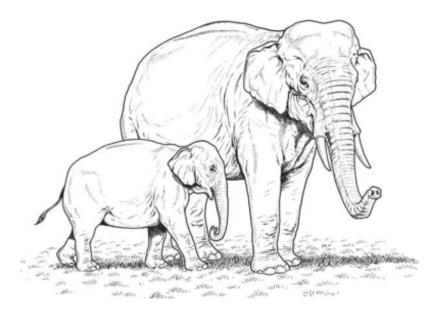
Southeast Asia & China

Adventures



The California Native



For information or reservations call: (310)642-1140 (800)926-1140 www.calnative.com

Southeast Asia & China

Southeast Asia bids travelers welcome with breathtaking scenery, rich histories, and vibrant and friendly people. We continue to offer our extensive tours of Myanmar and have recently expanded our destinations to include China and a luxury cruise on the Mekong River in Laos. We make all the arrangements, leaving you free to relax and enjoy this exotic corner of the world.

These tours can also be combined to create the ultimate Southeast Asia vacation.

Lee Klain

October 2019



Myanmar (Burma)

Closed to the outside world for many years by a repressive government, the country of Myanmar is a Southeast Asian treasure. The people still wear traditional dress and are among the friendliest in the world. In the cities, oxcarts and horsecarts share the highways with bicycles and motor vehicles. The splendid archaeological sites, beautiful Buddhist temples and wonderful scenery make Myanmar a truly unique destination.

Our Myanmar Explorer trips are the best way to discover this lovely country. You'll visit its exotic cities and beautiful countryside, discover its culture and history, and meet the friendly Myanmar people. These trips are escorted by an experienced English-speaking Myanmar guide and include all airfare within Myanmar, transfers, transportation, tours, accommodations and meals. They depart daily and are available all year round. Best of all, the trips are exclusive—the group is limited to you and your companions.



5-day Myanmar Explorer

This trip is perfect for those who want to visit Myanmar but only have a short time to spend.

1st Day: We arrive in Yangon (Rangoon) and transfer to our hotel. In the afternoon we tour the sights of the city—the Shwedagon Pagoda, the most sacred religious monument in Myanmar; the enormous reclining Buddha at Chaukhtatgyi; the National Museum; and Kandawgyi Lake. Yangon is a montage of Buddhist culture mixed with British colonialism.

2nd Day: In the morning we fly to Bagan, where we spend the next two nights. Bagan is one of the most spectacular sights in Southeast Asia. Stretching back from the Ayeyarwady River, thousands of stupas and temples, some over 800 years old, cover an area of over 15 square miles. We visit many of these magnificent structures, some with wonderful murals, and then enjoy the sunset over a breathtaking vista from atop one of the ancient temples.

3rd Day: After breakfast we drive to Mt. Popa, an extinct volcano. Located on an outcropping of the volcano is an impressive shrine dedicated to animist spirits known as "nats." We climb the 777 steps to the shrine, looking at the small shops

and shrines on the way up and feeding the monkeys that play on the stairs. In the afternoon we return to Bagan to visit the Archaeological Museum before watching the sun set over the Ayeyarwady River.

4th Day: We fly back to Yangon and continue our tour of the capital city, visiting its colonial downtown and famous markets—the Bogyoke Aung San Market (Scott Market), which has the largest selection of Burmese handicrafts found anywhere, including precious gems by the thousands; and the Theingyi Zei market, where locals shop for medicinal herbs and animal parts, and almost everything else.

5th Day: We depart from Yangon International Airport, sorry to leave this friendly country but taking with us the photographs and memories of a fabulous journey.

What's included: These trips are escorted by an experienced English-speaking Myanmar guide and include all airfare within Myanmar, transfers, transportation, tours, accommodations and meals. Minimum: one person.

Departures: Daily

Price:

Call for price

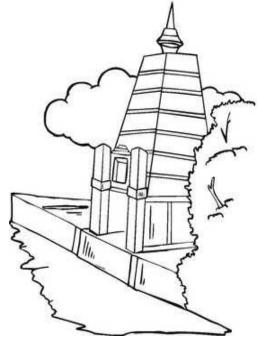
7-day Myanmar Explorer

This trip is the same as our 5-day Myanmar Explorer, but in addition we visit one of Myanmar's most unique areas, Inle Lake—14 miles long and seven miles wide, its residents live not only on the lake, but *in* the lake as well.

1st thru 3rd Day: Same as our 5-day Myanmar Explorer

4th Day: In the morning we fly to the town of Heho, then drive through the countryside of Shan State to beautiful Inle Lake, where we spend the next two nights at a hotel built right in the lake on stilts. En route, we stop at the Pindaya Caves, a labyrinth of limestone caverns into which have been placed 8000 Buddha images donated throughout the centuries by Buddhist followers from many nations. We also visit local artisans who handcraft paper and umbrellas.

5th Day: Traveling in a small boat, we discover the many unique sights of the lake—the famous Intha leg-rowing fishermen, who stand in the stern



of their boat on one leg and use their other leg to maneuver a long oar; the floating farms, where local farmers grow flowers, vegetables and fruit; the monasteries, including the Nga Phe Chaung monastery, known as the "Jumping Cat Monastery" for its trained cats; and the many small factories on stilts, where local craftsmen weave silk, produce silver and iron ware, and roll the local cheroots.

6th Day: In the morning we drive back to Heho, then fly to Yangon and continue our tour of the capital city, visiting its colonial downtown and famous markets—the Bogyoke Aung San Market (Scott Market), which has the largest selection of Burmese handicrafts found anywhere, including precious gems by the thousands; and the Theingyi Zei market, where locals shop for medicinal herbs and animal parts, and almost everything else.

7th Day: We depart from Yangon International Airport, sorry to leave this friendly country but taking with us the photographs and memories of a fabulous journey.

What's included: These trips are escorted by an experienced English-speaking Myanmar guide and include all airfare within Myanmar, transfers, transportation, tours, accommodations and meals. Minimum: one person.

Departures: Daily

Price:

Call for price



9-day Myanmar Explorer

On this trip we visit all of the wondrous sights on our 7-Day Myanmar Explorer, and in addition we fly to Mandalay, Myanmar's largest city, which will be our base for exploring the many historic sites in the heart of Myanmar.

1st thru 3rd Day: Same as our 5-day Myanmar Explorer.

4th Day: In the morning we fly to Mandalay, our home base for the next two nights. Then we drive to Amarapura, the "City of Immortality," a former Myanmar capital. Here we visit the Mahagandayon Monastery, where a thousand monks take their last meal of the day at 10 a.m. in total silence, and U Bein's wooden bridge. Built of teak, the 3/4-milelong bridge is still in use after 200 years. After lunch we return to Mandalay to visit the old palace grounds; the Kuthodaw Pagoda, known as the world's largest book for its 729 marble



slabs inscribed with the Buddha's Doctrine; the Golden Palace Monastery, noted for its exquisite wood carving; and other Buddhist shrines, before watching the sun set over the panoramic view from Mandalay Hill.

5th Day: Today we travel by boat up the Ayeyarwady River to the town of Mingun, where King Bodawpaya used thousands of slaves in an attempt to build the world's largest stupa. Here we also see the world's largest ringing bell and the Myatheindan Pagoda. After lunch we drive to Ava, a discarded 14th-century Myanmar capital, then on to the town of Sagaing, where we visit the Kaunghmudaw Pagoda, an enormous, solid dome-shape stupa, and Sagaing Hill, a Buddhist retreat.

6th Day: In the morning we fly to the town of Heho, then drive through the countryside of Shan State to beautiful Inle Lake, where we spend the next two nights at a hotel built right in the lake on stilts. En route, we stop at the Pindaya Caves, a labyrinth of limestone caverns into which have been placed 8000 Buddha images donated throughout the centuries by Buddhist followers from many nations. We also visit local artisans who handcraft paper and umbrellas.

7th Day: Traveling in a small boat, we discover the many unique sights of the lake—the famous Intha leg-rowing fishermen, who stand in the stern of their boat on one leg and use their other leg to maneuver a long oar; the floating farms, where local farmers grow flowers, vegetables and fruit; the monasteries, including the Nga Phe Chaung monastery, known as the "Jumping Cat Monastery" for its trained cats; and the many small factories on stilts, where local craftsmen weave silk, produce silver and iron ware, and roll the local cheroots.

8th Day: In the morning we drive back to Heho, then fly to Yangon and continue our tour of the capital city, visiting its colonial downtown and famous markets—the Bogyoke Aung San Market (Scott Market), which has the largest selection of Burmese handicrafts found anywhere, including precious gems by the thousands; and the Theingyi Zei market, where locals shop for medicinal herbs and animal parts, and almost everything else.

9th Day: We depart from Yangon International Airport, sorry to leave this friendly country but taking with us the photographs and memories of a fabulous journey.

What's included: These trips are escorted by an experienced English-speaking Myanmar guide and include all airfare within Myanmar, transfers, transportation, tours, accommodations and meals. Minimum: one person.

Departures:	Daily
Price:	Call for price

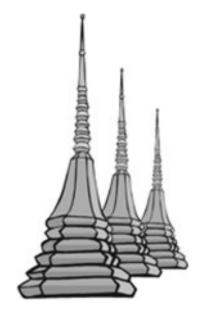
Ayerawaddy River Cruise Add-on:

This delightful cruise, from Bagan to Mandalay aboard the beautifully furnished RV Paukan, adds two nights to our 9 or 11-day Myanmar Tours.

What's included: Accommodations, all meals, guided tours.

Price:

Call for price



11-day Myanmar Explorer

For those who can spend a bit more time in this beautiful country, we travel to the town of Kyaikhtiyo to visit one of the most sacred Buddhist sites in Myanmar, the Kyaukthanban, a goldleaf-covered boulder balancing on the edge of a cliff at the top of Mount Kyaikhto.

1st thru 8th Day: Same as our 9-day Myanmar Explorer

9th Day: We drive to the town of Kyaikhtiyo, where we stay at a mountain lodge reached only by traveling up a winding, one-lane mountain road on the back of a truck. Here we hike up to one of the most sacred Buddhist sites in Myanmar, the Kyaukthanban, a goldleaf-covered boulder balancing on the edge of a cliff at the top of Mount Kyaikhto. Along the path are the stalls of vendors selling various herbs and animals used by indigenous doctors.

10th Day: In the morning we return to Yangon to spend our final night in Myanmar. En route we visit the city of Bago, founded as the sixth-century Mon capital after two Mon princes saw a female swan standing on the back of a male swan on an island in a huge lake. Here we visit the Shwemawdaw Pagoda (Great Golden God temple), built 1000 years ago to enshrine two hairs of the Buddha; the ruins of the ancient palace; and other sights of this ancient city.

11th Day: We depart from Yangon International Airport, sorry to leave this friendly country but taking with us the photographs and memories of a fabulous journey.

What's included: These trips are escorted by an experienced English-speaking Myanmar guide and include all airfare within Myanmar, transfers, transportation, tours, accommodations and meals. Minimum: one person.

Departures:	Daily
Price:	Call for price

Ayerawaddy River Cruise Add-on:

This delightful cruise, from Bagan to Mandalay aboard the beautifully furnished RV Paukan, adds two nights to our 9 or 11-day Myanmar Tours.

What's included: Accommodations, all meals, guided tours.

Price:

Call for price



Mekong River, Laos

Cruise on the Mekong River aboard the *Mekong Sun*, a German-Laotian owned luxury riverboat. Richly appointed in mahogany and teak, its 14 cabins, library, lounge and sundeck provide a plush platform for exploring river life in Laos. We visit remote Laotian villages, enjoy spectacular scenery, discover local culture, and dine on delicious meals prepared by the ship's chef. Offered on board are cooking classes, crafts classes, and lectures covering local history, culture, and ecology. The cruise includes three nights shipboard accommodations, two-nights stay inhotels, meals, excursions and activities. You can also add this cruise to our Myanmar or Bhutan Explorer tours.

6-day Roundtrip Cruise

This luxurious cruise travels roundtrip from Luang Prabang and is a great way to explore the "Mother of All Waters."

1st Day: We arrive in Luang Prabang, an ancient city on the banks of the Mekong River, and transfer to our hotel. In the afternoon we visit Wat Xieng Thong—built in 1560, it was the place where former Lao kings were crowned—then climb Phousi Hill for panoramic views of the Old Quarter and the Mekong and Khan rivers. After watching the sun set over the Lao plain, we stroll through the evening market, where local artisans sell their colorful wares.

2nd Day: This morning we rise early to participate in the traditional giving of alms to local Buddhist monks and explore more temples. We then transfer to the banks of the Mekong and board our luxury riverboat, the *Mekong Sun*. Departing Luang Prabang, we cruise north to the Laotian village of Ban Xang Hai, where we learn about the distilling of *lau-lau*, a rice whiskey for which the town is famous. A short hike through the jungle takes us to the Pak-Ou caves, which are filled with thousands of Buddha images that have been left by faithful Laotian Buddhists over thousands of years. In the evening we tie up on a secluded sandbank and enjoy a welcome reception and dinner.

3rd Day: We cruise downriver, then stop and board a bus to the Kuang Si waterfalls. Surrounded by lush jungle, the multi-tier falls flow hundreds of feet over limestone cliffs and collect in aqua-colored pools perfect for swimming. We continue to a working elephant camp, where we watch the mighty beasts haul logs from the jungle to waiting boats on the river. Back on board, we continue cruising south to the ferry crossing at Tha Deua, then tie up for the night.

4th Day: Cruising south, we encounter some of the most remarkable and impressive landscapes of the river—hills covered with tropical vegetation, amazing rock formations and a busy and powerful river. From the comfort of the sundeck we enjoy beautiful displays of nature, then head north again and stop at a sandbank for the night. During times of low water we may take this journey aboard a local Lao slow boat, a traditional form of transportation on the river.

5th Day: Today we cruise leisurely north from Tha Deua, spotting local fisherman onshore and enjoying our final day on the river. In the afternoon we arrive back in Luang Prabang and transfer to our hotel. We return to the *Mekong Sun* for a farewell dinner, where we can reminisce about our adventure with our cruisemates and bid our Laotian crew a fond *adieu*.

6th Day: Following breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight home or continue our Southeast Asia adventure.

What's included: Accommodations (two nights ashore, three nights on board), transfers, excursions, lectures, presentations and meals. Minimum: one person.

Currently Not Available

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

Currently Not Available







China

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.

Our Yunnan Explorer tour takes us to the most fascinating destinations in the province. Accompanied by an English-speaking guide, we experience the sights, sounds and tastes of the province, whose cultural landscape is as varied as its geographic one. The unique cultures of its 25 ethnic tribes make each stop a new and different experience, and the mystery of its alluring landscape beckons the traveler ever deeper. Discover Yunnan Province now before it becomes a major tourist destination.

Our newest China adventure is our Tibet Everest Explorer tour. This fantastic journey begins by visiting China's "must-see" sites—the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and the Terracotta Warriors, then travels on to Tibet and Everest Base Camp, beneath the world's highest mountains.

9-day Yunnan Explorer

This guided tour explores the wonders of Yunnan Province—ancient cities, Buddhist monasteries, ethnic villages and breathtaking natural scenery.

1st Day: We arrive in Kunming, the "City of Eternal Spring," where we are met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. Located atop a mile-high plateau, the capital of Yunnan Province enjoys a moderate climate, abundant flora and beautiful landscape. We enjoy a welcome dinner and

have the evening free to relax.

2nd Day: Today we departon a fullday tour of the Stone Forest, a vast limestone karst formation. An immense expanse of water covered the area 270 million years ago, but geologic uplift exposed the floor to the elements, which over millenia eroded the stone into myriad peaks, pinnacles and caves. Humans, animals and mythical beasts can be seen in surreal formations that tower overhead.



3rd Day: This morning we fly to Shangri-La, located on the doorstep of Tibet. Formerly named Zhongdian, the city was officially renamed "Shangri-La" in 2001. We visit Songzanlin Monastery—the largest Buddhist monastery in Yunnan Province—which was built in 1679 after the fifth Dalai Lama chose the site through divination. We then head into the mountains along the Tibet-Yunnan highway to visit the remote Dong Zhu Lin Monastery and view the First Bend of the Jinsha River (the local name for the Yangtze). Back in Shangri-La we tour the old town and market and enjoy the nightly dance in the main square.

4th Day: Today we travel to the spectacular Tiger Leaping Gorge, one of the deepest river canyons in the world, where the Jinsha River thunders between massive mountains in a series of rapids. Legend has it that a tiger, trying to escape from a hunter, leapt across the gorge at its narrowest point—a distance over 80 feet! We continue to the town of Lijiang, one of the best-preserved ancient towns in China, where we walk through a maze of cobblestone streets and canals. In the evening we enjoy a concert of Naxi Ancient Music, a traditional ethnic artform performed by octogenarian musicians from the Naxi tribe. During the Mao era they buried their instruments to prevent them from being destroyed.

On this day we also have the option of embarking on a two-day trek of the gorge (see itinerary on pg. 24).

5th Day: We visit Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, a small, cloud-enshrouded mountain range of 13 peaks that resembles a dragon lying in the clouds. It's highest peak, Shanzidou (18,359 ft.), has never been summited. We ride a cable car to a glacier to experience the majesty of this massif up close. In the afternoon we travel to Baisha Village to see the famous Baisha Murals. Painted over a period of 300 years by expert artists from different nations and religions, each colorful and detailed scene contains at least 100 unique portraits.

6th Day: We travel to Dali, an ancient city that first appeared on a map in the 2nd century AD. Its abundant historical sites, colorful ethnic culture and beautiful natural setting make it a popular destination. We visit the Three Pagodas—the largest, 230 ft. tall, was built over 1100 years ago. In the afternoon we stroll through Dali Old Town, former site of the capital city of the Nanzhao and Bai Kingdoms. At its heyday it was the economic and cultural capital of Yunnan.

7th Day: In the morning we visit the Xizhou morning market, Bai Villiage and Zhouchen Village. After lunch we'll transfer to the airport for the flight to Jinghong.

Sth Day: In the morning we travel to Ganlanba, a traditional Dai town, where we visit the morning market, Dai water villages, the Burmese Temple and Rubber Orchard. After lunch by the Mekong, we explore Wild Elephant Valley. A nature reserve for elephants, this valley is covered by rainforests, crisscrossed by rivers and streams, and teeming with such endangered species as wild Asian elephants and green peacocks. We take a half-hour cable car ride through the primitive rainforest, then enjoy a traditional Dai barbecue dinner before returning to Jinghong.

9th Day: This morning we fly from Jinghong to Kunming to connect with our departing flight.

What's included: Accommodations, English-speaking guide, domestic airfare, ground transportation, transfers, entrance fees to mentioned sites, and meals.

Departures: Daily

Price: Call for price

14-day Tibet Everest Explorer

This fantastic journey through China and Tibet to the roof of the world begins with visits to China's world-famous "must-see" sites—the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, in Beijing, and the Terracotta Warriors, in Xi'an. We travel overnight by train from Xi'ning to Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, then drive over the high passes of the Himalayas to Shigatse, one of the world's hightest cities and home of some thirteen ethnic groups. Our journey continues by 4-wheel drive, to Shegar and Everest Base Camp, beneath the peak of Mount Everest. The trip is escorted by our English-speaking Chinese guides and includes transportation, accommodations, all meals and domestic airfare.

1st Day: Arriving in Beijing, the capital of China, we are met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. The evening free to relax after our long flight.

2nd Day: This morning we visit the Great Wall, where walk along one of the its most impressive sections. After lunch we visit the Changling Tomb, the largest and best preserved of all the Ming Tombs. It is the joint tomb of Yongle, the third emperor of the Ming Dynasty, and his empress, Xu.

3rd Day: Today we visit the Forbidden City. Dominating the north side of Tiananmen Square, the massive red Tiananmen Gate allows us to pass into the fabled old palace to see the home of the royal family and their court during China's Ming and Qing Dynasties. In the evening we fly to Xi'an.

4th Day: Following breakfast, we visit the Terracotta Warriors Museum. The thousands of life size soldiers and horses were created to guard the tomb of Qin Shi Huangdi, the first Emperor to unite China. The royal tomb itself has yet to be opened but the rank upon rank of Warriors is a sight that is unrivaled anywhere in the world. In the afternoon we visit the Great Mosque, built in 742 during the Tang Dynasty. The traditional Chinese-style architecture makes this mosque quite distinct from its Arabic counterparts.

5th Day: In the morning we fly to Xining, where we visit the Tibet Medicine Museum and in the afternoon we board the train for the overnight trip to Lhasa.

6th Day: We arrive in Lhasa in the afternoon, transfer from the train to our hotel. The day free to explore this special city.

7th Day: Today we visit the Potala Palace, the traditional hom6e to the Dalai Llamas and Tibet's best-known landmark. In the afternoon, we visit the Jokhang Temple, the most important pilgrimage center for Tibetan Buddhists and the

home of the Sakyamuni Buddha, followed by a stroll through the colorful bazaar.

8th Day: We drive to Yamdroktso, one of Tibet's three holy lakes. The winding mountain road climbs over the snow pass of Kambala at 16,500 feet. Several hundred feet below the road lies dazzling lake and in clear weather it is a fabulous shade of deep turquoise. Far in the distance is the huge massif of Mt. Nojin Kangtsang (23,592'). Overnight in Shigatse, the second largest city in Tibet.

9th Day: In the morning we drive on to Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, the seat of the Panchen Lama, the second most important spiritual leader of Tibet, then continue on to the village of Shegar, also known as New Tingri, the last stop before Everest Base Camp.

10th Day: Today we drive on from Shegar to Everest Base Camp. On a clear day, we can see the huge sweep of the Himalayan range. When we finally get to Base Camp, the first sight of Everest will leave us speechless.

11th Day: This morning we head back to Shigaste, where we can relax and explore this laid back city.

12th Day: Today, after touring Shigatse, we continue our drive back to Lhasa.

13th Day: After the morning at leisure, we fly back to Beijing, where we overnight.

14th Day: We transfer to the airport for our flight home, bringing back photos and memories of this fabulous journey.

Departures: Daily

What's included: Accommodations, English-speaking guide, domestic airfare, train sleeper (Xi'ning—Lhasa), ground transportation, transfers, entrance fees to mentioned sites, government taxes and service charges, and meals.

Price: Call for price

Add-on to China Yunan

Tiger Leaping Gorge Trek

A great way to experience the grandeur of one of the deepest canyons in the world is to traverse it on foot. On this two-day guided trek, we enjoy incredible views of the gorge, skirt waterfalls cascading down to the Jingsha River 700 feet below, and pass through remote villages of the Naxi people who inhabit the area.

We drive from Lijiang to the town of Qiaotou, where the trek begins. The trail winds upward, rewarding us with increasingly spectacular views. Then, after two hours hiking, we arrive at the Naxi Family Guesthouse, where we stop for lunch against a stunning backdrop. After lunch, we continue along the trail and reach the "28 bends," a series of steep switchbacks that take us to the highest point on the trail—an elevation of nearly 9,000 feet. A few more hours of hiking along a trail carved out of the mountain brings us to our accommodations for the night: The Tea Horse Guesthouse. Here, we relax with warm food, cold beer and the camaraderie of fellow trekkers from around the world. In the morning, following breakfast, we set out again, watching the peaks of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain catch the morning sunlight. The trail descends toward the river, and after about five hours of hiking we arrive at our endpoint, Tina's Guesthouse, where we savor a well-deserved lunch by the Jingsha River. After lunch, we are transferred back to Lijiang.

Best time: March thru October.

Length of time: This package adds one night to our Yunnan Explorer tour.

What's included: English-speaking guide, transportation to and from trailhead, 5-star accommodation, meals during the hike. Minimum: two persons.

Departures: Daily departures.

Price: Call for price

Terms, Conditions and Stuff Like That

RESERVATIONS:

Please reserve as early as possible as space is limited on all of our trips. A \$300 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 travel insurance.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

We offer optional travel insurance.

RESPONSIBILITY:

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.

CST 2027100-40