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**In Praise
of the Ambitious
Long Weekend**
**Over-the-Top Safaris +
Unexpected River Cruises**
**Around the World in
80 Vacation Days**
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where to go *in* **2016**

YOUR BEST TRAVEL YEAR EVER



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**THE NEXT
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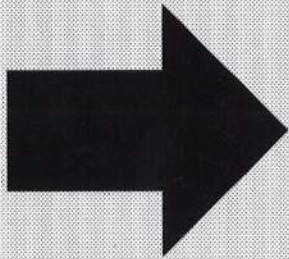
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THE SWISS**
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WHERE

8

If you're
strapped
for time:
Seven
brief, but
epic,
weekends



TO GO

36 WAYS TO MAKE THIS **YOUR BEST** TRAVEL **YEAR** YET



THIS YEAR, DON'T LET ANY VACATION TIME GO TO WASTE. WE'VE TAKEN 80 DAYS AND BROKEN THEM DOWN INTO EIGHT LIFE-CHANGING TRIPS. READY TO WANDER IN **PORTUGAL**? RECHARGE IN **TASMANIA**? ROAD TRIP THROUGH **THE SOUTHWEST**? TURN THE PAGE AND START PACKING. ➔

Two
Unforgettable
Trips
**WORTH A
SPLURGE**

2016



Hol Chan Marine Reserve



GETTING INTO
DEEP WATER.
HERE, IT'S THE
WHOLE POINT.

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YOUR 10-DAY VACATION

Mongolia's Haute New Look

THE PAMPERED GUIDE TO MONGOLIA

Mongolia's remote natural wonders—plains, lakes, deserts—used to appeal only to hard-core adventure seekers. But a few upscale hotels and a crop of top outfitters, such as Nomadic Expeditions, are making travel here not just easy but surprisingly comfortable. **Here's what a trip with Nomadic** might look like. *by* ANDREW SESSA

DAY 1-2 Arrive in Ulaanbaatar and spend the day visiting Buddhist monasteries, monuments to fallen Soviet soldiers, art and history museums, and cashmere shops. Your base for the night: the gleaming new 28-story Shangri-La.

DAY 3-4 Take the 90-minute flight to the city of Murun. A private driver will take you to Lake Hovsgol to hike in the green mountains and kayak on the massive blue lake. Overnight in a *ger*, the Mongolian equivalent of a yurt, at the Toilogt Ger Camp.

DAY 5 On your trip back to Murun, you'll stop to picnic at Lake Irkh while watching giant white swans fish for their lunch. Then return to Ulaanbaatar.

DAY 6-9 Fly to Dalanzadgad in southern Mongolia's Gobi Desert. A driver will drop you off at Three Camel Lodge, a collection of 35 luxury gers equipped with en suite bathrooms made from local stone. A safari-style 4x4 takes guests to Khongoryn Els Sand Dunes—known as the "Singing Sands" for the low hum they emit when you walk on them—and to

a valley filled with millennia-old petroglyphs. The day ends with a sundowner and dinner served alfresco at the base of the Flaming Cliffs, where some of Mongolia's most impressive dinosaur fossils have been found.

DAY 10-11 Fly back to Ulaanbaatar. Next up: A visit to Gorkhi-Terelj National Park to see endangered wildlife such as moose and brown bears. You'll spend the night in one of the 52 suites of the Terelj Hotel, Mongolia's first five-star resort, before flying home the next day.

↓ Nomadic Expeditions' Mongolia trips start at \$4,595. nomadicexpeditions.com.



Five Things You Can Do at Afar.com/WhereToGo2016 Build your own trip plan. Explore our latest guide to South America. Get the details for our 2016 travel Twitter chat. Share your travel photos. Not sure if you want to road trip through the Southwest or sail through India? Take our Where Should I Go? quiz.