

WIN AN OVERLAND ADVENTURE THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST
THANKS TO KUMUKA TOURS AND KOREAN AIR

ISSUE #24

UNIQUE TRAVEL

\$6.95 (GST INCLUDED)

get lost!

holidays you'll never forget!

Hidden Secrets

VANUATU

PHILIPPINES

Riding on Cloud 9

UNITED STATES

Southern Blues

5 SLIGHTLY
SECRET CITIES

ALAIN DE BOTTON CONFESSES
JAPAN: TOKYO AFTER DARK
LAOS: TAKE THE SLOW BOAT
PORTUGAL: STRETCHING TIME

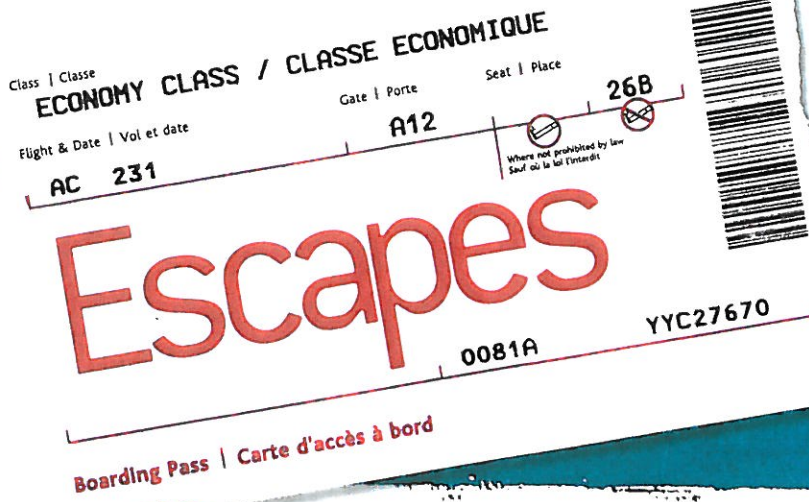


ISSN 1449-3543

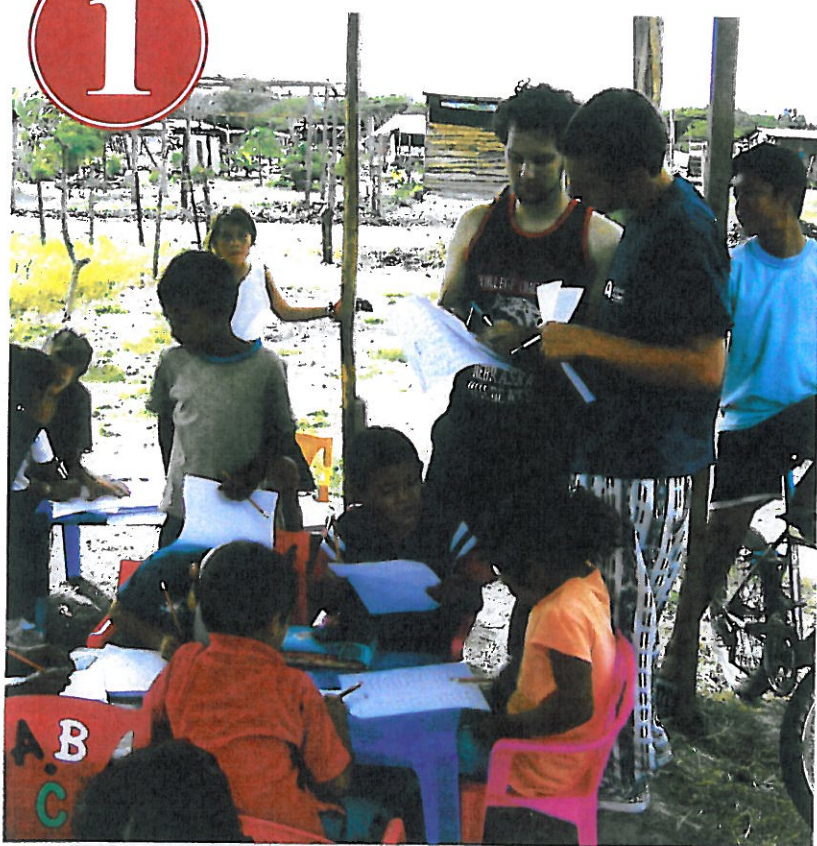


9 771449 354122

www.getlostmag.com



1



Volunteer on Childcare Projects in Nicaragua – GVI

WHAT: Live and work in the heart of a Nicaraguan community, teaching young children how to read, write and count. When you're not showing off your soccer skills (or lack thereof) or learning the local language, explore the striking mountains that have given this region the name 'El Diamante de las Segovias' – the Diamond of the Segovias. Hike valleys dotted with small agricultural communities and waterfalls, horse trek to nature reserves, then kick back with your host family and swap jokes with your new friends.

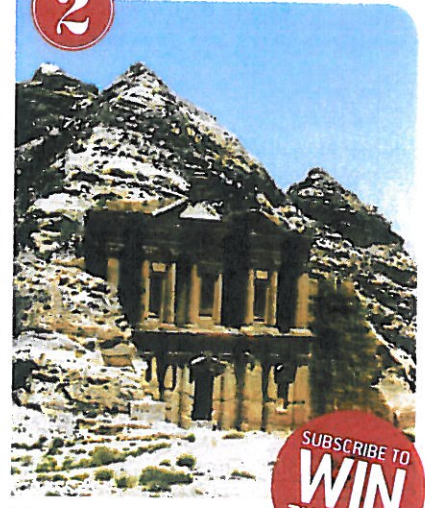
WHERE: Esteli, an old Sandinista stronghold in the Segovia Mountains, northern Nicaragua.

WHEN: Volunteer from two weeks, to twelve weeks. Start dates are the first and third Saturday of each month, all year round.

WHY: Think outside the box. In rural Nicaragua, education and literacy levels are depressingly low, poverty levels extremely high and schools lack teachers and teaching materials. Instead of lazing on a beach reading the next Dan Brown, give something back and get language skills and an utterly amazing experience that will stay with you long after the holiday is over. Big ticks all round.

HOW: This unique project is run by GVI. Prices start from A\$1005 for two weeks, or A\$1070 for two weeks and ten hours of Spanish lessons. www.gvi.co.uk

2



SUBSCRIBE TO WIN THIS TOUR

Middle-East Express – Kumuka Tours

WHAT: This 21-day, action-packed journey takes in plenty of the sights, smells and sounds of the Middle-East. From Istanbul to Cairo, you'll find time to be a history buff (think Homer and Achilles and exploring the ancient cities and hallowed regions of Egypt, Turkey, Syria and Jordan). You'll get loads of outdoor action (think diving the Red Sea, climbing Mt Sinai, and walking the Wadi Rum Desert). And you'll do it all with a good bunch of like-minded folk and experienced guides on the Kumuka truck.

WHERE: Starting in Istanbul, Turkey, this trip makes its way through Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Egypt.

WHEN: This 21-day tour runs each month and all year round.

WHY: The Middle-East isn't always the easiest place to travel to and through. Take out the hassle and make the most of every day with the Kumuka crew. This tour packs plenty in and caters to those who are keen to brush up on their ancient history and those who are simply looking for a good time in a fascinating part of the world.

HOW: The Middle-East Express tour offered by Kumuka Tours is priced at approximately A\$2,250. www.kumuka.com.au



Here is a selection of some of the best trips we can find. These five fantastic choices should give you plenty of inspiration for your next holiday. Get amongst it!



L.A. Gang Tours

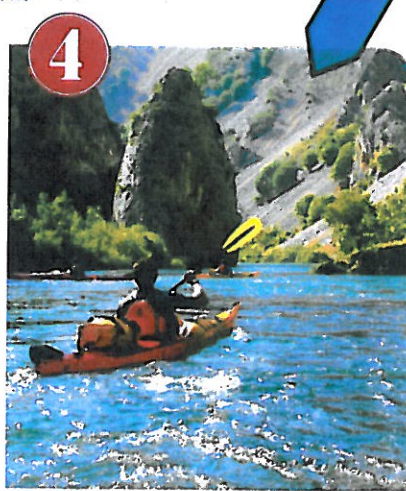
WHAT: Get lost in the grittiest, most diverse pockets of downtown L.A. Experience firsthand the history and origin of high-profile gang areas, deadly shootouts, turf wars, riots and streets ravaged by racial unrest. From notorious Los Angeles jails and detention centres that housed criminals such as OJ, Al Capone and Charles Manson, to the vibrant ghettos of prolific tagging crews and film locations like *The Fast and the Furious*. Guided by a neighbourhood resident, you'll lunch with graffiti writers, talk to former gang members and intervention workers who all have their finger on the trigger of inner-city LA life.

WHERE: The back streets and inner-city projects of South Central, Los Angeles.

WHEN: Former gang member Alfred Lomas began LA Gang Tours in January 2010. These two-hour trips now run every month. Email for dates: tickets@lagangtours.com

WHY: Profits from this exclusive tour go back into these high-crime districts to stimulate economic growth and employment opportunities. Safely operating under a cease-fire agreement, this carefully planned trip educates you about the dangers of gang involvement, without glorifying it like on TV. This is an unforgettable urban experience that saves lives, creates jobs and rebuilds communities.

HOW: Trips go for approximately A\$70. www.lagangtours.com



Croatia Multisport – REI Adventures

WHAT: Meander the historic streets of Croatia's capital, Zagreb, before moving inland to hike and bike the country's jewel, Plitvice National Park. Admire spectacular karst landscapes, lofty peaks, turquoise lakes and travertine pools, then feast at a riverside barbecue. Paddle the narrow canyons of Europe's dazzling green Zrmanja and Krupa rivers, splashing through easy rapids and quiet lagoons, then share a picnic lunch with local farmers. Climb the mountain ridgelines of Paklenica, and kayak the coast of Vrgada Island, lapping up beautiful bays and beaches. Finish with a well deserved Ožujsko beer on the cobblestone streets of UNESCO World Heritage town, Trogir. Phew!

WHERE: From Croatia's capital, Zagreb, south to Split via lush Mediterranean National Parks and sparkling coastline.

WHEN: This eight-day trip runs on various dates in May, June, August and September 2010.

WHY: From hot-footing around ancient towns, to cycling and kayaking picture-perfect countryside and coastline – this trip is action-packed for the casual adventurer. There's no better way to enjoy the azure, warm waters and subtropical climate of the Med.

HOW: REI Adventures offers this trip for approximately A\$2895 per person with a A\$22 membership fee. www.rei.com



Bhutan: Hidden Valleys of Sakteng and Tashigang Festival – KE Adventure Travel

WHAT: An off-the-beaten-trekking adventure in an area of Bhutan that's not long been open to foreigners. Travel through Delhi and the Indian state of Assam to the world's only yeti reserve at Migoi National Park. Be one of the first to explore its Himalayan valleys, visiting ancient gompas and monasteries, camping at Brokpa villages and experiencing firsthand the semi-nomadic, yak-herding people and culture that's been unchanged for centuries. Mingle with the locals at Tashigang's Tsechus masked dance festival, an eye-popping, colourful costumed extravaganza.

WHERE: Eastern Bhutan – through the little-visited areas of Merak, Sakteng and the Himalayan foothills of Tashigang

WHEN: This twelve-day tour (six days trekking) departs 7 November 2010

WHY: Remote and fascinating, Bhutan is still a relatively unknown destination for trek-happy travellers, this trail only opened in 2009. It's also moderate trekking at a fairly low altitude, so you have more time to soak up the stunning surrounds instead of gasping for air like on other Himalayan treks

HOW: KE Adventure Travel runs this trip for approximately A\$3700, all meals and accommodation included. www.keadventure.com