

# Our world deserves more you.

Welcome to our community. You might think we're a travel company, and we are, but we're also a social enterprise who've been pioneers of community tourism since the day we were founded back in 1990. Our tours, built together through meaningful relationships with local communities, directly benefit the people and places we visit. But it doesn't stop there. It includes our employees, supplier and agent partners, small business owners, customers, social followers, travellers, and media like you. That all adds up to our simple but powerful mission: to change the world just by helping people have the time of their life. Thank you for joining our movement. Our world deserves more you.







# **Our Story**

#### It began with one man...

In 1990, Bruce Poon Tip was living in a garage apartment in Toronto when he had an idea to change the face of travel – a small group adventure company that bridged the divide between backpacking and coach tours. He wanted to develop tours that got to the heart of a destination and met the people who live there. At a time when the concept of sustainable travel didn't yet exist, Bruce was about to become one of travel's first disruptive innovators.

#### ...and two credit cards

When no bank was willing to provide him with a loan, Bruce funded his startup by maxing out two credit cards. From there, two tours were launched in Ecuador and Belize, and the stage was set for a new style of travel that gave travellers the opportunity to explore the world with like-minded people and interact with locals in the countries they visited.

#### Now it's a global social enterprise

G Adventures is now the world's largest small group adventure travel company, with more than 750 tours on all seven continents. Built on a foundation of strong core values, G Adventures creates tours that support small businesses and help communities to help themselves.

#### And we're just getting started

It's our mission to help travel become the greatest form of wealth redistribution the world has ever seen. Our travellers contribute to local economies, support small businesses, and fund the development of G for Good projects that strengthen the communities they encounter with us.

## **Meet Bruce**

Entrepreneur, leader, and philanthropist Bruce Poon Tip is the founder of adventure travel company and social enterprise G Adventures.

Passionate about travel's power to change the world for the better, Bruce has become a global leader on community tourism, social entrepreneurship, leadership, immersive travel, and innovation, and has delivered keynote speeches for the United Nations and the World Bank, and at TED events and entrepreneurship conferences globally.

Bruce's first book, Looptail: How One Company Changed the World by Reinventing Business, was a New York Times bestseller, and at the start of the pandemic he wrote a free 'instabook' called Unlearn: The Year the Earth Stood Still, which looks at the opportunities for how travel can be done better in the future.

In 2018, Bruce was inducted into the British Travel and Hospitality Hall of Fame, and was named as one of *AFAR Magazine* Travel Vanguards — a visionary travel industry leader who is changing the face of travel for the better. He was also honoured as one of Canada's Most Admired CEOs in the category of social entrepreneurship and has received three honourary doctorates in Canada and the U.S.

In 2022, he acted as the executive producer of *The Last Tourist*, a feature-length documentary exploring how travel can be a force for good. *The Last Tourist* is currently available in the United States on Apple and Hulu, and on multiple streaming channels across Canada. It will be released in more countries globally during 2022.



"We get back what we put in.
You just have to believe that
what you're doing is important,
that it's worth the effort, and
you're doing it for reasons other
than just to make money."

Bruce Poon Tip, Founder, G Adventures



790

G.A.P. Adventures founded by Bruce Poon Tip in Toronto, Canada.

796

Bruce presents at the World
Bank in Washington as a
recognized ecotourism expert,
and launches the first Ecotourism
Tour Operator Standards.

**O3** 

The company's non-profit partner, Planeterra, is established. **'09** 

Bruce gives up his title of CEO and awards it to the company's tour guides, who are now known as Chief Experience Officers.



G.A.P. Adventures rebrands as G Adventures.

**'92** 

Bruce exports concept of sustainable small group travel to an international audience at World Travel Market in London, UK.

**'02** 

Bruce delivers a speech to the UN General Assembly to support the UN Year of Sustainable Tourism.

60

New offices are opened in London, Buenos Aires, Nairobi, and Melbourne.

10

The HR department is eliminated and the Talent Agency is created. Company surpasses \$150 million in sales.



Bruce releases his first book, Looptail:
How One Company
Changed the World by
Reinventing Business.

16

A partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute is announced to form the Jane Goodall Collection of wildlife tours, and the company's animal welfare guidelines are published.

**18** G A Brit

G Adventures acquires
British youth specialist,
TruTravels.

**'21** 

G Adventures partners with Hostelworld to create Roamies: a new collection of hostel-based trips for 18 to 35-year-old travellers.

**15** 

G Adventures celebrates its 25th anniversary by launching a new program of trips in partnership with National Geographic.

**17** 

G Adventures acquires established British brands Travelsphere and Just You. 20

While in isolation, Bruce writes
Unlearn: The Year the Earth Stood
Still, an instabook on reshaping
how we travel after the pandemic.

**'22** 

G Adventures creates
The Last Tourist, a documentary
on the consequences of overtourism and the power responsible
travel has to change the world.

# A tour for every traveller

#### Classic

The quintessential G Adventures experience, Classic trips deliver the perfect balance of must-see highlights, cultural exchange, insider access, unbeatable value, and the kind of spontaneous, you-really-had-to-be-there moments that make your trip memorable.

#### 18-to-Thirtysomethings

Youth is a limited-time offer. Get more out of yours with 18-to-Thirtysomethings – fast-paced and affordable adventures designed for young travellers. Explore the world by day, stay up all night, and do it all again tomorrow someplace new with friends you'll want to hang on to forever. You've got the rest of your life to take it slow. Live fast now.

#### Active

Active adventures get you closer to the destination by letting you hike, bike, and multi-sport your way through it. We provide the equipment, the experts, and the opportunity; you provide the energy. On your marks. Get set. Go Active.

#### Marine

There's adventure aplenty out there beyond the shore but unless you've got gills or flippers, you'll need a ship to find them. Marine tours are designed for travellers of all stripes, from experienced cruisers and sailors to landlubbers who've never set foot on a boat. And they go just about everywhere there's water. If you can float there, you can go there.

#### **Local Living**

Always dreamed of getting deep inside one of the world's greatest or most out-there destinations? You can now.

Unpack once on a Local Living tour and go undercover in some of the world's most interesting places in search of life as it's lived every day.

#### **Family**

Open up the world of adventure travel for kids aged four and up and let them experience their planet on their own terms. Everything is new and exciting when you're a kid. Travel with yours and discover your world for the first time all over again.

#### Wellness

Travel connects us — to our planet, to its people, and to ourselves. Wellness travel was created to recharge the body and nourish the mind, our new Wellness tours offer the perfect balance of awe-inspiring destinations, rejuvenating activities, and healthy food experiences, helping you return home feeling even better than when you left.

# **ROAMIES**

**HOSTELWORLD + G Adventures** 

#### **Roamies by Hostelworld + G Adventures**

The thrill of adventure. The awesomeness of hostels. Get 'em both with Roamies by Hostelworld and G Adventures: ridiculously immersive small group trips for 18 to 35-year-old travellers that'll have you exploring iconic destinations and staying in some of the best hostels the world has to offer.











## Tourism: a force for global good

67%

Percentage of countries surveyed\* in which tourism is growing more rapidly than the economy as a whole

\*by the WEF & WTTC

10%

Percentage of global GDP fuelled by travel and tourism (totalling \$8.8 trillion USD/year)

319м

Number of tourism-related jobs in the world. That's 1 in 10 of the world's total

\$200<sub>B</sub>

Amount of US dollars directed into emerging market countries every year thanks to tourism

66м

Number of women tourism employs worldwide

83%

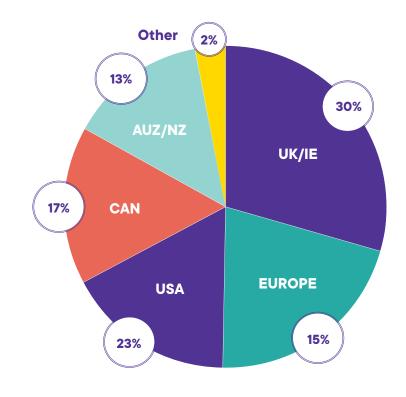
Percentage of the developing world for which tourism is the principal export earner

## G Adventures — a global glance

200,000 travellers from 127 countries

We operate more than 750 tours in 100+ countries

19 offices worldwide
700 employees



Our travellers by home region

## **Our culture**

Other companies settle for mission statements. At G Adventures, we live by our five Core Values: We Love Changing People's Lives, Lead With Service, Embrace the Bizarre, Create Happiness & Community, and Do the Right Thing.

These values form the foundation of our strong company culture – known collectively as G Nation – and are designed to be embodied by all staff wherever they work: both inside and outside the company, with each other, our business partners, and our travellers.

Our core values also come to life in our approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are committed to continuously improving diversity within all of our operations, as well as being transparent about our progress.











# G FOR GOOD

#### Making the world a better place one commitment at a time.

Responsible travel isn't just something we do. It's in everything we do. We change lives through travel, and after over 32 years of growing our philosophy, it's our company's DNA. Yes, life-changing experiences for our travellers are our obsession. But that's just half of the story. We're equally obsessed with the people and communities we visit, and how our tours enable us to establish life-changing initiatives globally. We call it G for Good and it includes all of the social, moral and ethical Good we undertake as a business. G for Good projects are a big part of this, as are industry firsts like our Ripple Score. They are examples of the things we do that help us travel better. G for Good is what makes us, us — and you, you. It lives in how we conduct our business, and ourselves, each and every day all around our beautiful world. It's how we're creating a better world one commitment at a time.

#### **G** for Good: Project 100

On January 1, 2016 we launched a campaign called 50 in 5, with a goal to increase the number of G for Good projects from 25 to 75 in the space of five years. We completed those 50 projects 18 months early, and announced an increased target of having 100 community tourism programmes built into our tours by 2020. Thanks to the dedication of our non-profit partner the Planeterra Foundation, and despite the impact of the global pandemic, we achieved this goal on time at the end of 2020.





# **Our newest G for Good projects**

## Al Numeira Environmental Association South Ghour. Jordan

This community, just south of the Dead Sea, suffers from one of the most significant water shortages on earth.

Through their partnership with Planeterra, the Al Numeira Environmental Association has been able to rebuild their community centre kitchen that was destroyed following a devastating fire, and provide training on tourism and hospitality that allows them to grow their social enterprise café. This has led to the hiring of more people at the community centre, and additional investment in their environmental initiatives.

- > 560 community members benefiting
- > 1,600 G Adventures travellers will visit each year

#### Lusumpuko Women's Club Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Planeterra provided the Lusumpuko Women's Club with kickstarter funding and training to successfully launch a catering business geared towards the tourism industry in Victoria Falls. Once a co-operative focused on rearing chickens, today the group is thriving through preparing traditional meals, much like those their mothers and grandmothers used to prepare, for G Adventures travellers. The group proudly boasts that they are better equipped to care for their families and pay school fees for their children because of the increased income.

- > 140 community members benefiting
- > 1,430 G Adventures travellers will visit each year

#### Favela Experience Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Working alongside our partners, Favela Experience, we developed a new social enterprise tour in Vidigal, one of Rio de Janeiro's many favelas. Planeterra provided funds for training, infrastructure, and equipment for five micro-enterprises and community organizations, all of which benefit from the new tour. This tourism experience not only showcases the community and its entrepreneurs, but helps travellers see a different side of Rio de Janeiro while offering an income for the primarily youth population of Vidigal, who have been trained as guides and who are leading these new businesses.

- > 161 community members benefiting
- > 1,410 G Adventures travellers will visit each year







#### Don't just see the world. Make it better.

Planet Earth is an amazing place, but it's far from perfect. Since the very beginning, G Adventures has operated with the belief that travel is an exchange, not a commodity. As a social enterprise, the planet is our product. Its social and environmental welfare is fundamentally important to us – not just as a business, but as human beings, too. When you travel with us, you're giving back as much – if not more – than what you take away, often in ways you'd never expect. Here's how we spread G Adventures for Good around the world.

#### **Animal Welfare**

G Adventures recognizes the importance of animal welfare. That's why we have adopted the guidelines developed by the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) in conjunction with the Born Free Foundation, a third-party organization whose mission it is to protect animals from abuse. Our vision is to ensure that all animals encountered on our tours are treated humanely.

#### **Child Welfare**

G Adventures believes that it is critical that no child is ever harmed as a result of tourism. Travellers have the power to make a true impact in the communities they visit, and that's why we actively work to ensure child welfare is protected in the places we operate.

#### **Responsible Travel with Indigenous People**

Connecting curious travellers with Indigenous communities is an essential part of our identity at G Adventures. We are committed to respecting the rights, history, and culture of Indigenous people while ensuring that tourism supports their well-being.

### Rippp) le Score

In 2016, we completed the G Local Survey\* to study the real-world impact of travelling on the communities we visit. The result? There was an obvious, positive ripple effect created by our small group adventure tours. It was a good start. But we knew we could do better.

We feel it's our responsibility to be as transparent as possible about how often we choose local businesses or services to bring each adventure to life. So we're assessing our tours with what's called a Ripple Score — a tour evaluation that lets you see the money spent locally by G Adventures on all the services it takes to run your tour — like accommodations, restaurants, and transportation.\*\*



\*Created with our non-profit partner Planeterra and Sustainable Travel International. More info and global results from our G Local supply chain assessment can be found at gadventures.com/about-us/responsible-travel/g-local

Airlines were excluded from our calculations because airlines typically fit into two categories: multinational publicly traded companies or national, government-owned businesses.

# **Everywhere is local**

Everywhere we go, from the biggest cities to the tiniest villages, we opt for local businesses and services whenever we can. In 2016, we became the first travel company to conduct a supply chain assessment based on our core values — the G Local Survey — to study the real-world impact of our travellers on the communities we visit. The numbers speak for themselves.



#### 112,000

Number of people employed globally by G Adventures' contracted service providers.



#### **FRESH**

9/10 of our suppliers purchase more than half of their supplies from local producers, markets, and farms.



#### **GLOBAL**

Nearly 100 of our on-tour experiences in over 40 countries include visits to Indigenous communities.



#### **SUSTAINABILITY**

97% of our on-tour suppliers employ sustainability practices in their operations.



#### LOCAL

91% of our on-tour hotels, restaurants, and tour providers are owned by local people.



#### SUPPORT

50% of our suppliers worldwide contribute to non-profit organizations or local groups.



#### LOCAL STAFF

83% of supplier management staff are local.



#### **FAMILIES**

On average, 3 family members are supported by each employee of our service providers.



#### **FOOD**

65% of included meals are based on local food and traditional cuisine.



#### **ECONOMIC STIMULUS**

For every \$1 spent locally, there is an economic stimulus of \$8.

All figures derived from G Adventures' global survey of suppliers conducted as part of G Local, a sustainability framework developed in partnership with Sustainable Travel International (STI) and the Planetera Foundation to evaluate localized impacts and guide G Adventures' purchasing decisions.



# Ideas as big as our world.

What's made us the leaders in small group adventure travel since 1990? By listening to our travellers and giving them what they want. Check out how we're leading the world when it comes to travel.

#### **Small groups**

We keep our groups small to create a sense of camaraderie and allow for closer connections to the places and people you visit.

#### **Book & Travel with Confidence**

We created two different policies to help you have peace of mind from the second you book to the moment you (reluctantly) head home.

#### Locally based guides

We don't have tour guides — we have Chief Experience Officers. And they are all locally based, meaning they know your destination like the back of their well-travelled hand.

#### **Built to support local communities**

We've always created our tours by building meaningful relationships with local communities, directly benefiting the people and places we visit.

#### Flexibility, freedom, fun

No matter the Travel Style, our tours balance wellplanned itineraries with the flexibility to do your own thing and make the experience your own.

#### **G** for Good

When you travel with us, you experience first-hand how our commitment to making travel a force for good is in everything we do.





## Contact us

For media inquiries, images, and logo requests, or to invite G Adventures founder Bruce Poon Tip or other company leaders to participate in a speaking engagement, contact us below or email media@gadventures.com

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