The Adventure Begins Here

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST EDITION

Compass Travel Journeys
Exploration Monthly

Welcome, fellow travelers!

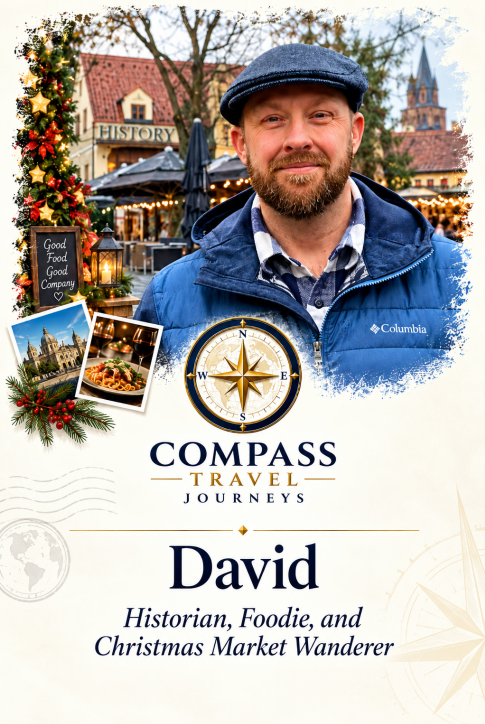
We’re so excited to launch our newsletter and bring a little inspiration for your next adventure right to your inbox. Each month, you’ll find updates from company owners Paul and Theresa, travel news and insights from Tour Coordinator David, upcoming events, and handy international travel tips to help make every journey smoother and more memorable.

And the fun doesn’t stop there—our 2027 travel programs are on the horizon! Get ready to dream about A Week in Greece, savor your way through our Food Tour of Italy, and soak up the festive magic of the Christmas Markets on the Rhine.

Whether you’re already counting down to your next trip or just love discovering new places, we’re glad you’re here. So settle in, explore what’s inside, and let’s start dreaming about where the compass will point next!

The World Is Calling

Let’s Discover It Together



Hello, fellow travelers!

If there’s one thing I’ve learned from a lifetime of exploring the world, it’s that travel has a wonderful way of bringing history to life, opening our eyes to new cultures, and creating memories that stay with us long after we return home. From the ancient wonders of Europe to the fascinating cultures of Asia and the Middle East, my travels have fueled a passion for discovery that I’m excited to share with you!

Before joining Compass Travel Journeys, I spent 30 years as a teacher, sharing my love of history, geography, culture, and government with students. The classroom was only the beginning of the adventure! I also led student trips throughout Europe and China, where history books came alive, cultural discoveries happened around every corner, and learning became an unforgettable experience. Today, I continue that adventure as a tour director for nine-day Road Scholar journeys through the Dakotas and Yellowstone, introducing travelers to the remarkable stories, landscapes, and heritage of the American West.

So, what destinations make my travel-loving heart skip a beat? Italy is certainly near the top of the list! For Americans eager to experience history, culture, and incredible food, Italy offers the perfect blend of all three, wrapped in the warmth and hospitality of its people. Greece holds a special place in my heart as the birthplace of Western civilization and the home of democratic ideals that continue to shape our world. Walking among its ancient ruins is like stepping into the pages of history—only with better sunshine and some very tempting Greek cuisine!

And then there’s Christmastime in Europe! There is something truly magical about wandering through a centuries-old Christmas market, surrounded by twinkling lights, handcrafted treasures, festive music, and the irresistible aromas of seasonal treats. Every market has its own personality and charm. A steaming mug of Glühwein warms your hands, the scent of delicious food fills the air, and if a gentle snowfall begins to drift through the market, well, you might just find yourself living inside a Christmas storybook!

Today, I’m delighted to bring all these passions together through my work with Compass Travel Journeys. There is nothing more rewarding than helping others discover the places, people, and experiences that make travel so extraordinary. Whether we’re exploring the ancient world, savoring the flavors of Italy, discovering the foundations of democracy in Greece, or embracing the magic of a European Christmas market, my goal is to make every journey meaningful, memorable, and fun.

So, consider this your invitation to dream a little, explore a lot, and discover where your own travel passions might lead. Along the way, I’ll share stories, fascinating history, destination highlights, culinary discoveries, and a little inspiration to get you excited about your next adventure.

After all, the world is full of incredible places waiting to be discovered—and some of the best stories begin when we simply say, “Let’s go!”

You’re Invited: Travel Club



Explore Our 2027 Collection

COMPASS
TRAVEL
JOURNEYS

HOSTED FROM RAPID CITY, SD

The World is calling. We'll guide the way.

2027 TOUR COLLECTION

EXPERTLY HOSTED, ELEVATED GROUP TRAVEL

APRIL 24 – MAY 2, 2027



A Week in
GREECE

Athens, Mykonos & Santorini

Discover ancient history, iconic island views, whitewashed villages, and unforgettable Greek charm on a sun-soaked hosted journey.

$4,100
15–30 TRAVELERS

OCTOBER 21 – NOVEMBER 1, 2027



Food Tour of
ITALY

Venice, Florence & Rome

Explore Italy's most beloved cities while enjoying regional filavors, memorable meals, and hands-on culinary experiences.

$6,100
12 – 22 TRAVELERS

DECEMBER 7 – 16, 2027



Christmas Market Cruise
ON THE
RHINE

Basel to Amsterdam

Sail through Europe's festive heart on a Rhine River cruise filled with sparkling Christmas markets, charming towns, and holiday magic.

STARTING AT
$4,500

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The Fast Five

Five tips for richer European adventures

Traveling through Europe is an adventure filled with history, culture, incredible food, and unforgettable experiences. But a few insider tips can make the difference between simply visiting Europe and truly experiencing it. Here are five tips every American traveler should know!

01 Slow Down and Savor Café Culture

In Europe, a cup of coffee can be much more than a caffeine fix. It's an invitation to slow down and enjoy the moment. In Italy, stand at the bar for a quick espresso like the locals, or sit at an outdoor café and watch the world go by. Just remember: table service may cost more than standing at the counter, especially in popular tourist areas.

Fun fact: In Italy, cappuccino is traditionally a breakfast drink. Order one after a big pasta dinner, and you might earn a friendly smile from your waiter!



02 Pack Your Walking Shoes

Europe's greatest treasures are often discovered on foot: a hidden courtyard in Paris, a medieval alley in Prague, or a quiet piazza in Rome. Comfortable shoes with good traction are essential, especially on cobblestones, hills, and ancient stone steps. Pack light, too. Many charming hotels have narrow staircases and no elevators.

Insider tip: Explore early in the morning. You'll often find beautiful streets quieter, cooler, and perfect for photographs before the crowds arrive.

Keep Exploring

More ways to travel like a local

03 Learn Local Words—and Mind Your Manners



You don’t need to speak five languages to make a good impression. A few simple words—bonjour in France, buongiorno in Italy, or gracias in Spain—show respect and often earn a warmer welcome. Learn how to say please, thank you, excuse me, and do you speak English?

Cultural tip: Dining customs vary. In many European restaurants, your server won’t automatically bring the bill until you ask for it. Tipping is also different from the United States: service charges may already be included, and a modest tip for good service is often sufficient.

04 Take the Train—and Enjoy the Journey



Europe’s rail network makes traveling between many cities convenient, comfortable, and scenic. You can watch vineyards roll by in France, admire Alpine landscapes in Switzerland, or arrive directly in the heart of a historic city. Book popular high-speed trains in advance, check whether seat reservations are required, and validate tickets when local rules require it.

Smart tip: Don’t assume every train ticket works like an airline ticket. Check the departure station, platform, train number, and ticket conditions before boarding. And keep your luggage and valuables close in busy stations.

05 Shop Where the Locals Shop



Skip the souvenir shops for a little while and explore a neighborhood market, bakery, or family-run grocery store. You’ll discover regional cheeses, fresh pastries, local specialties, and everyday European life—all while keeping your budget in check. A market visit can be as memorable as a famous monument.

Historian’s tip: Look beyond the grand attractions. Visit a neighborhood church, browse a local bookstore, or sit in a public square. These small moments often reveal more about a country’s culture than another item checked off your sightseeing list.

One Final Piece of Advice

Be a traveler, not just a tourist



Leave a little room in your itinerary for the unexpected: a conversation with a shopkeeper, a village festival, a beautiful church you didn’t know existed, or a meal that becomes the highlight of your trip.

Europe rewards curiosity. The more you embrace local customs, slow down, and look beyond the guidebook, the richer your experience will be.

The world is calling. We’ll guide the way.