

Watch camel racing in Kenya, hike in high style in Scotland and more



The Maralal Camel Derby is an annual event that brings to life this small desert town in Kenya. (Kenya Tourism Board)

By **Phil Marty**
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Hump day takes on a whole new meaning with a new trip from Extraordinary Journeys called Kenya by Camel: The Maralal Derby. The Aug. 31-Sept. 8 trip centers on a visit to the camel-racing derby, which attracts professional and amateur competitors and brings the desert town of Maralal to life. The trip begins in Nairobi and then spends two nights in the Mugie Conservancy for wildlife viewing. Included is one night camping under the stars with a camel trek as part of the experience. This is also when a day will be spent in Maralal for the camel racing. The adventure continues with two nights at Ol Malo Nomad, a mobile camp that offers walking safaris with horses and camels. The itinerary wraps up with three nights at Mara Expedition Camp within the Masai Mara Game Reserve, where you're likely to view the famous wildebeest migration right outside your tent. The trip is priced from \$8,000 per person, double occupancy,

which includes internal flights. International air is extra. Info: 212-226-7331,
<http://tinyurl.com/l45pcpj>

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Bali bests the rest

You've no doubt seen photos of Bali's bright green rice terraces cascading down hillsides. This Indonesian island is also a place where the locals are genuinely friendly, not the you're-a-tourist-and-I-want-your-money friendly. So, it's nice to see Bali show up in the No. 1 spot on TripAdvisor's 2017 Travelers' Choice Awards for the Top 25 Destinations in the World. The second through fourth spots on the list are perennial European favorites: London, Paris and Rome, while New York City weighs in at No. 5. Rounding out the Top 10 are Crete, Greece; Barcelona, Spain; Siem Reap, Cambodia, home to famed Angkor Wat; Prague and Phuket, Thailand. Read about them and the rest of the top 25 at <http://tinyurl.com/kyn22la>.

High-end hiking in Scotland

Serious hikers who enjoy luxe accommodations should take a look at an offering from The Carter Company to explore Scotland's West Highland Way. The eight days of hiking covers 7 to 14 miles of hilly hiking each day. Hikers are based in five-star or luxury boutique hotels and are transported each day to and from their routes. The West Highland Way goes past lochs, along glens, over moors and up mountains, following old drover and military roads that are lined with wildflowers and are rich in wildlife. Among the highlights are passing from the Lowlands to the Highlands, Rob Roy's infamous cave, the battlefield of Dalrigh, where Robert the Bruce was defeated, and the Devil's Staircase. The trip is priced from \$4,739 per person, double occupancy, which doesn't include international air. <http://tinyurl.com/ljbbb33>

Phil Marty is a freelance writer.