

Condé Nast Traveller

SPECIAL
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THE GOLD LIST 2018

THE WORLD'S
MOST EXTRAORDINARY
EXPERIENCES



PLUS OUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE PLACES TO STAY

WORD OF MOUTH

THE FUTURE CLASSICS

EDITED BY FIONA KERR

THE ULTIMATE DISCONNECT SURVIVAL TRIPS

We've holed up in cabins, checked into silent retreats and even bedded down in copper-lined rooms to block phone signals. It seems the more switched-on our lives become the harder we strive to be cut off from them. Now new journeys are enabling escape by presenting the most primal of distractions: survival. The latest service from boundary-pushing adventure outfit Black Tomato does just that. Called Get Lost, it lets travellers choose only the terrain they want to be stranded in – polar, desert, jungle, coastal or mountain. Once kitted out, skilled up and dropped in the destination, the challenge is to get through a series of checkpoints using just wits and navigational tools (although a background support team will constantly monitor progress). This could mean exploring Iceland's Gigjökull glacial caves (pictured), digging shelters and fashioning makeshift snow shoes, or mountain biking through the Sahara and learning from local nomads how to bake bread in the hot sands. For a more Cast Away experience, Oceania Expeditions will leave wannabe Crusoes on the remote island of Kabakon in Papua New Guinea. Fortunately, neighbouring villagers will swing by to teach spear fishing and weaving, as well as let their interlopers pluck papayas, bananas and taro to feast on. Meanwhile, serious survivalists Bushmasters are part of a frontier of trips backed by ex-military personnel (see also Secret Compass, Henry Cookson Adventures and The Extraordinary Adventure Club). Their latest destination is an island off Panama, where this July, after learning essentials such as how to turn seawater into fresh water, gut fish and start a fire, intrepid travellers are marooned for real to put their new training into practice. FK

