



The stone heads of Easter Island have always captured the imagination of travelers.

Travel is as much about the journey as it is about the destination itself. And we don't believe you should have to compromise on one or the other. With these four adventures we bring you epic journeys across dynamic destinations; from idyllic island-hopping in Myanmar to hiking among karst outcrops in Vietnam; exploring Easter Island's iconic stone heads; and tracking tasty treats on some of Australia's best cycling trails.

Cruise among hundreds of idyllic tropical specs in Myanmar

Far off the beaten track there's a dock, and from that dock a boat sails even further from the modern world - to the long isolated Myeik (or Mergui) Archipelago, off the southeast coast of Myanmar.

This sprinkling of 800 or so rocky islands flecking the Andaman Sea only recently began welcoming foreign visitors, and is at its most beautiful in the early months of the year; in March the weather is dry and warm, with underwater visibility perfect for snorkelers and divers to absorb the varied marine life.

Some islands, such as Lampi - a designated nature reserve - are blanketed with dense jungle in which tigers and elephants are reputed to roam. Others are studded with golden beaches and the stilted fishing villages of the Moken, the nomadic 'sea gypsies', who may have been the country's earliest inhabitants.

Trip plan: Several international tour operators organize sailing cruises, mostly departing from Kawthoung near the Thai border, or liveboard dive trips from Phuket or other Thai islands.

Need to know: Burmese food is a blend of Indian and Thai; the traditional breakfast (and unofficial national dish) is mohinga, a spicy fish noodle soup.

Other months: Nov-Apr - driest months, best for sailing islands; May-Oct - monsoon.

Wander in ideal weather among Rapa Nui's enigmatic stone heads

Chile stretches some 2700 miles (4345 km) from its border with Peru and Bolivia in the north to Cape Horn, the very tip of the Americas, at 56° south - so finding the perfect time to explore can be tricky. Try March: a balmy time to be roaming the Lakes District and the wineries (for the joys of the grape

harvest), and it's the end of the Patagonian summer when crowds thin and prices simmer down. It's also good for a journey to that baffling ocean-lapped rock, Rapa Nui (Easter Island), adrift 2250 miles (3621 km) from the mainland. The enormous moai, huge stone heads for which the island is famed, are just the most visible of the mysteries surrounding the culture of its first inhabitants. Make a cir-

cuit of the island's ahu (platforms bearing moai) and ponder the birdman cult at Orongo ceremonial village.

Trip plan: Latam Airlines (latam.com) makes the 5 1/2-hour flight from Chile's capital Santiago to Rapa Nui several times a week.

Need to know: Occasional outbreaks of dengue fever on Rapa Nui mean covering up and using insect repellent is a wise strategy.



What better motivation to get in the saddle than the promise of delicious foodie fare at the end of your ride?