

6 ♦ Dream trips

10 icons and how to see them

Run along the Great Wall of China, take a luxury hike along the Inca Trail — the best ways to visit the big sights

Cycle Route 66 in the US

Route 66 is synonymous with road trips — but you don't have to tackle it on four wheels. Discover Adventure has a Grand Canyon to Las Vegas tour that takes in about 85 miles of the legendary highway. Cycling a total of 350 miles (up to 85 miles a day), you'll pedal past spectacular desert and rocky gorges before making the final push towards Las Vegas.

Details Departing on March 11, the eight-day trip costs from £1850pp including

flights, transport, accommodation, most meals and bike hire (01722 718444, discoveradventure.com)

Run along the Great Wall of China

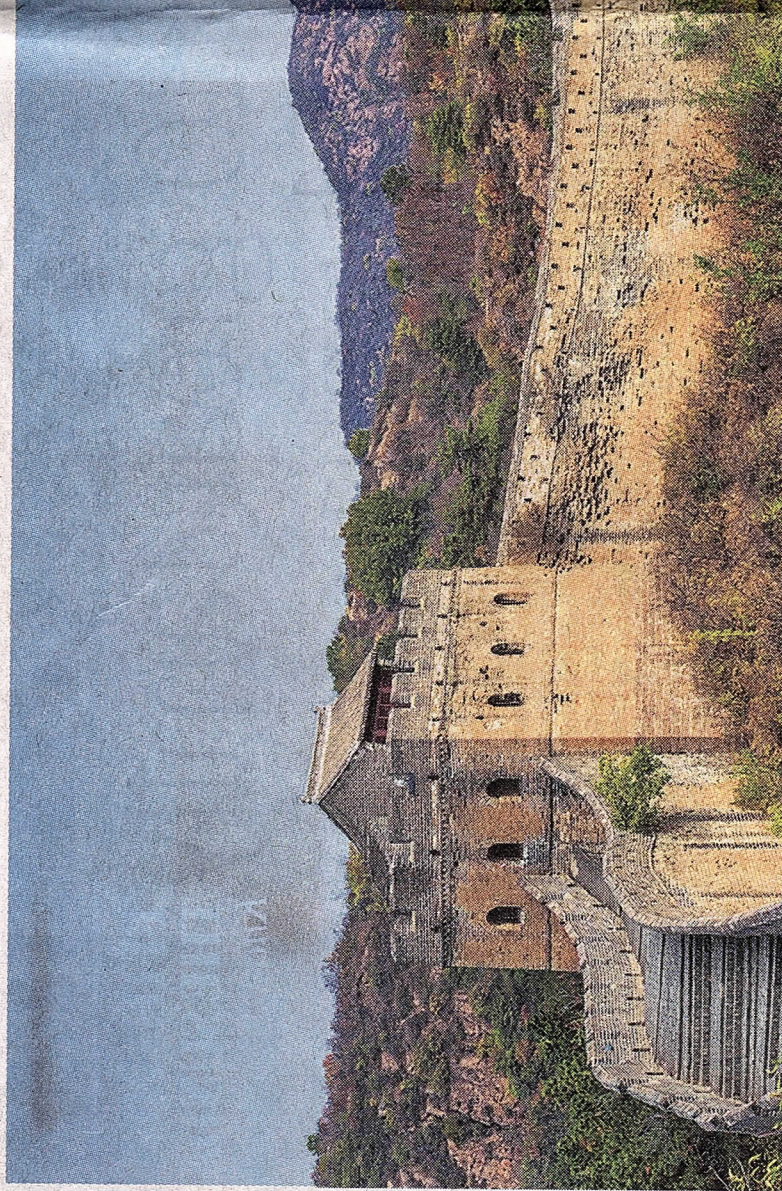
Why walk the Great Wall of China when you can run it? Intrepid offers a nine-day expedition that involves a marathon along part of the wall. Recover with a week exploring the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

Details The nine-day trip costs from about £1020pp, departing in 2018 (dates to be confirmed). Flights cost extra (0808 2745111, intrepidtravel.com)

Cycle safari in Tanzania

Spot giraffes and elephants from your bike rather than a four-wheel drive on a cycle safari in Tanzania. The tour, which includes journeys by four-wheel drive to access areas that bikes can't reach, also includes a visit to a Masai homestead.

Details The 12-night trip costs from £3,155pp, including flights, all meals, the



services of a guide and bike hire (020 7097 1734, anotherworldadventures.com)

Camp in the Antarctic

An Antarctic cruise makes many travellers' bucket lists — but how about escaping your cabin for some ice camping? Aurora Expeditions offers a range of activities on its Spirit of Antarctica tour, including polar snorkelling, kayaking, ice climbing and camping. Equipped with thermal

The Great Wall of China

camping gear (but no tent to spoil the view) you'll sleep under the stars, waking to the sound of seal pups and penguins.

Details The 12-day tour is from £6,000pp, including full board on the *Polar Pioneer* and internal flights (0117 992 6700, auroraexpeditions.co.uk)

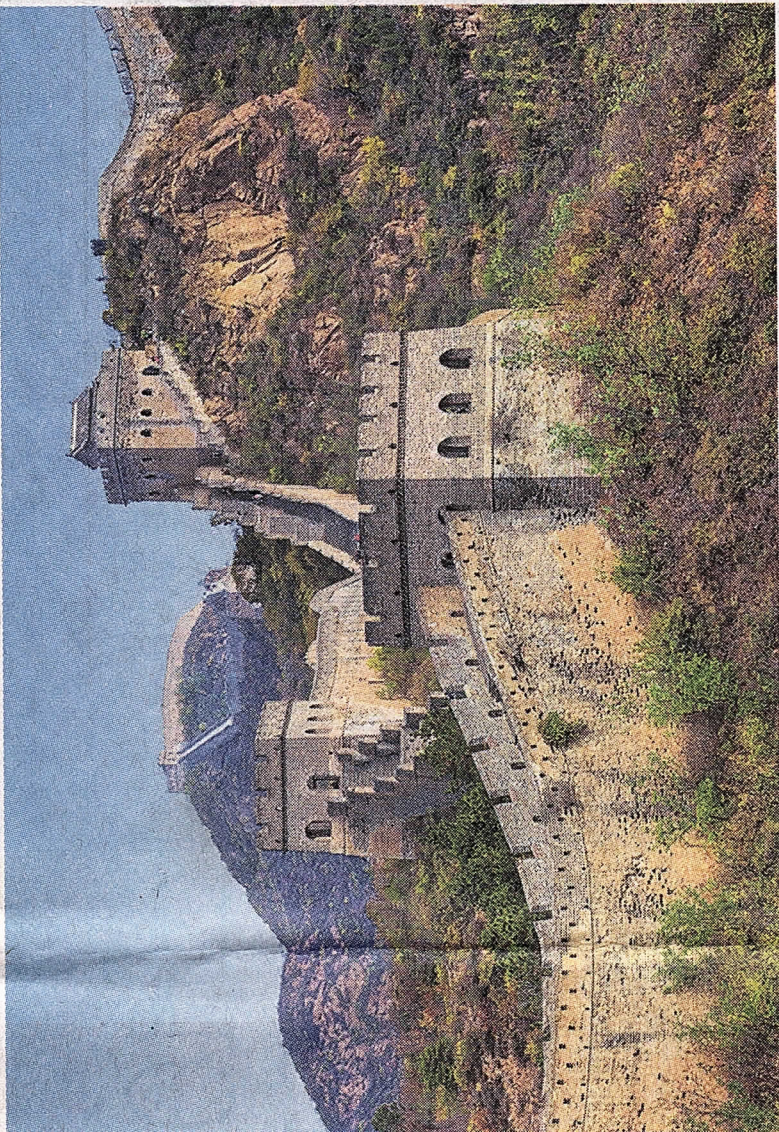
Abseil the Angel Falls in Venezuela

This is one serious adventure — abseiling the world's highest waterfall.

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all of China

Start with a five-day hike through thick jungles and up steep inclines to the summit of Auyan-tepui, the tabletop mountain from which the falls cascade. The 979m waterfall takes two days to rappel down; you'll spend the night camping on the rock face under a huge overhang. Once back on terra firma, it's another trek through the jungle to meet the Churun river.

Details The two-week, full-board tour costs from £4,399pp (020 7096 8428, secretcompass.com). Flights cost extra

Kayak in Canada with killer whales

Paddle alongside killer whales on the Johnstone Strait, across from the Robson Bight Ecological Reserve — home to most of British Columbia's 290 orcas that return to the area to feed, sleep and play between July and October. The adventure begins at Quadra Island, from where a two-and-a-half-hour journey upstream takes you to base camp, where you'll stay for three nights, paddling with

the whales by day.

Details A seven-night trip, including three nights in Vancouver (room only) and the four-night all-inclusive kayak tour, is from £2,387pp, including flights and transfers (020 8776 8709, frontier-canada.co.uk)

See Tanzania's wildebeest migration by balloon

The wildebeest and zebra migration in the Serengeti in Tanzania is arguably one of the greatest animal spectacles on earth, with more than two million animals on the move. For years wildlife enthusiasts have travelled to watch the migration from the ground but for the ultimate view take to the skies in a hot-air balloon and watch the wildebeest gallop on the dusty plains below.

Details A week's tour is from £2,160pp, including most meals and the services of guides (020 7706 4700, acacia-africa.com). The maximum group size is 12. Flights cost extra

Do the Inca Trail in style

Forget slumming it in basic lodges on a regular hike along the Inca Trail — avoid the crowds while staying in luxury lodges, some of which come with outdoor hot tubs. After seeing Machu Picchu, catch a train back to Cusco.

Details An 11-day package with all meals, is from £3,520pp (020 3811 3988,



Icebergs in Antarctica

journeylatinamerica.co.uk). Flights cost extra

Chase the northern lights in Iceland

It's always a gamble going on holiday to see the northern lights but you can maximise your chances on Regent Holidays' eight-day trip that takes in six locations to hunt the lights. Even tours are organised covering Reykjavik, Vatnajökull National Park, Thingvellir National Park and Snaefellsnes Peninsula. There is also a visit to an active volcano.

Details An eight-day Northern Lights Explorer Group Tour is from £2,010pp (020 7666 1290, regent-holidays.co.uk)

Tour by private jet

Forget the buffet and the backpack, package holidays are going seriously posh. In August, Crystal Cruises will unveil a new Boeing 777 — dubbed a superyacht for the skies — with room for 84 passengers (a commercial plane carries about 300). Expect to find skibutlers, a restaurant, a bar and a lounge in which to relax. The "cruise" calls in ten cities, including New York, Tokyo, Shanghai and Paris.

Details The 27-day inaugural air cruise departing on August 31, costs from £128,000, stopping in ten cities (0207 399 7605, crystalcruises.co.uk) Ben Clatworthy, Ellie Ross, Tom Chesshyre

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