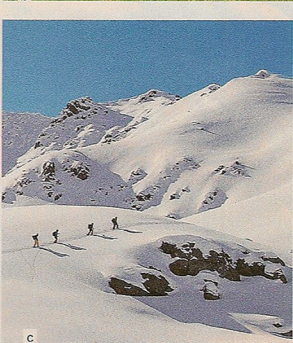
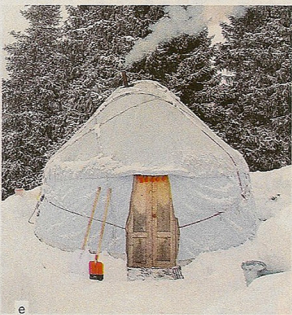


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a–b. Los Glaciares National Park, Argentina
c, e. Kyrgyzstan skiing
d. Middle Fork of Idaho's Salmon River



14 IDAHO

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, passed in

1968 to preserve rivers with “outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational value.” Only 208 waterways have received the designation, and OARS offers rafting trips on nine of them, including the free-flowing Middle Fork of Idaho’s Salmon River. On a six-day adventure, you’ll float more than 100 miles of winding water and over 100 sets of Class II–IV rapids. After setting up camp each night, paddlers can hike to see Native American pictographs on precipitous canyon walls, or soak tired bones in abundant hot springs, each just a short walk from the riverbank. From \$2,549; oars.com —S.P.

15 ARGENTINA

If you’ve ever wanted to meet Alex Honnold, Conrad Anker, Rick Ridgeway, or Kris Tompkins, here’s your chance. In November, Wilderness Travel is offering a one-of-a-kind tour through the heart of Patagonia that begins with a four-day symposium in Los Glaciares National Park. Between talks from Honnold on his career as a climber and Tompkins on public lands in South America, there’s time to stomp through the park; watch films like *A Line Across the Sky*, a documentary about Honnold and fellow climber Tommy Caldwell’s route up the Fitz Roy Traverse; and relax beneath Andean peaks at the Don Los Cerros Boutique Hotel and Spa. When classes let out, you’ll have five options to explore the region. Our pick is the 13-day wildlife journey, with orca-watching off Argentina’s Peninsula Valdés, a chance to see the recovering jaguar population in the Iberá wetlands, and a finish at the 275 towering cascades of Iguazú Falls. From \$8,595; wildernesstravel.com —S.P.

16 KYRGYZSTAN

In 2009, Colorado-born Ryan Koupal traveled to the remote northeastern corner of this Central Asian republic to backcountry ski and was immediately hooked. Now he hosts groups of up to eight from January to March in the Tien Shan Mountains, picking up skiers at the Bishkek airport and shuttling them by van and Soviet military bus to a camp in the Terskey-Alatoo Range. The rugged half-day journey is worth it. “You’re basically skiing three feet of sugar,” says Koupal. “There’s almost nothing but big, open, powder-filled faces.” For a week you can skin up hills of untracked snow, sleep in a traditional Kyrgyz yurt with a wood stove, and fill up on traditional fare like meat and potato stew and beetroot and cabbage soup. Some backcountry experience is required. From \$2,750; 40tribesbackcountry.com —AVERY STONICH