



A Bangkok street food market

7 Learning Holidays for Amazing Life Skills

Travel is temporarily on hold right now, but it's important not to stop dreaming of adventures to come and the positivity that travel can bring. Here, Lightfoot Travel reveals some of the best trips that boost learning and importantly, also help out a local community. – By Lightfoot Travel

Learn survival skills in Mongolia

The skills taught on an Eagle Hunting holiday in Mongolia may not all be transferable, but you'll have fun trying them out. Stay with a local family and help to milk cows, learn how to shoot a bow and arrow on horseback, practice Mongolian cooking, try eagle hunting and live in a traditional ger tent – an incredible way to immerse yourself in life on

the steppe. If you travel in October, you'll get to ride 60km with the hunters across the plains to the festival site to watch them compete in their yearly competition.

Brush up on photography in Botswana

Brush up on your photography skills while on safari. The Wild Studio team in Botswana take you on a

three-day tour of the Okavango Delta and the Selinda Reserve while helping you to develop your portfolio as you go. A teacher will be on hand to advise you on angles and apertures as you head on game drives in the bush or kayak along the Spillways. At the end of the trip you can take your new shots home and help spread the word about wildlife conservation.

Become a super horse rider in Patagonia

Fulfil your cowboy/cowgirl fantasies with a trip to the Andes to learn how to become a gaucho (or at least horse ride with more confidence). At Estancia Huechahue you can spend the day working cattle and mastering the art of wielding a lasso. While lassoing may not be wholly appropriate when you land back in Hong Kong, it will make a great story! You can also ride out with the gauchos across the landscape to discover the land they call home. Keen riders can sign up for a 10-day ride across the Andes from Chile to Argentina, camping and staying in estancias along the way.

Up your gardening talents in Laos

If you've got green fingers, or enjoy getting your



Eagle hunting in Mongolia

hands dirty, roll up your sleeves and become an integral part of the community in Laos. *The Living Land* is a cooperative of seven families who produce organically-grown vegetables for Luang Prabang's finest restaurants. To keep business turning over they take on hard-working volunteers who they teach to work on the rice fields. Okay, so it may not be gardening as you know it back home, but the

Hone your photography skills in Botswana





REVIVO Wellness Resorts, Bali



The Living Land, Laos



Eagle hunters in Mongolia



Gauchos in Patagonia

profit from your efforts will go towards educating the locals about land-friendly farming methods and building better schools in the area. Tending to your weeds will never feel like hard work again.

Train your brain in Bali

REVIVO Wellness Resorts is the kind of place to lose yourself and find yourself at the same time. Offering personalised escapes to increase self-awareness and brain training, this bolthole in the hills of Nusa Dua uses ancient traditions and holistic practices to improve specific emotional, physical and mental health conditions. Immersive programs focus on emotional balance, diet, relaxation and – our favourite – sleep. Prefer your wellness off land? REVIVO also host programmes aboard luxury cruise ships as they sail among the tropical waters of Raja Ampat, Komodo, Banda Sea, Kaimana and Alor.

Master diving in Madagascar

If life above water feels a little too stressful, consider a world of beautiful ocean, unrivalled nature, endemic wildlife and rubber diving suits off the northeastern coast of Madagascar. Head by helicopter to the Nosy Ankaos archipelago where the hidden gem that is Time+Tide Miavana awaits. This villa only, ultra-exclusive property aims to protect and conserve the island's natural resources so you can snorkel and dive your days away, swim with manta rays, spot dolphins and come up for air and luxury boat rides.

Cook up a storm in Thailand

A cooking holiday in Thailand is also a tasting holiday thanks to the plethora of local delicacies on tap and boundless opportunities to learn about, master the art of, and enjoy Thai cuisine. Start with a stroll through the food markets to marvel at the fresh produce and herbs and spices, sip on local



Time+Tide Miavana, Madagascar



Discover the floating market at Ratchaburi, Bangkok

Thai coffee and dive into the addictive desserts. Recreate dishes at a cookery school with a private chef or sign up to a longer course hosted in a luxury hotel under the watchful eye of a top chef and their team. 

Lightfoot Travel is a luxury tour operator with offices in Singapore, Hong Kong and Dubai, specialising in designer holidays around the world. Tel: +852 2815 0068. Log on to www.lightfoottravel.com

