

DESIGNARE

57



MICA (P) 181 / 12 / 2012 VOL. 57 SGD 5.00



THE OTHER WOMAN — Cameron Diaz
CASTING CALL — Fashion trends that made the cut
VIBRANT VACATIONS — Colourful hotel getaways



FRANCESCO GALLI ZUGARO

Founder, Aqua Expeditions

by LYDIA SOH

Founder of luxury cruise operator Aqua Expeditions Francesco Galli Zugaro has his colourful background to thank for his thirst for exotic travel. The half-American, half-Italian Francesco grew up all over the world, including Europe, the Middle East and South America. He previously worked in the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) and is currently based in Singapore. Aqua Expeditions conducts cruises along the Amazon and now has set its sights on Asia: the legendary Mekong River is next up for intrepid travellers wishing to mix adventure and comfort.

· Aqua Mekong ·



That's the biggest misconception - they all come back raving about how the bugs were so a non-issue.

Travellers today are more discerning in the sense that they want to maintain their lifestyle while travelling. Be it food, exercise, drinks, etc.

That's the biggest misconception - they all come back raving about how the bugs were so a non-issue.

The best compliment I've ever received from a guest... 'Can we invest with you? If you ever need additional capital please call me. Keep doing what you are doing!'

First, the Amazon and now, the Mekong. In Peru most of our guests visit the Amazon River and combine it with the ruins of Machu Picchu. In Cambodia we have the religious complex of Angkor Wat. It's the Macchu Picchu of Southeast Asia. We also considered the Irrawaddy in Myanmar, the Ganges in India and the Yangtze in China.

Aqua Expeditions is about adventures from 9 to 5. We meld luxury and wildlife/nature by indulging in soft adventure by day and all the creature comforts by night.

My definition of exotic travel is all about authentic once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

My international heritage and childhood has given me a different perspective of travel and culture. Now I can't sit still and want to see all the cool places on Earth.

Going on a trip with Aqua Expeditions is a unique experience because... Aqua Expeditions takes guests to traditionally challenging destinations to see, but without sacrificing the creature comforts our discerning guests have come to expect.

Before a trip, guests are most apprehensive about heat and bugs. But they soon find out its hotter in their backyard and so are the bugs.

When it comes to travel, I am the planner and dreamer. I am always relishing my next adventure (destination), and I am very active and energetic. I love exploring off-the-beaten path.

Must-have items in my cabin bag include my Macbook Air, iPhone 5, Beats Headset, Lulu lemon sweat pants, Aqua T-shirt in 100% Pima Cotton.

The best place to be in spring... The Peruvian Amazon. Its always nice on the Equator and at this time of year, the seasonally flooded forest we operate in can be explored as our aluminium tenders can get farther inside to spot howler monkeys, go piranha fishing and swim with pink dolphins. It's magical.