on the spectacular Mekong River aboard the *Mekong Sun* or the *Mekong Explorer*, both beautiful luxury river boats. Along the way visit remote Laotian villages, see spectacular scenery, and enjoy delicious meals. The trips begin and end in Luang Prabang, Laos, and include accommodations, 3-night shipboard, 2-night hotel; meals on board ship; excursions, and shipboard activities. The cruises can also be added to our Myanmar, Bhutan, or Yunnan Explorer trips.

**2011 Dates:** Call for available dates and prices.

**Additional Mekong Cruises** depart from Chiang Saen, Thailand, and travel to Luang Prabang or Vientiane, Laos. Please call us for details.

\*Mekong cruise prices subject to change until final payment is received.

# Bhutan

**S**eated astride a flying tiger, Guru Rimpoche entered Bhutan in the year 747 AD to conquer demons and introduce Buddhism to this isolated area of the Himalayas. In this far off kingdom,



mythology and history intermingle, and ghosts, yetis and demons are part of regular daily life. Nestled in the Himalayas between China and India, Bhutan, with a total population of only 700,000, makes it a top priority to maintain its traditional culture. The dress of the people and architecture of the buildings are just as they were hundreds of years ago. The country is almost all mountains, which unlike in other Himalayan countries, have not been deforested. The sight of shaggy yaks grazing in the high meadows, colorful prayer flags blowing in the wind and Buddhist monks wandering the dirt paths assures the visitor he has at last arrived in "Shangri La."

**For more information, please phone us for our booklet on Bhutan or visit our website, [www.calnative.com](http://www.calnative.com).**

## Bhutan Adventures

Our Bhutan Explorer trips are the best way to explore this unique country. You visit its exotic cities and beautiful countryside, discover its culture and history, and meet the friendly Bhutanese people. All of our trips are fully guided by a professional English-speaking Bhutanese guide. They include all meals, lodging, admission to sites, and transportation within Bhutan. Best of all, they are exclusive—the group is limited to you and your companions. The trips are not available during June, July or December.

### 7-Day Bhutan Explorer

This trip is perfect for those who want to see the most of Bhutanese scenery and culture but only have a week to spend. The trip includes visits to Thimphu, Paro, Wangdue and Punakha.

#### March–May, Sept.–Nov.

Three or more persons	<b>\$1560*</b>
Two persons	<b>\$1740*</b>
One person	<b>\$1800*</b>

#### February, August

Three or more persons	<b>\$1330*</b>
Two persons	<b>\$1510*</b>
One person	<b>\$1570*</b>

### 11-Day Bhutan Explorer

This trip is the same as our 10-Day Bhutan Explorer, but in addition we visit the city of Trongsa. Includes visits to Thimphu, Paro, Wangdue, Punakha, Bumthang and Trongsa.

#### March–May, Sept.–Nov.

Three or more persons	<b>\$2590*</b>
Two persons	<b>\$2890*</b>
One person	<b>\$2990*</b>

#### February, August

Three or more persons	<b>\$2190*</b>
Two persons	<b>\$2490*</b>
One person	<b>\$2590*</b>

### 10-Day Bhutan Explorer

This trip is the same as our 7-Day Bhutan Explorer, but in addition we visit the beautiful valley of Bumthang. Includes visits to Thimphu, Paro, Wangdue, Punakha and Bumthang.

#### March–May, Sept.–Nov.

Three or more persons	<b>\$2340*</b>
Two persons	<b>\$2610*</b>
One person	<b>\$2700*</b>

#### February, August

Three or more persons	<b>\$1980*</b>
Two persons	<b>\$2250*</b>
One person	<b>\$2340*</b>

### Trekking in Bhutan

Make this once-in-a-lifetime trip even more memorable. Add a trek to your Bhutan Explorer. Our treks are led by an English-speaking guide and accompanied by a cook, who prepares delicious campsite meals. Horses carry all equipment and supplies—you carry only your camera and daypack. Call for our Bhutan booklet for details.

**Gangtey Trek (3 days)**  
**Gasa Hot Spring (5 days)**  
**Druk Path Trek (7 days)**  
**Thousand Lakes (8 days)**  
**Jhomolhari Trek (9 days)**

\*Prices are subject to change without notice.

# China



**F**rom ancient monasteries to modern skyscrapers, China is a land of great contrasts. The modern skyline of Beijing contrasts with the “Great Wall” and the “Forbidden City.” The go, go, go industrial cities of 21st century China are a far cry from the quiet minority villages in Yunnan and the temples of Lhasa. From tropical rainforests to the high Himalayas, China is a fascinating destination to explore.

# Baja California

## Whale Watching

Baja is the Mexican version of the Galapagos, rich in natural history and unspoiled beauty. On this trip we spend three nights in a resort hotel in Loreto, the original capital of California. On one of our days we travel to Puerto Lopez Mateos on Magdalena Bay to board a panga boat and search for California Gray Whales. We usually see a great many of them and they sometimes come close enough for us to touch. We also have plenty of time to relax around the pool, explore the town and enjoy great seafood and margaritas. Includes hotel accommodations, whale watching, transfers, meals and airfare from Los Angeles. This trip is available only from late January thru early March. Call us for prices.

## 14-Day China Tibet Everest

This fantastic journey through China and Tibet to the roof of the world begins in Beijing (formerly Peking), the capital of China, where we visit the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. Then we fly to Xi'an to see the Terracotta Warriors and the Great Mosque. From there we fly to Xi'ning, on the old Silk Road, where we board the train for an overnight trip to Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, with its temples and the Portola Palace, the traditional home to the Dalai Llamas. From Lhasa we drive over the high passes of the Himalayas to Shigatse, one of the world's highest cities (13,000') and home of some thirteen ethnic groups. We continue our journey by 4-wheel drive vehicle, to Shegar and Everest Base Camp (18,000'), beneath the peak of Mount Everest before returning to Shigatse, Lhasa and Beijing. The trip is escorted by our English-speaking Chinese guides and include transportation, accommodations, all meals and domestic airfare.

**\$2990–\$3690\***

## 9-Day Yunnan Explorer

In China's southwest corner, bordering on Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam, lies colorful Yunnan Province, home to the richest variety of ethnic groups in China. From the Tibetan highlands in its north to tropical rainforest in its south, Yunnan is a beautiful and fascinating place to visit. On this trip we explore the wonders of Yunnan—the Stone Forest, Tiger Leaping Gorge, Lijiang, Dali, Shangri-la and Jinghong. The trip begins in Yunnan's capital of Kunming, the “Spring City.” We visit Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, ethnic villages, local markets, and fantastic scenery. Participants have the option of returning to Kunming or traveling by speedboat from Jinghong to Chiang Saen, Thailand. The trip is fully escorted by our English-speaking Chinese guides and include transportation, 5-star accommodations, all meals and airfare within Yunnan.

**\$1570–\$2390\***

**Leaping Tiger Gorge Trek Add-on (1 night)**

**\$280\***

## Baja Getaway

Fly to La Paz or Loreto and spend four nights at a great beach resort, soaking up the sun, sipping margaritas and unwinding by the pool. You can also fish, scuba dive, snorkel or whale watch. Includes hotel, transfers and airfare from Los Angeles. Call us for details and prices.

**The Whale Watching and Baja Getaway trips are also available at special prices as add-ons to our Copper Canyon trips. See page 5.**

\*Prices are subject to change without notice.

# Ireland



**C**ountry roads wind past neolithic stone ruins, and medieval castles stand in green fields. In this fairy tale environment, it's easy to imagine a leprechaun watching you from behind an ancient stone fence. Bicycling or walking are perfect ways to explore Ireland.

## Ireland Bicycle Adventures

We start each day with a hearty breakfast, then cycle at our own pace through beautiful backroads, with plenty of time to stop, make a detour or grab a pint. In the evenings we can enjoy some of the many pubs whose music and atmosphere have made Ireland famous. The trips include use of bicycle, accommodations, guide, support van and breakfasts.

**\$1090\***

## Ireland Walking Adventures

On walking trips are self-guided independent tours and include 7-nights accommodations, breakfasts, most lunches, luggage transfers, route details and maps. You will stroll through delightful countryside and discover the history and beauty of this friendly country. The trips are suitable for moderately fit people of all ages. Trips can start any day from April thru October.

**\$1020\***

\*Ireland prices are subject to change until final payment is received.

## "Marry me, Laurie"

On August 21, California Native's Operations Manager, Laurie Kraft, married her longtime sweetheart, Mike Pepitone, at a poolside ceremony at their home in Torrance, California, on a beautiful Saturday. California Native President Lee Klein performed the ceremony. The day was highlighted by a long awaited proposal written in the clear blue sky by five sky-writing airplanes.

A native-born Californian, Laurie has been with The California Native for over 18 years. Her family, including sons Jimmy and Jason, came down from Northern



*Mike and Laurie Pepitone with Lee Klein*

California and Washington for the event. Mike, who is an aircraft mechanic for Federal Express, welcomed his mother and family from their native Chicago.

We wish them a very happy and successful married life together.

## Don't Waste Your Air Miles

### Those Unused Miles Can Help a Wounded Soldier

**By Laurie Pepitone**

This last June, my nephew was severely wounded in Afghanistan. He was taken to Germany, where he underwent surgery before being transferred to the United States. The Fisher House Foundation, through a program called "Hero Miles," flew his mother, father and sister to Washington DC to be at his bedside as he underwent several more surgeries. It makes a world of difference to these young men and women to have their families beside them while they go through an extremely difficult time in their lives.

So many of us have airline miles that will expire before we have a

chance to use them. The "Hero Miles" program uses donated airline miles to provide thousands of free airline tickets to soldiers who have been wounded while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and are currently receiving medical treatment at a military medical facility.

This very important program can only exist through the kindness and generosity of frequent flyer members. So please don't let your miles go unused. Support America's heroes and their families by donating to the "Hero Miles" program. I can personally say that this program is wonderful.

Contact: [www.fisherhouse.org/programs/heromiles.html](http://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/heromiles.html).

# Please Pass the Popcorn



Five hundred years before movies, the Incas were munching on crispy popcorn and getting the kernels caught in their teeth.

By the time Europeans arrived in South America, the popcorn eating Incas had the largest empire in the world, covering as much territory as the Romans had, five centuries earlier. From Ecuador to the center of Chile, the dominion of the Incas stretched almost 3,400 miles.

Like the Romans, the Incas had an extensive network of highways. Although they never developed the wheel, the Incas built 25,000 miles of roads. These highways, many of which were stone-paved and up to 24 feet wide, carried couriers, armies and cargo-laden llamas throughout the sprawling territories.

At the peak of the empire, the Incas ruled almost 12 million people who belonged to a hundred different ethnic groups.

Just as the Romans introduced Latin as the common language of their empire, so the Incas made *Quechua* their official language—it is still spoken throughout the Andes today.

The Incas were also masters of agriculture, terracing their rugged mountains and breeding wild plants into strains which would grow in the dry, high altitudes. One of the results of this was the potato. Just think, without the Incas we would have no French-fries, baked potatoes, potato salad, potato chips, and probably much less cholesterol.

To insure a constant supply of food to all of their subjects, the Incas built thousands of storage sites and developed methods to preserve food. Freeze-drying today

is accomplished with equipment developed for the space program, but the Incas achieved the same result by utilizing the harsh weather of the Andes. Potatoes were left outside at night to freeze. In the daytime, the hot sun evaporated the moisture, resulting in a freeze-dried potato pulp called *chuño*. The same process was used to preserve beef. They called the dried beef *charqui*, a *Quechua* word we still use today, only we spell it “jerky.”

Those who like *Ceviche*, seafood “cooked” by citric acid, can also thank the Incas for this culinary invention.

To preserve corn, Inca farmers dried it for storage. When heat was applied to the dried corn the result was—you guessed it, popcorn!

## Mexico

Continued from Page 1

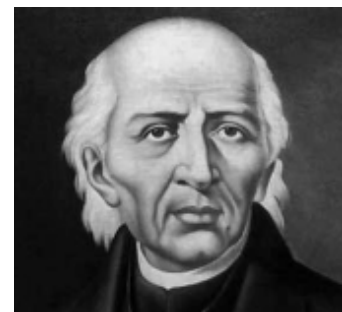
The literary societies gradually became political societies. Father Hidalgo belonged to one of these societies whose members were plotting a revolution to separate Mexico from Spain.

The group selected Hidalgo to lead the movement, and thus on the morning of September 16th, 1810, Hidalgo, with his “Cry of Dolores” launched the revolution, and the rebel army set forth, armed with machetes, swords, knives, clubs, axes, and a few muskets. As they passed through each town they opened the local jails and recruited the prisoners for their cause. Eventually their numbers grew to sixty thousand.

After six months of fighting, Hidalgo fell into a royalist trap and was captured. Because he was a priest, he was subjected to a lengthy hearing by the Inquisition, after which he was found guilty of heresy and treason, defrocked, and, on July 30, 1811, executed by a firing squad in the city of Chihuahua. His head, along with those of three other revolutionary leaders, was cut off and sent to Guanajuato, where it was put on a pole and displayed for a decade.

After Hidalgo’s death, the revolution continued until September 28, 1821, when Mexico finally became an independent nation.

Each year on September 15, Independence Day is celebrated throughout Mexico, with parades, fireworks, and the cry of “*Mexicanos, Viva Mexico!*”



Father Miguel Hidalgo is considered to be the “Father of Mexico”

## Terms, Conditions, and Stuff Like That

### **RESERVATIONS:**

Please reserve as early as possible, as space is limited. A \$200 deposit is required at the time of booking. Airfare not included in packages must be paid in full at time of booking. Final payments are due 60 days prior to the trip date. All deposits and payments are **NONREFUNDABLE**. For your convenience, we accept most major credit cards.

### **CANCELLATIONS:**

In the case of cancellation by participants, **NO REFUNDS** will be made. To protect yourself against unforeseen illness or other emergencies, we encourage you to purchase Trip Cancellation insurance.

### **TRIP INSURANCE:**

We offer optional travel insurance.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS AND SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS:**

Prices are based on double occupancy. We can usually arrange for roommates for nonsmokers. A single supplement will be charged for those desiring a room by themselves.

### **RESPONSIBILITY:**

Each participant must sign a Waiver of Liability Form before participating in any escorted trip. The California Native is acting only as an agent for the particular airlines, lodgings and other providers of services. Accordingly, these arrangements are made for you upon the express condition that neither The California Native nor its officers or employees shall have any responsibility for, nor shall they be liable for, any claim or loss whether or not arising from any personal injury, illness, property loss or damage, wrongful death, monetary loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, irregularity, omission, failure to provide adequate service, additional charge, failure to warn, defect or failure in any vehicle, facility, roadway or structure or by any breach of contract, negligence or wrongful act by any person.

### **SUBSTITUTIONS:**

We reserve the right to substitute accommodations, transportation and itinerary when we deem it necessary or advisable.

# Meet the California Natives:



**Lee Klein** – Founder and President of The California Native, Lee is an MBA who dropped out of a career as a corporate manager and college professor for a life of travel and fun.



**Laurie Kraft Pepitone** – Our Vice-president of Operations, Laurie has been keeping our trips running smoothly since 1993. She is also a certificated travel consultant.



**Dave Klein** – (Lee's son) Tour coordinator and musician, when he's not working with our clients or improving our web site, Dave performs throughout the world.



**Lori Klein Del Rosario** (Lee's Daughter)– Lori has led California Native trips for more than 20 years. She holds two Master's Degrees in the areas of education and recreation.



**Ellen Klein** – (Lee's wife) Ellen serves as an international representative and scout for the California Native. Her background includes teaching, theater, and business management.



**Rob Aikins** – Rob holds a B.A. in Political Science and was a writer for Fodor's Travel Publications, including several years writing about the Copper Canyon and Northern Mexico.



**Fred Grote** – Fred, who has lived, taught and worked as a business consultant in Latin America, holds a Master's Degree in ESL and has led groups throughout the world.



**Marcia Schultz** – Marcia, who holds a Masters's Degree in ESOL, has traveled extensively through Latin America and loves sharing her knowledge of the people, culture and history.



**Jutta Born** – Jutta, an MBA, has been in all aspects of the travel industry for more than 20 years, both in guiding and management. She is multilingual and has worked throughout the world.



**Wyatt Wells** – Wyatt holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, has traveled extensively through Latin America and Europe, and owns and operates a permaculture landscaping company.



**Jessica Jerman** – Jessica has worked with social, educational, health and environmental organizations in the U.S., Mexico and Central America. She holds a B.A. in Spanish and Sociology.



**Lynn Reinecke** – Lynn, who holds a degree in Anthropology, has been working with Mexico's Tarahumara Indians and leading California Native trips for more than 17 years.



**Bogart** – Bogart is in charge of customer complaints. He is very bored because business in his department is almost nonexistent, but he contents himself with eating bananas.



**Lauren** – (Bogart's wife) Lauren is in charge of keeping Bogart happy and making sure that his bananas are peeled (Bogart is very fussy).

**To receive our e-mail newsletter, "The Desktop Traveler,"  
send your email address to: [travel@calnative.com](mailto:travel@calnative.com)**



## 2011 Adventures

Call: 1-310-642-1140 or 1-800-926-1140    [www.calnative.com](http://www.calnative.com)    [travel@calnative.com](mailto:travel@calnative.com)

# In Patagonia, Ham and Cheese Please

By Ellen Klein

It's a good thing we enjoy a good ham and cheese sandwich. On our recent trip to Patagonia, which spans two countries, Argentina and Chile, we were amazed at the ubiquity of this tasty combination.

On our very first day in Buenos Aires, exhausted from jet lag and very hungry, we stopped at an empanada stand. Empanadas are a staple of Argentinian food. Basically, they are dough folded around a filling and baked. The available fillings were meat, onions and cheese, or ham and cheese. We opted for the latter. Delicious! OK, it was the first day, but we found a great lunch.

As we traveled through the country, on most of our excursions, hikes, and sight-seeing walks, a sack lunch was included. In the bags were an abundance of items—fruits, chips, salads, snacks and always, a ham and



*Patagonia's glaciers offer fantastic opportunities for photos, then it's time for a ham and cheese sandwich.*

cheese sandwich.

Because of the size of the Countries, it is

often necessary to fly from one place to another. We flew on Aerolineas Argentinas, a nice domestic airline that goes everywhere. On each domestic flight, no matter the distance, we were served—you guessed it—a ham and cheese sandwich.

So, we are walking along and exploring a town on our own, and decide to stop at a restaurant or cafe for lunch. Maybe just pick up a quick sandwich? Looking at the menu under sandwiches, there are several options: ham and cheese, ham, cheese, ham and cheese and egg, ham and cheese and tomato, ham and egg...well you get the picture. Substitute the word "Spam" for "ham" and you have a Monty Python routine.

Why so much ham? Much of the cuisine comes from the Spanish and Italian immigrants, and ham is very popular.