



JOURNEYS

SMALL BUT BEAUTIFUL

Fall under the spell of Montenegro as this Mediterranean idyll returns to its former glory

Elegant, striking, adventurous. If Montenegro had a dating profile, this is how it would read. With its romantic *palazzi*, gin clear waters and mysterious hinterland where wolves and bears lurk unseen, operators have switched on to its allure with a clutch of new packages.

If you're looking for something super-lux, book a seat on the newly restored Blue Train, which has carried the likes of Queen Elizabeth II, Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor. Bedecked with original art deco-style fittings, velvet armchairs and silk curtains, this palace on wheels will wind its way from Belgrade in

Serbia to Podgorica, Montenegro's capital, gliding for 12 hours through picture perfect landscapes, before a three-night stay in the ancient town of Kotor. Seven nights from £899. www.montenegroholidays.com

If natural beauty is more your thing, try a walking trip around Lake Skadar. Expect freshwater beaches, mossy watermills and tiny villages. Nights are spent in the charming Villa Miela, which sleeps up to 10, where fresh seafood can be cooked up on the terrace barbecue. Seven nights from £575, excluding flights. www.undiscoveredmontenegro.com

GO GREEN WITH CATHERINE MACK

BRITTANY

Our eco-minded columnist heads to Brittany to discover gypsy caravans and gorgeous seafood

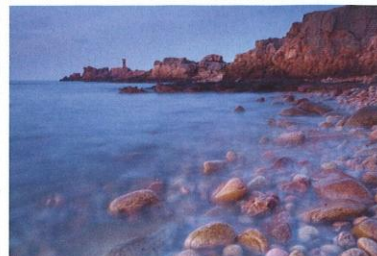


➤ **The coast:** For a quick hit of the Celtic coast, travel as a foot passenger to Roscoff, and hop on a small boat to Ile de Batz just 15 minutes away. Even though this pretty island has beaches at the end of every lane, plentiful accommodation and eateries, as well as being car-free for visitors, it hides its beauty under a Breton bushel. www.iledebatz.com www.brittanytourism.com

➤ **The stay:** Quirky places to stay are categorised as '*isolite*' in France, meaning 'unusual'. My favourite eco '*isolites*' in Brittany are La Caloge, a thatched cottage built around the shell of an old fishing boat, bookable via Canopy and Stars; gorgeous gypsy caravans in Brasparts; and for the more eco-chic, Breton's natural beauty expert Yves Rocher's legacy lives on at eco spa La Grée des Landes in his birthplace, La Gacilly. www.roulottes-des-korrigans.com www.canopyandstars.co.uk www.lagreedeslandes.com

➤ **The sea:** The name Côtes d'Armor in Brittany comes from the Breton 'Ar Mor' meaning 'the sea'. There's no better way to enjoy this coast, which segues from dunes into headlands heaving with natural, pink granite sculptures, than by walking it. I hiked from one small, locally owned hotel to another along the GR34 path — one of France's 37,000 miles of walking trails. All organised by Inntravel, my bags were transported for me and platters of seafood awaited at every inn. L'Armor, je t'adore. www.inntravel.co.uk

Follow Catherine's green travels on her blog www.ethicaltraveller.co.uk, Ethical Traveller on Facebook and @catherinemack on Twitter



LUXURY

VISIT EVERY UNESCO SITE

Do you have a clear diary for two years and a cool half million to splurge? This new, downright decadent journey might just be the world's most expensive holiday — taking travellers to every World Heritage Site across the globe. Touted by VeryFirstTo.com and luxury operator Hurlingham Travel, the trip will aim to take in all 962 UNESCO sites, from Giza to Easter Island. Priced at an eye-watering £445,000, the tour includes overland travel, flights, guides and top-notch accommodation. Life is sweet! www.veryfirstto.com

