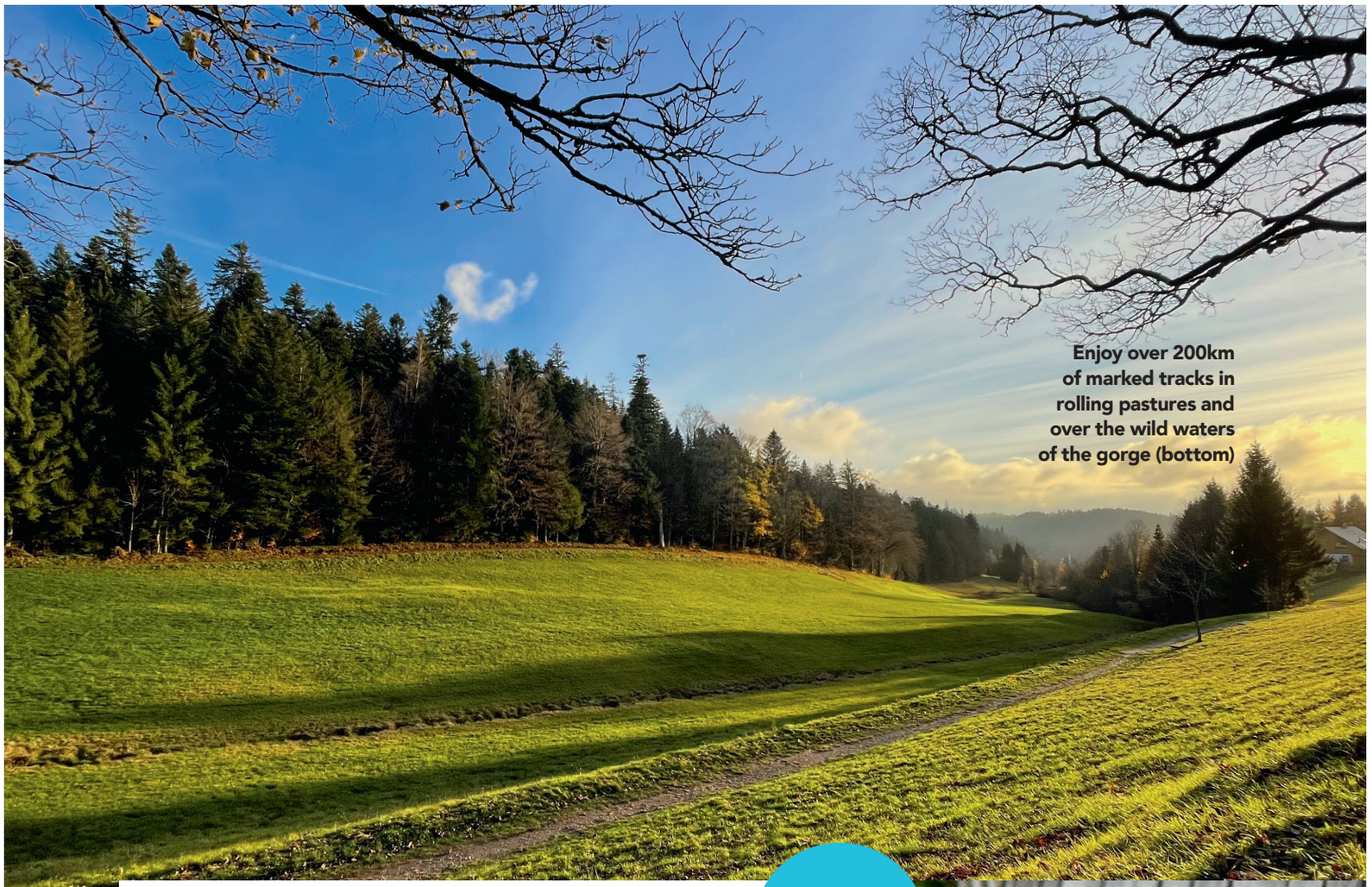
WALK *this way*

Strap on your boots and step out on one of these European hiking holidays



Climb up 1,500 steep steps to the top of Reinebringen in Norway for epic, far-reaching views



Enjoy over 200km of marked tracks in rolling pastures and over the wild waters of the gorge (bottom)

BLACK FOREST, GERMANY

Distance and length: 62km, three days

FOR FAB FOOD



THE EXPERIENCE This mountainous pocket in south-west Germany seems like it's leapt from the pages of a folk tale – secluded valleys cocooned in forest, wild rushing streams, alpine hay meadows and dark-timbered farmhouses. It's also a walker's dream, laced with over 200km of marked tracks through scenery that feels gloriously remote, but is well served by rustic inns and public transport (free with a guest card from your hotel).

With a base in the 'gingerbread' village of Todtmoos – renowned for its spiced *Lebkuchen* biscuits – you can venture on day-long hikes that range from easy to strenuous. Ease in your walking boots on the 12km Lebkuchen Trail, which starts with a climb through fir and pine, filling your nostrils with the medicinal tang of balsam. The path weaves back and forth across a stream, before opening out into meadows knee-deep in wild flowers. Or tick off a 20km stage of the Schluchtensteig, the long-distance Black Forest Gorge Trail that combines rolling pastures, a panorama of the Swiss Alps and the wild, galloping waters of the Hohwehra Gorge. Picnic huts – some with homely curtains – punctuate the footpaths, along with 'sky-loungers', chunky wooden chairs that prompt you to put your feet up. While the walking is sublime, the cherry on the (kirsch-soaked) cake is a regional cuisine that's the perfect pay-off for woodland wanders – think venison, cured ham and lake trout. Slip off your boots, sink an icy wheat beer or elegant Baden wine and enjoy a fairy-tale ending to the day.

'IT IS WELL SERVED BY RUSTIC INNS'



BOOK Macs Adventure has a four-night, self-guided Walking and Wellness in the Black Forest holiday, from £620 per person, including half-board accommodation; macsadventure.com

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