

Condé Nast Traveler

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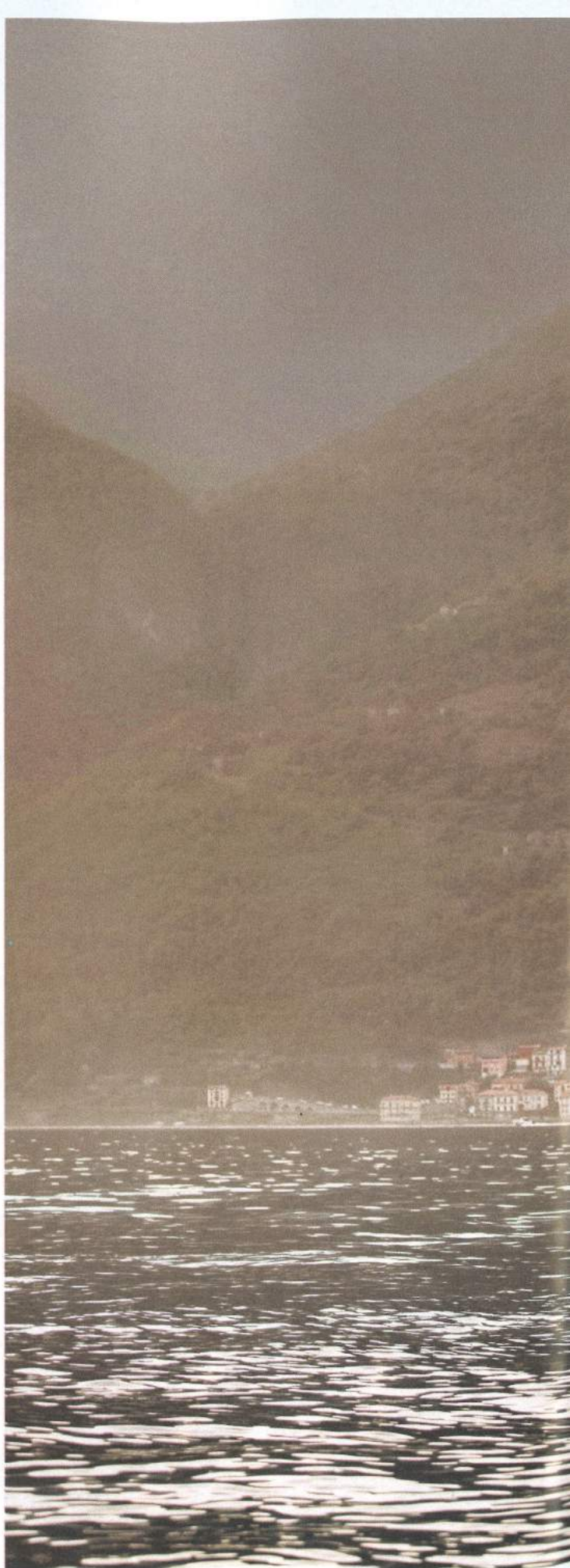
Our editors' pick of the best travel specialists in the world

THE EDITORS' PICK

THE WORLD'S BEST TRAVEL SPECIALISTS 2019

Booking a trip with an exceptional travel adviser has huge upsides. They remove the burden of the niggling details (the visas, the transfers, the reservations), but far more than that, they have the insider knowledge, the prolific contacts, the exclusive access, and the sharp instincts to transform a vacation into an experience of a lifetime, whether it's tracking Siberian tigers in Russia's Far East or celebrating Day of the Dead in Michoacán. Here's a taste of *Condé Nast Traveler's* Top Travel Specialists for 2019: the agents and fixers, explorers and connoisseurs, historians and naturalists, instigators and hand-holders we most highly recommend. For the complete list of all 185 of our trusted experts, go to cntraveler.com/travel-specialists.

BY ALEX POSTMAN AND CHRISTINE CANTERA





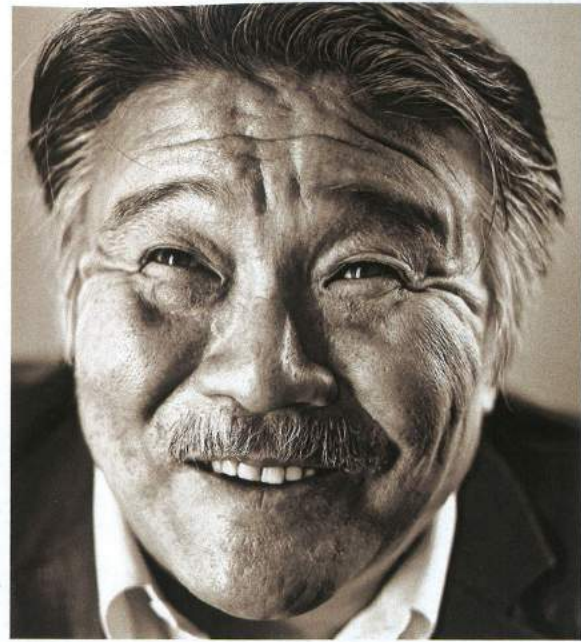


CATHERINE HEALD

REMOTE LANDS, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND JAPAN

“Fear of mediocrity” compels Heald to plunge into Asia’s still-mysterious pockets, from the snowy shrines of Tohoku, Japan, to the rice terraces of Banaue, Philippines.

remotelands.com



JALSA URUBSHUROW

NOMADIC EXPEDITIONS, MONGOLIA

The Mongolian-American is a pioneer of modern tourism in his ancestral homeland, where he’ll have you digging up velociraptor bones alongside paleontologists, hunting with golden eagles, or tracking the elusive snow leopard.

nomadicexpeditions.com

JACK SHAW

EPIC EUROPE, THE ALPS

For 10 years, Shaw has approached his adopted homeland of Switzerland with the dogged curiosity of the former travel journalist that he is. Headquartered in the Valais region, with bases dotting Italy and France, Shaw can pull together a sunset run off the Breuil saddle of the Matterhorn as seamlessly as a hike along the wildflower-carpeted trails of Zermatt or free riding in the Dolomites’ Val Mezdi. While Epic Europe offers its share of adrenaline-jacking point-to-point trekking, heli-skiing, and Alpine climbing, Shaw is also tight with small wine producers and local farmers who’ll open up their sky-high barns for cheese making, and he can snag last-minute VIP tickets to the Montreux Jazz Festival or Art Basel. *epiceurope.com*



STUART RIGG

SOUTHERN CROSSINGS, AUSTRALIA

Based in Australia for more than 30 years, British-born Rigg is the go-to for the best the continent has on tap right now, comprising classic routes and distant milk runs. That could mean a fly-by of the Bungle Bungle range in the remote Kimberley, or an inside-track food-and-fashion tour in cosmopolitan Melbourne; a visit to a remote Aboriginal community in Arnhem Land, or a day of tastings in South Australia’s Coonawarra wine region. And his clients can sleep soundly knowing that Rigg, with a refined sense of

order and mission, keeps obsessive record of both the chicest new boutique hotels in every Aussie metropolis and the country’s dreamiest Outback stations. *southerncrossings.com*

