

# AFAR

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THE  
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## Life on the Edge

Big trips that will test your physical and mental mettle.

**1 HIKE THE HIMALAYAS**  
Nepal's 1,050-mile Great Himalaya Trail traverses a sacred wilderness of alpine meadows and snow leopards. Take outfitter World Expeditions' **152-day trek**, or tackle sections such as the icy Makalu segment, with views of Mount Everest. \$28,959; sections starting at \$3,190. [worldexpeditions.com](http://worldexpeditions.com)

**2 SKI IRAQI KURDISTAN**  
Go off-piste in northern Iraq on a **10-day ski trip**. Starting in historic Erbil, ply backcountry trails near Mount Halgurd, Iraq's highest peak, then meet with a local Nordic club to explore Penjwen, on the Iranian border. The Kurds are famously warm, so don't be surprised to find yourself sharing cake with Peshmerga soldiers. \$2,450. [anotherworldadventures.com](http://anotherworldadventures.com)

**3 CROSS THE ANDES ON HORSEBACK**  
Experience rugged gaucho culture on a **14-day Ride Andes horseback tour** from Argentina to Chile. The 127-mile route passes through Patagonian steppe and Valdivian rain forest; horses swim the Puelo River to reach Ventisqueros Valley and its hanging glacier. From \$5,910. [rideandes.com](http://rideandes.com)  
—REBECCA DALZELL

pass is long—20 miles up, 20 miles down—and steeper at the top than Alpe d'Huez.

The best part of the trip was the group energy. There were some diehard guys who were really into the Tour. They knew all the climbs and who had dropped out where, so it was interesting to hear from them. But it was especially fun, after a long day's ride, to gather for food, drinks, and stories. You get a group of cyclists together with wine, beer, and food—lots of food—and you'll always have a good time.

as told to SARAH PURKRABEK

➔ Make your dream come true: Trek Travel's Classic Climbs of the Tour package starts at \$4,999 per person. For more info, visit [trektravel.com](http://trektravel.com).

## Four ways to SAIL AWAY

Be the captain of your soul—as well as a Caribbean yacht or a European canal boat. Or hitch a ride through the South Pacific.

**1 HIRE A PRIVATE YACHT**  
Make like Jay-Z and Beyoncé in Saint-Tropez and charter a yacht with **GetMyBoat**, the mariner's answer to Airbnb. With 65,000 boat rentals in 171 countries, options range from basic (sailing on a 45-foot cutter rig from Portobelo, Panama, to Cartagena, Colombia, with a stop in the San Blas Islands, at \$525 per person) to swank (chartering a 47-foot captained catamaran in Auckland to circle the Whangaparaoa Peninsula at \$1,405 per day). [getmyboat.com](http://getmyboat.com)

**3 TRAVEL BY CARGO SHIP**  
It's the French Polynesia conundrum: Tahiti and Bora Bora are easily accessible, but popular; touring the Marquesas, north of the Tuamotu Archipelago, avoids the resorts but requires a private yacht. The solution: The **Aranui 5**, a cargo freighter with 103 no-frills cabins accommodating some 254 guests, which stops at remote islands on 14-day routes from Papeete. Beds in an eight-person Class C dormitory from \$2,920. [aranui.com](http://aranui.com)

**2 CRUISE AROUND THE WORLD**  
Want to see Melbourne, Dubai, Barcelona, and Pago Pago, all on one trip? It's possible if you have 119 days and at least \$17,999 to spare. The **MSC World Cruise**, launching from Genoa, Italy, in early 2019, makes 49 ports of call in 32 countries ([msccruises.com](http://msccruises.com)). Equally epic, **Silversea Cruise's 2018 World Cruise** visits 60 ports in 121 days. Prices start at \$57,850 per guest and include butler service and dinners at the ship's Relais & Châteaux restaurant ([silversea.com](http://silversea.com)).

**1 JOIN AN EXPEDITION**  
**Aqua Expeditions'** small ships not only have A/C, a full bar, and gourmet meals by renowned chefs, but they also explore remote waterways such as the Peruvian Amazon and the Mekong River. In 2017 and 2018, the conservationist cruises (from \$3,645 per person) led by oceanographer and filmmaker Jean-Michel Cousteau are as close as one can get to an adventure with Jacques, Jean-Michel's late father. [aquaxpeditions.com](http://aquaxpeditions.com)  
—NICHOLAS GILL

