



INSPIRATION

The Traveller edit: What the editors are loving right now

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Where we've been and where we're going

'In a moment of cabin-fever-induced madness in the deepest, darkest depths of lockdown three, some friends and I booked a long [weekend](#) on a narrowboat. Then August came around, and we actually had to learn to drive a barge across [Europe's](#) highest aqueduct. Our boat, *Denise* – unironically named, as far as I could tell – took us bobbing from Shropshire along the Llangollen Canal into [Wales](#), across the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and beyond, all in the never-ending summer drizzle. There wasn't a beach in sight, no laid-back bars or bucket-list attractions – but chugging through the Welsh countryside, past cows and ducks, with nowhere to be was easily one of my favourite holidays of the past few years, and one I'd never have agreed to 18 months ago. Next, I'll be continuing the [staycation](#) summer with a weekend in Whitstable to celebrate my sister's [30th](#) – we're hoping for enough September sunshine that we won't chicken out of a dip in the sea, as well as a pint at pub-on-the-beach The Old Neptune and supper at French bistro Birdies. Plus, I'm currently trying to convince my boyfriend to book a spontaneous international trip – our first since 2020 – to [Menorca](#), or [Mallorca](#), or [Sicily](#), or anywhere promising some early-autumn heat. Watch this space.'

Where we're eating

'The best tonic to any holiday blues is the warm and drawn-out embrace of a [neighbourhood](#) pub. Chelsea stalwart The Surprise has a new owner with bright ideas and an impressive track record of reinvigorating classic [pub](#) grub (notably at The Pheasant Inn in Berkshire). And despite the picantes and English sparkling wines, the mushroom croquettes and squash risotto, the buttoned-down locals remain at large. I'll be joining them this weekend following a morning browsing Chelsea Physic Garden. Elsewhere in London, we've got our eye on Royale (Provençal food from the Leroy team, above East London Liquor Co) and the Water House Project (the first permanent space from Gabriel Waterhouse, whose pop-ups were one of the most talked-about supper clubs of the past few years).'

What we're buying

'I'm half desperately hanging on to summer – autumn doesn't officially start until Wednesday 22 September, you know – and half embracing the changing of the seasons. My shopping wish lists are a confusing mix of [leopard-print bikinis](#) and [thick fisherman jumpers](#). And while I'm going through a September life reset (new school year, new me), I'm trying to finally turn myself into a gym-goer – which means new workout clothes such as this cool [sports bra from Sweaty Betty](#) are a must.'