

TRAVEL+LEISURE

The A-List 2017

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/a-list>

The Best Travel Agents for Mexico and Central and South America

Central and South America

Gisela Polo

Passionate about environmentally conscious tourism, Polo focuses on sustainable travel by organizing trips tailored to showcasing the continent's best eco-lodges, little-known nature reserves, and leading sustainable farms, as well as visits to artisan communities.

Best for: culture buffs, multigenerational families

Extras: Polo travels back to her native Peru a few times a year, so she's especially well-versed in the country's popular cities and best-kept secrets.

Other expertise: Argentina

Minimum daily spend: \$850 per couple

772-287-7995, ext. 2212; gisela@bigfive.com; bigfive.com

The Best Travel Agents for Africa and the Middle East

Kenya, Namibia, and South Africa

Volker Altvater

With rare exceptions, Altvater exclusively books small-scale tented camps that take a holistic approach to wildlife management, habitat conservation, and cultural preservation. He believes these places—and the communities behind them—are the key to saving the animals and preserving the land.

Best for: seasoned safari-goers, luxury seekers, families

Extras: Altvater thoroughly inspects all camps to ensure they're up to his high standards, checking everything from bed comfort to water temperature and kitchen cleanliness.

Minimum daily spend: \$850

800-345-2445, ext. 2213; volker@bigfive.com; bigfive.com

Note: Volker has been in the A+List since 2012

India

Ashish Sanghrajka

Having grown up visiting family in India every year, Sanghrajka loves introducing clients to parts of the country that travelers don't often see, so much so that he's turned down business when a client is only interested in following overcrowded tourist circuits.

Best for: families, adventurers, luxury seekers

Extras: Call Sanghrajka if you want to attend an off-the-beaten-path festival. Recent clients traveled to Gujarat, in northwestern India, to attend Navratri, a multiday Hindu festival where you can watch—and learn—traditional dances like *raas*.

Other expertise: Kenya

Minimum daily spend: \$1,800

800-244-3483; ashish@bigfive.com; bigfive.com

Note: Ashish has been in the A+List since 2009