

### Cycle coast to coast, *Sri Lanka*

Biking west to east from Negombo to Pasikuda Bay, riders pass ancient ruins and shrines, tea trails, jungle roads, elephants grazing, white sand beaches and the Unesco-listed Riverston cloud forest. Each day includes a 50-100km ride, with a support vehicle close by and accommodation and food included.

*Much Better Adventures, from £2,212 muchbetteradventures.com*



### Highlights of Kyushu Island, *Japan*

To see a side of Japan that few tourists reach, this nine-day tour explores the volcanic landscapes, hot springs and unique culture of Kyushu – Japan’s third-largest island. Stay in traditional *ryokan* inns, sample the region’s famous tonkotsu ramen, experience local life and heritage in the cities of Nagasaki, Kumamoto, and Fukuoka, and get up close to the world’s largest volcanic caldera.

*Explore Worldwide; various dates, from £2,895pp explore.co.uk*



### Hidden Rio and beyond, *Brazil*

This 15-day overland tour cuts inland from Rio to reveal Brazil’s culture, landscapes, and communities beyond the usual routes. Join local guides to go behind-the-scenes of Rio’s samba and carnival, join barefoot football on remote beaches, hike rainforest peaks, kayak in tropical waters, explore coffee estates and sip artisanal sugarcane spirit *cachaça*.

*Pura Aventura; various dates, from £6,280pp pura-aventura.com*



### The tiger express, *Malaysia*

Bookended by stays at Raffles Singapore and The Datai Langkawi, this seven-day train trip aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express charts a one-off journey through the Malaysian wilderness. In collaboration with conservationists at Save Wild Tigers, it ventures through Taman Negara National Park – a 130-million-year-old rainforest where fewer than 150 wild tigers remain – with guided treks, alongside visits to ancient temples on Penang Island.

*Tiger Express; 10–16 May 2026, from £5,200pp thedatai.com*

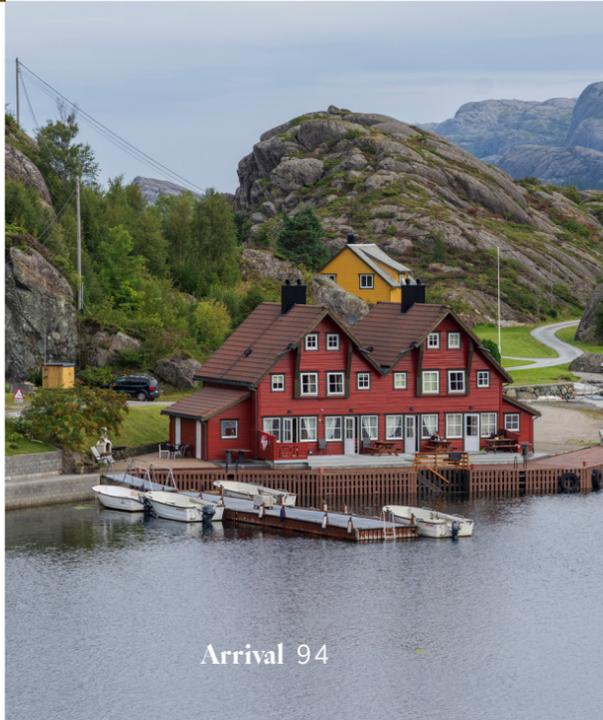
# Great escapes

FROM A SLEEPER TRAIN THROUGH THE MALAYSIAN JUNGLE TO WILD SWIMMING IN NORWAY, THESE ARE SOME OF THE BEST NEW TOURS AND TRIPS FOR 2026. ISABELLE CLARK REPORTS

### A taste of the Highlands on foot, *Scotland*

The Rob Roy Way follows a route that the legendary outlaw – the “Scottish Robin Hood” – once took, via hills, glens and lochs, passing Blair Castle and its surrounding estate. Self-guided hikes wend through small villages and wild landscapes, with five nights B&B at boutique guesthouses included and glimpses of Highland life, local distilleries and small museums along the way.

*Walkers’ Britain; daily, £730 walkersbritain.co.uk*



### A viking swim trail, *Norway*

From the maze of islets on Norway’s westernmost edge to open Atlantic stretches, this small-group, open-water swimming trip weaves through the wild Solund archipelago. Whales, dolphins, and seals inhabit these end-of-the-earth waters, where remote fishing villages with historic lighthouses are linked by the local post boat.

*SwimTrek; various dates, from £2,930pp swimtrek.com*

IMAGES (CLOCKWISE ON LEFT): WALKERS BRITAIN; BLAIR ATHOLL ESTATES; BUYANSKY PRODUCTION - STOCKADOB.COM; JOHANNES JENSAS - STOCKADOB.COM

### Trekking the Tien Shan trails, *Kyrgyzstan*

Days spent following the nomads’ trail, negotiating a landscape of fir tree forests, alpine lakes and snowcapped mountains and nights holed up in traditional yurts beneath the stars – sound idyllic? Intrepid Travel’s 10-day tour traces the foothills of the Terskey Ala-Too Range of the Tien Shan Mountains charted by a local guide.

*Intrepid; various dates, from £1,855pp intrepidtravel.com*

IMAGES (CLOCKWISE ON RIGHT): OSCAR ESPINOSA - STOCKADOB.COM; PURA AVENTURA; CHRIS BLADON; SAVE WILD TIGERS; CHRIS BRUNSKIL; INTREPID; LIZ CARLSON

