

CONTENTS

Issue 183
February 2018

53 NEW TRIPS FOR 2018

Never repeated routes. Little visited locations. Expertly crafted itineraries. Only the finest accommodation. Itinerary made to suit our list of new trips.

360° – NEED TO KNOW

6 Viewfinder Charging zebra, bird's-eye Barrier Reef and going miniature in New York

12 Need to know this month... Why Saudi Arabia could be your next passport stamp

14 Go now Head to Buenos Aires for the tango halls and tasty haunts of the Argentine capital

16 Eat this... Try out the original Australian bush food: the humble macadamia nut

18 5 minutes with... Rick Stein The chef eats his way from Mexico to 'Frisco Bay

20 Know your... Sri Lanka It's 60 years of independence for the Teardrop Isle

22 Festivals calendar Make your year a big party, from carnivals to cities of ice

TRAVEL MASTERCLASS

86 The masterclass Antarctica trips can be tricky to plan; our guide breaks down the logistics, sights and must-know information

Instant expert: Phileas Fogg It's been 145 years since Jules Verne's hero was first introduced to the English-speaking world

92 Take better travel photos Taking a 'simple' image can be the trickiest thing of all. Learn how to focus on what matters

94 Travel clinic Dr Jane shares need-to-know health advice on visiting Rajasthan

96 Traveller's guide to... winter boots Keep your tootsies warm and your crampons in place with these hardy winter walkers

BEST UK COSY WINTER PUBS...

Five places to grab the perfect pint, p118



FEATURES

54 Costa Rica Heading to the Central American country during 'Green' season doesn't always mean rain, and the fewer visitors leave more room to soak up its *pura vida* culture, wild wonders and raging rapids all by yourself...

72 India From tiger-filled forests and fairytale palaces to ancient Silk Road stops, our comprehensive Trip Planner dives into the northern Indian state of Rajasthan

120 St Kilda, Scotland All aboard the *Bessie Ellen*! Help sail one of the last wooden trading ketches on a journey to the British Isles' remotest outpost – St Kilda – just watch out for its divebombing skuas!

FROM THE ROAD

114 Your story Reader Steve Fryer is in it for the long haul as he discovers how epic – and stomach-filling – Romanian weddings can turn out to be

116 Readers' pictures Your top takes, including wandering the baobabs of Madagascar, going underground on a Thailand river adventure, climbing Genghis Khan in Mongolia, being photobombed at Machu Picchu and summiting in Picos de Europa National Park

118 Letters In our mailbag: spying the architecture of Andalucía; city-breaking in Bergamo; meeting Uganda's indigenous people; and much, much more...

POCKET GUIDES

145 First 24 hours: Salta, Argentina It's not just the mountains of the Andes that take your breath away – explore colonial architecture and sweeping Puna in Argentina's hip north-west

147 Short break: County Cork, Ireland The south-western corner of the Emerald Isle is home to wild walks, a wealth of historic buildings and a rich dollop of speciality cuisine, making the city an alternative foodie hub

149 Travel icon: The cigar, Cuba Whether you're a smoker or not, there's no denying cigars are a Cuban icon, and offer an alternative look at its countryside and traditions

Cover story

26 53 best trips for 2018 Whether it's an expert-led tour, wildlife adventure or opening up a new corner of the globe, we've combed the planet for the most thrilling new trips of the next 12 months...

Special feature

100 Humble in the jungle Not all gorilla-watching trip cost the Earth, as Kate Humble finds out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

PLUS Other primates and where to see them

WIN!

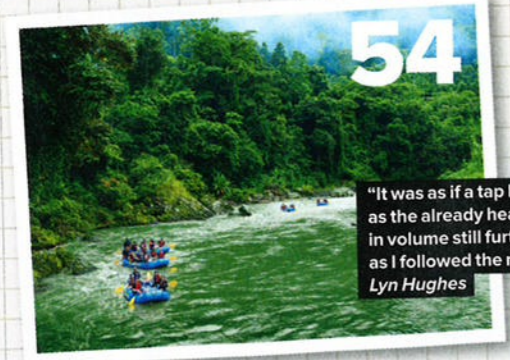
£5,000 towards a tailor-made trip, p24

A solo trek in Nepal worth £2,000, p84



14

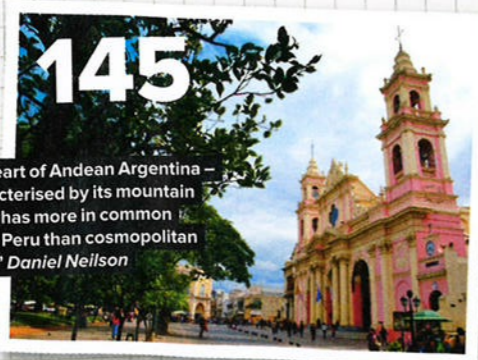
"There is a rhythm to the streets here. Tango beats ripple from the dancehalls and *milongas*, with San Telmo the pick of the bunch and filled with dance haunts and artists."



54

"It was as if a tap had been turned on, as the already heavy rain increased in volume still further, blinding me as I followed the rainforest trail."

Lyn Hughes



145

"Salta is the heart of Andean Argentina – a region characterised by its mountain culture, which has more in common with Bolivia or Peru than cosmopolitan Buenos Aires."

Daniel Neilson



WINTER BOOTS

Gear review, p96

Get properly booted for the cold, icy weather – for extra warmth, better grip and potentially crampons...

St Kilda, p120

County Cork, p147

Rajasthan, p72

Sri Lanka, p20

Cuba, p149

Salta, p145

Buenos Aires, p14

Australia, p16

120

"On a ten-day St Kilda trip, getting to the prophesied isle was by no means guaranteed. But with guests expected to get hands-on as much as they could, the adventure would be earned whatever the outcome..." Phoebe Smith

100

"I immediately felt a sudden frisson; that shiver of nervous excitement that comes when I'm in a place where the animals are bigger, more powerful and more suited to the environment than me." Kate Humble

72

"The song rose in cadences as the colours on the carved sandstone balconies next to us grew more intense. The cooking fires of distant camel camps shone like tawler lights in the gloom." David Abram

TALKING HEADS

Rick Stein, p18

"I loved a dish that not many people know, called 'Bath chaps', which is made from bits of pigs' cheeks."