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T+L's Definitive Guide to Adventure Travel

Choosing that next great trip into the outdoors means knowing what kind of adventure travel you're after—and finding the right outfitter to match. T+L lends a helping hand.

From August 2012 By Bree Sposato

Appeared as "T+L's Top 40 Adventure Outfitters" in T+L Magazine

Trekking, Walking, and Biking

Alpine Ascents

Adrenaline-inducing mountaineering trips that tackle the world's tallest peaks, including less extreme itineraries such as a seven-day hike up Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro. 206/378-1927.

T+L Trip Pick: Volcanoes of Iceland Beginner and intermediate climbers conquer Hvannadalshnúkur, the country's highest summit. July–Sept. departures; nine days from \$5,000.

Austin-Lehman Adventures

Outstanding guides lead multisport excursions through the American West, Central and South America, and beyond.

T+L Trip Pick: California Wine Country Go sea kayaking in Tomales Bay to spot seals, cycle through Napa Valley, and hike area redwood forests. June–Oct. departures; six days from \$2,898.

Butterfield & Robinson

Specializes in easy guided biking tours in culturally rich regions from Europe to Asia. New, more affordably priced Bistro trips in Europe adopt a can't-miss formula: a laid-back pace, stays at family-run inns, and good food.

T+L Trip Pick: Tuscany Bistro Biking Pedal through the Tuscan hills, stopping to sample pecorino and taste wine in Chianti, Cortona, and Pienza. June–Oct. departures; six days from \$3,995.

Country Walkers

Moderate and challenging walks (and a few small-ship cruises) in 80 destinations around the world with a roster of insider guides, such as Morocco native Saida Ezzahoui, an expert on native flora and fauna.

T+L Trip Pick: Turkey: Turquoise Coast Sail from Antalya's Old Town to Istanbul, with visits to little-known Roman ruins and secluded coves. Year-round departures; eight days from \$4,298.

Gray & Co.

Founder Cari Gray offers behind-the-scenes experiences—such as barrel tastings in Burgundy's Bichot caves—on her finely tuned walking and biking itineraries in Europe, South America, and more. 416/998-4082.

T+L Trip Pick: For a T+L reader exclusive hiking trip in Italy, see "The Glam-Trotter."

Ryder-Walker Alpine Adventures

Serious treks through Western Europe (the Mont Blanc region; the Italian Dolomites), the Himalayas, and southeastern Utah. Accommodations vary by region, from luxury tents to intimate

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T+L Trip Pick: Via Alpina Stage Three From Gstaad, Switzerland, ascend 3,900 feet into the Alps, passing glaciers, remote villages, and flowering meadows. *Aug. 6 departure; seven days from \$2,995.*

VBT Bicycling & Walking Vacations

This 40-year-old Vermont-based operator leads relaxed bike tours in North America and Europe with an emphasis on food and history.

T+L Trip Pick: Maryland: Cycling the Chesapeake Bay Ride over gently sloping hills, feast on crab, and stay at historic inns. *Aug.–Oct. departures; six days from \$1,795.*

Traveler Type: The Glam-Trotter

An avid traveler who's not afraid to get her hands dirty (so long as there's a sink and top-quality soap nearby). The only thing better than seeing Machu Picchu last month? The bazillion-thread-count linens at the Sanctuary Lodge

Role Model: Meryl Streep in *Out of Africa* (before she sold her good china).

Gear: The [Handpresso](#) portable espresso maker, since there's no trek that can't be improved by a great Italian dark roast (\$95).

Accessory: [Moncler Roxane](#) jacket (\$895).

T+L Exclusive Trip: Hiking the Amalfi Coast with Gray & Co. Trek in style on this Italian jaunt along ancient Roman coastal paths, which includes a private tour of the Blue Grotto, a cave on Capri, hilltop stargazing (with a cold glass of *limoncello*), and overnights at Le Sirenuse, in Positano. *Year-round departures through 2012; seven days from \$7,000.*

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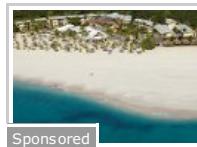


Photo Gallery: Top 10 Cheap All-Inclusive Resorts

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