

# The A-List: Top Adventure Travel Ideas

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The world is big. Your adventure wish list should be too. Here are just a few of the more-amazing-than-usual trips that Karen Catchpole and Eric Mohl of the Trans-Americas Journey are dreaming about right now.



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## 1. Himalayan hiking happiness in Bhutan

We had the pleasure of snowshoeing with Cathy Shill near Jackson Hole, Wyoming — her home and the usual focus of trips run by her company, [The Hole Hiking Experience](#). This year Cathy is branching out in a big way with a 14-day journey in Bhutan. The tempting itinerary includes hiking in the high Himalayas, hot springs, a sacred crane festival and carpets of orchids in a country where happiness is the GDP (US\$4,900 double, including mandatory daily US\$240 spend, flight from Bangkok, Thailand to Paro, Bhutan, three-star hotels, transportation, guides and all meals, November 2-15, 2012).



## 2. Problem-solving African safari

Want to learn from nature not just about nature? That's the promise of [Eco Training's Biomimicry Safari](#) in Kruger National Park in South Africa. Participants sleep and work in a restricted area of the park, get close to "The Big Five" (lion, African elephant, Cape buffalo, leopard and rhinoceros) during safaris, then use their observations of nature to solve modern design problems. For example, Velcro was inspired by the way burrs attach to fur in nature. That's biomimicry. (US\$750 per person, all-inclusive, October 8-12, 2012).

## 3. To Machu Pichu on horseback

Days are spent riding locally-bred American Quarter Horses past the Salkantay Glacier, through crystal clear rivers, along the Inca Trail, through lost-in-time villages and across green valleys. Nights are spent in five-star eco-lodges enjoying gourmet meals. A private guided tour of the pre-Columbian Incan city of Machu Picchu caps the whole thing off. This seven-day [Mountain Lodge Peru](#) trip is the only one of its kind (US\$3,690 per person, all-inclusive).



## 4. Walruses, the new polar bears

Don't get us wrong. We're still dying to see polar bears in the wild, but we've become fascinated with walruses, too. This six-day walrus-watching excursion to Foxe Basin in the Arctic Circle with [Frontiers North](#) is limited to eight guests and includes home stays with the Inuit people in Igloodik, Nunavut (US\$5,999). Bonus: Every once in a while polar bears show up, too.

And then there are the classics on our list like riding the Trans-Siberian Railway, diving in the Galapagos Islands, rafting the Grand Canyon, learning to play polo in Argentina... So many adventures, so little time!

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



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.

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