

PASSPORT

An Endless Summer

As winter settles in throughout the United States, travel in the southern half of the globe heats up.

By Kirsten Niper



Australia



COURTESY GRAY & COMPANY

Guides Carolyn Werry and Paola Sartori enjoy the Cocora Valley, in the coffee triangle of Colombia.

With temperatures cooling down, some seeking to maintain warmer temperatures are heading to the Southern Hemisphere.

Pedaling across vast expanses, taking in the unique surroundings — from desert, to coastline, to wineries, to local restaurants and local landmarks — adventure travel companies such as Gray & Co. can provide vacationers with one-of-a-kind experiences in warmer climes, all on two wheels.

“I’ve done a lot of traveling in vehicles, but on your bike you take smaller roads, and you see locals at work, the various wildlife, smell the farms, and it’s a wonderful way to explore a country,” shares Carolyn Werry, a guide for Gray & Co.

“In Australia, we stayed at Cape Lodge along the Margaret River, [and one morning] I woke as the sun was coming up, and there was a little fog, and across the field [from my room] were 12 kangaroos. You really realize how far away you are,” shares one trip-taker, Gabriel Allieto.

“In New Zealand, we stayed at the

Wharekauhau Lodge, which is on 6,000 acres of privately owned land with ocean views and a spa. It was spectacular, it reminded me of what [the United States] might have looked like in the 1800s out west,” shares Allieto.

Destinations are planned around available luxurious accommodations, and how developed the road systems are.

“New Zealand, Australia, Argentina and Chile are among the most popular destinations. A lot of [where we go] depends on a tertiary road system. We really like good pavement and that determines where we go, [in addition] to wineries,” shares Cari Gray, owner of Gray & Co.

Carl Davis has been to Australia and New Zealand twice, and was moved by the scenery.

“Australia and New Zealand have such spectacular facades and views,” shares Davis. “On our first trip, we flew into Sydney and then we went to Kangaroo Island off the coast, and it was out of sight. I had been in Sydney in the 1970s, and back then it was a bit boring. But now it’s another world-class city with great food and art, and, of course, the harbor is spectacular. Then we flew over to New Zealand and spent time in the North Island and South Island. The fjords and mountains are

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Atacama desert in Chile



spectacularly beautiful.”

Allieto was invited on a trip to Australia and New Zealand by a friend, and made memories that will last a lifetime.

Australia was Allieto’s favorite destination. “It was uniquely brilliant. Australia’s quiet roads [brought us] through forests and the coastline. I will never forget the sound of a five-foot-six kangaroo jumping out in front of my bike. It sounded like a couch dropping from the moon. I also didn’t realize how many beautiful wineries there are in Australia. The people are also shockingly warm and inviting,” explains Allieto.

Allieto was also impressed by the food offerings, especially since he is in the restaurant business.

“There was a colossal effort by the kitchens to please themselves and us. In Australia, they made these liver pates shaped as a pear for an hors d’oeuvre. I also had this risotto that I won’t forget about. The beef barbecue in Argentina stands out because of the different way they grill. It was a food field trip for me,” says Allieto.



Taranaki, New Zealand (on the North Island)

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