



**Endangered:** Paddington is modelled on the spectacled bear

## Meet the real Paddington

PADDINGTON 2's cinema release tomorrow will have everyone falling once again for Michael Bond's beloved bear. Lucky, then, that ecotourism company Inkaterra has launched three-night Andean Spectacled Bear Programmes over in 'deepest, darkest Peru'. These itineraries provide rare access to Inkaterra's rehabilitation

centre for endangered spectacled bears, which neighbours its luxurious Machu Picchu hotel. Shadowing an expert keeper, you can assist them with feeding (no marmalade sandwiches, sadly) and monitoring. A guided tour of Machu Picchu is also included.

From £1,030pp full board, [inkaterra.com](http://inkaterra.com)

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\*Terms and conditions: Fare is based on our lowest return Economy Class fare between London Heathrow (LHR) and Manila (MNL). Travel between 16th January – 30th September 2018. Book from 6th – 19th November 2017. Seats are subject to availability. Fare is correct as of 2nd November 2017. \*\*Daily service begins 6th December 2017.



**For... THE GREAT PYRAMID**  
Scientists have excitingly revealed a huge void inside Egypt's most famous structure, its purpose and contents as yet a mystery. Undetected for 4,500 years, the mysterious cavity is 'the size of a 200-seater airplane', according to co-discoverer Mehdi Tayoubi.

**For... SUPERSTITIOUS COUPLES**  
As 18 is a lucky number in China, luxury Scottish wedding venue Dundas Castle – its modern part propitiously built in 1818 – is offering couples a free piper if they marry at the venue in 2018. But only for services on – of course – the 18th of each month. [dundascalles.co.uk](http://dundascalles.co.uk)



GOOD WEEK



BAD WEEK

**For... SWEDERLAND**  
As so many people confuse Sweden and Switzerland (no, really), airline Swiss is offering 24 contest winners tours of non-existent 'Swederland'. The trips to Switzerland led by Swedish guides will delineate both countries and erase Swederland forever. [swederland.com](http://swederland.com)

**For... BUDGET BARCELONA**  
Analysing typical traveller costs across the country, a City Break Cost Index by rental firm Spain-Holiday.com shows Barcelona as Spain's most expensive city right now. Jerez, famous for its sherry and dancing Andalusian horses, is cheapest.



**Beach heaven:** Your cycling journey follows the beautiful coastline in north-eastern Brazil

# BRAZIL IS NUTS ABOUT BIKES

Ride along wild beaches and attend Rio de Janeiro's Carnival on a new cycling adventure, says **Richard Mellor**



**Party time!** Finish your epic trip at Rio de Janeiro's Carnival

**A**S cycling grows in popularity, so too do long-distance biking holidays. None, however, are more exotic than a new small-group tour following north-eastern Brazil's beautiful coastline and finishing in Rio de Janeiro to watch the famous Carnival.

Simply called Carnival, the trip splits into two guided sections and guests can tackle one or both. To do the whole thing you'll need to be able to spare more than £7,000. It will take one month and you'll ride 1,740 miles (2,800km). 'Lots of cycling experience isn't necessary,' explains Cristiano Werneck, who scouted the tour for US operator TDA Global Cycling, 'but being used to long hours in the saddle will definitely make the tour more pleasant.'

Alternatively, pick a section and costs will be adjusted accordingly. Starting from Recife on January 7, the first is called Beach Hopping and includes immense stretches of wild, sandy shores interspersed with palm trees, shifting dunes and remote fishing communities. A rest day offers a chance to admire Salvador's colonial architecture.

'The trip's highlight will be actually riding on some of Brazil's best beaches instead of tarmac,' says Werneck. 'Beginning north of Salvador, six of the 27 cycling days will feature this rarity. We'll use tide schedules and moon cycles to ensure hard-packed sand.'

Road To Rio, the second section, departs Porto Seguro on January 25. More beach-riding takes you into the Discovery Coast – the place where Portuguese colonists first arrived but which is now more famous for its beautiful, jungle-backed shores – and through Dunas de Itaúnas, the home of Brazil's forró dance.

Eventually, with party preparations now apparent in every town, you'll enter Rio on February 8 to share a

## TRIVIA A VILLAGE TURNED SOAP OPERA



**DESPITE** the place having scarcely 300 residents, everyone in Brazil has heard of Mangue Seco, a tiny fishermen's village featured in the tour's first section. How come? Because the 1996 soap-opera adaptation (above) of Jorge Amado's beloved novel, *Tieta Do Agreste*, was shot amid its lily-white beaches and sand dunes.

celebratory dinner and be provided with overnight accommodation.

The festivities hardly stop there: the city's week-long Carnival kicks off a day later, when you'll be left to look after yourself. After watching the dazzling and deafening parades, you can choose from any number of raucous, caipirinha-soaked fiestas – although good luck shaking those achy hips.

From £4,060pp for the second section Road To Rio, or from £7,130 overall. Both include shared accommodation in independent 2- and 3-star hotels, breakfast, lunch and dinner for all riding days, bike provision, support staff and luggage transfers. [tdaglobalcycling.com](http://tdaglobalcycling.com)



**Saddle up:** The month-long trip starts off in Recife (below) before taking in the jungle-backed coastline and Carnival



## BRISTOL'S NEW AIR MUSEUM IN NUMBERS

**23** The number of days Aerospace Bristol has been open. Located on the Filton Airfield, it's a heritage museum telling the story of south-west England's aviation legacy.



**107** The number of years covered, starting from the British & Colonial Aeroplane Company's inception in 1910. Helicopters, missiles and a real Airbus A319 wing are on show.

**1,354** The top speed in miles per hour of G-BOAF, the final Concorde to fly and Aerospace Museum's star exhibit. She could cross the Atlantic in less than three hours.



**15** The entry price in pounds for adults (children £8). The exhibits are accompanied by play and picnic areas, a café and a shop. [aerospacebristol.org](http://aerospacebristol.org)

## LATE DEAL OF THE WEEK CHRISTMAS IN BERMUDA



NOT only will Bermuda be much warmer than Britain in December, often topping 20C, but the Atlantic archipelago throws a Christmas boat parade. Held on December 9, it sees dozens of decorated vessels cruise into Hamilton Harbour before a firework display. You can also go scuba diving, play golf or just drink in the British colonial vibe. Accommodation is at the

adults-only Cambridge Beaches Resort & Spa, which has four private coves. Save £274 per person on a seven-night stay, room-only, including return BA flights from Gatwick and private transfers. Valid for travel on December 6, book by November 19.

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