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Adventure Travel News: Sick Everest Climbers, Horrible Airports, and More

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taking ill this season without much of an indication of exactly why.

Each week we bring you the latest news, commentary, and special deals from the world of adventure travel. Here are some stories that may be of interest from the past seven days.

Everest Climbers Getting Sick in Droves
The spring climbing season in the Himalaya is on, and hundreds of climbers and trekkers have descended on Mt. Everest. But a large number of those travelers are

The Floating Skate Ramp



[A story in the Himalayan Times](#) says that more than 150 climbers have been treated for Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) already this year, with many of them still yet to arrive in Everest Base Camp. Worse yet, 15 people - 11 of them foreigners - have had to be evacuated back to Kathmandu via helicopter for treatment. One of those was even said to be suffering from "severe gastrointestinal bleeding." Bad weather is blamed for the unusual number of ill people, although weather is seldom the cause for altitude sickness.



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My sources say that it could also be a scam. Travelers suffering from a slight headache or upset stomach are told they have AMS in order to get them to accept treatment, or evacuation, sometimes at high costs. The doctors, pilots, and guides then pocket a little spare cash made from alarming tourists with fears for their health. Either way, this is a surprising number of sick people already this year, and the climbing and trekking season is barely underway.

National Geographic *Traveler* Announces 2015 Tours of a Lifetime

This week [National Geographic *Traveler*](#) announced the winners of its coveted [Tours of a Lifetime for 2015](#). For the past 10 years the magazine has been selecting the absolute best guided tours on an annual basis, recognizing 50 amazing trips to just about every corner of the globe. This year, *Traveler* also highlighted five of the best trips [hosted by Nat Geo itself](#) as well. Among the tours that received the "Tour of a Lifetime" distinction this year are [Mountain Travel Sobek's Ancient Kingdoms of Sudan](#), and a trip to the Serengeti with

[Mark Thornton Safaris](#). Also making the cut were an adventurous journey to [New Zealand with Active Adventures](#), as well an [intriguing trip to Iran with Journeys International](#). As you would expect with a list this large there truly is something for everyone, no matter how big of an adventure you want, and no matter where you want to visit.

Ten of the Worst Airports in the World

If you are a frequent traveler, you've probably spent more time than you care to think about in airports. If you're an adventure traveler, you've probably seen some incredibly bad one. Earlier this week, the [Jalopnik](#) posted their picks for [Ten of the Most Garbage Airports in the World](#), with some incredibly well known places making the list. I won't spoil who comes out on top – or the bottom as it were – but lets just say you probably won't be surprised by some of the airports that garner the dubious distinction of showing up here. Personally, I don't find too many too many of the airports on this list to be particularly offensive. Yes, they are loud and busy, but I've seen some that are much worse.

O.A.R.S. Tells Us Where to Go Whitewater Rafting in 2015

It was an unusual winter here in North America, where some places received far less snow than normal, while others saw record-setting amounts of powder. Now that spring is here however, the melt has begun, and that will turn into whitewater for the warmer months ahead. This week, the whitewater experts at [O.A.R.S.](#) released their 2015 Rafting Report with thoughts not he season ahead. In British Columbia for instance, near-normal snowfall should result in good whitewater this spring and summer, while in Idaho a reduced amount of snow will provided more controlled conditions for families and first-time rafters. In Utah, the whitewater will be down from its legendary highs, but should still provide plenty of adrenaline-rushes none-the-less. Colorado saw its snowpack fall just below normal, but it should have negligible impact on the rafting there, while the most of the rest of the west will see controlled releases from dams to help contract the below average snows. In other words, conditions should be good, even if they aren't as wild as recent years.

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Planning a Family Trip to the Galapagos

The Galapagos Islands are amongst the most popular travel destinations in the world, and for good reason. They offer spectacular scenery, plenty of unique and unusual wildlife, and pristine waters to snorkel in. If you've always dreamed of taking your family there, then [you'll want to read this blog post](#) from Todd Smith, the founder of [AdventureSmith Explorations](#), a travel company that specializes in small-cruises to the Galapagos. In the blog post, Todd – who is also a father – shares his insights on planning a family trip to this fascinating island paradise. He offers suggestions on why should you, when you should go, and how long you should stay. He also shares his thoughts on how hold children should be when they make the journey, and what the experience will be like for the entire family. It is definitely an insightful read if you are thinking about making this classic adventure trip yourself.

Visit Peru at a Bargain Price

And now for your weekly bargain alert. Travel company [JourneYou](#) is offering an incredible deal on a trip to Peru. The six-day itinerary includes a visit to Cusco and Machu Picchu, as well as a guided tour of Lima, a scenic drive through the Sacred Valley, and more. It includes airfare from Miami, with prices starting at just \$1550. For more information, including the full listing of activities, [click here](#).

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