

# The Adventurers



## Ali Mushaima

Ali founded Arab World Tours in 1994, both to promote the best of the Middle East through the publication of travel books as well to bridge the “knowledge gap” between the Middle East and countries beyond. Ali developed his love for travel and adventure as a child when he accompanied his parents to historic places in the region. The Friendship Tour has been the fulfillment of a lifelong dream.



## Kate Mitchell

While she has always enjoyed travel and languages, a seven year residency in Bahrain developed in Kate a love for, and interest in, Arabia and its people. Now living in the UK, Kate not only does a lot of feature writing on the region, she also leads groups to Yemen, Oman and Bahrain. She has recently qualified as a yoga teacher from the Sivananda Ashram in Kerala, India.



## James Davis

Englishman James Davis first became interested in photography at 16 when he was given a Brownie box camera by an aunt. A job as an on-board photographer for P&O Lines gave him the opportunity to travel the world and start his own library of pictures. He set up James Davis Travel Photography in the late Eighties, and now counts among his clients names such as Thomas Cook and KLM.



## Petra Beuchert

Petra is a German IT consultant whose work has taken her around the world. She studied Information Systems at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, and lived and worked in the country for 13 years before moving on to Denmark, Germany and Bahrain. Petra’s base for the past five years has been Scotland, though she continues to travel often, both for work and leisure.





### Deirdre Fitzgerald

Deirdre, a school teacher from San Francisco, California, has a BA degree in Latin American Studies and a Master's Degree in Education. She has travelled extensively throughout Central America, Europe and the Far East and this was her second visit to the Middle East. In addition to travelling and teaching, Deirdre's interests include reading, surfing, the snowboarding and writing poetry.



### Martin Jorgensen

Ever since travelling to the Middle East for the first time ten years ago, Dane Martin Joergensen has lost his heart to the cultural variety of the Middle East. He keeps coming back to explore, and recently spent nine months studying Arabic language and culture in Yemen. Martin currently lives in Aalborg, Denmark. He is married to Christine Pagel; the couple recently celebrated the birth of baby Alba.



### Christine Pagel

Christine Pagel, also from Denmark, never misses a chance for adventure. Her interest in different cultures has taken her around the world, including Spain, China and Cuba where she worked as a tour manager. Like husband Martin, she studied Arabic language and culture in Yemen, and travelled around the Middle East. She is currently enjoying being a mom to her daughter Alba.



# Pit Crew

## THE SUPPORT TEAM



### Archie D'Cruz

Archie is an all-round creative spirit who is equally at ease in the publishing and advertising world. His Canadian firm A Type of Magic designed both this book as well as the web diary that charted the progress of the Friendship Tour.

### Roy Kietzman

American Roy Kietzman covered the tour for lifestyle magazine *Bahrain This Month*, which he once edited. Roy is also the voice for expedition leader Ali Mushaima in the feature on the opening leg of the Friendship Tour (see Page 12).



### Tanya Lunn

Tanya provided the background research for the historical elements of the Bahrain report. Tanya, who has lived in Ireland, Scotland, New Zealand and Bahrain, also proofread this book, making sure we crossed all our t's and dotted our i's.

### Damodaran Ramesh

A senior art director at Vision Communications, Ramesh was the go-to guy along with Hamish when it came to map creation and image touch-ups during the tour. Bangalore-born Ramesh is game for anything, from dance to cricket.



### Hamish McIntyre

Scottish designer Hamish McIntyre's job with Vision has taken him places including New York (where he made a brief appearance in a Hollywood film). When not sailing yachts or working out, he can be found relaxing in his pirate hat.

### Rebecca Torr

Rebecca, from Bristol, UK, covered the tour's progress for the *Gulf Daily News*. Rebecca has lived in Bahrain with her husband Philip Hudson since 2002, and has a passion for writing, singing, playing the clarinet and going to the theatre.



### Titus Filio

Titus covered the tour for the *Bahrain Tribune*, where he is a reporter. A one-time compiler of crossword puzzles for a major Philippines paper, he is also a correspondent for the *ABS-CBN TFC* (The Filipino Channel) TV news programme.

FROM  
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to **Dublin**  
AND BEYOND

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**Editorial Team** Kate Mitchell  
Roy Kietzman  
Petra Beuchert  
Deirdre Fitzgerald  
Martin Jorgensen  
Christine Pagel

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Petra Beuchert

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Moesgaard Museum

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**Colour Separations** Miracle Graphics

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& Publishing

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**10 Bahrain**

Symbolic beginning as tour is launched from Bahrain's Formula-1 circuit.

**58 Saudi Arabia**

Challenging drive across desert made easier by the kindness of strangers.

**64 Jordan**

Wadi Rum, made famous by Lawrence of Arabia, is simply unforgettable.

**70 Syria**

Rich history and gracious hospitality make for a memorable visit.

**80 Lebanon**

Country starting to recapture its glory days as a tourist paradise.

**86 Turkey**

Minaret-filled sky adds Middle Eastern flavour to our entry into Europe.

**92 Greece**

Gorgeous islands provide first real break as tour hits 10,000km mark.

**98 Italy**

Smooth sailing for the most part, before it's time to face the music.

**104 Switzerland**

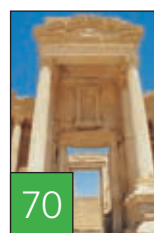
Tour hits high point in the Alps as 'bland Swiss' myths shattered.



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92



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# The Journey



132

## 108 France

Eiffel Tower's golden welcome to Paris, all abuzz with the 'Tour de Lance'.

## 112 Belgium

Shades of Bahrain with friendly people and a city with international flavour.

## 116 Netherlands

Serenity captured in classic paintings still define country of canals and tulips.

## 120 England

Tour puts Bahrain in the spotlight before family tragedy forces break.

## 126 Scotland

Spectacular Edinburgh Festival makes an unplanned visit extra special.

## 132 Ireland

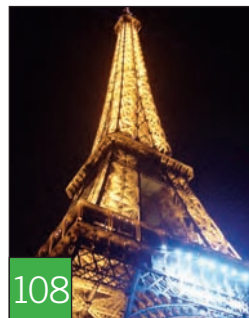
Long and enjoyable stop in this modern country with a strong heartbeat & soul.

## 182 Denmark

Sense of history in journey to the land of archaeologists who discovered Dilmun.



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200

## 188 Sweden

Swedes tune in as Friendship Tour message gets a musical boost.

## 192 Germany

A 'warm' welcome to 'Main-hattan', Germany's answer to New York.

## 196 Austria

Mozart's homeland is infused with a timeless, irresistible charm.

## 200 Slovenia

Nestled between the Mediterranean and Alps is Europe's best kept secret.

## 206 Chequered Flag

Tour ends with a surprise meeting with a world champion.