



Photo Credit: Roberto,
Savannah Explorers

DISCOVERY

Fall 2018

Savannah Explorers: One of Our Favourite Local Tour Operators

One of our favourite local tour operators is Savannah Explorers in Tanzania. Their guiding services are excellent, and we feel good knowing that co-owners Roberto and Greyson (pictured left and right) are investing into the local economy.

Greyson was born and raised in Tanzania and learned to be a safari guide from his father. Roberto is originally from Italy. “Since I was a child, I have loved safaris and animals,” says Roberto. He met Greyson several years ago when he came to Tanzania on a game drive. The two exchanged information and soon became friends. Roberto began bringing groups from Italy to Tanzania. A little while later Greyson invited Roberto to work with him in his family business. Roberto lived in Tanzania for a few months each year but always returned to his job in information technology for a large international company in Italy.

Then in 2012 when Greyson and Roberto started Savannah Explorers, Roberto and his wife Floriana moved to Tanzania with their young son. Now they live beside Greyson and his wife and two children.

Savannah Explorers guides between 450 and 500 safaris per year. They employ 15 local safari guides plus some freelance guides during peak season, three people in the office, and additional cleaning staff. They provide mobile tents, tented camps, and lodges near several Tanzanian game parks including Serengeti, Lake Manyara, Tarangire, and Ngorongoro Crater.

Reflecting on some of his special safari moments, Roberto says, “We saw a wildebeest giving birth.” He also enjoys watching predators hunt—from leopards and lions to cheetahs, hyenas, and crocodiles.

TourMagination has been guided on safari by Greyson and Roberto for



more than ten years. “TourMagination groups are not only interested in safaris, they are interested in the local culture and the people,” says Roberto. He adds, “It is a really different kind of experience when you mix a nature safari with visiting Tanzanian people who the average tourist never sees.” Roberto was particularly impressed by TourMagination’s recent grandparents and grandchildren tour to Tanzania. “That is a really good idea,” he says. Roberto and Greyson’s latest venture is building a new lodge outside of Ngorongoro Conservation Area. They also hope to construct a school and medical dispensary focusing on the needs of women and children in the nearby village. TM

Helping Mennonites and other Christians explore, experience, and expand their world.



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 **West Meets East in India, with Jim Pankratz**
 March 2-16, 2019, From USD \$4,272; CAD \$5,554
 Optional extension March 16-20, 2019

Discover this complex and beautiful nation through locations, people, and events that highlight European encounters with India from the 15th century to the present. Enjoy a rich sampling of India's landscapes, food, architecture, art, religions and cultures as you visit four states and several cities. Tour leader Jim Pankratz has a Master's degree in Buddhism and a PhD in Hinduism. He and his wife Goldine lived in Calcutta for two years and they have travelled widely in India.

 Heritage  Holy Land  Cruise  Eco-Adventure  Cultural Experience

 **Gems of Southeast Europe River Cruise, with Audrey Voth Petkau & Terry Petkau**

Oct. 13-20, 2018 SOLD OUT

 **Fresh Perspectives on the History, Church & People of Cuba, with Jack & Irene Suderman**

Jan. 18-28, 2019, From USD \$3,647; CAD \$4,741

Engage with Cubans at a sustainable farm, church, and non-profit organizations. Visit Havana, the Bay of Pigs, an Indian village, and Varadero beach. AMERICANS CAN TRAVEL TO CUBA with TourMagination.

 **Natural & Cultural Encounters in the Amazon, with Jerrell Ross Richer**

Feb. 24-March 6, 2019, From USD \$2,207; CAD \$2,803

This one-of-a-kind eco-adventure gives you an opportunity to see incredible wildlife while supporting the indigenous Cofán people who are protecting their ancestral lands in the Amazon jungle.

 **Italy: Bella Terra, with Leonard & Mary Friesen**

April 4-14, 2019, From USD \$3,432; CAD \$4,462

See world wonders including the Colosseum in Rome, St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, and the canals of Venice. Gain a better understanding of the forces that shaped Roman civilization, Catholicism, and the Renaissance.

 **Cultural & Heritage Highlights in the Netherlands & Belgium, with Audrey Voth Petkau & Ayold Fanoy**

April 15-26, 2019, Land portion from USD \$1,973; CAD \$2,565, Cruise from USD \$2,716; CAD \$3,531

This tour begins with a 5-day exploration of Anabaptist and Mennonite heritage in Belgium and the Netherlands followed by a 7-day springtime cruise—choose one or both tour options.

 **Discover Prague & the Mennonite Sojourn in Poland, with John Sharp**

May 27-June 6, 2019, From USD \$2,885; CAD \$3,750

Investigate the lesser-known story of Mennonites in Poland. See colourful baroque buildings, Gothic churches, and visit significant sites in Poland guided by Mennonite historian John Sharp.

 **The Mennonite Story & Highlights of Ukraine, with Leonard & Mary Friesen**

May 25-June 3, 2019, From USD \$2,987; CAD \$3,884

Don't miss the opportunity to travel with engaging storyteller Leonard Friesen. Visit historic colonies of Molotschna and Chortitza—possibly see your ancestors' village. Explore Odessa and Kiev. Consider combining this tour with the Treasures of Russia tour.

 **Treasures of Russia: Moscow & St. Petersburg, with Leonard & Mary Friesen**

June 3-10, 2019, From USD \$3,240; CAD \$4,211

Explore the cultural and architectural riches of Russia in St. Petersburg and Moscow and explore its Soviet past. Consider combining this tour with the Mennonite Story & Highlights of Ukraine tour.

 **Iceland: Fun in the Midnight Sun Tour, with Allen & Gwenanne Jorgenson**

June 14-22, 2019, From USD \$4,280; CAD \$5,435

The raw beauty of volcanoes, geysers, hot springs, lava fields, glaciers and fjords awaits you on this tour. Also, visit a geothermal plant and attend a church service with locals.

 **Embodying Truth: Church & Theatre in London Tour, with Allan & Marilyn Rudy-Froese**

July 13-22, 2019, From USD \$3,405; CAD \$4,427

Look for glimpses of the sacred and profane as you attend church services, plays, and musical performances, as well as tour museums, art galleries, and other culturally significant sites.

 **Bike and Boat Tour from Berlin/Spandau to Malchin, with Mark Evans**

July 27-Aug. 3, 2019, From USD \$2,420; CAD \$3,148

View picturesque countryside and colourful cityscapes in Germany from a bicycle seat. Swim in the Baltic Sea, cruise the Peene River, and explore the island of Usedom.

 **Natural Wonders of Newfoundland, with Michael Kroeker**

Aug. 4-13, 2019, From USD \$3,225; CAD \$4,175

Expect stunning scenery and wildlife viewing opportunities. As you visit historic sites, learn about some of North America's oldest European settlements. Enjoy the famous hospitality, music, and seafood of Newfoundlanders.

 **Alaskan Adventure**

Aug. 11-24, 2019, From USD \$2,644

Spend 3 days in Denali National Park—home to a variety of northern wildlife and of course Mount Denali. On a 7-day cruise, enjoy excursions to discover the area's history and see glaciers, majestic mountains, and unique wildlife on land and in the water.

 **France River Cruise: Colours of Provence, with Audrey Voth Petkau & Terry Petkau**

Aug. 22-29, 2018, From USD 4,727; CAD \$5,692

Enjoy delicious food, amazing scenery, inspiring art and good company as you sail through France along the Rhône River. Optional pre-tour in Paris and post-tour in Barcelona.

 **Jordan, Palestine, Israel: A Journey of Hope, with Nelson Kraybill and Audrey Voth Petkau**

Sept. 12-23, 2019, From USD \$3,929; CAD \$4,990

Enrich your faith and biblical understanding as you visit key biblical sites in Jordan and Israel/Palestine. Knowledgeable and experienced tour leader Nelson Kraybill will guide you with rich insight emphasizing themes of peacemaking and healing.

 **Central Asia: Crossroads of Faith & Culture, with John Sharp**

Sept. 22-Oct. 3, 2019, From USD \$2,754; CAD \$3,580

As you travel along the Silk Road in Uzbekistan, interact with Muslim scholars and clerics, meet Uzbeki Orthodox Christians, and retrace a historic Mennonite migration trail. Your heart and mind will be expanded as you examine intersections of faith and discover cultural riches.

 **The Holy Land from a Woman's Perspective, with Kathy Bergen & Shirley Redekop**

Sept. 24-Oct. 4, 2019, From USD \$3,497; CAD \$4,477

Hear the stories and visit significant sites connected to women in the Bible. Reflect on the life of Jesus in places where he lived and taught. Visit with staff from NGOs working for peace, and connect with local women.

 **Danube River Cruise: Balkan Discovery From Budapest to Bucharest, with Marlin & Barb Hershey**

Oct. 17-23, 2019, Price TBA

Enjoy a cruise in 4 lovely Balkan countries with a community of TourMagination travellers. See the incredible natural beauty along the Danube plus a sampling of art, architecture, history, and prehistory of these varied cultures.

 **Sights, Sounds & Sacred Spaces of Ireland, with Bob & Margaret Nally**

May 26-June 6, 2020, Price TBA

Discover and celebrate Celtic Christian spirituality as you listen to stories & music and visit sacred sites which bring body, mind and soul into relationship with creation and with fellow travellers.

 **Oberammergau Passion Play**

June 6-8, 2020, From \$690 USD; \$860 CAD
Or 1-night package June 7, From USD \$560; CAD \$700

In 1634, the villagers of Oberammergau, Bavaria promised God that if he would spare them from the bubonic plague that was ravaging their region, they would depict the life and death of Jesus in the form of a play. 2020 will mark the 42nd time the villagers have performed the play over the past 384 years. This package date is compatible with tours to Ireland and Jordan/Palestine/Israel.

 **Jordan, Palestine, Israel: A Journey of Hope, with Nelson Kraybill**

June 8-18, 2020, Price TBA

Visit important sites from the life of Jesus and other biblical figures. Nelson Kraybill will guide this journey with pastoral sensitivity and reflection on current justice issues.

 **Oberammergau Passion Play**

Aug. 9-11, 2020, From \$740 USD; \$930 CAD

This package date is compatible with a tour to Germany/Austria/Switzerland.

 **Germany, Austria & Switzerland: European Anabaptist Heritage Tour, with John Sharp & Audrey Voth Petkau**

Aug. 11-24, 2020, Price TBA

Visits to significant sites will bring to life the stories of Reformation and Anabaptist leaders. Historian and experienced tour leader John Sharp will share insights as you travel in these beautiful countries.

 **Greenland & Nunavut Arctic Cruise with Terry Petkau**

Aug. 11-22, 2020, Price TBA

Discover the wild beauty of Greenland and other arctic islands. See icebergs, visit Inuit settlements, hike on the largest uninhabited island on Earth, and be amazed by the distinctive northern wildlife.

 **Danube River Cruise in Austria, Germany & Hungary**

Sept. 3-12, 2020, Price TBA

Proposed dates (subject to change). Framed by rolling hillsides, lush vineyards, and medieval castles, the Danube River has captivated throughout the centuries. Experience the timeless beauty and fascinating history of the region.

 **Germany & Switzerland: An Alpine Adventure, with Leonard & Mary Friesen**

Sept. 5-14, 2020, Price TBA

Feast your eyes on incredible views as you ascend peaks by cable car, hike mountain-top paths and wander valley trails. Take a walking tour in Zurich and have a free day of shopping and sightseeing in the historic town of Lindau.

 **Oberammergau Passion Play**

Sept. 14-16, 2020, From \$690 USD; \$860 CAD

This package date is compatible with tours to Germany/Switzerland, Danube River, and Germany.

 **Cultural & Natural Landscape of Germany, with Rod Zook**

Sept. 16-24, 2020, Price TBA

Visit incredible sights and celebrate Oktoberfest in the world-class city of Munich. See stunning castles like Neuschwanstein. Enjoy incredible scenery in the Alps and Voralpen. Join an optional hike. This moderately paced tour may also include time in Vienna and Salzburg.

Tours Under Development:

Tanzania Family Tour with Marlin and Barb Hershey, July 2019

Hutterite Heritage Tour with Rod Hofer, Oct. 2019

Australia and New Zealand, Feb. 2020

South Africa with Len and Mary Friesen, Feb. 2020

Explore the World of Paul with Tom Yoder Neufeld, May 21-June 5, 2020

Alaska Cruise, July 2020



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I want my grandchildren to be exposed to different cultures and to love the world they live in.



Dear friends,

In 2017, Terry and I became first-time grandparents when both our sons and their wives had children 12 days apart. We're over the moon about our grandchildren but we live on opposite sides of Canada so we look forward to video calls and in-person visits whenever we can.

I can't wait to travel with my grandchildren. I want them to be exposed to different cultures and to love the world they live in.

This summer I co-led the MEDA Family Tanzania Tour with a group of grandparents and grandchildren as well as some of the children's parents. The tour was spearheaded by MEDA supporter Verda Beachey who wants to introduce the next generation to MEDA's important work of creating business solutions to poverty.

Verda and Dale brought their family including five of their own grandchildren and were joined by 20 others on this sold-out tour planned by TourMagination. The children, ranging in age from 11 to 18, bonded quickly. I was so impressed by their behaviour. They were respectful and very open to learning about the MEDA projects and the people and culture of Tanzania. (Of course they absolutely loved the three game drives that we went on!)

One of the highlights of the tour was visiting the Cheche Library in Monduli. Monica Shank, originally from Ontario, Canada, founded the library and she organized a wonderful cultural exchange for our group. Many Tanzanian children from the school associated with the library came on a Sunday to play icebreaker games, dodge ball, soccer, and other games with the children in our group. The North American youth brought jump ropes and showed the children how to use them. The Tanzanian kids drew pictures, fashioned homemade gifts, and wrote stories for the teens and children in our group. The focus of the day was on building cross cultural relationships—the biggest gift the children gave to each other was friendship. It was beautiful to watch.

The Tanzania Family tour was such a success that we are planning another one in 2019 with former MEDA staff member Marlin Hershey and his wife Barbara. See details at www.tourmagination.com/tanzaniagrandparents

We can also plan custom tours for you and your family or group. Contact us to talk about the possibilities.

Enjoy the fall season and all it has to offer.

Kind regards,
Audrey Voth Petkau
President, TourMagination



Watch a free screening of John L. Ruth's new film

Is There a Lesson? 45 Years on the Anabaptist Story Trail in Europe

Showings begin at 7 pm unless otherwise noted.

October 2018

4th Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center, Millersburg, OH
5th Brethren Heritage Center, Brookville, OH
7th Normal Mennonite Church, Normal, IL
8th Michiana Event Center, Shipshewana, IN
14th Salford Mennonite Church, Harleysville, PA
15th Marion Mennonite Church, Chambersburg, PA
21st (6 pm) First Mennonite Church, Denver, CO
21st Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, VA

November 2018

11th (6 pm) Mount Joy Mennonite Church, Mount Joy, PA

An offering will be taken at each screening. Proceeds will go toward a local historical society and to film production costs.

NEW! Custom Tour Planners for Groups & Families

If you're interested in planning a custom group tour for your family, church, friends, historical society, or other group, take a look at our new custom tour planners. The tour planner walks you through everything you need to think about in order to organize a group tour. We have special editions for Holy Land tours and heritage tours plus a more general planner for other destinations.

TourMagination provides tour planning services and all tour arrangements, in-country guides, optional tour storyteller with relevant expertise, optional tour logistics manager, and promotional materials to help promote the tour to your group and to our clients if you are open to others joining your tour. We are also happy to recommend our preferred air travel agent and partner, Michael Kroeker at Bonaventure Travel.

Download your custom tour planner at
www.tourmagination.com/tourplanner