# THE NEW "SOLO" TRAVEL

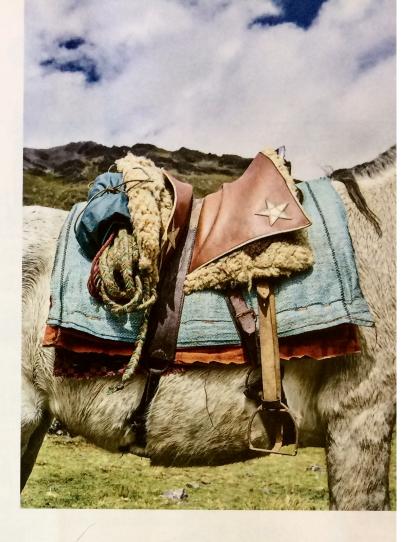
Travel workshops are sort of like study abroad for grown-ups. Learn a skill and find your creative soul mates on one of these trips led by lifestyle influencers.

#### BE A MAKER

The School (@theschoolinstagram), in Sydney, was founded by stylist Megan Morton for those of us who, simply put, want to create beauty. In addition to classes like ceramics and candle making, it offers multiday creativity-sparking trips. Try the School Excursion to India, a fiveday R and R retreat in Jaipur that focuses on jewelry designing, bookbinding, and, during an optional Pushkar add-on, perfume making (October 2017; theschool.com.au).

## **BECOME A FOOD CREATIVE**

Imen McDonnell and Cliodhna Prendergast, both cooks and writers, founded Lens & Larder (@lensand larder) to teach visual storytelling through the lens of Ireland's artisanal food scene. They secure memorable locations (a boutique hotel, a bucolic farmstead) and partner with topnotch photographers, stylists, and writers. If you don't mind the short lead time, the four-day Capturing a Connemara Travel & Food Story workshop in Ireland, with photographer Ditte Isager and travel and food writer David Prior, happens this month. Check the website for future workshops (lensandlarder.com).



#### **BE A BON VIVANT**

The three-day workshops led by cookbook author Mimi Thorisson (@mimithor) in her home in France's Médoc are big on food, wine, and joie de vivre. In the Early Summer Workshop, you'll "meet in the mornings, cook lunch, have it together, drink a little too much, then start again for dinner," says Thorisson (May 2017; mimithorisson.com).

#### LEARN FLORAL DESIGN

You'll create flower arrangements from seasonal heirloom blooms at three-day workshops by Floret (@floretflower) in Mount Vernon, Washington, as well as get tips on how to operate a flower farm. Workshops, like this spring's Flower Farming Intensive, sell out quickly. Check the website for summer and fall options (floretflowers.com).

## ATTEMPT TO SLOW DOWN

Brainchild of Beth Kirby (of lifestyle blog Local Milk) and her husband, Matt Ludwikowski (a coffee entrepreneur and writer), L|M
Retreats (@local\_milk) gives travelers a chance to shift to a slower pace, sample authentic regional dishes, connect with local creatives—and learn photography and styling skills. The nine-day Onsens & Post Towns:

A Wabi Sabi Escape to rural Japan this November is wait list only, but additional retreats to the Faroe Islands and Spain's Formentera are in the works (localmilkretreats.com).

## HONE YOUR KNIFE SKILLS

If your call to create is a bit more primal, go to Meat Camp, hosted by sustainable-meat company Belcampo (@belcampomeatco). During a threeday Pro workshop at its farm in the foothills of Northern California's Mount Shasta, you'll sleep in luxury tents and learn open-fire cooking, sausage making, and butchery (August 2017; belcampo.com). F.W.

This page, from left: An offering of herbs and flowers to the goddess Pachamama; saddled and ready to make the trek into the

mountainous

Q'eros land.