



## Gyrkzstan

Beautiful, isolated Himalayan republic. Very difficult to reach but vast unspoilt mountain landscape.

Last year there was a lot of snow. Not possible for planes to take off or leave for one month!

Wealthy Russian holiday-makers have started going there. Visit it before it changes to just another ski resort!

### Things to do

Summer: trekking, mountaineering, rafting, bungee-jumping and hunting

Winter: some winter sports like skiing – facilities not great

### Things to know

No food or drink allowed into the country.

Alcohol is banned in most places.

No visa needed but \$50 exit tax.

Very important to get travel insurance and special insurance for winter sports.

Good idea to take/hire camping equipment.

### Travel

Flights are expensive. No direct flights. Change in Moscow or Tashkent.

Public transport poor.

Hire a minibus and driver (quite cheap).

## Djamenia

Small newly-independent state in sub-Saharan Africa. It has both desert and rainforest.

Was dangerous and politically unstable but now much better. Government killed thousands of rebels.

Oil has been discovered there so it's about to change and possibly suffer environmental damage. Visit it now!

### Things to do

Desert: camel riding, camel trip across the desert, visit ruined cities

Jungle: gorillas, amazing waterfalls and great wildlife

### Things to know

Good idea to take gifts from home to give to people, e.g. pens.

No visa needed. No airport tax.

Get all vaccinations!

Get used to people looking at you and following you – especially kids.

### Travel

Fly to Nigeria or Algeria and then get a flight from there.

Local buses OK but be patient! Very slow!

Your guides and drivers will be armed (heavily)!

In the past not safe to travel – still a bit dangerous.

## The McKenzie Islands

The smallest nation on earth – a group of about twenty coral islands 1,500km west of Hawaii.

Rising sea-levels threaten the islands' existence. Last year inhabitants of the fourth largest island were forced to abandon it. Visit this island paradise before it disappears under the waves!

### Things to do

Beaches: sunbathing, swimming, relaxing in paradise

Sea: diving, snorkelling, sailing, fishing and incredible surfing

### Things to Know

Need a tourist visa. Apply through Australian embassy.

Get your diving licence somewhere else. Very expensive!

Learn some of the local language – the locals will love you for it!

Possibly the friendliest people in the world.

Most accommodation is basic beach huts.

### Travel

Costs a fortune to get there. Flights from Hawaii, Jakarta and Auckland (not scheduled).

Boats between islands are cheap.

Possible to walk everywhere – taxi if you're feeling lazy!

## Kirlian Island

A 1,500 sq km rock in the Southern Ocean. The windiest place on the planet but with a spectacular volcano.

Once only inhabited by a few scientists and fisherman and hundreds of thousands of penguins.

The island has started servicing cruise ships and is starting to lose its character. Get there before it does!

### Things to do

Volcano: crater and lava fields, trekking, spectacular cliffs, rock climbing, bathe in hot springs

Wildlife: penguin and seal colonies

### Things to know

Better in summer – long, cold and dark winters.

Bring own food (though can buy some things – very expensive).

Little accommodation and basic. Book in advance.

Electricity only a few hours a day.

Take camping equipment and outdoor gear.

### Travel

Ships from Australia take seven days and cheap.

Some flights from Australia and Seychelles (not scheduled and very expensive).

Trips to Antarctica are available by boat and plane.