

“10 European Escapes”



From left:
Gerolimenas on the
Mani peninsula in
Greece's southern
Peloponnese; Wolf in
Sweden; Lake Bled,
Slovenia, at dawn

03 howling with
wolves in **sweden**

For anyone feeling a need to escape the modern world for a while, Kolarbyn, in Sweden, is an ideal place to head to. This cluster of 12 off-grid forest huts outside Skinnskatteberg is only two hours' drive northwest of Stockholm. Kayak on a lake, learn bushcraft skills, track moose or, between June and September, track wolves on a two-day wolf adventure while sleeping under canvas.

■ **How to do it:** Two-day tours from £221 per person, including accommodation and some meals, with additional nights in Kolarbyn's forest huts from £54 per person on B&B. www.naturetravels.co.uk

■ **Alternative:** Walk in bear territory in Slovakia's High Tatras mountains, with local conservation group Projekt Medved. www.walksworldwide.com

04 rustic chic
in **croatia**

The quintessential cute cottage, Kuchica (it means 'small house' in Croatian) couldn't be more Hansel and Gretel-like unless it was actually made of gingerbread. Decorated with colourful flea market finds, with antique twin beds downstairs and eight dorm beds tucked in the attic, it's the epitome of rustic chic.

With its organic garden, this carefully restored 100-year-old building is an ideal location for budding gourmets to try out their skills. And when you're stuffed to bursting, you can work it all off with walks in the surrounding hills.

■ **How to do it:** Rental starts at €60 (£51) per night for two people, with extra guests charged at €7 (£6). www.kuchica.com

■ **Alternative:** Enjoy rustic chic at the family-owned Taxhof guesthouse, set on a working organic farm on the edge of Austria's Hohe Tauern National Park. www.aufberg.at >>