

# Taking off

## ► MINI MICRO

Fed up with eating cold Pot Noodles on your camping trips? Now you can eat hot ones too, courtesy of a Thermos-size portable microwave. Created by the British company Wayv Technologies, the Adventurer is just 30cm high, produces 200W of power, and can operate for 30 minutes before it needs to be recharged (which can be done through a car charger as well as off the mains). £173, [wayvtech.com](http://wayvtech.com)



## ▲ EASY DOES IT

Prepared for a long walk, but not to scrimp on the footrubs? With Camino Ways, the Irish walking and cycling specialists, you can stay in four- and five-star hotels along the pilgrimage of Camino de Santiago, including charming *casas rurales* to experience local hospitality, and the historic Hotel Parador in Santiago de Compostela. You'll only walk the final 107km stretch from Ourense in Galicia to Santiago, where you'll even enjoy a post-Camino spa treat — which you don't necessarily need to mention in your Facebook updates. The package starts at £850pp for seven nights and includes half-board accommodation, bag transfers, a holiday pack and the spa treatment. Flights are extra. [caminoways.com](http://caminoways.com)





#### ▲ SHOW OF ANDES

No one could accuse the latest venture from high-end operator Belmond of being anything less than epic, and you can bet that the decor is going to be pretty darn eye-catching. It's the Belmond Andean Explorer, South America's first luxury sleeper train, and its dizzying route takes passengers across the Peruvian Andes from Cusco to Lake Titicaca and on to the Unesco-listed city of Arequipa. There will be four itineraries in total when the train launches next May, the longest lasting three days, and the 68 guests on board will be able to soak up the breathtaking scenery from en-suite cabins, dining cars and the open-air deck of the observation car.  
[belmond.com/belmond-andean-explorer](http://belmond.com/belmond-andean-explorer)





#### ▲ SHIP SHAPE

Harmony of the Seas, the world's largest cruise ship, has features such as the world's longest slide at sea, a nine-deck zip line, a bionic bar (a robotic arm mixes the drinks) and a tropical park with more than 12,000 trees and plants. It sets sail on a seven-day Mediterranean



cruise from Barcelona on August 28, stopping at Palma de Mallorca, Marseille, Florence, Pisa, Rome and Naples. The cost is from €1,489pp including return flights from Dublin, full-board accommodation in a stateroom with a view of the park, baggage, transfers, entertainment and all taxes and fees. Alternative dates are available. [sunway.ie](http://sunway.ie)



## BURNING ISSUE

**Q** *I've finished my bucket list. What should I do?*

**A** Strictly speaking, you should die. We don't mean that in a nasty way. It's simply that "kicking the bucket", and the stuff you want to cram in before that fateful day, lies at the heart of the phrase. Don't fancy that? You could, of course, add to your bucket list. Only problem is, by definition, you'd be lowering the bar. If Carhenge, Diggerland or Cumberland Pencil Museum didn't make the cut first time round, they've got no business using up your time now, we'd argue. But then you'd just be sitting at home. And that's depressing. Best not get sucked in by this cynical, idiotic marketing ploy in the first place. Get out there, do your stuff and leave the lists to Unesco.



### ▲ GONE TO BOT

Check-in staff have been known, on occasion, to be a touch robotic. Leo, the newest employee at Geneva Airport, certainly is. He — or rather it — is a prototype autonomous robot that will check your bags at the kerbside so you don't have to queue at the bag drop. Simply scan your boarding pass (you'll need to have checked in online), attach the printed luggage tag to your case, and place the bag in Leo's rather generous "cargo area" for transfer to the loading bay. We say "simply"; good luck mastering that at 5.30am.







#### ▲ GET A GATEAU

The Black Forest is one of Germany's prettier pockets, a place where Brothers Grimm fairytales, lederhosen, giant beers and cuckoo clocks aren't mere clichés but part of the scenery. You could spend six nights there next May – when it's sunny but still



fresh — starting in Munich, followed by a train journey to Karlsruhe in southwest Germany, the base for exploring the Black Forest and its picturesque villages. Then it's off to the 19th-century spa town of Baden, the market town of Freudenstadt and Freiburg, "the jewel of the Black Forest". Prices start at €749pp and include return flights from Dublin, airport transfers, six nights in four-star hotel accommodation and excursions. It leaves on May 17 next year. [traveldepartment.ie](http://traveldepartment.ie)



