

TRAVEL GUIDE



Attached language
intelligence
THE HAGUE · TORONTO

Kerala Province, India

Las Vegas, USA

Florence, Italy

Slovenia



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



HAPPY TRAVEL

Switzerland

Stromboli, Italy

Kyoto, Japan

Málaga, Spain

Paris, France

Maastricht, Netherlands

Iceland

Bergen, Norway

Zákynthos, Greece

Berlin, Germany

FAMILY
WELLNESS
RELAXATION

KERALA



Matthijs Kooijman

Curious about the impact of a -temporary- totally different approach to life? As a family, we spent 8 magical days in a strictly ayurvedic yoga resort around Kochi, Kerala. This meant up at 5am, 3 x 2 hour yoga and meditation sessions, strict ayurvedic diet (totally vegan, no alcohol or caffeine) and in bed by 8pm. And after some getting used to, we (9-year-old daughter included) loved it and noticed the total change in our bodies and minds. And although we couldn't maintain this lifestyle in our daily lives, we treasure this memory and at least know that there is an alternative to our busy, Western-style lives.

Tip:



[Hinterland Village](#)

Relax, Reflect & Rejuvenate | Yoga & Ayurveda Health Retreats

“Kerala Province, India

A perfect combination of yoga, nice weather and
tasty, healthy food

SHORT GETAWAY
ADVENTURE
SPORT
SIGHTSEEING
GAMBLING
PARTYING

LAS VEGAS



Joris de Bruin

During my trip around the West Coast of the US, I stopped in Las Vegas for a few days. I was amazed by the stunning buildings, beautiful lights and exciting atmosphere. Since it was mid-summer, it was like 'walking in an oven'. For the first activity, I cooled off riding the Big Apple Coaster, an awesome rollercoaster over the city. Later, I strolled the huge casinos of Las Vegas and walked my way down the strip. Finally, I flew down head first over downtown Vegas at night on the SlotZilla Zip Line. There is so much more to do in Las Vegas, like visiting the Luxor hotel and watching the epic water show at Bellagio Fountains, which I didn't have the chance to do. Go there and discover all the interesting places of this city.

Tips:

- ★ Fly down the Zoomline Super-Hero Style!
- ★ Ride the Big Apple Coaster

“Las Vegas, USA

The 'over-the-top' vibes of this city in the middle of a desert make you feel royal

CULTURAL GETAWAY
GASTRONOMICAL

FLORENCE

Gitta Lek

My last visit to Florence was 5 years ago. It was a day visit during a road trip through the northern part of Italy. The visit to Uffizi was an incredible experience. Taking a coffee break on the roof top restaurant of the museum allowed for a beautiful view of the city.

Using the hop-on hop-off tour bus, we could visit all the sights and see the wonderful views of Florence from the vantage point above the Arno River.

I will go back again in the next few years and do it all again (and stay a little longer).

Tips:

- ★ <https://www.uffizi.it/en/the-uffizi>
- ★ <https://www.hop-on-hop-off-bus.com/>
- ★ Ponte Vecchio and Corridoio Vasariano in Florence

“ Florence, Italy

Beautiful city, lots to see and do or just enjoy
the people

ADVENTURE
SPORT
GASTRONOMICAL
RELAXATION
WELLNESS
FAMILY

SLOVENIA

Leen Temmerman

If you want to combine nature, outdoor activities, a relaxing atmosphere and good food and company, Slovenia has it all for you - the whole year round. I went for the summer, which allowed for great hikes and splendid views over the idyllic Bohinjsko jezero and, of course, Bled and its tiny island and characteristic white church.

Tips:

- ★ Bohinj: Authentic atmosphere, good food and lovely people in a tiny town. What else do you need to relax and enjoy life?
- ★ Soteska Vintgar: Breathtaking beauty of nature in a well-maintained gorge path. I absolutely loved it.
- ★ Postojnska jama: An impressive cave system to explore and marvel at the forces of nature.

“Slovenia

The nature and Slovenian way of life are captivating

WELLNESS
RELAXATION
GASTRONOMICAL
ADVENTURE
SPORT
FAMILY

SWITZERLAND

Marieke Voorvelt

Summer holiday means Switzerland. As a kid, my family always went to the Toggenburg region, dominated by the Säntis and Churfirsten mountains. It's ideal for hiking and a great starting point for exploring places like Appenzell (famous for its cheese), St. Gallen (beautiful Rococo library) and Rapperswil (along the shores of Lake Zurich).

The landscape in Valais is much more dramatic than the Prealps in the north: high peaks such as the iconic Matterhorn and the deep valley of the Rhône river. The weekly market in Sion, the canton's capital, is great for tasting the amazing local food and produce, like apricots, rye bread, dried meat and raclette.

Another highlight was the InterRail trip. In 3 days we crossed almost the entire country and rode many famous railways, such as the Rhaetian Railway, the GoldenPass Line and the Voralpen Express. It was wonderful!

Tips:

- ★ [Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne](#)
- ★ [Hiking tip](#): add a ride on a mountain train, cable car or chair lift to your hike
- ★ [Swiss open-air museum Ballenberg](#)

“Switzerland

Beautiful mountains and lakes, charming little towns, peace and quiet, great food and a fascinating linguistic landscape

STROMBOLI

Paola Ferrantelli

Stromboli is one of the Aeolian Islands off the northern coast of Sicily. It's one of the most active volcanoes on earth and one of the three hikeable active volcanos in Italy. On this small island, you can experience regular explosions every half an hour. You can literally see Mount Stromboli spitting out the glowing lava from its summit crater. Walking up to the top of the crater to see this beautiful volcano erupt is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It was a beautiful trek starting at 6pm and finishing at midnight. It allowed us to not only see the eruptions, but also the sunset over the sea. The way down was much easier!

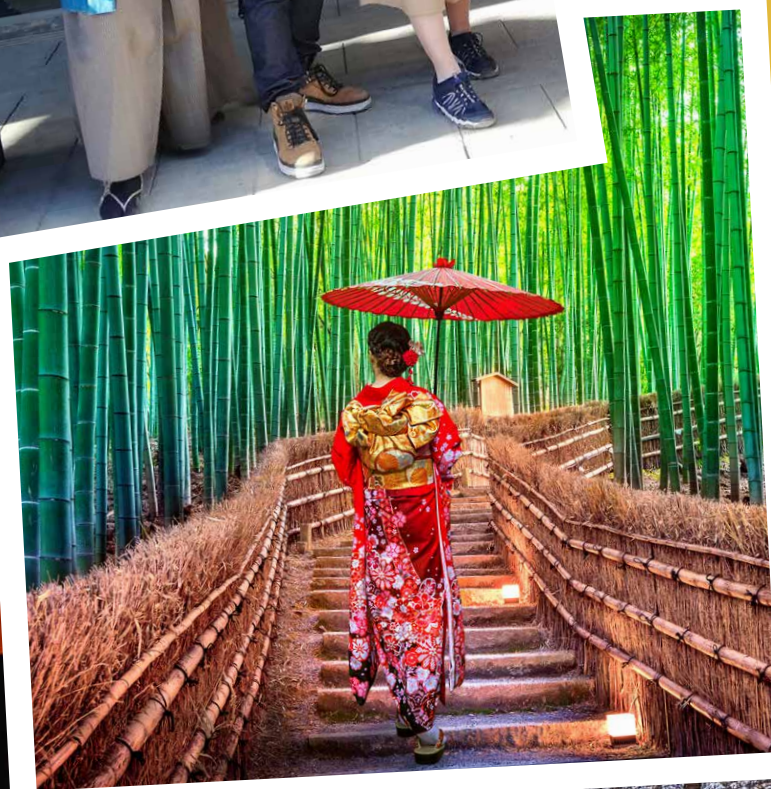
Tips:

- ★ Book a hike in town. The guides are knowledgeable and know the route, plus it's illegal to summit on your own.
- ★ Take a boat in the evening from the port in Stromboli Village (Ficogrande) to see the eruptions at a distance.

“Stromboli, Italy

The most exhilarating thing about Stromboli is that the entire island is an active volcano

KYOTO



Jordi Sabandar

I went to Kyoto for a week with a friend, and it was one of the highlights during my study abroad. We stayed in a hostel for fairly cheap, which was okay since we were mostly exploring the city. Transportation is great, but by simply walking around you can find plenty of things to do. One highlight of many was [TOEI Kyoto Studio Park](#), which is a theme park centered around Edo-era Japan. They are also used for sets of Japanese shows!

Another highlight was a walk around the city. A friend showed me a list of “hot spots” in Kyoto based around a series of images called “Kyoto Hifuu Landscape”, so I walked to some of those. Very fun!

The week ended with a trip to [Kameyama-koen park](#), which is near the [Arashiyama Bamboo Forest](#). You can get some great views here.

“Kyoto, Japan

A large city that feels very spacious

FAMILY
GASTRONOMICAL
SHORT GETAWAY

MÁLAGA

Jennifer Rea

Málaga is a small city and one of the oldest in Europe with Phoenician, Roman, Arabic and Christian eras all in one. Fascinating history that you can see and feel walking through the streets. Málaga is on the Costa del Sol surrounded by the Montes de Málaga. You can see archaeological remains spanning 3000 years in the city centre in an open museum, the earliest being the Phoenician walls in the Museo Picasso Málaga. Don't miss the Church of Santiago, a cathedral built upon a mosque, thereby incorporating both Christian and Islamic styles. You have to see the Alcazaba, a fortress above the city. Serious history here with building starting in the 11th century. You can wander around the walls and get a little bit lost. From the city centre it's a short walk to the harbour, which has been modernized with shops and restaurants. My favourite touch is the misters lining the footpaths for cooling off. I was there during the Feria de Agosto where you can eat a heck of a lot and see the traditional partying side of Spain.

Tips:

- ★ [Alcazaba](#)
- ★ [Feria](#)
- ★ [Cathedral](#)

“Málaga, Spain

The relaxed small city of Málaga has serious history and delicious food all in one

FAMILY
GASTRONOMICAL
SHORT GETAWAY

PARIS



Eveline van Sandick

Whether you are looking for good food, beautiful architecture, culture or just a place to wonder around endlessly and discover new hidden gems along the way, Paris is the place to be. Each “arrondissement” has its own character, making each visit to another part of town a totally different experience. Of course Paris is a great destination for a short weekend get-away, but it is also a good base to go to Versailles, Parc Asterix, or the Museum of Aviation and Astronautics.

Tips:

- ★ Accommodation: [Gd. Hôtel de Roubaix](#) with a great location and nice design.
- ★ For a drink or meal at a very special place: [Le Train Bleu](#) – located in the historical Gare de Lyon, which reminds you of travels down south in the early 1900s.
- ★ [Musée d'Orsay](#) – is located in a former train station and has a marvelous permanent exhibition and frequent temporary exhibitions.
- ★ Bonus museum: the [Museum of Languages!](#)

“Paris, France

The City of Light will always have a special place in my heart, revealing new sites and hidden treasures with each and every visit

WELLNESS
RELAXATION
ADVENTURE
GASTRONOMICAL
SHORT GETAWAY
SPORT
FAMILY

MAASTRICHT

Laura Devies

Skip Amsterdam for once, and visit Maastricht! It simply has it all: history, culture, shops and boutiques, the best food and drinks, beautiful nature... and of course the kindest people :-).

Maastricht has a unique vibe that you can't compare to other Dutch cities. I grew up in a small village outside of the city and spent a lot of time there. Wyck is my favourite neighbourhood, close to the train station and alongside the Maas with some of my favourite cafes, bistros and boutiques. Very "gezellig"! Another nice area is the Jekerkwartier: with boutiques, the city park, [Cafe Sjiem](#) for real Burgundian food and the [Bisschopsmolen](#) with the best "vlaai"!

Just outside Maastricht you will find the Sint-Pietersberg where you can walk through the ENCI quarry, where they used to extract limestone and make cement. It's very cool to see the old factory, while enjoying nature at the same time. And afterwards, head to [Chalet Bergrust](#) for drinks and bites and an amazing view.



“Maastricht, The Netherlands

Maastricht feels like you're on a holiday abroad,
but you're still in The Netherlands

ADVENTURE
SPORT
WELLNESS
RELAXATION

ICELAND

Lindsay Coghill

My trip to Iceland was absolutely magical! We rented a car so that we could drive around the island and get away from the main touristy areas. I recommend going off-season; we went in April so it was still a bit cold, but definitely worth it to have amazing, unobstructed views of beautiful waterfalls and black-sand beaches. Some of the highlights were Gullfoss, a giant waterfall with unreal viewpoints, and Vik, for its volcanic beach that looked like something from Mars. But best of all was the secret, hidden hot-spring pool that we found at the base of a mountain. And the craziest moment: seeing parents leave their babies in strollers outside of stores while they shop; the crime rate is SO low here and the stores are quite small, so this is a very regular thing!

Iceland is perfect for hiking, diving, relaxing in natural hotsprings, and of course, if you're lucky, getting a glimpse of the Northern Lights. Icelandic people are also super friendly and welcoming, so make sure to check out spots where the locals hang out instead of just tourist attractions!

Tips:

- ★ I definitely recommend this [accommodation](#). It's inexpensive, close to the water, near some great mountains for hiking, and if the weather is bad, there's even a room with couches and a pool table!

“Iceland

The rugged, natural landscape of Iceland feels other-worldly

ADVENTURE
GASTRONOMICAL
SHORT GETAWAY
WELLNESS
RELAXATION
SPORT

BERGEN

Catherine Christaki

I spent a romantic week in Bergen with my husband for our honeymoon in 2006. The historical city of Bergen combines nature and culture with majestic views and romance-inducing weather (Bergen is one of Europe's rainiest cities). Explore the old-world architecture, fascinating history and colourful buildings with a stunning backdrop. The city is surrounded by seven mountains and the Norwegian fjords so make sure to leave plenty of time for hiking. The best-known of Bergen's seven mountains, Mount Fløyen (320 m above sea level), offers incredible views of the city and surrounding fjords and a variety of walking trails. The ride with the Fløibanen funicular takes about 5–8 minutes. If you're a foodie, Bergen is a prime spot for gourmet experiences, including the Bergen Matfestival (Norway's largest local food festival) and the Torget Fish Market (in use since 1566) where fishermen and farmers have historically sold their wares to the city inhabitants.

Tips:

- ★ <https://www.fjordnorway.com/en/see-and-do?region=bergen>
- ★ <https://en.visitbergen.com/things-to-do>
- ★ <https://theplanetd.com/things-to-do-in-bergen-norway/>

“Bergen, Norway

Bergen is known as “the capital of the fjords”
with stunning views

FAMILY
SHORT GETAWAY

ZÁKYNTHOS

Vanessa Verzijl

A laid-back island feel and friendly locals who are always willing to recommend must-sees or restaurants, Zákynthos is the perfect getaway. Our apartment was near the beach, and the crashing of the waves was soothing at night yet at the same time you had the feeling that it was raining or there were heavy winds. Once you've familiarized yourself with these sounds they become a calming force of nature. In the mornings you are awakened by a great sea of chirping birds so no alarm needed. The winding roads lead you to the harbour, city centre or typical blue and white windmills. When driving stay alert because the roads are narrow and sometimes you'll have to stop to let a passerby or car go first. If you avoid the tourist areas, you'll be taken back in time when there were fewer people and more nature.

Tips:

- ★ [Shipwreck on Navagio Beach](#)
- ★ [Potamitis Brothers Windmills](#)
- ★ Grab an iced coffee like a Frappe, Freddo Cappuccino or Freddo Espresso

“Zákynthos, Greece

Lots of sunshine, azure blue water and
fresh seafood

SHORT GETAWAY
GASTRONOMICAL

BERLIN



Rivka Kroes

It was a very nice trip. Berlin is easy to reach by train from the Netherlands. I walked around a lot and explored different neighbourhoods, like Prenzlauer Berg, Mitte and Kreuzberg. Especially in Prenzlauer Berg there are many restaurants where you can have a very affordable meal. There's several Vietnamese restaurants to try out for instance. Berlin is very vegan friendly as well. I went to Tempelhof, which is a former airport. This is an interesting place, as it is a very open, empty space in an otherwise very busy city.

Tips:

- ★ [Tempelhof](#)
- ★ [Hackesche Höfe with Jugendstil buildings](#)
- ★ [Berlin Wall Memorial](#)



Berlin, Germany

Rich history, good food, nice museums

ATTACHED

TRAVEL GUIDE

