

# *Something Slightly Different.*

## *Travel with a Twist*

Brought to you by Scarlet Jones Travels



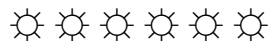
A successful hike in the Catalan mountains

Scarlet Jones Travels can now organise a tailor made holiday itinerary for you. What makes this concept different to the other holidays out there is that you will be accompanied for the duration of your trip on a one to one basis with an experienced traveller. Because we know that everybody likes to travel in a different way, I have two options for you.

1. From between four and seven days you can travel with me (Jane) or one of my carefully chosen guides and explore a region. You will immerse yourself in the local culture and you will have plenty of opportunities to try your hand at new activities. We will design your holiday together; choosing from a list of activities and accommodation types depending on the season and the region.



2. Alternatively, you might like to travel further afield and experience a backpacking adventure. These backpacking trips will usually be for two weeks or more, and again you will be fully accompanied. I will show you the ropes and introduce you to the joys of staying in hostels, using local transport and eating street food which will give you the confidence to go it alone and continue on your own adventure.



### **A little bit about me.**

I have been travelling for more than three years – and for most of that time I have been travelling solo. I have spent a year in South America, a couple of months in the Baltic countries and I spent nine months in South East Asia.



I have volunteered with an NGO in Peru, taught English everywhere and I have exchanged my time and work for food and accommodation. I have learnt so many new skills; I can now mix cement and concrete with the best of them, work the reception in a hostel, harvest crickets, construct things out of bamboo and make soap. I have learnt about yoga, reiki and meditation and I have attended salsa and Spanish classes.



I am often asked if I would take other people along with me on my trips, and that is how the idea of *Something Slightly Different* came about.

I LOVE travelling alone but it was difficult in the beginning because I was so nervous. I know that there are many people out there who don't want to go away with a group of strangers on an organised tour or who are anxious about backpacking solo. Planning a holiday alone can be quite daunting and it is nice to have somebody with whom you can share the responsibilities and the fun; but if your friends are unable to go along with you what are the options?

Don't let the fear of travel stop you from discovering new places.

*Something Slightly Different* gives you the opportunity to explore a region with a personal guide. Travel with me and I am sure that by the time we come to say goodbye at the end of your trip you will be bolder and more inclined to travel again, perhaps even solo the next time.

So with these potential problems in mind I have designed two types of holiday experiences with prices for the guiding beginning at £350.

## Trip Type #1

### **Fully accompanied 1 to 1 short breaks.**

These short breaks of between four and seven days will give you the opportunity to try out some different experiences. You may spend time in the countryside enjoying the magnificent scenery or you may explore a city. You will have the opportunity to learn something of the history of a region or maybe try your hand at some sporting activities.

You will be accompanied by your host Jane from Scarlet Jones Travels or one of the other specially chosen guides and you will benefit from the additional expertise of local experts.

Your accommodation may be in a small family-run hotel, a villa with river frontage, a room in a town house or a bungalow in a forest.

A varied programme of activities is on offer which can encompass history, art, sports and nature to name just a few.

In the first instance pick your preferred activities from the [attached list](#) and email that back to me, remembering to include your preferred travel dates.

I can then prepare a holiday plan for you and once you have had a chance to digest it we will discuss it together via a telephone or Skype call. Once you are happy with the itinerary, you can go ahead and book your flights and travel insurance. A deposit will guarantee your place with me and you can then sit back and leave the rest to me.

You can rest assured that you will have a holiday with a difference.

## Sample Itinerary – Trip Type #1

### Catalan Adventure: Accompanied 1-to -1



Sunrise over the delta

The following is a sample itinerary. You will have input at the planning stage of your own holiday so your trip could look quite different to this one.

Your experience will be dependent on your flight times, to some extent the weather and the availability of the various guides, but all of those things we will discuss together once you have sent in your initial request.

#### **Day 1**

I will meet you at the airport and we will transfer to the accommodation in a traditional Catalan village. After settling in we will head out and explore a local medieval castle in its imposing vantage point on cliffs above the river. On the way back to the village you can browse around an artisan pottery and see the colourful ceramics which are made by the family.

Something Slightly Different

Spain is the land of fiestas, so in the evening we may visit a village in the locality which is hosting one of the many celebrations. We will join in with the merriment; dancing, eating and drinking until the small hours.

## **Day 2**

After breakfast we will hike into the surrounding mountains with a walk leader. We can stop for a picnic lunch and you can take photographs of the stunning views. If you are lucky you may see golden eagles or griffin vultures soaring above or wild boar on the mountain side.

In the afternoon we will explore the nearest large town, and uncover the history of the region.

Dinner will be taken in a small hotel where excellent food is guaranteed and if you want to exercise your brain further you could opt for a lesson in Spanish or Catalan over a bon-bon (coffee and condensed milk)

## **Day 3**

You will cycle a section of the Green Way which is a 130km stretch of cycle path in the Catalan countryside that follows the route of an old railway track. For a slightly less strenuous day may prefer to kayak along the River Ebre. You will lunch on traditional food in a local restaurant and then after a siesta you could try your hand at cat fishing from a boat on the river in the late afternoon/evening.

## **Day 4**

Today we go to the beach where you can snorkel in the Mediterranean Sea. Discover what lies beneath the waves and see if you can spot starfish, barracuda or the strange sea cucumbers. Following a picnic lunch you may opt for a water-colour lesson from a local artist or you might prefer instead to head inland and take a cookery class.

## Day 5

A walking tour of Barcelona led by experts is on offer today. You may then head off to the airport and your flight back home or perhaps you will choose to stay in the city and explore for a few days by yourself.



A wine tasting session

## Trip Type #2

### **Fully accompanied 1 to 1 Beginners Backpacking**

These trips will typically last for two to three weeks and they are designed to gradually ease you into backpacking.

You will always be accompanied as you learn how to negotiate the world of backpacker hostels. We will navigate around a region which is new to you as we explore the cuisine and culture and we visit places of interest.

You will quickly realise that backpackers are generally a friendly, open-minded bunch of people and that there are many benefits to staying in hostels.

You will see how getting yourself lost need not be a calamity but can simply be a different opportunity - and it is often an experience that can turn out even better than your original plans!

Our time together will hopefully be a prelude to you branching off on your own and continuing your journey as a solo backpacker; although as you will soon realise, you are rarely alone (unless you want to be) when you backpack.

Choose from the dates and locations on offer and complete and return the [application form](#) which tells me a little bit about the things that interest you. Once I have designed a trip I will arrange to contact you by telephone or Skype and we can discuss the fine details.

When you are happy with the itinerary you can go ahead and book flights and organise travel insurance. A deposit will secure our time together on between your chosen dates. And do remember that you may also need vaccinations and visas for your adventure.



## Sample Itinerary – Trip Type #2

### Beginners Backpacking – Malaysian Adventure



The Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur

Bear in mind that in order to enjoy backpacking to its fullest, it is best to be fluid and flexible. Destinations can change on a whim depending on transport, the weather and who you meet or information that you gather along the way.

The following is a 17 day plan which covers a large area. It can be subject to changes but we will always consider these together whilst we are on the road. We can also do the route in reverse should you enter Malaysia via Singapore or we can substitute other destinations or activities.

#### **Days 1 – 3**

I will meet you at the airport and we will travel by public transport to our accommodation in Kuala Lumpur. You will have time to explore the markets and ease yourself gently into the hostel life.

This metropolitan city really comes alive at night and boasts a state of the art transport system, fascinating museums and beautiful parks. We

could visit the Batu Caves, Merdeka Square and of course, the iconic Petronas Towers.

### **Days 4 - 6**

We will take a bus north to Penang and George Town where we will explore the diverse districts in this city. Eat curry with your hands from a banana leaf 'plate' in Little India, juggle chopsticks in China Town or eat Malay food from a street stall.

We can discover the street art scene and we can take the funicular to the top of Penang Hill or wander around the clan jetties where people still live in houses on stilts built over the water in their traditional communities.

### **Days 7 – 9**

Another bus journey will take us up into the Cameron Highlands where fantastic trekking is on offer among some outstanding scenery. Jungle gives way to tea plantations around the small towns which appear to be stuck in time. Old British Land Rovers are the transport of choice here and hitchhiking is commonplace.

### **Days 10 – 12**

It's back on a bus and a boat for our journey over to the National Park of Taman Negara. Our time here will be spent exploring one of the world's oldest tropical rainforests. Maybe you fancy rafting, doing a canopy walk or swimming under waterfalls. We will have plenty of time to enjoy ourselves and to relax.

### **Days 13 – 15**

We journey south to Melacca. This ancient Dutch port town boasts a beautiful canal and there are UNESCO-listed buildings everywhere. There is plenty to keep you occupied here; be it a boat trip on the canal, cycling out to one of the islands, or visiting one of the museums. You can shop in a small street market, browse around large shiny malls, or simply relax by the canal with a coffee.

## Day 16

At this point the organised part of the trip comes to an end. You may choose to return to Kuala Lumpur for an onward flight, spend some time on the paradise beaches of Tioman Island or I will accompany you as we continue by road and cross the border into Singapore.



Cycling in the paddy fields

## How can you get involved?

Would you prefer to join us on the 1- to - 1 accompanied short break in Catalunya where everything is organised for you or would you prefer to travel to Malaysia for the Beginners Backpacking experience?

Read on and find out what to do next.

## **Guidelines for the Short Break: Trip Type #1**

### **Step 1**

Compile your perfect programme from the [attached list](#). Together, we will build your ideal holiday so that you can get the most out of your experience. And if your preferred travel dates don't exactly match the calendar, don't worry.

A certain degree of flexibility has been built into the timetable and where possible I will do my best to accommodate your schedule.

### **Step 2**

Check out flights (I recommend that you use Skyscanner) and decide on which date you will travel and which airport you are likely to choose. For Catalunya, I recommend that you fly into Reus, Barcelona or Castellon-Costa Azahar, although you can of course make your way to the region by bus, train or car.

Return the completed form by email to [info@scarletjonestravels.com](mailto:info@scarletjonestravels.com) and I will design an itinerary for you, based on your preferred dates and the availability of your chosen activities.

### **Step 3**

After a draft itinerary has been designed and sent to you, we will discuss the plan via a telephone or a Skype call. Only when you are completely happy with the itinerary should you book your flights and buy travel insurance. You will need to check whether you require a visa and travel inoculations although I can of course help you with all of these aspects.

### **Step 4**

Forward me your flight details together with a deposit which will guarantee our time together and you can then sit back and relax while I arrange everything.

## Payment

You will pay for your transport to the region, travel insurance, visas and any necessary travel inoculations.

Accommodation will be included in the cost of the holiday experience together with transport, breakfast and the activities that are confirmed in your itinerary. If you decide to take part in extra activities while you are here these may cost extra. You will pay for your own lunch, evening meal and drinks

I will take a deposit from you which will guarantee my time with you for the duration of the trip. I will meet you at the airport or our agreed meeting place and I will accompany you and guide you while we travel.

You will pay the balance of the cost of the holiday to me on arrival. The overall cost of your holiday will be calculated depending on your choice of activities and the accommodation on offer.



Cat fishing on the River Ebre

## **Guidelines for Beginners Backpacking: Trip Type #2**

This trip requires less planning. After three years of backpacking I believe that you will get a far better experience if you don't over plan, however I would like to know a little bit about you so that you get the best experience possible.

### **Step 1**

Tell me what dates you would like to fly. I recommend Skyscanner for this and don't forget to take into account any visa requirements or recommended inoculations for your preferred travel dates.

### **Step 2**

Email your preferred flight details to me together with [this application](#) form to [info@scarletjonestravels.com](mailto:info@scarletjonestravels.com). I will confirm the availability of the dates of your choice and I will send you the recommended trip plan plus confirmation of the price.

### **Step 3**

We will chat on the telephone or via Skype, and once you are happy with the details you are free to go ahead and book your flights and buy travel insurance. You will need to check whether you require a visa and travel inoculations.

### **Step 4**

Forward me your flight details together with a deposit which will guarantee your time with me. You can then study guide books, choose a rucksack and prepare yourself for your adventure.

## Payment

You will pay for your own flights, travel insurance, visas and inoculations.

While we are backpacking together and I am showing you the ropes we will each pay for our own travel costs; for instance accommodation, transport and food as is the norm when travelling with people that you meet along the way, but full details will be sent to you with your detailed trip plan.

I will take a deposit from you which will guarantee my time with you for the duration of the trip. I will meet you at the airport or our agreed meeting place and I will accompany you and guide you while we travel.

You will pay the balance of the cost to me on the second day of our backpacking adventure.



A hard hike up a mountain in Colombia



## What are you waiting for?

I am looking forward to designing your perfect travel adventure; be it exploring the diversity of Catalunya or demonstrating how easy and rewarding backpacking can be while we travel around Malaysia.

Choose your favourite travel option and check out possible flights.

Then complete the relevant form and return it to me at [info@scarletjonestravels.com](mailto:info@scarletjonestravels.com).

I will do my best to get your plan back to you within 5 days and I will follow it up with a personal call once you have had time to read it and to prepare any questions for me.

Apart from your deposit you won't part with any money until we meet.

This is what other travellers have said about me.

*"At first I was quite nervous to risk spending a lot of time with someone that I didn't know. But my concerns were soon laid to rest when I met her. Jane has a reassuring and confident manner that instantly put me at ease. She is a fun loving companion who enjoys life and brings the best out of the people that we met during our travels."*

*"We did have some challenges during our trip but it was great fun working through them with Jane and we have some great stories to tell. I must say that I am looking forward to the possibility of another opportunity to travel with her in the future."*

I look forward to guiding you through *Something Slightly Different*.