

Travel

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'An amble across Oklahoma and America's mythic Midwest — this is Route 66 for softies'

John Bungey and daughter go on a road trip

Potter House at Dunton Hot Springs, Colorado (2); camel ride in Morocco (3), below



50 best adventure holidays

From camel treks in Africa to snorkelling in Antarctica, **Robert Ryan** picks the best trips for 2014

Adventures for softies

1 Wild kayak in Turkey

Base yourself at the lovely Ece hotel on the waterfront of Sovalye, a pedestrianised island in the Gulf of Fethiye, and you can sign up for a two-day kayaking tour, which will take you across the clearest of seas to isolated ruins, sunken cities and deserted coves. The tour includes a wild camp with an evening meal prepared by the guide — mainly consisting of fresh fish caught that day.

Details Seven nights' B&B at Ece costs from £850pp including flights, transfers and a day's cruise on a gulet — a two-masted yacht. A two-day kayak sea safari, with overnight wild camp, costs from £220pp, including breakfast, lunches and dinners (020-8605 3500, exclusiveescapes.co.uk)

2 Luxury Rockies

Scott Dunn has a trip combining the glories of the Old West with the luxury of the 21st century, staying at hotels such as the Four Seasons in Denver, Dunton Hot Springs near Telluride, and Amangiri in Utah. You can hire a private speedboat to explore Lake Powell, take the Via Ferrata climbing course or experience the far less touristy northern rim of the Grand Canyon. The trip finishes in Las Vegas for adventures of a different kind.

Details Thirteen nights costs from £5,521pp including flights, all transfers, some meals and a private flight over Monument Valley (020-3411 9830, scottdunn.com)



3 Multi-active Morocco

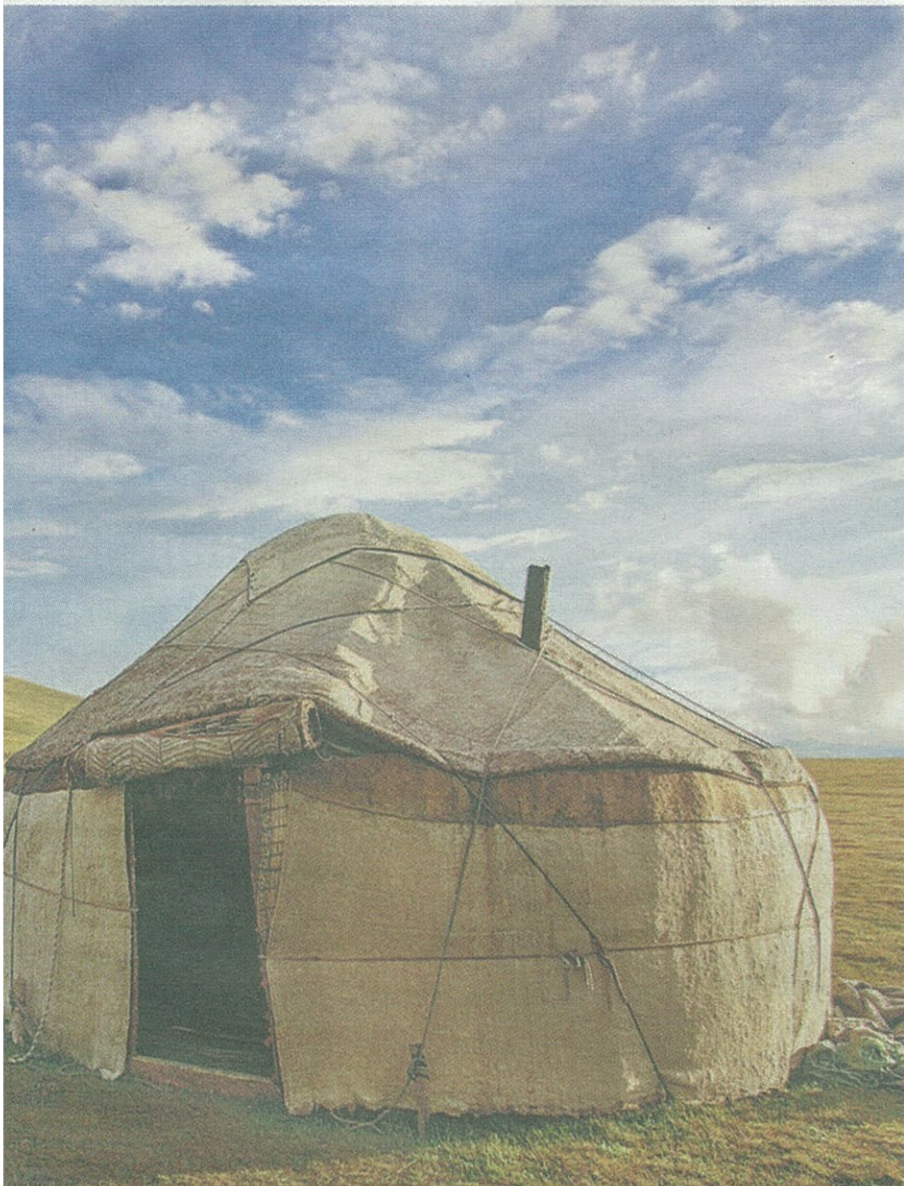
If the idea of going to Morocco is adventure enough, then park yourself at the Rejali, a comfortable riad complex at Sidi Kaouki, 20 minutes south of the coastal town of Essaouira. Then, when you feel brave enough, you can enjoy the activities on offer, from camel picnics and horse riding to quad biking and watersports. There's an on-site hammam to relax in afterwards.

Details Seven nights' B&B with activities and flights costs from £695pp (020-7112 0019, fleewinter.com)

4 Climbing in Nevis

Compact, charming and friendly Nevis can't boast the West Indies' best beaches but has lots of other activities — one of the best of which is Nevis Peak. At 985m, climbing it is not a soft option (there's plenty of scrambling over slippery and steep slopes) but the joy is that you can return to the plush Montpelier Plantation & Beach hotel. There are gentler guided walks too, the best led by local Lynell Liburd, or you can take a bike to explore the former sugar cane plantations with Winston Crooke.

Details Seven nights' B&B, £1,795pp with flights (020-7873 5000, coxandkings.co.uk). The hotel can arrange all activities or contact Lynell Liburd's Sunrise Tours (00 1 869 669 1227, nevisnaturetours.com, £24 for the Nevis Peak climb) and Winston Crooke's Bike Nevis (00 1 869 664 2843, bikenevis.com, tours from £39) ▶



38 Snorkel Antarctica

It sounds like madness, but with the right equipment Aurora Expeditions promises that you can now dive into the astonishingly clear waters (at minus 2C) off the White Continent and see for yourself the speed of the rocket-like penguins and seals and the ethereal beauty of underwater ice. Plus all the usual Antarctic excitements (including the often-challenging Drake Passage). **Details** A 12-day cruise out of Ushuaia, Argentina, costs from £4,313 full board with excursions but excluding flights. Add £608 for snorkelling (00 61 2 9252 1033, auroraexpeditions.com.au)

39 Climb Kili

Conquering Kilimanjaro (5,895m) gives a real sense of achievement. The key to getting to the top of this fearsome mountain is acclimatisation. Mountain Kingdoms achieves this by beginning with a trek up Tanzania's second-highest peak, Mount Meru (4,556m), and by taking the longer Lemosho route on Kili, giving the best chance of being able to tell your friends you reached the top. **Details** Sixteen days, with 11 days trekking, costs from £3,245pp with flights and full board (01453 844400, mountainkingdoms.com)

40 Holiday in space

If you've got £121,000 to spare, how about a little excursion into space? Virgin Galactic space flights are rumoured to be available from later this year. The price covers three days with two days spent having medical checks

and taking part in G-force and zero-gravity training. **Details** Register with Bailey Robinson (01488 689700, baileyrobinson.com)

Adventure cruises

41 Africa's West Coast

Unearth the mysteries of voodoo and the dark era of the slave trade on a journey along the length of Africa's West Coast with G Adventures. This cruise from Africa's southern tip to its Mediterranean coast stops at Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Togo and Guinea-Bissau to uncover their history, Unesco reserves and wildlife sanctuaries. **Details** A 31-night trip sailing from Cape Town to Marrakesh, departs on April 6 and costs from £9,095pp. Flights cost from £655pp (0844 2720000, gadventures.co.uk)



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42 Heli-kayak in Chile

Steppes Travel offers a trip packed with adrenalin-fuelled activities through Chilean Patagonia on a luxury cruiser equipped with its own helicopter and fleet of small boats. You can choose to be whisked across snow-topped peaks on heli-kayaking and heli-skiing trips or taken by kayak and jet boat on waterborne thrill rides across rivers and canyons. **Details** A 14-night package, including three nights at an hotel in the Atacama Desert, two nights in Santiago and a week-long cruise, departs on November 22 and costs from £9,465pp, with flights (0843 7789926, steppestravel.co.uk)



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43 Sail the South Seas

Tap into nature at its most beautiful as you sail off the beaten track in the tropical South Seas republic of Fiji aboard a 140ft sailing schooner with Bridge & Wickers. This is a voyage of contrasting experiences, from hiking through rainforests to relaxing alfresco massages by tumbling waterfalls. **Details** A nine-night package, comprising a one-week sailing from Vanua Levu to Savusavu and an overnight hotel stay in Viti Levu before and after the cruise, costs from £5,280pp, including flights (020-3411 0711, bridgeandwickers.co.uk)

44 Tigers in India

What intrepid explorer can resist the lure of an elephant safari at sunrise to spot rhino and tigers, trekking to misty hill stations and admiring the stunning backdrop of a Buddhist monastery? This two-centre adventure, combining a tour of the Darjeeling tea region with a cruise on the Brahmaputra River in Assam, is offered by Luxus Travel. **Details** A 17-night package that features an overnight stay in Kolkata, a one-week tour of the Darjeeling region followed by a seven-night river cruise from Guwahati to Nimati departs on October 17, and costs from £3,750pp, with flights (023-8000 3303, luxus.travel)

45 Big ship adventures

If you're looking for daredevil exploits but do not want to sacrifice the comfort and facilities of a big ship, sample these new adventurous shore excursions developed by the writer and explorer Ben Fogle for Celebrity Cruises. Try a Norwegian salmon snorkelling safari, a bike ride along triathlon trails and a high-speed boat trip in Croatia. **Details** An eight-night round-trip sailing from Southampton to the Norwegian fjords departs on August 30 and costs



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from £1,061pp. The Salmon Snorkelling Safari costs £389.50pp (08454 560523, celebritycruises.co.uk)

46 Swim with sea lions in Baja California

Dip into the temperate waters of the Sea of Cortez for close-up wildlife encounters. This area off the coast of Mexico's Baja California peninsula has been dubbed nature's aquarium and cruisers are promised an ideal view on this sailing from Mundy Adventures. Swim with sea lion pups and watch dolphins and whales put on aquatic displays. **Details** A nine-night package with a one-week round-trip sailing from San José del Cabo departs on January 30, 2015, and costs from £3,045pp, including flights and activities (020-7399 7630, mundyadventures.co.uk)

47 Machu Picchu and the Galápagos

Experience an unforgettable journey combining two of the ultimate draws on any travel wish list: Peru's lost city of the Incas, Machu Picchu, and the Galápagos Islands. This trip with Exodus features stays in small hotels in the colonial cities of Cuzco and Quito before a seven-night sail around the Galapagos. **Details** A 16-night trip comprising seven nights' B&B in Peru and a one-week round-trip around the Galapagos, departs on July 29, 2015, and costs from £4,849pp, including flights (08452 871377, exodus.co.uk)

48 Animals of the Arctic

Kayaking alongside seals and walrus in the waters of the Arctic Ocean is one of the highlights of sailing through the land of the Vikings with Quark Expeditions. Explorers can also expect to see polar bears and whales on this cruise to Spitsbergen, Greenland and Iceland, with their glaciers, fjords and icebergs. **Details** A 13-night voyage from Spitsbergen to Iceland departs on July 31, and costs from £7,665pp, excluding flights (from £273pp) (0808 1202333, quarkexpeditions.com/gb)

49 Down Under thrills

Sweeping views and wildlife spectacles are the hallmarks of sailing with Silversea Expeditions (the adventure arm of the upmarket line Silversea Cruises) to the remote Kimberley region of Australia's far northwest. Take a flight over the Bungle Bungle mountain range, swoop over cascading waterfalls in a helicopter and find Aboriginal rock art. **Details** A ten-night voyage from Broome to Darwin departs on April 9, 2015, and costs from £6,550pp, including drinks, tips and trips ashore, but not flights (08442 510837, silversea.com)

50 Komodo dragons and orang-utans in Asia

Taste the rich tribal traditions of exotic cultures by taking this trip with Noble Caledonia through the Spice Islands. This corner of Indonesia is home to the breathtaking temple complex of Borobudur on Java, the dragon lizards of Komodo, and Borneo's orang-utans. **Details** A 20-night package including a 14-night voyage from Singapore to Bali, two nights' B&B in Singapore pre-cruise and three nights' B&B in Bali post-cruise, departs on January 19, 2015, and costs from £4,450pp, with flights, wine, excursions and tips (020-7752 0000, noble-caledonia.co.uk) Sara Macefield