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# Travel updates: Cusco, Paris and London

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Belmond to launch a luxury sleeper train; La Compagnie sells unlimited travel; RMS St Helena's retirement delayed

## Cusco



Belmond's Andean Explorer

Belmond, the UK-based hotel and train operator formerly known as Orient Express, is to launch what it claims is South America's first luxury sleeper train. From May 2017, the Andean Explorer will travel between Cusco and Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca, then on to Arequipa. The full journey takes three days and crosses remote stretches of the altiplano, reaching 4,800m in altitude. The train will carry up to 68 guests, with two dining cars and an observation car with an open-air deck; interiors are by London designer Inge Moore, known for her work on five-star hotels in Rome, Gstaad and Mauritius. The launch of such a luxurious project is indicative of how much Peru's tourist industry has changed — in the late 1980s and early 1990s, fear of Sendero Luminoso

terrorists prompted tourists on the Puno-Cusco route to pay extra to travel in a carriage with an armed guard. Fares on the Andean Explorer start at \$462 per person per night.

*belmond.com*

## Paris

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La Compagnie, an all-business-class airline that flies from Paris and London to New York, is selling 10 passes offering unlimited travel on its routes for a full year. The passes, which cost £25,000, will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and will only be available during the week commencing July 18.

*lacompanie.com*

## London

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RMS St Helena leaving London

After a week of events and receptions in the British capital, the RMS St Helena sailed down the Thames on Tuesday for a water salute that was meant to signal her retirement. For 26 years the ship has been the only link with the outside world for the remote British overseas territory of St Helena, but with a new airport on the island officials decided the ship was no longer needed and put it up for sale. The airport, built by the British government at a cost of £285m, was due to begin receiving commercial flights last month, but they have been delayed after test flights discovered the runway was raked by high winds. Officials on the island, home to about 4,200, say the airport needs to collect more data on wind shear in order to allow flights to begin, and that it is also investigating the possibility of smaller aircraft using the airport's second runway. No estimate has been given for when flights might start and in the meantime the RMS St Helena's retirement has been abruptly postponed. It will continue serving the south Atlantic island until at least September, making regular sailings from Cape Town that take five days each way.

*rms-st-helena.com*