

AITO Inspiration – Living for the Moment

20 May 2019



This May, AITO's travel specialists have curated the perfect bucket list filled with thrills, adventure and cultural getaways.

From a road trip along Australia's western coast, to climbing Kilimanjaro, and from a *New Wonders of the World* trip over 31 days to a 54-night trip across Latin America, this month's round-up includes travel gems spanning Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas.

Travellers can book directly through the AITO members featured in this newsletter. AITO members marked * can also be booked through a local, trusted [AITO Specialist Travel Agency](#).

Missed the last AITO Inspiration e-newsletter? See it [here](#).

[Mount Kilimanjaro Trek](#) – from £499 pp plus £4,800 pp (charity fundraising target) with Discover Adventure

There's little that can top the feeling of reaching the summit of Africa's highest mountain. Trekking Kilimanjaro is a tough challenge, but looking out over the Tanzanian plains from Uhuru Peak makes it all worthwhile. For an even more memorable trip, why not extend it with a Safari experience spotting the Big Five of the animal kingdom in their natural habitat? Departing August 2019, [Trek Kilimanjaro](#) has a registration fee of £499, plus various tour costs dependent on fundraising goals, and includes all transport from London to Moshi and back, some meals, accommodation and camping equipment, expert leaders, doctors, local guides and porters, back-up equipment and an entry permit to the National Park. Call Discover Adventure on 01722 718 444 (www.discoveradventure.com).

[India's Golden Triangle & Ranthambore](#) – from £4,795 pp with Ffestiniog Travel*

Rail journeys on the spectacular Kangra Valley Railway and iconic Kalka Shimla Railway (part of which is by private steam charter) feature on this **new** 19-day escorted tour to India. The trip also weaves in unforgettable wildlife-spotting during three safaris in Ranthambore National Park and a two-night stay in the Pink City of Jaipur. Tick off Amritsar, Shimla and Delhi, too, as well as sightseeing highlights that include the world-famous Taj Mahal and Amber Fort. Departing 28 October 2019, [The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore](#) costs from £4,795 pp (two sharing), including flights (London) to Amritsar/from Mumbai, hotel accommodation with daily breakfast, 15 lunches, seven dinners, all rail journeys, transfers & excursions as per the itinerary, and the services of a UK tour leader throughout. Call Ffestiniog Travel on 01766 512 400 (www.ffestiniogtravel.com).

[Western Australia's Great South West Edge](#) - from £1,250 pp with Fleewinter

This self-drive road trip is simply epic: an ever-changing coastline, driving through vineyards, forests and deserts, encountering dolphins, whales and wildlife. Taste the finest wines of Australia, explore ancient caves, unique mountain ranges, pristine beaches, and take a scenic flight over a bubble-gum pink lake. With the direct flight from London to Perth on Qantas, Australia is now even more accessible. With multiple departures from May, [The Great South West Edge](#) costs from £1,250 pp (two sharing), including rental car, accommodation (room only) and a 40-minute scenic flight over Lake Hillier from Esperance. International flights extra. Call Fleewinter on 020 7112 0019 (www.fleewinter.com).

[From the Eiger to the Matterhorn](#) – from £2,245 pp with Inntavel*

Traverse the Alps on this challenging route between Switzerland's iconic Eiger and Matterhorn peaks. Over 14 nights, independent walkers will cover an exhilarating 150 kilometres through high-mountain passes rising up to 3,000 metres and dipping into the wine country of the Rhône Valley. Alpine meadows teeming with flowers are patrolled by whistling marmots on the ground and birds of prey overhead, as each step reveals mountain villages and panoramic vistas. With multiple departures from June 2019, [From the Eiger to the Matterhorn](#) costs from £2,245 pp (two sharing), including 14 nights' half-board accommodation and three picnics, route maps and notes, and luggage transfers between hotels, alongside return rail from either Zürich or Geneva airport. Call Inntavel on 01653 617 001 (www.inntavel.co.uk).

[Trekking the Cloud Forests of Laos](#) – from £1,495 pp with InsideAsia Tours*

Push your limits with a five-day guided trek through the forests of northern Laos to the summit of Phou Louey – a challenge for both the mind and body. This 9-night tailored journey is the adventurous traveller's dream; trek through villages with local guides, stay with local families, track wildlife with experienced conservationists and camp out under the stars in 'nests' suspended from trees. Departing from February to May and October to November 2019, [Trekking the Cloud Forests of Laos](#) costs from £1,495 pp (two sharing), including accommodation, some meals and a fully-guided trek to Phou Louey. International flights excluded. Call InsideAsia Tours on 0117 244 3380 (www.insideasiatours.com).

[Peru Tour & Inca Trail](#) – from £1,899 pp with Llama Travel

Take in the culture and top-notch restaurant scene of Lima, enjoy the superb mountain scenery and traditions of Cusco and finish with a four-day hike across the Andes to reach Machu Picchu. The classic Inca Trail crosses high mountain passes, with cloud forests, ancient ruins and indigenous communities along the way. On the final day, set off at dawn to reach the sun gate for your first glimpse of Machu Picchu in the early morning light. On free days, join optional excursions including historical city tours, an overnight stay in the magical Sacred Valley and a cooking class in Lima. Departing between April and November 2019, the 14-day [Incas & Conquistadors of Peru + Inca Trail](#) holiday costs from £1,899 pp (two sharing), including all transfers, accommodation (room only), permits and a guided visit of Machu Picchu. Flights excluded. Call Llama Travel on 020 7263 3000 (www.llamatravel.com).

[Sacred Music in Santiago](#) - from £2,380 pp with Martin Randall

Santiago de Compostela is one of the world's great pilgrimage destinations, and Sacred Music in Santiago is themed around the experience of the Christian pilgrim. Five private classical concerts in the finest sacred spaces feature diverse works from Estonia, Mexico and Western Europe, performed by La Serenissima, Tenebrae and the Gabrieli Consort, among others. Departing September 2019, [Sacred Music in Santiago](#) costs from £2,380 pp (two sharing), including return flights from London, hotel accommodation, private coach travel, all breakfasts, three dinners with drinks, five private concerts, and talks by music experts. Call Martin Randall on 020 8742 3355 (www.martinrandall.com).

["One of the greatest long-distance trails", The Lycian Way](#) – from £745 pp with On Foot Holidays

The Lycian Way combines several ancient routes used for centuries by locals, complete with breath-taking scenery from mountain to sea. This week-long adventure, from Ovacik to Adrasan, is the perfect escape from reality; breathe in the fresh mountain air as you climb part of Mount Tahtali, marvel at the fascinating natural flames at Chimaera – which ancient people thought was a monster that terrorised Lycia – then enjoy a pretty walk along the dramatic, rocky coastline to the lighthouse of Kilidonya on the final day. [Lycia – Mountain and Sea](#) costs from £745 pp (two sharing), including B&B, some meals, airport transfers, all luggage transfers, full walker's pack and local telephone support. Flights excluded. Call On Foot Holidays on 01722 322 652 (www.onfootholidays.co.uk).

[World Wonders Tour](#) – from £6,295 pp with On The Go Tours*

Tick off the *Seven New Wonders of the World* (as well as one Ancient Wonder), with this once-in-a-lifetime 31-day adventure with On The Go Tours. You'll kick off your round-the-world trip in Rome to see the Colosseum, followed by a visit to the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt (an Ancient Wonder) while in the general vicinity prior to your next stop, the Rose-red City of Petra, Jordan. Then it's on to India to marvel at the stunning Taj Mahal at sunset, followed by China and its Great Wall. You'll finish off this unforgettable trip in Latin America, discovering Chichen Itza, Mexico, exploring Machu Picchu, Peru and, lastly, admiring Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Departing May 2019, the [World Wonders Tour](#) costs from £6,295 pp (two sharing), including half-board hotel accommodation and breakfast, guided sightseeing, all hotel transfers and all entrance fees. International flights excluded. Call On The Go Tours on 020 7371 1113 (www.onthegotours.com).

[A unique take on the world-famous Amalfi Coast](#) – from £3,795 pp with Peter Sommer Travels*

Renowned for its picturesque scenery, and home to some of the world's best-known cultural sites, take in the spectacular offerings of the Amalfi Coast from the unique vantage point of a traditional wooden gulet. Led by expert guides, this intimate eight-day cruise (limited to ten guests) visits world-famous sites that many travel across the globe to discover, including Naples, Capri, Pompeii and Amalfi, as well as lesser-known yet equally magnificent spots such as the Imperial Villa at Baia and the well-preserved Roman Villa of Oplontis. Departing 31 August 2019, [Cruising the Amalfi Coast](#) costs from £3,795 pp (two sharing), including full-board accommodation, entrance fees and tips on land, excursions with expert guides and airport transfers. Flights extra. Call Peter Sommer Travels on 01600 888 220 (www.petersommer.com).

[Ultimate Route 66 Road Trip](#) – from £2,047 pp with Pettitts Travel*

Travel through the beating heart of America on this 2,332-mile, 16-night self-drive road trip of a lifetime along iconic Route 66. Starting in Chicago and ending in Santa Monica, this route takes a slight detour to include the unforgettable Grand Canyon. From picturesque farmlands to deserts and the dazzling lights of Las Vegas, you will never tire of the constantly-changing landscape. Visit a local rodeo and experience life as a cowboy, and journey to the top of the Gateway Arch to experience the magnificent views across the city and great Mississippi River. In Missouri, visit the amazing 4.6-mile cave system, the Meramec Caverns. With departures year-round, [Ultimate Route 66 Road Trip](#) costs from £2,047 pp (two sharing), including international flights from the UK (various airports), car hire as specified in the itinerary, hotel accommodation (room only) and taxes. Call Pettitts Travel on 01892 515 966 (www.pettitts.co.uk).

[North Africa's highest peak, Mount Toubkal](#) – from £749 pp with Ramblers Walking Holidays*

Over a long weekend, conquer North Africa's highest peak, Mount Toubkal, hiking a challenging trail through the foothills of the western High Atlas Mountains. Enjoy a taste of Morocco's rich Berber culture and explore Marrakech's maze-like medina and bustling marketplace Djemaa-El Fna, before heading to the small outpost of Imlil. Hike past farmlands and traditional villages with mountain views, overnighting in a remote mountain refuge, before ascending

the summit to unrestricted views of the Marrakech Plain and High Atlas peaks towards the Sahara. With departures from May to September, [Mount Toubkal Long Weekend](#) costs from £749 pp (two sharing), including return flights (London), four nights' accommodation, all breakfasts, dinners and two lunches, knowledgeable English-speaking local guide, local transport and an expert walking leader. Call Ramblers Walking Holidays on 01707 818 279 (www.ramblersholidays.co.uk).

[Feel energised under the rays of the Midnight Sun](#) - from £1,244 pp with Sunvil*

The landscape of Northern Norway, with its mountain peaks, idyllic fishing villages and protected bays, is a delight to explore at any time of year. During the summer months, this is the land of the Midnight Sun – when the sun does not set below the horizon. This seven-night itinerary provides the freedom to explore Tromsø and the Lofoten archipelago, named by National Geographic as one of the most unspoiled island destinations in the world and as a historic and geological masterpiece. Departing year round, [The land of the Midnight Sun](#) costs from £1,244 pp (two sharing), including return flights from London, B&B accommodation and a journey on a Hurtigruten cruise ship, exploring beautiful fjords with charming ports and also seeing rare wildlife and amazing scenery – voyages where no other ships go. Call Sunvil on 020 8758 4722 (www.sunvil.co.uk).

[Northern Lights adventure in Finnish Lapland](#) – from £1,925 pp with The Artisan Travel Company*

Offering excellent Northern Lights viewing opportunities, Torassieppi, set in the heart of Finnish Lapland, is the perfect destination for an all-encompassing Aurora hunting escape. Over seven nights, experience a reindeer sleigh ride, husky sledding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, a cooking course and an evening with a shaman. In the evening, experience three dedicated Aurora activities, including an Aurora campfire, a horse-drawn sleigh ride and a night's glamping in the incredible Aurora Domes. Departing January 2020, the [Torassieppi - Lakeside Auroras Tour](#) costs from £1,925 pp, including flights (London), transfers, seven-nights' full-board accommodation (including one night in an Aurora Dome), guided activities and cold weather clothing. Call The Artisan Travel Company on 01670 785012 (www.artisantravelcompany.com).

[Ultimate South America: 54 nights](#) – from £11,549 pp with Tucan Travel*

This is the ultimate group tour itinerary for anyone who wants to see the highlights of South America without taking a year off work. Starting in Colombia and ending in Brazil, this tour travels through seven countries and includes the Inca Trail trek, a cruise in the Galápagos Islands and excursions in Patagonia. Departing monthly from September 2019, [Ultimate South America](#) costs from £11,549 pp, including all accommodation, internal transport, the services of a tour leader, some meals and a number of excursions, including the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, a four-night Galápagos cruise, plus Torres del Paine, Iguazu Falls and the Uyuni Salt Flats. International flights excluded. Call Tucan Travel on 0800 8048 435 (www.tucantravel.com).

[Road Cycling: The Five Countries](#) – from £3,095 pp with Wilderness Scotland*

Criss-cross through the four home nations and the Republic of Ireland on this epic 12-day, 800-kilometre guided cycling adventure. Ride through Yorkshire and Snowdonia, cross the Irish Sea and head along the wilds of the Donegal and Antrim coastlines, before returning to Keir Mill, birthplace of Scottish blacksmith Kirkpatrick Macmillan, the inventor of the pedal bicycle. With multiple departures from June 2019, [Road Cycling: The 5 Countries](#) costs from £3,095 pp (two sharing), including 11 nights' B&B accommodation, most meals, vehicle transport, transfers and the services of a professional guide throughout. Call Wilderness Scotland on 01479 420020 (www.wildernessscotland.com).

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Note to Editors: AITO, www.aito.com, is an alliance of over 120 of the best travel specialists. AITO members collectively provide an unrivalled range of holidays to every corner of the world. They are passionate about what they do and pride themselves on their attention to every detail of their customers' holidays.

AITO members' joint aim is to offer personal, caring service, to look after the environment in the places in which they work and to provide holidays that deliver both good value and high standards. All AITO holiday companies are required, as a condition of membership, to take full financial protection measures on behalf of their clients via the appropriate industry bonding schemes.

Travel PR will happily email all AITO members with any queries that travel writers may have – it's a great way to receive speedy feedback or information from AITO experts via just one email request.

For further information on AITO, please contact [Travel PR](#) on 020 8891 4440 or email Laura Manning (L.manning@travelpr.co.uk) or Charlotte Griffiths (c.griffiths@travelpr.co.uk).