The Age of Adventure, Part 2

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Aging adventurers want to keep out there—and these companies and organizations want to help them by offering electric bike tours, discounts and more.

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KAREN CATCHPOLE AND ERIC MOHL OF THE TRANS-AMERICAS JOURNEY

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In The Age of Adventure, Part 1, we introduced you to "Meadow Ed," a fixture and legend on the Appalachian Trail, though he’s no spring chicken; told you about some of the other adventure travellers who are not over-the-hill—they’re climbing hills; and provided you with a list of travel products geared to aging adventurers.

In this post, we’re profiling a few companies that are coming up with trips, services and discounts to keep aging adventurers out there.

Cycling Tours, Electric Bikes, Discounts and Special Programs

Following feedback from older clients, Austin-Lehman Adventures is now offering electric bikes on all
In April of 2006, journalist Karen Catchpole and photographer Eric Mohl left their jobs and apartment in New York City and embarked on the Trans-Americas Journey, a 200,000-mile working road trip through all 23 countries in North, Central and South America. After many years on the road they are still nowhere near their goal of Tierra del Fuego at the tip of South America where the road literally ends. Until then, their slow and steady overland exploration of The Americas continues.

European bike trips (US$25 per bike per day). In 2013, Austin-Lehman Adventures will begin offering electric bikes on the company’s trips in the U.S. as well. Trek Travel, which offers worldwide cycling vacations, added FX+ electric assist bikes as an option in 2009 (US$250 upgrade).

G Adventures, which offers high-adrenaline trips around the world, says 30 percent of their clients are over 50. With them in mind, the company announced exclusive, ongoing discounts for AARP members. Flash your AARP card and save US$100 per person on all tours that are seven days or longer, US$50 per person on land-based Discovery Adventures trips, and US$25 per person on independent stays and all land- and sea-based trips shorter than seven days.

The Canadian Automobile Association offers emergency medical evacuation coverage for all ages. Coverage details vary from province to province so log on to the CAA website, find your regional office and get the details of coverage offered to you.

For 35 years, Foreign Exchange Experiences Abroad has been sending high school and college students overseas on culturally immersive trips that include homestays. After receiving requests for similar experiences from the parents and grandparents of those students, the company developed programs that meet their needs with luxury homestays, private bathrooms and hosts with similar interests in immersive situations around the world, including in Istanbul, Paraguay, Argentina and China.

MyTC is a global online community created specifically for active travellers over the age of 50. The site’s creators want to “blow away the misconception that older travellers are only interested in tired cruise ships and coach trips.” MyTC, which stands for My Travel Companions, helps members (there are currently 11,000 users) find like-minded travelling companions, book travel adventures and share tips, experiences and advice. Membership is free.

Look for Karen Catchpole and Eric Mohl’s Just Add Adventure! series every Wednesday and Friday all summer long on Travel and Escape!

KAREN CATCHPOLE AND ERIC MOHL OF THE TRANS-AMERICAS JOURNEY

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