

Sherman's

# TRAVEL

Smart Luxury Values

## Island Escapes

Our 101 Guide  
to the Caribbean



SPOTLIGHT

*Las Vegas*

ROUNDUP

*Skiing the Alps*

PERFECT TRIP

*South Africa*

TOP TEN

*Romantic Spas*

THE LUXE LIST

*Winter Deals*

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

*Carnival Season*

## PRICE POINTS

## All Aboard!

Travelers are choosing to climb aboard luxury trains in increasing numbers. The world's most memorable routes—with brand-new cars or totally refurbished vintage ones—span the globe. We scouted out three of the best options for your rail-riding pleasure. By Tim Jacob

Less than \$1,000  
1-2 days

## Peru's Sacred Valley

*Escape city life, sample train life, and arrive in style with an abbreviated trip along famous tracks to remote locales.*

*Five-star service at reasonable rates make for a unique addition to any itinerary, and a great introduction to life on the rails.*

**Train** *The Hiram Bingham Route* Cuzco to Machu Picchu (Aguas Calientes station) **Details** Daily round-trip excursions to the Inca ruins in the Andes; \$520/person; departs Monday through Saturday year-round **Highlights** Three-and-a-half-hour journey to Machu Picchu through remote Andean villages with Inca ruins; entry to the Sacred Valley adjacent to the famed Inca Trail; afternoon tea at the ethereal Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge **Dining Car** Grilled alpaca tenderloin; smoked trout with fava bean salad **Book It** 011-51-84-238-722-318; [www.orient-express.com](http://www.orient-express.com) **Alternate** VIA Rail Canada's overnight journey from Vancouver to Jasper, Alberta, aboard the *Canadian, Silver and Blue Class* service starts at \$568/person, based on double occupancy; 888/842-7245; [www.via rail.ca](http://www.via rail.ca)

The Hiram Bingham en route to Machu Picchu

\$1,000 to \$3,000  
3-4 days

## Oriented in Italy

*Check your stress at the station with a lengthier, more leisurely rail itinerary that lends perspective to the cultures and scenery between tourism hubs. Long-established routes offer refined service with plush interiors.*

**Train** *The Venice Simplon Orient Express Route* Paris to Rome via Innsbruck, Venice, and Florence **Details** The 4-day, definitive luxury-train experience connects Western European cultural hotspots between April and June; starts at \$2,690/person **Highlights** Original, fully-restored vintage cars; personal stewards manage guests' on-board experiences; champagne served to the sounds of a baby-grand piano; 24-hour compartment dining service **Dining Car** Lobster stuffed with fresh avocado and horseradish relish; roasted duck with sautéed foie gras and rosemary **Book It** 800/524-2420; [www.orient-express.com](http://www.orient-express.com) **Alternate** *The Indian Pacific* spans the land Down Under, making the 2,700-mile journey from Sydney to Perth in four days; Gold Kangaroo service starts at \$1,790/person; 011-61-88-213-4592; [www.gj.com.au](http://www.gj.com.au)

\$3,000 and up  
5+ days

## Viva Mexico!

*Succumb to the romance of an extended train journey, and you'll be rewarded with in-depth side excursions, complex regional culinary offerings, and the most elegant, comfortable accommodations on the tracks today.*

**Train Name** *The GrandLuxo Mexico* (formerly American Orient Express) **Route** San Antonio, Texas, to Mexico City **Details** Running late January through late February, the train travels through ancient and modern Mexico in eight days; starts at \$3,145/person **Highlights** Experience modern Mexico in Monterrey; visit the silver mines of Zacatecas; wander the Aztec ruins at Teotihuacán **Dining Car** Roasted lamb chops with priot noir thyme sauce; tequila-and-lime marinated Long Island duck breast **Book It** 800/320-4206; [www.grandluxo.com](http://www.grandluxo.com) **Alternate** *The Belle Epoque, Al-Andalus Express* 6-day tour of southern Spain, including Seville, Cordoba, and Granada; \$3,460/person, based on double occupancy; 011-34-91-788-8315; [www.landalusexpress.com](http://www.landalusexpress.com)

