



VISUAL WANDERINGS

Inspiring You To Explore Europe by River, Road & Rail

ISSUE 1 ~ SUMMER 2023

Overland Journeys

The Netherlands To Crete, Greece
by Nelie Houtekamer

Great British Canals

Cruising Over Llangollen Canal
by Wolfie McMullan

Dudley Canal & Bumble Hole
by Cheri Bodley

Road Trip Inspiration

Slovenia, Italy & Croatia With A Dog
by Šiva Rustja & Meris Skočić

Itinerary Inspiration

Correns, France by Christine Gilbert
Robin Hood's Bay, UK by Lāsma Artmane
Zalpie, Poland by Cody & Hattie Stallard

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Welcome

to the very first issue of Visual Wanderings, the European travel magazine that takes you on a captivating visual journey through the world of overland travel.

I am thrilled to embark on this adventure with you, offering a fresh perspective on European travel as we delve into new routes that steer clear of the skies and reveal the enchantment of lesser-known destinations.

The process of curating and crafting this magazine has been an undeniably profound labour of love, a passion project brought to life through the invaluable contributions of the individuals who have shared their captivating stories and mesmerising photographs. It is you, our cherished community, who have transformed this dream into a tangible reality, and for that, I extend my heartfelt gratitude.



From the serene tranquillity of canal boat cruising to the invigorating allure of train journeys that traverse breathtaking landscapes, every word and image contained within these pages is a catalyst for igniting your wanderlust. I hope that the journeys and places presented within these pages will inspire you to embark on your very own overland adventures.


I aim to create a strong community of fellow overland explorers that goes beyond this magazine. Whether you're on the road full-time, exploring as often as work allows, or just daydreaming of the journeys you'll take, get in touch, I'd love to get to know you and learn of your adventures whether they're memories waiting to be told or plans waiting to happen!


As we set sail on this captivating journey together, let's embrace the promise of more pages filled with slow-travel revelations, the excitement of uncovering new destinations, and the joy of shared experiences that bring us all closer. With boundless enthusiasm and warmest wishes until the next issue,

Emily Goodwin
Editor-in-Chief
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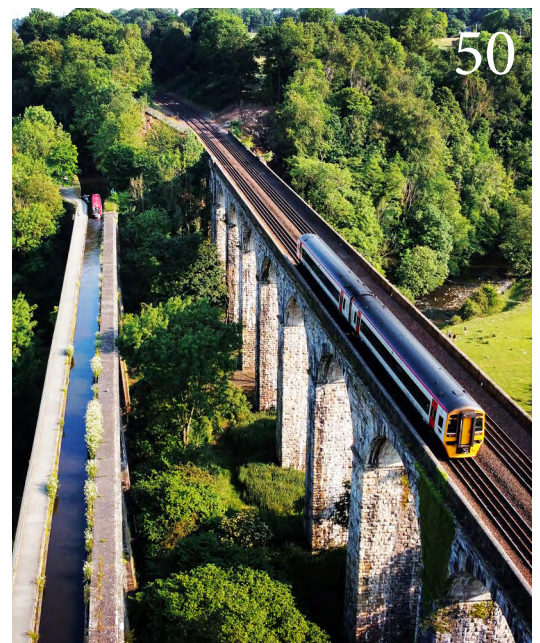
ITINERARY INSPIRATION

Correns, France by Christine Gilbert

Robin Hood's Bay, UK by Lāsma Artmane

Zalpie, Poland by Cory & Hattie Stallard

A small compilation of idyllic towns and villages. No matter how you get there, these places are worth adding to the sightseeing bucketlist!



Road-Tripping With Wu The Dog

Story & Photos by Šiva Rustja and Meris Skočić

Travel trio Šiva, Meris, and Wu the dog traverse the breathtaking landscapes of their home country, Slovenia and journey across borders into Italy and Croatia, sharing their story, explorations, and tips.



Our story starts back in 2018 when Meris and I crossed paths. At that time, Meris wasn't particularly fond of dogs, but I was quite persistent! Fortunately, we had a wonderful family dog named Drim, a charming 11-year-old Whippet, who helped Meris develop a newfound love for our furry friends.

Fast forward a couple of years, and we'd relocated to the bustling capital city, Ljubljana, and felt that the time was right to get a dog of our own. I had always dreamt of giving a loving home to a shelter dog, so our search began. During the midst of the pandemic, we stumbled upon Wu (formerly known as Karlotta) and decided to visit her at the shelter.

She was quite the boss, very vocal, but it was love at first sight for us. Learning that someone had heartlessly abandoned her in a box shattered my heart. A week later, we officially adopted her.



Shelter staff estimated that Wu would grow to be around 15 kg, considering she was just five months old at the time of adoption. As it turned out, that estimate couldn't have been more inaccurate. Now a proud 2.5-year-old, Wu boasts a petite stature with a maximum weight of 5 kg!

Given our own love for travelling, exploring new cultures, witnessing breathtaking landmarks, indulging in diverse cuisines, and embracing the wonders of nature, we anticipated that Wu would develop a similar affinity for exploration.

Wu started out as a rather fearful pup, so we had to take things slow and steady. She was initially afraid of cars, people, and other dogs. However, once she realised how much fun exploring could be, everything fell into place and she began to relish the experiences alongside us.

We have a strong preference for travelling by car. We acknowledge that it may not be the most environmentally sustainable option available, but it remains our favourite choice due to the freedom it provides. With a car, we have complete control over the pace of our journey (ferry crossings aside) and can make spontaneous stops whenever and wherever we desire. This is especially beneficial when travelling with Wu. It allows us to pause for bathroom breaks, find parks and green spaces to stretch our legs, and truly relish the entire travel experience.

We make sure to adapt our explorations to suit Wu's pace and needs, ensuring that she can fully enjoy the journey with us, but we don't specifically search for dog-friendly destinations.

We have discovered that a little kindness and polite inquiry can go a long way in ensuring a positive experience for both Wu and ourselves. As the Slovenian proverb goes, "*Lepa beseda lepo mesto najde*" which roughly translates to "*Kind words find kindness.*"



SLOVENIA

Living in Slovenia has been a tremendous advantage for our explorations. Although it's a small country, it's absolutely remarkable with so much to offer. One of the things that makes Slovenia unique is its rich historical background and diverse geography.

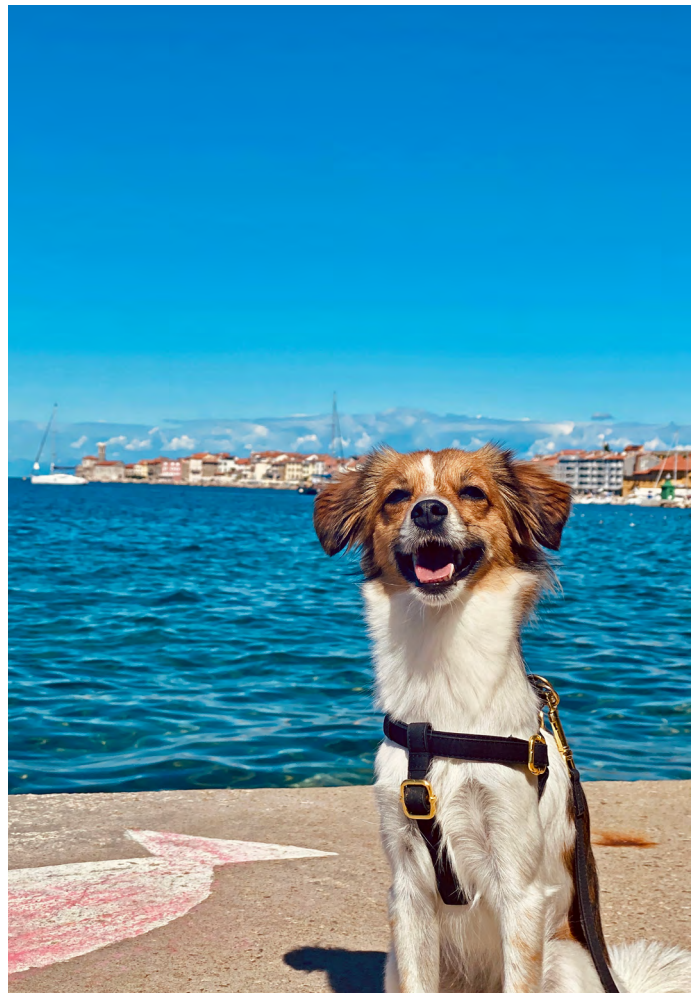
Within just a 1-2hour drive of the capital, Ljubljana, where we live, we can venture into the towering peaks of the Julian Alps, enjoy the scenery of the alpine lakes, indulge in the exquisite wines of our wine regions, or take a refreshing plunge in the sparkling Adriatic Sea.

Sveti Jakob and Katarino hill, a popular hiking spot just outside Ljubljana, city centre



The historic coastal city of Piran might not be the most off-the-beaten-path recommendation, but it is definitely a must-see with its winding streets, captivating squares, and magnificent sea views. It's a place that exudes a unique charm that is hard to resist. To avoid the crowds, I suggest parking at the nearby village of Fiesa and taking the scenic path along the coastline to Piran. It's just a 15-minute walk, and the views along the way are truly amazing.





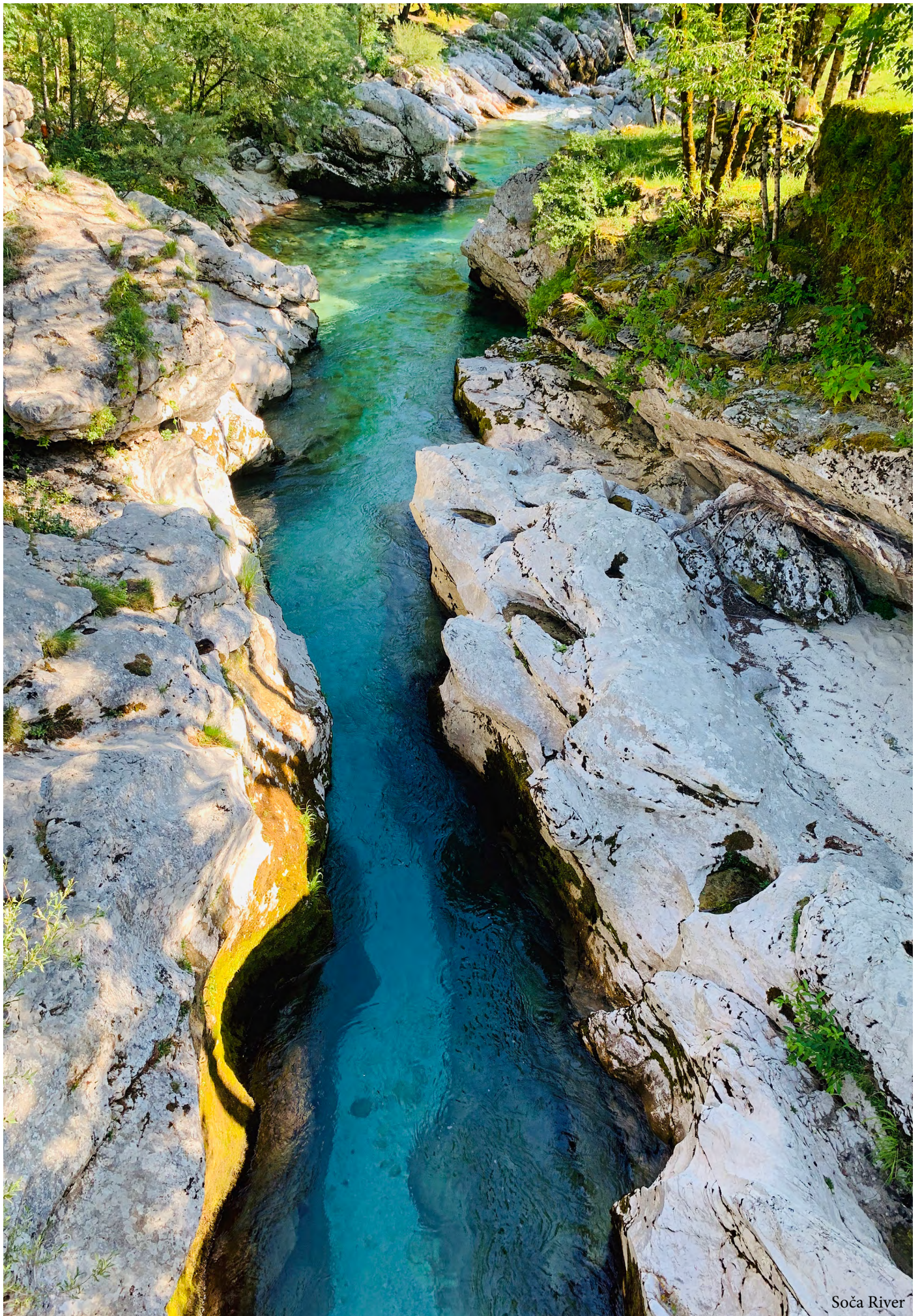


Located in central Slovenia, Celje Castle stands on three hills overlooking the river Savinja and the city of Celje. This 12th-century castle was once the largest fortification on Slovenian territory.



The Soča Valley region is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts with its vast forests and emerald river that flows through picturesque historic towns like Most na Soči and Kanal ob Soči (pictured).





Soča River

All of the villages in the Karst and Goriška Brda regions are worth a visit, especially Šmartno, seen below, with its narrow alleys. As well as being full of picturesque valleys, the Karst and Goriška Brda regions have an abundance of wineries.



View from Gonjače Lookout Tower over Šmartno village



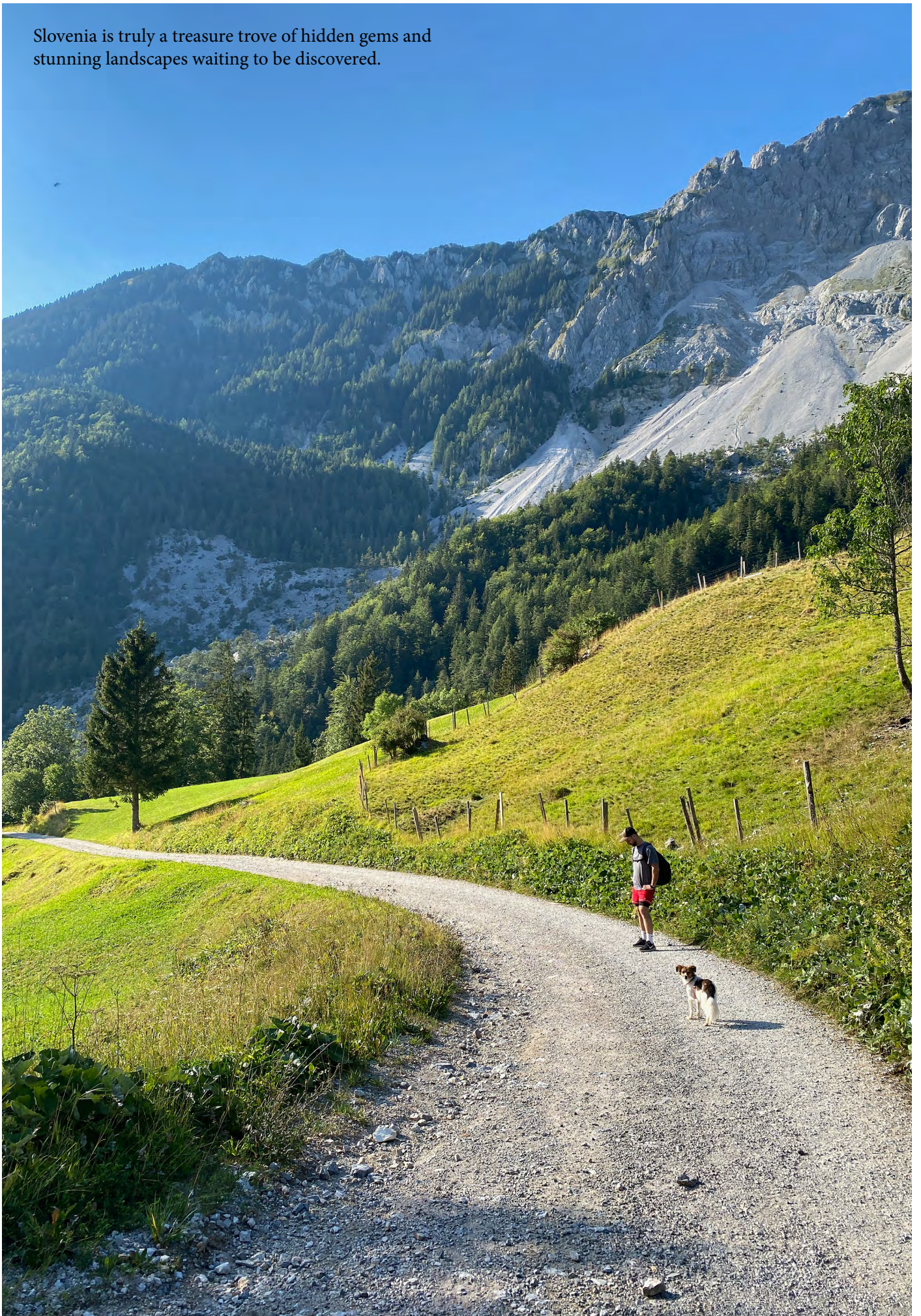
One of our regular day trips takes us to Kranjska Gora in northwestern Slovenia. It's a stunning destination that never fails to captivate us no, matter the season.







Slovenia is truly a treasure trove of hidden gems and stunning landscapes waiting to be discovered.



CROATIA

We're able to enjoy day trips to the charming towns of Croatian Istria which is only a 1.5 hour drive from our home in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Places like Grožnjan, Motovun, Hum, and Momjan exude an irresistible charm, especially when visited during quieter off-season periods. We thoroughly enjoy exploring these hidden gems and conclude our day with the soothing sea breeze in coastal towns like Opatija, Rovinj, Umag, and Poreč.

Despite some people's reported bad experiences in Croatia while traveling with a dog (especially during the summer when beach restrictions are enforced) we can't help but share our overwhelmingly positive encounters. Every single city or village we have visited in Croatia has welcomed us with open arms, and with all the cafes in Croatian Istria having water bowls outside, it's easy for Wu to enjoy a day of sightseeing alongside us.

Our first long vacation with Wu was to Croatia to explore further afield than day trips allow us, and to be completely honest, our vacation didn't start off on the smoothest note!

We found ourselves waiting for over an hour at the border, which was a bit frustrating. And just when we thought things couldn't get worse, our car suddenly broke down. It was a moment of panic, but we managed to call for assistance, and while we waited for a rental car, our broken-down vehicle got towed away.

After a gruelling 8-9 hours, we were finally making progress towards our destination and decided to take a quick break and stretch our legs at Krka bridge near Skradin. However, fate had something else in store for us!

Out of nowhere, it started pouring rain like there was no tomorrow, and within seconds, we were all drenched. Despite the setback, we persevered and eventually arrived at our apartment.

We took a leisurely walk along the beach, indulged in a shot of rakia to unwind after such a stressful day and then retired for the night, things could only get better!



Grožnjan, Istria, Croatia



Rovinj, Istria, Croatia

Šibenik is a coastal city that boasts a captivating blend of history and architecture with its medieval and Renaissance-influenced architecture lining the harbour and St. Michael's Fortress offering panoramic views of the town and the Adriatic coastline.



We spent the first two days unwinding in Primošten, a coastal town with stunning views and historic charm, also heading to the nearby city of Šibenik for some sightseeing.

Next, we packed our bags and embarked on a ferry journey to Brač Island, the quiet seaside village of Povlja becoming our base for the following week's explorations.

Located on the Northwest of the island, Povlja is a hidden gem with a small number of tourists and a predominantly local atmosphere. One of our most treasured discoveries was a beautiful beach with crystal-clear waters. The best part was that it was relatively secluded, allowing Wu to roam off-leash and enjoy the beach with us without interfering with other people.

The peacefulness and lack of crowds were exactly what we needed. However, whenever we desired a livelier ambience, we could simply hop in the car and drive to Postira, about 50 minutes away, for a delightful evening with dinner and drinks.

The locals were exceptionally kind to Wu, showing her affection, petting her, and even playing with her. One time on a beach, she befriended a local fisherman, who took pictures of her and shared some daily catch with her. However, the local cats seemed to assert their authority, reminding Wu who was in charge wherever we went! Dog-friendliness was evident in all the restaurants and konobas we dined at, where Wu was treated as a cherished guest. In fact, in one konoba, they went the extra mile by grilling a tiny steak for Wu without us even requesting it.

We were quite anxious about how everything would unfold before we embarked on this trip, but despite the initial obstacles, it turned out to be an incredible experience filled with unforgettable memories and Wu, our ever-joyful companion, adapted well to the journey.

We realised that her happiness primarily stems from being with us. It became evident that as long as we were together, she was content. From that point on, we adopted a "go with the flow" philosophy for our trips, worrying less and embracing the spontaneity of each new adventure.

Primošten, Croatia



Wu at Postira, Brač Island, Croatia





Wu exploring Trieste, Italy



ITALY

We consider Italy to be one of the most dog-friendly countries and frequently embark on day trips across the Italian border.

We can drive an hour Southwest from our home in Ljubljana, Slovenia to explore the cosmopolitan city of Trieste with its unique mix of cultures, stunning seafront, and historic elegance.

Alternatively, to indulge in nature, we can drive 1.5 hours Northwest to immerse ourselves in the natural beauty of Laghi di Fusine, the captivating glacial Fusine Lakes in the province of Udine.

In November last year, we took Wu on a longer journey through Tuscany during the off-season. We were able to stroll through the streets of these charming towns almost entirely alone, encountering only a few locals thanks to the time of year.

Our itinerary took us through San Gimignano, Volterra, Monteriggioni, Montalcino, San Quirico d'Orcia, Val d'Orcia, Castiglione d'Orcia, Bagno Vignoni, Pienza, and Montepulciano. (We decided to skip visiting Florence and Siena as we had already visited before.)

We genuinely feel welcomed with Wu by our side whether at restaurants, cafes, shops, even some museums - having a dog with us has never been a problem in Italy.

We opted to stay mostly in Airbnb accommodations, as there was plenty of choice, however, we also had the opportunity to experience the magic of an agriturismo (farm-based accommodation offering guests an authentic experience of rural life). It was an extraordinary experience, as we were the only guests at the time. Wu had the freedom to explore off-leash, venturing through olive groves, while we enjoyed sipping wine on the porch. It was truly unforgettable.

I highly recommend exploring Tuscany during the off-season, especially if you're accompanied by your furry friend. The scenery may not match the most famous photographs, but the overall vibe is unparalleled.

Wu at Laghi di Fusine, Italy





The UNESCO region of Val d'Orcia presents an iconic panorama of undulating hills adorned with cypress trees, rustic farmhouses, and golden fields. These breathtaking landscapes truly capture the essence of rural Tuscany, even in the off-season!





The view over the rustic red rooftops of San Gimignano taken from the Fonti Medievali (Medieval Fountains). This UNESCO listed hilltop town is renowned for its well-preserved medieval architecture with an array of cobbled streets and charming piazzas containing an array of artisan shops to delight in.



San Gimignano with its Medieval towers



Enjoying traditional pici al ragù di chingiale in San Gimignano



Sneak peek into the local shops



Morning view from our Airbnb



Our trips with Wu have taught us invaluable lessons. Firstly, traveling with a dog has allowed us to appreciate the little things and slow down the pace of our adventures. Sitting in a park together, watching the sunset on a deserted beach, or simply taking an afternoon nap after a delightful lunch all bring us immense joy. These seemingly small moments become meaningful and cherished memories when shared with our furry companion.

Secondly, we have learned that limitations are often self-imposed. Through our experiences, we have discovered that with flexibility and adaptability, traveling with our furry friend can be a truly pleasant and rewarding experience. It's about embracing the journey and finding solutions that work for everyone.

Overall, traveling with Wu has enriched our lives and deepened our connection with each other and the world around us. It has reminded us to find joy in the simple things, to be open-minded, and to embrace the unexpected.

If our adventures with Wu have inspired you to road trip with your dog, but you're a little unsure how it would work, here are some tips/tricks I can share...

Patience is key! Give your dog time to adapt to a new environment. It's not easy being carefree when you're not familiar with new places, sounds and smells. For the first two days of our trip to Croatia, Wu was always on guard and flinched at every new sound but on the third day, she relaxed and started to enjoy our new vacation routine. Therefore, we advise to keep things slow and compensate. Don't set a regimented itinerary for sightseeing, allow yourself to go with the flow and you'll be fine!

I look for dog friendly accommodation, but in my experience (especially if you are travelling off-season) many of the Airbnb's that say they don't allow dogs, will actually let you bring your furry friend if you call them directly. I mostly do my research using Booking.com or Airbnb and then contact the accommodation via their official website or Google business profile - prices are generally lower when you book direct too!

In regards to sightseeing and museums, we do look for dog friendly experiences and often call directly

to check if it is okay if we come with a dog. Some countries (especially Italy) might surprise you in how relaxed they are. A few months back we went to a Banksy exhibition and dogs were more than welcome inside the museum!

When it comes to food, maybe we are lucky, but we've never had a bad experience in a restaurant with Wu. We don't eat out every night, and when we do we generally prefer to sit outside, but in the winter time we've never had any problems sitting inside. My advice: call ahead and ask.

We're just back from our summer vacation to Rab Island, Croatia and are currently thinking about our traditional Autumn/Winter roadtrip which could take us to Poland, back to Italy, or maybe even to Bosnia and Serbia.

Follow us on Instagram @wuthexplorer to see our travels from Wu's point of view. Alternatively, you can see more of our life and travels at our personal accounts, Meris is on Instagram @jumpich and you can find me @sivarustja.



A dark blue narrowboat is moored on a canal. The boat has a white roof with several small windows. The water is calm, creating a clear reflection of the boat and the surrounding greenery. The background is filled with dense trees and foliage under a blue sky with light clouds.

Dudley Canal and Bumble Hole

Photos by Cheri Bodley

Dudley Canal in England is a historic waterway nestled in the heart of the West Midlands 'Black Country'. Known as the Black Country due to its significant role in the industrial revolution, the canal and two adjacent nature reserves, Bumble Hole and Warrens Hall, provide visitors with a unique opportunity to admire the remnants of an industrial legacy in tranquil surroundings.



Cheri started exploring the areas around her home in the West Midlands during the Covid-19 pandemic, a pastime she has continued to take great pleasure from. Not only does she get to enjoy beautiful scenery, every walk filled with memories she'll never forget, but she also gets to share her photographs of the area's wildlife and landscapes with others. For more photos from her wanderings follow Cherie on Instagram @BlackCountryCanals.



Windmill End Junction

A significant canal junction in Netherton, Dudley. The Dudley Canal Line No.1, also known as the Dudley Tunnel Line (running straight), leads to Cobbs Engine House and the famous Netherton Tunnel which connects Dudley to Tipton and the BCN network. The Dudley Canal Line No. 2 turns right towards Hawne Basin beneath Windmill End Bridge. On the left, beneath the Boshboil Arm Bridge, is the entrance to the Boshboil Branch, Red Pool, and Bumble Hole Nature Reserve.





Cobb's Engine House And Chimney

Also known as Windmill End Pumping Station, this historic Grade II listed building dates back to 1831. Located close to the Windmill End Junction, the building once housed a stationary Watt-type steam engine which pumped 1,6000,000 litres of water from the nearby mines into the canal daily for 97 years. Today the building is a shell, but the 29 metre high chimney is a prominent reminder of the industry of this area and one of the few remaining engine houses in the Black Country.



The Dudley No.1 Canal and Netherton Tunnel

Connecting the Dudley Canal with the Birmingham Canal Navigations (BCN), Netherton Tunnel is approximately 2.8 miles (4.5km) long, making it the longest canal tunnel in the West Midlands that is still open. Built between 1855-1858, it was the last canal tunnel built during Britain's golden Canal Age, and played a significant role in the transportation of goods including coal and limestone during the Industrial Revolution.





Overland Journeys: The Netherlands to Crete, Greece

Story & Photos by
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EXTREME 1



I am from the Netherlands and work as an independent project leader in projects on nature, water management and climate change. I am convinced that we are in a climate crisis, hence I try to direct my choices towards reducing my own footprint. I've been a fan of train travel for a long time, but since the Greek island of Crete stole a piece of my heart (which has me returning again and again) I needed to find an alternative option to flying. In this story, I describe the route by train and boat from the Netherlands via Paris, Turin, Bari, Patras, Athens/Pireaus to Heraklion, Crete. I hope it inspires you!



DAY 1: ROTTERDAM – PARIS – TURIN



I left Rotterdam, Netherlands at 11.00 on the Thalys high-speed train arriving in Paris Gard du Nord at 13.36. I was traveling light, just me and my backpack.

People tend to avoid this route via Paris to the South because you have to travel by metro from Gard du Nord to Gare de Lyon. However, I thought it was well-marked and found no reason not to choose this route. The transfer time can take up to 30 minutes, but I advise you to leave at least 1.5 hours just to be on the safe side.

I left Gare de Lyon at 15.16 on the high-speed Italian Frecciarossa train bound for Turin in Northern Italy. We passed through the French countryside at speeds of up to 300km, moving a little slower through the Alps, which enabled me to admire the beautiful views from my comfortable seat in the quiet coach.

I arrived at Turin station (Torino Porta Susa) at 21.30 and headed for the hotel I had pre-booked for the night, happy to have successfully completed the first leg of my journey.



DAY 2: TURIN – BARI



Piazza San Carlo, Turin, Italy

I highly recommend planning an extra day in Turin to explore the historical centre with its grand squares and stately baroque buildings, topped off by a walk beside the River Po (Italy's longest river), if you have the time to spare.

On this particular trip, I was up and out of the hotel early, walking through the old town of Turin to the station to board the 09.10 train to the port city of Bari in South Italy.

All the high-speed trains between Rotterdam - Bari have similar facilities, a bar in one of the coaches, a power socket for each seat, and wifi but I usually pass the time gazing out of the window and reading.

We arrived at Bari Central Station at 17.30. I had pre-booked another hotel for the night, so I made my way through the streets, eager to spend the next day relaxing a little and exploring this coastal city.



DAY 3: EXPLORING BARI

Seafront promenade, Bari, Italy



I have to be honest - I made a mistake with pre-planning this leg of the trip!

I thought I could catch the 19.30 ferry to Patras, Greece, avoiding the need for a hotel, but I discovered when booking the tickets that the overnight ferry leaves at this time every day *except* Sunday when it leaves at 13.30! Because I hadn't booked the ferry tickets at this point, there was no harm done, I could simply make the most of the extra night/day sightseeing.

Bari has two parts, the new part is called Murat and the old historic centre with its city walls and narrow streets is called Bari vecchia. It has a castle (which I couldn't visit as it's closed on Monday's!), an impressive Pugliese-Romanesque basilica, a cathedral, seafront promenade, and so much more.

A really memorable and special part of the day was walking amongst thousands of people fundraising for women with cancer.





After my day exploring the streets of Bari, I walked to the ferry terminal for the overnight ferry across the Adriatic Sea to Patras.

The process of boarding the ferry is easy, just head to the terminal building and show your reservation and passport. You can board up to 2 hours before the scheduled departure.

I actually decided to change my booking from an airline-style seat to a 4-person women's only cabin and was able to do this at the reservation desk on the day. I ended up sharing with just one other person, a young British woman who was exhausted from her trip and slept the whole journey. If you're looking to save some money, bring a sleeping bag and sleep on the floor as many do.

There are a range of amenities on board. You can have a drink and meal (a lot of dishes are heavy on meat but there are also some vegetarian choices), there is a small casino, a shop, a large tv, and several outside decks to watch the sun go down as you leave one country and rise as you enter another.



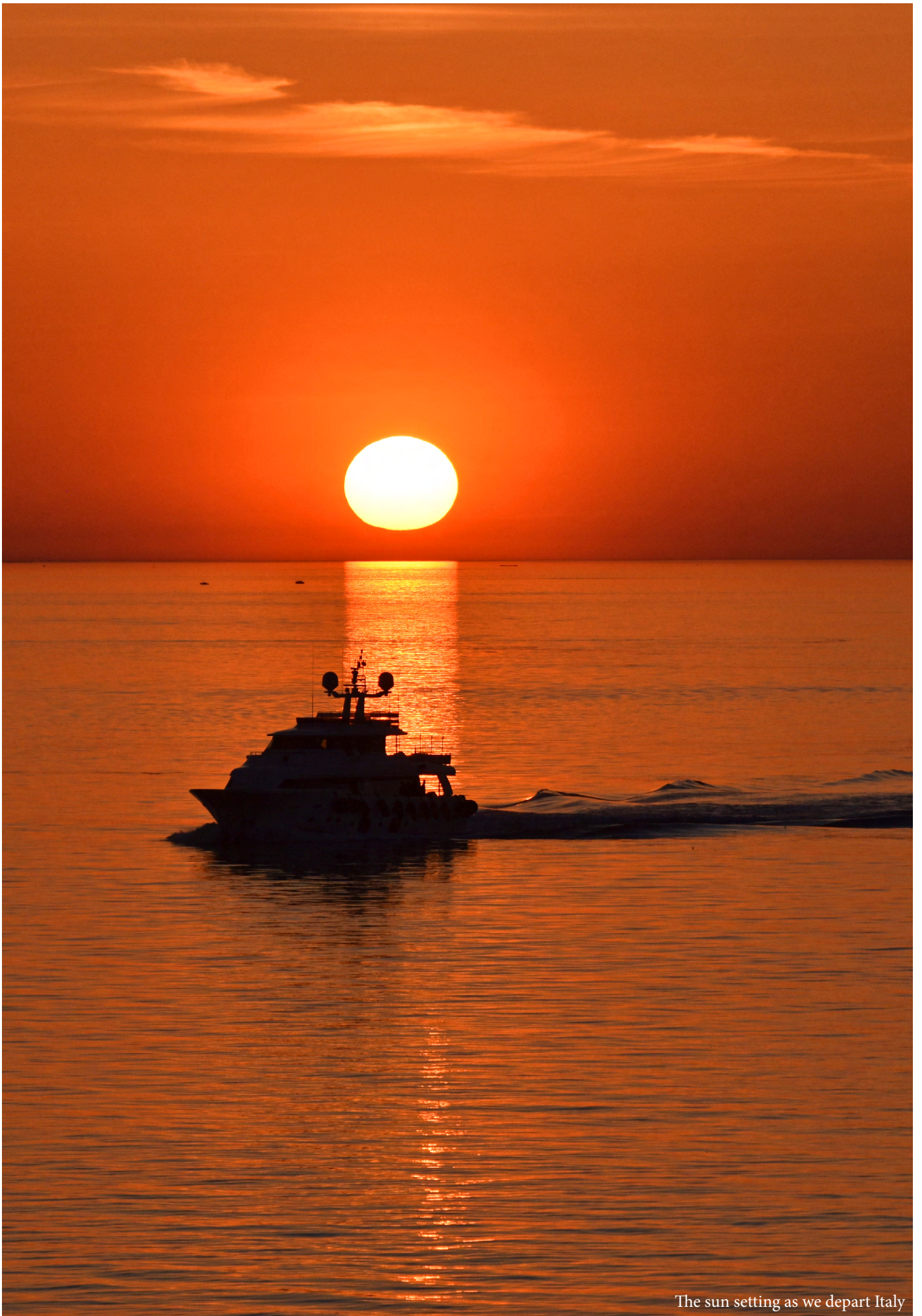
Bari Old Port



Bari Port Embarkation



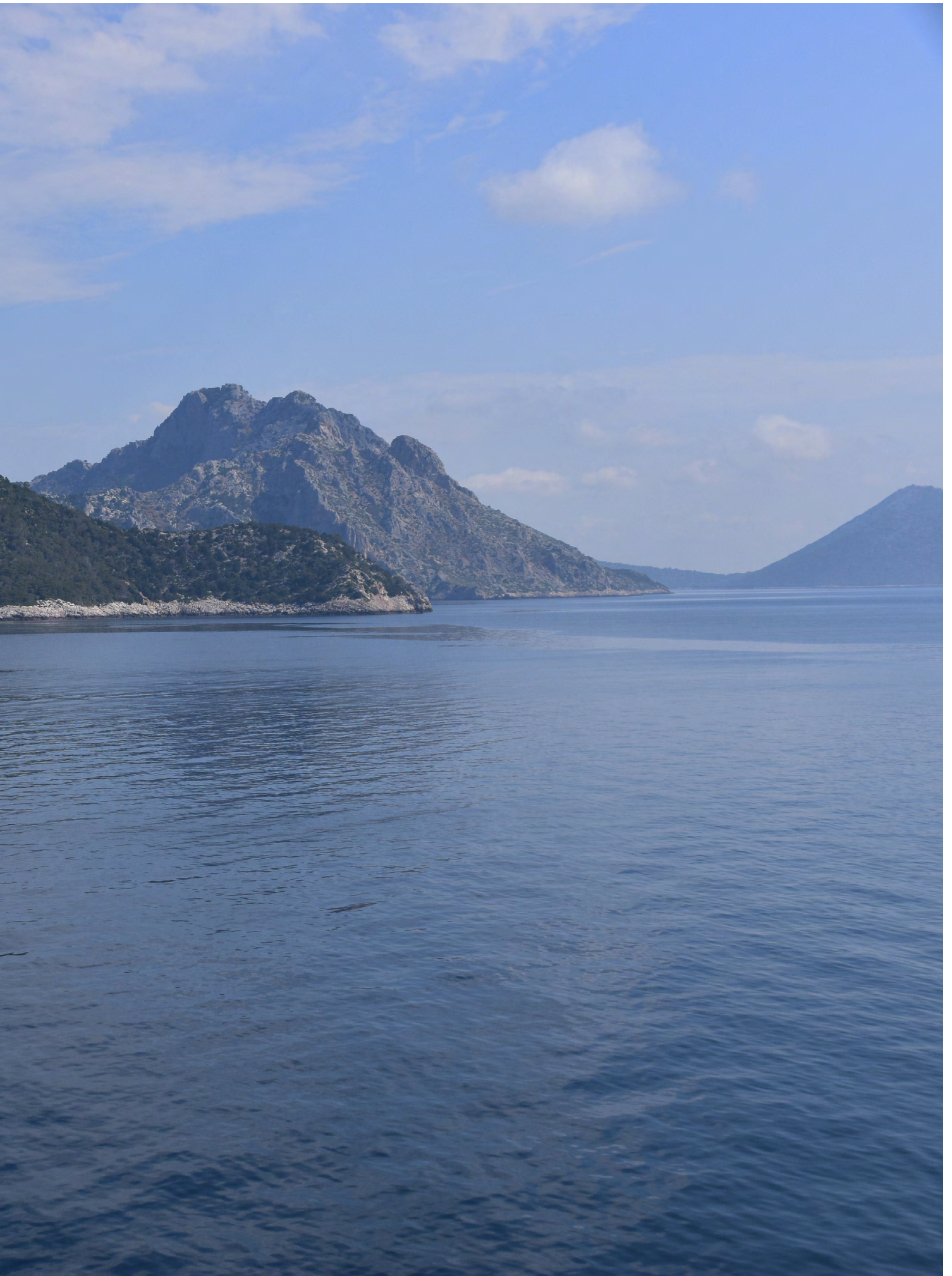
Trucks onboard Bari - Patras



The sun setting as we depart Italy



In Greek waters - The Greek island of Oxia, not far from Patras



DAY 4: PATRAS - ATHENS - PIRAEUS

Rio-Antirrio Bridge, Patras, Greece



We arrived in Patras at 11.00, the sight of the iconic Patras Bridge now an important landmark on my journey from Rotterdam to Crete.

I always find the transition from Italy to Greece a sharp one. I am very satisfied with the French and Italian trains and the clear instructions both at the stations and on the train. Greece, on the other hand, is a bit different with a lack of signs telling you where to go and older and slower trains without any facilities onboard.

I walked the 3.5km from Patras ferry port to the train station, but you might choose a taxi which costs about 8-10 euro.

There are currently no trains between Patras-Kiato (which is halfway between Patras and Athens) due to work on the railway so you have to take a replacement bus service which departs just in front of the station.

The journey takes about 1.5 hours and the bus connects well with the train to Athens, but once you arrive at Kiato station, there are no signs telling you where to go. Thankfully everyone is waiting for the same train, so just follow the crowd!

Do plan some time to explore Athens if you haven't been before, but if you're keen to get to your final destination as I was, pay attention to the trains as sometimes a transfer is necessary, other times the train from Kiato terminates at Piraeus saving you some hassle!

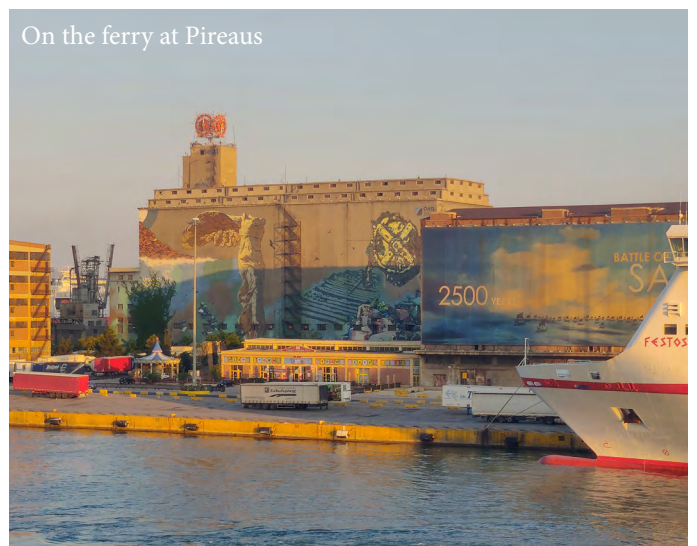
It's only a 5-10 minute walk from the train station at Piraeus to the port with the boat departing for Heraklion at 21.00.

Facilities are similar to the Bari - Patras ferry but on my last trip, I discovered a game-changing secret seemingly known only to the Greeks - you can store food in the refrigerator onboard for free!

Patras train station



On the ferry at Piraeus



PIREAUS - HERAKLION

Blue Star Ferries - 'Sailing Together
To The Sustainable Side Of Life'



After the night onboard, I am always happy to see Crete growing larger and larger as we approach the port of Heraklion at 07.00. 'My' Dikti mountains, as I now refer to them, loom large in the background letting me know that my journey is complete for another time.

The essence of Crete



Conclusion

I still have mixed feelings about travelling by ferry as the emissions are still very high however, judging by the logo on the Blue Star Ferry, the company are actually reducing emissions, unless there's some greenwashing involved?!

I have traveled between the Netherlands and Crete by train and ferry four times since 2022. This is the route that I prefer, but I have also traveled the ICE Germany route to Basel.

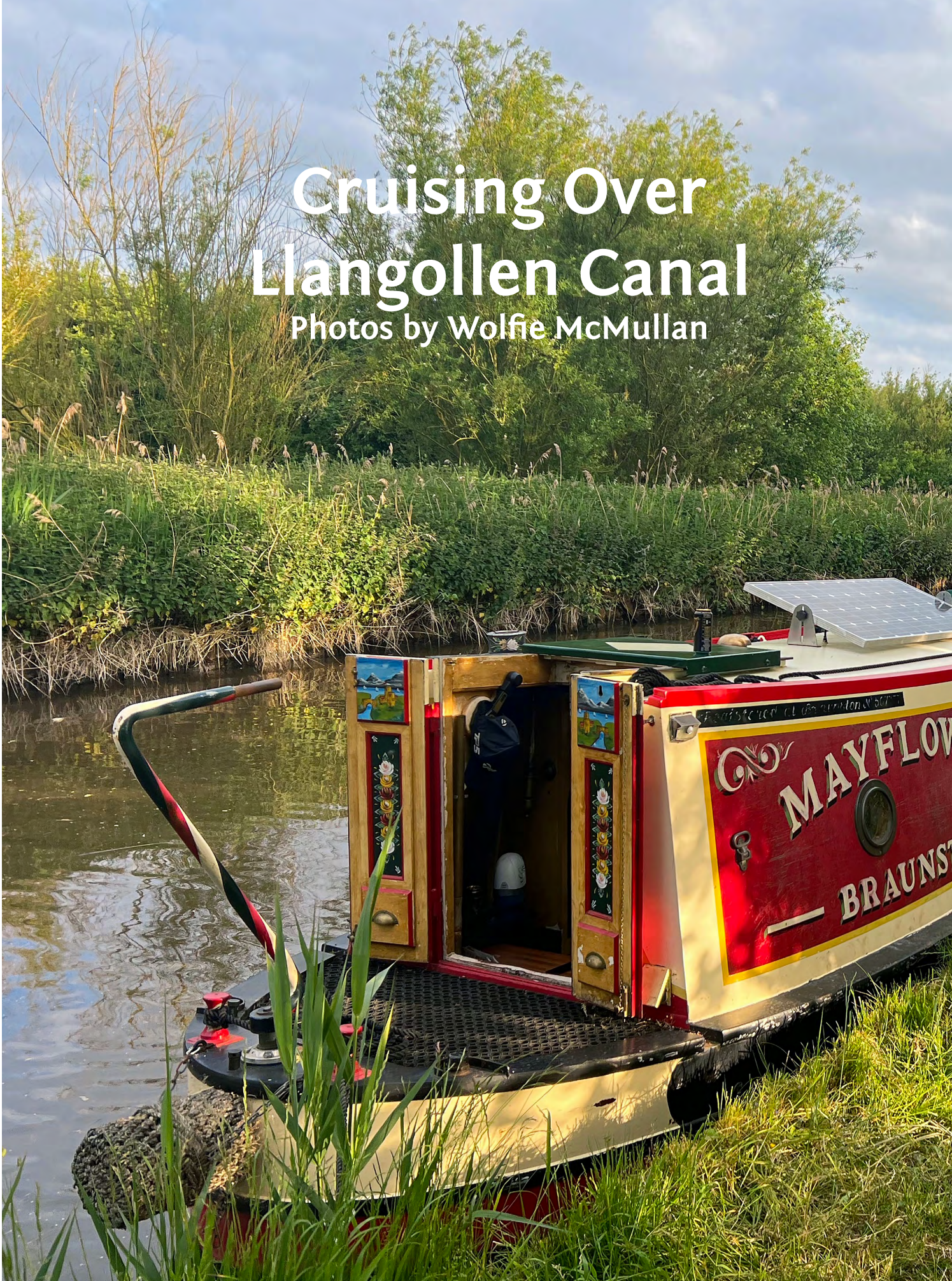
I've noticed that you can really experience the distance and the cultures of the different countries you're passing through when travelling by train. Of course, there are many interesting places ideal for a stopover of one or more days but even with a transfer of, for example, 4 hours, you can get a nice impression of a place.

With more and more destinations easily reached by train, I am convinced that travelling can be done in a more sustainable way and hope I've inspired you to explore Europe without taking the plane.

Follow me on Instagram @louisakriti for more journeys plus sustainable lifestyle and nature photos!

Cruising Over Llangollen Canal

Photos by Wolfie McMullan



Originally from Ireland, Wolfie has been living on boats for the last nine years. Initially based around Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire, he has spent the last couple of years cruising the UK canal network onboard narrowboat Mayflower. He loves documenting his journeys with his camera and drone. Follow him on Instagram @WolfieOnTheWater and watch out for a Youtube channel coming soon!





Hurleston Junction

This is where the Shropshire Union Canal meets the Llangollen Canal and is where my journey began. A branch of the Shropshire Union Canal, Llangollen Canal runs 46 miles starting here at Hurleston Junction near Nantwich, Cheshire in North-West England. Crossing the England/Wales border, there are 21 locks, 10 moveable bridges, 3 tunnels, and 2 major aqueducts with the canal ending at Horseshoe Falls in Denbighshire, North-East Wales.





Wrenbury Lift Bridge

Wrenbury Lift Bridge No 20 is located on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Wrenbury. Built in 1992 to replace a historical wooden lift bridge, it works using hydraulic power to lift the road so that boats can pass underneath. A caravan and campsite are located close to the canal and lift bridge for those exploring this area by road.

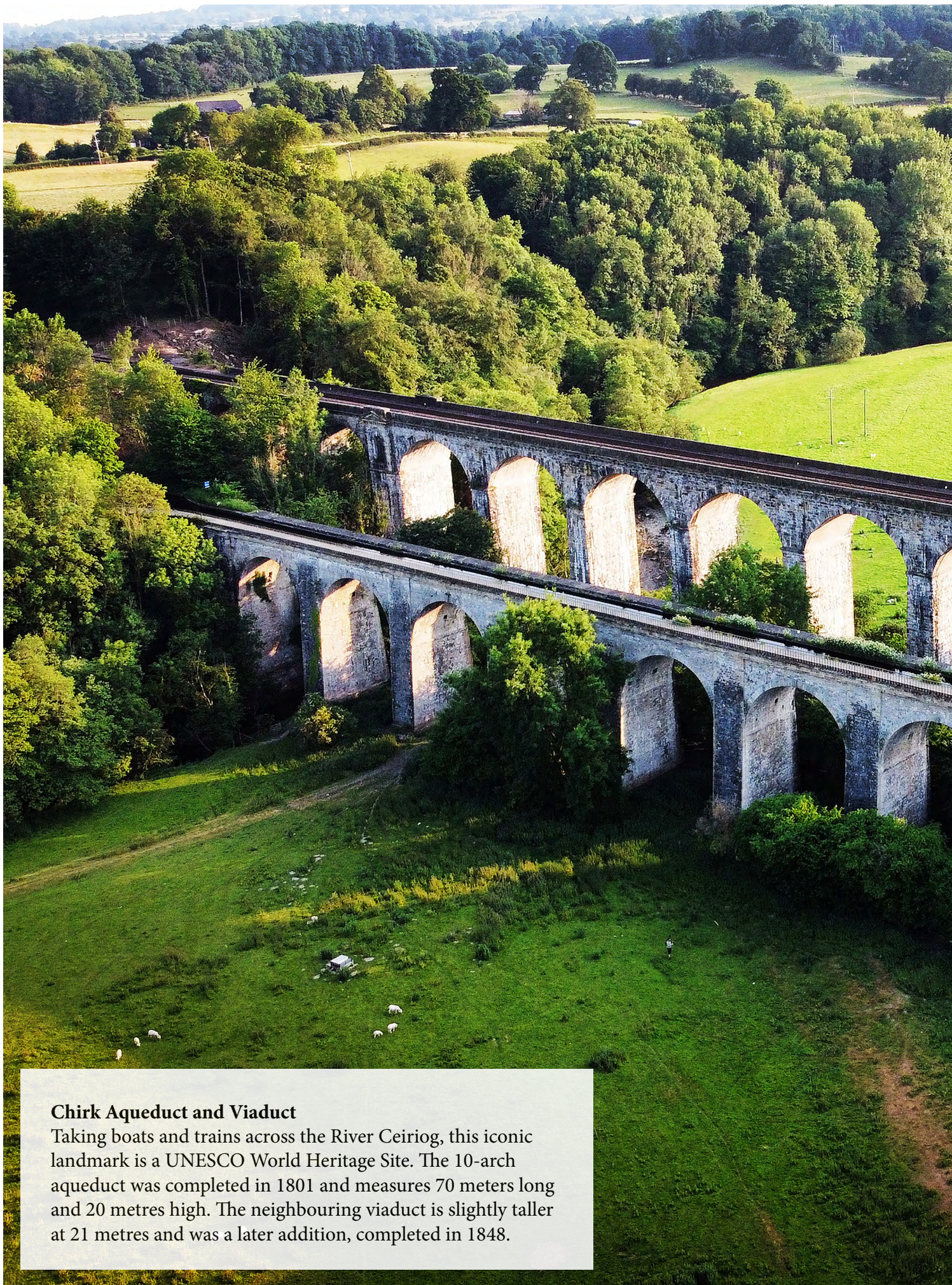




Whixal Moss Junction
Where the Prees Branch Canal
meets the Llangollen Canal.



New Marton Lock
One of two locks near the
village of New Marton.



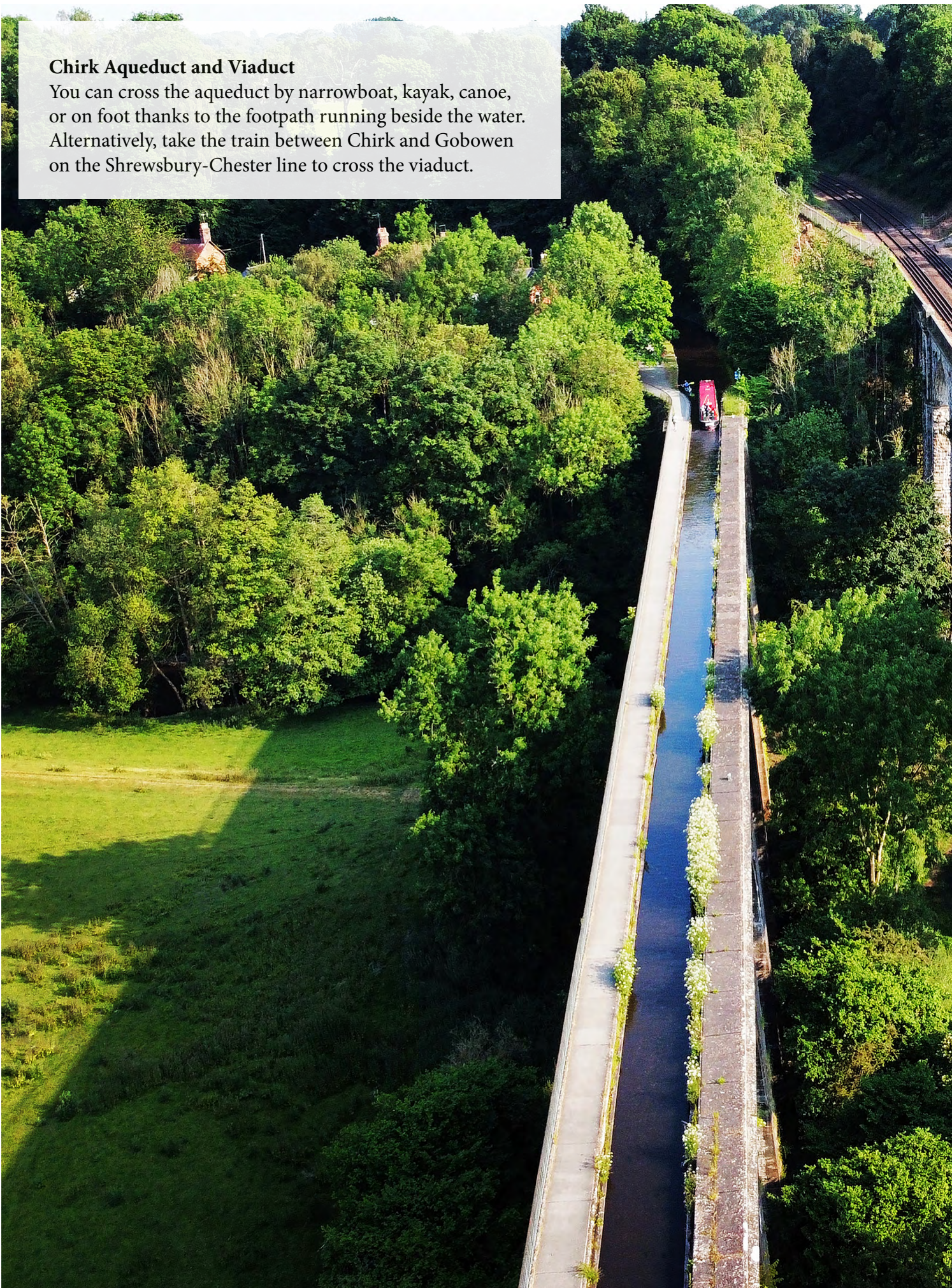
Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct

Taking boats and trains across the River Ceiriog, this iconic landmark is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The 10-arch aqueduct was completed in 1801 and measures 70 meters long and 20 metres high. The neighbouring viaduct is slightly taller at 21 metres and was a later addition, completed in 1848.



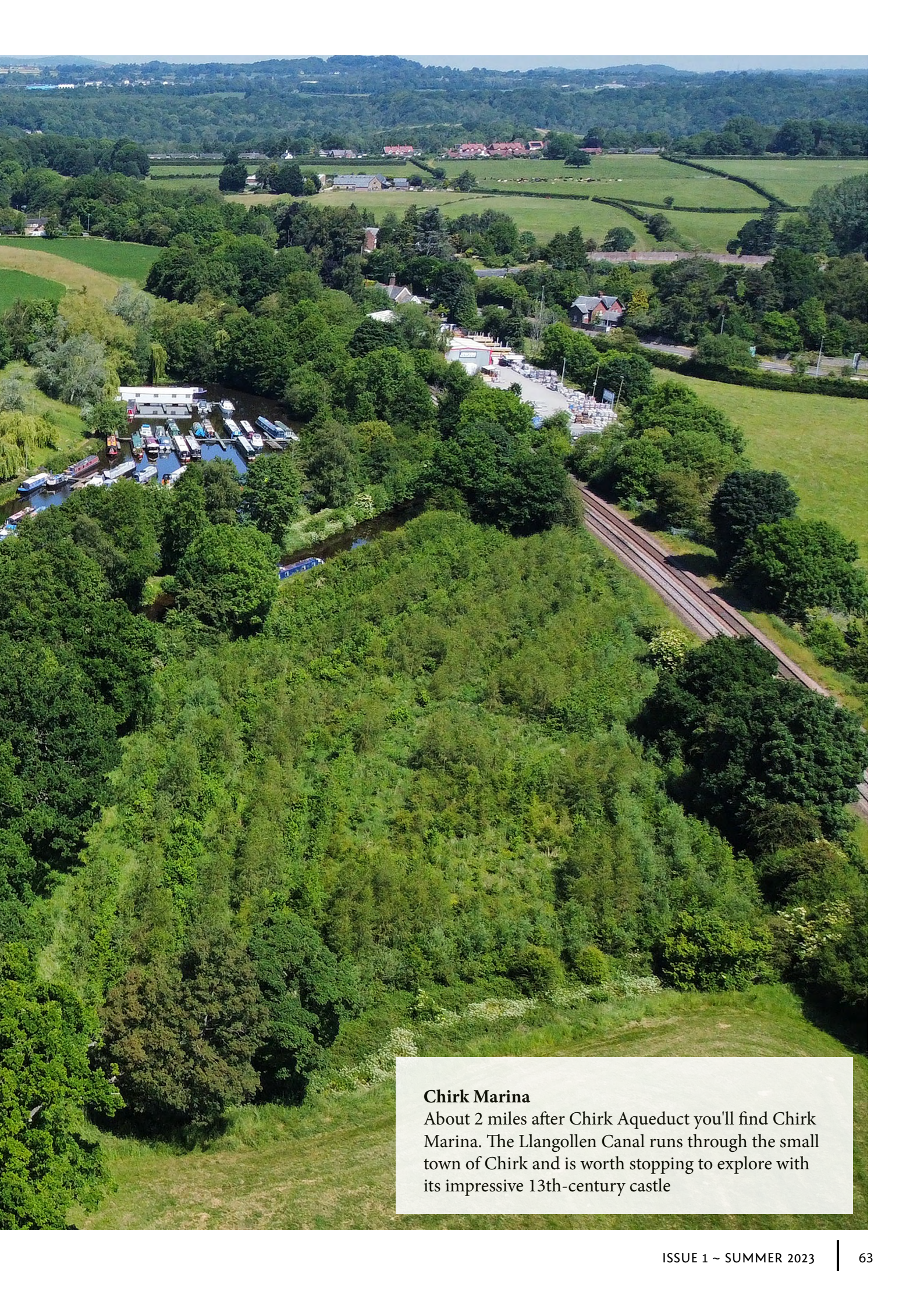
Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct

You can cross the aqueduct by narrowboat, kayak, canoe, or on foot thanks to the footpath running beside the water. Alternatively, take the train between Chirk and Gobowen on the Shrewsbury-Chester line to cross the viaduct.







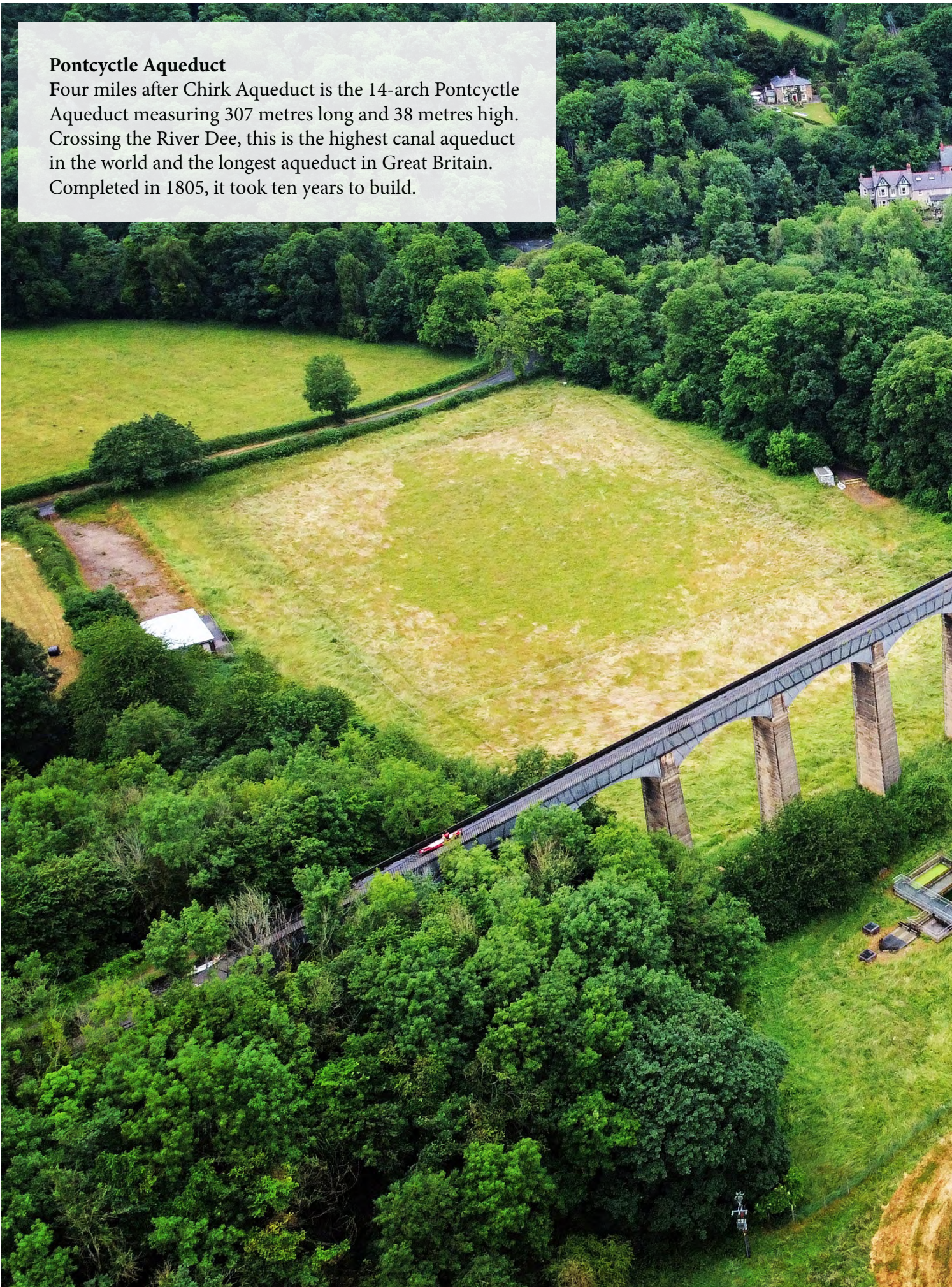


Chirk Marina

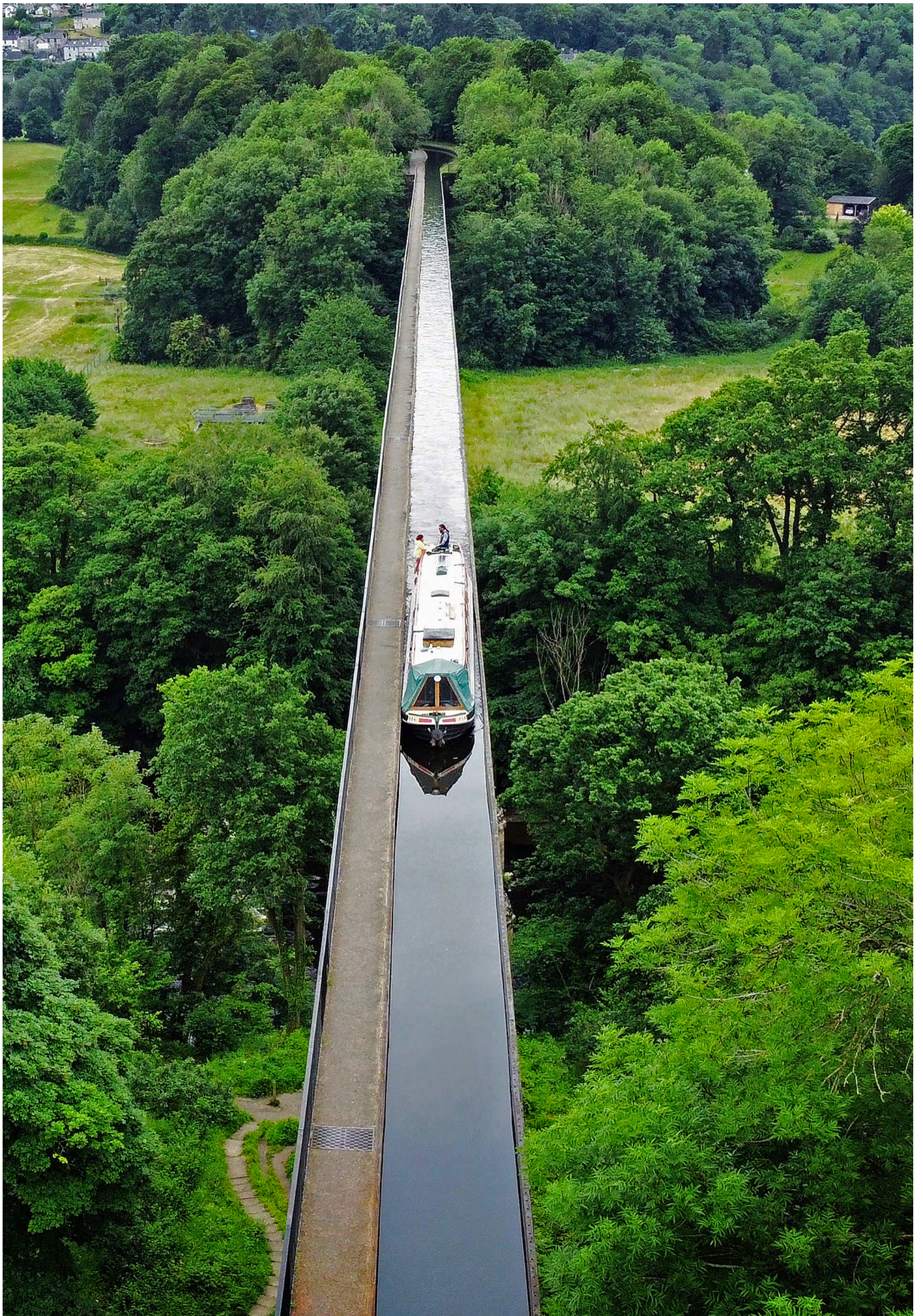
About 2 miles after Chirk Aqueduct you'll find Chirk Marina. The Llangollen Canal runs through the small town of Chirk and is worth stopping to explore with its impressive 13th-century castle

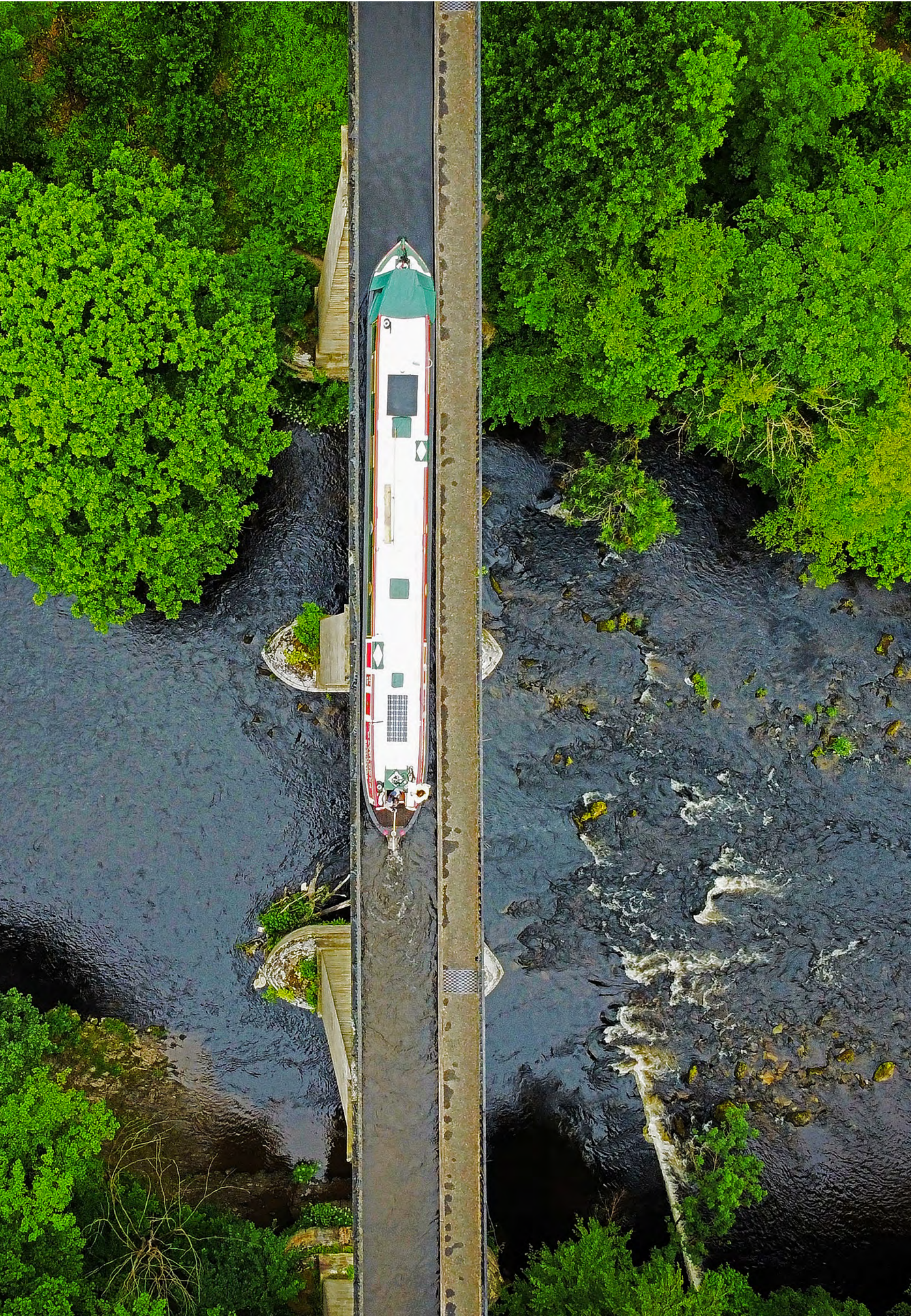
Pontcystle Aqueduct

Four miles after Chirk Aqueduct is the 14-arch Pontcystle Aqueduct measuring 307 metres long and 38 metres high. Crossing the River Dee, this is the highest canal aqueduct in the world and the longest aqueduct in Great Britain. Completed in 1805, it took ten years to build.









Llangollen Basin

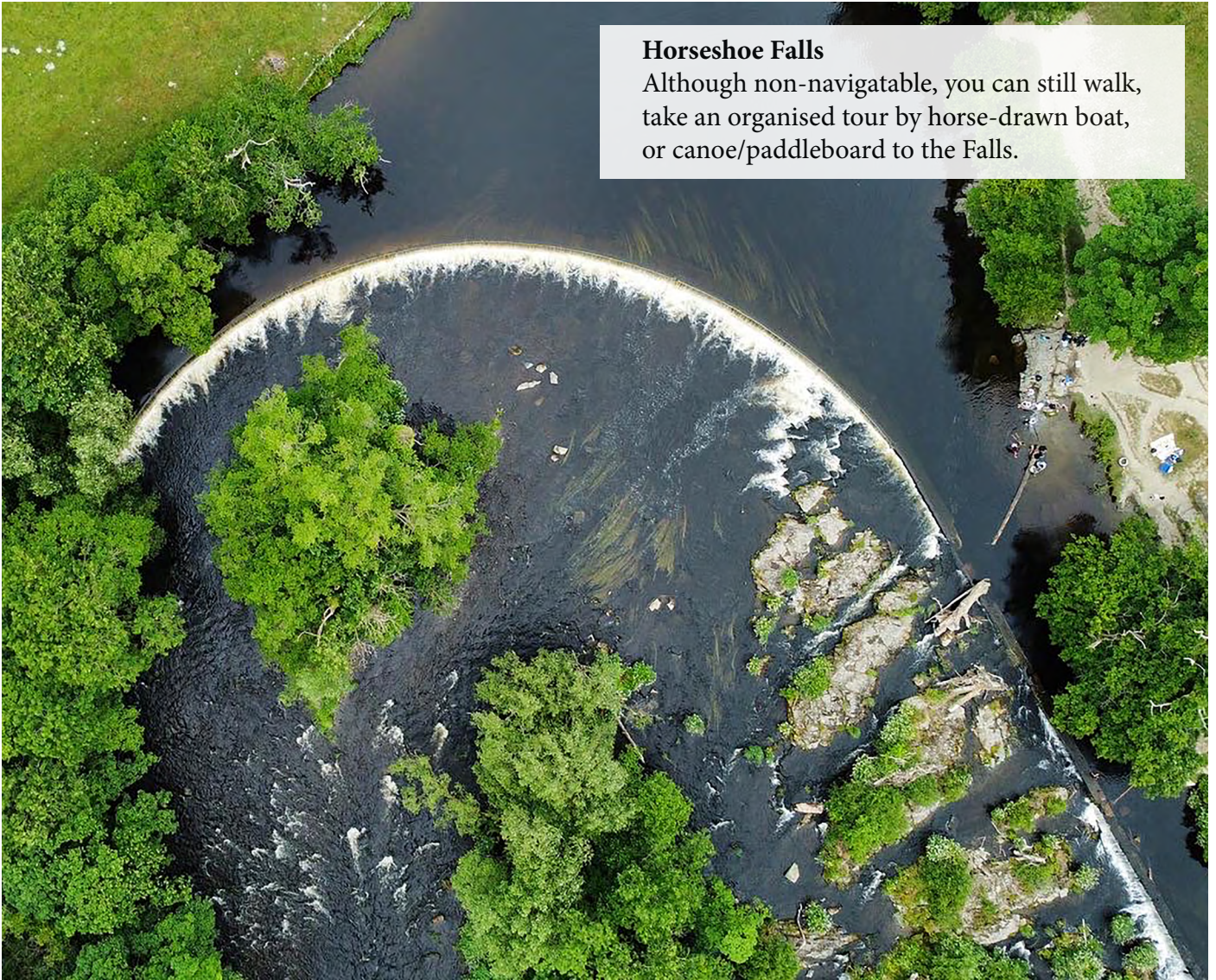
Located in the town of Llangollen, this is the terminus for boats navigating the Llangollen Canal today. However, the canal originally carried onto Horsehoe Falls...





Horseshoe Falls

Although non-navigatable, you can still walk, take an organised tour by horse-drawn boat, or canoe/paddleboard to the Falls.



Itinerary Inspiration

Idyllic Towns & Villages

CORRENS, FRANCE
by Christine Gilbert

ROBIN HOOD'S BAY, UK
by Lāsma Artmane

ZALIPIE, POLAND
by Cody & Hattie Stallard



CORRENS, FRANCE

Correns is a small French village located in the Var department in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region of southeastern France, about 70 km east of Aix-en-Provence.

It's a traditional village with a tranquil yet vibrant atmosphere located on the River Argens amidst acres of vineyards.

The first 'bio-village' in France, its narrow streets house a Tabac, a post office, a small grocery shop, a restaurant, a pizza parlour, and a burger joint. And, of course, it boasts a spectacular patisserie and an excellent boulangerie that provides your daily baguette and croissants.

Moreover, there is a thriving art scene with a few artists studios and the old Fort Gbron serving as a hub for art and music workshops and hosting concerts throughout the year.



Christine and John Gilbert are house and pet sitting their way around the world, full-time. Both in their 50s, they relish the opportunity to discover stunning and lesser-known destinations, like Correns, thanks to housesitting. They share their experiences through their blog at <http://tattletails.blog> and post daily on Instagram @tails_and_stays.



ROBIN HOOD'S BAY, UK

Robin Hood's Bay is a picturesque old fishing village in North Yorkshire, England.

It is a fantastic place for adults and children alike with a beautiful family-friendly sandy beach, rock pools to explore, ancient fossils to discover plus many stunning coastal and country walks, cycle-paths, and bridleways to enjoy.

Roaming through the narrow alleyways and higgledy-piggledy streets of the old quarter is like stepping back in time. The tightly packed, centuries-old houses and array of art galleries, shops, and cafes, create an enchanting setting.

The village is steeped in local legends and ghost stories that add an air of mystery with tales of smugglers, shipwrecks, and of course Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men, some saying that the village's labyrinthine of alleyways provided an ideal setting for the legendary outlaws to hide from pursuing authorities.



Lāsma Artmane is from Latvia and has always liked exploring different places, initially with her family, then as a solo traveller as soon as she could fund her trips through work, and now as part of a couple. She loves how alive travel makes her feel and how it helps her forget all the worries in the world. Follow her travels on Instagram [@lasma.around.the.world](#)

ZALIPIE, POLAND

Located 1.5 hours from Krakow, Zalipie is a small village in Tarnow, Poland, famous for its cosy traditional cottages adorned with beautiful hand painted floral designs.

The artwork began appearing over a century ago when the women of Zalipie began to paint floral patterns to cover up faults in the exteriors of their homes using rudimentary tools consisting of cow-tail-hair paint brushes and dumpling fat.

Year on year, the women repainted their designs, taking inspiration from folklore and nature, developing into the vibrant and intricate patterns we see today. The artwork has now extended from the interior and exterior of the cottages to include chicken coops, dog kennels, fences, even trees!

This beautiful painted village is unique with nowhere else in Poland where artwork like this can be seen so extensively.



Cody and Hattie Stallard have been globe trotting together since 2009. They love to roam unusual places off the tourist trail, and also love art and design with Cody designing unique travel prints based on the couple's wanderings which are available for sale at their Etsy store [OffTheBeatPrints](#). Follow this couple on Instagram [@offthebeattravel](#).

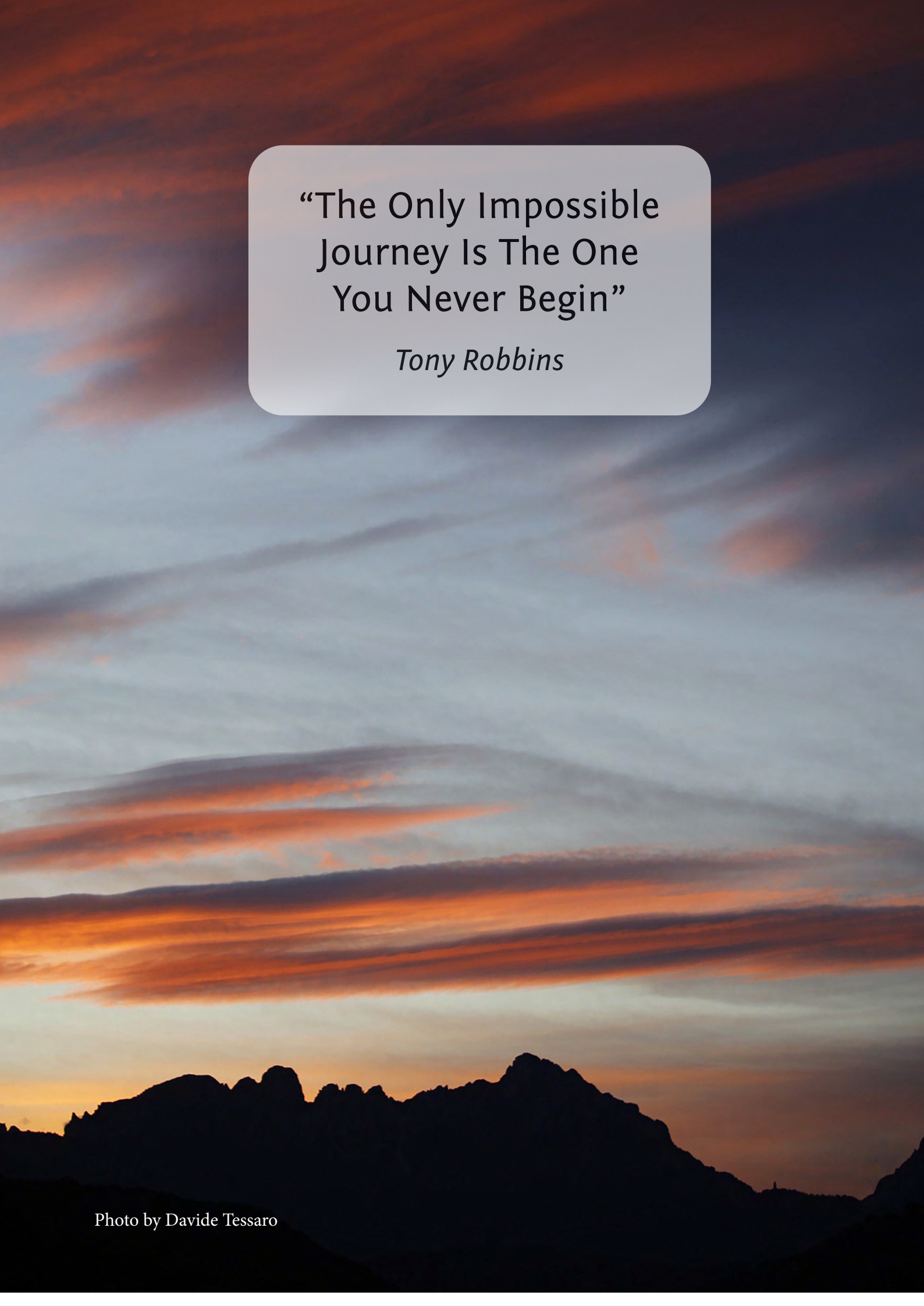
Issue 2 Coming
November 2023

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Overland Journeys

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Website: visual-wanderings.com

Instagram: [@Visual_Wanderings](https://www.instagram.com/Visual_Wanderings)

A dramatic landscape photograph featuring a sky filled with horizontal, wispy clouds. The clouds are illuminated from below, creating a gradient of colors from deep blue at the top to bright orange and yellow near the horizon. In the foreground, the dark, jagged silhouettes of mountains or hills are visible against the glowing horizon.

“The Only Impossible
Journey Is The One
You Never Begin”

Tony Robbins