



Hello,

One of the things we're really enjoying at the moment is the range of conversations we are having.

People are excited and we are seeing the joy people seem to be taking in imagining how they want to travel, not just where they want to go and this excites us too.

We're seeing lots of interest in trips that bring together **contrast** in a natural way. Time to explore and be curious, combined with time to relax and properly enjoy where you are. Not ticking boxes, not rushing, just vacations that feel well balanced.

In **Asia**, that might look like:

- **Sri Lanka**, combining wildlife and cultural sites with time on the south coast around Tangalle or Weligama, where days can be spent swimming, snorkelling, or simply unwinding
- **Vietnam**, travelling from Hanoi and Ha Long Bay through central Vietnam, then finishing on the quieter beaches around Quy Nhon or Con Dao
- The **Philippines**, where island-hopping in places like Palawan or the Visayas brings crystal-clear water, snorkelling straight from the beach, and a real sense of remoteness
- **Thailand**, moving beyond the obvious islands to areas such as Koh Yao Noi or Koh Kood, where the pace is gentler and the focus is on water, scenery and good guiding

We're also seeing growing interest in destinations that people recognise by name, but that still feel genuinely rewarding when explored in more depth.

Oman is a favourite for this. Big scenery, desert landscapes, mountain villages and a beautiful, often overlooked coastline. It suits travelers who enjoy variety, gentle activity and a feeling of space.

Morocco comes up again and again, especially for those drawn to colour, culture and journeys that feel active without being rushed. When thoughtfully paced, moving between Marrakech, the Atlas Mountains and the desert, including nights in beautifully located desert camps and following parts of the old Salt Road, gives a real sense of progression and discovery. Visiting Fez adds depth, with its history, old pedestrian medina artisan crafts and a lived-in feel providing a different and very memorable perspective on the country.



And of course, some combinations endure for a reason. A **Tanzania safari followed by Zanzibar** still works beautifully when the rhythm is right and the focus is on quality rather than quantity. We're also planning more journeys that pair **Botswana's delta camps with the Mozambican coast**, or **Kenya's wildlife regions with time in Watamu or Lamu**, where excellent snorkelling and a relaxed

Indian Ocean pace provide a natural second chapter to a safari. In each case, the beach is chosen as carefully as the safari itself, so it feels like part of the journey rather than an add-on at the end.

On a more personal note, **Jill will be travelling to Hong Kong and Shanghai later this month**. Jill lived in Hong Kong over 20 years ago, so this trip feels a little like returning to an old chapter and seeing how it's evolved. She's keen to explore whether Hong Kong now works best as a stopover, or if it deserves time as a destination in its own right. We'll share a few reflections once she's back.

If any of these ideas spark something in you, we're always happy to talk things through. Those initial conversations are often where the most interesting journeys begin.

With thanks,

John, Amanda & Jill
Opulent Travel

P.S. If you enjoy travel inspiration and the occasional behind-the-scenes glimpse, you'll also find us on Instagram @opulenttravelcompany and Facebook @OpulentTravelCompany.

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