

No matter the season there's always a good reason to take a holiday. Our travel writers SUE BRYANT, DONNA DAILEY, PETER ELLEGARD and JACQUI PATERSON guide you through the year with some exciting ideas for seasonal trips around the world.

A LAND FOR ALL SEASONS

MEET THE WRITERS



JACQUI PATERSON writes for *She*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Essentials*. Her adventures include skydiving on to a beach in Queensland, bungy-jumping over Victoria Falls, and swimming among icebergs in the Gulf of Bothnia.



SUE BRYANT writes for the *Telegraph*, the *Times* and the *Express* and has also written or contributed to more than 20 guidebooks, several about Spain — one of her favourite countries.



PETER ELLEGARD has been a travel writer and photographer for more than 20 years. He has written for publications worldwide and co-written several guidebooks. Golf and diving are passions, while his favourite countries include Canada, Mexico and China.



DONNA DAILEY'S work appears in newspapers and magazines worldwide and online. Her articles, including some for RCI, have won several awards and she is the author of many guidebooks to destinations in Europe, Africa and America.

IF NOTHING ELSE



Hit Colorado's ski resorts in spring, when you can carve through some of the best champagne snow in warm temperatures under clear blue skies — and on relatively uncrowded pistes.

SPRING

MARCH



Sweet times in Texas

→ They say everything is bigger in Texas, and judging by the food in front of me they aren't kidding, writes **Jacqui Paterson**.

My plate is piled high with corn cobs, freshly baked bread and sweet, sticky spare ribs. Vanity flies out the window as we tuck in, barbecue sauce smearing our fingers and running down our chins as the waitress restocks the table with ice-cold bottles of Lone Star beer.

In springtime you see another side to Texas. When the barren landscape momentarily gives way to greenery that will eventually be desiccated by the baking summer. Take advantage of the cooler temperatures and thinner crowds to wander along San Antonio's famous River Walk, pictured above left, then absorb some local history at the Alamo.

Don't leave without sampling a traditional Tex-Mex meal. The salsas, tacos and burritos are delicious, but spicy – so beware if you overindulge!

DON'T FORGET YOUR...

→ **Factor 50.** If you like your holidays hot, go for Goa in May when temperatures can build to a scorching 35°C ahead of the Monsoon rains, which arrive in July.



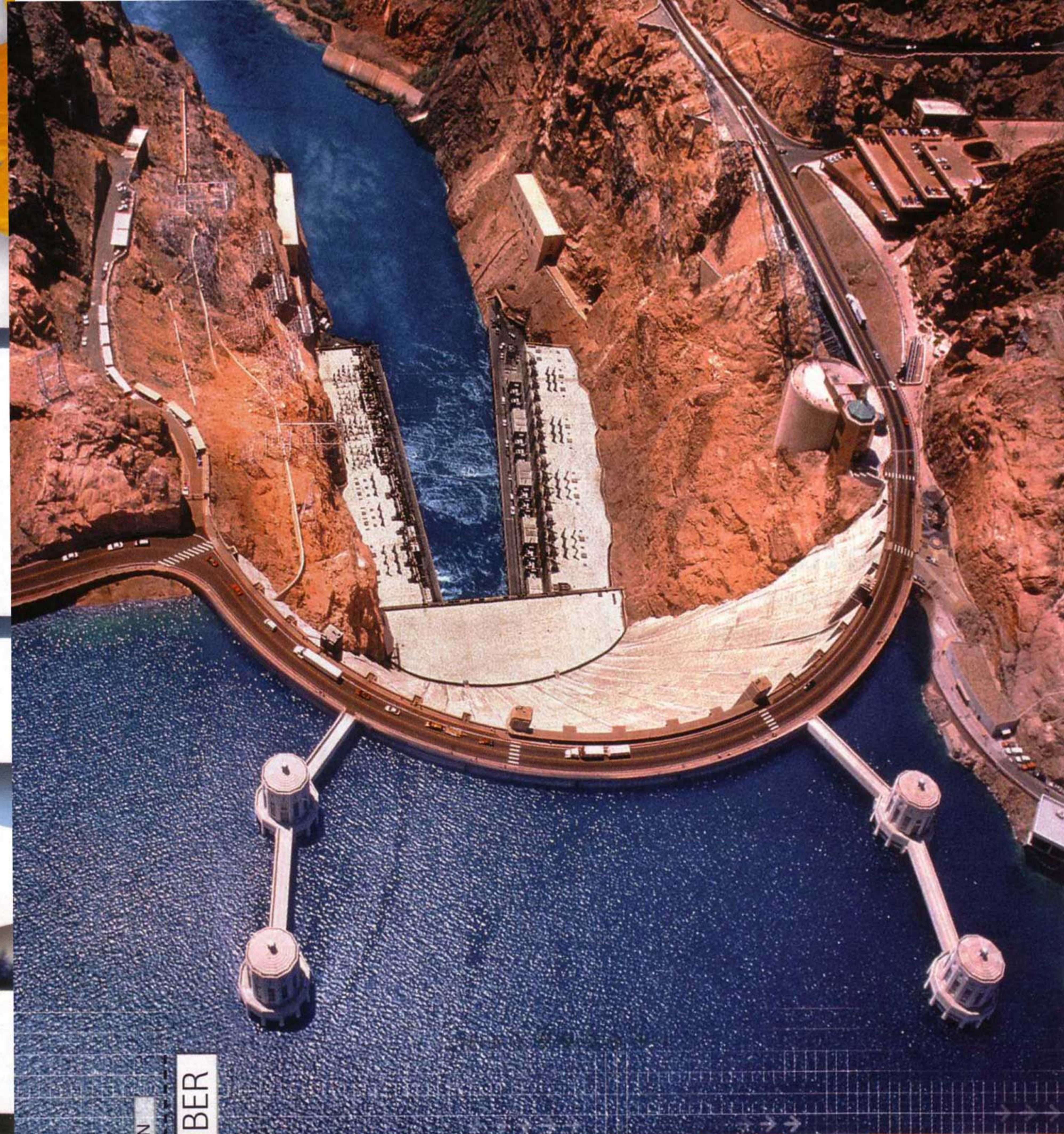
SPRING

MAY



→ **GREAT cuisine:** Try Valencia in eastern Spain for sweet and juicy oranges. The mild seasons and fertile soil make it the ideal location to grow citrus fruits. Valencian oranges, pictured, are considered at their tastiest during the winter and spring months.

BASE



AUTUMN
NOVEMBER

→ **GREAT natural wonders:** The beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, part of the Appalachian chain, extend from Georgia to Pennsylvania. The Blue Ridge Parkway stretches 469 miles along the longest and narrowest national park in the world, with breathtaking scenery of rolling hills and crags that take on a blueish tinge in the distance, hence the name. Any time of year is special but the fall colours are spectacular and temperatures, even in November, are still mild.



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Viva Las Vegas

→ There's a lot more to Las Vegas than gambling and glitzy shows, writes **Jacqui Paterson**.

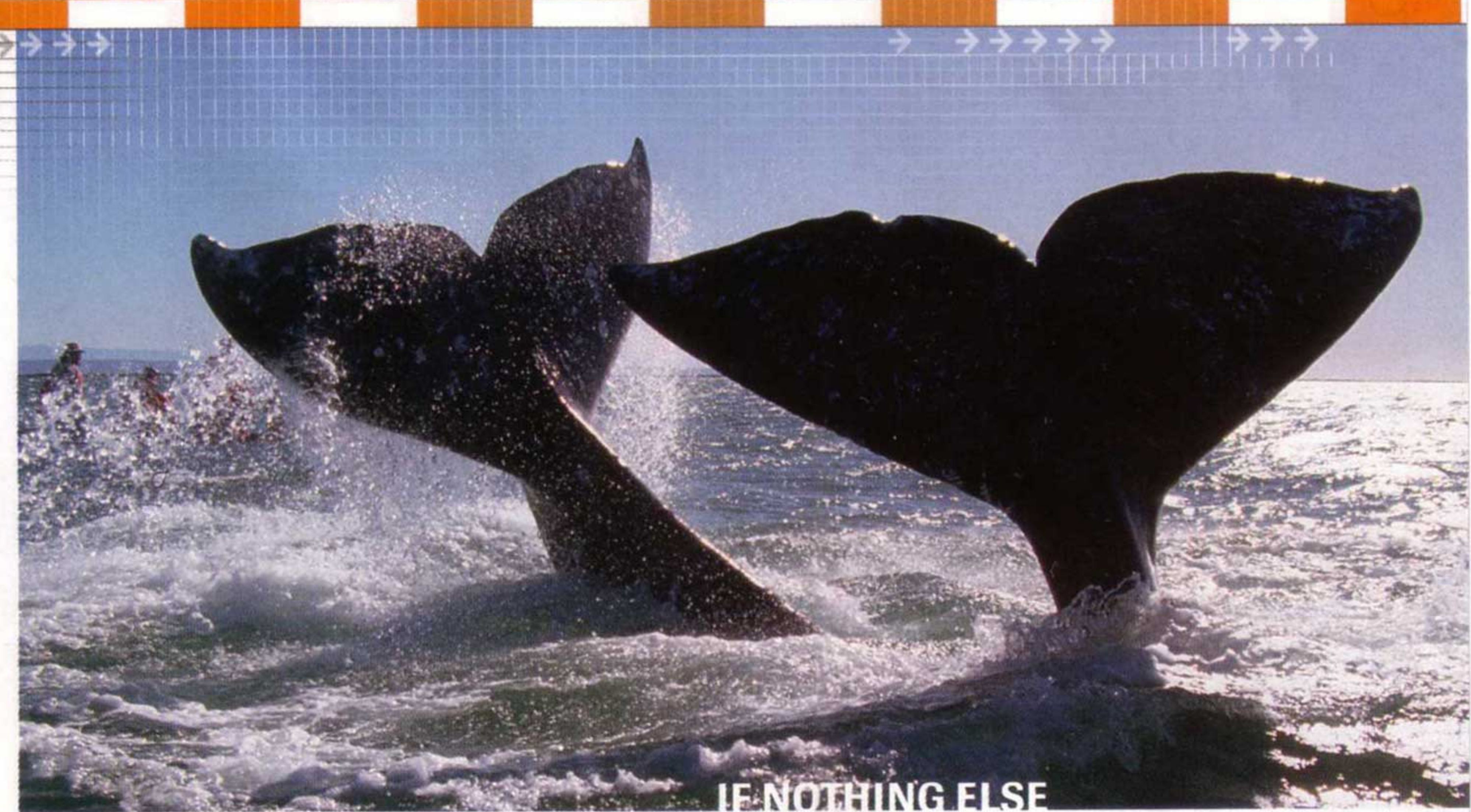
The Mojave Desert offers loads of unique activities, but many are impossible to enjoy in 40°C heat.

Travel in autumn and the mercury averages a much more pleasant 26°C – perfect for a quad bike safari through the Valley of Fire State Park.

A refreshing breeze rushed past my face when I admired the stunning views. Desert sands had moulded the red-coloured limestone into strange shapes. In the autumn sun the valley literally seemed ablaze.

You can also visit Lake Mead, the largest man-made reservoir in the US, formed during the construction of the Hoover Dam, left. Entire villages were submerged in the process. I'm told that when the water drops you see the tops of the buildings.

You can swim, cruise or fish the lake for delicious striped bass. Or take advantage of the warm, dry autumn days by hiking through the surrounding hills. But take a jacket – the days are warm but the nights can be chilly.



LENOTHINGELSE

→ **GREAT mountain drives:** There's no better place for a drive through the autumn foliage than Colorado when its groves of aspen trees turn bright gold, left. The slopes literally shimmer in the breeze beneath the dark peaks and brilliant blue sky. A spectacular route is Trail Ridge Road in the Rocky Mountain National Park. It's the highest paved road in the country and crosses the Continental Divide.

→ Head to Los Cabos, Mexico, in autumn to marvel at the annual gathering of grey whales, above, where they give birth and spend the winter after their long migration from the Arctic.

DON'T FORGET YOUR...

→ **Baseball cap** as autumn sees the start of 'béisbol' season in the Dominican Republic, and the locals are passionate about the sport. One in six players in the American major league is from Latin America, but in autumn and winter they return to play on their home fields.