



Welcome to another issue of your newsletter on Syder Travel news, views, 'hot' destinations and recent visits. Firstly it is with grateful thanks to all of you who have booked with me during the past year, and previous years, enabling me to offer another rich and diverse range of destinations into 2015

While travel has become more limited in recent years with numerous destinations now deemed simply too unsafe to venture to due to civil war, political upheaval, disease or neighbour aggression, so Syder Travel has had to streamline its operation. On the plus side I am now offering a variety of tours to different regions of specific countries. For example, [Turkey](#) is one of my most popular destinations, and I run five very different and unique trips to the country. Equally in [Ethiopia](#) I operate tours to coincide with the varied colourful festivals that occur during their calendar year.

Recent Tour News

Northern Sudan

Royal Cities of the Nile
9 – 18 January 2014



Raised eyebrows back home but I cannot recommend this destination more at the moment! Khartoum was a friendly relaxed capital and made for a good first base before we headed north for extended stays in Meroe and Karima to visit the rich and varied archaeological sites along the Nile. Mrs J Thom from Dumfries, summed up the tour perfectly; "Surpassed all expectations – spectacular sites, comfortable lodges, wonderful picnics, and all at a relaxed pace!" A repeat tour is scheduled for December 2014 [Sudan - December 2014](#)

Bhutan

Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon
1 – 14 March 2014



As you'll see from the 'Photo Feature Tour' this trip was timed to coincide with the colourful spectacle of the Punakha Tshechu festival. The remote kingdom of Bhutan also has stunning mountain scenery, fascinating architectural heritage and age-old traditions. With the comfort of upmarket accommodation and an excellent variety of good food, the tour was a resounding success. A repeat tour is scheduled in late February 2015

[Bhutan - February 2015](#)

Greece

Classic Sites of the Ancient Greeks
5 – 15 May 2014

A perfect opportunity to visit the famous classical sites of the Peloponnese which are all set in stunning locations such as Delphi, Olympia and Mycenae, whilst based in the charming historic town of Nafplio. In addition the tour ventures north to the unique and awe inspiring monasteries of Meteora. Finally relaxing in Athens to take in the capital's rich archaeological heritage. Group comments also highlighted the outstanding guide and delicious range a la carte meals. A new tour to Northern Greece is currently being planned for June 2015



Armenia and Georgia

East of Byzantium

11 – 25 June 2014



Lonely Planet summed up the tour perfectly; “both these Caucasus nations have breathtaking natural beauty, charming architecture, wonderfully hospitable people and little visited cosmopolitan capitals. What’s more they are still off the beaten tourist track and just waiting to be explored”. There was however no mention about the fabulous Armenian food and Georgian wine! I am planning a new combination trip to Armenia, Georgia and Eastern Turkey for June 2015

Autumn/Winter 2014 Tours

Syder Travel returns to **Uzbekistan** in early October to visit the [Fabled Cities of the Silk Road](#), departing on 30 September for a fortnight, which includes the lesser visited region of the scenically beautiful region of the Fergana Valley.

I still have limited availability for this trip!



“From the blue-tiled splendour of Tamerlane’s Samarkand to the holy city of Bukhara, boasting a mosque for each day of the year, and beyond, the romantic desert-girdled khanate of Khiva, Uzbekistan lays claim to a breathtaking architectural legacy” *Odyssey Guides*

In early November there is a good opportunity to escape to the warmer climes of **SW Turkey** on my [Treasures of Ancient Lycia](#) trip, departing 1 November for a week. The region has an unrivalled concentration of archaeological treasures comparable to an open-air museum.



The tour starts in Antalya, the eastern border of ancient Lycia, with Perge and Aspendos on its doorstep. In the heart of Lycia we visit some of the principal Lycian cities; Tlos, Patara, Myra, Arycanda and Phaselis. Apart from the excellent preservation of many of the sites, their location is equally breathtaking and this region of southwest Turkey is undoubtedly its most scenic and dramatic

Morocco is a safe and welcoming North African destination and my [Imperial Cities and Desert Kasbahs](#) tour departs on 11 November for 13 days. We visit the ancient Royal cities of Rabat, Meknes, Fes and Marrakesh; explore the towering Saharan Sand-Sea of Merzouga and visit the fabled kasbahs of Ait Benhaddou and the Dades Valley. An extension is available to relax in the lovely Atlantic coastal resort of Essaouira



Morocco covers all tastes – architecture, scenery, world renowned food and surprisingly good wine!

Book now to avoid disappointment!

Looking Ahead to 2015

The Syder Travel concept is very much about providing a personal service and a product that is value for money in a very specialist field. Paramount to its success is the ability to provide new and exciting destinations each year as well as continually monitor those already established. New tours planned for 2015 include **Northern Greece, Sicily and Japan**. Also now that prices have stabilised and new hotels have been built, **Myanmar** is back on for the autumn!



The shimmering Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon, MYANMAR

OMAN – Jewel of Arabia

6 – 14 January 2015
£1595.00

ETHIOPIA – Timkat Festival with Harar

17 January – 4 February 2015
£2295.00

RAJASTHAN – India's Golden Triangle

10 – 23 February 2015
£1995.00

BHUTAN – Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon

24 February – 8 March 2015
£2495.00

LAOS and CAMBODIA – Jewels of Indo-China

17 March – 2 April 2015
£2295.00

KURDISTAN – Land of the Kurds

25 April – 2 May 2015
£2395.00

JORDAN – Highlights of the Hashemite Kingdom

7 – 14 May 2015
£1195.00

CENTRAL TURKEY – Cradle of the Faiths

19 May – 2 June 2015
£2295.00

PLUS!!

- Eastern Turkey, Armenia and Georgia
- Northern Greece
- Sicily
- Japan
- Myanmar

The Genet Amare Fund

It has been a year since I first made the appeal to help Genet Amare from Bahir Dar, Ethiopia fulfill her dream to become a nurse. Desperately sad circumstances during her childhood left her on her own without help apart from an aunt, herself living in squalid conditions in Lalibela. My sincere thanks to all of you who have given so generously to give Genet the hope and support she needs. She has now completed her English studies to allow her to progress to Nursing College in September. She has also been working part-time at the local Internet cafe to give her confidence in computing and use her English with tourists!

Three years at Nursing College in Bahar Dar will still require considerable financial help so, if at all possible, any donations would be gratefully received for her

Account Name: Patrick Syder (The Genet Amare Fund)
Account Number : 48278068
Sort Code: 30-98-77

I hope that you have enjoyed reading this second issue of *Travel Addict*. If you know of friends who would be interested in the tours that Syder Travel has to offer then I would be most grateful if you could pass this on to them. Kindest regards, **Patrick**

SYDER TRAVEL Escorted Cultural Tours

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TRAVEL ADDICT Feature Tour
BHUTAN – Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon 2014
'In Photographs'

