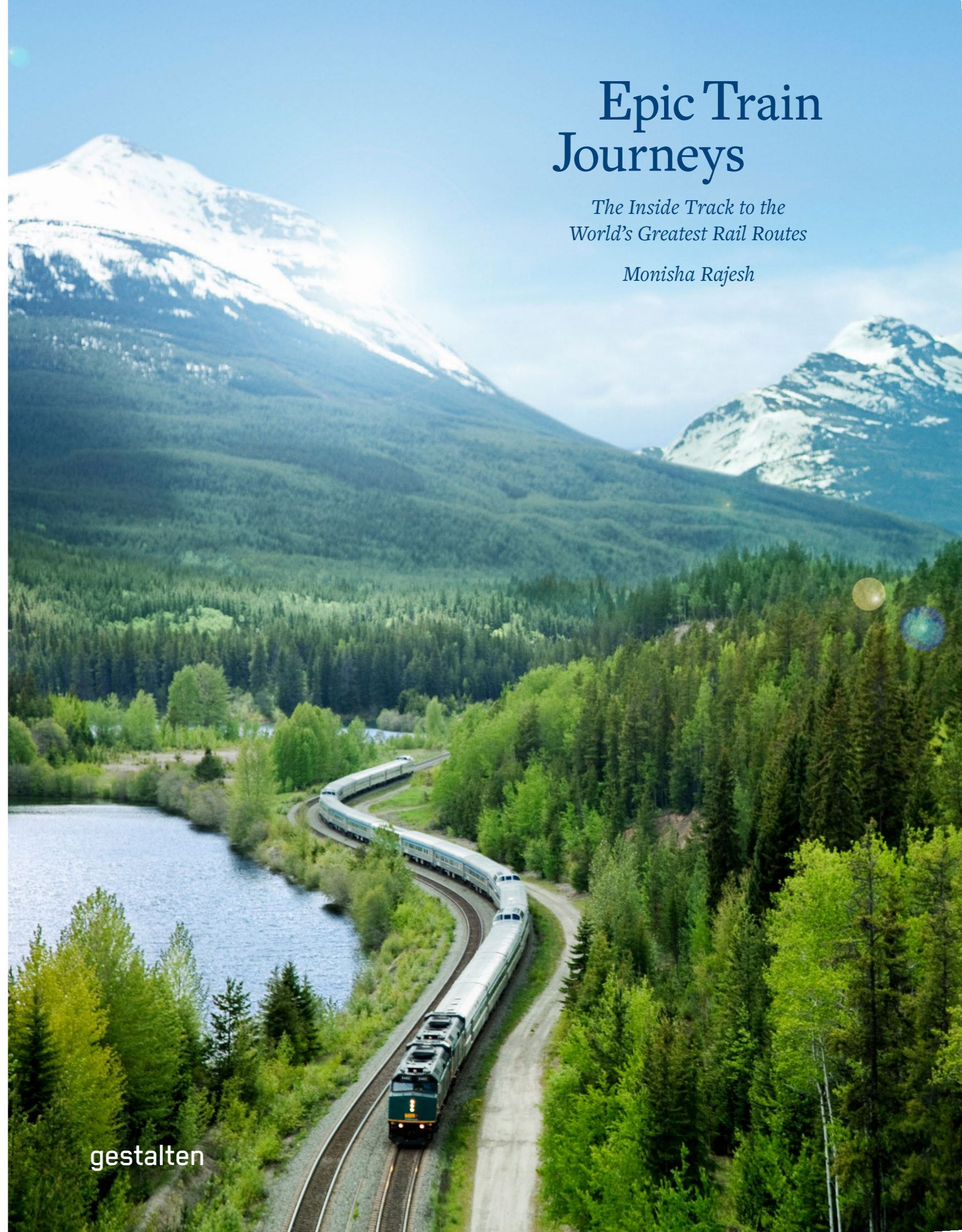




*The Inside Track to the
World's Greatest Rail Routes
By Monisha Rajesh*

Epic Train Journeys

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Serra Verde Express

Deep in the rainforests of Brazil, the Serra Verde Express is one of the only passenger trains in the country, corkscrewing around the jungle to the coast

Imagine waking up and raising the blind to see a Peruvian sunrise over Lake Titicaca. With a cup of coffee warming your hands, you can join other passengers outside in the cold or watch from under your duvet as the skies turn peach over water as still as glass. Many train journeys claim to be breathtaking, but few take that cliché as literally as Belmond's Andean Explorer, which ascends to altitudes that can make your head spin.

Starting the two-night journey in the buzzing city of Arequipa, the train travels overnight, arriving at the world's highest navigable lake at dawn, 12,500 feet (3,810 meters) above sea level. After breakfast, passengers take boats over the lake to the Uros and Taquile islands. The former are floating, man-made islands constructed hundreds of years ago from dried totora reeds that grow in the water. They are home to Indigenous people who live off sustainable fishing, potato farming, and tourism. The inhabitants of Taquile, meanwhile, are renowned for their colorful handwoven fabrics, which were recognized by UNESCO in 2005 as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity."

In between excursions there's time for unwinding in your compartment, sipping a pisco sour in the observation car or chatting to other passengers in the piano bar car, with its wooden floors and splashes of bright cushions and throws, patterned with typical Peruvian stripes and zigzags. True to Belmond's levels of service, expect menus featuring seared sea bass, crisp duck breast, and puddings so pretty you could hang them on the wall. On the final afternoon, the train arrives in Cusco, the former capital of the Inca empire. So rich is the region's history that it could take forever to explore, but almost all passengers continue to South America's most sensational archaeological site, mighty Machu Picchu. ●



The new European languages are members of the same family. Their separate existence is a myth. For science, music, sport, etc, Europe uses the same vocabulary. The languages only differ in their grammar, their pronunciation

FROM	Arequipa to Cusco, Peru
THROUGH	The Andean mountains
OPERATED BY	Belmond (belmond.com)
DURATION	2 nights
POINTS OF INTEREST	Raqch'i, an Inca archaeological site
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE	No
MAKE SURE TO	Stay hydrated to stave off the effects of altitude sickness

THE BERNINA EXPRESS IS A LONG AND WINDING ROUTE THROUGH EXTRAORDINARY MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPES

Journeying across the countryside from Munich to Füssen is equivalent to travelling through a picture postcard. Expect to see endless lush meadows, rolling hills and tiny villages.



The European languages are members of the same family. Their separate existence is a myth. For science, music, sport, etc, Europe uses the same vocabulary. The languages only differ in their grammar, their pronunciation and their most common words. Everyone realizes why a new common language would be desirable: one could refuse to pay expensive translators. To achieve this, it would be necessary to have uniform grammar, pronunciation and more common words. If several languages coalesce, the grammar of the resulting language is more simple and regular than that of the individual languages.

The new common language will be more simple and regular than the existing European languages. It will be as simple as Occidental; in fact, it will be Occidental. To an English person, it will seem like simplified English, as a skeptical Cambridge friend of mine told me what Occidental is. The European languages are members of the same family. Their separate existence is a myth.

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This 100-year-old route is one of Switzerland's oldest.

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Make sure to sit on the left-hand side to get the best views of the Piz Bernina peak.

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NORTH AMERICA'S MOST BREATHTAKING LANDSCAPES WILL UNFOLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

Introduced in 1955, Canada's most famous passenger train runs from Vancouver in the west to Toronto in the east, covering the length of the country over four nights.



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As the train sails away from the station, passengers have time to wash up before dinner, and it's time to make your way towards the smell of beef pot roast and fresh bread.

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FROM	Edinburgh to Edinburgh, Scotland
THROUGH	Western Scotland
OPERATED BY	Belmond (belmond.com)
DURATION	7 nights
VIA	Glenfinnan, the Isle of Bute, Keith, Dundee
POINTS OF INTEREST	The route toward Kyle of Lochalsh is the most scenic of the journey
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE	Yes
MAKE SURE TO	Dress for the occasion. A jacket and tie are expected for informal dinners but formal dining will require black tie or kilts, and cocktail dresses or the equivalent



With plenty to do on board, it's easy to forget that this train is taking you across the second-largest country in the world, so make sure to look up once in a while and absorb the vastness speeding by.

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EPIC TRAIN JOURNEYS

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SAMPLE COVER

We've got a ticket to ride! When the journey is as important as the destination, traveling by train makes perfect sense. Take your seat and enjoy the view.

Train travel has always been more than just getting from A to B. It is one of the only modes of transport that allows you to unwind in style, get lost in the breathtaking scenery whizzing outside, and dine on a rolling culinary adventure. A new generation of explorers are on board with the boundless possibilities of rail travel, with many favoring it as a more sustainable alternative to flying.

Train expert Monisha Rajesh presents 50 legendary routes inspired by her extensive voyages. This wondrous journey winds through mountainous terrains, tropical jungles, and occasionally places one wouldn't dare to venture. From local day-trips to cross-country connections that last for days on end, this is a showcase of everything from cheap seats to luxury locomotives. More than just route suggestions, *Epic Train Journeys* is your ticket to make the most of traveling by train. All aboard!



WHAT TO EXPECT

- An engaging journey through some of the world's most memorable routes
- A wide range of rail liners from luxurious locomotives to budget-friendly local rides
- Helpful tips and tricks to make this an unforgettable adventure
- Route-planning advice to help readers make the more sustainable change from aviation to rail

MONISHA RAJESH

is an author and journalist whose writing has appeared in *Time* magazine, *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Sunday Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph* in which she wrote a monthly column about travelling the world by train.

