

Hit the road

Follow these foodie trails for offbeat eats

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São Miguel, Azores

São Miguel (the 'green island') bursts with both dramatic volcanic scenery and quality produce. Here you'll find small yet sweet Azorean pineapples, sea-salty limpets and muffin-like bolo lèvedo bread.

Visit the capital, Ponta Delgada, for **Azor Hotel's** rooftop bar, where you can watch passing whales (azorhotel.com). Buy ananas liqueur at the **Augusto Arruda** pineapple plantation (ananasesarruda.com), then head east to Vila Franca do Campo for traditional queijadas (cheese tarts).

Eat cozido in Furnas, where this hearty concoction of all things pork is simmered in volcanic hot springs. Then, drive cross-island to the north coast for a cuppa at Gorreana, home to Europe's oldest tea plantation, or west along the coast to Ribeira Grande, for artisanal truffles at **O Chocolatinho** (ochocolatinho.pt).



Asturias, Spain

Fishing villages spill over with hake and crab in northerly Asturias. In Oviedo, bag a box of Moscovitas from **Rialto**, which has been baking the almond-chocolate biscuits for more than 80 years (moscovitas.com). Then head north to Gijón, for sardines from **La Gijonesa** (lagijonesa.com).

You'll find 40-odd cheeses up in the mountains, including creamy Afuega'l Pitu. Stay in one of two delightful spots: **La Casona de Con** is an old hamlet converted into a retreat (lacasonadecon.com); **Posada del Valle** is a family-run farmstead, set amid organic orchards (posadadelvalle.com).

Argyll, Scotland

A scenic skip north of Glasgow lies a loch-pocked region often overlooked by those dashing for the Highlands. Follow the River Clyde north-west, aiming for Helensburgh, the riverside Victorian resort that's home to neighbourhood bistro **Sugar Boat**, where bouillabaisse is served thick and infused with saffron (sugarboat.co.uk).

Next, curl round the Cowal Peninsula to find **Inver** restaurant, where chef Pam – who worked at Copenhagen's Noma – creates modern Scottish marvels, including pig's head with pickled greengages and ginger-hot whipkull (inverrestaurant.co.uk).

Return to Glasgow via Loch Lomond, where Martin Wishart's restaurant is set to re-open in the autumn following a post-fire restoration. In the meantime, stop off at Tarbet's **Skipness Seafood Cabin**, where seafood (creel-caught langoustine and Loch Fyne oysters) is served no-frills and super-fresh (skipnessseafoodcabin.co.uk).

