

Aranui 3

travelling responsibly

All of us, as travellers, are looking for what we can get out of our experiences. Some may be looking for the most stylish resort, others for a truly authentic glimpse of the country or searching for the world's most perfect beach. Rarely

though do we ask what we, as visitors, can provide for the population of our host nation, although the benefits of responsible tourism are receiving more attention. We have chosen several travel experiences, from many, which are beneficial to all, a real chance for local

communities to benefit from visitors and a rare chance for the visitor to experience something unique and special.

Tessa Williams,
Audley's Responsible Tourism Co-ordinator



Aranui 3 Marquesas Islands

The *Aranui 3*, a supply vessel with guest cabins, sails amongst French Polynesia's spectacular and remote Marquesas Islands. Robert Louis Stevenson described them as, "Volcanic needles like the pinnacles of some ornate church", back in 1880 and today they retain this natural beauty as well as preserving traditional Polynesian culture. The Marquesas six inhabited islands are so remote that the *Aranui 3* is their lifeline to the outside world, bringing supplies and picking up copra, dried

coconut and noni fruit. As the goods are unloaded multi-lingual guides introduce you to meet traditional crafts people and take you on breathtaking walks to hidden jungle ruins and stone tiki gods set amongst bamboo and vanilla vines. You have plenty of time to explore villages, religious sites and even Paul Gauguin's burial place, during either an eight or sixteen day cruise. The *Aranui 3* is a unique opportunity for guests to help subsidise and maintain the life-blood of French Polynesia's most authentic and vibrant culture.

Tourism Concern provide useful guidelines for meeting local people and more can be found on their website – www.tourismconcern.org.uk

- 1 Respect human rights. For example, when trekking tell your guide you are concerned about your porters' welfare. Before you go, ask if the operator is working with Tourism Concern to establish porter protection guidelines.
- 2 Support local communities. Make people pleased to see you, buy locally and pay a fair price, and seek out community-run tourism businesses (international listing available in Tourism Concern's *Good Alternative Travel Guide*). Remember how wealthy you are compared to local people.
- 3 Be culturally aware - learn a few basic words of the local language - it's rewarding and always appreciated. Dress with sensitivity.
- 4 Be 'minimal' – take account of where you are and conserve water and energy.

Batang Ai *Sarawak*

Using the wonderful Batang Ai Resort as your base, this is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the lives and cultures of the Iban people, headhunters until the mid-twentieth century. Not only is the resort itself built in the style of the longhouses with an excellent environmental policy, but many of its staff are local people who can take you on a detailed nature walk through the forest surrounding the resort. The highlight of any trip to Batang Ai is a long tail boat ride through the winding valleys to one of the longhouses. Traditionally built to house the entire community, the number of people who visit the longhouses is strictly regulated to ensure a positive encounter for both tourists and the Iban. Visitors are treated to a performance of local dancing which helps to maintain traditional culture and the community's income is supplemented by selling jewellery and trinkets. Visitors are encouraged to bring small gifts themselves, which are then shared out with mathematical equality between every family in the longhouse community.

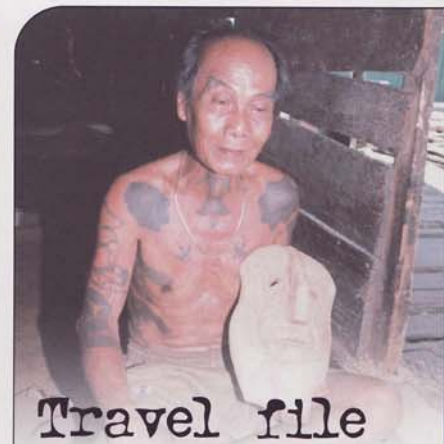
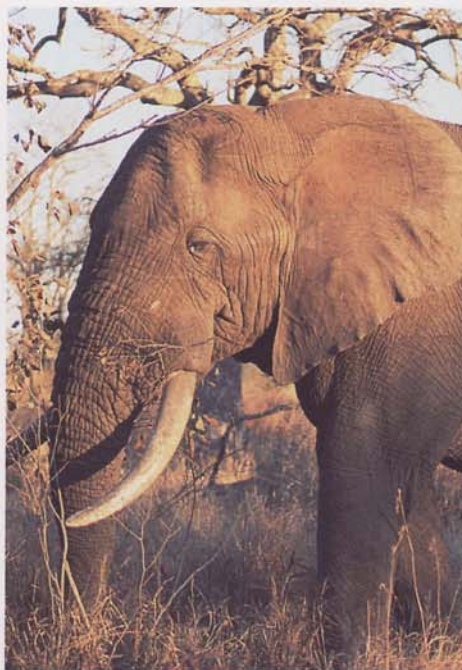


Guizhou *Southwest China*

The southwest of China is home to the country's greatest concentration and diversity of ethnic groups, many closely related to their southeast Asian cousins just across the borders in Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos. One of the most remote and least visited of these areas is the mountainous province of Guizhou, amongst China's least developed regions but rich in colourful costume and tradition. The Dong villages are characterised by tremendous communal architecture - multi-tiered drum towers reminiscent of great, headless daleks and beautifully constructed 'wind and rain' bridges which provide the social focus of the village, sheltered from the elements and cooled by river breezes. Zhaoxing village, one of the largest Dong communities, offers simple, homely accommodation in locally-owned guesthouses, giving visitors a taste of local life in one of China's most fascinating and untouched destinations. This is a unique experience for visitors but also provides a vital source of income for local communities.

Pafuri Camp *South Africa*

Pafuri Camp is located in the wild north of the Kruger National Park, on the ancestral land of the Makuleke people, and is run as a partnership between the Makuleke and Wilderness Safaris. Granted their land back by the new South African government, the Makuleke could have reoccupied the land within the park, but instead chose to join the conservation efforts of the park. Wilderness Safaris provide the expertise in running lodges, and employ staff from the Makuleke as well as funding training and community development projects. In addition to this 8% of the money earned by the lodge goes directly to the Makuleke Communal Property Association. The benefits for the visitor are also significant: eventually all the staff will be drawn from the Makuleke people, and they will form a significant part of the team from the word go, allowing visitors to meet, interact with, and learn from those who know the land best. The northern Kruger has traditionally been a jealously-guarded secret of park aficionados, with far fewer visitors than the southern areas of the park.



Travel file

The examples above are just a selection of many within our programme, our specialists would be delighted to tell you more, please call them to discuss your travel ideas and plans.