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GOING PLACES

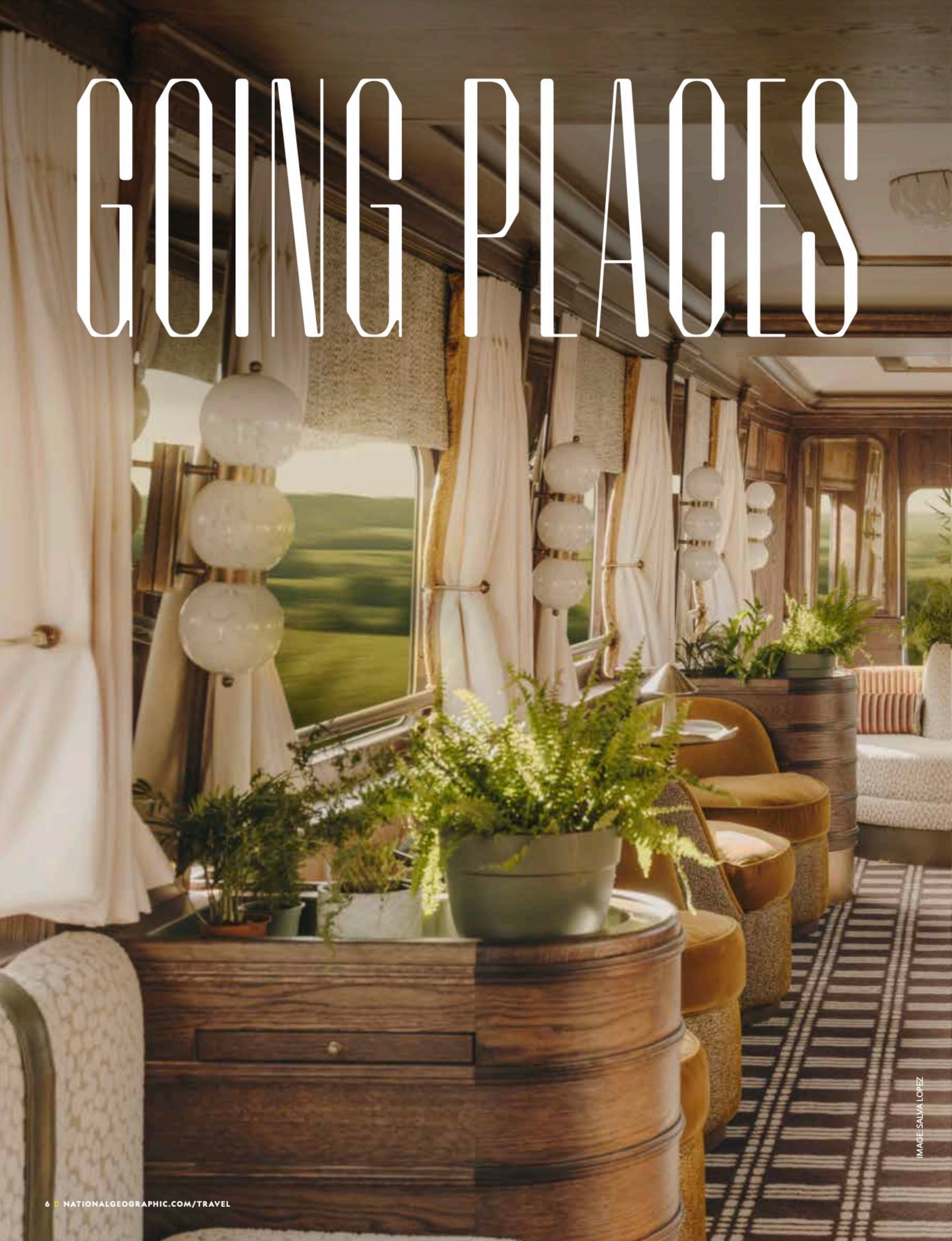


IMAGE: SALVA LOPEZ



Whether it's riding through remote mountain ranges, taking to the open road or seeing the world from the basket of a balloon, some of the greatest adventures go beyond the destination. We explore journeys across land, sea and sky, where getting there is all part of the experience

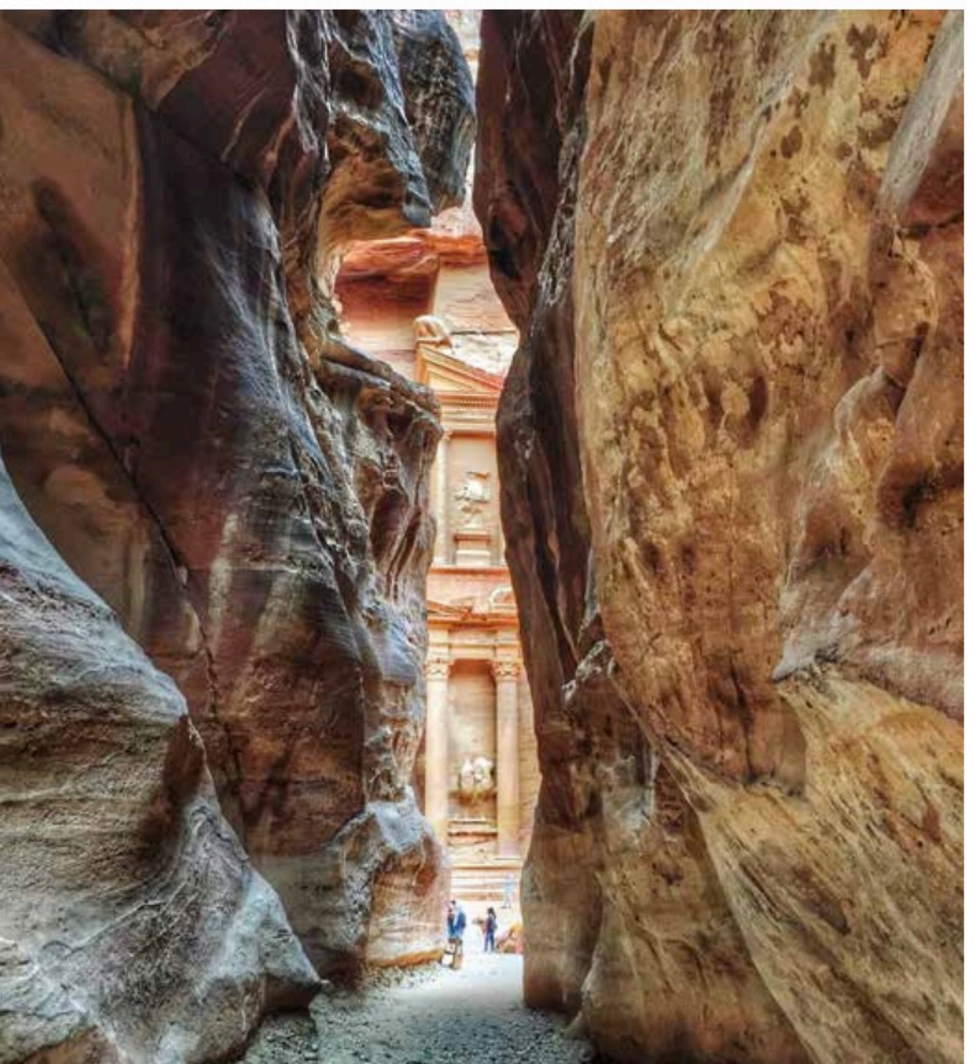
WORDS: ALICIA MILLER, ADRIAN PHILLIPS, CHARLOTTE VOWDEN, EMMA GREGG & ELIZABETH BENNETT



AIR

Hot air balloon safaris over Tanzania's Central Serengeti typically take off at dawn and offer aerial views of its wildlife-filled plains





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Fly around the world in a private jet

For more than 25 years, Richard Butler has led private jet expeditions with TCS World Travel, taking travellers to some of the world's most extraordinary places. He shares the trips that have stayed with him

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TRIP?

Our classic Around the World by Private Jet journey is the most iconic. We generally visit 10 destinations over about 24 days: Machu Picchu, Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Tahiti, the Great Barrier Reef, Cambodia's Angkor Wat, the Taj Mahal, a safari in Tanzania or Kenya, Egypt and Marrakech. Easter Island is a standout for me. Before we land, we ask the pilots if we can fly around the island. You look down on Ahu Tongariki and its 15 moai, as well as the volcano Rano Kau and the stone village of Orongo. Then you arrive and find this incredibly peaceful place, which our guides really bring to life.

WHAT EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES DOES TCS WORLD TRAVEL ORGANISE ON THE GROUND?

In Istanbul, we arrange an evening visit to the Basilica Cistern, lit for the occasion as whirling dervishes perform beneath its ancient arches. Afterwards, we have a private tour of Hagia Sophia. In Egypt, we might spend three nights at the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens, with a private dinner in front of Medinet Habu. Then we fly to Cairo, where Zahi Hawass — or another esteemed Egyptologist — might join us at the Sphinx. We go right down in front of its paws, set up chairs and have a private presentation. That's the kind of access you can't get travelling independently.

WHY IS PRIVATE JET TRAVEL THE WAY TO GO?

Our jets take 52 guests; everyone has a lie-flat seat and the meals are cooked by our own executive chefs. We also travel with two onboard lecturers, who introduce each destination before we land. It's a taster that gets everyone excited for where we're going next.

Mostly, though, it's the convenience. Travelling from Europe to somewhere like Uzbekistan could take three flights and an entire day. With the jet, we fly direct with expedited immigration and customs. In Cambodia, we can be through the airport in two minutes and sightseeing within an hour of landing. It also lets us visit places guests might not feel comfortable travelling to independently.

HOW TO DO IT: TCS World Travel's private-jet expeditions combine multiple destinations and include accommodation, local guides, excursions and exclusive experiences. tcsworldtravel.com