CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



THE ADVENTURE ISSUE

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INSIDE

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TRAVEL 9

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WAYS

There are countless ways to go on vacation these days. Whether traveling by road, rail, or sea, we highlight some of the world's most unique adventures

Words JOANNE LATIMER
Illustration TOM CLOHOSY COLE

ow would you like to spend your next vacation? Horseback riding through a remote region of Turkey or kayaking in Estonia? Hiking at dawn through the jungle or sipping a glass of champagne as your train hurtles through verdant countryside? Welcome to the thrilling new era of adventure travel, as seen on Instagram and fueled by those determined to push through vacation clichés.

Today's adventurers don't just want to go "on vacation"; they want a unique escape into another world—with the emphasis on unique. This new "experiential" travel trend is a prized cultural currency that gains in value as it becomes more immersive and customized. If you want to drive a vintage Mustang convertible along the California coast, that can be arranged. If you dream of taking a French cooking class with a Michelin-starred chef, an apron will await.

Wherever you wish to travel, and however you wish to explore—by air, by land, by sea—you'll find your dream adventure here, organized by specialists in providing personalized experiences and titillating escapes from the mundane.



TRAVEL

ALL ABOARD!

Nothing exudes continental charm like a train with Tsar-like levels of opulence and, while most people know of the legendary Orient Express—now called the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express—there are other equally genteel options.

Take the Belmond Northern Belle in the United Kingdom, for example. With liveried stewards, starched table linens, and serious china, this train harks back to the lavishness of the 1930s "Belle" trains. "You can sip champagne on the top of North Yorkshire's Ribblehead Viaduct, or tuck into some haggis as the train crosses the border into Scotland," says Jeanette Snape, general manager of the luxury train. "There's nothing like rumbling over the UNESCO-listed Forth Bridge."

Ensconced in finely upholstered seats, passengers taking the Northern Belle's day-long journeys head to destinations such as the Roman walled city of Chester or cobblestoned Bath. This year, passengers might also find themselves whisked to coastal Oban or Scone Palace in Scotland, or to the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show in Derbyshire. No matter the destination—on a locomotive like the Northern Belle, it's about the journey. The restored train cars feature handcrafted murals, mosaics, and brass accents. A three-course brunch is preceded by Bellinis, as guests settle in to enjoy the rolling countryside vistas. www.belmond.com/northern-belle-train

BESPOKE BRAZIL

For a more active experience, try a luxury journey customized to your personal interests.

Abercrombie & Kent is able to create your own private trip and bespoke adventure through Brazil.

Staying at exclusive hotels, guests have access to Abercrombie & Kent's "insider" excursions. Add-ons include everything from one-on-one drum lessons to behind-the-scenes access to the Rio Carnival. If you can conceive of it, Abercrombie & Kent can make it happen—for example, charter a private yacht to take you down the Amazon or, for something more active, a sunrise canoe trip along the Mutum River.

There are jungle treks and trips to Iguaçu Falls' aviaries, where you'll feed flamingoes and toucans. You can also take a helicopter ride for a view of the 275 cascading waterfalls. Hungry? Let your travel concierge arrange a bowl of piranha soup.

For urbanites, there is plenty to discover in Rio de Janeiro. Ride the trolley car "Montmartre Carioca," which winds through the narrow streets, past historic buildings, before ending the day at the Belmond Copacabana Palace's piano bar. www.abercrombiekent.com >>>

