



WARRIOR TRAINING

Under Genghis Khan, the Mongols were the most powerful military force of their day. In this nine-day adventure, find out the secret behind their success.

Don a Mongolian warrior costume, stay in traditional nomadic tents, learn 13th-century battle tactics, archery lessons, horse lassoing, wrestling and yak-cart riding.

Enjoy the hospitality of actual, 21stcentury nomadic families and get tipsy on Mongolian milk vodka.

From £2,150pp. Departs June 6, June 12 and Sep 5. pioneerexpeditions.com



STORM CHASING

If even the unpredictable weather of England bores you, chasing tornadoes around the Great Plains could be right up your alley.

In scenes reminiscent of Twister, learn from experts about storm safety and how to read weather data, while witnessing breathtaking phenomena like supercell tornadoes and spectacular lightning.

On quiet days, take in sights such as the world's largest ball of twine in Kansas or Nebraska's 'Carhenge'. From £859pp for four-day mini-tours. April to June. 9 tempesttours.com.



FISH FOR PIRANHA

Cruising the Amazon is bucket list material, but add killer fish to the mix and that bucket could come earlier than you think. (Not really, just don't fall in!)

Learn how to fish for piranha, take a dip in a black water river and enjoy sightings of squirrel monkeys, threetoed-sloths and pink dolphins.

Far from roughing it, enjoy everything from aboard a five-star luxury cruise liner. If the piranhas don't bite your hand off for this, we will.

From £1,948pp for a three-night cruise.

aquaexpeditions.com



LEARN TRIBAL WAYS

Step back in time to experience an ancient community untouched by Westernised culture in this nine-day trek of West Papua's highlands.

Stay in traditional villages and learn the tribal ways from former Neolithic warriors, the Dani tribe, characterised by their ceremonial dress of penis gourds and animal bone piercings. Yep, it's a good look.

Leave an expert in jungle survival skills, sago making and ancient tribal rituals. March to December. From £6,995pp excluding flights.

p epictomato.com

MY EXPERIENCE



STORM CHASING ADDICT. DAVID BALFOUR

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN CHASING?

I've chased with Tempest Tours once a year for the last 10 years. It's a bug. Once you've caught it, you've got it. I love it.

MOST MEMORABLE CHASE?

2012 in Adrian Texas. We were sitting in an old American diner and saw a wall cloud forming. We followed it and it dropped a tornado, then it got dark and just started spitting lightning out everywhere. It was absolutely fantastic. The weather channel was all over it.

ARE YOU GUARANTEED TO SEE TORNADOES?

No, because it's Mother Nature. If there is no severe weather, then we'll go sightseeing. It's the best way to see America. I've seen the touristy bits of New York and Las Vegas. Give me Oklahoma City any day of the week.

WHAT IS THE BUZZ LIKE?

It's up there with extreme sports. You probably get a bigger rush than when you have sex.

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED PACKING IT IN FOR A NICE BEACH HOLIDAY?

I couldn't do that. I was in Cyprus on a boat cruise recently and a storm broke over the mountain, so you can guess where my attention went.