

BE ADVENTUROUS!

World Class Adventures Monthly Newsletter

The
Caribbean
is OPEN!!



Beautiful Beaches & Big Adventures!

By Bridget Perriman

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Hi all, hope you've been enjoying the great British Summer! I've been spending lots of time outside, and especially dipping in the sea - which is so good for mind, body and soul

Meanwhile, although the government traffic lights continue to change like fairy lights at Christmas, there are still plenty of destinations on the Green and Amber lists, where you just need a negative PCR test (If double vaccinated) and you can travel with ease.

The Caribbean is proving especially popular at the moment - get in touch if you fancy a week or two sipping cocktails on a palm-fringed white sand beach...

It's been a while since I had a proper adventure, so I've been researching what I have to look forward to. There are so many amazing places to see and things to do in this world that I just had to share... and BOY do I have itchy feet now!

Find out more in part 1 of our series on the most adventurous experiences around the world - I'm lucky enough to have done several of these already - can you guess which ones?

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raise funds for your club**



August 2021

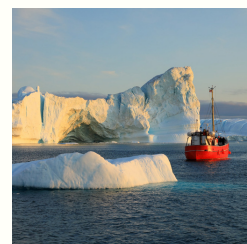
The Most Adventurous Experiences Around the World

- Part 1 of our #Belnspired series

Every traveller has their ultimate list of things to experience around the world—from eating street food in Singapore to seeing an opera in Vienna—but with much of our lives being spent outside these days, we're beefing up your list with a slew of outdoor adventures. Consider these the ultimate trips for intrepid travellers, including a mix of epic hikes, extreme sports, and creative ways to see some of the planet's most beautiful landscapes. Whether it's hot-air ballooning over Turkey or swimming with dolphins in the Atlantic, these activities are guaranteed to thrill—and change your entire outlook on life.

Hunt for glaciers in Greenland

Greenland is relatively expensive and tricky to get to, but well worth the effort—especially since it's one of the most untouched landscapes on the planet. Exhibit A: the hundred-year-old icebergs and glaciers floating off the mainland, which you can get up close and personal with during a cruise excursion.

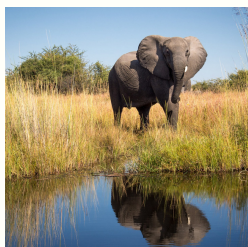


Climb to Machu Picchu, Peru

No adventurer's must-visit list is complete without Machu Picchu, the famous Incan citadel located in the Andes. While the site can be accessed via bus ride, more adventurous travellers can take the five-day trek along the entire 26-mile-long Inca Trail. Or you can get dropped at kilometre marker 104 and do the whole experience in 24 hours.

Swim the Great Barrier Reef

Divers and snorkelers everywhere need to experience the Great Barrier Reef at least once in their lifetime. Not only does the site have more than 400 distinct types of coral and 1,500 species of fish, but the natural wonder has been rapidly eroding, thanks to coral bleaching and global warming. That means it's more urgent than ever to see it in all its glory—and understand what we are losing.

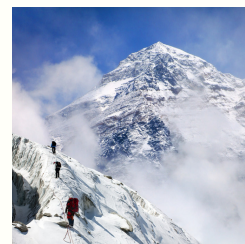


Go on a canoe safari in the Okavango Delta, Botswana

Going on safari in Africa is a no-brainer when it comes to seeking adventure, but where exactly do you start? Botswana's Okavango Delta is a must for first-timers and experienced safari-goers alike, thanks to its wealth of wildlife and topographical diversity. Hop on a mokoro canoe for the best, most intimate look at the roaming elephants, antelope, and cheetahs, among others. How about a baobab tree house for sleeping under the stars?

Climb Mount Everest

Mount Everest looms large, known around the world by hikers and non-hikers alike. But this is one behemoth that is best left to truly experienced travellers. According to alpinist Adrian Ballinger, who attempted the climb in 2016, "You need to climb at least three 20,000 peaks, one 23,000 peak, and one 26,000 peaks before considering Everest." But hey, if you're one of the lucky few who has the experience, time, and funds needed to reach Everest's summit, then by all means, do it!



Sleep under the Northern Lights

Ah, the elusive Northern Lights. So many factors are at play when it comes to seeing the technicolour phenomenon—location, time of year, weather conditions—but it's hard to lose with an excursion to Finnish Lapland. The Arctic area is one of the planet's best for lights viewing, especially if you get to sleep in an igloo hotel at Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort or mobile Aurora Bubble Sled. Up your viewing chances by planning a trip between December and March.

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The Most Adventurous Experiences Around the World



Climb Mount Fuji

Mount Fuji is Japan's most iconic natural wonder, rising 12,388 feet above villages and reflecting on lakes' surfaces. You can get views of the landmark from many places, like Lake Kawaguchi in Fujikawaguchiko and even the Park Hyatt Tokyo, but it's the views from the mountain that give you the most bragging rights. Visit from early July to mid-September to take advantage of the official climbing season, when the designated trails and paved roads are free from snow.

Swim through Mexico's cenotes

Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula features a wealth of unique natural beauty, particularly when it comes to its cavernous cenotes. Floating in one of these natural sinkholes is an incredible experience, as is diving through the underground cave systems. When in Tulum, visit Dos Ojos ("Two Eyes") to view one of the planet's most beautiful underwater sites (bonus points for water visibility), or Gran Cenote for rock formations that resemble Gothic architecture.



Sand surf in the Sahara

The dunes of the Sahara are colossal, untouched, and tailor-made for extreme sports. The desert's rows of barchans (meaning "crescent-shaped dunes" in Turkic) have ideal shapes for sand surfing and sandboarding - and those views don't hurt, either. Stay at Erg Chigaga Luxury Camp in Morocco, which offers sandboarding in addition to other desert activities like camel rides and quad biking.

Paraglide over the Blue Lagoon in Oludeniz, Turkey

Oludeniz has one of the most beautiful beaches in Turkey, with pebble shores and a "blue lagoon" of aquamarine hues. The beach also happens to be one of the world's best places to paraglide, thanks to stable weather and gorgeous panoramic views. The launch site for most companies is from Babadağ mountain, with jumping-off points reaching 6,000 feet above sea level.

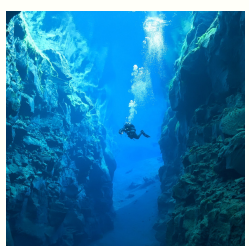
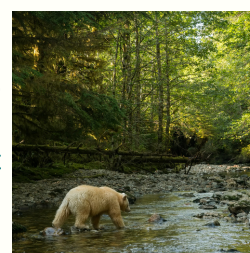


Hot-air balloon over Cappadocia, Turkey

A hot-air balloon ride over central Turkey's Cappadocia region provides 360-degree views of the famous limestone spires and "fairy chimneys"—something you can't get at the ground level. Services include transfers to and from your hotel, snacks, full insurance, and a champagne party after the flight.

Spot a Kermode bear in the Great Bear Rainforest

Canada's Great Bear Rainforest is the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world—and one of the most magical, with elusive species like sea wolves and Kermode bears roaming its 21 million acres. Take a nine-day excursion aboard a schooner, departing from British Columbia's aboriginal First Nations community of Bella Bella and stopping for sea kayaking along the way.



Snorkel between continents at Thingvellir National Park

Iceland is one of the best countries in the world for adventure travel, with everything from glacier hiking to snorkelling and diving. Head straight to Thingvellir National Park along the country's Golden Circle route, where two tectonic plates pull apart at the rate of about 2cm per year. The phenomenon results in the Silfra fissure, a stunning rift valley where you can dive in impossibly clear (and cold) waters. Snap an underwater photo of you touching 2 continents at the same time.

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Spotlight on Intrepid Travel



World Class Adventures mantra is "Don't just see the world. Make it better". Our planet's social and environmental welfare is important to us both as a business and as human beings. When you travel with us, you're giving back as much as you take away. We strive to use ethical operators who support the local communities we visit, and carbon offset every flight we sell. Intrepid are one of our key trade partners, offering sustainable, responsible adventures for all, and today, we wanted to share how Intrepid are shaping the future of travel in a post covid world:

One year ago, Intrepid published an article – Travel can only rebound stronger if it rebuilds more responsibly. Since that time, “build back better” has become a rallying cry for tourism. But with borders opening up and vaccines rolling out around the world, it's time to hold ourselves accountable and ask – how far have we really come in our pursuit to rebuild responsibly? Here are 5 ways that Intrepid have actually “built back better” this past year:

5. We Committed to a 1.5°C future

Climate change is the most urgent issue facing the world and our industry. In September 2020 Intrepid became the first and only tour operator in the world with verified-science based targets. Travellers can expect more reliance on lower-carbon alternatives in the years to come. We have already launched 40+ decarbonised tours and will be reviewing our top 50 itineraries by 2022 and remove flights of 90 minutes or less, where a suitable road or rail alternative exists.

4. We dispersed over AUD \$1.2m into communities in 2020

While our trips have largely been on pause, our philanthropy efforts have not. Since 2002, The Intrepid Foundation has raised AUD \$11.66m for more than 130 communities around the world. In 2020 alone we raised over AUD \$700,000 for the Red Cross Bushfire Emergency Appeal in Australia, launched a COVID-19 relief fund, and recently worked with Action-Aid on an emergency appeal in Myanmar, raising more than \$20,000 to distribute food and essential goods to families.

3. We're advancing reconciliation in Australia – and beyond

Intrepid is privileged to work with First Nations communities around the world, and over the past 3 years we've taken steps to deepen our commitment to reconciliation. Our new range of local trips in Australia features at least one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander experience – such as a guided walk in the Daintree in Tropical North Queensland to learn about native plants from a Kuku Yalanji guide, the traditional owners of the land. To ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and experiences are reflected throughout, we've welcomed 2 First Nations advisors to our reconciliation working group.

2. We're locking in our mission for the future

Intrepid is the world's largest travel B Corp – we certified in 2018. As part of that process, we will be introducing several new policies and practices, including voluntarily amending our company Constitution this year. We're formally committed to creating value for all stakeholders, not only for shareholders, and that we balance purpose and profit in our decision making.

1. We've launched over 120 new tours (and counting)

In May 2020 it was clear that we would be travelling closer to home for some time to come. Our new local trips in North America, the UK, Australia and New Zealand feature more than 120 new local adventures, including 40+ low-carbon alternative tours. Travellers, leaders and communities can be confident that all trips operate under our enhanced testing and vaccination policy, and are underpinned by WTTC Safe Travels protocols. After the loss and grief that communities have been through over the past year, I'm confident that we're creating a better, safer and more sustainable tourism industry for everyone.

HOWEVER: Less than 1% of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide have been delivered to low-income countries, a number that must be corrected to save lives, restart economies, and meaningfully rebuild the travel industry. That's why Intrepid is stepping up its work to support global access to COVID-19 vaccines.

As challenging as the last 18 months have been, the global community has demonstrated capacity for kindness on a universal scale. We have been wearing masks, receiving vaccines, checking in on one another, supporting local businesses, and creating new ways of working and living. We have been practising kindness on a massive scale. Now we have an opportunity to do it again. As some countries are rolling out mass vaccination programs that is sadly not the case for most of the world. In fact, less than 1% of vaccines have been delivered to low-income countries. But vaccines for the privileged simply won't cut it. Billions of lives are still at risk.

Intrepid's global vaccine equity campaign focuses on three key actions: 1) The introduction of a mandatory vaccine policy on our trips. It's important to us that we make sure the communities we visit, our leaders & travellers are safe. 2) Of course, it is easy to say vaccinations are required, but with the uneven distribution of vaccines around the world, it is another thing to ensure people can actually access vaccines. The Intrepid Foundation has committed to raising AUD \$100,000 to support UNICEF's campaign via the Give the World a Shot appeal. The organisation's work will see two billion vaccine doses and one billion syringes delivered in 190 participating countries by the end of 2021. 3) In Peru, we have advocated for vaccine equality for remote communities, offering free transport to people living in remote areas to help them access a vaccination. At the start of July 2021, none of the porters that Intrepid contracts on treks had been vaccinated. By the end of July, 80% had received at least one dose. And, in our Colombo office in Sri Lanka, Professor Neelika Malavige, a member of the World Health Organization's technical advisory committee educated staff on vaccines, and the critical role they play in ending the COVID-19 pandemic.

We know there is a long way to go until we get through this, but building a new, more compassionate normal – requires access to vaccines for everyone. And I hope that you, our travellers, will be supportive of our goal of global vaccine equity because I know you feel the same compassion for our global community as we do. **Give today to 'Give the World a Shot' via the Intrepid Foundation**

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Introducing our partnership programme

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Would you like to be able to offer discounts and benefits to your staff, or to raise funds for your organisation?

Introducing our new partnership programme, which can help you do just that!

By promoting World Class adventures to your networks, we will give you a percentage of the net profit on holidays booked with us, that have been generated from your referrals, either as a discount or as payment to your organisation.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Professional and amateur sports clubs and charities
- Beer / Food / Wine Clubs
- Wedding planners and venues to honeymoon referrals
- Societies with special interests; arts, drama, wildlife, hiking, yoga, etc.
- Businesses of all shapes and sizes
- And many, many more....

HOW WE SUPPORT

- Increased donations for clubs and charities
- Extra income for local and national businesses
- Perks/Rewards/Benefits of discount for staff and your wider network

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