



Global Descents
exploring rivers of the world





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Exploring Rivers with Global Descents

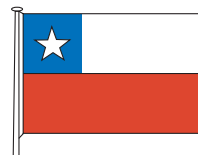
Global Descents expeditions include locations to suit every adventure travelers taste. We supply access to some of the world's most spectacular rivers, creating a truly authentic travel experience. Whether you're on a large aqua blue river in Patagonia, encountering exotic wildlife in Africa, traveling through the deepest canyon in the world, or the cultural experience of lifetime. Our premiere expeditions can change the way you view the world

A typical river expedition involves teamwork and participation and can be very rewarding and fun. From the very first wave breaking over the bow of the raft to the first cup of tea in the home of a local family, these expeditions are sure to create memories for a lifetime.

Our guides love to share this passion for river exploration with all of our clients. We are committed to exploration, and are constantly researching and seeking new and unknown rivers to explore. Come join us on one of these amazing journeys!



Nothing in this world makes us happier than spending time on the river. We strive to share this love and respect for rivers with all of our guests. By introducing people to these pristine places, we hope to protect these watersheds for many years. In addition, we are committed to exploration, and are constantly researching and seeking new and unknown rivers to explore. Come join us for the adventure of a lifetime.



Rio Futaleufu - Chile
December to March



Zambezi River - Zimbabwe
September to November



Colca Canyon - Peru
June through July



Zaskar River - India
August

Global Descents Provides:

Guides With Global Descents, you will meet and spend time with the world's best river guides, all of whom desire to spend as much time as possible exploring the world's greatest rivers. Simply put: our guides are knowledgeable, enthusiastic, fun, people with exceptional river skills and uncompromising safety practices. Our guides are the backbone of Global Descents and will keep you coming back to enjoy all of our river journeys.

Safety A guided river expedition with Global Descents will offer you the comfort, security and service of a U.S. company abroad. We pride ourselves as true professionals, and have systems in place to ensure a safe and fun filled adventure.

Equipment We pride ourselves on using the best equipment in the industry: self-bailing rafts; US Coast Guard approved life jackets; fully adjustable helmets; thick, inflatable sleeping pads; and quality expedition tents. By staying up to date with the latest in gear technology, we are able to provide a higher level of comfort and safety. Let's face it; it's just more fun with good gear.

Cuisine We have mastered the art of creating great cuisine in remote locations. We prepare regional cuisine highlighting specialties of each area. We invite you to sit back, relax and enjoy the warm campfire as we prepare a meal to remember.

Conservation There are constant threats to rivers all over the globe. From potential dams to other environmental threats to the watershed, it is the river community's duty to inform both its guests and local communities about the benefits of protecting the resource. Global Descents strives to do its part in demonstrating the benefits of tourism to rivers by supporting the local economy as much as possible. We do this through buying locally and employing a large local support team.

Global Descents Guides:

Harvey King

The call of the wild is strong in this one's head and heart. Harvey King has found his path in life... not on the trails of the world, but the rivers. Since 1991 when he began guiding rivers in Southwestern Montana he was hooked, and still is. Floating rivers throughout the Americas, Harvey harkens to the call and helps others enjoy and recognize the magic that awaits us all downstream. Living in Taos, New Mexico with his wife, Tara, and growing 6 year old boy, Canyon, Harvey floats the mighty Rio Grande while waiting for the chance to travel to far corners of the globe and experience new & fresh friends & waters.



Matthew Gontram

Matt started rafting and kayaking in Colorado at the age of eighteen. Since that first summer on the rivers of the southwest, Matt has pursued his passion for running rivers around the globe. He has worked as a guide and led expeditions in Nepal, Zambia, Uganda, Chile and all over the U.S. When not working on the river, you can find Matt seeking out some of the best class V kayaking in the world. "Guiding river trips is simply my favorite thing in this world to do. Watching a group of strangers come together as a team to make a river descent successful can be amazing." He lives in Leadville, CO with his dog Nugget.



Jane Dicey

Global Descents is very happy to have Jane from Cape Town, South Africa on board. By far, one of the most competent, fun and energetic guides worldwide. Since 1989, Jane has managed river companies, taught guide schools, produced river videos and led river expeditions on rivers across the globe. After working in South Africa, Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Ecuador, and all over the Western U.S., Jane has settled down in Jinja, Uganda. When not guiding trips for Global Descents, she runs daily trips on the mighty Nile R. below Lake Victoria. She is an explorer at heart and her enthusiasm for river expeditions is totally infectious.



Beach Huntsman

Maybe it's growing up in the desert of Utah that has given Beach such an insatiable thirst for flowing water and stimulating cultures. For the last 15 years, Beach has been exploring rivers all over the globe. From the jungles of Ecuador to the Himalayas; from Patagonia to the Southern Alps of New Zealand and from the Middle Fork of the Salmon River to the middle of nowhere, Beach is sure to enlighten any expedition in which he takes a part.



Duke Bradford

Duke Bradford has been Ski Patrolling and river guiding since 1995. He's been traveling all over the world working in the tourism industry. He loves to travel and run rivers. In 1998 He set out to develop a company that gave people more than just a trip down the river. He has strived to give people the best guest service and river experience possible.

Teaming up with Matt to develop Global Descents is his dream. Carrying the passion of running rivers to other cultures and trying to instill the value of rivers throughout the world is his lifetime goal.





Chile

The Rio Futaleufu is found in the heart of the Southern Andes in Northern Patagonia. The Futaleufu is by far one of the world's greatest whitewater destinations containing sections of continuous class IV and V whitewater, that will satisfy even the most experienced rafter's palate. The river is totally unique; its clear, turquoise waters pass through a glacially sculpted granite river valley that rivals Yosemite. You can have a close encounter with an Andean Condor, whose wingspans reach up to nine feet. Northern Patagonia is truly a great cultural experience.

Rio Futaleufu

Chile • Class 4/5 • 8 Days



Departures

Trips run December through March

For specific departure dates visit our web site www.globaldescents.com or contact our travel desk at 800-775-6976.

Rio Futaleufu Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Puerto Varas. Pre-trip orientation dinner. Lodging is at local hotel.

Day 2 Fly to Chaiten, transfer to camp at Casa Amarillo. Warm-up rafting run in the afternoon.

Day 3 Raft from Bridge to Casa de Piedra twice. Afternoon options of kayak lessons, float fishing or enjoying camp and sauna.

Day 4 Drive to the town of Futaleufu, tour, raft from Inferno Canyon to the confluence with the Rio Azul.

Day 5 Depending on the weather, we will either run the Rio Azul in small rafts or take a beautifully scenic horseback ride to a nice hike up another tributary of the Futaleufu.

Day 6 Raft from Terminator to Casa de Piedra, take out at camp, option of fishing/kayak lessons in afternoon.

Day 7 Run Terminator to Casa de Piedra again. Take out at camp. Lamb Asado fiesta.

Day 8 Leave for Chaiten, fly to Puerto Montt and connecting flight home or to next destination.

Trip Extensions

Rio Michimahuida (3 days: 1 day at hot springs, 2 days of Class V rafting).

Rio Michimahuida, is a major tributary of the Rio Yelcho, which is a continuation of the Futaleufu. Originating from the Michimahuida volcano, the "Mich." is a low volume, steep and technical river that delivers numerous class IV and V rapids. Four person minimum.

Parque Pumalin (Pumalin National Park). (3 days exploring rain forests).

Pumalin is a privately owned, 360,000-hectare nature reserve located just NE of the fishing village Chaiten. You'll spend your time hiking to hot springs and ancient Alerce forests hidden within this incredible landscape.

Futaleufu Horseback (3 days horseback riding).

Live like a traditional gaucho for three days in the Futaleufu Valley. Accompanied by a local gaucho and Global Descents guide, you'll explore the ridges of the Futaleufu Valley on horseback. Two person minimum.



Travel Tips

Visa Requirements and Airport Taxes

- For US and European citizens, your passport is all that is required to enter Chile. It must be valid for at least three months beyond the date of your return to your home country.
- Baggage: There is a weight limit of 40 lbs. (18.2 kg) per person on the charter flight from Puerto Montt to Chaiten.

Health Precautions

- Chile is one of the safer and friendlier travel environments; however, it is always a good idea to drink bottled

water while in route to the Futaleufu. Travel here requires no specific immunizations, although tetanus and Hepatitis A and B are always good immunizations to keep up to date.

Money

- The Chilean currency is the Peso. There are Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) readily available in all banks and all major cities.

For more info and travel tips go to www.globaldescents.com or contact our travel desk at 800-775-6976.





Zimbabwe Protected by Zimbabwe's National Park system, Victoria Falls remains one of the most impressive natural sites in Africa. Zambezi National Park is one of the most visited and safest parts of the country. Located on the border between Livingston, Zambia and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls is an incredible adventure travel destination. With innumerable offerings such as microlight flights and bungee jumping to sunset cruises and game viewing at one of the many national parks, this area must not be missed. All of this is situated around 300-hundred foot Victoria Falls and a gorge containing one of the world's best river trips. A true African experience! Come join us for this incredible adventure.

Zambezi River and Victoria Falls

Zimbabwe • Class 4/5 • 8 Days



Departures

Trips run September through October

For specific departure dates visit our web site www.globaldescents.com or contact our travel desk at 800-775-6976.

Zambezi River Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive Victoria Falls, sunset cruise, sundowners (happy hour), pre trip orientation dinner.

Day 2 Put in below the falls and start our descent of one of the wildest rivers in the world.

Days 3-6 Negotiate the powerful rapids and enjoy the awesome wildlife of the Zambezi River through the famous Batoka Gorge.

Day 7 Float to take-out and transfer to the comfortable Safari Lodge in Victoria Falls. Time to clean up before the final night trip dinner at the Boma, a carnivore's paradise.

Day 8 Breakfast at the Safari Lodge and then transfer to airport for flight home.

Trip Extensions

Canoe Safari (4 days canoeing, lodge based)

This four day adventure on the lower Zambezi River is quite possibly the most essential safari in Southern Africa. While floating through the wide floodplains of the Lower Zambezi National Park, you are afforded endless big game viewing opportunities.

Chobe National Park (4 days Safari lodge)

This trip takes place just across the border in Botswana's Chobe National Park, one of the premier game parks in the area. The trip includes a three-night stay at the deluxe, Chobe Safari Lodge on the banks of the Chobe River. Excellent photo opportunities abound on this trip with regular viewings of elephants, giraffes, antelope, kudu, hippos, crocodiles and many more.

Travel Tips

Visa Requirements and Airport taxes

- Citizens of most European countries and the U.S. are able to obtain a single (\$30) or double (\$45) entry visa upon entering the country at the Victoria Falls International Airport. These visas are valid for three months. All that is required is a valid passport. Please be sure that your passport will not expire for at least six months after your planned departure date from Zimbabwe.
- Upon leaving the Victoria Falls Airport, each person will be required to pay a departure tax of \$20 USD.

Health Precautions

- No inoculations are necessary to enter Zimbabwe. However, this is a malarial area and appropriate prophylactics are recommended.

Money

- The local currency in Zimbabwe is the Zim dollar. U.S dollars, travelers checks and credit cards are often accepted in many hotels and restaurants. There are also ATMs.

For more info and travel tips go to www.globaldescents.com or contact our travel desk at 800-775-6976.





Peru

Hidden deep in the Andes of Southern Peru lies one of the deepest canyons in the world. An expedition through Colca Canyon is truly a trip of a lifetime. Very few people have seen the depths of this gem in Southern Peru. The only access to this canyon is by river on either rafts or kayaks. About 65km long and 3100m deep, the canyon is filled with fascinating geologic features. Numerous impressive waterfalls join the river, which is guarded by live volcanoes and watched over by Andean Condors with wingspans up to 3m (9 feet!). The combination of demanding whitewater and inaccessibility has reserved this trip for the true adventurer. Come with us to explore one of the world's hidden gems: Colca Canyon.

COLCA CANYON

Peru • Class 4/5 • 10 Days



Departures

Trips run June through July

For specific departure dates visit our web site www.globaldescents.com or contact our travel desk at 800-775-6976.

Colca Canyon Itinerary

Day 1 Fly from Lima, Peru to the southern city of Arequipa, where you are met by your trip leader for orientation dinner and first class hotel accommodations.

Day 2 Drive to canyon rim.

Day 3 Load burros with equipment and hike down into Colca Canyon to our put-in.

Days 4-8 Raft incredible class IV and V whitewater through one of the deepest canyons in the world.

Days 9 Emerge from the gorge and take-out mid day. After a short drive to Arequipa, have a group dinner and your last night's stay.

Day 10 Fly from Arequipa to Lima and then to your home country or next adventure.

The Canyon

The days you spend on this trip are some of the most dramatic you can spend journeying through a river canyon. At some points, the sheer, twisting canyon walls prevent any glimpse of the sky above. It is reputed to be the deepest canyon in the world—more than twice as deep as the Grand Canyon—at 3182 meters. As the days progress, the white-water increasingly challenges the team and culminates in a series of steep and technical class IV and V rapids as well as a demanding portage.

Trip Extension

Machu Pichu-Inca trail (3 to 4 Days)

Machu Pichu, built between 1460 and 1470 AD by Incan ruler Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui, was most likely a royal estate and religious retreat. Tucked away at 7000 ft. elevation between two towering Andean peaks, these pristine ruins are nothing short of magical. Our trip takes us up to Machu Pichu by train with a night at the base of the ruins at the famous Aguas Calientes.

Travel Tips

Visa Requirements

• There are no Visa requirements for stay in Peru up to 90 days. All that is needed is a valid passport that will continue to be valid for at least six months after your departure date from Peru.

Health Precautions

• En route to Arequipa and your Global Descents river expedition, it's best to only drink treated or bottled water. This includes caution with fruits and vegetables not washed with purified water. Peru has yellow fever endemic areas although not in the region of the Colca Canyon.

Money

• The national currency of Peru is the Sol. U.S. dollars can be exchanged in all banks, change bureaus and major hotels. ATMs are also available throughout the country's larger cities.

Experience

• This is a serious, Class V river expedition demanding teamwork and full participation. Good physical condition is essential and prior class V river experience recommended although not required.

For more info and travel tips go to www.globaldescents.com or contact our travel desk at 800-775-6976.





India

A trip through the wonderfully beautiful and little explored Zanskar River Valley. Beginning at close to 14,000 feet above sea level, thousands of feet down in a remote river gorge, this trip takes us past the confluence with the Indus River (India's namesake) and finishes in the historic, monastic conclave of Alchi. In addition to the awesome class 4/5 whitewater, this trip provides an unforgettable cultural experience. An incredible exploration of one of the most remote rivers of the world.

Zanskar River Valley

India • Class 4 • 16 Days



Departure

Trips run throughout August

For specific departure dates visit our web site www.globaldescents.com or contact our travel desk at 800-775-6976.

Zanskar Itinerary

- Day 1** Arrive Delhi, met by trip leader at International Airport and transfer to deluxe accommodations.
- Day 2** Domestic flight from Delhi to Leh.
- Day 3** Sightseeing and acclimatizing in Leh.
- Day 4** Drive Leh to Kargil.
- Day 5** Drive Kargil to Rangdum.
- Day 6** Drive Rangdum to Remala.
- Days 7-13** For the next seven days we will descend the majestic Zanskar River Valley-the Grand Canyon of Asia. Deep in this beautiful river valley are numerous sections of whitewater.
- Day 14** Take off river and drive short distance to Leh. Relax and sightseeing in Leh. Deluxe accommodations.
- Day 15** Domestic flight Leh to Delhi for expedition banquet.
- Day 16** Depart Delhi on international flight to home country.

The River

This river journey is incredible! We start on a tributary of the Zanskar, the Doda River. For seven days we will descend the Grand Canyon of Asia. Deep in this beautiful, deep river valley are numerous sections of whitewater. Progressively gaining difficulty as we head downstream allowing for plenty of time for practice and acclimatization to the rapids. Fading in and out of narrow 'mini gorges' with widths as short as 18'. Many camps allow us opportunities for hiking and further exploration of the river gorge and its many side canyons. We will also have a layover day halfway down giving us time for a full day hike out of camp or simply a day of leisure by the river.

** Please note: For persons traveling alone who would prefer a single room and tent, there will be an additional charge. Otherwise, accommodations will be shared by two people.*

Travel Tips

Visa Requirements

- Visas can be obtained through the Indian Embassy. At the time of this writing U.S citizens were charged \$60 for a tourist Visa good for up to 6 months in India. Your passport must be valid for up to 6 months after your trip date is scheduled.

Health Precautions

- There are no specific vaccinations required to enter India. Always obtain water from a reliable source. This means well known and reliable brands of bottled mineral water (check for intact seal). Also, peel and/or wash all fruits and vegetables and be wary of any fried street food.

Money

- The national currency of India is the Rupee (Rs). It is always advised not to accept disfigured or torn bills. It's also a good idea to carry a mixture of cash and travelers checks. As well, there are ATM's available in all major cities and credit cards accepted at larger hotels and restaurants.

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Global Descents F.A.Q.'s

Q. How safe are these destinations?

A. Victoria Falls is the most visited tourist destination in all of Southern Africa and is far removed from the country's political unrest and conflict. Zimbabwe has had its share of political unrest. However, the country's problems are centered around land distribution issues and typically the only places you might encounter problems are at places where people have gathered for public rallies or protests. The people of Zimbabwe are some of the most generous and outgoing you can find.

In Chile, you'll find very high traveling standards. You will encounter wonderful, helpful people as well as a very clean and healthy environment. Chile is a great country to visit as a first international travel destination. All of these factors can be seen in the recent increase in popularity of Chile as a tourist destination.

Peru is also a great destination for first time international travelers. Rich with culture from the Incan traditions, Peruvians are always anxious to introduce foreign travelers to their lands. Exploring the city of Arequipa is a great way to experience the hospitality and charm that Peru has to offer.

Q. What do I need to bring?

A. We have a comprehensive list of all the gear that we provide and that you need to bring. You'll find that you already have most of the necessary items. In some locations that we operate, weather can change quickly and it's imperative to be prepared. By following the recommended equipment list you'll be warm on the river and dry and comfortable in camp.

Q. How do I sign up?

A. You can contact us by electronic mail on the "contact" page on our website or by calling our toll-free number at 800-775-6976. We look forward to talking to you and answering any questions you might have.

Q. What if I get sick or injured?

A. All trips are equipped with a satellite phone on and off the river. In each of our travel destinations, we have specific plans for evacuation in the event of an emergency. Depending on the incident, we are able to get you to a quality medical facility — either within the destination or back in your country of origin — quickly and efficiently. Please talk to our Global Descents representative about purchasing the recommended travel insurance for your next adventure.

Q. What's the best way to document the trip?

A. Every trip will have a professional videographer to document all of the action and activities of the trip. These are some of the most beautiful parts of the world and we want to give our clients the opportunity to go home with professional quality video and stills of your experience.

Q. What if I'm a vegetarian?

A. No problem! One of our main focuses on our trips is delicious, high-quality food. Our menus are able to accommodate all dietary preferences and/or restrictions. Just let us know during the booking process.

Q. What if I've never been rafting?

A. While no prior rafting experience is necessary, good physical condition is recommended. We want everyone to be able to participate fully.

Q. How do I get there?

A. The Global Descents travel desk is able to help you with all of your international flight arrangements. We have relationships with a variety of international flight brokers and are usually able to secure the best fares available. For assistance with flight arrangements or contact information for all major carriers to our destinations, please contact the Global Descents travel desk at 800-775-6976.

Q. Do I need insurance?

Travel insurance and trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. There are sometimes forces beyond our control that may affect an expedition in which case a little extra protection goes a long way. Look at these two sites for further information:

- worldnomads.com
- imglobal.com

Q. What is the weather like?

A. On the Rio Futaleufu in Chile, we offer trips during the Southern Hemisphere's summer months. By far the best weather occurs in the months of January and February where the average daytime temps are 80 degrees F with nighttime temps around 45 degrees. However, the past has taught us that rain is very possible. For this it is important that everyone has high quality raingear, both pants and jackets.

Zambezi: Sunscreen anyone? Yes, that's right, it's 'Africa Hot'. We run the Zambezi River during the dry, hot months when the water levels are at their best and lowest. Very often you are wearing nothing under your life-jacket except maybe a cotton t-shirt to keep cool and protect you from the sun.

Peru: We run the Colca during the beginning of the Peruvian winter. This doesn't imply cold weather; rather, it's the dry season in Peru and time when the river is running its best for a descent through the canyon.

Zanskar: Because of the elevation gain on this expedition, temperatures will vary. While very warm in Delhi, the temperatures in the evenings and on the river can be cool.

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