



INSIDE

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EUROPE



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Portugal's Douro Valley is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A leisurely eight-day guided tour leads you on quiet country paths, some dating back to the 13th century.

UP CLOSE AND ON FOOT

To get to the heart of great destinations, consider a walking tour

By **SUZANNE MORPHET**
Special Contributor

Europe is made for walking. Trails crisscross the continent, offering a path for every person. Walking tours are increasingly popular. Here are seven of our favorite tours:

Portugal's Douro Valley: Walking & Wine with Exodus Travels

New for 2016, this leisurely eight-day guided tour leads you on quiet country paths, some dating back to the 13th century, and often ending at a winery where you'll enjoy tastings. The Douro Valley is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the only place where both port and vinho verde wines are produced. Gain insight into the history of wine production while walking beside steeply terraced vineyards and along meandering rivers. Delicious regional cuisine includes fish from the Douro River, roasted goat and wild boar stew. exodustravels.com.

Price: \$1,695 per person

Why this tour? The walks are gentle and the hotels luxurious.

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Sean Pavone

Don't miss the picturesque view of the town of Porto from across the Douro River.

CUBA

Go for a vintage cruise in Havana

Island has beaches, rain forest, rum drinks — and rolling car museum

By **STEVE MACNAULL**
Special Contributor

HAVANA — As soon as we spy her there at the curb, cherry-red and classically beautiful, we have to have her. She is a 1951 Chevrolet Deluxe convertible and this is Havana, the mother lode of pristine vintage American automobiles.

So, my wife and I and our 13-year-old daughter approach the Cuban guy

lounging coolly behind the wheel and ask if we can have a ride. Of course. So we hire Rafael and his classic wheels for an hour.

We know it's completely cliché to play tourist in a pre-1960 car in Havana, but that's the point. We want to pose, see and be seen, have the wind blow through our hair, and ultimately say we did what we were expected to do in Cuba.

From the tiny Old Havana side street of Tejadillo, we head straight for the Malecon seawall fronting the Caribbean Sea and cruise unabashedly.

Rafael puts on his mirrored aviator sunglasses and black cowboy hat to amp up the hip factor, and we smile in the sunshine as we pass monument after monument.

The car is a multigenerational property, first purchased by Rafael's grandfather, used as a family and tourist car by his father, and now passed on to him to thrill more tourists.

Cuba and the streets of Havana are a rolling car museum.

After the revolutionary forces led

See **SOAK** Page 5K



Steve MacNaull/Special Contributor

Kerry MacNaull and her daughter, **Grace**, pose in the 1951 Chevrolet Deluxe convertible they used to cruise Havana's Malecon seawall.

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 CONTENT AND DESIGN BY APRIAGALLAN

Take in the stunning views and historic ruins along the Amalfi Coast of Italy and stay in luxury hotels.



Philip Hsemmerle

See the best parts of northern Spain's Camino de Santiago in nine days on a guided walk.



Tina Christensen

Follow in the footsteps of the route Robert Louis Stevenson walked in 1878.



The Enlightened Traveller

Cornwall, England's South West Coast Path features spectacular horseshoe-shaped bays.



Amy Laughinghouse

Find the right path for seeing Europe

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Italy's Amalfi Coast with Butterfield & Robinson

Stunning views, historical ruins and a Mediterranean climate make the Amalfi Coast delightful. Your small group of avid walkers will first be whisked by motorboat to the island of Capri, where Emperor Tiberius summured, to explore high mountain trails shared by curious goats. Back on the mainland, local naturalists guide you through lemon groves and past waterfalls, the scent of rosemary perfuming the air. Walking the glorious Path of the Gods is one of the week's highlights. [butterfield.com](#).

Price: \$7,995 per person

Why this tour? You'll stay for two nights at Le Sirenuse, one of the world's top hotels. B&R is the only active travel company invited to stay, thanks to the friendship between owners.

Camino de Santiago with Country Walkers

Christians have walked a network of routes through northern Spain for more than a millennium, finishing their pilgrimage at the tomb of the apostle St. James in Santiago de Compostela.

More recently, people walk it for recreational rather than religious reasons. Either way, it's a long jaunt — about 500 miles from the French border — and takes a couple of months. Instead, walk the best parts in just nine days on this guided tour that takes in the green hills of the Basque region, the rugged Pyrenees and the beaches of Galicia. [countrywalkers.com](#).

Price: \$5,998 per person

Why this tour? Instead of sleeping in hostel bunks you'll enjoy boutique hotels.

The Ass-ential Stevenson with the Enlightened Traveller

Robert Louis Stevenson walked this route in 1878 and his subsequent book, *Travels With a Donkey in the Cevennes*, made it a modern classic. The Ass-ential Stevenson is a three-day, 27-mile self-guided walk through the rugged countryside of the Upper Loire Valley with your own local donkey — with training in donkey management provided beforehand! People who've walked part of the route have enjoyed it so much they've returned to complete the entire 149-mile trail. [walking-holidays-france.com](#).

Price: About \$672 per person

Why this tour? There's an emergency telephone backup and assistance for the donkey.

King Ludwig's Way with Sherpa Expeditions

This self-guided, eight-day trek takes you past lakes, mountains and gorges of Bavaria, where the eccentric King Ludwig once ruled — and walked. Discover the German state that's rich with baroque architecture, onion-shaped church spires and ancient monasteries. Fortify yourself along the way with *kuchen* (cakes), coffee and — at the Andechs monastery — the monks' dark and potent brew. Finish your journey at the fairy-tale castle at Neuschwanstein, Ludwig's architectural masterpiece. [sherpaexpeditions.com](#).

Price: About \$1,073 per person

Why this tour? This may be the closest you'll get to royalty.

Cornwall Coast Path with HF Holidays

You may not be up for walking England's 630-mile South West Coast Path, but just about anyone can enjoy some or all of the scenic Cornwall section. Whether it's rugged coastal cliffs with remnants from its tin mining past, or long stretches of sandy, white beaches and dolphins playing offshore, the

Cornish Coast offers superb walks. Stop at pubs for Cornish pasties and a pint. Stay at Clymouval House in the seaside town of St. Ives throughout your stay and choose from three guided walks daily. [hfholidays.co.uk](#).

Price: Three-, four- or seven-day tours start at about \$446 per person.

Why this tour? HF Holidays is owned by its 36,000 members and all profits go to improve their holidays.

Tour du Mont Blanc with Alpine Treks

The Tour du Mont Blanc is one of the world's top mountain walks. Start in Chamonix, France, and walk through Italy and Switzerland as you circumnavigate the highest mountain in the Alps, crossing eight major mountain passes and seven major valleys, ascending and descending about 30,000 feet in total. It takes about 10 days to walk the entire route of about 100 miles, but you're rewarded with spectacular scenery and a variety of cultures and food. [alpinetreks.co.uk](#).

Price: Guided, about \$2,200 per person

Why this tour? Alpine Treks offers a lot of options including self-guided tours, half-circuits and a condensed version.

Soak in Cuban culture and history

Continued from Page 1K

by Fidel Castro took over in 1959, the U.S. declared a trade and tourism embargo on Cuba, and the flow of U.S. cars and parts and tourists to the island ceased. Out of necessity, the pre-1960 cars have lived on, often with new Russian diesel motors and improvised body work and parts.

Before we know it, we're back on Tjajadillo, shaking hands with Rafael and handing him 20 Cuban pesos (about \$23) and admiring his car one last time.

We celebrate our tourist predictability by finding Bar San Carlos and ordering mojitos. Cuba's national drink of crushed mint, rum, sugar syrup, lime and club soda.

We squeezed this delightful diversion into the Havana Colonial excursion we've done from our resort in Varadero.

Like many Canadian tourists in Cuba, we're holed up at an all-inclusive luxury resort, Grand Memories, in the tourist zone hanging out at the beach, basking by the pools and eating and drinking at 16 restaurants and bars.

But a trip to Cuba isn't complete without the two-hour trip to Havana for some culture and colonial eye candy.

We'll also pull ourselves away



Photos by Steve MacNaull/Special Contributor

Above: Cayo Blanco, a private-island stop on the Crucero del Sol catamaran cruise, is the home of white-sand beaches, crystalline waters and lobster lunches. **Top right:** A waiter at Bar San Carlos carries mojitos, a traditional Cuban drink made with rum.

from the resort to do the Yumuri Jeep Safari through villages, into the rain forest and along the beach before snorkeling at Coral Beach, swimming in a cave, racing powerboats up Rio Canimar and having lunch and a horse-back ride at Rancho Gavitoa.

Another highlight is a day on a catamaran that pulls up to Cayo Blanco for play on the white-sand beach and splash in the translucent ocean before frolicking with dolphins.

Steve MacNaull is a freelance writer in Kelowna, British Columbia.



A classic yellow Pontiac convertible passes on San Jose Street in Havana.

Printed and distributed by PressReader
 PressReader.com • 1-888-278-6864
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