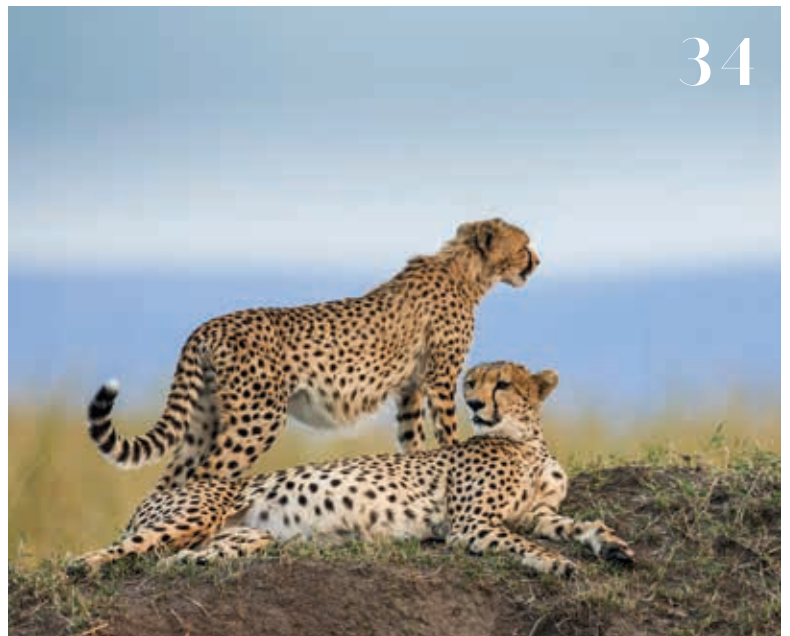
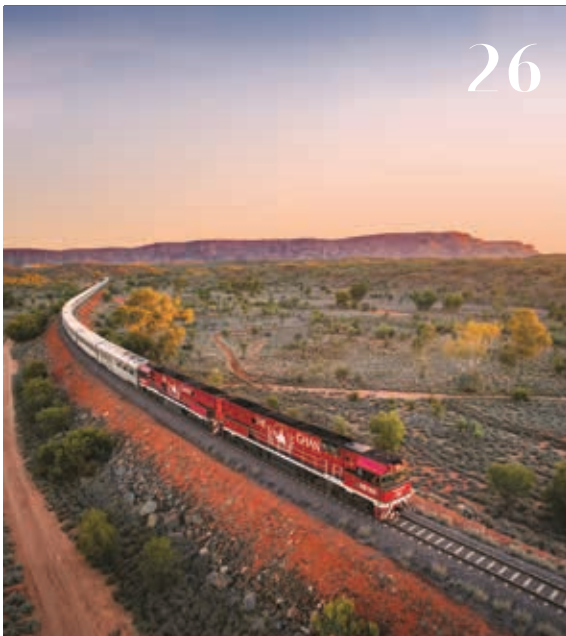


# GREAT ESCAPES







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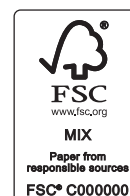
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All prices, fares, hotels and tours described in this brochure are correct at the time of going to press (8/12/2022) and are subject to change and availability. Prices shown are a guide only and may not include peak travel periods such as Christmas and Easter. Many of the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme but ATOL protection does not apply to all holiday and travel services listed. Please ask us to confirm what protection may apply to your booking. If you do not receive an ATOL Certificate then the booking will not be ATOL protected. If you do receive an ATOL Certificate but all the parts of your trip are not listed on it, those parts will not be ATOL protected. For more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [atol.org.uk/atolcertificate](https://atol.org.uk/atolcertificate). The Wexas ATOL number is 2873. Full booking conditions can be found at [wexas.com/bookingconditions](https://wexas.com/bookingconditions).







# 2023 HOT LIST

Welcome to our 2023 hot list, our pick-of-the-bunch for the next 12 months in travel. From tried-and-tested favourites making a welcome return to bucket-list adventures and experiences slightly more off the beaten track, these countries, cities and regions all have one thing in common – incredible travel experiences.

Over the following pages, we'll take you on road trips through California, ride the rails in luxury to Venice, seek out wildlife in Costa Rica and explore the best of urban Vancouver and its surrounding natural world. We also showcase the essential highlights of Japan, and visit Queensland – an Australia in microcosm.

As ever, these recommendations are just a hint of what we can offer. You'll find a full range of itineraries on our website, and our experts are on hand with expert advice and in-depth knowledge of all the destinations we feature.

# THE VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS

An absolute favourite among Wexas clients and specialists, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express brings more than a touch of glamour to the scenic railways of continental Europe. And, with new cabins and routes available for 2023 and 2024, there's never been a better time to book what is one of the world's true bucket-list travel experiences.

With routes taking in everywhere from the alpine landscapes of central Europe to the glitz and glamour of the French Riviera, you'll have the chance to link some of Europe's greatest cities in unmatched style, harking back to travel's Golden Age with sophisticated service, fine dining and world-class wines as standard. What's more, our specialists are on hand to tailor-make the ultimate short break, adding on luxury hotel stays and experiences in the likes of Florence, Rome, Amsterdam, Vienna, Prague and, of course, Venice itself, which we've highlighted opposite. Alternatively, head to page 28 for a curated selection of journeys or visit our website where you'll find the full range.

## VENICE TO LONDON

### 4-DAY LUXURY RAIL HOLIDAY

This is the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express at its iconic best. You'll begin with a luxury stay in the heart of romantic Venice, bedding down at a world-leading hotel reached by private water taxi transfer. Then, board the train for your journey north to London, savouring glorious alpine vistas, champagne cocktails and multi-course gourmet meals served in Art-Deco dining cars.

**PRICES FROM £3,845 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 2 nights B&B accommodation in Venice, 1 night onboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express with all meals & selected drinks & Belmond British Pullman to London. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/151373](https://wexas.com/151373).







# CALIFORNIA

## PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

12-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

The Pacific Coast Highway is America's dream drive. You'll travel south from San Francisco's Golden Gate icon to Los Angeles (or vice versa) passing through mile upon mile of spectacular mountain and ocean scenery. Skirt acclaimed vineyards, stop to explore historic towns and relax on beautiful golden beaches and in peaceful seaside communities. As with all of our fly-drives, our specialists are on hand to help plan your route, offering you complete flexibility on what you see and when, and to change your accommodation or hire car to suit. Convertible anyone?

**PRICES FROM £2,395 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 6 days car hire & personalised road book & 10 nights accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/100897](https://wexas.com/100897).

It's hard to put into words the sheer variety of California's offering. Whether it's the urban icons of San Francisco and Los Angeles, the magnificent, otherworldly landscapes of Death Valley, the sheer drama of Yosemite National Park, or the New World-leading vineyards of Napa and Sonoma, this is a state that truly has something to suit all tastes. With this in mind, it's perhaps no surprise that California finds its place on our 2023 hot list.

But, how best to take it all in? For us, there can be no finer way of exploring the state's myriad highlights than a road trip. Perhaps you'll choose the iconic Pacific Coast Highway, detailed to the left, tracing one of the world's most spectacular driving routes to discover everything from boutique wineries to 1920s ranchland estates and Big Sur's sweeping Pacific Ocean views. Or, maybe you'll head north from San Francisco to enjoy guided wine tastings, hikes among giant redwood forests and the wild wonders of the far-flung Mendocino coast.

Whichever you decide, our USA experts will be on hand to plan your journey, using their unmatched expertise to curate a Californian adventure to remember.

# VANCOUVER

Positioned at the meeting point of mountains and ocean, Vancouver is a city that wears its love of the great outdoors on its sleeve. No more is this true than on Grouse Mountain, found just 15 minutes from downtown. Not only does it afford stunning city views, but plenty of excitement whatever the season, from winter sports to epic chairlifts and wildlife refuges. For more fun at altitude, consider the Sea-to-Sky Gondola – a cable car that brings you deeper into British Columbia’s wilds.

Then, for something extra special, head out onto the water for a cruise along BC’s majestic coastline, or to spot orcas, humpbacks, sea lions and seals from a Zodiac. Alternatively, take to the skies in true bucket-list style on a seaplane ride, tracing the mail-run routes of yesteryear for epic city views and the chance to visit remote villages and green-carpeted bays.

At the end of it all, you’ll want to reward yourself with the city’s famed food scene. Think mouth-watering Chinatown delicacies and the finest just-caught seafood, best discovered on guided tasting tours and at Granville Island’s famed market.

## VANCOUVER IN A NUTSHELL

### 9-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

With a choice of accommodation options and a host of included tours, this curated city stay takes in the very best of urban Vancouver and its surrounding natural world. From one action-packed day to the next, you’ll showcase the city’s myriad highlights, on excursions that include everything from harbour cruises to whale-watching trips and iconic seaplane adventures. You’ll also head into the mountains on a visit to nearby Whistler-Blackcomb for a gondola ride, and explore the city’s acclaimed culinary scene through a host of gastronomic experiences.

**PRICES FROM £2,730 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 7 nights accommodation, a full programme of guided touring, 1 dinner & 1 lunch. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/184001](https://wexas.com/184001).







# COSTA RICA

## BIRDS & BEACHES OF COSTA RICA

10-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

This independent tour takes in the very best of Costa Rica's famed beaches, abundant birdlife and wildlife-viewing hotspots. Travelling out from the capital, San José, you'll reach the beautiful Turrialba Valley, where you might enjoy everything from whitewater rafting to coffee plantation tours. You'll then head on to San Gerardo de Dota – one of the world's great bird-watching destinations – before arriving in Manuel Antonio National Park to enjoy days of sun-soaked relaxation alongside the likes of tidal-pool snorkelling trips, deep-sea fishing and hikes through the surrounding rainforest.

**PRICES FROM £3,530 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 4 nights B&B & 4 nights full-board accommodation & private touring throughout. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103173](https://www.wexas.com/103173).

A land of mist-shrouded volcanoes and extraordinary wildlife, Costa Rica is a true Latin American gem. Consider that it accounts for just 0.03% of the Earth's surface but contains almost 6% of its biodiversity, and you'll begin to grasp just how multifarious this tiny country really is.

In this setting, luxury eco-lodges perch in jungle treetops and on rugged headlands as scarlet macaws feed on rainforest trees and pumas prowl the pristine jungle floor. Indeed, you'll enjoy plenty of chances to get up close to the country's myriad wildlife, including tapirs, and, luck depending, even the elusive jaguar.

Our tailor-made holidays take in the best of it, from exploring winding waterways on canoeing excursions to hiking among still-active volcanoes and along magical coastlines. Then there are the nocturnal snakes and colour-changing frogs you'll spot on exploratory night-time treks, as well as sloths rising from their daytime slumber and the shrieks of howler monkeys as they peer down from treetop perches. Naturally, there are chances to unwind, too, whether that's surfing on Cabo Matapalo's swells or sunbathing on near-deserted shores.

# JAPAN

There's nowhere quite like Japan – an enigmatic Asian gem blessed with myriad ancient wonders and a spellbinding natural world. Of course, there's its fascinating blend of old and new, best exemplified in cities such as Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto, where ancient castles and multi-tiered temples sit side by side with glass-and-steel towers and bright, 21st-century neon. Then, there's the sheer drama of its national parks, host to everything from snow-topped mountain ranges to subtropical islands creating a truly stunning tapestry. Pair that with Japan's famed hospitality and you'll have a holiday to truly remember. But, with so much to see and enjoy, where do you begin? To get you started, our specialists have picked out one of our most popular trips opposite – an ideal introduction to Japan's essential highlights.

This is, however, just a taste of what we can offer. For a full range of options, visit our website where you'll find itineraries taking in everything from tours of the majestic Japanese Alps and pretty Hokkaido to in-depth cultural explorations of the country by rail. Just remember, if you're planning to visit during cherry blossom season (late-March to April), you'll need to book several months in advance.

## ESSENTIAL JAPAN

10-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Experience a curated selection of Japan's myriad highlights with stays among city centre neon and at historic *ryokan* inns. You'll start in Tokyo, where private tours will see you walk with the crowds on five-way crossings, explore ancient temples and duck into locals-only sushi shops. Then, swap city slicking for Hakone's hot springs and *torii* gates before riding a bullet train down to Kyoto, where an expert guide will tailor-make a private tour. Explore the city in depth as you cover off everything from Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples to bamboo groves and historic gated arcades.

**PRICES FROM £3,120 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 8 nights accommodation, selected meals, selected transfers, train tickets & transport passes in Tokyo & Hakone. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/142654](https://www.wexas.com/142654).







# QUEENSLAND

## QUEENSLAND DISCOVERY

14-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

This is your chance to experience the wonders of north-east Australia, where luxury hotel stays and a raft of activities will see you among some of the state's most iconic attractions. It all begins in Brisbane where you'll contrast the city's attractions with a naturalist-led cruise to Moreton Island's Tangalooma Resort where you'll watch pods of dolphins playing in the sea at sunset. You'll then head to the Queensland Hinterland for a stay at a luxury hideaway paired with nature walks and whiskey tastings, before ending amid the pristine sands and azure seas of idyllic Hamilton Island.

**PRICES FROM £5,245 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 3 days car hire, 8 nights B&B & 2 nights full-board accommodation & selected touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/183999](https://www.wexas.com/183999).

From the buzzing streets of Brisbane and the scenic mountains of the Gold Coast Hinterland all the way up, past laid-back Noosa and the Whitsunday Islands, to Port Douglas, the ancient Daintree Rainforest and the spectacular Great Barrier Reef, Queensland encapsulates the very best of Australia.

Indeed, it really is a destination in its own right, perfect for a two-week trip and ideal for returning visitors who may have already ticked off the bucket-list delights of Sydney, rock and reef. In Queensland alone, you can explore hinterland and outback, get a taste of Aussie coastal life, stay in ultimate luxury on some of the world's most idyllic islands and come face to face with the country's iconic wildlife.

Best of all, the state is blessed with an extensive road and flight network linking all the major towns, cities and sights, making it ideal for a self-drive or an independent tour. Speak to our experts who'll be on hand to plan a trip suited to your needs, helping you choose the best accommodation to fit your budget, booking transfers and car hire, and tracking down the best guides to help bring your Queensland experience to life.







# ROAD TRIPS

There's nothing quite like the freedom of the open road. Indeed, getting behind the wheel of a car for your very own road trip opens up a destination in a way other modes of transport simply can't. You'll be able to chart your own route and decide how long you spend in the places you love with no set schedule apart from that set by yourself.

In this section, we'll showcase the humble road trip at its very best, with a whole range of options in destinations as diverse as Portugal, New Zealand, Australia and the USA. We'll take you along the highways and byways of Italy and Spain, help you explore Arizona's iconic national parks and take you off the beaten track with a 4WD adventure in Namibia. There's plenty to get you inspired.

# ITALY BY ROAD

Italy is blessed with some of Europe's finest driving routes, linking the country's historic cities with a network of roads that take in everything from rolling vineyards to dramatic mountains and magnificent coastlines. You'll find four of our favourites below.



## GASTRONOMY OF PUGLIA

12-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

With a programme of included touring, this super-scenic road trip showcases Puglia's culinary traditions at their delicious best.

**PRICES FROM £1,315 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 8 days car hire, 11 nights B&B accommodation & selected tours, tastings and cooking classes. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/146171](https://wexas.com/146171).



## A TASTE OF UMBRIA

8-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Escape to the rustic beauty of Umbria, where pretty villages intersperse rolling vineyards. Along the way, you'll be treated to everything from cooking classes to wine tastings.

**PRICES FROM £1,715 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 10 days car hire, 9 nights B&B accommodation & selected touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/138924](https://wexas.com/138924).



## BEST OF TUSCANY

8-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

This fly-drive showcases the best of Tuscany, pairing the icons of Florence and Pisa with castle stays and visits to medieval hilltop towns.

**PRICES FROM £1,515 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, arrival transfer, 7 days car hire, 7 nights B&B accommodation & a small-group tour in Florence. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/143135](https://wexas.com/143135).



## BEST OF SICILY

12-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Link Sicily's highlights with spectacularly rural drives taking in everything from Cefalù's white-sand beaches to Agrigento's temple wonders and Taormina's ancient grandeur.

**PRICES FROM £1,220 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 7 days car hire & 7 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103722](https://wexas.com/103722).



# BAGLIONI MILAN: GATEWAY TO THE NORTH

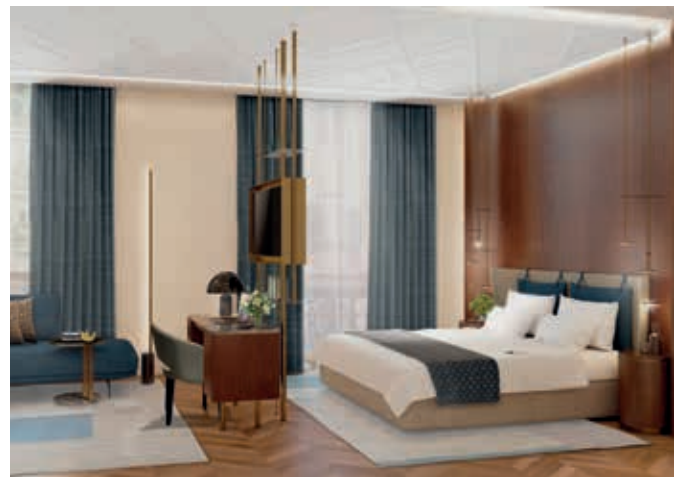
*By Wexas Italy specialist Charlie Pritchard.*

Milan's newest luxury property, Casa Baglioni Milan, is scheduled for opening in January 2023. Positioned among the fashionable galleries of the central Brera district and with design from leading Milanese architects, Spagnulo & Partners, it seeks to express all the qualities that Milan has become known for – style, élan and exclusivity. And, from the social spaces and elegant accommodation to the wine cellar and Michelin-starred restaurant, you can expect the finest in Italian artistry.

Think lighting designed by Panzeri, custom wallpaper by Rubelli and handmade features by the local poetic designer Gala Rotelli. The accommodation is a special

highlight. All herringbone floors and satin-finish brass, it's delightfully evocative of Milan's 1960s golden age, with suite upgrades mixing in private terraces and views of the city's skyline.

The restaurant, too, looks to tell the story of Milan. Head Chef Claudio Sadler – one of the great masters of Milanese cuisine – was among the very first to bring about an emphasis on culinary aesthetics. Using colours and flavours inspired by the city's modern art, highlights include the famed padellata di crostacei – a sautéed shellfish dish first innovated by Sadler in the '90s. As with the rest of the property, it's a celebration of Milan's 20<sup>th</sup>-century design sensibilities.



## NORTHERN ITALY AND THE LAKES FLY-DRIVE

12-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Make the Casa Baglioni Milan your gateway to the dramatic beauty of northern Italy's lakes, explored on ultra-scenic drives and nights spent in world-class accommodation. After the chance to indulge with the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant and wine-cellar fineries, take in the sleek boutiques and Gothic cathedral spires of Milan before striking north through the Italian countryside to the lakes. Staying on Maggiore, Como and Garda where snow-capped peaks look down on island-dotted waters, you'll follow in the footsteps of Europe's aristocracy, treading between everything from verdant vineyards to sun terraces and idyllic fishing villages. Finish in Verona, where even Shakespeare's poetics are outdone by Roman wonders and medieval vestiges.

**PRICES FROM £2,430 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private arrival transfer, 9 days car hire, 8 nights B&B & 3 nights half-board accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/104201](https://wexas.com/104201).

# SELF-DRIVE SPAIN

Spain continues to enchant with its rich array of historic landmarks, verdant landscapes, pretty vineyards and, of course, those spectacular golden beaches. It's also a long-standing favourite with our clients and specialists, with self-drives at the very heart of our Iberian offering. To inspire, we've picked out four of our most popular options below.



## RIOJA & NAVARRA WINE ROUTE

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Taste your way through two of Spain's finest wine regions as you explore the quieter, rural charm of the country's north, pairing scenic driving routes with stays in historic accommodation.

**PRICES FROM £805 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 5 days car hire & 4 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/101022](https://wexas.com/101022).



## NORTHERN SPAIN SELF-DRIVE

9-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

See the best of northern Spain, linking lofty mountains, verdant vineyards and spectacular seascapes on an unmissable road trip. Along the way, you'll stay in characterful parador hotels.

**PRICES FROM £1,135 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 9 days car hire & 8 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/104206](https://wexas.com/104206).



## WORLD HERITAGE SITES OF SPAIN

7-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Among its rolling hills and sweeping plains, central Spain hides some of Europe's finest cultural treasures. This itinerary takes it all in with historic hotels and scenic country drives.

**PRICES FROM £975 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 7 days car hire & 6 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/104203](https://wexas.com/104203).



## MADRID & THE CASTLE ROUTE

6-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Drive the beautiful Castle Route of Spain, staying in the region's finest paradors – historic hotels that range from 14<sup>th</sup>-century castles to once-ancestral aristocrat homes.

**PRICES FROM £770 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 4 days car hire & 5 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103032](https://wexas.com/103032).



# REGIONS OF PORTUGAL

Portugal is prime road-trip territory, with easy driving between its regional highlights. Our tip? Keep it simple by picking an area and sticking to it. After all, shorter driving distances mean more time to explore, whether that's the vineyards and cities of the north, the beaches of the south or the island delights of far-flung Madeira.



## GREEN PORTUGAL

8-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Discover Portugal's lush interior and national parks on this self-drive between some of its finest pousadas, including former monasteries, fortresses and castles.

**PRICES FROM £1,015 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 8 days car hire & 7 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/147485](https://wexas.com/147485).



## LISBON & PORTO IN STYLE

8-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

With stays in a pair of luxury hotels, you'll link Portugal's pair of city greats with a scenic road trip, exploring the Douro Valley's vineyard terraces and Sintra's storybook beauty.

**PRICES FROM £1,695 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 5 days car hire & 7 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103756](https://wexas.com/103756).



## ALENTEJO & THE ALGARVE

8-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

This unique road trip will see you along dramatic coasts and a rolling interior, all the while staying in unique pousada hotels, from grand castles to historic convents.

**PRICES FROM £870 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 8 days car hire & 7 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/150426](https://wexas.com/150426).



## HIGHLIGHTS OF MADEIRA

8-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

This self-drive takes in the best of Madeira, combining countryside stays in characterful quintas with spectacular driving routes and two nights in the island's capital, Funchal.

**PRICES FROM £1,405 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 8 days car hire & 7 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103757](https://wexas.com/103757).

# CULINARY ADVENTURES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

From fresh lobster and freshly shucked oysters to craft breweries and boutique wineries, the four provinces of Atlantic Canada – New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island – are, in many ways, the unsung heroes of Canadian food and drink. Below, you'll find a tasty selection of the very best culinary experiences the region has to offer. From lighthouse picnics to oyster shucking, it's the perfect inspiration to transform your Atlantic Canada holiday into a foodie's dream. Prepare to tuck in.

## Caviar tasting on the Saint John River, New Brunswick

Departing from Saint John on the shores of the Bay of Fundy, join local guides for a unique chance to participate in a commercial fishing trip, heading out in search of shoals of long Atlantic sturgeon – the source of this New Brunswick favourite. Along the way, you'll learn about the company's aquaculture and the process that goes into producing caviar, which you'll then have the chance to taste, washed down with a glass of champagne, of course.



## Lighthouse picnics, Newfoundland & Labrador

Venturing south from St. John's on the popular Irish Loop driving route, be sure to stop off at Ferryland Lighthouse – a place transformed by local Jill Curran, whose grandfather was once keeper. With a lunch basket including freshly squeezed lemonade, chutney-glazed ham, a brie sandwich served on bread baked in the lighthouse itself, and followed up with a delicious dessert – perhaps a cranberry scone with orange butter – this is a truly delicious way to take in some of Atlantic Canada's finest views. Breathe in the salty sea air and, with luck, watch on as whales pass by below.



## Culinary highlights in Halifax, Nova Scotia

Whether you're starting or finishing your journey in Halifax, make sure you join the team from Taste Halifax Food & Beer Tours to take in the best of the local dining scene. From private local charcuterie and spirit tasting to sampling locals-favourite donairs – a type of meat-filled pita – this is the ideal introduction to urban dining, Atlantic Canada-style. Along the way, expect the likes of lobster mac & cheese washed down with locally inspired cocktails, and delicious seafood chowder and oysters served with Nova Scotian wine and craft beer.



## Oyster shucking, Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island oysters are reputed to be among the best in the world. Driving along the island's picturesque east coast, you'll stop off in the seaside town of Cardigan to meet local fisherman Jim Conohan. Settle in to hear his tales of life on the sea, then learn to tong and size oysters, before Jim teaches you the age-old art of shucking.



A 12-day Atlantic Canada self-drive starts from **£2,060 pp** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 9 days car hire, 10 nights accommodation, selected meals & a whale-watching tour. For more information, visit [wexas.com/146892](https://www.wexas.com/146892).



# UNDER THE ALBERTAN SUN

Each year, when the snow melts and the lakes thaw, Alberta's vibrant cities and stunning natural wonders open up in technicolour, making them more accessible than ever for truly epic road trips. But, while the height of summer remains most popular, you might choose to visit during the seasons either side, escaping the crowds to discover gorgeous blooms and emerging wildlife in spring or spectacular fall foliage in autumn. Whichever season you decide upon, our specialists are on hand to help you plan. And, to get you started, they've picked out just a few of the province's highlights below.

## Calgary

Although welcomingly modern on the surface, and with a burgeoning food and craft brewery scene, Alberta's largest city wears its Old West past with pride. It's all played out at a working historic town in Heritage Park and on a staggering scale at the annual Calgary Stampede – a vibrant celebration of rodeo culture.

## Edmonton

Far more than just a civilised rest stop among the province's great outdoors, Alberta's delightful capital is a destination in its own right. Venture in among its modern and early-20th-century architecture to find chic boutiques and restaurants joined by excellent museums and theatres that, each year, host a fringe festival that's second only to Edinburgh.

## Jasper National Park

In Jasper, don't miss the mighty expanse of the Athabasca Glacier, the otherworldly blue of Maligne Lake and the thundering rivers that crash into cascading waterfalls. Potential sightings of grizzlies and moose add further intrigue and Jasper Town, with its railway-frontier heritage, is the perfect spot to base yourself.

## Lake Louise

In a province famed for its glistening bodies of water, picking just one out speaks to the great beauty of Lake Louise. Its impossibly turquoise waters are ringed by a natural amphitheatre of mountains, glaciers and forest – views taken in by its iconic property, the castle-like Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise.

## Banff National Park

Beyond the alpine-village charm of Banff town lies a wilderness protected by what is Canada's oldest national park. Here, hikers and bikers delight in the quiet alpine beauty of its wildflower meadows, glacial Lake Minnewanka and the stern grandeur of its rugged canyons and the ever-present Rocky Mountains while keeping eyes peeled for roaming elk and bears.

## Icefields Parkway

While Alberta is criss-crossed by ultra-scenic roads, the Icefields Parkway stands out as one of North America's greatest highways. On its 230km route between Lake Louise and Jasper, it maps everything from giant glaciers and high mountain passes to gurgling rivers and serene lakes.



A 10-day tailor-made self-drive through Alberta starts from £2,205 pp incl. flights, 9 nights accommodation, 8 days car hire & selected touring. For more information, visit [wexas.com/104150](https://www.wexas.com/104150).



# ARIZONA: BEYOND THE GRAND CANYON

Wexas specialist *Keely Roberts* looks beyond Arizona's headline-grabbing poster child to discover a rich tapestry of natural beauty, tribal nations and thriving culture. It's all found among a wild geography of red-rock buttes and cacti-dotted deserts. Indeed, a drive through Arizona is a conversation with Americana itself, and we've picked out a few talking points below.

## Phoenix

Although the stars above Arizona's wild remotes might give it a run for its money, the city of Phoenix offers the state's indisputably brightest lights. As America's fifth-largest city, it's a thriving metropolis in the desert, bristling with cultural intrigue. Alongside a full complement of theatres, symphony halls and opera houses, you'll be treated to some of the finest Southwestern and Mexican food around. Think mouth-watering tamales and tacos. It also invites in the state's heritage and great outdoors, with the superb Desert Botanical Garden and the excellent Heard Museum, self-described as the world's pre-eminent presentation of American Indian art.

## Sedona

With its great red sandstone formations piercing the big Arizona sky in a series of cathedral-like spires, it's no surprise that Sedona has long attracted a near-religious level of reverence. And that's not just among new-age spiritualists, with Jeep tours, hikes and hot-air balloon rides offering outdoors lovers truly moving views of its otherworldly landscape. Return to the art galleries and gourmet restaurants of its welcoming town, watched over by those omnipresent red cliffs.

## Canyon de Chelly National Monument

For five millennia, people have called the rugged gorges of Canyon de Chelly home. And, you'll quickly see





why, with its beautifully barren ochre crags offset with surprising hidden-valley verdure that's still farmed by the Navajo people to this day. The landmark, 800-foot-tall Spider Rock spire and its rippling canyon surrounds are an obvious highlight, as are the thousand-year-old White House Ruins – ancient dwellings built by Ancestral Puebloans in around 1060 AD – but look a little closer and you'll discover unique prehistoric rock art, too.

#### **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park**

Quite literally, this is the Old West of the silver screen, with Monument Valley's towering buttes having starred in everything from *The Lone Star Ranger* and *Billy the Kid* to a litany of John Wayne classics. In among these sandstone towers, you'll also discover Navajo beliefs that exist to this today, with members of the Navajo Nation – America's largest tribe – offering insightful guided tours. There's even evidence of the ancient Puebloan people who called this place home centuries ago.

#### **Lake Powell**

A labyrinthine series of flooded canyons, Lake Powell's crisp blue dramatically contrasts with the region's red rock to create a stunningly Martian landscape. Then, after exploring its rabbit warren of waterways on boating, Jet-Skiing and hiking adventures, there's plenty more in its surroundings. Glen Canyon Dam is an engineering

marvel. Walking through Antelope Canyon's rippled slot maze is like stepping onto another planet. And, Horseshoe Bend is a natural treasure, where the mighty Colorado River coils back on itself, beset by great, 1,000-foot cliffs.

#### **Scottsdale**

Something of an oasis town in the desert, Scottsdale is the perfect end to an Arizona adventure. Here, world-class resorts and spas are on hand to soothe after a few days on the road, while golf courses and a walkable old town of boutiques, restaurants and galleries offer a different kind of therapy. However, if you haven't quite had your fill of exploration, there are winding hiking and biking trails along the red-rock buttes of Papago Park.

#### **Grand Canyon**

As Arizona's star turn, this UNESCO-listed site and natural wonder of the world needs little introduction. But, it's worth mentioning that there's plenty of different ways to appreciate it, depending on your tastes. Drives along its southern rim offer magnificently varied overviews and, perhaps crucially, iconic sunsets. Hikes along the rim – or even strenuous ones to the canyon floor – bring you right among its layered rocks, while helicopter flights offer a full, aerial appreciation of the canyon's sheer magnitude.

**A 14-day Highlights of Arizona self-drive starts from £3,775 pp** incl. flights, 12 nights accommodation & 11 days car hire & a personalised road book. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/153807](https://www.wexas.com/153807).



# ALL-AMERICAN ROAD TRIPS

In a land where the car is king, there's surely no better way to explore than on a road trip. From the sun-kissed sands of Florida and the unique culture of the Deep South to glorious New England and the wildlife and wonders of Yellowstone, our specialists have picked out four very different but equally spectacular routes to inspire your American dream.



## BEST OF CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS

11-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Featuring stays in Boston, Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, this road trip is the ideal blend of urban vibrancy, seaside relaxation and out-and-about exploration

**PRICES FROM £2,155 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, ferry crossings, 8 days car hire & 9 nights accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/102447](https://www.wexas.com/102447).



## ALL-AMERICAN MUSIC TOUR

13-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

This music-themed road trip celebrates the best of the Deep South, taking you from Nashville – once home to the great Johnny Cash – to the birthplace of jazz, New Orleans.

**PRICES FROM £2,550 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 7 days car hire, & 11 nights accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/101289](https://www.wexas.com/101289).



## MIAMI & THE FLORIDA KEYS

11-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Journey from the boardwalks and architectural splendours of Miami to the yawning archipelago of Florida Keys on this two-week road trip through the Sunshine State.

**PRICES FROM £3,650 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 8 days car hire & 9 nights accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/139808](https://www.wexas.com/139808).



## YELLOWSTONE & ROCKY MOUNTAINS

18-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Explore Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Rocky Mountain national parks as you combine some of America's most spellbinding scenery with native wildlife and rich, pioneering history.

**PRICES FROM £2,880 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 15 days car hire & 16 nights accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103306](https://www.wexas.com/103306).



# HIGHLIGHTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

If you're looking for a self-drive holiday packed with adventure, the southern tip of the African continent has all that you need. Below, our resident expert *Rui Ribeiro* has picked out three of his favourite itineraries, exploring the myriad highlights of South Africa and Namibia's stunning natural world.



## CAPE, WINE, GARDEN ROUTE & KRUGER

13-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Set off from Cape Town on an epic road trip, which brings you along the Garden Route, linking lush vineyards with a series of luxury stays. Your trip ends with an all-inclusive safari in Kruger National Park.

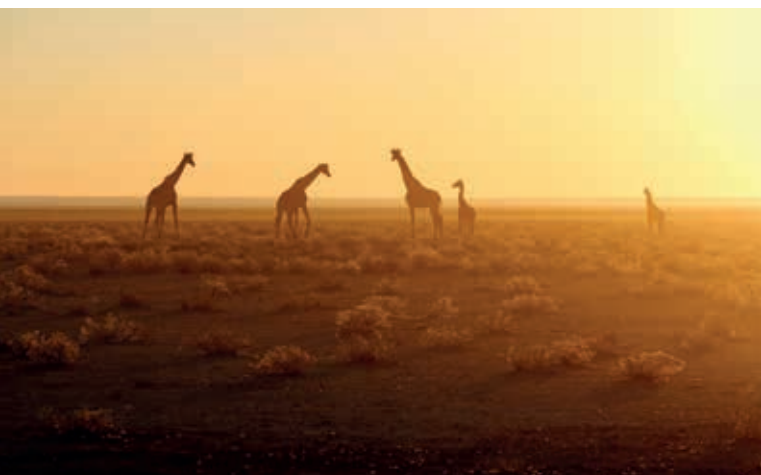
**PRICES FROM £4,770 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 7 days car hire, 8 nights B&B & 3 nights full-board accommodation & game drives on safari. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/146748](https://wexas.com/146748).

## KWAZULU-NATAL DISCOVERY

10-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

This spectacular road trip takes in the best of KwaZulu-Natal, from the dramatic Drakensberg Mountains and Durban's beachfront charms to Zulu battlefields and an all-inclusive, Big Five safari.

**PRICES FROM £3,595 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, airport meet & greet, 9 days car hire, 7 nights accommodation, selected meals & game drives on safari. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/102019](https://wexas.com/102019).



## BEST OF NAMIBIA SELF-DRIVE

16-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Take in the best of Namibia's vast deserts, charming coastal towns and ancient tribal lands, followed by a two-centre safari in Etosha National Park and a visit to the not-for-profit AfriCat Foundation.

**PRICES FROM £4,740 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 14 days car hire & 13 nights accommodation on a mix of B&B, half-board and full-board basis. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/102490](https://wexas.com/102490).

# THE ROAD DOWN UNDER

When it comes to truly epic road trips, it's hard to beat Australia. Whether you're a first-timer plotting a route along the East Coast or you're returning to explore the likes of Tasmania or Victoria, you're sure to be treated to a special adventure. Think magnificent beaches, outstanding food and wine, and some of the world's most energetic and intoxicating cities. Below, Wexas specialist *Hannah Ball* has picked out three of her top self-drive routes, exploring everything from the icons of the east to the Great Ocean Road and Tasmania's off-the-beaten-track gems.



## AUSTRALIA'S EAST COAST

14-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Australia's east coast between Sydney and Brisbane is a well-travelled path, and for very good reason. On this perfectly paced road trip, you'll be charmed by the sights of Sydney before discovering lush vineyards, golden beaches, characterful towns and wild hinterland.

**PRICES FROM £2,995 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 8 days car hire, 10 nights accommodation & selected meals. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103059](https://wexas.com/103059).

## MELBOURNE & THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

12-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

This is your chance to explore one of the world's great driving routes. Swap Melbourne's city sights for sweeping golden sands, world-class vineyards and the magnificent Twelve Apostles on the famous Great Ocean Road.

**PRICES FROM £3,150 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 9 days car hire & 8 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/104235](https://wexas.com/104235).



## TASMANIA'S WEST COAST EXPLORER

10-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Take a journey along the wild, west coast of Tasmania, exploring pristine mountain landscapes, remote coastlines and world heritage sites. It's all bookended with stays in the cities of Launceston and Hobart, the island state's thriving capital.

**PRICES FROM £2,125 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 7 days car hire, 6 nights accommodation & selected meals. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/138402](https://wexas.com/138402).



# NEW ZEALAND TOP TO TOE

A self-drive holiday in New Zealand offers almost unrivalled natural beauty, with climates ranging from the warm and subtropical to the cool and glacial. While the North Island is predominantly known for its evergreen foliage and hot springs, the South Island's reputation is forged on mighty fjords, snow-capped mountains and year-round adventure. As such, a kiwi road trip is often split between the two, with the ferry between Wellington and Picton providing an easy vehicular crossing. Alternatively, choose one island to explore in more depth. Hannah's selected three options below.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW ZEALAND

### 19-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Only New Zealand crams so much spectacular scenery into so little space. With boutique hotel stays and car hire included throughout, this curated road trip perfectly showcases the unique cultures and natural wonders of New Zealand's North and South islands.

**PRICES FROM £3,685 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected transfers, 14 days car hire, 15 nights accommodation & selected meals. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103678](https://wexas.com/103678).

## BEST OF NEW ZEALAND'S NORTH ISLAND

### 17-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

Driving between Auckland and Wellington, you'll take in the best of the North Island, from spotting dolphins in the Bay of Islands to exploring volcanic landscapes in Rotorua and tasting fine wines in pretty Hawke's Bay.

**PRICES FROM £3,755 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected transfers, 12 days car hire, 13 nights accommodation, one breakfast & selected touring in Waipoua, Bay of Islands & Rotorua. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/102589](https://wexas.com/102589).



## BEST OF NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTH ISLAND

### 13-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE & RAIL JOURNEY

Discover New Zealand's South Island in depth on this curated road trip. In between scenic drives, you'll enjoy an included glacier heli-hike, an overnight Doubtful Sound cruise and a journey on the TranzAlpine train.

**PRICES FROM £3,845 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, arrival transfer, 8 days car hire, 8 nights accommodation, selected meals, Doubtful Sound cruise, whale-watching tour, heli-hike & TranzAlpine rail journey. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/102596](https://wexas.com/102596).







# RAIL HOLIDAYS

As the trend for slower travel gains pace, so too does the demand for rail holidays in all their guises.

While in times gone by, the likes of the legendary Venice Simplon-Orient-Express and Canada's iconic Rocky Mountaineer led the way, these ultra-luxury experiences have been joined by a whole host of options where the destination takes centre stage.

The following pages feature both, with itineraries exploring no fewer than five continents. Indeed, contrasting such greats of rail travel as Australia's Ghan, South Africa's Blue Train and Peru's Andean Explorer, you'll find everything from flight-free holidays to Italy and France to track-bound adventures through the mighty Swiss Alps.

Of course, these represent just a fraction of the rail holidays we have available. Visit our website or call the team for the full range of options.

# JOURNEYS OF ELEGANCE

There's nothing quite like the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, its mix of fine dining and white-glove service having captured the imagination of luxury travellers for more than a century. Today, its network of itineraries encapsulates the very best in continental elegance, linking some of Europe's best-loved cities in consummate style. Below, you'll find three of our favourite routes for 2023 – a small selection of available choices – including the chance to follow in the footsteps of two Wexas specialists, *Angela Perro and Steff Sargeant*, who's journey on the train in October 2022 took them between Florence and London.



## LONDON TO CANNES

5-DAY LUXURY RAIL HOLIDAY

Enjoy a slice of the high life as you pair the world's most iconic train with a luxury stay in the heart of Paris followed by all the glamour of the French Riviera – a one-off journey not to be missed.

**PRICES FROM £5,230 PP** incl. Eurostar to Paris, 3 nights B&B accommodation, 1 night onboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express with all meals, selected transfers & flight from Nice to London. Departs 11 May 2023. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/183984](https://wexas.com/183984).

## FLORENCE TO LONDON

4-DAY LUXURY RAIL HOLIDAY

A new take on the classic route, this four-day northbound itinerary trades Venice's canals for the Renaissance gems of Florence, before you embark on a journey to savour across the heart of alpine Europe.

**PRICES FROM £4,110 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 1 night onboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express with all meals & 2 nights B&B accommodation in Florence. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/183705](https://wexas.com/183705).



## BUDAPEST TO LONDON

4-DAY LUXURY RAIL HOLIDAY

Take in the Hungarian capital's neoclassical beauty with a luxury spa stay and a guided walking tour. Then, let the world's most iconic train see you home in style, with gourmet dining and drinks in the Art-Deco bar car.

**PRICES FROM £4,015 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 2 nights B&B accommodation in Budapest, 1 night onboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express with all meals & Belmond British Pullman to London. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103691](https://wexas.com/103691).



# RAIL HOLIDAYS TO EUROPE

With direct rail links between the UK and Europe, and a vast network of tracks linking destinations across the Continent, travelling by train in Europe is an increasingly popular option. From no-fly trips to Sicily and France to adventures through the Swiss Alps and along the coast of northern Spain, you'll find four inspiring options below.



## SWISS ALPS BY RAIL

7-DAY TAILOR-MADE RAIL HOLIDAY

With an included trip aboard the Glacier Express, this rail adventure will bring you right to the heart of some of Europe's most spectacular scenery.

**PRICES FROM £1,715 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected transfers, 6 nights accommodation, selected meals & train tickets incl. Glacier Express. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/104193](https://wexas.com/104193).



## NO-FLY SICILY BY RAIL

14-DAY NO-FLY RAIL HOLIDAY

This no-fly rail journey combines the best of Sicily with the delights of some of Italy's favourite regions, taking in spectacular views, vibrant city culture and fabulous food and wine.

**PRICES FROM £2,900 PP** incl. Return Eurostar to Paris, all onward rail travel, 13 nights B&B accommodation & selected touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/183949](https://wexas.com/183949).



## WINE REGIONS OF FRANCE - NO-FLY

7-DAY NO-FLY RAIL HOLIDAY

Tavelling from Reims to Bordeaux this is your chance to taste fine champagne and wine direct from source with included tours throughout.

**PRICES FROM £2,540 PP** incl. Eurostar to Paris, regional rail journeys between Paris and Reims/Bordeaux, 6 nights B&B accommodation & selected touring & activities. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/172143](https://wexas.com/172143).



## EL TRASCANTÁBRICO GRAN LUJO

10-DAY LUXURY RAIL HOLIDAY

Enjoy the likes of gourmet dining and cocktail evenings as you explore the coastal route between San Sebastián and medieval Santiago.

**PRICES FROM £7,895 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 2 nights B&B accommodation & 7-night luxury rail journey with all meals & selected touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/146165](https://wexas.com/146165).

# ALL ABOARD: ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

Seven-time winner of the ‘World’s Leading Travel Experience by Train’, Rocky Mountaineer runs a range of routes that bring you up into the Rockies, sweeping along rushing rivers, climbing along cragged ridges and hopping over mighty gorges. It’s all brought to life by scenic slowdowns and the flawless hospitality of the on-board hosts. Expect fascinating insights into your route, an all-inclusive drinks service and gourmet dining from Michelin-trained chefs, all served up with that famous Canadian cheer. Then, in between train jaunts, you’ll enjoy curated stays and unique excursions, from flightseeing tours to glacier walks.

## SilverLeaf Service

Although this is Rocky Mountaineer’s entry-level class, there’s certainly nothing basic about it. You’ll be greeted aboard your panoramic carriage with a welcome toast to the journey ahead before settling down to truly panoramic views, invited in by curved glass ceilings and oversized picture windows. It’s all washed down with indulgent dining, snacks and complimentary drinks – both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. The impeccable service continues off the train, too, with portage included throughout your journey.

## GoldLeaf Service

It’s the carriages themselves where GoldLeaf Service really differentiates itself. Split over two levels, passengers are treated to elevated views from wraparound domes while an open-air observation deck is perfect for photographers. Then, alongside the free-flowing snacks and drinks, upgraded meals are taken downstairs, with highlights including berry parfait, merlot-braised ribs and seared Albacore tuna, served over a sautéed pepper and caper ragout. There are even morning scones and afternoon wine and cheeses.



## CANADIAN ROCKIES HIGHLIGHTS

### 9-DAY LUXURY RAIL HOLIDAY

Sweep through the Canadian Rockies on a truly legendary rail journey. Beginning with an overnight stay in Vancouver, you’ll head east towards Calgary, stopping off for scenic helicopter flights, gondola rides and guided tours of Banff and Lake Louise.

**PRICES FROM £3,360 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 2 days onboard Rocky Mountaineer in SilverLeaf, 7 nights accommodation, selected meals & touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103892](https://www.wexas.com/103892).



# SOUTH AFRICA BY RAIL

Wexas specialist *Alison Nicolle* casts his expert eye over two icons of luxury rail travel – Rovos Rail and the Blue Train. You'll also find two itinerary ideas combining the trains themselves with some of South Africa's standout sights.

## Blue Train

Having begun life in the 1920s, the Blue Train is South Africa's oldest-running luxury rail service. It's a unique heritage carried on to this day, with private berths dressed in polished wood panelling, marble-and-gold en suites and goose-down beds, available as doubles or twins. Upgrades even feature a butler service and soaking bathtubs. It's an elegant aesthetic that continues into the train's pair of lounges, where afternoon tea and fine South African sherries are served up to picture-window views. However, it's the dining that impresses most, with five-course banquets spanning from Karoo lamb to Knysna oysters. It's all informed by the train's route – an overnight journey between Pretoria to Cape Town with stops for expert-led excursions. Expect wine tastings, pauses at pretty colonial towns and diamond-rush landscapes.



## CLASSIC CAPE, BLUE TRAIN & SAFARI

16-DAY LUXURY RAIL HOLIDAY

Travelling aboard the luxurious Blue Train, this holiday links the highlights of Cape Town with a Big-Five safari, including expert-led game drives and full-board gourmet dining.

**PRICES FROM £5,295 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected transfers, 2 night Blue Train rail journey from Cape Town to Pretoria, 11 nights accommodation, selected meals, touring & twice-daily game drives on safari. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/104109](https://wexas.com/104109).

## Rovos Rail

If you're looking for a step up, Rovos Rail is Africa's most luxurious train. The Edwardian dining cars feature button-leather seats, the lounge car hosts wingback chairs and the berths are immaculate in darkwood elegance, complete with tiled en suites and a mini-bar stocked with beverages of your choosing. The Royal Suites are particularly extravagant, taking up half a carriage each and home to rolltop baths and a private lounge packed full of period furnishings. Of course, you can also expect only the finest in regional dining, paired, of course, with the best South African wines. In terms of routes, Rovos Rail slows things down, taking three nights to wind between Cape Town and Pretoria. You'll therefore have more time both on the train and on excursions. For something extra special, there are journeys up to Victoria Falls, Namibia and even Tanzania.



## CAPE TO KRUGER BY ROVOS RAIL

13-DAY LUXURY RAIL HOLIDAY

Enjoy all the extravagances of yesteryear on a luxury journey aboard Africa's most luxurious train. It's all coupled with a luxury stay in Cape Town and an all-inclusive Kruger safari.

**PRICES FROM £6,530 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected transfers, 3 night Rovos Rail journey from Cape Town to Pretoria, 7 nights accommodation, selected meals, touring & twice-daily game drives on safari. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/102182](https://wexas.com/102182).

# ANDEAN ADVENTURES

*By Wexas luxury rail specialist Rachel Mostyn.*

Peru has long been among my favourite destinations, and there can be few better ways to explore its ancient kingdoms and grand Andean landscapes than with a journey aboard the Belmond Andean Explorer – a luxury train with a flair for strikingly contemporary design.

Its interiors are the work of Inge Moor of The Gallery, London, her vision of an “an interior connected with the location” realised in ivory Alpaca tones, Andean slate greys and woven textures inspired by the region’s colourful handicrafts. Meanwhile, private cabins feature oversized headboards and chic furnishings. There are a variety of layouts available, with Junior, Deluxe and

Twin, and Bunk options. While only the Deluxe features a seating area, all come with stylish en-suite bathrooms and showers.

And, the Andean environment influences much more than the décor, with regional flavours showcased throughout indulgent menus. All the ingredients are locally sourced and traditional flavours are presented with contemporary innovation. The afternoon teas are a particular delight, taken as the high-mountain scenery rushes past. It’s all washed down with a superb selection of drinks, including some of the finest South American vintages. Feeling inspired? I’ve put together an itinerary below.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF PERU BY RAIL

### 10-DAY LUXURY RAIL HOLIDAY

This itinerary includes an overnight journey on the Andean Explorer, taking travellers from Cusco, the ancient capital of the Incan Empire, to Puno, traversing the Andes’ highest plains to take in Lake Titicaca’s floating reed villages in between. There’s even the chance to extend your stay on the train, upping your adventure two nights to reach Arequipa, and adding in a trip to Colca Canyon, where condors soar over spectacular scenery dotted with pre-Incan architecture. Either way, it’s a truly luxurious accompaniment to Peru’s other delights, not least the colonial treasures of Cusco, the ancient delights of the Sacred Valley and that world wonder – Machu Picchu.

**PRICES FROM £5,160 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 2 nights aboard Andean Explorer with all meals & open bar, 7 nights accommodation, selected other meals & touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/101102](https://wexas.com/101102).



# AUSTRALIA BY RAIL: THE GHAN

Australia's history is one of transcontinental pioneers. But, although the country's railway heritage dates back to the 19th century, it wasn't until 2004 that a north-south route was established between Darwin and Adelaide, roughly tracing the route of the original cameleers. It's a journey that knits together remote frontier towns, sweeping through an endless wilderness of undulating ochre. You can take it all in today on one of the world's most luxurious trains – the Ghan – stopping off en route for a full range of included excursions.

Fostering a relaxed, club-like atmosphere, both Gold and Platinum Service passengers are treated to an all-inclusive spread of drinks and fine dining. In the Queen Adelaide Restaurant car, indulgent multi-course menus showcase the best ingredients along the train's route, from kangaroo to Top End barramundi. It's all accompanied by complimentary beers, spirits and fine Australian wines, best enjoyed with the convivial ambience of the Outback Explorer Lounge.

## Gold Service

Settling in among the wood-panelled fineries of your private berth, you'll be treated to spectacular views of the rushing outback from picture windows – scenes brought to life by optional audio commentary. Then, after a day's exploring, freshen up in your en suite before retiring to cosy upper and lower berths, cleverly converted from a three-seater lounge. Alongside the single option, you can also upgrade to a ¾ size double bed, complete with TV and DVD player.

## Platinum Service

By day, Platinum cabins are configured into a private lounge and by night they're transformed into a luxurious bedroom, with either double or twin beds. Along with the refreshments and gourmet breakfasts served in your cabin, guests are also welcomed to the Platinum Club. Here, gourmet dining, premium drinks and endless vistas are served up in an exclusive lounge with leather banquette seating. It's all dressed in timber accents, brass fittings and quartzite tabletops.



## THE GHAN & KANGAROO ISLAND

12-DAY LUXURY RAIL HOLIDAY

Board the Ghan to explore remote Aboriginal communities and frontier Outback towns. Either side, you'll be treated to luxury stays in Adelaide, Darwin and among Kangaroo Island's iconic wildlife.

**PRICES FROM £5,735 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 2 nights all-inclusive aboard the Ghan, 7 nights accommodation & selected meals & touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/138401](https://www.wexas.com/138401).





# INDEPENDENT & ESCORTED HOLIDAYS

While we've covered off road trips, rail journeys, luxury cruises and beach holidays elsewhere in this brochure, we know that those types of holidays aren't always for everyone. That's why we offer a wide range of independent and escorted itineraries as well.

Of course, when you opt for an escorted holiday, there'll be someone on hand every step of the way – full-time drivers and guides, there to make sure everything runs to perfection. And, for those who choose to go it alone, you can rest assured that between our experienced team in the UK and our trusted and long-standing destination partners, we'll be there to make sure you have an incredible time away, and smooth any bumps in the road.

Over the following pages, you'll find everything from gastronomic breaks in Spain and Croatia, to Australian safaris and even a fully hosted trip to the wilds of the Canadian Arctic in search of beluga whales and polar bears.

# FLAVOURS OF VALENCIA

*Wexas specialist Lisa Ayling explores the culinary delights of one of Spain's unsung gems.*

Yes, you might know Valencia for its heady mix of cutting-edge architecture, old-quarter heritage and great green spaces, converted from its once-flood-prone river. However, with its Mediterranean port and richly fertile surroundings, it's perhaps the city's gastronomic excellence that might leave the biggest impression.

And, this being Spain, you'll be able to have your very own impromptu degustation experiences, with a tasting tour of the city's myriad tapas bars – all countertop intimacy and pavement-café atmosphere. Whether striking out on your own or making the most of a local guide's expertise, you'll have a choice of such classics as ham croquets and spicy patatas bravas alongside local specialities, including squid-ink pasta and tuna tartare.

However, it's the paella that Valencia's truly famous for, with the city the birthplace of this fragrant delight. To learn how it came to be, head just beyond the city limits to Albufera Natural Park – a fisherman's paradise where Spain's largest lake is ringed by rice fields. After

a ride in a handcrafted albuferenc boat to take in the abundant birdlife and pristine lagoon views, be sure to enjoy lunch at one of the lakeside paella restaurants. Expect gamey rabbit and chicken or fresher-than-fresh lobster. Inspired? Talk to your Wexas specialist about a paella cooking masterclass, hosted by a Valencian local on their private terrace and complemented by a wine and olive oil tasting.

Of course, there's the city's other great man-made delights – its architecture. Enter through medieval city gates to a rich history that spans from Roman ruin and an extravagant 13th-century cathedral to an Art-Nouveau central market and the wonderfully Gothic Silk Exchange, a UNESCO-listed jewel. It's all contrasted by the City of the Arts and Sciences. All sweeping curves and naked glass, this is design at its cutting edge, housing the likes of opera houses, science museums and world-class aquariums. And, a slow stroll through its adjoining 9km of garden parks is the perfect tonic for all that foodie indulgence.

**A 4-day tailor-made Flavours of Valencia itinerary starts from £1,385 pp** incl. flights, 3 nights B&B accommodation, private city tour, private Paella cooking workshop & tour, boat ride & lunch in Albufera National Park tour. For more information, visit [wexas.com/102777](https://wexas.com/102777).





# A TASTE OF OF ISTRIA, CROATIA

*Wexas specialist Becky Theriault revels in the Relais & Château luxury of the Meneghetti Wine Hotel.*

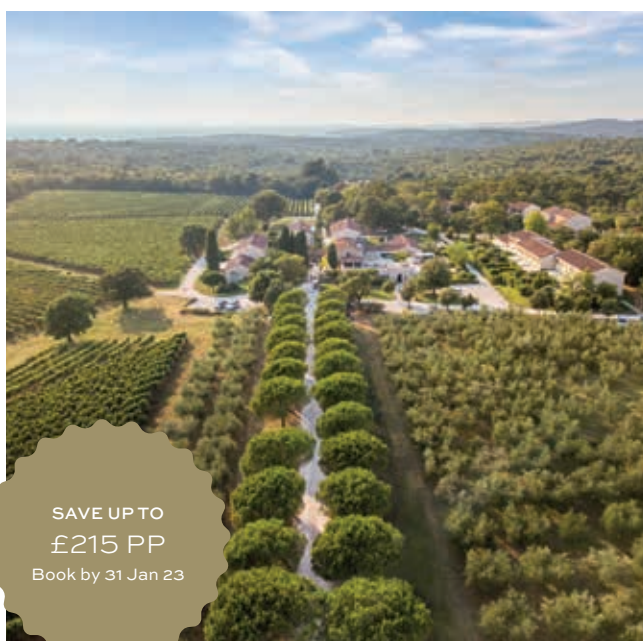
With its rolling hills and beach-clad coast interspersed only with the odd historic hilltop town, the Istrian Peninsula in Croatia's north-western extreme is perfect for a rural getaway. What's more, its fertile geography has given rise to not only one of Europe's oldest wine-making traditions, but everything from fine seafood to world-class olive oil and truffles.

The best way to appreciate it all is with a stay in one of its excellent country estates. Prime among them is the Meneghetti Wine Hotel & Winery – a 19<sup>th</sup>-century rural mansion, complete with acres of vineyards and olive groves. Here, evocative rooms are dressed in ochre walls and rustic furnishings. The spa features everything from outdoor pools to massage rooms. And, the restaurant showcases a modern interpretation of classic Istrian cuisine, paired with the hotel's award-winning vintages.

Indeed, it's the wines that might just impress most, with guided tastings – often paired with creative bites from the kitchen – bringing you behind the scenes of the winery and olive-oil production. Although the region's terroir has traditionally supported reds, Meneghetti's contemporary techniques offer superlative whites and rosés, too. Then, at the end of it all, wind down with the hotel's exclusive beach club, just a half hour's stroll away.

While you'll have plenty of vineyard and forest-trail walks or bike rides on your doorstep, a hire car is highly recommended. This gives you the flexibility to explore at will. Alongside the local castle town of Bale and its atmospheric cobbled streets, there are the medieval vestiges of Motovun, Pula's Roman ruins and one of Croatia's most picturesque coastal towns in Rovinj. Its terracotta-capped rooves and church spires are beautifully poised on its own peninsula.

You might also want to combine your stay with a longer exploration of Croatia's myriad delights. That could mean island hopping or taking in its mainland treasures, from Krka National Park's multi-tiered waterfalls to Split's Roman wonders and UNESCO-listed Dubrovnik.



SAVE UP TO  
£215 PP  
Book by 31 Jan 23

**A 6-day tailor-made holiday staying at Meneghetti Wine Hotel & Winery starts from £1,215 pp**

incl. flights, 5 nights B&B accommodation, private transfers or car hire, tasting programme, guided winery tour & olive oil tasting. For more information, visit [wexas.com/184029](https://wexas.com/184029).

# SCANDINAVIA THROUGH THE SEASONS

While Scandinavia and the Nordics might be best known for the excitement of winter, with its snowy landscapes, adventure activities and magical displays of the Northern Lights, the region is spectacular at any time of the year. Below and opposite, Wexas specialist *Pippa McCarthy* chooses four itineraries that represent each season at its best. There's everything from a winter trip to the world-famous ICEHOTEL and Treehotel to a spectacular spring-time cruise, a summer city break in Iceland and an autumn stay in a Finnish glass igloo.

## TREEHOTEL & ICEHOTEL

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Flying direct to Luleå in northern Sweden, this trip takes in two icons of Scandinavian travel. You'll begin with the Treehotel, staying in one of its architect-designed rooms hidden in the forest. It's the perfect introduction to Lapland, with a range of optional excursions that include dog sledding and sleigh rides. Then, after a scenic rail journey to Kiruna, you'll swap life in the trees for a stay at the famous ICEHOTEL. Alongside a night in an ice room, and another in warm accommodation, you'll have the chance to add on an array of thrilling winter activities.

**PRICES FROM £1,800 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers & train travel, 2 nights half-board at Treehotel & 2 nights B&B at ICEHOTEL. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/102961](https://wexas.com/102961).



## COLOURFUL CITIES & FAMOUS FJORDS

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Contrast the beauty of Norway's majestic fjords with the allure of its colourful towns and cities. After a night in Bergen, set off on a three-day cruise with Havila, charting the country's iconic coastal route. With highlights in abundance, you'll stop at the likes of World Heritage Geirangerfjord and the Art Nouveau city of Ålesund, ending with the former Viking stronghold of Trondheim. You'll then take the train south to Oslo, before a series of boat and rail journeys take you deep in the western fjords.

**PRICES FROM £2,310 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected transfers, 2-night full-board Havila cruise & 7 nights B&B accommodation, rail journey from Trondheim to Oslo & Norway in a Nutshell tour. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/184026](https://wexas.com/184026).



## REYKJAVIK SUMMER ADVENTURE

### 4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

Iceland's buzzing capital, Reykjavik, is the gateway to some of the country's most memorable travel experiences. Indeed, just a short hop from the city's vibrant bars and restaurants, you'll find everything from wildlife encounters to the iconic Blue Lagoon. This action-packed summer break takes in the best of it, combining a Golden Circle safari by Super Jeep and a whale-watching tour with three nights' accommodation at a four-star, city centre hotel.

**PRICES FROM £1,330 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 3 nights B&B accommodation, a whale-watching tour, a full day Golden Circle and Langjokull Glacier by Super Jeep & entry to the Blue Lagoon. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/102658](https://wexas.com/102658).



## GLASS IGLOOS & NORTHERN LIGHTS

### 5-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

Ideal for autumn or winter, this short break to Finnish Lapland starts in typical Scandinavian style with an overnight stay at Levin Iglut, a collection of glass igloos surrounded by stunning Arctic scenery. These secluded, heated domes, perched on the edge of a fell, offer private views of the Northern Lights and the magical forests of Finland's far north. You'll then head for the cosy comforts of Hotel Ylläshumina for three days of activities; there's everything from Northern Lights hunts to delicious wilderness dinners.

**PRICES FROM £1,685 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, airport transfers, 1 night half-board in a glass igloo & 3 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/134297](https://wexas.com/134297).

# WILDLIFE IN CHURCHILL

*In search of polar bears, birds and beluga whale's in Arctic Canada's wild remotes.*

For most destinations, the chance of just one world-class wildlife experience is enough. But, in the province of Manitoba in Canada's longitudinal centre, its northern sub-Arctic wilderness offers no fewer than three. In short, this is one of the best places in the world to spot polar bears, the oh-so-adorable beluga whales and some 285 species of birds, from eagles to owls.

Flying out from the province's cultured capital, Winnipeg, adventurers that make the journey out to the frontier town of Churchill are greeted by the great barren beauty of Hudson Bay and its surrounding sub-Arctic tundra. This is polar bear country. Here, you'll be taken out in all-terrain vehicles and on nature walks to search for these majestic creatures, with the chance of movingly up-close encounters. Keep your eyes peeled for Arctic wolf, fox and herds of caribou as well – they're all brought to life by expert guides and naturalist presentations alike.

Then, head out in Zodiac boats onto the frigid waters of Hudson Bay to search for the inimitable beluga whale. These extremely social creatures live in pods that can reach into the hundreds. What's more, their famed bulbous forehead is wonderfully flexible, meaning they can make different facial expressions. Just don't forget to also look skywards for snowy owls, falcons and even that great icon of North America – the bald eagle.

Each night, you'll bed down in an atmospheric log cabin, relaxing by an open fire and enjoying the best in Canadian hospitality. Seal River Heritage Lodge is a particular highlight. This early entrant into the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World collection is a further flight hop from Churchill, bringing you deeper into the Manitoban wilds for truly isolated wildlife experiences. The wonderful food and wine – featured in the best-selling Blueberries & Polar Bears cookbooks by the lodge's founding chefs – doesn't hurt, either.



Image: Michael Poliza



**A 9-day Birds, Bears & Belugas of Churchill escorted tour starts from £11,245 pp** incl. all flights, 2 nights accommodation in Winnipeg & 5 nights accommodation at Seal River Heritage Lodge incl. meals & touring. For more information, visit [wexas.com/103853](https://wexas.com/103853).



# CANADA OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

While Canada is rightly known for its road trips and rail journeys, there are some destinations within its vast borders that simply can't be reached by train or car. To inspire, we've picked out two such options below, one exploring the country's unique and varied wildlife with a stay at a remote lodge on Vancouver Island, the other a celebration of the Yukon's winter wonders on a trip north of the Arctic Circle.

## BEARS AT KNIGHT INLET LODGE

9-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Fly out from Vancouver by seaplane to Knight Inlet Lodge on Vancouver Island, where all-inclusive dining awaits, showcased in a delicious menu of ultra-fresh seafood, and cosy suites afford panoramic views of a shoreline often teeming with bears hunting for salmon. Throughout your stay, you'll be treated to a programme of included bear-watching tours, forest hikes, kayaking adventures and excursions in search of orcas and bald eagles. It's all knitted together with included transfers throughout, as well as a luxury hotel stay in Vancouver.

**PRICES FROM £3,675 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 6 nights accommodation and all meals & activities at Knight Inlet Lodge. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/152528](https://wexas.com/152528).



## YUKON NORTHERN LIGHTS BREAK

10-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Experience the best of the Yukon in winter as you enjoy a thrilling adventure at Northern Lights Resort & Spa. It all begins in Vancouver, whose pretty setting between mountains and sea offers an early and tantalising glimpse of Canada's pristine natural world. Then, swap city slicking for the wintry wilds of the Canadian Arctic and a three-night stay at a cosy log cabin retreat. Here, you'll have the chance to explore on a range of optional activities, from husky sledding to cross-country skiing, returning each evening to delicious fireside dining and, with luck, night-time displays of the aurora.

**PRICES FROM £3,240 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 8 nights accommodation, selected meals & selected activities. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/152833](https://wexas.com/152833).

# ACROSS LATIN AMERICA

With its sultry rhythms, ancient wonders and majestic landscapes and wildlife, Latin America is one of the world's most intoxicating regions. It's also a favourite among our specialists, who've picked four very different but equally enticing holiday options below.



## ARGENTINA'S WINES & WATERFALLS

14-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Explore north-west Argentina, from the wineries of Mendoza to the multi-hued mountains near Salta and the cascading beauty of Iguazú Falls.

**PRICES FROM £6,365 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 12 nights B&B accommodation & selected touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/141394](https://wexas.com/141394).



## HIGHLIGHTS OF CHILE

13-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

This epic itinerary contrasts the Atacama's austere desert sprawl with central Chile's verdant winelands and the majestic peaks of Torres del Paine National Park.

**PRICES FROM £5,995 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 10 nights accommodation, selected meals & touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/101682](https://wexas.com/101682).



## BEST OF BRAZIL

16-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

From the wildlife-filled jungles of the Amazon to the icons of Rio and mighty Iguassu Falls, this is the ultimate introduction to Brazil.

**PRICES FROM £6,135 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected transfers, 13 nights accommodation, selected private and small-group touring & selected meals. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/101822](https://wexas.com/101822).



## ECUADOR & THE GALÁPAGOS

12-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Discover the rich history of Quito and Otavalo, then hop between the wildlife-rich islands of South America's premier natural wonder.

**PRICES FROM £6,690 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 9 nights accommodation & selected meals & touring, boat trips & national park entrance fees. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/146145](https://wexas.com/146145).



# ADVENTURES IN ASIA

Our specialists know Asia like the backs of their hands. And, whether it's the rich culture of India, Thailand's island idylls or the wildlife wonders of Borneo, they'll be on hand to create an itinerary that fully embraces the spectacular highlights of this vast and varied continent.



## THAILAND DISCOVERY

17-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

A classic combination of culture, city and beach, all coupled with high-quality, affordable accommodation, is showcased to perfection on this top-to-toe tour of Thailand.

**PRICES FROM £2,995 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers & 14 nights B&B accommodation. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103670](http://wexas.com/103670).



## RAJASTHAN WITH HERITAGE HOTELS

15-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

With private transfers and touring, and stays in historic hotels, this is the ideal introduction to the royal heritage of India's Rajasthan.

**PRICES FROM £3,355 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 13 nights b&b accommodation & selected private touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/101512](http://wexas.com/101512).



## WILD BORNEO ADVENTURE

16-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Spot orangutans on rainforest treks and cruise past pygmy elephants on a traditional longboat – all part of this superb tour of Malaysian Borneo.

**PRICES FROM £3,425 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected private transfers, 13 nights accommodation, selected meals & a programme of private and shared touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103523](http://wexas.com/103523).



## BEST OF VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

17-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Explore the must-see highlights of two Asian heavyweights as you hop between Lan Ha Bay, the Mekong Delta and ancient Angkor Wat.

**PRICES FROM £4,355 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 13 nights B&B accommodation, overnight full-board cruise on Lan Ha Bay & selected touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/153857](http://wexas.com/153857).





## INSIDE SOUTH KOREA



Long overshadowed by its headline-grabbing neighbours, South Korea is often unfairly overlooked. But, those that do make the journey are richly rewarded with neon megacities, mountain-top temples and a truly unique cuisine that's only just getting the attention it deserves. And, let's not forget the 'Korean Wave' of pop culture – from film to music – that's been taking the world by storm. It's all brought to life in a host of unforgettable experiences, including temple stays, wellness retreats and a nightlife that's among Asia's most vibrant.

### Seoul & surrounds

Introductions are invariably made in Seoul, the country's capital. This is where Korea pulled itself out of wartime collapse and into G20 prosperity in just 50 short years – an economic phenomenon termed the "Miracle on the Han River". Having leapfrogged the likes of Russia and Australia, Seoul wears its riches on its sleeve, with great skyscrapers, glitzy neon streets and fine-dining restaurants all competing for your attention. It's hard to imagine that the Demilitarized Zone with North Korea is just a day trip away.





### Unique culture and cuisine

Yet, Korea hasn't lost its roots. Even in the centre of Seoul, you'll quickly stumble across bustling markets, Confucianist shrines and great palaces, all intricate carvings and beautiful colours. However, it's perhaps Korean cuisine where tradition has lingered longest. Simply, there's nowhere else in the world that does food like Korea, whether that's the spicy tang of fermented kimchi, the impossible fluffy delight of seafood pancakes or the convivial joy of a night at a barbecue joint. It's all washed down with gallons of soju liquor – the world's most popular brand of alcohol.

### From countryside to coast

You would, however, be doing yourself a disservice if you limited yourself to Seoul. Second-city Busan impresses with golden beaches and waterside temples, Gyeongju



is world-famous for its cherry blossom and ancient palace complex, and the country's interior is ripe for hikes to forgotten mountain temples. However, for the true Korean holiday experience, get yourself to Jeju – a volcanic island where pristine beaches front gorgeous countryside and fresh seafood is caught by haenyeo free divers.

### Asian connections

With direct flights from the UK, South Korea is perfectly placed as a destination in its own right. But, if you want to combine it with other countries in the region, you'll also find it extremely well connected. Speak to our specialists who'll help you design a South Korea holiday based on your individual requirements, whether that's a country-spanning two-week stay or a short stopover en route to any one of a host of other Asian destinations.

## ESSENTIAL SOUTH KOREA

### 9-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Showcase Korea's highlights both ancient and cutting edge on this independent tour. Everything from Seoul's castle-palaces and Busan's beach-city neon to water temples and thousand-year-old royal capitals will be brought to life by the services of a private guide throughout. For extra flavour, you'll also enjoy a range of included extras, such as stage performances, seafood-market tastings and even a trip to the North Korea border. Along the way, you'll travel in style, with private transfers throughout and trips on the KTX – Korea's answer to the Japanese bullet train.

**PRICES FROM £4,275 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected transfers, 7 nights B&B accommodation & selected touring. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/103725](https://www.wexas.com/103725).



# SAFARIS IN AUSTRALIA

Alongside their reputation for fine wines and glorious scenery, South Australia and Western Australia are home to some of the country's most iconic wildlife encounters. Below, we pick out the best of them, showcased across two different safaris, taking in some of Australia's wildest regions.

## The wildlife of Western Australia

From the deserts of the far north to the woodlands and wildflowers of the south, wildlife is everywhere in Western Australia. Home to an incredible 70 per cent of Australia's mammals, with 25 species endemic to the state, you've just got to know where to look.

### Perth & surrounds

According to the World Wildlife Fund, Perth might just be the wildlife capital of the world. A strange notion, perhaps, for a modern and vibrant beachside city, but not when you consider that, within its verdant limits, you'll find 2,100 plant species, 15 amphibian species and 156 native birds, with seasonal influxes from visiting seabirds and migrating shorebirds as well. Then, along the city's Swan River, you might spot everything from island-dwelling kangaroos to black swans and wild dolphins. And, from mid-August to November there's prime whale-watching to be enjoyed off the city's 19 beaches, while to the south, the likes of Rockingham offer more close-up encounters. Think Seal Island kayaking trips, penguin cruises and even the chance to swim with dolphins.



### Rottneest Island

Just a short ferry ride from Perth, the picture-perfect island of Rottneest is something of a natural paradise. With only car-free roads to navigate, and bikes as the main form of transport, myriad species have made their home among its quiet coves and sandy bays. Spend a day exploring its coastlines and you're likely to see colonies of long-nose fur seals, catch glimpses of playful dolphins, spot shoals of tropical fish darting between coral reefs and come face-to-face with the island's star turn – the quokka. These inquisitive marsupials, found only in WA, are delightfully cute, lighting up the island with their friendly demeanor and ever-so-cheeky smiles.

### Ningaloo Reef

Some 1,200 kilometres to the north of Perth lies Ningaloo Reef. And, while it's easily accessible via a short flight to Exmouth, this spectacular region is like entering another world. On the coast, great sweeps of pristine white sand slope gently down to an impossibly clear sea, which in turn gives way to the world's largest fringing coral reef. Spanning more than 160 miles, this



## AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE SAFARI

16-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

Get up close to Australia's famed wildlife, showcased across a number of included eco-tours and excursions. Staying in among some of Western and South Australia's most notable wildlife hotspots, you'll swim with whale sharks, enjoy outback safaris and spend three days on Kangaroo Island.

**PRICES FROM £5,910 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 13 nights accommodation, selected meals & a programme of included touring. For a full itinerary & all inclusions, visit [wexas.com/184039](https://www.wexas.com/184039).



unique ecosystem supports a dazzling array of wildlife, from oceanic rays to humpbacks and whale sharks – the fabled ‘Big Three’. Indeed, visitors here have the chance to swim alongside the latter of these giants of the sea, while safaris inland offer close-up encounters with emus, rock wallabies and kangaroos which inhabit the great sandstone gorges and hidden watering holes of Cape Range National Park – a Kimberley in miniature.

### The wildlife of South Australia

Just a short flight to the east, South Australia has much in common with its neighbouring state, with an astonishing 24 national parks, over 1,500 species of plants and a wide variety of native wildlife. From the ocean to the outback, the region is showcased in its celebrated wine production and thriving food scene.

### Adelaide & surrounds

As one of only two National Park cities in the world, Adelaide offers wildlife encounters in abundance. Close to the city centre, a network of hiking and mountain biking trails carve through the pristine landscapes of the Adelaide Hills, a region home to some of Australia’s best-loved species. Even in the city itself, you’ll find bird-watching reserves, while on the coast in Glenelg, pods of dolphins welcome swimmers in for a play in the surf.

### Kangaroo Island

This is Australia at its wild best. Just a 30-minute flight from Adelaide, or a 45-minute ferry ride from Cape Jervis, Kangaroo Island offers unparalleled



opportunities to encounter unique Australian wildlife in its natural habitat. Often referred to as Australia’s Galápagos, the biodiversity here is staggering. There are kangaroos, of course (60,000 compared to the island’s 5,000 full-time human inhabitants), but that’s just the tip of the iceberg. From rare sealions, seals and koalas to the prehistoric echidna – a sort of spiny anteater – your days will be packed full of astonishing discoveries, with expert guides and rangers on hand throughout your stay.

### Eyre Peninsula

Close to the border with Western Australia, this off-the-beaten-track gem is well worth making time for. Where the ocean meets the outback, there’s the chance to swim with dolphins and sealions on one day, and seek out emus, kangaroos and koalas the next. Join a cycling tour or safari to take in the best of it, joining some of the best guides in the business who’ll bring it all to life.

### Flinders Ranges

A five-hour drive north of Adelaide, via the Clare Valley wine region, the remote Flinders Ranges is a rugged home to the likes of grey-fronted honeyeaters, Lake Eyre dragons, wedge-tailed eagles and the rare yellow-footed rock wallaby, now making its comeback following a concerted rewilding programme. It’s also a region hugely rich in First Life fossils, putting today’s encounters into the wider evolutionary context. Lastly, don’t miss out on experiencing the local Adnyamathanha culture – the chance to explore nature through indigenous eyes will elevate your stay far beyond a normal wildlife holiday.



## AUSTRALIA’S WINE, OUTBACK & WILDLIFE WONDERS

17-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

Combine incredible wildlife experiences among vines, gorges and pristine coastlines as you travel from Adelaide to Perth. Explore Flinders Ranges, Barossa Valley and Margaret River, enjoying a range of excursions from dolphin cruises to wine tastings and stays in unique and characterful hotels.

**PRICES FROM £3,590 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected transfers, 6 days car hire, 13 nights accommodation, selected meals & a programme of included touring. For a full itinerary & all inclusions, visit [wexas.com/184037](https://wexas.com/184037).

# ADVENTURES IN AFRICA

When it comes to wildlife, there's very little that can beat the thrill of a safari. And, there's no better continent for a safari than Africa. But, with so many luxurious lodges to choose from and so many magnificent national parks to explore, it can be hard to know where to start. We asked Wexas specialist *Krishna Ghosh* to help steer you in the right direction.



## BOTSWANA: DESERT & DELTA SAFARIS

9-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Botswana offers some of the finest game viewing in Africa, and this itinerary, with Desert & Delta Safaris, takes in the best of it, with stays in the Okavango Delta, Savute Channel and Chobe National Park.

**PRICES FROM £5,680 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 6 nights full-board accommodation, game drives on safari, national park fees & contribution to selected community programmes. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/104185](https://wexas.com/104185).

## KENYA SAFARI & COAST

15-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Join expert rangers and guides to explore the magnificent landscapes and abundant wildlife of Kenya's famed national parks. Then fly east, swapping wilderness for coast and a relaxing break on Mombasa's sun-kissed beaches.

**PRICES FROM £3,995 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 13 nights accommodation, selected meals & game drives on safari. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/101729](https://wexas.com/101729).



## TANZANIA & ZANZIBAR

15-DAY SMALL GROUP TOUR

Staying in luxury lodges this small-group safari takes in the best of Tanzania's national park treasures. It's all capped with some beach relaxation on the beautiful spice island of Zanzibar.

**PRICES FROM £4,390 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 12 nights accommodation, selected meals & a guided safari package with shared game drives and activities. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/101624](https://wexas.com/101624).



# CONTRASTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Appealing to adventurous and discerning travellers alike, the Middle East intrigues with the sites of ancient civilizations as vast desert landscapes and glorious, sun-drenched coastlines set the scene for some of the world's most luxurious hotels and resorts. Our two featured itineraries showcase these contrasts to perfection.

## GRAND TOUR OF EGYPT

10-DAY LUXURY RIVER CRUISE HOLIDAY

In Egypt, world-famous sites and culture-rich cities pepper the banks of the iconic River Nile and the endless dunes of the great Sahara Desert. Explore it all on this tailor-made journey and river cruise as you take in the clamour of Cairo, bucket-list highlights including the Great Pyramids and the Valley of the Kings, and the riverine beauty of the Nile, explored aboard one of the country's most luxurious ships. As well as your cruise, you'll also stay at two of the very best hotels Egypt has to offer – the Mena House at the foot of the Pyramids and the beautifully renovated Old Cataract in Aswan.

**PRICES FROM £4,425 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 5 nights B&B accommodation, 4-night luxury river cruise with all meals, drinks & touring, 2 days private touring in Cairo & a flight-seeing excursion to Abu Simbel. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/101810](https://wexas.com/101810).



## DISCOVER JORDAN IN STYLE

8-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Staying in a curated range of stylish accommodation, you'll discover Jordan's highlights in just seven days. Indeed, you'll experience a whole range of sights, from the ancient city of Petra, to the beautiful Byzantine mosaics of Madaba. You'll also focus on Jordan's fascinating and richly layered history, perfectly exemplified in the Greco-Roman city of Jerash, where you'll learn of its Neolithic, Roman, Byzantine and Umayyad heritage. At Wadi Rum, we've included a night in one of Sun City's 'Martian Domes'. And, you'll visit beautiful Mount Nebo, with its extraordinary views over to Israel and the Dead Sea, where your trip reaches its relaxing conclusion.

**PRICES FROM £2,895 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, 7 nights accommodation, selected meals, services of a private driver for tours & transfers & private guide service in Jerash and Petra. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/104388](https://wexas.com/104388).



## OMAN BY ANANTARA

Wexas specialist *Debbie Mayger* takes a detailed look at two of Oman's finest luxury hotels. First is the Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara, idyllically nestled between vast deserts and the dolphin-dotted waters of the Dhofar Coast. Then, for a complete contrast, the Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar is perched high in the hills near ancient Nizwa – a spectacular base for hikes onto the Saiq Plateau.



### Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara

Located next door to Al Baleed Archaeological Park and the Museum of the Land of Frankincense, on a 250-metre-long private beach in Oman's southern Salalah region, this resort effortlessly blends Omani and Thai influences with Anantara's signature sense of style. Accommodation ranges from ultra-stylish garden-view rooms to deluxe beach-view suites complete with free-standing bathtubs, rain showers and outdoor terraces. Most notable, though, are the 88 pool villas. With their private temperature-controlled plunge pools and butler service,



they're the only ones of their kind in the Salalah region.

The dining is equally impressive, with a choice of gourmet experiences, from the all-day delights and themed buffet nights at Sakalan's to Al Mina's zesty Mediterranean flavours and Mekong's authentic Asian cuisine. There's also the chance to enjoy an immersive cooking class, dine on the beach with the services of a private butler, or sample wines in the company of the resort's sommelier. Naturally, in-villa dining is available at all times. The resort's facilities, too, are second to none, with the standout Anantara Spa featuring the region's only luxury hammam, alongside an array of treatments that incorporate creative ingredients and ancient methods. And, that's not to forget the gorgeous infinity pool and palm-tree lined gardens, which spill down onto the beach and play host to a superb 'cinema under the stars' experience. That's just one of an array of activities, which also include fishing, dolphin watching and some of the finest diving and snorkelling in the Arabian Peninsula.

#### Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort

The elevation of the Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort is not the only world-class height it reaches – its level of luxury is perhaps even more spectacular. Contemporary



design lies alongside intricate murals and features reflective of Oman's Middle Eastern culture, with natural materials that, combined with striking modernity, exude utter elegance and, above all, the utmost in luxury.

What's more, this is one of the world's highest resorts, situated on the Saiq Plateau on Oman's Green Mountain, 2,000m above sea level on the rim of a mammoth canyon. Indeed, humbling canyon views lie outside many rooms, which range from deluxe suites to luxurious mountain villas that feature personal temperature-controlled plunge pools and outdoor showers, as well as a personal maid service.



Elsewhere, four exquisite restaurants all offer dwarfing views of the canyon surrounds, from the sprawling elegance of Al Maisan to the fresh Italian fare of poolside Belle Vista and Al Burj – a decadent lounge of opulent maroon and gold. There are also masterchef classes and multi-day personalised wellness retreats as well as endless hiking opportunities in the surrounding mountains. Round off days of adventure with an indulgent treatment in the private hammam suite of the spa, where saunas and steam rooms sit alongside luxurious relaxation areas. The striking infinity pool also provides a wonderful spot to while away the hours.

## OMAN IN STYLE WITH ANANTARA

### 12-DAY TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY

Our recommended three-centre holiday combines both Anantara resorts with the beauty of Oman's mountainous interior and the golden sands of its desert and coast. It all begins, however, in the capital, Muscat. Alongside a stay in one of the city's finest hotels, you'll be treated to a tour of its highlights, before swapping mosques and markets for the tranquil beauty of the Al Hajar Mountains. Here, between Nizwa's cultural intrigue and the sprawling verdure and crumbling ruins of Birkat Al Mauz, you'll enjoy all the luxuries of your Anantara hotel, from spa treatments to gourmet dining. And, there's more of the same on the coast in Salalah, where further indulgences are paired with included tours of Ubar's lost city, the vast deserts of the Empty Quarter and a dolphin-watching adventure off the beautiful Dhofar Coast. And of course, there's also plenty of time to relax on the pristine beach.

**PRICES FROM £5,180 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers, 2 nights B&B at Chedi Muscat, 3 nights half-board at Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar, 5 nights half-board at Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara, selected sightseeing & two lunches at local restaurants. For a full itinerary and inclusions, visit [wexas.com/168384](https://www.wexas.com/168384).





# CRUISE HOLIDAYS

At Wexas, we only work with the world's finest luxury cruise lines, curating a range of voyages designed with you, our clients, in mind. And, whether it's a pre- or post-cruise tour, rail journey or hotel stay, our specialists are on hand to tailor-make any element of your holiday. It's a truly bespoke approach.

Over the following pages, we've brought together the latest and greatest from the world of luxury cruising, contrasting Silversea's newest ocean and expedition ships and showcasing a brand-new cruise line offering low-impact sailings along Norway's classic coastal route.

We've also got a pair of spectacular Scenic river cruises to the Rhine and Black Sea, we explore the world's farthest-flung regions with polar specialists Swan Hellenic, and we bring you some superb special offers from the likes of Oceania and Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

# SILVERSEA CRUISES CLASSIC OR EXPEDITION?

Silversea's brand of ultra-luxury, small-ship cruising has long won plaudits for everything from its round-the-clock butler service and superlative open-seat dining options to its immersive on-board experiences and open-bar champagnes. All of which are included in each accommodation category – an all-suite array with ocean views from every suite, served by a staff-to-guest ratio of nearly 1:1. However, what you might not know, is that Silversea sails to over 900 destinations across all seven continents. That's more than any other cruise line. It's all made possible by its classic and expedition fleets.

## **Silver Nova – Classic fleet**

Silversea's fleet of classic ships have their roots in more traditional ocean cruising, with an emphasis on great dining, entertainment and white-gloved service. Prime among them is *Silver Nova*, Silversea's new flagship debuting summer 2023.

Not only will she feature all-balcony suites and be one of the most spacious cruise ships ever built, but *Silver Nova* will also be one of the greenest, being the first to be entirely emission-free in port. There's also plenty of extra innovation. Her pool deck will be open to the ship's side for truly unobstructed views and exciting, enhanced dining offerings include grill fineries served under the stars. Thanks to new advancements in sound design, there's also an all-new 'horizontal' design integrating social and accommodation areas. That means no lengthy journeys back from the bar or out to enjoy your morning coffee.



## ATLANTIC ARCHIPELAGOS: *SILVER NOVA*

18-DAY LUXURY OCEAN CRUISE HOLIDAY

Bookended by stays among the historic icons of Portugal's capital, Lisbon, this itinerary offers a rare chance to explore the varied islands of the Macaronesia archipelago in style. You'll begin with the green-carpeted volcanoes that backdrop the Azores' old towns before Madeira impresses with whitewashed villages, beautified by fertile mountains, wild cliffs and the urban delights of Funchal. Then, off-the-beaten-track Cape Verde rewards with its seaside hamlets and turquoise seas, while the Canary Islands offer bougainvillea charm paired with subtropical greenery. With half the days spent at sea, this is ideal for those wanting to enjoy the latest in ultra-luxury ships – *Silver Nova*.

**PRICES FROM £6,295 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers & 17 nights aboard *Silver Nova* incl. all dining, drinks, gratuities, WiFi, shore excursions & on-board entertainment. Departs 29 Sep 2023. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/184035](https://www.wexas.com/184035).



### *Silver Endeavour* – Expedition fleet

Silversea's expedition fleet is comprised of true 'go-anywhere' explorer vessels, bringing a slice of luxury to the planet's remotes. These smaller ships are able to access destinations and ports that others simply can't, all while delivering the impeccably high standards of all-included service that you'd expect from Silversea. Naturally, there's a particular focus on the destination, something showcased with on-board lecture programmes and the opportunity for unique shore excursions, from Zodiac tender rides and snorkel trips to kayak paddles and photography-led wildlife safaris.

Leading the expedition fleet is *Silver Endeavour*, having debuted in November 2022. She's been designed specifically for polar cruising. Alongside being built to one of the highest polar classifications, *Silver Endeavour* employs cutting-edge navigation technology and invites in giant views of the polar landscape from the likes of 270-degree observation lounges.

And, with a crew-to-guest ratio of 1:1, gastronomic experiences that include French fine dining and amenities that range from a top spa to a cigar lounge and fitness centre, it's been billed as the 'the most luxurious expedition ship ever built'. That's without mentioning the impressive butler-served suites, all of which feature private balconies.



## ANTARCTICA BRIDGE: *SILVER ENDEAVOUR*

12-DAY EXPEDITION CRUISE HOLIDAY

Simply put, a trip to Antarctica is a highlight of world travel – the opportunity to experience wildlife and landscapes unlike anywhere else on Earth. Your captain will create an itinerary that maximises current weather and wildlife conditions, sailing among giant iceberg floes in search of everything from penguins to whales. It's all brought to life by your expedition team, bringing you out for remote Zodiac landings. Unlike the explorers before you, you'll fly business class over the notoriously choppy waters of the Drake Passage to meet the luxurious *Silver Endeavour* on King George Island.

**PRICES FROM £20,300 PP** incl. flights with business class from Santiago to King George Island, UK airport lounge access, all transfers incl. round home-airport transfers, 1 night pre- and post-cruise accommodation & 6- or 7-days aboard *Silver Endeavour* incl. all dining, drinks, gratuities, WiFi, shore excursions & lectures. Selected departures in 2023 & 2024. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/172777](https://wexas.com/172777).

# REGENT EXCLUSIVES

Regent Seven Seas enjoys its superlatives. With staff-to-guest ratios averaging at 1:1.5 and a full range of world-class facilities on board, they bill themselves as having ‘the world’s most luxurious fleet’ offering the ‘only truly all-inclusive’ cruise-line experience. That means everything from unlimited shore excursions and pre-cruise stays to speciality restaurants and open bars are included, alongside those important little things such as unlimited WiFi, complimentary minibars and gratuities.

They’re particularly proud of offering what they term ‘unrivalled space’ on their ships, whether you’re enjoying your expansive accommodation, large pool deck or extensive fitness areas. But, it’s perhaps the smaller touches that might impress the most. That could be enjoying a mouth-watering beef tartare in the modern-French restaurant and the bartender greeting you with a warm smile and your favourite drink. Or, it might just be unwinding with complimentary access to the spa’s hydrothermal suite.

The accommodation is particularly impressive. All are suites bedecked in marbled accents and each, save a few on Seven Seas Navigator, come with a private balcony. Throughout, personal attendants are always on hand to restock your complimentary minibar and take your order

for the included room service. Of course, you’ll also want to explore with those superb shore excursions. Think Brazilian cooking classes in Rio de Janeiro and sundown searches for koalas in Australia. Then, cap it all off with included access to a full range of evening entertainment, from full-scale theatres to casinos and even cigar-and-cognac clubs.

What’s more, we currently have some excellent offers on a range of Regent departures. We’ve picked out two of our favourites below and opposite, and there are plenty more besides. Get in contact with our cruise specialists to enjoy savings of up to £1,330 pp, on-board credit and multi-night pre-cruise excursions on destinations from the Caribbean and the Americas to Asia and Australia. Just be sure to book early to avoid missing out.

SAVE UP TO  
£2,010 PP  
+ choice of 2 FREE  
land programmes  
Book by 31 Jan 23

## ISLANDS & WILDLIFE OF AUSTRALIA & INDONESIA

23-DAY LUXURY OCEAN CRUISE & STAY

This luxury voyage begins with Bali’s tropical paradise, taking in its lesser-visited north for rice terraces and Buddhist monuments. Then, your next island hops will see you on to Lombok’s water palace and Komodo’s eponymous dragons – genuine world wonders.

You’ll next make land in Darwin, Australia, where crocodile cruises and a settlers’ past vie for your attention. Idyllic Thursday Island will then prefix visits to rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef, enjoyed from the ports of Cairns, Townsville and also Airlie Beach, gateway to the Whitsundays. After beachy Mooloolaba and big-city Brisbane, the white sands of Newcastle and the vineyards of Hunter Valley will see you to Sydney’s icons. Either side, you’ll have the option of a complimentary two-night stay at one of Sydney’s best hotels or a three-night beachfront getaway on Bali.

**PRICES FROM £11,795 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 2- or 3-night extension & 17-night all-inclusive cruise incl. shore excursions, drinks, speciality restaurants, gratuities & WiFi. Departs 4 Dec 2023. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/184045](https://www.wexas.com/184045).





SAVE UP TO  
£1,710 PP  
+ FREE land programme  
Book by 31 Jan 23

## SOUTHERN AFRICA IN STYLE

21-DAY LUXURY OCEAN CRUISE & CAPE TOWN STAY

Between Namibia's deserts and the European heritage of Mozambique, this cruise takes in the city greats and wildlife wonders of South Africa.

With our special offer, you'll begin with three nights of luxury in Cape Town, enjoying game drives and tastings in the winelands. Then, setting sail, your first port of call is Namibia's Walvis Bay, known for its colonial architecture, marine wildlife and famed orange dunes. Port Elizabeth's colonial history and nearby game reserves then welcome you back to South Africa before a stop in vibrant Durban sees you on to the Mozambican capital, Maputo, with its grand palaces and European boulevards. Back in South Africa, Richards Bay then acts as gateway to Zululand's battlefields, beaches and Big Five. Lastly, you'll return to Cape Town after a stop at Mossel Bay for the Garden Route's mountain passes, whale watching and hiking.

**PRICES FROM £9,655 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 3-night Cape Town extension & 15 nights all-inclusive cruise incl. shore excursions, drinks, dining at speciality restaurants, gratuities & WiFi. Departs 12 & 27 Dec 2023, 5 & 20 Dec 2024. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/184017](https://wexas.com/184017).

# POLE TO POLE WITH SWAN HELLENIC

As recognised world leaders and pioneers in expedition cruising, Swan Hellenic have been taking clients to the planet's remotest regions for 70 years. It's a unique heritage, showcased across a globe-spanning range of voyages, packed full of authentic, intimate and unforgettable moments. It's all complemented by an on-board air of elegant sophistication, experienced across their new fleet of boutique-luxury ships, where Scandinavian design is complemented by a wealth of superb amenities, detailed in full below.



From Papua New Guinea to the sun-kissed islands of the South Pacific, Swan Hellenic's immersive and innovative itineraries explore a truly incredible range of off-the-beaten-track destinations across all seven continents. But, it's the polar regions where they really excel, taking guests from the spectacular frozen realms of the Antarctic Peninsula to the farthest flung reaches of the Svalbard archipelago and beyond.

## Voyages to the Arctic

Following in the footsteps of the world's greatest explorers, Swan Hellenic's Arctic voyages take in the very best of life north of the Arctic Circle, from spectacular fjords and creaking glaciers to remote settlements and whale-dotted seas and craggy coastlines home to walrus and polar bears.

## Voyages to Antarctica

Cruising to Antarctica is, for many, a real once-in-a-lifetime experience. And, there can be few better ways to take in its unique drama than with a Swan Hellenic voyage. Join polar experts as you head ashore to discover mesmerising icebergs, vast mountain ranges and immense colonies of penguins and seals. Then, head back to ship for five-star facilities and fascinating presentations held in the company of the ship's expedition team, comprised of experts in the fields of geology, history and wildlife.

Of course, a huge part of the cruise experience is the ship itself and, with three brand-new boutique expedition ships at their disposal – *SH Minerva*, *SH Vega* & *SH Diana* – Swan Hellenic's on-board experience is second to none. To reach the remotest regions, all ships offer the very latest ice-class technology, while inside guests can expect intuitive service alongside elegant accommodation complete with floor-to-ceiling balcony doors, state-of-the-art facilities, and a range of delicious dining options. Indeed, from the room service to the restaurants, a team of world-class chefs are on hand to prepare dishes combining the latest international trends with ingredients inspired by the destinations visited.

Then, alongside daily shore excursions by Zodiac, there are opportunities for kayaking, trekking and, for the hardy, the infamous Polar Plunge. What's more, back on board, there's plenty of scientific insight, with each destination's unique nature, history and geology brought to life through a programme of expert-led presentations and fascinating guest lectures. You can even hone your photography skills at the state-of-the-art Expedition Lab.

For inspiration, our Swan Hellenic expert, *Emma Sanger-Horwell*, has picked out two of her top polar expeditions opposite.





## SVALBARD IN DEPTH

### 9-DAY EXPEDITION CRUISE HOLIDAY

This is your chance to experience and explore the remotest corners of the Svalbard archipelago in style. Keeping eyes peeled for polar bears, you'll sail between majestic glaciers and towering fjords, enjoying daily shore excursions designed to bring you up close to unique landscapes and magnificent wildlife. Then, back on board, you'll savour all the luxuries of your Scandi-inspired ship, complete with saunas, Jacuzzis, a state-of-the-art gym, sophisticated dining spaces and a choice of observation areas, including a star-gazing deck up top.

**PRICES FROM £8,475 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 1 night B&B accommodation in Oslo & a 7-night Swan Hellenic cruise with all meals, selected drinks & one shore excursion per day. Departs 5, 12 & 19 Jul 2023. For a full itinerary & all inclusions, visit [wexas.com/184038](https://wexas.com/184038).



## ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

### 13-DAY EXPEDITION CRUISE HOLIDAY

This epic voyage is a spectacular showcase for the drama and beauty of Antarctica and the remote South Sandwich Islands. With two nights in Buenos Aires you'll have the chance to explore this vibrant South American capital, before flying to Ushuaia, where you'll board your luxury expedition ship. The incredible concentration of wildlife and wonders of the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula await as you explore dramatic coastlines and cruise between icebergs and glaciers on board a fleet of Zodiacs.

**PRICES FROM £10,995 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 1 night pre-cruise & 1 night post-cruise B&B accommodation & a 9-night Swan Hellenic cruise with all meals, selected drinks & one shore excursion per day. Departures from Nov 2023 to Feb 2024. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/184024](https://wexas.com/184024).

# OCEANIA CRUISES

With a glistening, soon-to-launch ship and lots of excitingly fresh voyages, there's plenty new to Oceania Cruises. After all, the line prides itself on offering innovative, destination-rich itineraries that inspire what it terms the 'finest culinary experience at sea' – Oceania's signature, all-inclusive dining.

## 2024–2025: Tropics and Exotics

Looking forward to 2024–25, Oceania is doubling down on its promise of destination-focused journeys, with more than 150 itineraries to choose from. Spanning everywhere from Africa, Asia and Australasia to the Americas, Caribbean and the Indian Ocean, they include some 14 new ports of call. There's everything from the stunning Japanese gardens of Hitachinaka and the pristine white sands of Vanuatu's Champagne Bay to Tristan de Cunha – the world's most remote inhabited island.

Many of these itineraries will include overnights and pre-cruise stays, so you can get right to the heart of your destinations. And, some 70 are 'Grand Voyages' – longer journeys that let you explore in more detail.

## New ship for 2023 – *Vista*

Launching May 2023, *Vista* promises to set new standards for comfort and residential-style luxury, while maintaining Oceania's lauded country-club atmosphere. It's also the first all-verandah ship in the Oceania fleet, with even the lead-in grades benefitting from French-



## FRENCH POLYNESIAN ISLANDS ABOARD *NAUTICA*

14-DAY LUXURY OCEAN CRUISE

Starting and ending in Tahiti, hop between paradise islands where impossibly blue waters front white-sand beaches. After the Polynesian buzz and waterfall-dotted green mountains of Tahiti, your first stop will be Moorea for that quintessential island beauty. Here, snorkelling lagoons are joined by pristine sands and lush greenery. Then, look beyond Fakarava's pink beaches to discover exotic birds and coral-church villages before you arrive at green-carpeted Nuku Hiva. It's home to one of the world's tallest waterfalls, sacred tiki statues and 4WD trips into its lush, green valleys.

It's then on to snorkellers' paradise Rangiroa and its aquarium lagoon, fringed by pretty atolls. Next, you'll be greeted at Bora Bora by its iconic, rainforest-covered peaks. Here, traditional canoe rides bring you out to coral islands and manta-ray snorkelling. Your penultimate port before returning to Tahiti is Ra'iatea, where you'll be welcomed to its island idyll by the wafts of vanilla plantations.

**PRICES FROM £5,995 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected transfers, 1 night pre-cruise accommodation, 10-night cruise aboard *Nautica* with full-board dining, unlimited soft drinks & shuttle service from ship to city centre in many ports of call. Selected departures in January & February 2025. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/184042](https://www.wexas.com/184042).



style verandahs and Juliet balconies. There are also staterooms dedicated to solo travellers. And, this being Oceania, you'll find no fewer than 12 dining venues, all included. Alongside such classics as the Polo Grill's steakhouse classics and the tasting menus of the Grand Dining Room, there will be wellness-inspired dishes in Aquamar and Ember's American fine-dining concept – both new to the line.

Of course, there are all of Oceania's usual favourites, too, including the likes of afternoon teas accompanied by string quartets, cooking or artists' classes and a superb spa, pool and fitness centre. And, don't forget the casino, bars, on-board shows and guest speakers.

After her debut summer in the Mediterranean and British Isles, a transatlantic crossing will see her explore the USA, Canada and Central America in the autumn before a winter in the Caribbean.

## OLIFE CHOICE

Available on both of our featured cruises, you can make the most of Oceania's OLife Choice offer. Enjoy a complimentary airfare and on-board internet, plus choose one of the following three FREE amenities per stateroom:

- Six shore excursions
- Beverage package
- US\$ 600 shipboard credit

For more information on this and other Oceania offers, speak to one of our luxury cruise specialists on **020 7838 5894**.

## CARIBBEAN NEW YEAR ABOARD *VISTA*

15-DAY LUXURY OCEAN CRUISE

Celebrate New Year in style with some winter sun. This round trip out of Miami sails between sun-drenched Central and South America, before kissing Jamaica on your return. After leaving Miami's Art-Deco glitz, Mexico's Costa Maya impresses with jungle-backed beaches, which hide Mayan ruins. It's then on to Belize's Harvest Caye for artisans' villages and the world's second-largest coral reef before, New Year's Eve is spent on the white sands of a Honduran island – Roatán.

Then, Costa Rica's Puerto Limón offers access to rainforests brimming with wildlife before Panama's Colón showcases rainforest trails, decaying colonial architecture and the iconic Panama Canal. Your next port, Colombia's UNESCO-listed Cartagena, is a true highlight for its European old-town spread of cobbled alleys, church spires and pastel houses. Before returning to Miami, you'll also pause at Jamaica's historic Port Royal, home to a 17th-century fort and pirate heritage.

**PRICES FROM £4,945 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, selected transfers, 1 night pre-cruise accommodation, 12-night cruise aboard *Vista* with full-board dining, unlimited soft drinks & shuttle service from ship to city centre in many ports of call. Departs 26 December 2024. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/184049](https://www.wexas.com/184049).



# THE SCENIC ROUTE

If you're unfamiliar with Scenic's small-ship cruises, they position themselves as "beyond" 5-star luxury. That means a truly all-inclusive spread of fine-dining meals, exceptional service and curated excursions.



Scenic ships are ultra-modern and custom-built for the line. Their European river offerings are even billed – rather futuristically – as “Space-Ships” for their surprisingly expansive interiors – a welcome change to traditional river ships. Indeed, Scenic go to great lengths to differentiate themselves. For example in something highly unusual for river ships, they offer a flexible dining concept, meaning guests aren’t restricted to set dining times.

With Scenic, truly all-inclusive luxury means every detail has been taken care of for you, from return flights and transfers to all on-board dining and included premium beverages. That’s alongside the likes of included WiFi and gratuities. And, you’ll also enjoy the services of your very own private butler, on hand to offer room service – including menus for night owls – and restock your suite’s complimentary minibar.

Throughout your cruise, you’ll also enjoy a choice of included experiences that promise a deeper cultural immersion. That could be everything from guided truffle tastings to private concerts in Austrian palaces and river-side cycles on your ship’s complimentary e-bikes. Of course, the chefs will provide you with an indulgent picnic to enjoy on shore.

Then, back on your ship, you’ll have a choice of up to five dining options. All tastes are catered for, whether you’re after a six-course, sommelier-paired gastronomic journey or a casual bistro-style experience. It’s all washed down with a fine choice of included drinks, with the attentive staff able to recommend complementary wines for each dish and mixologists creating truly inventive cocktails. Offering what Scenic terms “Nth-Degree Service”, you can expect anticipatory excellence throughout your journey.



## IDYLIC RHÔNE

8-DAY LUXURY RIVER CRUISE

Starting amid the French gastronomic heartlands, you'll sail the Rhône and Saône rivers to where they flow into the Mediterranean Sea. Your journey begins in Lyon, where secret traboules passageways lead between the 19<sup>th</sup>-century basilicas and five centuries of artisanal silk production. Then, sailing into the Beaujolais region, you'll have a choice of castle visits and wine tastings. Next, it's Vienne, whose grand Roman amphitheatre hints at the region's ancient past, also showcased on a village cycling tour. You'll then have a choice between the great cathedral town of Viviers and the more provincial charms of Grignan, with its Renaissance castle. In Avignon, you'll even enjoy an after-hours concert in a 14<sup>th</sup>-century palace, while the Pont du Gard Roman aqueduct, Châteauneuf-du-Pape tastings and Scenic Culinaire classes all compete for your attention during the day. And, as you close in on your final port, Tarascon, there's everything from painting lessons on board to olive-oil tastings and tours of the Roman ruins of Arles Arena.

**PRICES FROM £2,970 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, overseas transfers & an 8-day river cruise from Lyon to Marseille with all meals on board, a selection of premium beverages, gratuities & shore excursions. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/184047](https://wexas.com/184047).



## BLACK SEA EXPLORER WITH ZAGREB & LJUBLJANA

13-DAY LUXURY RIVER CRUISE

After a land-based showcase of some of Croatia and Slovenia's highlights, sail the mighty Danube from Budapest to the Black Sea. You'll start in Croatia's largest city, Zagreb, contrasting its medieval centre with the beauty of Plitvice National Park's emerald-green lakes before you hop the border into Slovenia. Here, you'll take in the Baroque charm of its capital, Ljubljana, and Lake Bled, backdropped by the Alps. Then, boarding your ship in Budapest, you'll set sail through the Hungarian plains to Kolocsa – one of the country's oldest towns. It's then back to Croatia to explore Osijek and its 18<sup>th</sup>-century citadel and on to the Serbian capital of Belgrade, with its Art-Nouveau and Habsburg vestiges. Next, sailing through the iconic Iron Gates gorge and into Bulgaria, you'll take in UNESCO-listed villages, the Byzantine jewels of Veliko Tarnovo and the Ottoman fort of Silistra, before you end in Bucharest. There are also plenty of unique experiences along the way, from meeting traditional horsemen to enjoying choral performances in a temple crypt.

**PRICES FROM £5,100 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, overseas transfers & a 13-day river cruise from Zagreb to Bucharest, with all meals on board, a selection of premium beverages, gratuities & shore excursions. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/184048](https://wexas.com/184048).

# HAVILA VOYAGES

*Wexas specialist Meriel Lowe casts her eye over Norway's classic coastal route and a brand-new ship, designed with comfort and the environment in mind.*



## Routes & seasons

With departure dates throughout the year, guests have the chance to experience the best of Norway through the seasons, exploring dramatic fjords and far-flung archipelagos under either the Midnight Sun or those magical Northern Lights. Choose between the full-length route between Bergen and Kirkenes, perhaps tagging on a stay at the iconic Kirkenes Snowhotel, or opt for a shorter section, sailing either between Tromsø and Trondheim or Trondheim and Bergen. These shorter routes are perfect for those looking to combine a cruise with other parts of mainland Norway. Otherwise, you might choose to put your Havila experience front and centre, taking the full voyage from Bergen to Kirkenes and back again. The possibilities are almost endless.

## New ships, spacious cabins

Havila's brand-new fleet of ships offer some of the most advanced environmental technologies in the industry, including the world's largest battery pack which allows for up to four hours' emission-free sailing. That's alongside an energy-efficient hull design and use of natural gas, which cuts CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 30%.

But that's not all, as guests will also enjoy a host of modern comforts, including exceptionally spacious cabins and suites, many with panoramic sea views, some with balconies and, in the case of the stunning Lighthouse Suite, even a private Jacuzzi. Whichever you choose, you'll be treated to the likes of complimentary WiFi, USB ports and stylish Nordic-inspired design.

## NORTHERN LIGHTS CRUISE & SNOWHOTEL KIRKENES

### 5-DAY COASTAL CRUISE

After a night in Tromsø, you'll board your Havila ship to cruise the Norwegian coast, exploring hidden fjords and remote communities, hunting the Northern Lights and pausing to take in the wild beauty of North Cape. It all ends in far-flung Kirkenes with a stay at its famous snow hotel.

**PRICES FROM £1,305 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, transfers, 1 night B&B accommodation in Tromsø with afternoon waffles and light supper, 2 nights full-board cruise in a sea view cabin & 1 night B&B at Kirkenes Snowhotel. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/183883](https://wexas.com/183883).



### Seasonal dining, inspired by local culture

Havila's on-board dining has a firm focus on local, seasonal ingredients, with Norwegian food culture informing menus which are, in turn, inspired by the route the ships' sail. In fact, at the main Havrand Restaurant, you'll swap between menus as you move along the coast, with dishes inspired by four distinct regions, showcasing everything from summer fruits and berries to succulent reindeer, king crab and delicious Arctic char. Other dining options include the Havly cafe, where guests can enjoy coffee and cake as well as light lunches and simple dinners, and the elegant Hildring, where a five-course fine-dining menu pays tribute to the many flavours of Norway, with a special emphasis on seafood.

### Excursions

While you'll enjoy your time on board, you'll also want to step ashore to explore all the Norwegian coast has to offer. In summer, UNESCO-listed fjords set the scene for spectacular hikes, fishing trips and strolls among historic towns. Get up close to nature on RIB boat safaris in search of sea eagles, meet huskies near Tromsø, get acquainted with Sami locals and gaze out over the Barents Sea from mainland Europe's most northerly point. Then, in winter, the likes of husky sledding and snowmobiling is illuminated by majestic swirls of the Northern Lights. Whatever you choose, you'll enjoy the services of expert guides who'll be on hand to add colour, intrigue and humour to your holiday experience.



## HAVILA GOLD

Upgrade your cruise to Havila Gold for a host of added extras:

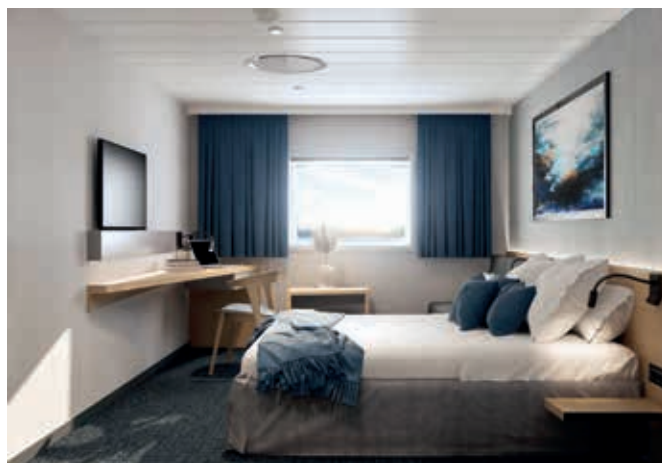
### Food & beverage

- Optional free upgrade to the fine-dining restaurant, Hildring, with its exclusive five-course menu
- Havila Gold exclusive extra meal choices at breakfast and dinner
- A selection of premium choice coffee
- Non-alcoholic beverage package, available from all serving points on board

### Service

- Welcome drink and snacks in the Havblikk Bar & Lounge
- Welcome pack in your cabin on arrival
- No cover charge for self-ordering room service
- 20% discount on selected items in the Havila shop

Speak to Meriel and the team at Wexas about adding Havila Gold to your booking.



## CLASSIC COASTAL EXPLORER

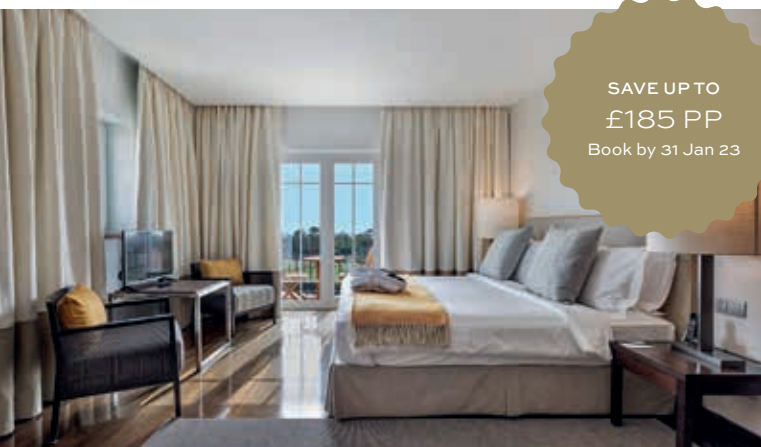
### 14-DAY COASTAL CRUISE

On this round-trip voyage, you'll explore Norway's spectacular coast in its entirety. Travelling in summer, you'll witness the unique phenomenon of the Midnight Sun as you set sail from Bergen, crossing the Arctic Circle to visit pretty villages framed by spectacular islands and majestic fjords.

**PRICES FROM £3,525 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, coach transfers, 2 nights B&B accommodation in Bergen & an 11-night full-board cruise in a sea view cabin. For a full itinerary, visit [wexas.com/184025](https://wexas.com/184025).

# ESCAPE TO THE BEACH

While some of us crave excitement and adventure from our time away, others prefer to simply relax. Over these pages, our specialists have hand-picked the latest and greatest holidays to some of the world's finest island and beach resorts, each one chosen for its propensity for out and out pampering. Of course, there are also some excellent offers to be had, from early-booking discounts on summer trips to Europe to free nights in the Caribbean and savings of up to £500 per person to Mauritius when you book by the end of January. Just remember, these exclusive deals are sure to sell out fast. And, if another destination appeals, don't hesitate to get in touch.



SAVE UP TO  
£185 PP  
Book by 31 Jan 23

## DOMES LAKE ALGARVE

As the name suggests, this luxurious resort boasts its own private lake along with access to Praia de Falesia beach. You can also expect Mediterranean dining and a signature spa set in the heart of the romantic Algarve.

**PRICES FROM £1,915 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers & 7 nights B&B accommodation in a One Bedroom Residence. Prices vary by departure date. For more information, visit [wexas.com/183920](https://wexas.com/183920).

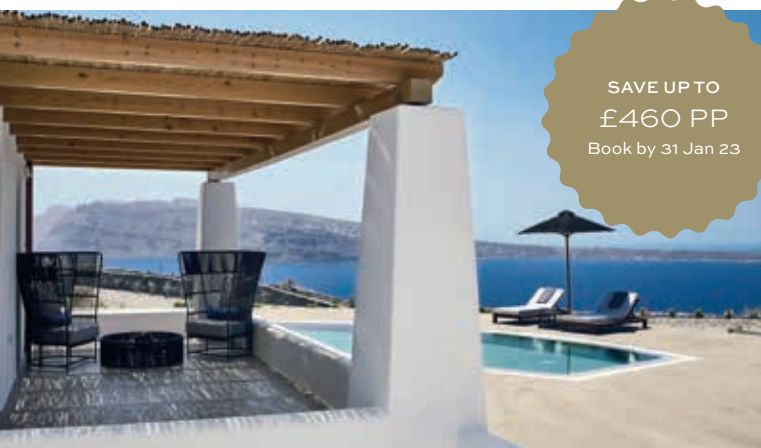
## BAGLIONI RESORT SARDINIA

Idyllically set within a marine protected area on Sardinia's north-east coast, this brand-new Baglioni gem features designer rooms, fine Italian cuisine and a standout spa spread across a four-hectare estate.

**PRICES FROM £1,460 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers & 7 nights B&B accommodation in a Grand Deluxe Room. Prices vary by departure date. For more information, visit [wexas.com/173974](https://wexas.com/173974).



SAVE UP TO  
£1,750 PP  
Book by 31 Jan 23



SAVE UP TO  
£460 PP  
Book by 31 Jan 23

## SANTO PURE OIA, SANTORINI

Expect creative Greek dining and rooms and suites designed in the best Cycladic tradition at this Santorini hideaway. The views are stunning, the location's idyllic and the spa has twice been voted the best in Europe.

**PRICES FROM £895 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers & 7 nights B&B accommodation in a Pool Front Suite with Jacuzzi. Prices vary by departure date. For more information, visit [wexas.com/104077](https://wexas.com/104077).



## CORAL REEF CLUB, BARBADOS

Always popular, this family-owned oceanfront hotel is set within serene landscaped gardens on Barbados' secluded west coast. Laze on the beach, dine al fresco and embrace the Bajan lifestyle.

**PRICES FROM £2,485 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers & 7 nights B&B accommodation in a Garden Room Cottage for stays from 3 May to 1 Nov 2023. Prices vary by departure date. For more information, visit [wexas.com/100251](https://wexas.com/100251).

STAY 7 NIGHTS  
PAY FOR 6  
Book by 31 Jan 23



SAVE UP TO  
30%  
+ free half board  
Book by 31 Jan 23



## CARLISLE BAY, ANTIGUA

Nestled between a jade-green rainforest and a glorious beach, Carlisle Bay is the epitome of barefoot luxury. Stylish suites and unmatched service and cuisine come together to create the ultimate Caribbean escape.

**PRICES FROM £2,735 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers & 7 nights B&B accommodation in a Garden Suite for stays from 17 Apr to 21 Dec. Prices vary by departure date. For more information, visit [wexas.com/100243](https://wexas.com/100243).

## DINAROBIN, MAURITIUS

Dinarobin's trump card is its location on the volcanic Le Morne Peninsula. Smaller and more personal than some of its flashy neighbours, the suites are still far enough apart along the white coral beach to offer total privacy.

**PRICES FROM £2,015 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers & 7 nights B&B accommodation in a Junior Suite. Prices vary by departure date. For more information, visit [wexas.com/100773](https://wexas.com/100773).

SAVE UP TO  
£500 PP  
Book by 31 Jan 23



## LUX\* SOUTH ARI ATOLL, MALDIVES

Expect sublime elegance and first-class service, with accommodation perched over water or scattered along the beach in classic island style. It's all complemented by a stunning array of facilities and dining experiences.

**PRICES FROM £2,015 PP** incl. flights, UK airport lounge access, private transfers & 7 nights B&B accommodation in a Beach Pavilion. Prices vary by departure date. For more information, visit [wexas.com/102218](https://wexas.com/102218).



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