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MARCH | APRIL 2019

# VIRTUOSO LIFE

ON THE HORIZON

---

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FJI

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DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC

---

CRUISING  
@MBODIA

---

CINQUE TERRE

---

◀ SMILES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC



Biscayne National Park, Florida

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August 23	8	Monte Carlo to Rome	<i>Crystal Serenity®</i>	\$2,700
August 31	7	Rome Roundtrip	<i>Crystal Serenity</i>	\$2,285
October 25	14	New Orleans to Fort Lauderdale	<i>Crystal Symphony®</i>	\$3,885
October 10	10	Vienna Roundtrip	<i>Crystal Mozart®</i>	\$5,295
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— *Belinda* —  
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One retreat has big plans to keep its little corner of Fiji pristine.

BY AMIEE WHITE BEAZLEY

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Water-centric travel experiences that support our most precious resource.

BY JESSICA MUELLER



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BY AARON GULLEY

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BY ADAM ERACE

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Wave season: Playa Grande in the Dominican Republic.

(COVER WARDROBE) SWIMSUIT: PAIN DE SUCRE. CAFTAN: MARA HOFFMAN. (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) LUIS GARCIA

On the Cover

WARM WELCOME: Charlotte Madden and Akuila Bati, staff members at Kokomo Private Island Fiji.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KORENA BOLDING SINNETT.





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# EXPERIENCE VIVID SYDNEY 2019

Held May 24 through June 15, 2019, Vivid Sydney is the world's largest festival of light, music, and ideas – and now the largest annual event in Australia. The festival delights visitors with incredible light and art installations, painting the Harbour City in a canvas of color. Don't miss the Vivid Music and Vivid Ideas events that take place throughout the festival, plus the spectacular Vivid Light Walk.

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# Water World

**T**HERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT BEING ON THE water that's good for the soul. Whether it's an ocean, river, lake, or even a pool, water can energize or calm, inspire or entrance. It's a phenomenon known as blue space – the impact of aqua pura on our well-being – and research points to myriad physiological and psychological benefits, improved mental health and stress relief among them. Maybe it's because water is such an innate part of us, making up more than half of our bodies and covering more than two-thirds of our planet.

It certainly calls to us on our travels. From our earliest explorations, humans have plied the world's waterways, and today we dream about vacations at beachfront resorts and cruises that call on exotic ports around the globe. Stop and reflect on your own favorite travel memories – I'm betting water plays a role. (My personal highlight reel: staying at a picture-perfect overwater bungalow in Tahiti with my husband, seeing Europe through my kids' eyes on a Mediterranean cruise, and taking cherished beach walks with my father on my family's annual visits to the South Carolina coast.)

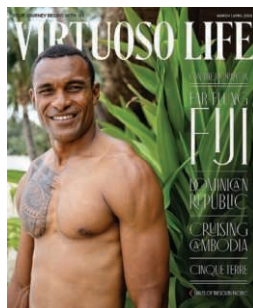
That's why we've dedicated an entire issue to earth's most precious asset. In these pages, you'll find features on Fiji, the Dominican Republic, and Alaska. You'll also meet a cast of cruise staffers who help make every sailing a smooth one (page 120). And, as part of our ongoing commitment to showcasing sustainable travel, we shine a spotlight on experiences and products that are helping preserve our H<sub>2</sub>O (page 93).

If water is life, then let's not waste either. The world is waiting, so go ahead and dive in.



*Elaine Inka*

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR &  
VICE PRESIDENT, CONTENT  
esrnka@virtuoso.com

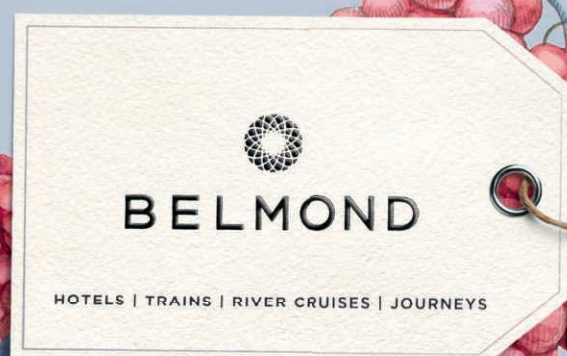


**ON THE COVER:** Associate art director Korena Bolding Sinnett traveled to Fiji to photograph Kokomo Private Island for this issue. Her portraits of two resort staffers, Charlotte Madden and Akuila Bati, grace our double cover (he's "hidden" under the exterior flap). Which picture is your favorite? We'd love to hear from you.



# BELMOND AFLOAT IN FRANCE

*Meet the crew and raise a glass to the good life - 'Santé!' Gourmet cuisine bought at the local market and hilltop chateau reached by bicycle. Savoir-vivre really is an art, isn't it?*





# VIRTUOSO LIFE®

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS WITH US

“WHAT’S YOUR  
FAVORITE BEACH?”



**FLOWER POWER:**  
Ranjana Khan’s Helios earrings  
shout “tropical getaway!” while evok-  
ing this issue’s cover style.  
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“Siesta Key in Florida,  
with gorgeous, fine  
white sand that never  
gets too hot.”

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Coromandel  
Peninsula is a very  
special place.” – T.F.

“Hulopoe Beach on  
Lanai – you can sense  
your body getting  
calmer and more  
grounded as you step  
onto the sand.”

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**Writer**  
**Michael Behar**  
**Boulder, Colorado**

"Easy Breezy," page 110

**THE REPORT:** "A ten-minute drive from Amanera led us to a nearby fishing village called Río San Juan, where we found Laguna Gri-Gri, a small lagoon where local anglers moored their boats overnight. We dined at Terraza Laguna, an open-air seafood bistro at the water's edge."

**YOUR ULTIMATE ON-THE-WATER TRIP:** "Union Island in the Grenadines. There are outer-reef breaks where the grown-ups can play – kiting, surfing, SUP-ing – along with some urchin-free inner lagoons for the kids to safely frolic in the shallows."



**Photographer**  
**Luis García**  
**San Diego**

"Playing with Fire," page 60, and "Easy Breezy," page 110

**THE REPORT:** "I'm always impressed by the hospitality of Mexicans. I had to refuse many dinner invitations after my photo shoots – there's a limit to how much you can eat in a day. And never before have I had beer as refreshing as Presidente, the Dominican Republic's popular, locally brewed ale. It's always served ice cold, no matter where you order it."

**YOUR ULTIMATE ON-THE-WATER TRIP:** "The views of Playa Grande from Amanera in the Dominican Republic were spectacular. I heard from my assistant that the surfing was amazing – one of these days I'm going to give surfing a try."



**Associate art director**  
**Korena Bolding Sinnott**  
**Dallas**

Cover, and "Into the Blue," page 86

**THE REPORT:** "I'll never forget my first glimpse of Fiji's Technicolor turquoise water as we helicoptered to Kokomo Private Island. This entire assignment was thrilling: snorkeling the Great Astrolabe Reef, deep-sea fishing and having Kokomo's chef prepare our catches, meeting the local Fijian children on a neighboring island, and shooting this issue's cover photos in the sand. Fiji is more beautiful than I could have imagined, but it's the spirit of the Fijian people that I'll always remember."

**YOUR ULTIMATE ON-THE-WATER TRIP:** "An expedition to Antarctica, hands down."



**Photographer**  
**Sam Frost**  
**Los Angeles**

"My Travel Essentials," page 82

**THE REPORT:** "Heidi Merrick filled her house and our photo shoot with joy, laughter, and beauty. It was a rare rainy day in Los Angeles, and I knew we were going to have a good time when I saw children's muddy shoes lining the stairs to her house. Heidi's home was the perfect reflection of her life – beautiful and carefree."

#### **YOUR ULTIMATE**

**ON-THE-WATER TRIP:** "The Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal for their remoteness, silence, and beauty."



**Global sustainability strategist**  
**Costas Christ**  
**Coastal Maine**

"Far and Away," page 76

**THE REPORT:** "After I read Thor Heyerdahl's book *Fatu-Hiva* in 1976, the Marquesas Islands remained in my imagination as a mystical paradise. When I finally got to go to the Marquesas last year, a wave of anxiety overcame me – what if it didn't live up to my visions of unspoiled beauty? In reality, it surpassed them."

**YOUR ULTIMATE ON-THE-WATER TRIP:** "A tropical sea behind me, a sparkling beach ahead, and a surfboard below as my fingers trace a line in the clear wall of a perfect wave."





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# Just Back

## TUSCANY AND THE AMALFI COAST

Private villa life and yachting off Positano on an Italian family getaway.

Sarasota, Florida-based Virtuoso agency owners Ryan and Malaka Hilton and their two teenage children recently visited **Tuscany and the Amalfi Coast** on a 12-day vacation with family friends. “I love the Italian way of life,” Ryan says, “and how the small towns bustle around lunchtime, then fall asleep for a few hours before life emerges again.” Here, he shares highlights from the trip.

**WHY GO** Italy’s coast is worth visiting for the dramatic waterfront vistas, clear blue water, and postcard towns, such as Sorrento, Ravello, and Positano, where Italians enjoy the sunshine, beaches, and fresh seafood at restaurants surrounding piazzas.

**PLENTY OF ROOM** For our stay in Tuscany, we

worked with Villas of Distinction, a luxury company with a portfolio of private villas worldwide, and checked into the 58-room Le Sirenuse on the Amalfi Coast – both ideal for our group of eight. At Le Sirenuse, a slow family breakfast with delicious cappuccino on the hotel’s terrace, overlooking the town and water, was the most memorable part of our stay.

**HIGHLIGHT REEL** My daughter Alex’s favorite part of the trip was a photo shoot on the *Five and Fifty*, Le Sirenuse owner Antonio Sersale’s sleek Riva yacht that guests can charter. My son, Carter, enjoyed the day cruising off the Capri coast. I took several cool photographs of him jumping off the yacht. To get the shots, I had to get in the sea with my Canon



EOS 5D Mark III camera – aka my third child – and tread water for a while.

**CAPTURE THE MOMENT** In Positano, it’s a good idea to get out on the water for a different photo perspective, but make sure your boat is big enough – at least 45 feet long. Most coastal towns receive passenger ferries, which creates active waterways and choppy water. Tuscany’s medieval hilltop towns make for great backdrops too.

**TOAST OF THE TOWN** Tuscany’s Marchesi Antinori winery was impressive for the modern architecture alone. The wine-making facilities and glass-walled tasting rooms – which appear to float over barrels aging below – are great places to try their famous Tignanello, a blend of sangiovese, cabernet sauvignon, and cabernet franc.

**Clockwise from left: Dusk in Positano, taking a leap off the coast of Capri, and the Hilton family.**





## Award-Winning Images

Congratulations to the winners and finalists of the seventh annual **Virtuoso Travel Photo & Video Contest**, whose wanderlust-provoking shots were selected from more than 2,300 entries. A few highlights are below.



**First Place**  
Bagan, Myanmar  
Catherine Kumpf



**Honorable Mention**  
The Sahara, Morocco  
Brooke Bowen



**Honorable Mention**  
Bali, Indonesia  
Asia Hamilton



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# VIRTUOSO® PEOPLE & PLACES

Around the world with Virtuoso: travel advisor adventures, industry events, and more.



Virtuoso advisors from Brownell Travel visit the Four Seasons Resort Orlando at Walt Disney World Resort on a trip hosted by the property.

Travel advisors Mary Clifford (left) and Stephanie Anevich set sail on the Celebrity Edge.



Owner Randy Ney (center) celebrates Universal Travel's 50th anniversary with his team and Virtuoso's Wendy Abrams (fourth from right).



Tangerine Travel CEO Angie Lepley (center) celebrates the agency's 30th anniversary with Virtuoso's Bonnie Newman (left) and Laura Sport (right).

Pictured here with Virtuoso's Bonnie Newman (right), Cruise and Resort, Inc. owners Kristy and Tony Adler commemorate 15 years of business.




Travel advisors search for polar bears in Churchill, Manitoba, on an expedition hosted by Natural Habitat Adventures.



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# PASSPORT

PLACES  
TRENDS  
CULTURE  
& STYLE



## Wave Maker

Lifelong surfer, designer, and mom of three Jada McNeil puts the art in wave riding with her **Nusa Indah Surfboards**. Handcrafted to order on Australia's New South Wales coast by two expert shapers, the company's performance boards make bold statements both in the ocean and as decor with graphics inspired by McNeil's travels and her love of Indonesian fabrics. The current lineup features collaborations with fellow waterwomen Carla Sersale of the Amalfi Coast's Le Sirenuse hotel and designer Lulu de Kwiatkowski of Lulu DK. The latter teamed up with McNeil to design a 20-board quiver to decorate the adult pool cabanas at The Cove Atlantis in the Bahamas. From \$1,070 to \$1,425; [nusaindahsurfboards.com](http://nusaindahsurfboards.com).

**Clockwise from top: Cabana 19 and 9 from the Lulu DK series, a pattern from McNeil's vintage *Vogue*-inspired Palm Beach collection, Cabana 4, Above the Clouds, Cabana 1 and 13, and two Carla Sersale-designed boards inspired by her hotel's garden in Positano, Italy.**

PASSPORT IS REPORTED BY: Costas Christ, Michael Frank, Elaine Glusac, Fran Golden, and Bethanne Patrick



GOODS TO GO



Always in fashion: Books at NYC's new Gucci outpost.

## Voluminous Style

New York City's new **Gucci Wooster Bookstore** conjures the creative spirit of ungentrified SoHo in the era of Jean-Michel Basquiat. The outpost at the label's clothing boutique specializes in contemporary, vintage, and rare titles on art, design, and, of course, fashion. Plan strategically, and you can stick around for book signings or films in the adjacent screening room after browsing. 375 W. Broadway; [gucci.com](http://gucci.com).

ART & CULTURE



Mary Quant (center, front) and (above) her traveling Beauty Bus.

## MOD MARY

Designer Mary Quant's **miniskirts and hot pants** epitomized 1960s London's groovy sensibilities. Now the grande dame of mod is getting her first retrospective – with 200 garments, plus accessories, sketches, and photographs – at London's Victoria and Albert Museum. *Mary Quant* runs April 6, 2019, through February 16, 2020. [vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk).

OUT & ABOUT

## FULL MOON PARTY

The world's largest fish are also among its most mysterious. Apart from **whale sharks'** feeding habits and school-bus size, not much is known about them – including when they mate or where they give birth. One fact that marine scientists have confirmed: From April through June, around the time of the full moon, these majestic creatures tend to gather in Belize at Gladden Spit, a coral wall on the country's barrier reef that juts like an elbow into the deep blue Caribbean. The filter feeders congregate here to feast on the roe of spawning cubera and mutton snappers in what is akin to an ocean wildlife extravaganza. **Turtle Inn**, a collection of 25 beachfront dwellings in nearby Placencia, organizes day trips to the reef for divers and snorkelers eager to swim with the gentle giants. *Doubles from \$329, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit. Gladden Spit excursion from \$140 for snorkeling and \$225 for scuba diving.*



Whale sharks can measure up to 40 feet long and weigh 20 tons.

(BOOKSTORE) PABLO ENRIQUEZ (BEAUTY BUS) INTERFOTO/ALAMY. (MARY QUANT GROUP PHOTO) PA ARCHIVE/PA IMAGES, (WHALE SHARK) MARK GAMBA/GALLERY STOCK





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GEAR UP

# Beach Day

Perfect accessories for soaking up sun and sea.



❶ Handmade in Portland, Maine, from recycled sails, **Sea Bags' Blue Ogunquit Beach Tote** features five pockets, including a zippered interior pocket and exterior pocket for wet swimsuits – plus a grommet in the bottom to let sand drain out. \$225; [seabags.com](http://seabags.com).

❷ The **BioLite Solar-Panel 5+** portable

charger easily fits into a tote to refuel cell phones and tech toys on demand. A built-in sundial and kickstand ensure optimal alignment with rays for the most efficient charging (you can also juice up its battery via a micro USB port). \$80; [bio-liteenergy.com](http://bio-liteenergy.com).

❸ We're still not over the Instagram candy

that is a quirky pool float. Make a splash at the beach, lake, or pool with Tropical Floats' durable, 42-inch **Giant Watermelon Float**. \$17; [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

❹ **PackTowl's Luxe** synthetic towel flattens significantly for packing, is five times more absorbent than cotton and dries 30 percent faster, and its tight weave pre-

vents sand from sifting through or clinging to it. \$45; [packtowl.com](http://packtowl.com).

❺ Help protect marine environments with reef-safe sunscreens made from zinc oxide- and titanium dioxide-based, "non-nano" creams. **Raw Elements' Face + Body 30+** certified all-natural sunblock checks all the eco-boxes, is safe

for all ages, and is water-resistant for 80 minutes or longer. \$19; [rawelementsusa.com](http://rawelementsusa.com).

❻ Polarized **Sunski Dipseas** are affordable enough to outfit the whole family and styled to fit most face shapes (use the online virtual tool to superimpose them over a selfie). Bonus: If you do scratch them, replacement

lenses run just \$12. \$58; [store.sunski.com](http://store.sunski.com).

❼ **Head's Dolphin Splash** mask/snorkel combo provides a 180-degree field of view and a breathing tube that's protected at the top (to help snorkelers breathe air, not water). Plus it features a lower purge valve that allows easier exhalations. \$19; [divers-supply.com](http://divers-supply.com).

(PHOTOGRAPHY) CHRIS PLAVDAL, (STYLING) HEIDI ADAMS



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FOOD & SPIRITS



## Tasty Like a Fox

After winning a 2018 James Beard Award for her work at Boston's Myers + Chang, *Top Chef* season 13 contestant Karen Akunowicz has opened her first solo restaurant, **Fox & the Knife**. For the 75-seat South Boston enoteca, comprising a bustling bar and an intimate dining room, Akunowicz draws on a formative year of working in Italy to inspire dishes such as a broccoli Caesar salad, orecchiette with sheep's milk feta, and Sicilian tuna crudo. 28 W. Broadway; [foxandtheknife.com](http://foxandtheknife.com).



## Nikkei Futures

Peru-based restaurant **Osaka** will bring its much-loved Japanese-Peruvian "Nikkei" cuisine to Miami this spring. Get ready for wasabi ceviche doused in piquant "tiger's milk" marinade, *omakase* tasting menus that include sashimi and *tiradito*, and other favorites, served at the Peruvian-accented sushi bar or in the minimalist dining room, complete with a waterfall. 1300 Brickell Bay Drive; [osaka.com.pe](http://osaka.com.pe).

**Clockwise from top left: Fox & the Knife's orecchiette with feta, and Osaka's crispy duck and omakase sampler.**

## DEEP DIVE

We're calling it early: The award for this year's most immersive Nordic dining experience goes to **Under**, which is on track to open in the coastal region of Lindesnes on Norway's southernmost tip this spring. Acclaimed architectural firm Snøhetta, creators of Oslo's opera house and the National September 11 Memorial Museum's pavilion, designed the partially submerged restaurant to resemble a tipsy rectangular periscope slipping into the sea. Beneath the surface, an aquarium-like, submarine dining room frames views of the 18-foot depths. Danish chef Nicolai Ellitsgaard aims for a similar sense of astonishment on the plate with 15- to 18-course seasonal menus awash in foraged limpets, squat lobsters, and a local seaweed that tastes like truffles. [under.no](http://under.no).



**A rendering of Under and (above) its dining room, and chef Nicolai Ellitsgaard and his yellow beet with Norwegian dashi.**

(ORECCHIETTE) TOAN TRINH, (UNDER EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR) MIR/SNØHETTA, (UNDER CHEF AND FOOD) STIAN BROCH





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### PERSON OF INTEREST

## Diane Bernard

Seaweed harvester,  
cosmetics pioneer

Nature lover Diane Bernard has lived on British Columbia's Vancouver Island for 40 years. Known locally as the Seaweed Lady, she founded Seaflora, the world's first certified-organic skincare line formulated with raw seaweed, in 2003. Guests at Victoria's **Fairmont Empress** can spend time foraging and learning about the local marine gardens with Bernard, then return to the hotel for a spa treatment incorporating foraged seaweed and Seaflora products.

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**HARVESTS:** Our local "rainbow seaweed" flashes shades of blue, red, pink, and green in sunlight, and it has a lovely silk-fabric texture.

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Diane Bernard at work  
on Vancouver Island.

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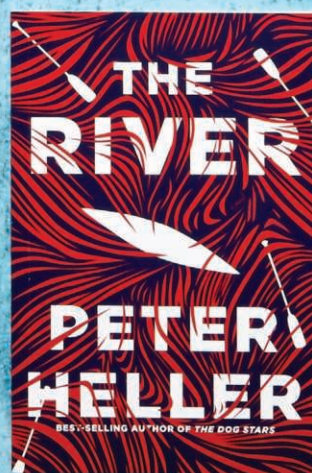
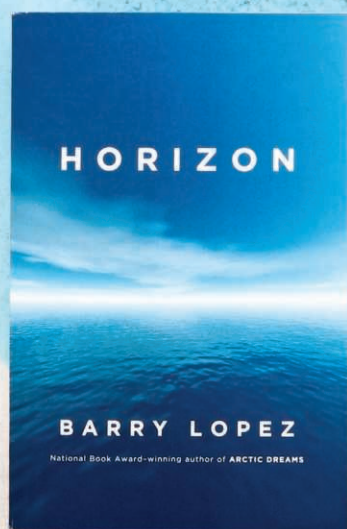
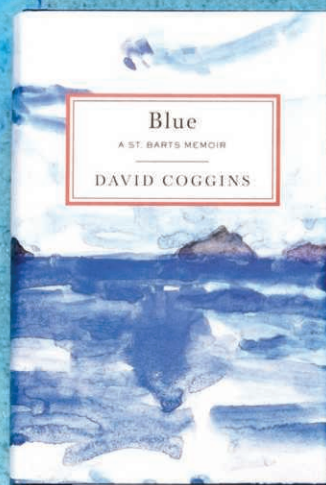


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# POOLSIDE READING



● **BLUE: A ST. BARTS MEMOIR** BY DAVID COGGINS (*PowerHouse*, \$25) As he did with *Paris in Winter*, David Coggins marries vivid memories with watercolor illustrations to evoke his family's fascination with the Caribbean island of Saint Bart's. While the recollections delight, it's the images that stand out and keep you flipping back through the pages. They're personal and immediate – not meant to wow art critics, but to bring to life the warmth, charm, and relaxation of island life after a season in the cold.

● **SEA MONSTERS** BY CHLOE ARIDJIS (*Catalpult*, \$23) In late-1980s Mexico, 17-year-old Luisa listens to Joy Division and The Cure while waiting to discover her life's purpose. When she meets sullen, black-clad Tomás and falls in love, Luisa convinces him to set

off from Mexico City for the coast and Zipolite Beach, purportedly in search of a group of Ukrainian dwarfs who have escaped from the circus. Life's purpose? Not so much. But *Aridjis*, with her dynamic writing, provides a quick-reading, quirky take on a nation in transition.

● **THE RIVER** BY PETER HELLER (*Knopf*, \$26) Heller's tale of youthful derring-do follows two Dartmouth friends whose weeks-long canoe trip in northern Canada gets derailed by, well, you name it: forest fire, an unexpected passenger, crazy locals, a man with a gun, low food supplies. The action-packed novel is steeped in details sure to satisfy the most outdoorsy, but it's Jack and Wynn's friendship that resonates most deeply: Both young men believe in goodness, that slippery

concept, and their attempt to hold on to it in the wilds will have you smiling and cringing in equal measure.

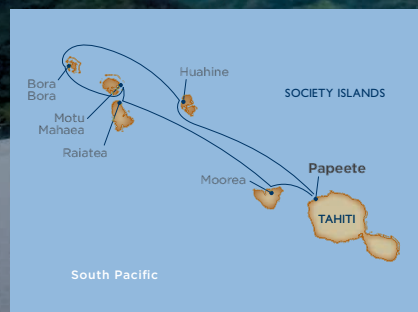
● **HORIZON** BY BARRY LOPEZ (*Knopf*, \$30) Anyone who's read National Book Award-winning *Arctic Dreams* knows that Barry Lopez writes essays like no one else, blending narrative nonfiction, memoir, and science. In his latest collection, Lopez combines his decades of travel to explore horizons of all kinds – cultural, scientific, geographical – and simultaneously contemplates our collective future. Whether he's in the desert, on an island, or detailing talismans collected on his travels, his voice remains wise and compassionate, an environmentalist who spends more time appreciating and less time lamenting.



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## By Land and By Sea

Cruise lines are teaming up with tour operators and lodges for pre- and post-sailing destination deep dives that make the transition from stateroom to terra firma exploration seamless.



The *Aria Amazon* and (left) Singapore's Gardens by the Bay.

● A one-day call in Singapore isn't enough time to sip Singapore Slings at Raffles' Long Bar, see the illuminated Gardens by the Bay after dark, and dine at multiple Michelin-starred restaurants – which makes **Azamara Club Cruises'** pre- or post-sailing jaunts with tour operator **Cox & Kings** great new options. For voyages that begin or end in Miami, Barcelona, Venice, Rome, or Singapore, cruisers can add a four-day, city-focused adventure to their itineraries. After travelers disembark from a 16-day, Hong Kong-to-Singapore cruise on the 686-passenger *Azamara Quest*,

for example, a local food critic will lead them on a culinary tour through Singapore. *Departure: October 16; from \$9,009, with land extension.*

● As part of a new partnership with **Explora** lodges, travelers can pair a four-day Peruvian Amazon sailing on **Aqua Expeditions'** 32-passenger *Aria Amazon* with a four-day stay at the 50-room Explora Valle Sagrado in Peru's Andes Mountains. *Departures: Multiple dates, April 1 through November 30; from \$5,384, with land extension.*

## SHARP-DRESSED SUITES

Ready for their HGTV specials: the newly revamped Owner's Suites on **Oceania Cruises'** 1,250-passenger *Marina* and *Riviera* ships, furnished by Ralph Lauren Home. The decor is everything you'd expect from the beloved American design house: a crisp navy, cream, and white color palette; a mahogany-paneled bar; curtains made from sail-inspired fabric, hanging from floor-to-ceiling windows; leather chairs; and furniture with custom nautical-inspired upholstery on the **wraparound teak verandas**. The three Owner's Suites on the *Riviera* debut in April, while *Marina* unveilings are set for May 2020. Move into one of the 2,000-square-foot spaces this summer on a 12-day, Venice-to-Barcelona cruise through the Mediterranean. *Departure: May 25; from \$2,999. Owner's Suites from \$15,699.*



Dashing digs: A rendering of Oceania's new Owner's Suite.



**CRUISE WITH THE COOKS:** Watch James Beard Award-winning chocolatier Jacques Torres whip up dessert masterpieces on a seven-day, Montréal-to-Boston sailing on the 1,432-passenger *Zaandam*. It's one of nearly two dozen culinary-themed cruises offered by **Holland America** in 2019 – other voyages will feature guest appearances by sushi pro Andy Matsuda and *Iron Chef America* alum David Burke. *Montréal departure: June 1; from \$1,099.*





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DAY		ARRIVE DEPART
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6 Nov	DAY AT SEA	
7 Nov	HA LONG BAY	8:00 14:00
8 Nov	CHAN MAY, (HUE/DANANG)	9:00 19:00
9 Nov	DAY AT SEA	
10 Nov	HO CHI MINH CITY	8:00 ☾
11 Nov	HO CHI MINH CITY	☾
12 Nov	HO CHI MINH CITY	15:00
13 Nov	DAY AT SEA	
14 Nov	LAEM CHABANG (BANGKOK)	8:00 ☾
15 Nov	LAEM CHABANG (BANGKOK)	18:00
16 Nov	DAY AT SEA	
17 Nov	SINGAPORE	18:30 ☾
18 Nov	SINGAPORE	

FARES FROM		
		EARLY BOOKING BONUS -10%
1 BR OWNERS SUITE	\$23,200	\$20,880
1 BR GRAND SUITE	\$20,200	\$18,180
1 BR ROYAL SUITE	\$18,400	\$16,560
SILVER SUITE	\$13,900	\$12,510
DELUXE VERANDA SUITE	\$9,000	\$8,100
SUPERIOR VERANDA SUITE	\$8,600	\$7,740
CLASSIC SUITE	\$8,200	\$7,380
VISTA SUITE	\$6,900	\$6,210

FAR EAST AIR OFFER

5% VENETIAN SOCIETY SAVINGS

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US\$300 Shipboard Credit per person



### SINGAPORE TO SYDNEY

Departure **18 Nov 2019**  
Duration **18 Days**

*Silver Muse*

COUNTRIES: Singapore, Indonesia, Australia

DAY BY DAY		
DAY		ARRIVE DEPART
18 Nov	SINGAPORE	18:00
19 Nov	DAY AT SEA	
20 Nov	SEMARANG, JAVA	9:00 21:00
21 Nov	DAY AT SEA	
22 Nov	BENOA, BALI	7:00 19:00
23 Nov	DAY AT SEA	
24 Nov	DAY AT SEA	
25 Nov	DARWIN	8:00 18:00
26 Nov	DAY AT SEA	
27 Nov	DAY AT SEA	
28 Nov	DAY AT SEA	
29 Nov	CAIRNS	8:00 ☾
30 Nov	CAIRNS	18:00
1 Dec	TOWNSVILLE	7:30 14:00
2 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
3 Dec	BRISBANE	9:00 19:00
4 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
5 Dec	SYDNEY	8:00 ☾
6 Dec	SYDNEY	

FARES FROM		
		EARLY BOOKING BONUS -10%
1 BR OWNERS SUITE	\$25,300	\$22,770
1 BR GRAND SUITE	\$22,100	\$19,890
1 BR ROYAL SUITE	\$20,200	\$18,180
SILVER SUITE	\$16,700	\$15,030
DELUXE VERANDA SUITE	\$11,100	\$9,990
SUPERIOR VERANDA SUITE	\$10,600	\$9,540
CLASSIC SUITE	\$10,100	\$9,090
VISTA SUITE	\$8,600	\$7,740

FAR EAST AIR OFFER

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### SINGAPORE TO HONG KONG

Departure **07 Dec 2019**  
Duration **14 Days**

*Silver Spirit*

COUNTRIES: China, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore

DAY BY DAY		
DAY		ARRIVE DEPART
7 Dec	SINGAPORE	19:00
8 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
9 Dec	KOH SAMUI	10:00 18:00
10 Dec	LAEM CHABANG (BANGKOK)	12:00 ☾
11 Dec	LAEM CHABANG (BANGKOK)	19:00
12 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
13 Dec	HO CHI MINH CITY	12:00 ☾
14 Dec	HO CHI MINH CITY	☾
15 Dec	HO CHI MINH CITY	14:00
16 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
17 Dec	CHAN MAY, (HUE/DANANG)	7:00 17:00
18 Dec	HA LONG BAY	14:00 20:00
19 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
20 Dec	HONG KONG	9:00 ☾
21 Dec	HONG KONG	

FARES FROM		
		EARLY BOOKING BONUS -10%
1 BR OWNERS SUITE	\$20,700	\$18,630
1 BR GRAND SUITE	\$18,500	\$16,650
1 BR ROYAL SUITE	\$16,600	\$14,940
SILVER SUITE	\$12,400	\$11,160
DELUXE VERANDA SUITE	\$8,500	\$7,650
SUPERIOR VERANDA SUITE	\$8,100	\$7,290
CLASSIC SUITE	\$7,700	\$6,930
VISTA SUITE	\$6,000	\$5,400

FAR EAST AIR OFFER

5% VENETIAN SOCIETY SAVINGS

VIRTUOSO EXCLUSIVE OFFER:  
US\$300 Shipboard Credit per person



### HONG KONG TO SINGAPORE

Departure **15 Feb 2020**  
Duration **14 Days**

*Silver Spirit*

COUNTRIES: China, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore

DAY BY DAY		
DAY		ARRIVE DEPART
15 Feb	HONG KONG	☾
16 Feb	HONG KONG	18:00
17 Feb	DAY AT SEA	
18 Feb	HA LONG BAY	8:00 13:00
19 Feb	CHAN MAY, (HUE/DANANG)	8:00 19:00
20 Feb	DAY AT SEA	
21 Feb	HO CHI MINH CITY	8:00 ☾
22 Feb	HO CHI MINH CITY	☾
23 Feb	HO CHI MINH CITY	14:00
24 Feb	DAY AT SEA	
25 Feb	LAEM CHABANG (BANGKOK)	8:00 ☾
26 Feb	LAEM CHABANG (BANGKOK)	19:00
27 Feb	DAY AT SEA	
28 Feb	DAY AT SEA	
29 Feb	SINGAPORE	8:00

FARES FROM		
		EARLY BOOKING BONUS -10%
1 BR OWNERS SUITE	\$22,100	\$19,890
1 BR GRAND SUITE	\$19,800	\$17,820
1 BR ROYAL SUITE	\$17,800	\$16,020
SILVER SUITE	\$13,500	\$12,150
DELUXE VERANDA SUITE	\$8,700	\$7,830
SUPERIOR VERANDA SUITE	\$8,400	\$7,560
CLASSIC SUITE	\$8,000	\$7,200
VISTA SUITE	\$6,400	\$5,760

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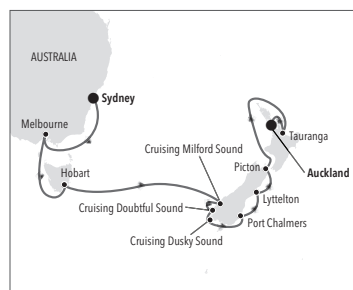




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## SYDNEY TO AUCKLAND

Departure **06 Dec 2019**  
Duration **14 Days**

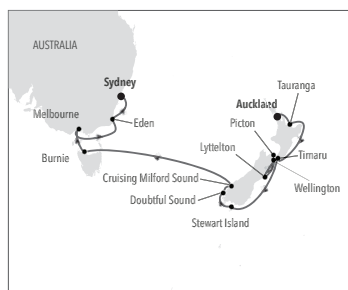
*Silver Muse*

COUNTRIES: *Australia, New Zealand*

DAY BY DAY		
DAY		ARRIVE DEPART
6 Dec	SYDNEY	18:00
7 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
8 Dec	MELBOURNE	8:00 23:00
9 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
10 Dec	HOBART, TASMANIA	9:00 23:00
11 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
12 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
13 Dec	CRUISING MILFORD SOUND	8:00 10:30
13 Dec	CRUISING DOUBTFUL SOUND	13:30 15:30
13 Dec	CRUISING DUSKY SOUND	18:00 21:00
14 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
15 Dec	PORT CHALMERS (DUNEDIN)	8:00 17:00
16 Dec	LYTTELTON (CHRISTCHURCH)	7:00 18:00
17 Dec	PICTON	8:00 18:00
18 Dec	DAY AT SEA	
19 Dec	TAURANGA	8:00 18:00
20 Dec	AUCKLAND	8:00

	FARES FROM	EARLY BOOKING BONUS -10%
1 BR OWNERS SUITE	\$22,700	\$20,430
1 BR GRAND SUITE	\$20,000	\$18,000
1 BR ROYAL SUITE	\$18,300	\$16,470
SILVER SUITE	\$15,300	\$13,770
DELUXE VERANDA SUITE	\$10,500	\$9,450
SUPERIOR VERANDA SUITE	\$10,100	\$9,090
CLASSIC SUITE	\$9,700	\$8,730
VISTA SUITE	\$8,400	\$7,560

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## AUCKLAND TO SYDNEY

Departure **01 Feb 2020**  
Duration **17 Days**

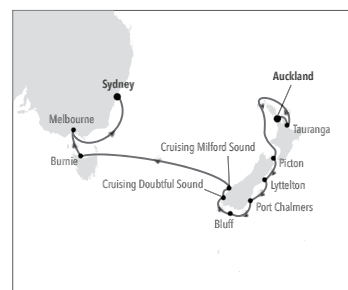
*Silver Muse*

COUNTRIES: *Australia, New Zealand*

DAY BY DAY		
DAY		ARRIVE DEPART
1 Feb	AUCKLAND	18:00
2 Feb	TAURANGA	8:00 18:00
3 Feb	DAY AT SEA	
4 Feb	WELLINGTON	8:00 23:00
5 Feb	PICTON	8:00 18:00
6 Feb	LYTTELTON (CHRISTCHURCH)	8:00 18:00
7 Feb	TIMARU	8:00 18:00
8 Feb	OBAN, STEWART ISLAND	10:00 18:00
9 Feb	CRUISING DOUBTFUL SOUND	8:00 11:00
9 Feb	CRUISING MILFORD SOUND	14:00 17:00
10 Feb	DAY AT SEA	
11 Feb	DAY AT SEA	
12 Feb	BURNIE, TASMANIA	8:00 17:00
13 Feb	MELBOURNE	9:00
14 Feb	MELBOURNE	23:00
15 Feb	DAY AT SEA	
16 Feb	EDEN	8:00 14:00
17 Feb	SYDNEY	9:00
18 Feb	SYDNEY	

	FARES FROM	EARLY BOOKING BONUS -10%
1 BR OWNERS SUITE	\$28,800	\$25,920
1 BR GRAND SUITE	\$24,100	\$21,690
1 BR ROYAL SUITE	\$22,100	\$19,890
SILVER SUITE	\$19,400	\$17,460
DELUXE VERANDA SUITE	\$13,000	\$11,700
SUPERIOR VERANDA SUITE	\$12,500	\$11,250
CLASSIC SUITE	\$12,000	\$10,800
VISTA SUITE	\$10,400	\$9,360

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## AUCKLAND TO SYDNEY

Departure **17 Mar 2020**  
Duration **14 Days**

*Silver Muse*

COUNTRIES: *Australia, New Zealand*

DAY BY DAY		
DAY		ARRIVE DEPART
17 Mar	AUCKLAND	18:00
18 Mar	TAURANGA	9:30 21:00
19 Mar	DAY AT SEA	
20 Mar	PICTON	8:00 18:00
21 Mar	LYTTELTON (CHRISTCHURCH)	7:30 17:30
22 Mar	PORT CHALMERS (DUNEDIN)	8:00 18:00
23 Mar	BLUFF	8:00 20:00
24 Mar	CRUISING DOUBTFUL SOUND	8:00 11:00
24 Mar	CRUISING MILFORD SOUND	14:00 17:00
25 Mar	DAY AT SEA	
26 Mar	DAY AT SEA	
27 Mar	BURNIE, TASMANIA	8:00 16:00
28 Mar	MELBOURNE	8:00
29 Mar	MELBOURNE	18:00
30 Mar	DAY AT SEA	
31 Mar	SYDNEY	8:00

	FARES FROM	EARLY BOOKING BONUS -10%
1 BR OWNERS SUITE	\$22,000	\$19,800
1 BR GRAND SUITE	\$19,400	\$17,460
1 BR ROYAL SUITE	\$17,800	\$16,020
SILVER SUITE	\$14,900	\$13,410
DELUXE VERANDA SUITE	\$9,700	\$8,730
SUPERIOR VERANDA SUITE	\$9,400	\$8,460
CLASSIC SUITE	\$9,000	\$8,100
VISTA SUITE	\$8,000	\$7,200

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**NEW SHIP**

# Style on the High Seas

Cruising's latest addition is a real trendsetter.

BY FRAN GOLDEN

For its first new class of ship in more than ten years, **Celebrity Cruises** did not mess around. The company invested more than \$1 billion to build the 2,918-passenger *Celebrity Edge*, a striking vessel that challenges the norms of traditional mega-ship design. Cabins are tricked out with smart-home technology, the pool deck features a giant LED art installation and hot tubs that look like martini glasses, and there's a bright-orange platform – imagine an extra-large balcony – that moves up and down the ship's exterior like an elevator.

**SMART SHIP.** Tech enhancements make cruising seamless at every turn, starting with an embarkation process that uses facial-recognition technology. The *Edge*'s app gives passengers the ability to use their phones as room keys, and to adjust temperature and control the lights in their staterooms.

**CATCH A RIDE.** Tom Wright, the architect best known for his work on Dubai's Burj al Arab hotel, designed the tennis-court-size Magic Carpet platform, which

cantilevers off the ship's edge, moving its position throughout the day. It serves as a specialty dining venue on Deck 16, a Champagne bar on Deck 14,

a breezy extension of the Raw on 5 seafood restaurant on Deck 5, and a tender launch on Deck 2. Even the interiors of said tenders move the water-landing



**Clockwise from top: The *Celebrity Edge*'s adults-only Solarium, the 16-deck vessel at sea, and the Magic Carpet, cruising's first cantilevered floating platform.**





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## Bon Voyage

needle, decked out in nautical-chic patterns by French yacht designer Marc Lombard.

**VIEWS AND VILLAS.** The *Edge* reinvents standard balcony staterooms, adding a window that slides open with the push of a button. All rooms are bright and unstuffy, with interiors by British designer Kelly Hoppen. Suites come with butler service and exclusive access to The Retreat, a private pool-deck paradise. A pair of two-bedroom, 2,500-square-foot Iconic Suites promise better views than the captain gets – plus private hot tubs and cabanas. Our favorite: the two-level Edge Villas, which have personal plunge pools.

**GET (A LITTLE) WEIRD.** One of the *Edge*'s coolest spaces is Eden, a whimsical, three-deck restaurant and performance venue with endless ocean views, towering plant walls, and contemporary Patricia Urquiola-designed furnishings (it's her first cruise-ship project). At night, avant-garde entertainment comes courtesy of postapocalyptic-inspired performers who descend from the ceiling on swinging half-moons, and costumed characters who dance or perform on didgeridoo. *Eve at Eden*, a choreographed *Queen of the Night*-style spectacle, is half performance art, half immersive dinner theater, and the whole space is escapism at its best.

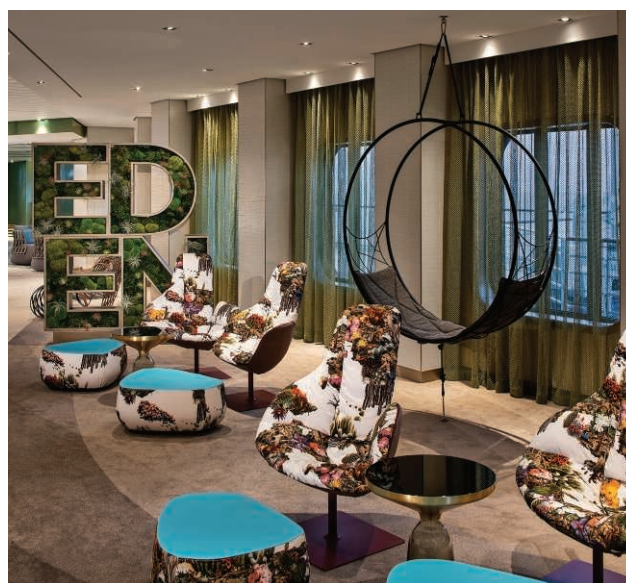
**VARIETY ON THE PLATE.** The 29 restaurants and bars on board

include four main dining rooms, a steak house, a rooftop garden grill, and an all-day café. At Le Grand Bistro's Le Petit Chef and Friends – a kid-friendly restaurant within a restaurant – the ship's playful spirit shines during an augmented-reality dining experience: Plates of truffle ravioli and steak frites are “prepared” by animated, thumb-size chefs who appear on the table via 4K projection-mapping technology.

**WELLNESS WITHIN REACH.** A next-level jogging track snakes for a quarter mile around the two-level pool deck, complete with actual inclines and descents. In the 22,000-square-foot spa and fitness center, passengers can take bungee suspension fitness classes, spin on high-tech Peloton bikes, or indulge in inventive massages that feature warm quartz crystals and anti-gravity techniques.

**FEEL-GOOD SOUVENIRS.** Yes, there are Tiffany, Cartier, and Bulgari shops on board, but passengers can give back in the To The Edge boutique, where 100 percent of retail sales is donated to the Malala Fund, a nonprofit organization championing girls' education worldwide. (Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai is the ship's godmother.)

*The Celebrity Edge will sail from Rome and Barcelona this spring and summer before returning to the Caribbean in the fall. Eleven-day Mediterranean itineraries from \$2,549.*



**Design highlights on board the *Celebrity Edge*, from top: The three-story, Italian piazza-inspired Grand Plaza, the Eden lounge, and a Sky Suite.**





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# The Hotel Pool Gets an Upgrade

No longer merely places for quick dips or lazy sunbathing sessions, today's hotel swimming spots are multipurpose hubs for dining and drinking, and even gateways to spa experiences. Dive into these new waterside developments.



1-2. Las Ventanas al Paraíso's Taqueria pool bar and the resort's appetizing welcome amenity. 3. The saltwater pool at Gurney's Montauk. 4. Andaz Costa Rica Resort's groovy new watering hole.

**TACOS AND A TAN:** Guests at Los Cabos, Mexico's 84-room **Las Ventanas al Paraíso** don't have to give up their loungers by the Oasis pool at lunch. The casual Taqueria now serves its tostadas and *tikin xic* lobster tacos chaise-side; and, in what may very well be our new favorite welcome amenity, all arriving guests receive a complimentary margarita and taco platter on the swim deck. *Doubles from \$775, including breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.*

**BAR ON WHEELS:** A vintage Volkswagen bus parked poolside at the **Andaz Costa Rica Resort at Peninsula Papagayo** – just waiting

for its moment in the Instagram sun – serves as the home of the new Victoria bar. Bartenders dispense sparkling sangria and Coco Locos (tequila, rum, coconut cream, and fresh lime) to guests of the lush, 153-room resort. *Doubles from \$595, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*

**APRÈS-SKI SOAKS:** An outdoor heated pool is one of the new additions at downtown Aspen's 95-room **Hotel Jerome**, which recently expanded to include the former *Aspen Times* building next door. The hotel also built two residential suites (and a mountain-view garden between

them) and opened a new subterranean speakeasy, *Bad Harriet*. *Doubles from \$800, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

**SPLASH AND SPA, HAMPTONS-STYLE:** This spring, the 146-room **Gurney's Montauk Resort & Seawater Spa** in New York will remodel its pool area – centered around a heated beauty that faces the ocean through retractable windows. Planned updates include a kids' play area; hot, cold, and jetted plunge pools; and five adjacent spa treatment rooms with terraces for waterfront massages. *Doubles from \$290, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*



# ROYAL SUITE CLASS

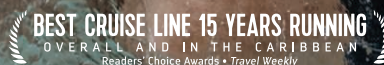
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Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park's Rosebery tearoom, which reopened in December.

## LONDON CALLING

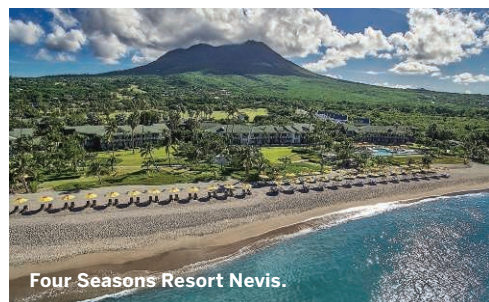
Last summer, a fire tore through the courtyard of the 1889 building that houses the **Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, London**, just after the hotel had announced the completed renovation of its 181 rooms. The Knightsbridge landmark is set to reopen in full this spring; its Michelin-starred restaurants (Dinner by Heston Blumenthal and Bar Boulud), common spaces, and spa began welcoming guests back in December. The hotel made the most of its downtime: All 450 staff members remained employed and were encouraged to work on local community service projects. Staff volunteered an impressive **40,000-plus hours** last year, with a pledge to contribute at least 10,000 more in 2019. *Doubles from \$765, including breakfast daily and a \$125 dining credit.*

## Southern Thai Float



As well as snagging complimentary treats from the chocolate room and stargazing in the on-site observatory, guests at the 34-villa **Soneva Kiri** on southern Thailand's Koh Kood can now spend the morning on the water. A new half-day speedboat excursion zips guests around the isolated isle's eastern and southern coasts, with planned and **spontaneous stops** at secret beaches and pristine coves along the way. Travelers can snorkel with blue ring angelfish and spy white cranes before stopping for lunch at Noochy Seafood, a partially open-air restaurant in the stilt-supported fishing village of Ao Yai. On the menu: fresh crab with black pepper and steamed rice, which pairs nicely with a chilled glass of rosé. *Doubles from \$1,198, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit. Speedboat excursion from \$370.*

Sightseeing Koh Kood-style and (left) the resort's red pepper truffles.



Four Seasons Resort Nevis.

## NEVIS BY THE GLASS

An ideal day at the recently renovated **Four Seasons Resort Nevis** now begins at a juice bar and ends at a rum bar. Grab breakfast at the new EsQuilina restaurant and order a freshly pressed, island-grown jackfruit, soursop, or mango concoction. Later, after dinner at the same place – which becomes a Mediterranean brasserie at night – head to the Crowned Monkey Rum Bar for a tasting of the beloved **island spirit**. Additional updates at the 189-room retreat, which Bill and Melinda Gates purchased in 2016, include refreshed guest rooms with pale-blue accents, a refurbished lobby, and an extended dock for easier yacht access. *Doubles from \$875, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*





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Jaipur, India: Indulge in a dinner fit for royalty at the acclaimed Restaurant 1135 A.D., recently recognized among the top 50 restaurants in India by Condé Nast Traveler.

Related journey: Imperial Rajasthan

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FIRST LOOK

# Hello Up There

Hong Kong's newest hotel brings the views.



& Dreams. It's available in the Asaya boutique, and there's a copy in every room.

**THE ROOM YOU'LL BE BOOKING:** The Harbour Corner Suites have separate living rooms, marble bathrooms with huge stand-alone tubs, and incredible views. These suites really feel like a home away from home.

**WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT?** The eight restaurants, including a Chinese teahouse, a speakeasy, and an Indian gastropub. Kowloon is known for having some of Hong Kong's best Indian restaurants, so I can't wait to see how Rosewood's will add to the mix.

**THE MOST SURPRISING FIND:** The 40th-floor Manor Club, an executive lounge for guests

staying in suite accommodations. The lounge's terrace overlooking Victoria Harbour is amazing – it may be the best new spot in town to view fireworks.

**TELL US ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD.** The Victoria Dockside district is bringing the magic back to Kowloon; the multiuse mix of offices, residences, shops, museums, and public spaces is built over the old Holt's Wharf. Walk along the waterfront to the Star Ferry, which offers one of the most iconic ferry rides in the world, or have the concierge make a reservation for you at Spring Deer for the city's most authentic Peking duck dining experience.

*Doubles from \$612, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining or spa credit.*

**N**EW IN THE HONG KONG skyline: a 65-story tower that's home to the **Rosewood Hong Kong**, which opens this month as the anchor of the Victoria Dockside arts district in Kowloon. Eighty percent of the hotel's 413 rooms and suites have Victoria Harbour views, as do most of the eight restaurants and multilevel Asaya – the first urban offshoot of Rosewood's holistic wellness concept. "It's a game changer," says Hong Kong-based Virtuoso agency executive **Charlotte Harris**, who recently checked out the hotel for *Virtuoso Life*.

"The attention to detail is incredible. There's nothing in the city like it." Here's her report.

**ROSEWOOD HONG KONG IN THREE WORDS:** Sophisticated, elegant, charming.

**FIRST IMPRESSION:** I love the thoughtful attention to art: Local art and historical artifacts can be found in guest rooms and common spaces. The hotel partnered with Assouline on a new book, *Hong Kong: Heritage, Art*



**Clockwise from top left: Rosewood Hong Kong's prime waterfront perch, a Harbour View Room, and Hong Kong: Heritage, Art & Dreams.**





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## Emerald Class

Seattle adds a few gems to its crown.

BY MARIKA CAIN PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARITY BURGGAFF



Clockwise from top left: The Nordic Museum, Elliott Bay Book Company, a Willmott's Ghost feast, a wheat-berry bowl at Lucinda Grain Bar, and Deep Dive.

**GO FOR** In a town where, until recently, a Subaru Outback was the ultimate status symbol, the Ferraris roaring up to valet stations downtown signal a sea change. Today's Emerald City bears little resemblance to the hotbed of grunge rock that turned the eyes (and ears) of the world its way in the 1990s. This is now the town that tech built, and it's got the skyline bristling with construction cranes to prove it. Local record label Sub Pop has gone semi-mainstream with a retail outpost at the airport; in the shadow of new skyscrapers, a large population of young transplants roam the South Lake Union neighborhood, home to Amazon and countless tech startups; the **Space Needle** sports a new glass observation floor; and, in the Scandinavian neighborhood of Ballard, the **Nordic Museum** opened last spring in a soaring new space. The unbeatable Pacific Northwest surroundings remain, as do the glutton's paradise food scene and the great **Pike Place Market**.

**EAT** The waits are notorious for Edouardo Jordan's Southern cooking at **JuneBaby** (2122 NE 65th Street), winner of the 2018 James Beard Award for Best New Restaurant, but larger parties can make reservations. Those who commit to the queue can now loiter next door at Jordan's newest outing, the casual, 22-seat **Lucinda Grain Bar** (2120 NE 65th Street), serving cocktails and bar snacks (as well as grain bowls and sandwiches).

As renowned for her cozy-cool decor as for her flawless food, local favorite Renee Erickson (of The Walrus and the Carpenter oyster bar fame) went Italian with her new **Willmott's Ghost** (2100 6th Avenue), in downtown Seattle's most head-turning structures, **The Spheres**: Amazon's multistory mega-terrariums/offices. The restaurant's green-and-pink palette and curved marble bar are equal parts Roman diner and #accidentallywesanderson.





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ALL ABOARD AMAZING





Clockwise from left: Treasures at Watson Kennedy, The Spheres, and La Marzocco Cafe.



## TIP

Aside from their dining venues, Amazon's Spheres are closed to the public. Snag a spot on a twice-monthly Saturday tour (reservations open 30 days in advance) for an up-close look at Jeff Bezos' grand greenhouse project.



**DRINK** The hottest drink ticket in town is also in The Spheres: **Deep Dive** (620 Lenora Street), an underground cocktail spot with a dusky baroque vibe, a roster of classic cocktails and inventive nonalcoholic drinks, and the Seattle Dog – a riff on the local late-night snack, loaded with whipped cream cheese and salmon caviar.

Coffee is still king in a city where the sun is more of a bit player than a leading lady. **La Marzocco Cafe** (472 First Avenue N.), at the Seattle Center HQ of revered independent music station KEXP, serves coffee from a different specialty roaster each month. The venue functions as the radio station's reception area, with windows into the DJ

booth, frequent live shows and events, and an on-site Light in the Attic record store.

**SHOP** Local institution **Elliott Bay Book Company** (1521 10th Avenue), which moved from its historic Pioneer Square location to the hip Capitol Hill neighborhood nearly a decade ago, houses a bright café and comfortably creaky floors reminiscent of its former home.

Owner Ted Kennedy Watson has spent decades amassing inventory that might best be described as “fabulous French uncle.” **Watson Kennedy Fine Home** (1022 First Avenue) is pleasingly organized by color and bursting with high-end foodstuffs, glassware, candles,

stationery, and just the right amount of vintage ephemera.

**STAY** The 450-room **Fairmont Olympic Hotel** offers a classic stay and recently refurbished rooms. There's afternoon tea at The Georgian, beehives on the roof, and a casual oyster bar. *Doubles from \$239, including a chocolate-and-honey-tasting welcome amenity, breakfast daily, and a \$100 dining credit.*

The **Four Seasons Hotel Seattle** boasts one of the city's only outdoor hotel pools. A refresh of the hotel's 145 rooms, slated for April completion, will update the property's look with a neutral palette and raw wood accents. *Doubles from \$599, including breakfast*

*daily, a \$50 spa credit, and a \$50 dining credit.*

**Loews Hotel 1000** has free-standing tubs in each of its 120 rooms and a First Avenue location for easy walks to Pioneer Square and Pike Place Market. *Doubles from \$299, including a welcome amenity, breakfast daily, and a \$100 hotel credit.*

The 155-room **Thompson Seattle**, across the street from Pike Place Market, attracts a younger crowd to its rooftop Nest Bar with outdoor fire pits, DJ nights, and views over Elliott Bay to the Olympic Mountains. *Doubles from \$299, including breakfast daily and a one-way airport transfer. VI*



A man and a woman are standing on the balcony of a river cruise ship, looking out over a body of water. The woman is holding a glass of red wine. The ship's interior is visible through the glass railing.

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# Why We Travel

After an engagement in Spain and an Australian elopement, Erin and Brian Adams are ready for more adventures abroad. INTERVIEWED BY DAVID HOCHMAN



Clockwise from left: Honeymooning on Bora-Bora, on safari in Kenya, and the big day down under.

**F**OR A COUPLE OF newlyweds, Erin and Brian Adams certainly get out in the world.

The Chicago pair married in high style in Australia at the start of 2018, and have already etched New Zealand, Bora-Bora, Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, and Sint-Maarten on their “been there” list. Brian, 38, is in commercial real estate, and Erin, 39, owns a spa, but exploring new locales is where their union finds true expression. Phoenix-based

Virtuoso advisor Judi Glass helps build their journey one adventure at a time.

**Brian:** Travel is an obsession for us, I’m not gonna lie. To walk around and get lost, to take in the world and learn – it’s what we love doing the most.

One of our first trips together, before we were married, was Barcelona. We arrived the day before the terrorist attack on Las Ramblas. It was a very somber time in the city, and we were in lockdown for a couple days.

Judi contacted us to make sure we were OK. But the best thing was connecting with our guide, Vincente. He had so much pride in his city, and so much resolve and optimism. What could have been a mournful experience turned into a visit full of hope. I proposed to Erin the next day.

**Erin:** We got married on New Year’s Eve at the Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley in the Blue Mountains outside Sydney. We’d been planning a big wedding, but it got crazy, so we turned it into a trip instead. The staff coordinated the officiant, the florist, the photographer, and videographer. It was just the two of us and some wombats and kangaroos.

**Brian:** Judi took the vision we dreamed up and helped cement it in reality. We thought



we’d get married in Bora-Bora, but she said, “Why not do Australia and New Zealand first and then honeymoon in Bora?” Going there the second week after New Year’s cost half as much as it would have on December 31.

**Erin:** I always bring a travel journal with me. Writing by hand lets me get deeper into the details of the trip. I use an aqua leather-bound notebook I found in New Zealand.

**Brian:** And I can’t travel without my Bose noise-canceling headphones – in case there’s a screaming child or an overly talkative passenger on a flight.



**Erin:** Planning a safari was completely overwhelming: picking where you want to stay, coordinating small flights, deciding on how much time in each place. But Judi knew exactly where to send us. In Kenya, we visited the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and the Maasai Mara. In Tanzania, we went to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater. We ended in Zanzibar at a stunning, remote resort.

**Brian:** On Memorial Day, I surprised Erin with a trip to Amangiri in Utah. We'd been hiking at Zion National Park, which was spectacular but not exactly luxurious, so we just stayed on-property rather than making day trips to the nearby parks. When you're in a place as incredible as Amangiri, you really just want to settle in.

---

**WHERE NEXT?** **Erin:** We have both had our hearts set on exploring Iceland and Greenland, and would love to do a trip to Chile and Argentina. **VI**



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Clockwise from top left: A touch of the tropics at Safari, Mur Mur's kitchen, life at Tulum speed, and Arca's roasted prawns.

# Playing with Fire

Tulum's culinary scene turns up the heat.

BY CELESTE MOURE PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS GARCÍA

**D**UE RESPECT TO THE LAUDED KITCHENS OF MEXICO CITY, OAXACA, AND PUEBLA, BUT THESE days travelers will find some of the country's most exciting and downright delicious dishes coming from wood-fired ovens and grills in Tulum's primeval Yucatán jungle. The first time I visited the area was roughly 15 years ago, when, like many tourists, I made the two-hour journey



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## On the Table

south from Cancún to explore the ancient Mayan ruins of the same name. Back then, there was just one lonely stretch of road, Carretera Tulum-Boca Paila, that separated the jungle from the white-sand beach, where a handful of eco-friendly posadas offered stressed-out urbanites the chance to unplug and practice yoga on the beach.

Soon, celebrities such as Cameron Diaz, Reese Witherspoon, and Justin Bieber started to come, and the party was on. But it wasn't until 2017, when René Redzepi chose it for the fourth installment of his Noma pop-up concept – London, Tokyo, and Sydney preceded it – that Tulum became synonymous with good eating. You'll still find the laid-back inns, the no-frills taco stands, and the yogis perfecting sun salutations on the beach, but now both sides of the *carretera* are lined with designer hotels, independent boutiques, and restaurants where chefs whip up big flavors in tiny jungle kitchens. On your next trip to the Riviera Maya's boho-chic escape, arrive hungry.

### The Innovator HARTWOOD

When it originally opened back in 2010, this carbon-neutral, open-air restaurant's concept was to blend into the environment, as if it had been there forever. Little has changed over the years: Diners sit at candlelit tables, and the daily menu – ceviche, jicama salad, and grilled octopus served on banana leaves are recurring items – features whatever chef-owner Eric Werner sources from local fishermen and nearby farms. "There are so many newly explored fruits and vegetables of the Yucatán," says Werner. "It's our life's work to understand them and present them to our guests." *Kilometer 7.6; hartwoodtulum.com.*

### Garden Grown CENZONTLE

This popular Mexican-owned restaurant is often credited, along with Hartwood, with launching Tulum's culinary scene. If you don't know where to look, you might miss the entrance – an overgrown meandering path that leads to a hidden garden. The vibe is easygoing, and the line for a table is often



Clockwise from top left: Cenzontle's ribs, Arca's bar and dining area, a rib eye with grilled onions at Gitano, and popular swimming spot Kaan Luum Lagoon.





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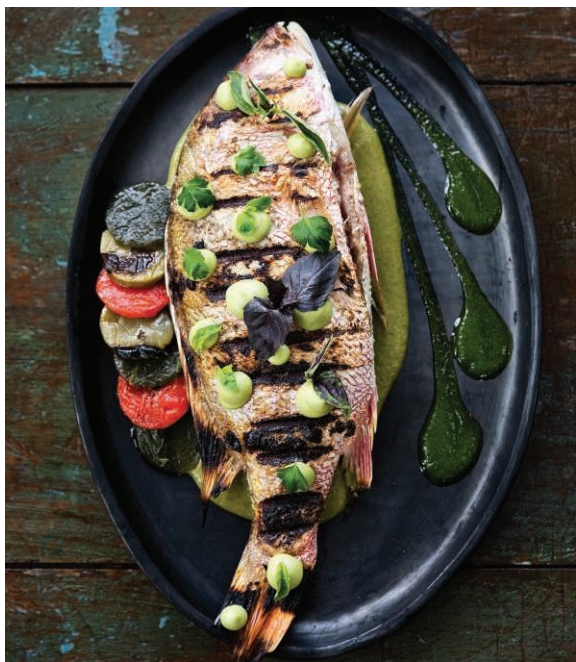
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## On the Table



Clockwise from top left: Wild's snapper with mole verde; the restaurant's chef, Stephen Coggio, and owner, Karen Young; tilapia ceviche, corn esquites, a fish taco, and a Ruby Road cocktail at Safari; and Tulum Beach.

long, but the wait's worth it just for the pork ribs, which are slow braised and seasoned with Veracruz vanilla and pasilla chili paste. *Kilometer 7.3; [cenzontletulum.com](http://cenzontletulum.com).*

### The Noma Nomad ARCA

Chef Jose Luis Hinostroza, formerly of Chicago's Alinea and Copenhagen's Noma, moved to Tulum to spearhead René Redzepi's pop-up in 2017. Cooking in a wood-fired

oven with Yucatán spices, produce, and seafood suited him so well, he stayed and soon became a partner and chef at Arca. Plan on a rotation of shareable small plates that go from fire to table as they're ready, and make sure to try "The Whole Squash," a roasted celebration of the local zucchini-like *tatuma*, presented on a bed of its sautéed greens and sprinkled with its flowers and toasted seeds. *Kilometer 7.6; [arcatum.com](http://arcatum.com).*

### House Party GITANO

Cooked in a wood-burning oven or over an open flame, Gitano's shareable dishes fuse the culinary traditions of its staff's diverse corners of the country. The *cochito hornonado*, for example, is a Chiapas specialty featuring roast pork slathered in a sauce made with lettuce, onions, and spices such as oregano and ancho chili. Nightly live music or DJs, plus disco balls, chandeliers, and





twinkling lights that dangle from the forest canopy, lend it a nightclub ambience – wear your dancing shoes to dinner. *Kilometer 7.5; grupogitano.com.*

#### Into the Wild Green Yonder **WILD**

Burned out from producing music festivals around the globe, Karen Young moved to Tulum four years ago to try something new and ended up opening a restaurant in the jungle. She recruited friends to help create a place that blends modern design and local Mayan craftsmanship in the

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## On the Table

form of sculptural wood and concrete structures that rise from the ground like palm trees. “There’s so much potential in this area and a lot of great products to work with,” says chef Stephen Coggio, previously from San Francisco’s Saison, who notes that he’s not there to make Mexican food. “I’m here to work with local ingredients while exploring my style of cooking – California cuisine,” he says. Braised and grilled octopus on a squid-ink sofrito, and hand-made agnolotti in a brown-butter sauce are just two of the resulting standouts. *Kilometer 10; wildtulum.com.*

### Campfire Cool SAFARI

A 1971 Airstream trailer parked next to a small fire pit serves as the kitchen for owner Luis Aguilar’s “campfire food.” Grilled fish, ceviche, tacos *al pastor*, truffle yucca fries, and chilled Pescadores beer are always on

the menu. Hungry locals and visitors, often with kids in tow, arrive early to score one of the handful of tables in the open-air dining room. Go on a Saturday, when the specialty is lamb *barbacoa* marinated in a rustic adobo sauce and served two ways: as tacos or a rich soup. *Kilometer 8; safaritulum.com.mx.*

### Whispers of Baja MUR MUR

Baja native Diego Hernández Baquedano first earned fame at Valle de Guadalupe restaurant Corazón de Tierra, which landed on Latin America’s 50 Best Restaurants list. At his Tulum jungle outpost, the chef explores his roots while working with indigenous Yucatán ingredients. Baquedano succeeds with a menu of beautifully plated rustic dishes, such as snapper seasoned with *recado negro*, a Yucatán paste of charred chilies, garlic, cumin, oregano, and vinegar. *Kilometer 7.5; murmurtulum.com.*



Easing into evening at Mur Mur.

## SECOND HELPINGS

Four more for your dining and drinking short list.

### • Casa Banana

does rustic Argentine asado, such as homemade chorizo and grilled steak with chimichurri. *Kilometer 8.5; casabanana-tulum.com.*

### • On your way to

Tulum National Park, stop at **Kitchen Table** for *huitlacoche* (aka Mexican truffle) quesadillas. *Kilometer 1.5; kitchentable-tulum.com.*

• For a gluten- and dairy-free breakfast right on the beach, head to **The Real Coconut**. *Kilometer 8.2; the-realcoconut.com.*

### • Todos Santos

shakes up some of Tulum’s best (and potent) mezcal cocktails. *Kilometer 7.5; casajaguartulum.com.*



## TIP

"Make sure you leave room in your suitcase to bring home a few finds from Tulum. My favorite shop is Caravana for its flowy cotton pieces by Italian designers – they also have a boutique on Mykonos."

– Shawna Huffman Owen,  
Virtuoso agency  
president, Chicago

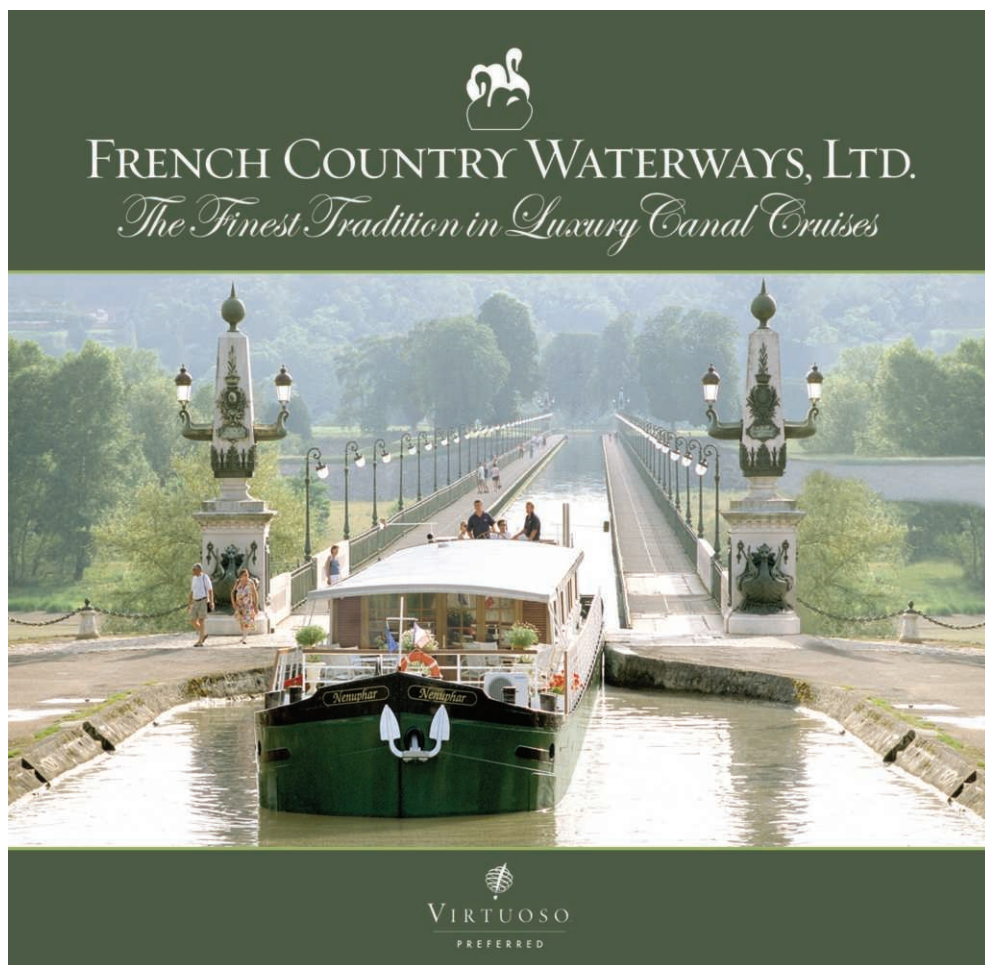
## TIME FOR TULUM

Villa escapes on the Riviera Maya.

**GO** Virtuoso travel advisors can work with **Journey Mexico** to customize adventures throughout the country. One example for a week on the Riviera Maya: six nights in a four-bedroom, staffed beachfront villa in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve. Daily activities range from a boat tour of the reserve's mangroves to snorkeling with sea turtles to privately guided explorations of the Río Secreto caves and Tulum and Cobá ruins. *Departures: Any day through 2019; from \$3,325 per person for a group of four, including round-trip transfers from Cancún.*

**STAY** Travelers staying at three-bedroom Casa Chakte – one of 14 **Luxury Retreats** properties in Tulum – can walk across the street for dinner at Hartwood or follow the villa's garden path to a private beach. A concierge service helps guests book private chefs and attend to other needs. *Casa Chakte from \$2,125; three-night minimum stay.*

**Villas of Distinction's** 12 Tulum homes include the modern four-bedroom Villa Verde in the new Aldea Zama neighborhood, with floor-to-ceiling windows, outdoor bathtubs, a rooftop patio with a lounge and hammocks, and a 50-foot lap pool surrounded by palm trees. *Villa Verde from \$700; three-night minimum stay.* **VI**





**Solitude in the Mekong Delta  
near Chau Doc, Vietnam.**



# Life, Uninterrupted

**On a cruise down the Mekong River  
in Vietnam and Cambodia, passengers  
become more than just spectators.**

**BY KIMBERLEY LOVATO**

**I**N THE BACK OF A MOTOR CART, FIVE OF US HOLD CONICAL palm-leaf hats tightly to our heads to prevent the wind from tossing them like Vietnamese Frisbees. “Hello! Hello!” call roadside grill masters roasting corn on the cob and skewered meats. Our stomachs growl. The dense verdure flanking the road drips with fresh rain, and mass is in full swing at the Cu Lao Gieng church, built on this island of the same name nearly 150 years ago. Despite our recognizable headgear, called *non la*, we are obviously visitors, and that earns us friendly grins.

It’s 4 PM, and we’ve already visited the home of a woman in her 70s who handmakes *non la* on her porch, sipped snake wine (like a potent whiskey) on an island in the Mekong Delta, and watched a man shape 15-foot wood planks over an open flame to make sampans, the ubiquitous low-profile skiffs that shuttle people – including us, on our twice-daily excursions from the new 36-passenger *Avalon Saigon* – along the Mekong River.

FAB/VIETNAM/GETTY IMAGES



Launched last September, the *Saigon* takes cruisers on 13-day land-and-water adventures between Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap, along Southeast Asia's longest waterway, the lifeblood of the roughly 60 million people who live and work along its banks and tributaries. With just 18 suites – all are 245 square feet, with floor-to-ceiling, slide-open windows – the ship remains intimate on its roughly 420-mile route. And, thanks to its shallow draft, the *Saigon* is one of the few vessels able to sail into Cambodia's Tonlé Sap (water levels permitting), a freshwater lake known for its Chong Khneas floating village, and our disembarkation point for the ten-mile drive to Siem Reap.

The ship feels like a swanky floating boutique hotel, with a gym, a spa, locally sourced art and woodwork, top-notch cuisine, and friendly, omnipresent staff offering fresh-squeezed juice and cold towels to combat the humidity. It's tempting to stay on board all day, but the organized morning and afternoon outings are what elevate us from bystanders to players in the scenes



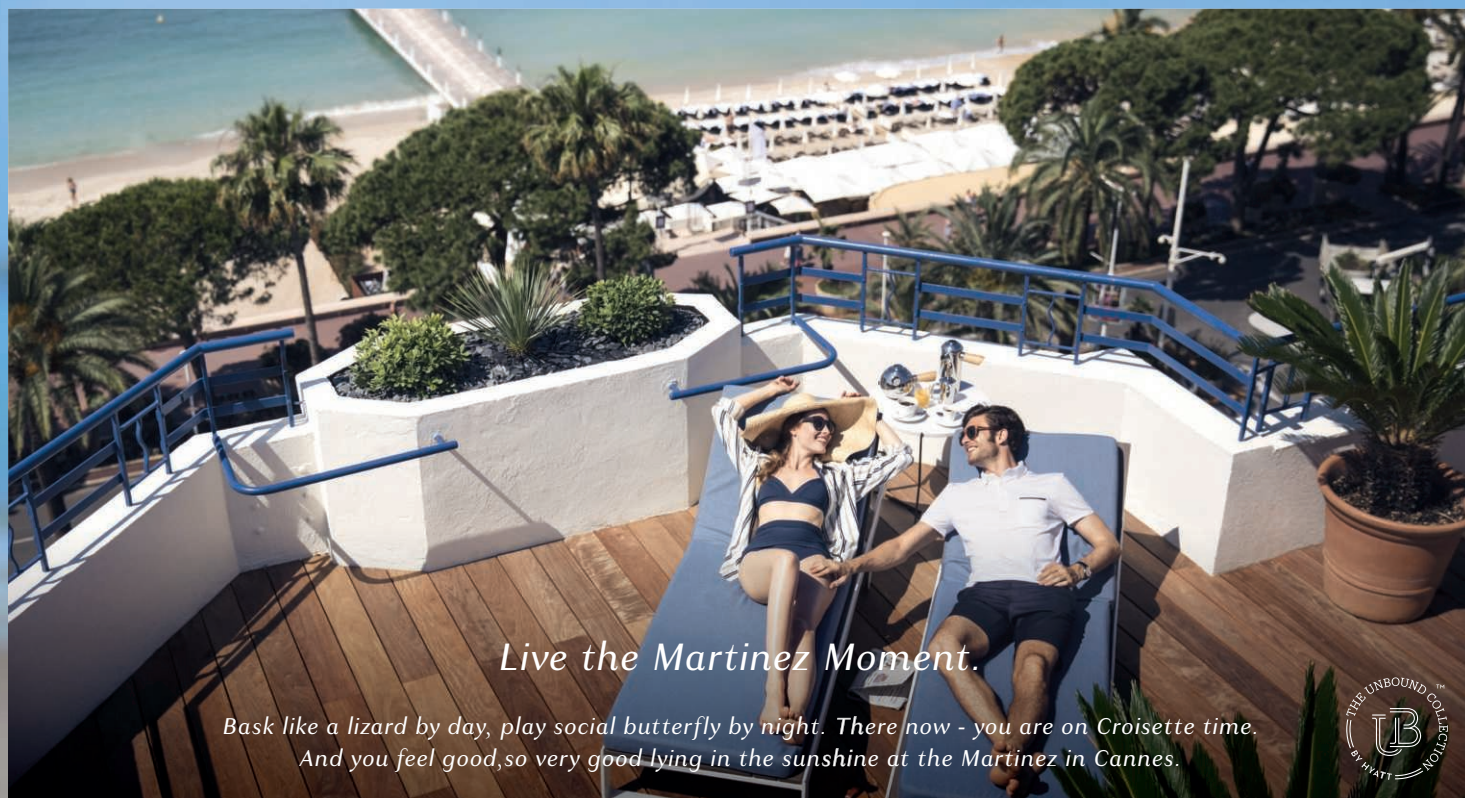
Suite views on the Avalon Saigon.

around us. All excursions are included in the fare, and dedicated guides (one in Vietnam and one in Cambodia) accompany us for the duration of the trip.

“Guide” may not be a satisfying descriptor: Our leaders are storytellers, teachers,

translators, and conduits for a deeper interpretation of our experiences. We climb the 300 steps to the eighth-century Wat Hanchey, a temple compound outside Kampong Cham, Cambodia, then sit cross-legged on straw mats inside an ornate

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## Cruising

**Clockwise from top left: Seafood on the *Avalon Saigon*, the ship's Panorama Lounge and its exterior, and Wat Hanchey. Opposite: City Hall in Ho Chi Minh City.**

pagoda painted the color of summer sunshine. Incense swirls in a warm breeze that whistles through the open doors, and two saffron-robed monks freely answer questions about their sequestered life. At a school in the village of Angkor Ban, 50 eager children listen to our accents and practice their English.

It's hard to forget that, just a little more than 40 years ago, this exchange could never have happened. Under the Khmer Rouge, the brutal regime that took the lives of more than 2 million Cambodian citizens in the late 1970s, teachers and clergy were regarded as hostile opposition and regularly executed. Our Cambodian guide, Virak, openly recounts childhood memories of stray bullets overhead. And Phiem, the ship's cruise director, shares his personal history as a Vietnamese boat person after the fall of Saigon in 1975. Despite these countries' harsh recent backstories, the goodwill of their citizens is overwhelming. From a teeth-loosening oxcart ride through the Cambodian countryside to meet local farmers to tours of the War Remnants Museum and Cu Chi Tunnels in Vietnam, our diverse interactions share a common goal: human connection.

"Ask questions, taste our food, teach us, and learn from us too," Phiem says.

The experiences don't stop at the gangplank, either. The *Saigon* crew are a blend of Vietnamese and Cambodians, and the ship's air-conditioned Panorama Lounge is an all-purpose rec room: By day, passengers relax, check email, and order strong Vietnamese coffee, but an hour before dinner, bartender Resmey shakes up specialty cocktails. While we're docked in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, teenagers from a local orphanage come aboard to demonstrate traditional dances. The lounge turns into a stage one night for an impromptu karaoke session with fellow travelers, then becomes a classroom when Phiem educates us about our serpentine path: The Mekong tumbles more than 2,600 miles from its origin in Tibet, flowing through China; along the borders of Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand; and into



## ENTER THE MEKONG

Set sail through Vietnam and Cambodia.

**GETTING THERE** Ships cruise north- and southbound on the Mekong River year-round, typically departing from Ho Chi Minh City or via an air or car transfer by way of Siem Reap. The *Avalon Saigon* sails 40 weeks out of the year, with regular departures between September and May, and less frequent ones during the summer.

**CRUISE** Avalon Waterways' 36-passenger *Avalon Saigon* is built as long and wide as other ships that ply the Mekong, but carries half as many guests. The

13-day, Ho Chi Minh City-to-Siem Reap trip in this story includes three pre-cruise days in Ho Chi Minh, cooking demos and farm visits in Kampong Tralach, and more. **Departures:** Multiple dates, March 4, 2019, through April 6, 2020; from \$3,539.

On an eight-day, Siem Reap-to-Ho Chi Minh City sailing on **AmaWaterways'** 124-passenger *AmaDara*, excursion highlights include a visit to Phnom Penh's Royal Palace and a Buddhist blessing ceremony in

Oudong. **Departures:** Multiple dates, March 11, 2019, through December 28, 2020; from \$2,299.

**STAY** Settle in pre- or post-cruise at the 59-room **Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor**, a riverside retreat in Siem Reap. Angkor Wat and Cambodia's other impressive temples are close by, but the hotel's lush pool area and Kong Kea Spa are tempting reasons to take a rest day. **Doubles from \$255, including breakfast daily and one complimentary 60-minute massage for two.**



## TIP

"A cruise on the Mekong River is an eye-opening experience. I recommend planning a trip between August and November – high-water season – which is your best chance to sail into Tonlé Sap lake and see its incredible stilt houses."

– *Cathy Dorton,*  
Virtuoso travel advisor,  
Germantown, Tennessee

Cambodia before splaying out in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, a vast and swampy labyrinth of islands, floating villages, and rice paddies. In Vietnamese, the Mekong is called the River of Nine Dragons, a reference to the nine mouths that expel the Mekong into the South China Sea. But Mother of Rivers, as it's sometimes referred to in Thailand and Laos, seems most fitting, as it provides for so many.

Before our final morning tai chi session



on the bow's open-air deck, all is quiet save for the arrhythmic splat of a fishing net landing on the water. The sun rises to fill in the inky outlines of riparian vegetation and stilted huts, and the canvas of river and sky

turns midnight blue, then blush, then guava pink within minutes. Is the fisherman also in awe of Mother Nature's morning show, or is it simply early-bird opportunity that lures him out at this hour? Whether serendipitous or scheduled, these interactions evoke the privilege of travel, a prohibitive indulgence, I imagine, for most people we meet, whose days are spent hauling produce or handicrafts to market, or contending with the Mekong's mercurial ebbs and floods, which determine the season's harvests. These encounters are as much chances to bolster a new perspective as lessons in gratitude for the opportunity to do so.

The trill of outboard motors breaks my reverie. Seemingly out of nowhere, sampans ripple the river, laden with everything from pyramids of jackfruit to children who wave and yell "Hello!" I return the familiar salutations. It's the most valuable souvenir I'll take home, these daily reminders that happiness comes not from acquiring more, but from the wonders accumulated when we journey with our hearts and eyes wide open. VI.

RICHARD TAYLOR/ESTOCK PHOTO



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# Essential Cinque Terre

**When the ship docks, a crowd-dodging plan is key in these coastal Italian postcard villages.**

BY INGRID K. WILLIAMS



**B**RINY SEA BREEZES CARRY THE scent of sun-warmed lemons and fresh basil along the Riviera di Levante on Italy's northwestern coast. A favorite holiday destination, this 80-mile stretch of the Italian Riviera begins east of Genoa and ends just beyond the Gulf of La Spezia, also known as the "Poets' Gulf," for the number of writers its beauty has inspired. This

warm-weather paradise, which I've called home for more than a decade, is now a popular cruise destination due to its proximity to the Cinque Terre, five ancient fishing villages perched amid wave-battered cliffs on a rugged stretch of coastline. A UNESCO World Heritage site and fragile natural treasure, the Cinque Terre is largely car-free, but easily accessible by train or boat, and on foot.

SUSAN WRIGHT



To avoid the tourist crowds and delve deeper into this fascinating region, arrive with a strategy and sturdy sneakers. An extensive network of hiking trails links the villages, while ferries ply the glittering coastal waters, making for an easy day of outdoor exploring from smaller Portovenere or La Spezia, where larger ships dock.

**9 AM** Whether you arrive by boat or train, make Vernazza your first Cinque Terre stop. Arguably the most beautiful of the five villages, it fills early with day-tripping visitors, so enjoy the morning calm on a stroll through the narrow lanes and arched porticoes, past the lemon-hued church, and along the tiny harbor, where bobbing turquoise-and-white dinghies line the stone quay. Sip a cappuccino on the seaside piazza, or join tanned retirees wading into the crystal-clear water for their first swim of the day. Then climb the narrow staircase up to Castello Doria, an ancient seaside fortification with spectacular coastal views.



The Sentiero Azzurro (Blue Trail) from Monterosso to Vernazza.



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The good life and (right) a limoncino spritz at Nessun Dorma in Manarola.



**10 AM** Fill a water bottle before leaving the tourist masses behind for the two-mile hike from Vernazza to Monterosso al Mare, the northernmost Cinque Terre town, along the popular Sentiero Azzurro (Blue Trail). The ascent is moderately strenuous along a dusty trail, but your effort will be rewarded with stunning bird's-eye views of Vernazza. Continue through the lush landscape, past citrus groves and terraced vineyards equipped with rickety monorail cars that haul the handpicked harvest up vertiginously steep slopes. After a hike of about an hour and a half, Monterosso will come into view.

**NOON** A promontory divides Monterosso, the Cinque Terre's largest town, into two parts, old and new. Begin exploring the Old Town, nestled between green hills, with its multicolored houses, pebbled beach, and medieval *carruggi* (ultra-narrow alleys). Stop at Focacceria Il Frantoio for a snack of *pan fritto* (fried pizza dough stuffed with cheese), then admire a collection of artworks that include a van Dyck painting inside the bluff-top monastery. A tunnel leads to the newer part of town, known as Fegina, where rows of sun loungers and colorful parasols line the long sand-and-pebble beach. Cool off with a gelato or a dip in the Mediterranean, then join locals taking a relaxed passeggiata along the beachside promenade.

**2 PM** The most pleasurable way to see the Cinque Terre is from the water. Whether aboard a private yacht or public ferry, the views are the same: stupendous. The easiest route is to hop on the hourly ferry departing from the quay beside Monterosso's Old Town (look for signs for Consorzio Marittimo

Turistico), and sail down the coast admiring the unparalleled panorama of postage-stamp-size villages tucked amid sheer cliffs. Along the way, spy hidden coves, lone hilltop chapels, acres of olive trees, and vineyards climbing the hillsides. Admire Vernazza from new angles, spotting the hilltop town of

## SAIL FOR THE CINQUE

How to see this slice of the Italian coast.

**Celebrity Cruises'** ten-day voyage on the 2,170-passenger *Celebrity Constellation* departs from Barcelona and calls in La Spezia, as well as Nice, Rome, and Split, among other cities along the French Riviera and Dalmatian Coast, before docking in Venice. *Departure: June 19; from \$1,169.*

Join Claudine Pépin, Jacques

Pépin's daughter, for a ten-day epicurean sailing from Rome to Barcelona on **Oceania Cruises'** 684-passenger *Sirena*, which emerges from a \$100 million redesign in May and weighs anchor in La Spezia, an eight-minute train ride from the Cinque Terre. *Departure: July 15; from \$2,499.*

Crisscrossing the

Mediterranean from Monte-Carlo to Rome, **Crystal Cruises'** nine-day journey on the 980-passenger *Crystal Serenity* stops at the village of Portovenere, just south of the Cinque Terre, and offers several Cinque Terre shore excursion options, from walking tours to winetasting at a local vineyard. *Departure: August 23; from \$4,030.*

Sail along the Italian and French rivieras from Rome to Nice on an eight-day cruise aboard **SeaDream Yacht Club's** 112-passenger *SeaDream I*, which also calls in Portovenere. From there, public ferries and private boat excursions depart for the nearby Cinque Terre. *Departure: September 28; from \$4,699.*



Corniglia (the only Cinque Terre town without a harbor), before arriving in Manarola.

**4 PM** Alight in Manarola for an afternoon *aperitivo* at Nessun Dorma, a clifftop café that serves spritzes in an outdoor garden overlooking the town harbor and its cluster of pastel houses perched above the turquoise sea. If you're eager to tick off one more village, take the train a stop south to Riomaggiore and climb the steep steps above the station to A Pié de Ma, a wine bar situated on rocks jutting above the water, where you can sip rare natural wines from local producer Walter De Battè on the terrace as waves swirl and crash below.

**6 PM** As charming as any of its northern neighbors, Portovenere deserves a detour for its impressive historic sights, including the hilltop Castello Doria; the striped, twelfth-century Chiesa di San Pietro; and a wave-battered grotto dedicated to the English poet (and legendary swimmer) Lord Byron. Those returning to ships in La Spezia

## TIP

"Nessun Dorma in Manarola offers a pesto-making class. Participants pick fresh basil and learn to make authentic pesto using a mortar and pestle, then enjoy lunch and wine with the Ligurian Sea swirling below."

— Leslie Parker, *Virtuoso* travel advisor, San Clemente, California

should head into the city center for *farinata*, a thin, pancakelike local specialty made from chickpeas. At La Pia Centenaria, a *farinata* specialist since 1887, giant copper pans pulled from the wood-fired oven yield pancakes that are sliced for take-away orders; try the savory version slathered with pesto or creamy *stracchino* cheese. VI



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Dancers perform on Nuku Hiva.

## Far and Away

In the Marquesas, one of the world's most isolated archipelagoes, ancient Polynesian traditions endure.

BY COSTAS CHRIST

“WEAR THIS. IT WILL GIVE YOU MAN power,” Tuohe said, placing a necklace of large fish bones, sea beans, and goat horns around my neck. He explained that the intricately carved symbols adorning the horns come from *tupuna* ‘enana: Marquesan ancestors. Carefully fastening it, he added with a smile,

“Now you will pay tribute to my ancestors.” We were perched on the bluff of a lush mountainside jutting straight up from the cobalt Pacific Ocean on Fatu Hiva, a tropical enclave of wild nature and Polynesian heritage in one of the most remote archipelagoes on earth, the Marquesas – or Te Henua ‘Enana, “The Land of Men.”

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## TIP

"On Nuku Hiva, be sure to visit the Hatiheu Valley, which has some exceptional ancient stone tiki statues. Then stop by Chez Yvonne in the nearby village for a traditional lunch."

— Richard Bailey,  
chairman and CEO,  
Paul Gauguin Cruises

There are six inhabited islands in the Marquesas, all with volcanic peaks that rise from the depths of the surrounding sea and tiny harbors such as Fatu Hiva's Bay of Virgins, which many seafarers claim is the most picturesque in the world. The islands have long attracted explorers, writers, and artists. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote of his stay in 1889, "No part of the world exerts the same attractive power upon the visitor." Paul Gauguin famously found inspiration here and is buried on Hiva Oa. Herman Melville, mesmerized upon first seeing the Marquesas as a sailor in 1842, jumped ship at Nuku Hiva, an offense then punishable by flogging, and fled into the interior. He survived for several weeks with the assistance of local villagers before hopping another ship home, an adventure that became the basis of his first novel, *Typee*.

My own voyage to this far-flung archipelago, located nearly 1,000 miles northeast of Tahiti, was a long time coming: When I was 19, I stumbled upon a book called *Fatu-Hiva* by Thor Heyerdahl, who journeyed here in the 1930s in search of paradise. Heyerdahl lasted for little more than a year before the reality of remoteness propelled him back to Europe. But his vivid descriptions of Polynesian life and Fatu Hiva's spectacular geography captivated me. I knew I had to go. And after some 40 years and a career spent exploring the world, I finally reached the Marquesas.

Getting here used to mean booking passage on a cargo vessel; today, the voyage is a lot plusher. My wife and I traveled aboard the 332-passenger *Paul Gauguin* with Paul Gauguin Cruises, a small-ship French Polynesia specialist, accompanied by onboard experts who included archaeologists, anthropologists, and cultural guides. Our plan was to sail on a deep-ocean crossing from Tahiti, visiting Fatu Hiva, Hiva Oa, Tahuata, and other spots that had long swirled in my imagination — the Society Islands and the Tuamotus. During our journey, daily presentations in the *Gauguin's* theater-style lecture hall ranged from a talk on the origins of Polynesia's seafaring society to performances by local dance troupes. We spent

## MARQUESAN MEANDERINGS

Book a passage to this unforgettable outpost.

**Paul Gauguin Cruises'** 14-day journey on the 332-passenger *Paul Gauguin* explores the Marquesas, visiting Fatu Hiva, Hiva Oa, Tahuata, and Nuku Hiva. Other ports of call include Fakarava Atoll in the Tuamotus and Huahine and Bora-Bora in the Society Islands. *Departures: April 13 and November 23, 2019, and multiple 2020 dates; from \$7,795.*

**Lindblad Expeditions'** sailings aboard the 102-passenger *National Geographic Orion* call at the Marquesas islands of Fatu Hiva, Nuku Hiva, and Hiva Oa, with outings to the Tuamotus' Fakarava and Makatea. *Departures: April 25; from \$15,990 (14 days), and May 22; from \$7,990 (ten days).*

When **Regent Seven Seas Cruises'** 490-passenger *Seven Seas Navigator* makes a one-day stop at Nuku Hiva during an 11-day South Pacific voyage, travelers can explore the Taipivai Valley. The cruise also calls in the Tuamotus and the Society Islands. *Departure: December 23; from \$12,399.*



The *Paul Gauguin*  
off Fatu Hiva.

evenings sampling French wines and perusing the ship's impressive array of local art, including a work by Gauguin himself.

In these islands, the primary language is still Marquesan (followed by Tahitian and French). Residents keep alive age-old practices such as wood and stone carving, and have brought back traditional tattooing, once outlawed by Catholic missionaries. In this sense, the Marquesas present an opportunity for visitors to experience authentic Polynesian culture and help uphold it by supporting local artisans, musicians, and dancers.

Although Paul Gauguin offers guided excursions, on Fatu Hiva, my wife and I decided to explore on our own. While hiking along the island's single road amid peaks and gorges covered in dense greenery, we





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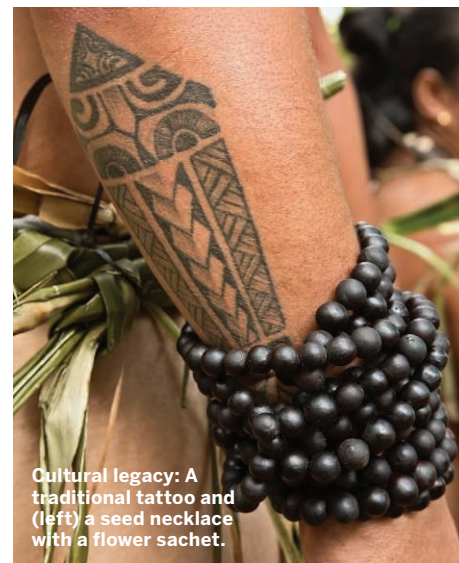
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**“I used to think remoteness was our problem, but now I understand that this remoteness has helped our Polynesian heritage to survive.”**



Cultural legacy: A traditional tattoo and (left) a seed necklace with a flower sachet.

met Tuohe, who drives a pickup-truck-turned-taxi to help ferry the handful of visitors who make it here. This dirt track links Omoa, the tiny port, with Hanavave, the island’s only other village. Tuohe asked if we were lost and, with typical Polynesian hospitality, offered to show us the way.

As we talked, he shared his hope that more travelers will come to experience the island, from its traditional song-and-dance celebrations to *tapa* (bark cloth) making and the stone petroglyphs found in its lush valleys. Tourism’s benefits, he said, could help stem the flow of young Marquesans leaving to seek employment in Tahiti. When I asked why the Marquesas are called the Land of Men, Tuohe described the ancient warrior days, when the victorious took the man-power energy of those they defeated. That’s when he paused to offer me the necklace dangling from his neck, exclaiming, “*A oho te i’i*” – be strong!

FROM FATU HIVA, WE SAILED TO TAHUATA and Hiva Oa, where guides led shore excursions to archaeological sites, the cemetery where Paul Gauguin and Jacques Brel are buried, and a market where villagers displayed handmade black pearl jewelry and *tapa* paintings. At Nuku Hiva, the ship’s concierge introduced me to Debora Kimitete, a local cultural matriarch who occasionally guides private tours. With her late husband,

she helped establish Matavaa O Te Henua Enana, the Marquesas Art & Culture Festival. Held every four years (the next takes place this December), the festival is a week-long celebration of Polynesian sports, art, music, and dance, created to maintain the islands’ ancient traditions.

“I used to think remoteness was our problem, but now I understand that this remoteness has helped our Polynesian heritage to survive,” Kimitete explained as we stood beneath a towering banyan tree, its overgrown roots entangled with the carved stones of a historic site called Tohua Koueva, where she hopes to establish a cultural learning center. “When Christian missionaries arrived over a century ago, they banned our indigenous traditions. Although the Marquesas are considered one of the last bastions of authentic Polynesian culture, we are still working to rebuild our heritage,” she added.

Having Kimitete as our guide was like getting a personal tour of the Louvre from a curator. We shared a meal of raw tuna soaked in fresh coconut milk with a village family, took a boat trip with a local fisherman to snorkel in hidden coves, chatted with women making necklaces of brightly hued red seeds, and hiked along jungle trails to find ancient carved-stone tikis.

As we drove toward the island’s interior

on steep mountain roads, tropical foliage gave way to pine forests, and clouds of mist cast shadows over the deep blue of Taiohae Bay. Kimitete pulled into a small clearing overlooking the island and stepped outside. “We are going to shout as loud as we can at the same time,” she said. “Are you ready?” We belted out a massive “Ohhhaahhh!!” that echoed across the valley. She has travelers call out like this to alert the ancestors of their arrival, and again upon departure. “It is how we show gratitude to the ancestors whose spirits roam the hills,” she said.

In the tiny capital of Taiohae, I met master tattooist Teiki Huukena at his studio. After Kimitete explained my request for a wrist tattoo, he looked at her knowingly and turned to me: “Marquesan tattoos occupy an important place in our traditional culture. Our motifs were born out of spiritual and artistic inspiration. Where and when to position a symbol on the body also has a sacred meaning.” I realized that he was educating me: A Marquesan tattoo is not a souvenir but, rather, a rite of passage that should not be rushed. Huukena promised that if I returned and allowed ample time, he would give me a tattoo of true meaning. I left knowing that, though it may have taken me 40 years to get to the Land of Men, there’s a trip back in my near future. VI



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## My Travel Essentials

Heidi Merrick always packs a swimsuit – and a gown.

PORTRAIT BY SAM FROST

**F**ASHION DESIGNER HEIDI Merrick grew up in Carpinteria, California, with the ocean in her backyard (and legendary surfboard shaper Al Merrick as her dad). “A day spent seaside is the perfect day for me,” says the mother of two, who now lives in L.A.’s Silver Lake neighborhood. She stays busy overseeing her eponymous line of glam swimsuits, effortless gowns, and more, and running her boutique in downtown

L.A. Traveling, she says, is “the swiftest, most honest way to get perspective on your life.” Merrick and her family spend weekends away, often on their land north of the city, but her best friend since age 14 is her most frequent travel buddy, for trips to NYC (where she stays at The St. Regis), Mexico, and beyond. On the horizon: a journey to Japan to explore spas. Of her travel style, she says, “I always dress for planes; I always bring a swimsuit and a gown; I might overpack.”

### I DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT:

- 1. Kendall Conrad's weekender bag.** She's a quintessential Santa Barbara designer.
- 2. My Heidi Merrick Vicent swimsuit** is the most flattering. It's easy to throw a summer dress over it for dinners by the beach.
- 3. Labbe Après Surf hydrating face oil** is a natural, plant-based oil I use after surfing to prevent salt damage. (I put a little in my hair too, to keep it from getting dull.)
- 4. Esker's Beneficial Body Oil Mini Set** is perfect if you're not checking a bag.
- 5. I wear a black Heidi Merrick SRF LA hoodie**
- 6. A captivating book.** Currently, it's *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life* by William Finnegan – a must-read for any surfer who loves to travel.
- 7. Maison Francis Kurkdjian Paris, Oud Velvet Mood.** This scent always makes me feel at home.
- 8. Derwent Graphic 6B-4H pencils** for sketching when I feel inspired, which is hopefully daily! **VL**







# Kangaroo Island

and Southern Ocean Lodge

By Kathryn F.,  
 Swain Destinations



## Tales from our Travels

The drive from the airport to Southern Ocean Lodge was about an hour long, so we were able to spot wallabies, kangaroos and koalas along the way. Then, out of nowhere, the polished iron gates of the lodge appeared. The whole property exuded a sense of exclusivity and remoteness. Southern Ocean Lodge is completely off the grid, as it relies on solar power and rainwater to accommodate guests.

Each of the lodge's 21 glass-fronted suites offers wall-to-wall windows with an unobstructed view of the dreamlike scenery. Aligned with the lodge's local focus, the artwork in all suites is commissioned from Kangaroo Island artisans.

The food and beverages at Southern Ocean Lodge are exceptional and focused fully on South Australian cuisine. Guests can choose from a classic menu or something a bit more adventurous, utilizing unique local ingredients.

As for activities outside of the lodge, there are many opportunities for immersion in the island's natural attractions. Ranging from coastal walks to barbeques, every experience lets guests encounter the wildlife with exclusive access and a touch of luxury.

Kangaroo Island in South Australia is brimming with native wildlife and natural beauty. While being Australia's third largest island, roughly the size of Long Island, it only has a population of 4,000 people. Tucked in a corner of the island, on a rugged cliff facing the wild Southern Ocean, lies Southern Ocean Lodge.



## About Swain Destinations

For over 30 years, Swain Destinations has been creating personalized adventures to the world's most unique destinations. Whatever your interests and style may be, our travel experts ensure you not only visit a destination, but truly experience it.



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COMPLIMENTARY WI-FI • VIRTUOSO AMENITY

BAIE LONGUE, SAINT-MARTIN

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Island glamour, crystal-clear waters, and a captivating cosmopolitan scene make this Saint-Martin gem sparkle.

Your private terrace offers a sun-splashed soak in your plunge pool or a nightcap beneath the stars. Play tennis and work out in the fitness center. Linger over alfresco lunches and elegant dinners in four venues. Ease tensions from your journey at the spa with the Just Arrived package.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** Lunch for two, once per stay.

  
**BELMOND**  
**LA SAMANNA**  
ST MARTIN

BRITISH WEST INDIES, ANGUILLA

## Belmond Cap Juluca



Lounge beachside in your personal chaise at this exclusive sanctuary on the shores of Anguilla.

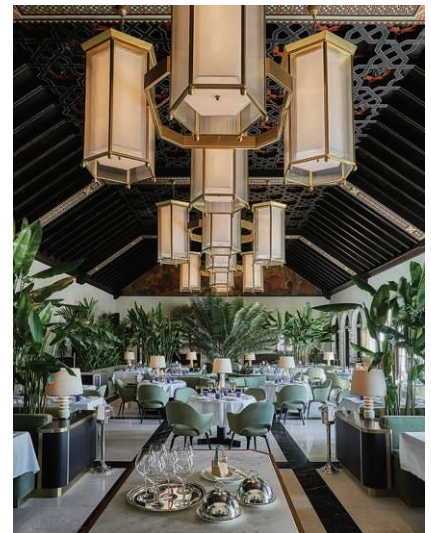
Sample Caribbean and international specialties in four restaurants and bars. Splash in the infinity pool, and indulge in ancient healing spa traditions. Book a three-night stay and enjoy a bottle of Champagne, a romantic dinner, and a couple's massage when you travel by April 30, 2019.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100-value food and beverage credit per stay.

  
**BELMOND**  
**CAP JULUCA**  
ANGUILLA

SURFSIDE, FLORIDA

## Four Seasons Hotel at The Surf Club



This oceanfront oasis has hosted the likes of Frank Sinatra and Elizabeth Taylor.

Take in ocean vistas or sprawling city views through floor-to-ceiling windows in rooms bathed in natural light. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon by the pool as you sip a signature Mangareva cocktail. Later, savor light and fresh coastal Mediterranean cuisine on the Mare restaurant terrace. Cap off your day with a rejuvenating facial in the exceptional spa.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 food and beverage credit per stay.

  
**FOUR SEASONS**  
HOTEL  
THE SURF CLUB, SURFSIDE, FLORIDA





BORACAY ISLAND, PHILIPPINES

## Shangri-La's Boracay Resort & Spa



Nestled within a sheltered tropical bay, a private island paradise cocoons you in nature's lush beauty.

Spacious rooms, suites, and villas are decorated with authentic Filipino accents. A sanctuary of calm awaits at Chi, The Spa. Savor sumptuous meals in any of four restaurants and bars. Book a three-night stay and receive a complimentary fourth night when you travel by December 31, 2019.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100-value food and beverage credit per stay.

  
Shangri-La's  
**Boracay Resort & Spa**  
PHILIPPINES

SINGAPORE

## Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore



A vibrant city resort minutes from world-class shopping on Orchard Road.

Amid 15 acres of lush greenery, elegant accommodations offer unparalleled experiences in three distinctive wings. Enjoy pampering spa treatments and night swims in the outdoor pool. Family-friendly suites are themed and offer children's amenities and access to the expansive interactive play area.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100-value food and beverage or spa services credit per stay.

  
**Shangri-La hotel**  
SINGAPORE

TORONTO, ONTARIO

## Bisha Hotel Toronto



Art and design combine to create an energizing yet intimate atmosphere that encourages connection.

Pair the fresh, lively flavors of the California coastline with sweeping panoramas at the rooftop KÖST restaurant. Savor delicate pastries in French Made, and authentic Asian cuisine in Akira Back. Fit in a workout at the 24-hour gym, take a relaxing dip in the outdoor infinity pool, or bring your pet and explore the neighborhood.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100-value hotel credit per stay.

  
**BISHA**

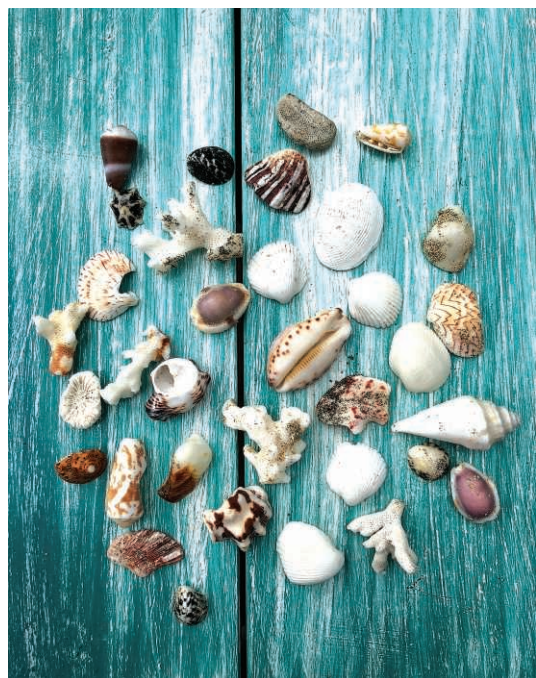




Clockwise from top left: The catch of the day, children on the island of Dravuni, kava root, Fiji from above, ocean souvenirs, and Kokomo's private beach and seaplane.







THE

# BLUE

ONE RETREAT HAS  
BIG PLANS TO KEEP ITS LITTLE  
CORNER OF **FUJI** PRISTINE.

BY AMIEE WHITE BEAZLEY  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KORENA BOLDING SINNETT



# IT TOOK 45 MINUTES BY AIR TO GET TO KOKOMO PRIVATE ISLAND FROM FIJI'S MAIN ISLAND OF VITI LEVU.

Heading southeast, our helicopter flew over lush mountains, ribbons of aquamarine sea, and kaleidoscopic coral mazes. With every minute that passed, the vastness of the South Pacific took hold: The ocean's blues appeared deeper, and remote islands and their white-sand beaches seemed to grow farther apart.

While Fiji has been known for years for its beautiful beaches and resorts, there are still places beyond its main islands where the people and landscapes feel far removed from the modern world. Yaukuve Levu – the island that's home to Kokomo – is one. Australian billionaire Lang Walker visited the island on a yachting trip and became enamored with its deep, protected harbor; abundant marine life; and the people who call it home. He opened Kokomo, his 26-villa retreat, shortly after, in 2017. It's the first luxury resort in Fiji's Kadavu Group of islands, which are known for their proximity to the Great Astrolabe, the world's fourth-largest coral reef system. The reefs, a diver's dream, are home to an array of species, from spinner dolphins and humpback whales to manta rays and gray reef sharks.

My arrival at Kokomo began with a golf-cart ride to the Beach

Shack lounge, where dozens of staff members shouted “Bula!” (a common Fijian greeting that means “hello” or “well wishes for good health”) and dropped what they were doing to welcome me and the other new guests with traditional music, flower garlands, and coconuts pierced with straws to sip from. I listened, but my attention was pulled toward the water – the brightest, bluest, and clearest I had ever seen. There wasn't a boat or even another visitor in sight.

My villa was my own Fijian sanctuary: Inside the resort's one- to six-bedroom accommodations (which are built with local and sustainably sourced materials), contemporary furnishings and bright, abstract paintings by Kokomo's in-house artist Chris Kenyon are arrayed beneath vaulted plantation-timber ceilings, secured with traditional woven-coconut-husk rope called *magimagi*. Outside, beyond the private infinity-edge pool, a hammock beckoned, strung between two coconut palms. A path led to the beach and the House Reef just off the coast, where guests can snorkel or swim.

WALKER'S VISION TO MAKE Kokomo a vehicle for environmental and cultural conservation started with the Great Astrolabe. He hired marine biologist, conservationist, and dive instructor Cliona O'Flaherty to help protect the resort's House Reef, a 656-foot-wide designated no-fishing zone around Kokomo. She and her team have developed a nursery in its shallow waters by cultivating samples of living super coral from the reef. With aid from guests,



## WALKER'S VISION TO MAKE KOKOMO A VEHICLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL CONSERVATION STARTED WITH THE GREAT ASTROLABE.

who help attach juvenile specimens to the super coral in the nursery, they've grown more than 2,000 of the marine invertebrates, which are later replanted in the House Reef.

“With rising water temperatures due to global warming, corals around the world are bleaching and dying,” O'Flaherty says. “The reef restoration program maintains the health of the Kokomo House Reef, where we do the majority of our diving and snorkeling instruction.”

The waters around Yaukuve Levu have been a source of sustenance for the island's residents for years. For Kokomo, they present another opportunity to operate sustainably. Executive chef Anthony Healy

recently helped the resort become the first Fijian member of Dock to Dish, a United Nations Foundation program that connects small-scale fisheries and local seafood supply chains to resorts and restaurants around the world.

Guests can see this program in action on a visit to the nearby islands of Buliya and Dravuni, where they meet the fisherwomen who, for generations, have cast for a small, bony species called *bussa*, standing knee-deep in a lagoon using lines and hooks baited with bread. This technique is disappearing among locals, Healy explained, as younger Fijians become dependent on processed and frozen foods from Asia. By giving them an



outlet to sell *bussa*, Kokomo created a financial incentive for these women to continue their practice and hand it down to their children.

Healy and his team serve the fresh *bussa* at Kokomo's three restaurants – the Beach Shack, the Pool Cabana, and the charming Walker D'Plank, a menuless, catch-of-the-day space inspired by Walker's favorite beach bars around the world. To source larger fish, Kokomo employs its own fisherfolk, purchases from local villages, and prepares guests' own catches. One day, I reeled in a 30-pound Spanish mackerel (with significant help from the crew), and at Walker D'Plank a chef cooked it for me three ways, accompanied by greens, broccoli, and snow peas grown in the resort's five-and-a-half-acre, on-site organic garden.

DAYS AT KOKOMO REVOLVE around the water – even yoga classes are held beachside, and treatments at the Yaukuve Spa Sanctuary incorporate seaweed, marine minerals, and seashells. Everything is customized, and the Fijian staff make guests feel immediately at home.

“Their warmth is a part of their DNA,” says Kokomo general manager Martin Persson. “There’s a natural happiness and element of hospitality that’s always there.”

This is where Kokomo nails its final principle of sustainability: Support the culture of the people who have lived and worked on the island for



**Clockwise from top left:** Executive chef Anthony Healy, not your average beach shack, fresh seafood at Walker D'Plank, and a villa soak. Opposite: Coral restoration in action at the House Reef.



## TIP

**"The Fijian people are so warm and welcoming; their infectious happiness and songs fill your heart. Ask the resort to arrange a visit to a local village on the nearby island of Dravuni, where you can meet some of the adorable primary schoolchildren. It's a truly special experience."**

**— Shaun Schisler, Virtuoso travel advisor, Newport Beach, California**

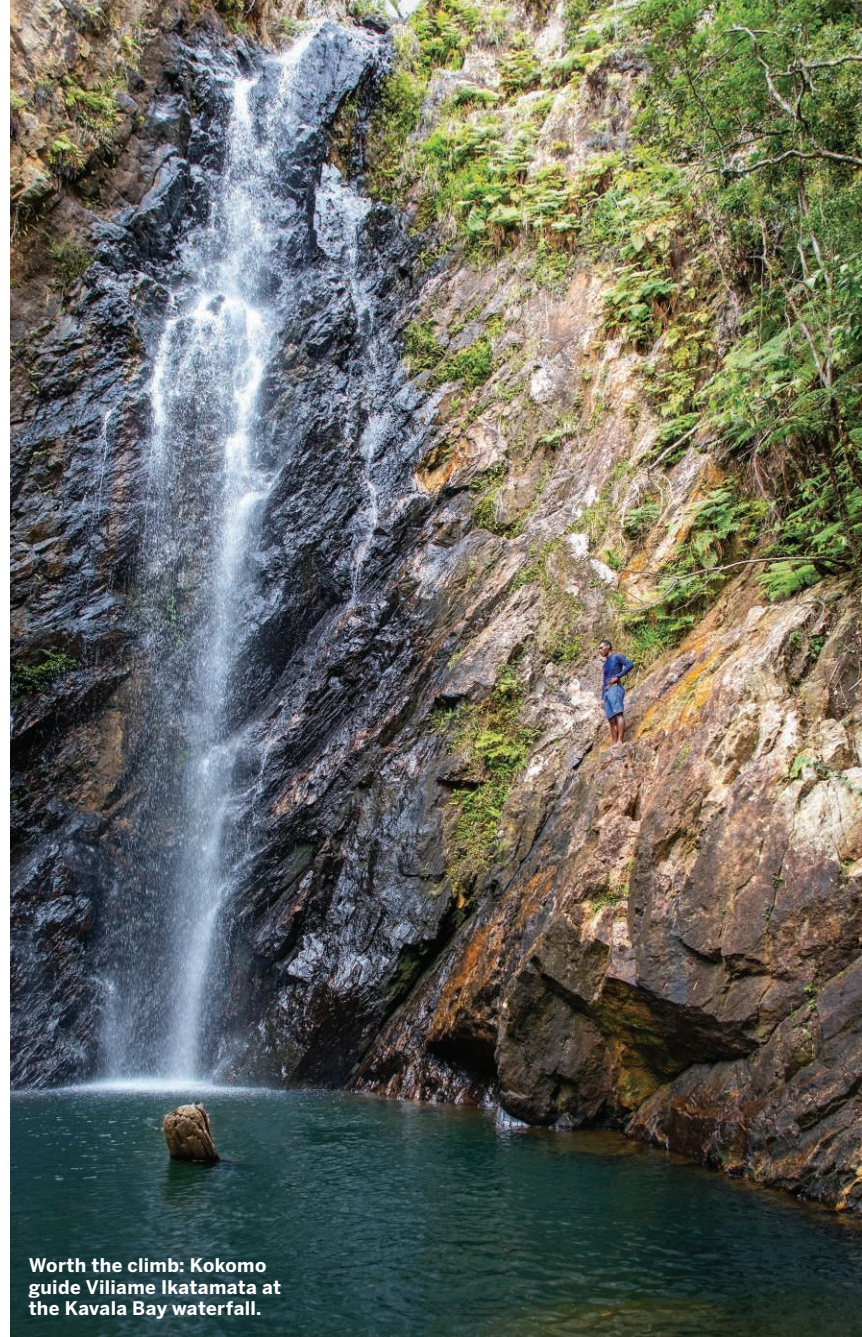
generations. One morning, a group of us boated to nearby Kavala Bay, where our barefoot guide, Viliame Ikatamata (who goes by the self-appointed nickname of "Bill Gates"), led us on a two-hour hike to a hilltop waterfall. Along the way, he pointed out a crimson shining parrot that flew overhead, dug up the famous kava root that's used throughout Fiji to make ceremonial tea, introduced us to families he's known for years, and told us how Fijians depend on one another to survive.

"If we don't have money, it's OK. We can fish to eat," he said. "But if we don't have our families, we will die."

Just spending a few days with these Fijians reveals their connection to the water, the

land, and each other. And now I felt woven into that fabric too. When we made it to the 160-foot waterfall, Viliame helped me climb up the rocks so I could dive into the warm, spring-fed waters at its base.

When it was time to leave the resort, Kokomo's staff again lined up, to wish us farewell with music. The resort's seaplane waited at the end of the dock while all the people we had hiked, swam, fished, and laughed with gathered to say goodbye. Their song told a traditional story of friendship, and how proud they had been to share their home. I climbed aboard, and, as the resort faded into the distance, I hoped that its people and its reefs would endure.



**Worth the climb: Kokomo guide Viliame Ikatamata at the Kavala Bay waterfall.**

## PARADISE, PLEASE

**Make the dream-island getaway a reality.**

**GO** With average temperatures in the high 70s, Fiji is a good idea year-round. High season – when it's warmest and driest – falls between July and September. **Fiji Airways** flies direct from San Francisco or Los Angeles to Nadi; many private-island resorts (Kokomo included) provide their own plane, boat, or helicopter transfers from there.

**STAY** Guests at the 26-villa **Kokomo Private Island Fiji** can stay busy on daily fishing, diving, and hiking excursions; village tours; private boat charters; and more. At the resort's kids' club, young travelers learn about coral reef conservation and participate in coral-planting activities.

*Villas from \$2,500, including all meals and nonalcoholic beverages, some activities, one complimentary 45-minute spa treatment, and a \$100 resort credit.*

At **Laucala Island**, a 50-minute private-plane transfer from Nadi, 25 villas constructed from local materials are surrounded by rain forest, coconut plantations, and secluded beaches. The resort's *bure kalou* (spirit house) hosts Fijian cultural performances, craft lessons, and kava ceremonies. *Villas from \$4,800, including all meals and drinks, most activities, and one complimentary 60-minute massage per person. VI*





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# LIQUID ASSET

WATER-CENTRIC  
TRAVEL EXPERIENCES  
THAT SUPPORT OUR MOST  
PRECIOUS RESOURCE.

BY JESSICA MUELLER

ON THIS BLUE PLANET, ONE THING IS CERTAIN: WATER is life. From clean drinking reserves to healthy marine ecosystems, it's the vital element that sustains us. And water is fun: It drives our travels, from beach days in Hawaii to cruising the Mediterranean, diving the Great Barrier Reef, and rafting the Colorado River. But with sea life in peril, oceans clogged with plastic waste, and communities struggling with access to clean drinking water, it's not news to anyone that this precious liquid asset needs protecting.

There's been a groundswell of popular support for water-related causes: Matt Damon's Water.org charity, Kelly Slater's sustainable clothing brand, and Parley for the Oceans' collaborations with such high-profile names as Net-a-Porter's *Porter* magazine and Adidas (to make shoes out of ocean plastic), to name a few. Of course, the travel industry – perhaps uniquely motivated to protect one of the central features of many memorable journeys – is no exception.

"Oceans make up over 70 percent of the planet and are 100 percent critical to our business," says Nick Rose, director of environmental programs at Royal Caribbean International. "Ensuring that we have healthy oceans is embedded into our daily operations. We're constantly exploring ways to reduce our environmental footprint."

Cruise lines, as well as hotels, tour operators, and airlines, are launching their own foundations, adopting more sustainable practices, and giving globe-trotters the chance to pitch in. Here are just a few ways the world of travel – along with forward-thinking destinations and companies – is shining a light on water concerns.



## CLEAN CRUISING

Cruise lines are swabbing the decks when it comes to environmental practices.

Immersive adventure  
in the South Pacific.



### RAISING ECO-CONSCIOUS CRUISERS

Specialists in the South Pacific, **Paul Gauguin Cruises** has partnered with Te Mana O Te Moana, a nonprofit education and conservation organization, to offer kids the free Moana Explorer program. Little ones (and parents, if they like) participate in daily naturalist-led activities and outings, from conducting water experiments to learning about underwater life through board games.



### VOLUNTEER VACATIONS

On **Crystal Cruises**, guests can help people, nature, and wildlife all over the world. Through the line's "You Care. We Care" initiatives, passengers can plant trees at a reserve in Iceland, learn how to rescue distressed dolphins in Barcelona, or choose another of some two dozen-plus projects.

### THE (POLAR) BEAR NECESSITIES

Sailing only to the Arctic and Antarctic, **Quark Expeditions** knows ice – and the animals who call it home. This year, the small-ship cruise line is supporting Polar Bears International, which works to protect the bears – classified as a threatened species since 2008 – and their fragile habitat. At the other end of the world, the South Georgia Heritage Trust has worked to eradicate invasive rodent populations, which decimate the island's native birds. During last year's sailing season, Quark contributed more than \$264,000 to these partner organizations, all raised through passenger auctions.



A predator worth protecting.

(HEART) VENUESTOCK/GETTY IMAGES





## BIGGER AND BETTER

It's the world's largest cruise ship, but **Royal Caribbean International's** behemoth *Symphony of the Seas* produces about 20 percent less CO<sub>2</sub> per person, per day than megaships built just a few years before. And efforts such as capturing AC condensation for laundry use, coupled with high-efficiency appliances, mean the line's passengers consume about half as much water per day as the average American.

(SAILS ILLUSTRATION) GETTY IMAGES

## RIVERS OF CHANGE

**AmaWaterways'** *Zambezi Queen*, which sails southern Africa's Chobe River, uses river water that's purified in an eight-step process for onboard showers, taps, and the pool; biodegradable cleaning products; solar-heated hot water; and a water-jet propeller system that doesn't disrupt the riverbed.

**Uniworld River Cruises** has partnered with ME to WE, the service-oriented travel arm of the WE Charity, which supports clean water initiatives around the world. Together, they've crafted a 12-day New Delhi-to-Kolkata journey that kicks off with four days of cultural immersion and service projects in rural Rajasthan, followed by eight days on the Ganges, sailing round-trip from Kolkata. *Departures: Multiple dates, October 8, 2019, through March 13, 2020; from \$6,999.*

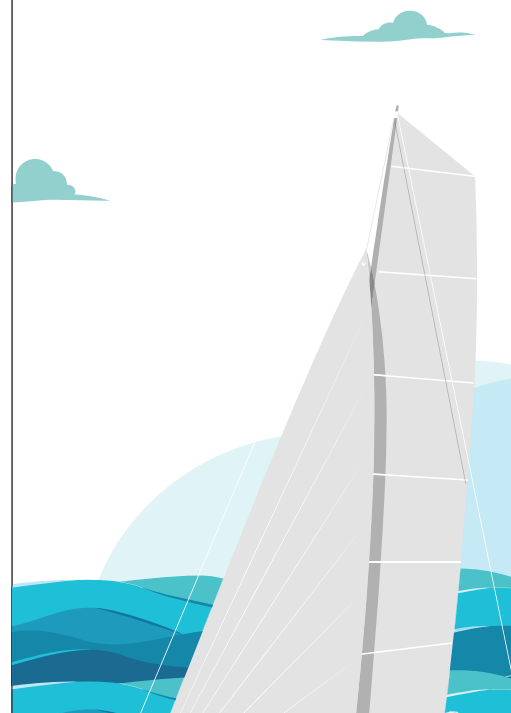
To give back to communities along the Mekong River, **Aqua Expeditions** works with Room to Read to fund schooling and literacy projects. In 2016, the cruise line raised more than \$10,000 to build a library at a primary school in Vietnam.



**SOME GOOD NEWS:** The Ocean Cleanup organization has launched a system to collect waste from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the world's largest accumulation of ocean plastic.

## SOLID SAILING

In addition to launching the first-ever hybrid-electric-powered icebreaker in 2021, **Ponant** is testing a Solid Sail system on its flagship *Le Ponant*. The sails, made of fiberglass, carbon, and epoxy-resin panels, are expected to significantly decrease fuel consumption.





# TROUBLESHOOTING IN PARADISE

Tropical outposts where conservation takes center stage.

## INDIAN OCEAN

The Maldives' **One&Only Reethi Rah** aims to be wholly plastic-free within two years – from food-service packaging to mixers at the bar. The resort has also forged a recycling partnership with nonprofit environmental organization Parley for the Oceans, which transforms plastic waste into technical textiles (companies such as Adidas use them to make shoes and sportswear). The goal of these efforts: to ensure the health of the Indian Ocean and a clean habitat for the 200 hawksbill turtles that live in the waters off the resort. *Doubles from \$2,020, including breakfast daily, an organic candle, and a Reethi Rah caftan.*

A hawksbill turtle swims off One&Only Reethi Rah.



## SOUTH PACIFIC

Biologists at the **Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort Fiji** led guests in planting 7,600 mangroves last year, and will add another 5,000 in 2019. The seedlings require about three years of care before they can live on their own. The dedicated team is also helping efforts to hatch and grow giant clams, and continuing to plant new coral. *From \$1,073, including breakfast daily and a 45-minute Lagilagi skin treatment for two.*

Fiji's thriving undersea universe.



## CARIBBEAN

After decades of gradual depletion, in 2016, local fishermen in Ocho Rios were confronting an estimated 600 percent decrease in fish populations, as well as an overall decrease in size (fish were harvested before they could mature). They turned to the **Jamaica Inn** and other local organizations for help, and last year saw the birth of the White River Fish Sanctuary, supported in part by the Jamaica Inn Foundation. The sanctuary's wardens monitor the area for overfishing, with a goal of increasing fish populations by 500 percent over five years. *Doubles from \$349, including breakfast daily and a boat ride for two to Dunn's River Falls.*

Progress in sight at Jamaica Inn.





# PLASTIC: NOT FANTASTIC



Give plastic bags the heave-ho.

According to the World Economic Forum, by 2050 plastic will outweigh fish in the oceans. Single-use plastics, such as bottles and bags, account for about half of all plastic produced. Here, a few of the many travel companies saying no to single-use plastic. **Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts** and **Edition Hotels** will remove single-use plastics this year; the **Oetker Collection** already has. **Anantara** has removed plastic straws at all of its 39 properties, stocked guest rooms with bamboo toothbrushes, and replaced miniature bath products with refillable ceramic pumps. Straws will soon be goners at **Marriott's** 6,500 properties, as well as at **Hyatt's** 700 locations, and they're already out at **Four Seasons'** 111 properties. On the seas, **Hurtigruten** and **Lindblad Expeditions** are free

of single-use plastics, and **Uniworld** will follow by 2022. **Norwegian Cruise Line**, **Oceania**, and **Regent Seven Seas Cruises** have removed plastic straws from their fleets.

Some top travel destinations themselves have made changes: **Seattle** banned plastic bags in 2012 and straws in restaurants last year. **Washington, D.C.**, will implement a similar straw regulation this year, and **California** has passed a partial ban. Around the world, dozens of countries, including **China**, **Chile**, **Kenya**, and **New Zealand**, have enacted full or partial plastic bag bans; **Rwanda**, cited as Africa's cleanest country, has had a strict ban on the bags and other single-use plastics since 2008. And when you take to the skies to get to your destination, don't expect plastic straws on **American**, **United**, or **Delta**.



## DRESS WELL, DO RIGHT

The fashion industry makes sustainable waves.

### FASHION'S FUTURE

Recycled thread, including cashmere, nylon, and cotton, and sustainable fibers, such as Tencel, make up all of **Reformation**'s sleek pieces. The company's offset programs also have big impacts: In one quarter, they protected 1,000 acres of Amazon rain forest and contributed 27 million gallons of water to parched regions of California. *August dress*, \$118, [thereformation.com](http://thereformation.com).



### SEA CHANGE

**Outerknown**, founded by 11-time world surfing champion and environmental activist Kelly Slater, built marine health into its business model. The brand incorporates recycled materials and low-water-usage manufacturing into its processes. It's S.E.A. T-shirts, for instance, are made using 90 percent less water than conventional tees. *S.E.A. pocket T-shirts*, \$38, [outerknown.com](http://outerknown.com).

### SUITED FOR GOOD

Discarded fishing nets make up about ten percent of the ocean's garbage. Some of this maritime menace finds redemption in **Galamaar**'s chic swimsuits, made with 78 percent recycled net nylon. *Simone high-waist two-piece*, \$284, [galamaar.com](http://galamaar.com).



### THE TRAILBLAZER DIVES IN

Longtime environmental heavyweight **Patagonia** designs surf and swim gear, including wetsuits utilizing rain-forest-friendly Yulex natural rubber material and UPF 50+ rash guards made with 83 percent recycled polyester. *Women's Micro Swell rash guard*, \$99, [patagonia.com](http://patagonia.com).

### CLEANUP CREW

For every purchase made, **United by Blue** removes one pound of trash from the world's waterways – in 2018, this added up to more than 250 tons. *Organic cotton Mt. Drew duffle*, \$228, [unitedbyblue.com](http://unitedbyblue.com).





## BOTTLING GOOD DEEDS

Refillables that give back – and reduce waste.

**THE GOODS:** Love Bottle's U.S.-made glass vessels have no plastic elements. From \$25, [lovebottle.com](http://lovebottle.com).

**THE CAUSE:** In 2019, five percent of profits will be donated to the charity: water organization, dedicated to bringing clean water to developing communities worldwide.



**THE GOODS:** Que's collapsible, unbreakable silicone bottles. From \$20, [quebottle.com](http://quebottle.com).

**THE CAUSE:** Ten percent of profits are donated to the Rainforest Trust and proceeds from certain bottles to organizations such as the Coral Reef Alliance and The Ocean Foundation.



**THE GOODS:** Soma's shatter-resistant glass bottles with colorful silicone grips and bamboo lids. \$30, [drink.soma.com](http://drink.soma.com).

**THE CAUSE:** Donates a portion of proceeds to charity: water.





## CLOSE TO HOME, CLOSE TO HEART

Stateside sustainability in action.

### GEORGIA ON THE WING

A host of factors are putting increasing pressure on shorebirds, including climate change in their Arctic breeding grounds and habitat loss worldwide (they make globe-spanning migrations). The Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative aims to protect birds in the southeastern U.S. – stewards on public beaches educate visitors on bird-friendly practices, and hotels are helping too. In Georgia, naturalists for **Sea Island Resort's The Lodge** and **The Cloister** offer birding tours and educational opportunities to guests. (*The Lodge from \$449, The Cloister from \$499, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*) Two hours north of Sea Island, guests can tee off at Hilton Head Island's **Inn & Club at Harbour Town at Sea Pines Resort**, whose three Lowcountry golf courses are certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries. (*Doubles from \$309, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*)



Oystercatchers take flight on Sea Island.



Offshore pursuits at Terranea.

### CALIFORNIA CARETAKING

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A photograph of a grizzly bear's back and head, seen from behind, as it stands in a dense, lush green forest. The bear's fur is thick and brown, with some lighter, tan-colored hair on its back. The forest is filled with various green plants, including large-leafed ferns and clusters of small white flowers. The word "GRIZZLYLAND" is written in a large, white, serif font across the upper middle of the image.

# GRIZZLYLAND

In with the locals of  
Katmai National Park.





An expedition cruise  
through Katmai  
National Park proves  
one of the wildest  
rides in Alaska.

**BY AARON GULLEY**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
JEN JUDGE





THE BEAR SEES ME –  
I'M SITTING ON A  
PLASTIC BUCKET IN A  
WIDE-OPEN TIDAL FLAT  
IN THE WILDS OF  
ALASKA. WHERE  
THERE'S ABOUT AS MUCH  
COVER AS IN A KANSAS  
WHEAT FIELD – YET HE  
SAUNTERS PAST.

expedition along the banks of Katmai National Park & Preserve, a wilderness reserve a little larger than Connecticut at the head of the Alaska Peninsula. With black-sand beaches, glacial bays, great swathes of spongy tundra and old-growth forest, and a barb of volcanoes, Katmai would be worth visiting simply for its feral landscape. But what brings most people here, what's brought me here, is the chance for close encounters with one of the world's keystone predators: the North American brown bear – or, in everyday parlance, the grizzly. (While the names are used virtually interchangeably, animals referred to as brown bears are actually bigger and coastal, while their smaller, grizzly counterparts are found farther inland.)

Traveling aboard the *Ursus*, a 73-foot Bering Sea crabbing vessel converted into a floating hotel, our group of eight will fill days tracking and observing these fearsome creatures, as well as the region's other megafauna, including gray wolves, sea lions, harbor seals, and a spray of bird species, from bald and golden eagles to puffins. "This trip isn't for everyone," says Virtuoso travel advisor Tammy Jones-Deem of Tyler, Texas. "But for the adventurous looking for a wilder, unboxed Alaska experience, it's the trip of a lifetime, like nothing I've ever experienced in my 34 years in this industry." Consider it North America's version of the safari, but even more exclusive than the African variety, by virtue of the remote, often savage setting.

For Brad, who's been studying Alaskan brown bears for two decades, the trip is

A BROWN BEAR THE SIZE OF A SMART car strides past me, 15 yards from my quivering knees, and I hold my breath as if I'm hiding from a burglar. The bear sees me – I'm sitting on a plastic bucket in a wide-open tidal flat in the wilds of Alaska, where there's about as much cover as in a Kansas wheat field – yet he saunters past. Then, when he's about two parking-space lengths to my right, he rears up on his hind legs, and I very nearly lose control of my bladder. One of the planet's fiercest predators towers a story over me.

"Don't worry," expedition leader and grizzly researcher Brad Josephs whispers in my ear. "Standing up is just a sign of curiosity." I imagine that the bear is probably most curious about what flavor I am.

The encounter is a heady introduction to Natural Habitat Adventures' weeklong



about more than just wildlife voyeurism. Of the eight species of bears worldwide, six are listed as vulnerable or endangered, including brown bears. “My mission in life is to show the world how amazingly cool bears are,” he says. “Grizzlies are not the terrible, human-hating killers that everyone makes them out to be.”

Squatting a few yards from a thousand-pound opportunivore that could eviscerate me as easily as squeezing a pimento from an olive, I silently pray that Brad is right. As it turns out, the bear has stood for a better glimpse of another grizzly strutting into the area. He drops back to all fours and strides off across the creek behind us; after some stalking and posturing, the two boars (males), now several hundred yards away, face off in an explosion of swinging paws and claws, snapping canines, and gravelly roars. Our bear relents before a full-blown fight develops,

and quiet again descends on the tidal flat. Brad read the situation right: We were in no danger. But, from my front-row perspective on this boxing match, I still feel like grizzlies are less “amazingly cool” than flat-out terrifying.

THOUGH THE IDEA OF lounging in a field of grizzly bears might seem about as tempting as hosting a dinner party for Charles Manson and family, from the moment the blaze-orange, eight-passenger de Havilland Beaver floatplane lifts off from Chiniak Bay for the two-hour buzz over Kodiak Island to Kukak Bay, dead center on Katmai National Park’s 500-mile-long eastern coastline, I’m completely won over by the trip. Other than in Siberia, I’ve never seen so much roadless country: defiant summits swathed in blinding glaciers that tumble down to carpets of spruce and willow – and not a man-made structure on the horizon. This feels like God’s country, the American West as it was two centuries ago in the Lower 48. Its magnitude is humbling, and it’s sobering to think that the entire continent once looked like this. Then the *Ursus* appears, a speck on the vast wilderness below us.

“People look around and think, ‘This is the Alaska I’ve always dreamt of. Why are we the only boat here?’” Brad says on the skiff ride from plane to ship. “This place isn’t friendly to visitors. We get to be here because we have the right vessel, we’ve been doing it a long time, and we’re good at it.”

The *Ursus* is a low, squat fortress of a home base that’s built to withstand Armageddon, yet its four staterooms, each with two bunks, are warm and cozy, if simple. It takes only four crew members to run the



**Clockwise from top left: Mom sizes up the group while her cubs play, a calm ride back to the *Ursus*, and a bald eagle takes flight.**



## TIP

“Don’t leave your iPhone behind on *Ursus* – while there’s no phone or internet service, it takes great video! I left mine on the boat the first day and quickly realized my mistake. Though I had my trusty Canon for still shots, there’s nothing cuter than watching bear cubs play together!”

– Lynann Mullis, Virtuoso travel advisor, Amelia Island, Florida

ship: the captain, a Natural Habitat naturalist, a boatman to drive the skiff, and a cook. Other than the bears, the food is the expedition’s highlight, with unlikely delicacies such as house-cured salmon, fresh fried chicken one evening, and leafy salads topped with seared scallops. When we aren’t sitting in a field watching wildlife, which is the majority of our waking hours, we’re gorging ourselves around the galley’s collective dining table, which gives the trip a familial, homey feeling.





Clockwise from top left:  
Bear researcher and guide  
Brad Josephs, a day in the  
field, the *Ursus*, the expedi-  
tion's position, testing  
the waters, and a hearty  
meal on deck.





Though the clouds sit like an iron girder over the ocean and this first day is murky with cold rain, after a quick lunch we're out in the wilderness. Walking – and surviving – in the Alaskan bush is about rules. Our group must always move single file, with no loud noises and no loitering. Brad goes first, then the group, then our assistant guide, Teresa Whipple, who's new to this trip but has a decade of experience studying brown bears in British Columbia.

Brad talks continuously as we move – “Hey, bear! Coming through, bear!” – to preempt startling animals in the head-high grass through which we push. Neither he nor Teresa wears firearms. Instead, they rely on flares, which, according to Brad, have turned back the few animals that have ever charged him. We carry five-gallon buckets that serve as chairs once we find an open spot. Taking a seat is one of the cardinal rules of watching bears, because the animals perceive sitting as a sign of deference. Once we're situated in a row, Brad crouches behind us and whispers his interpretation of the bears' interactions. He tells wild stories about close encounters with the animals – like the time he was out alone at some waterfalls during the salmon run and had to convey a relaxed demeanor in the face of a charging sow to preserve his life – that belie a shocking familiarity and ease with grizzlies.

If rubbing shoulders with predators six times your size for fun sounds a little Wyoming cowboy, it's worth noting that Brad comes from a solid background of grizzly research and knowledge. After earning a wildlife biology degree at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, he trained under Larry Aumiller, who, in the 1980s, pioneered the idea of getting up close and personal with grizzlies at McNeil River Game Sanctuary, on Katmai's northern brink. Aumiller advanced the idea that bears are wiser creatures than we give them credit for,



Sunset in Katmai National Park.

CONSIDER IT NORTH  
AMERICA'S VERSION  
OF THE SAFARI. BUT  
EVEN MORE EXCLUSIVE  
THAN THE AFRICAN  
VARIETY. BY VIRTUE  
OF THE REMOTE, OFTEN  
SAVAGE SETTING.

and that they'll treat you with respect if you gain theirs. He brought tourists up close to the creatures for three decades and never had a bad encounter. Brad has followed suit. “What I want to show you guys,” he says, “is this is how bears act when you respect them.”

Being here, this near to grizzlies, it's impossible to disregard the 2003 story of Timothy Treadwell, the so-called Grizzly Man, who was devoured by a brown bear just up the coast in Katmai National Park, after spending 13 years studying the animals. “I really admired him, but he took it too far,” Brad says of Treadwell. “He started

believing he was friends with the bears. It's about mutual respect, but at the end of the day, they're bears. You never completely trust them.”

DAY AFTER DAY UNFOLDS IN THE SLOW, slightly nervous pattern of spending hours among the grizzlies. On our final shore expedition, we land at Hallo Bay, ringed on one side by a fence of black volcanoes. We crest a ridge of waist-high grasses, and a massive valley, lush and threaded with creeks, drops away. I pick out at least 15 brown bears.

It would be easy to think of this as a high-adrenaline adventure, and there are definitely pulse-quickenings moments: one ghostly, scarred bear stalks a mother and her cubs; two curious cubs nose too close to our group, forcing Brad to talk in a stern voice to defuse their mother's aggression. But the majority of the trip is spent peacefully among the grizzlies, almost like sitting in a meadow of cattle. While these animals would tear into a side of beef like a Texan on



a two-pound rib eye, mostly they just graze around eating grasslike sedges and barnacles from the underside of rocks. Meanwhile, we watch and fade into the landscape.

“There’s a certain feeling when you walk into grizzly country,” Brad says. “It’s electric, true wilderness.” Grizzlies symbolize a world that’s unknown, still magic and alive.

When we landed at Hallo Bay that morning, the sky was slate gray with an ice-white sun trying to burn through, the water mirror flat. Now, the captain radios from the ship to say that the swell is rising. By the time we climb back over the knoll, the bay has turned to a curdle of seething whitecaps, and the skiff is tossing on the wind like a plastic bag. With the tide falling, we must wade through waist-deep ocean to reach it, a spray of rain and salt water pelting us. Once everyone is aboard, the landing craft pivots to motor to the *Ursus*, giving us one last look at the land, obscured by cloud and rain. Amid bleached-white driftwood scattered on the charcoal sand like bones, a lone brown bear, dark and brooding, ambles down the beach, where, moments ago, we stood.



Ready for takeoff on Kodiak Island.

## BIG COUNTRY

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**Natural Habitat Adventures** tailors eight-day grizzly adventures to avid naturalists and photographers with cruises on the eight-passenger *Ursus*. In addition to up-close interpretation of animal behavior, guides offer tips for capturing winning wildlife and landscape photos. *Departures: Multiple dates, June 17 through September 7; from \$8,895.*

Travelers can explore the Bering Strait aboard **Lindblad Expeditions'** 102-passenger *National*

*Geographic Orion* on a 13-day, high-Arctic adventure from Nome to Seward. Along with a day in Katmai, one stand-out of the trip is visiting the remote Pribilof Islands, home to the world's largest northern fur seal rookery, as well as 3 million seabirds, including puffins, kittiwakes, and red-faced cormorants. *Departures: July 9, 2019, and July 5, 2020; from \$16,330.*

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national parks on **Zegrahm Expeditions'** 15-day traverse of the state from Anchorage to Fairbanks. The small-group tour includes spying sea lions and harbor seals by boat in Kenai Fjords, a day of bear-watching in Katmai, a glacier walk in Wrangell-Saint Elias, and a bush-plane flight over Denali. *Departures: July 14 and 28, 2020; from \$17,980.*

**All Alaska Tours** partners with Virtuoso advisors on numerous

bear-viewing expeditions, such as six days at the Kodiak Brown Bear Center getting close to Kodiak bears, the biggest and fiercest of the grizzly subspecies. Travelers, based out of private cabins in the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, choose from twice-daily activities, such as bear viewing, salmon fishing, and sea kayaking. *Departures: Any day, July 14 through October 2; from \$5,689.*

Virtuoso travel advisors work with **Entrée Alaska**

to plan adventures throughout the state, such as a six-day trip that features a bush-plane flight for three nights at **Winterlake Lodge**, where there's fishing for arctic grayling and a helicopter-and-dog-mushing tour on nearby glaciers, followed by two nights at a lodge on Redoubt Bay, with front-door viewing of brown bears that come to feed on salmon. *Departures: Any day, June 10 through September 1; from \$10,060. VI.*





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Horizontal Falls, the Kimberley



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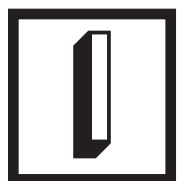
Amanera surf instructor  
Robinson Liriano at the resort.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
LUIS GARCÍA



# THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S FAMILY-FRIENDLY NORTH COAST DELIVERS SURPRISES ON EVERY SHORE.

BY MICHAEL BEHAR



**I**T'S A SWELTERING AUGUST AFTERNOON IN THE DOMINICAN Republic when I find myself scouring the jungle for passion fruit, or *chinola*, with my fit, young Dominican guide, Raul Custodio. We're hiking at a brisk pace in air so humid it feels like syrup, and by the time we reach a broad ridge that pokes above the forest, our clothes are a sopping mess. "No *chinola* here," he declares. "Let's keep going. I know another spot."

When I asked if we could look for it before our hike, Raul happily obliged. But he also warned me that our mission to locate the succulent fruit – with its tart flesh and tiny edible seeds that crunch like Pop Rocks – might not be easy. It's elusive, he explained, with stealthy vines that snake high into an unreachable canopy. If we're

fortunate, a few might drop at our feet from above. More likely, we'll have to hunt for fallen fruit scattered in the thick undergrowth.

The Dominican Republic is situated on Hispaniola, the second-largest island in the Caribbean (after Cuba), and borders Haiti. I've returned to explore its north coast with my wife, Ashley; our 3-year-old daughter, Sasha; and our 8-year-old son, Simon. It's our seventh trip here as a family, and it never disappoints – in part because the roughly 175-mile coastline, spanning the easternmost Samaná Peninsula to the Haitian border, seems to reinvent itself with every visit. In 2014, Puerto Plata's international airport underwent major renovations to accommodate more wide-body jets. The following year, a state-of-the-art cruise terminal opened – the first on the north coast – along with Amanera, one of only two Aman properties in the





**Amanera enticements (clockwise from top left): The resort's beginner-friendly break, pool, Playa Grande, and Dominican martini (dark rum, orange and lemon juice, passion fruit, and egg white).**



Caribbean. An explosion of new restaurants, hotels, and adventure outfitters has pushed tourism steadily higher each year, with visitors topping a record 6.5 million in 2018.

The DR is really two locales, each with its own distinctive pace and temperament. Travelers have long vacationed along its better-known southern coast, known for high-end, all-inclusive resorts that provide a more familiar, calculated experience. The north is different, with a focus on boutique, low-rise hotels and independent travel. “When you’re on the north coast, you have to mix with the locals – in the bars, in restaurants, in the towns,” says Laura Asilis, a Virtuoso travel agency president based in Santo Domingo, the Dominican capital. “People looking for that shouldn’t go to Punta Cana or Casa de Campo in the south, which is more like Cancún. They won’t experience our amazing culture.”

The two-hour drive from bustling Puerto Plata to Amanera takes us along the once death-defying Highway 5, now safer thanks to recent repaving and widening projects. The landscape transforms gradually as you proceed east, from sunbaked grasslands to the undulating jade-green hills that encompass the resort, where we arrive midday. Architect John Heah cleverly designed its Balinese-style teak-and-glass casitas to blend seamlessly into their 2,000-acre



A vendor on Playa Cabarete and (below) wild passion fruit in the jungle.

THE SEA TEMPERATURE HOVERS AT A SPALIKE 88 DEGREES, AND THE WATER IS SO SPARKLING AND TRANSPARENT, YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE SWIMMING IN LIQUID DIAMONDS.



environs. From our veranda, we overlook our private 60-foot-long infinity pool and, beyond that, Playa Grande, a mile-long beach we have practically to ourselves throughout our stay.

While Ashley decamps to the wellness center for a Thai massage, and Simon and Sasha make pottery in the indigenous Taino style with the children’s program director, I meet Raul in the lobby for our hike, which begins with a 30-minute scramble up steep switchbacks through cacao and moringa trees, the latter harvested for its anticancer compounds. A frigate bird soars overhead, exploiting the afternoon breeze and its four-foot wingspan to glide effortlessly. “Yes! Yes! Yes!” Raul exclaims, spotting bright-yellow passion fruit on the jungle floor. I manage to retrieve nine of them – a veritable bounty – but whether they’re edible is another story: It’s hard to judge the fruits’ ripeness by skin color alone; each is a game of chance until you dig into it. (They’re all superb, confirm Sasha and Simon, who later devour them with sticky smiles.)

**FORAGING FOR CHINOLA IS AN APT METAPHOR FOR TRAVELING THE DOMINICAN** Republic’s north coast: It’s not always obvious how or where you’ll be rewarded. Ashley and I first came in 2009, not long after we learned to kitesurf. We’d heard stories about the wind. But we were amazed





**La Dolce Vita's langostinos with garlic butter, in Las Terrenas.**

on that inaugural trip to witness it blowing strongly and steadily every day, from midafternoon to dusk throughout the summer months, when the potent sun creates a thermal effect that accelerates the trade winds.

In 1984, a French Canadian windsurfer named Jean Laporte visited a quiet village here called Cabarete and immediately realized its potential for the sport. Since then, Cabarete's population has soared from 2,000 to 17,000 residents, and it's become known as "the adventure capital of the Caribbean." Dining has come a long way too: Restaurants serving fresh-caught langostino, dorado, and other seafood have superseded roadside chicken shacks and scuzzy pizza joints. Meanwhile, kiteboarding's popularity has eclipsed windsurfing on the town's mile-wide bay, with as many as several hundred "kitters" on the water on any given afternoon.

Thankfully, it's not always windy. Mornings are calm and the ocean placid, providing what some claim is the Caribbean's best surfing. At Amanera, Simon and I take a two-hour lesson with instructors who walk us halfway up Playa Grande to an inviting break, where we stand comfortably on the sandy bottom. In the shallow water, about 100 yards from shore, we wait for the perfect wave.

Simon pops up on his first attempt, standing confidently all the way to the beach. Then he does it again and again. "¿Cuántos años tiene? ¿Cuántos años tiene?" one instructor asks me, howling with delight. He's flabbergasted that a third-grader – a marginal swimmer from landlocked Boulder, Colorado – could take to surfing so readily.

But that's the thing about the north coast: Conditions are rarely intimidating. With its gentle waves and steady breezes, even rookie

## BEACH EATS

### ● The Beach Club at Sea Horse Ranch

stands out among north coast restaurants for its rotunda, built on lava rock above the crashing surf, and specialties such as spicy shrimp ceviche, served Dominican-style with coconut milk, fresh chilies, and sweet-potato chips. *Sosúa.*

● French owner and chef Ed Coll opened **Otra Cosa** in 1998 as one of the north coast's first fine-dining restaurants and has garnered high praise ever since. Go for Cabarete's best sunset view and the duck with morel and cognac sauce. *Calle del Cementerio, Cabarete.*

● **Yalla's** inexpensive but magnificent tapas menu is scribbled on a chalkboard and based on what's fresh that particular day. Dine with a large group, order everything, and your tab won't exceed \$150. *Cabarete.*

● The ongoing debate about whether beachfront **La Casita de Papi** serves the best seafood around is irrelevant: Anywhere

you can dine barefoot with your toes in the sand is worth a visit. Order shrimp or langostino "à la Papi" – monster portions of the seafood in a garlic cream sauce, simmered with a secret spice mixture. *5 Cabarete.*

● **Vagamundo Coffee & Waffles'** popular pick-me-up is the nitro cold brew, which pairs nicely with its "Uluwatu" waffle, heaped with ricotta, passion fruit, and fresh mint. *Carretera Principal, Cabarete.*

● Cocktails are the big lure at **Mojito Bar**. During its extended happy hour (4 to 8 PM), the stiff namesakes are two for one. Even better is the *chinola* daiquiri. *Playa Cabarete.*

● Chef Andrea Peano blends traditional Italian with Thai, Greek, and Dominican cuisines at **Bliss**, where all the pastas are home-made and the candle-lit tables surround a kidney-shaped swimming pool (yes, you can take a dip midmeal). *Callejon de la Loma, Cabarete.*







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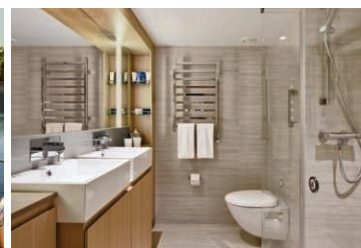
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Adventure-ready in Cabarete: A Laurel Eastman kiteboarding instructor, catching the breeze on the bay, and a scuba group heading out.

## TIP

"Make sure to visit the Mariposa ice cream parlor in Puerto Plata – set in a colonial Victorian house, it's known for local flavors such as *uva de playa* [sea grape]."

– Jaime Leon, Virtuoso agency co-owner, Santo Domingo



ocean-goers can enjoy surfing, kiteboarding, sea kayaking, snorkeling, or stand-up paddleboarding. The sea temperature hovers at a spalike 88 degrees, and the water is so sparkling and transparent, you might as well be swimming in liquid diamonds. Before today, I had never surfed. Nor had Simon. Now we're both eager to get back in the waves.

**AFTER A FEW DAYS AT AMANERA, WE RELOCATE TO CABARETE TO BE CLOSER TO** the kiteboarding action and dedicate mornings to activities best done before the wind ramps up, such as honing board skills at Playa Encuentro's beginner surf break. One day, we take a skiff to snorkel in Tres Rocas marine preserve a quarter mile offshore in Sosúa Bay. Sasha wouldn't dare dip her head underwater in our community pool at home. Now she dons a mask, snorkel, and life vest to join her

brother in the big blue, plunging from the stern into a living aquarium of queen angels, French grunts, spotted drums, and banded butterflies that school around them.

I'm up one morning to stand-up paddleboard with Simon, who sits cross-legged on the nose and wears swim goggles, dunking his head every few minutes to scan for marine life. It's 10 AM, and there's still not a soul on the bay. After a 30-minute paddle out to a reef, Simon reports, "No fish yet, Dad. Just lots of sand and coral."

It's this same reef that protected the region from Hurricane Maria's high surf and devastating storm surge, which leveled Puerto Rico in 2017. While heavy rains caused severe flooding in parts of the Dominican Republic, the north coast was largely spared. But be forewarned, it's still a developing country – you can't drink the tap water, power outages are common, armed guards police the ATMs, and corruption is endemic. Yet Asilis urges travelers to venture around



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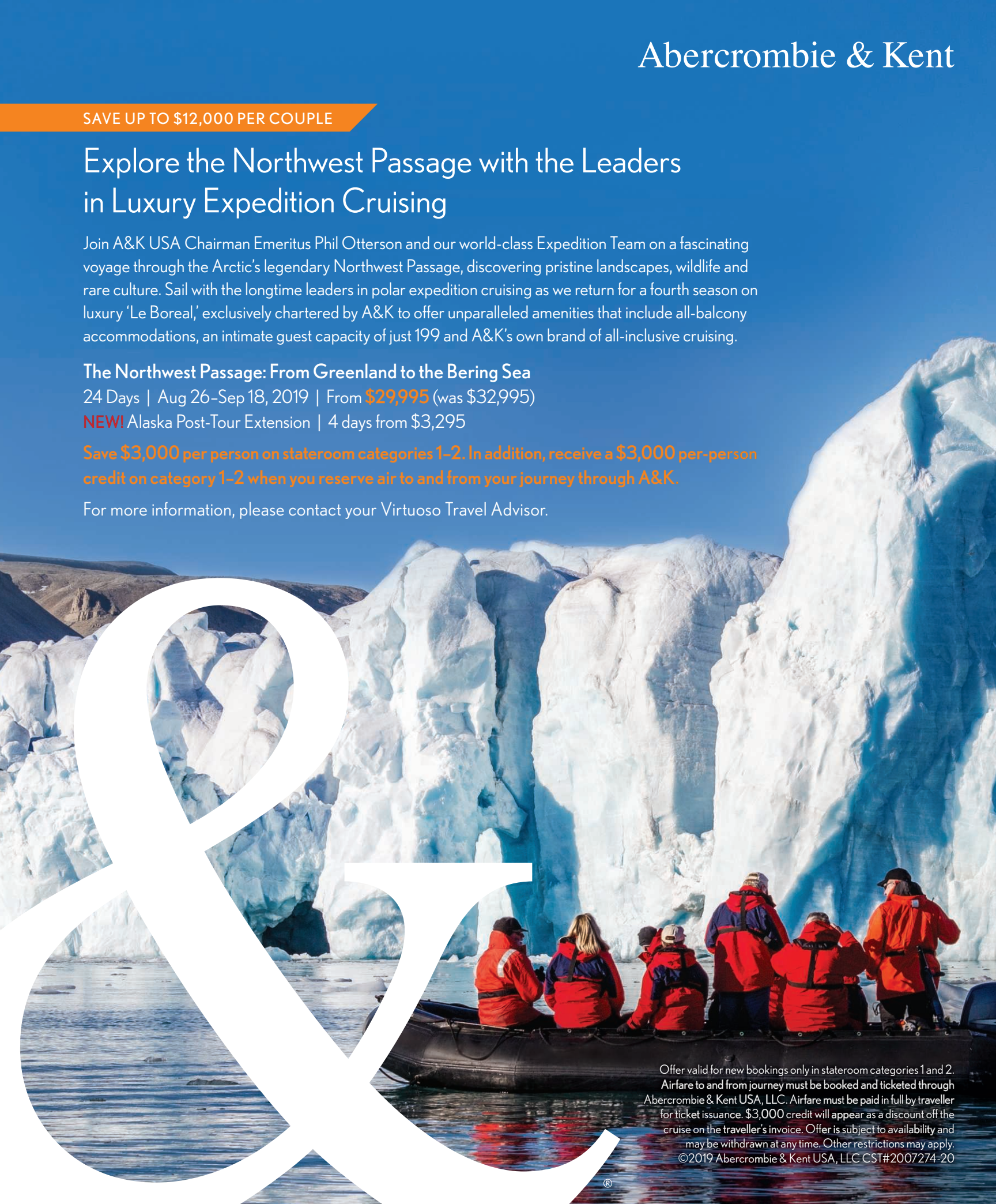
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her homeland. “When people tell me they’ve spent the whole week at their resort, I tell them, ‘You didn’t go to the Dominican Republic.’”

The nice thing about the north coast in particular is that travelers don’t have to choose between cloistered luxury and seat-of-the-pants adventure travel; you can dabble comfortably in both worlds. Indeed, throughout our days we routinely interact with Dominicans, whose easygoing demeanor is both contagious and restorative. As a bonus, Dominicans adore children. When my kids get restless at a beachfront restaurant, a waiter takes charge, coaxing them onto the sand to play tag so my wife and I can enjoy dinner leisurely.

One day, we drive east to the Samaná Peninsula with no set plans. Our effort pays off when we stop to ask for directions from a local woman, who directs us to Playa El Portillo, arguably the most kid-friendly beach in the north, with chalk-white sand and an outer reef that forms a protected lagoon. It’s a natural wading pool, ideal for children to frolic in the shallows. After a full afternoon of swimming and snorkeling, we decide last minute to spend the night in nearby Las Terrenas, a seaside resort town that’s “still a virgin part of the island,” according to Asilis.

An evening stroll down the waterfront esplanade brings us to La Dolce Vita for dinner. Its langostino, steeped in garlic butter, is the best I’ve had in the country. As the restaurant fills up, the bartender switches deftly between mixing pineapple daiquiris and manning the wood-fired grill, where a cornucopia of seafood sizzles with a smoky haze. It’s a snapshot of the region’s wild and dynamic personality – a place primed for discoveries, even after repeated visits, where you should embrace spontaneity. Because not always knowing where to look for your next adventure often reveals its sweetest fruits.



From top: Casa Colonial and its pool view of Playa Dorada.



## NORTH COAST KNOWLEDGE

DISCOVER THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC’S WILDER SIDE.

**WHEN TO GO** June through August is the hottest, windiest season, with breezes kicking up every afternoon. Cooler temperatures and lower humidity make winter months more popular, but you may get wet: Most rain falls between November and March.

**STAY** Tucked into the jungle above a remote beach, **Amanera**’s 25 private casitas make it feel like you’re the only guest at the resort. Last November, the property

opened a golf course, with ten of its 18 holes on a 100-foot-high bluff directly above the ocean. *Doubles from \$1,750, including breakfast daily and lunch once during stay.*

**Casa Colonial Beach & Spa** sits on a quiet bay on the outskirts of Puerto Plata, the north coast’s largest city. Its 50 suites are steps from Playa Dorada’s tranquil shallows, but for many the big draw is Bagua Spa’s

indigenous treatments, such as the amber, royal jelly, and honey wrap. *Doubles from \$250, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

Beachfront Villa Seabreeze is one of six **Luxury Retreats** homes placing travelers a ten-minute drive from both Cabarete and Sosúa. The four-bedroom, four-bath villa features a private pool, an alfresco dining area and formal dining room for ten,

and daily housekeeping. *From \$2,500 per night.*

**CRUISE** Set sail for the north coast on **Holland America Line**’s 2,106-passenger *Nieuw Amsterdam*. The ship calls at the DR’s Amber Cove cruise terminal during its seven-day sailing round-trip from Fort Lauderdale, with stops in the Bahamas, Grand Turk, and Key West. *Departures: Multiple dates, October 26, 2019, through March 28, 2020; from \$749. VI.*





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# CATCHING UP WITH THE CREW

They steer the ship, explore uncharted territory, plan elaborate wedding proposals – and can hook you up with those extra Hermès amenities. It takes a village to make every port call, matinee performance, and dessert service a success. Here, cruise-line staff members from across the globe share the secrets of their jobs, their favorite itineraries, and how the magic happens. **BY ADAM ERACE**

## ▶ OLIVER CRUZ, CUNARD

THE PET WHISPERER

### TITLE:

Kennel master

### HAILS FROM:

Silang, Philippines

### AGE:

38

### YEARS WITH CUNARD:

7

### FAVORITE PORT OF CALL:

Geiranger, Norway

### FAVORITE ITINERARY:

Transatlantic crossing

As the only passenger cruise line that allows dogs and cats on board, Cunard places the well-being of pets sailing on the *Queen Mary 2* in the hands of Cruz, a former zoo trainer who's been known to sing a few sea-skittish pups to sleep.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ULI KNÖRZER



Clockwise from left: The *Queen Mary 2*, Cruz, a pup at sea, and the ship's pool deck.



**Cunard has had quite the history transporting animals.**

Yes, from the early days of the *Britannia* in 1840, when the ship sailed with a cow to provide milk for passengers, to more glamorous times when our ocean liners transported Thoroughbred racehorses and celebrity pets, such as Elizabeth Taylor's and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's dogs. In fact, it was the Duke of Windsor's suggestion that pets receive special accommodations and offerings to make their travels comfortable.

**How do you treat pets on the QM2?** Pets receive a complimentary portrait with their human companion, a special sailing certificate, treats made by Cunard's executive chef, and food daily if the owner doesn't want to provide their own. We also partner with British sportswear brand Barbour to offer pet accessories such as collars and leashes so they can be as glamorous as their owners while on board.

**What do you do when dogs get anxious at sea?** For the ones that need extra love and attention, I have a lullaby I sing to them at night. I know how important these animals are to their owners, and I take great pride in ensuring that they're well cared for.

**So where are they supposed to ... you know?** We have a large outdoor area for walking and playing.

**GO:** Cunard's eight-day transatlantic crossing on the 2,691-passenger *Queen Mary 2* sails eastbound and westbound between London and New York City. *Departures: Multiple dates, April 14, 2019, through December 8, 2020; from \$699.*

THE TRAILBLAZER

## BELINDA BENNETT, WINDSTAR CRUISES

**TITLE:**

Captain

**HAILS FROM:**

Saint Helena

**AGE:**

42

**YEARS WITH WINDSTAR:**

14

**FAVORITE PORT OF CALL:**

My home island

**FAVORITE ITINERARY:**

Venice and the Dalmatian Coast



It's not surprising that Bennett, who grew up on the remote South Atlantic island of Saint Helena, chose a career on the ocean – one that's led her to become the first woman of color to captain a commercial cruise ship, Windstar Cruises' *Wind Star*.

**Did growing up on a small island make you want to**

**explore the world?** I practically grew up in the water. My first job in the industry was on the ship that supported our island, the *RMS St Helena*. I knew there was a very big world outside my 47 square miles in the middle of the Atlantic, which made me want to explore.

**You shattered the glass ceiling as the first black female cruise-ship captain. What's your philosophy on racism and sexism in the industry?**

I've always looked at it – and still look at it – as, I don't have an issue, they do. I know who I am and what I do; if the race or sex of a person is an issue for someone, they need to get over it.

**Any new ports of call for Windstar this year that you're**

**especially excited about?**

I'm looking forward to taking an Alaskan cruise this summer – as a passenger!

**Favorite souvenirs from your travels?**

I have an addiction to Italian leather handbags, especially from Sorrento. I can't stop there without buying one, a tradition that started many years ago when I was chief officer and found a small, family-run shop. I have a collection of colors and styles I rotate. The hike up to the town and back is rewarding, and a beautiful leather handbag is the icing on the cake.

**GO:** Vacation in the Greek Isles on Windstar's 148-passenger *Wind Star* during a seven-day, round-trip-from-Athens sailing. *Departures: Multiple dates, May 5, 2019, through October 4, 2020; from \$5,099.*

Clockwise from top left: Bennett, Croatia's Dalmatian Coast, and the *Wind Star*.



## ➤ ANNIKA ERASMUS, VIKING OCEAN CRUISES

THE SWEET TOOTH

### TITLE:

Pastry sous chef

### HAILS FROM:

Pretoria, South Africa

### AGE:

27

### YEARS WITH VIKING:

3

### FAVORITE PORT OF CALL:

Monte-Carlo

### FAVORITE ITINERARY:

Stockholm to Bergen

**Clockwise from top left:** Erasmus, the *Viking Sun*, and dessert in the *Sun*'s Mamsen's restaurant.



From frosting carrot cakes to torching crème brûlée, Erasmus will be making sweets for *Viking Sun*'s ten dining options during Viking's new 245-day world cruise, which sets sail from London later this summer.

### **How will you keep the sweets selection interesting on a 245-day cruise?**

We have a 14-day menu cycle in The Restaurant and the World Café, and tailor desserts to where the ship is located. This is the most exciting part of my job, because I get to make desserts from different cultures and learn more about specific regions: key lime pie in Key West, for example, or a classic pavlova in New Zealand.

### **Ever make any special treats for the holidays?**

On Valentine's Day, we created a lovely white-chocolate-and-berry-mousse tart; on Christmas, the tastiest bûche de Noël; and on Thanksgiving, the best pumpkin pie you could ever have.

### **The dessert worth the splurge?**

My favorite dessert to make is a mascarpone mousse with a passion-fruit curd center and a chocolate praline base, covered with a passion-fruit glaze. It's served in The Chef's Table.

**Your favorite experience with Viking?** Witnessing the northern lights in Norway: I love the nature and the feeling of peacefulness and calmness it elicits.

**GO:** Board the 930-passenger *Viking Sun* and visit Scandinavia; Saint Petersburg, Russia; and more on Viking's 15-day Stockholm-to-Bergen sailing. *Departures: Multiple dates, May 9, 2019, through September 19, 2020; from \$5,799.*



**Clockwise from top left:** Wormgoor, the *Flight: Dare to Dream* set, and the *Symphony of the Seas*.



**Clockwise from top left:** The *Joie de Vivre*, Nunes, and the ship's river-view stateroom.





## JONATHAN WORMGOOR, ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL

THE HOLLYWOOD TRANSPLANT

### TITLE:

Head sound and light technician

### HAILS FROM:

Indiana

### AGE:

27

### YEARS WITH ROYAL CARIBBEAN:

5

### FAVORITE PORT OF CALL:

Sydney, Australia

### FAVORITE ITINERARY:

A tie between Alaska and Sydney to New Zealand

With a desire to travel cemented at a young age on family road trips, Wormgoor couldn't satisfy his wanderlust at his previous job: working on Hollywood sets. So he joined up with Royal Caribbean, where he designs and maintains the lighting and sound systems on the *Symphony of the Seas*.

### Describe your typical day on the ship.

My team is responsible for any activity, event, or performance that involves sound and lighting. We work with everything from design and concept to monitoring each show every night. We have three light, four sound, and two lounge techs on board *Symphony* to run sound and visuals for seven major productions and several smaller events. We handle everything from a fashion show in a boutique with special lighting to a wedding in Dazzles lounge.

### You're also a travel photographer. How do you get such great shots?

So many people rush through their travels, desperately trying to get that shot that will show the world, "I'm a photographer too." You miss out on the most important part of it all: your personal response to a place. Breathe and take in the moment. This allows you to capture it fully.

### Cooliest entertainment feature on *Symphony*?

I'm spoiling it a bit, but at the end

of *Flight: Dare to Dream*, a show about the history of air and space travel, a reproduction of the Wright brothers' plane takes flight over the audience. It's a first in cruise entertainment and an incredible moment.

**GO:** Explore the western Caribbean on Royal Caribbean's 5,518-passenger *Symphony of the Seas* this spring, during an eight-day, round-trip-from-Miami voyage. *Departures:* Multiple dates, March 9 through April 20; from \$924.



## CARLA NUNES, UNIWORLD RIVER CRUISES

THE ORGANIZER

### TITLE:

Housekeeper

### HAILS FROM:

Porto, Portugal

### AGE:

48

### YEARS WITH UNIWORLD:

12

### FAVORITE SHIP:

*Joie de Vivre*

### AVERAGE TIME TO TURN OVER A STATEROOM:

20 minutes

As a housekeeper on Uniworld's new-ship launch team, Nunes goes way beyond making beds. She recently helped launch her third vessel with the line – the 128-passenger *Joie de Vivre* – and can tell you where to find every single pillow and toiletry on board.

### A day in the life of a house-

**keeper:** I normally begin work at 7 AM. I check public areas and check in on the team, then I place orders, attend meetings, inspect staterooms, take care of floral arrangements, and attend to requests from guests.

### You're based on the *Antoinette*.

**What's your favorite place on board?** The pool and the cinema. The pool is near the back of the ship, with sun beds for enjoying the views. The cinema is on the first floor in a quiet area with comfortable leather chairs.

### What element of working with passengers makes you the happiest?

During my career in the cruise industry, the best experiences are with guests who have saved a long time for their cruise. They have high expectations, and often at the end of their trip they'll hug me and say, "This was the time of my life." I realize I've become a little part of their lives and memories.

### Ever caught someone raiding the housekeeping cart for extra Hermès products?

That happens very often! I once

found a guest taking products from the trolley; she saw me and apologized. During that night's turndown service, I placed a small bag with a sample of each product in her room. The next day, she approached me with a smile and thanked me. She knew it was me.

**GO:** The 152-passenger *Antoinette* sails the Rhine year-round on an eight-day, Amsterdam-to-Basel cruise. *Departures:* Multiple dates, March 24, 2019, through November 1, 2020; from \$2,939.



## ➤ GARY HUNTER, CRYSTAL CRUISES

THE CROWD-PLEASER

### TITLE:

Cruise director

### HAILS FROM:

Florida

### AGE:

65

### YEARS WITH CRYSTAL:

21

### FAVORITE PORT OF CALL:

Istanbul

### NUMBER OF PUPPETS

HE TRAVELS WITH:

4



Hunter – who's worked on cruise ships since 1975 – may be the industry's only cruise director who doubles as a ventriloquist. He directs entertainment on board the *Crystal Serenity* – and even provides some of it himself.

### **Cruise director and ventriloquist?**

I grew up on a farm near Gainesville; ventriloquy was a hobby at first, but I put myself through college with my act and turned professional in 1975. That's when I performed on my first ship, cruising out of Miami.

### **What exactly does a cruise**

**director direct?** I oversee the entertainment department on the ship, which includes the daytime programming for activities and events, plus the scheduling of entertainment in the evening. I work closely with the hotel director and food and beverage manager to plan a program that gives guests a great cruise experience.

### **Your best advice for a suc-**

**cessful at-sea day?** Plan ahead. Read the daily program

the night before and circle the activities and events you want to attend. It's impossible to do everything, but there's a great variety of activities and entertainment to satisfy everyone.

### **Will we ever catch you**

**performing on board?** I still perform on every cruise. [Ventriloquy is] my first love. I've been very fortunate to travel the world with Crystal, meeting interesting people and seeing amazing sights. It's been the greatest education and adventure a small-town farm boy could ever have asked for.

**GO:** Crystal's 980-passenger *Crystal Serenity* spends the summer in Europe – hop on board for a 12-day, Stockholm-to-Amsterdam cruise. *Departure:* July 17; from \$5,130.

**Clockwise from top:** The *Crystal Serenity*, Hunter, and a port call in Istanbul.

## ▼ FRUDELYN TORRECAMPO, SEADREAM YACHT CLUB

THE WELL-CONNECTED FRIEND



Clockwise from top: Torrecampo, the *SeaDream I*, and Saint Bart's.

Hotel concierges need to know their cities inside and out – and the same goes for cruise concierges and ports of call. Torrecampo, who splits her time between the sister yachts *SeaDream I* and *SeaDream II*, has her finger on the pulse of dozens of ports around the world, from Cienfuegos to Saint-Tropez.

### **How many ports do you typically visit in one year?**

About 275.

### **How do you familiarize yourself with all of them?**

I love traveling and exploring different places. For every port we visit, I enjoy trying out the activities and local foods that each offer. My work is fun – I feel like I'm also on vacation.

(ISTANBUL) GIVAGA/GETTY IMAGES, (SAINT BART'S) SEAN PAVONE PHOTO/GETTY IMAGES



**TITLE:**

Concierge

**HAILS FROM:**

Cebu City, Philippines

**AGE:**

41

**YEARS WITH SEADREAM:**

14

**FAVORITE PORT OF CALL:**

Santorini

**NUMBER OF PROPOSALS ARRANGED:**

20 (with a 100 percent success rate)

**The port you know like the back of your hand?**

I've spent most of my time off the yacht in Saint Bart's. I love the island's signature shops, walking to Shell Beach, taking a challenging bike ride to Saline Beach, and, of course, the famous Nikki Beach and Cheval Blanc St-Barth Isle de France. It's island life with a touch of elegance and style.

**Your fantasy cruise itinerary?**

I love fun, sun, food, and shopping, so it'd be Palawan and Boracay islands in the Philippines, Singapore, Bangkok, Malaysia, and Japan.

**What's your favorite spot**

**on board?** The Balinese beds located on Deck 6, where guests can sleep under the stars.

**GO:** Overnight off Saint Bart's on SeaDream's 112-passenger *SeaDream I* during a seven-day, Saint Thomas-to-San Juan, Puerto Rico sailing. *Departure:* November 9; from \$2,999.



## CONRAD COMBRINK, SILVERSEA

### THE ITINERARY PIONEER

**TITLE:**

Senior vice president, strategic development, expeditions and experiences

**HAILS FROM:**

Kimberley, South Africa

**AGE:**

44

**YEARS WITH SILVERSEA:**

11

**FAVORITE PORT OF CALL:**

Peter the Great Bay, Russia

**NUMBER OF****COUNTRIES VISITED:**

153

With more than 60 planned itineraries under his belt, Combrink is in charge of developing Silversea's expedition programs, from Greenland to the Galápagos. He's the logistics leader, overseeing itinerary mapping, land programs, and expedition teams – all while putting Silversea's luxury spin on this adventurous mode of travel.

**How is an expedition itinerary born?**

It often happens after a "Wouldn't it be nice to go to ..." conversation. We study potential destinations very carefully, weighing geopolitical issues and weather patterns. The scouting team goes and looks for authentic experiences, and then we'll build the program, which can take up to three years. The best part is going on board and seeing guests' appreciation as they live out your creation.

**How do you split your time between the office and the ships?**

I believe we should all spend time living the products that we're involved in. So, depending on the year, I'll visit our ships at least a few times. I love being "out there," so I normally aim to lead one trip annually.

**The most memorable expedition you've led?**

Our first – in fact, the first – ever expedition trip to Bangladesh, in 2017. It was seen as logistically impossible, and we pulled it off. It was incredibly rewarding to pioneer something so different and completely authentic.

**Any other big firsts coming up for Silversea?**

This year, we'll attempt our first-ever expedition through the Northeast Passage – the Arctic route joining the Pacific and Atlantic oceans – on the *Silver Explorer*. We're very excited.

**GO:** Silversea's 25-day Northeast Passage cruise will sail from Nome, Alaska, to Tromsø, Norway, on the 144-passenger *Silver Explorer*. *Departure:* August 10; from \$39,870.

**Clockwise from top:**  
The *Silver Explorer*,  
Combrink, and  
Russia's Peter  
the Great Bay.





## SELINA WANK, AMAWATERWAYS

THE WELLNESS GURU

### TITLE:

Corporate wellness host

### HAILS FROM:

Port Elizabeth,  
South Africa

### AGE:

28

### YEARS WITH AMAWATERWAYS:

2

### FAVORITE SHIP:

*AmaKristina*

### MOST MILES BIKED ON

A SINGLE SHORE EXCURSION:

22.4



After growing up in Germany, Brazil, and South Africa, Wank turned her passion for travel and a degree in sports science into a career developing comprehensive wellness programs for all of AmaWaterways' river-cruise itineraries.

### **What does wellness look like on a cruise?**

We're seeing a move from high-intensity fitness classes and passive spa treatments toward a more holistic wellness approach. Alongside opportunities to be more active, such as hiking- and biking-focused shore excursions, there's a new emphasis on healthier food choices, mindfulness, and developing a balance between body, mind, and soul.

### **How would you advise passengers who want to indulge without overdoing it at dinner?**

Our guests are on holiday, but a few simple tricks include cutting out rich sauces, [having a healthy] breakfast, switching

between fruit and dessert, and listening carefully to your own body to realize when you've eaten enough.

### **Favorite healthy meals to eat on board?**

Muesli bowls with plain yogurt, honey, and a variation of nuts and berries. I'll add a piece of salmon or chicken on top of my salad and drizzle balsamic-and-olive-oil dressing over it all.

### **Any onboard vices?**

We have an amazing selection of fresh-baked bread and pastries that can become difficult to resist at times, not to mention the potato wedges that I succumb to every once in a while.

### **What activities are you looking forward to on AmaWaterways' new 2020 European itineraries?**

Our two new sailings [on the Rhine and Moselle, and the Main and Rhine] offer a great variety of hiking and biking tours through incredible vineyards. Cruising through the Moselle Valley will provide an incredible backdrop for some fitness classes on the Sun Deck.

**GO:** AmaWaterways' new eight-day, Amsterdam-to-Luxembourg voyage on the 144-passenger *AmaDante* will sail the Rhine and Moselle rivers. *Departures: Multiple dates, April 9, 2020, through September 24, 2020; from \$2,349.*

Clockwise from top left: The *AmaKristina*, Wank, onboard yoga, and a biking excursion in Vienna.



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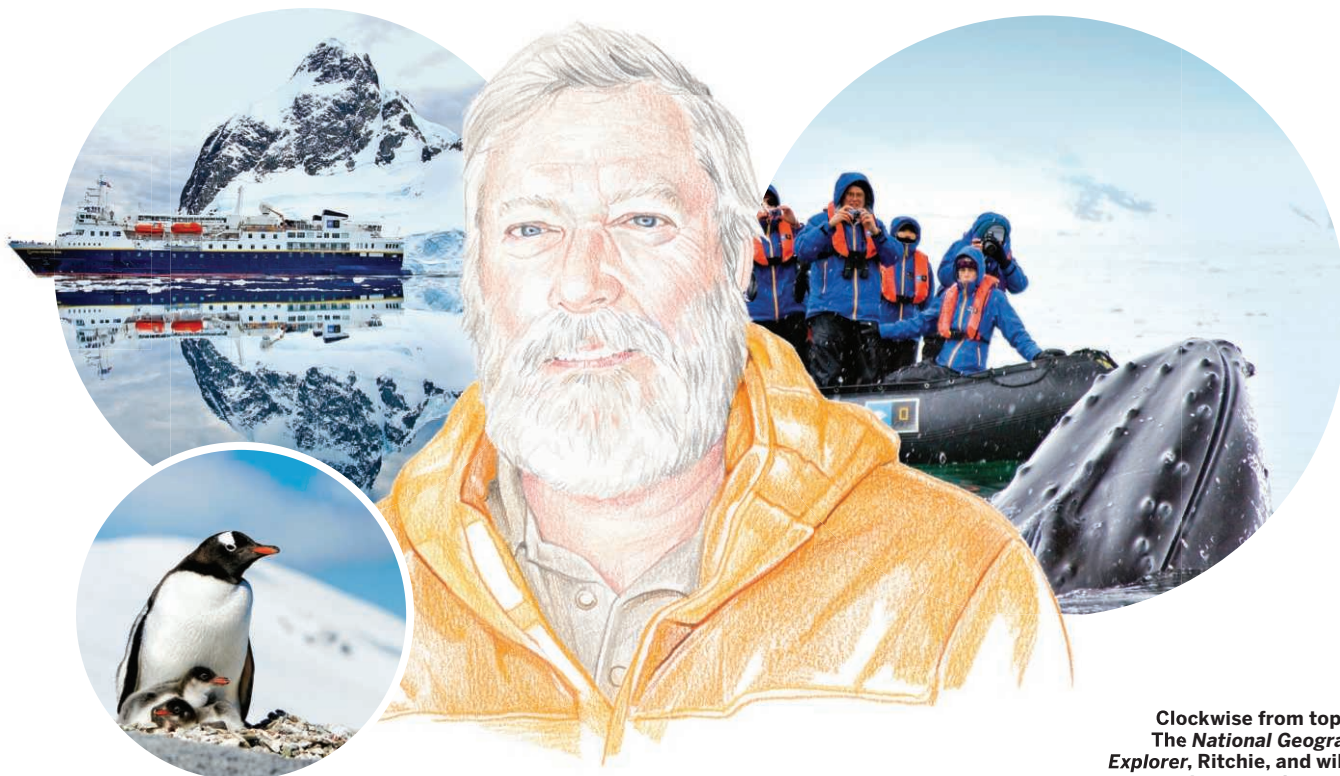
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**Clockwise from top left:**  
The *National Geographic Explorer*, Ritchie, and wildlife sightings in Antarctica.



## TOM RITCHIE, LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

THE INTREPID EXPLORER

### TITLE:

Naturalist  
and historian

### HAILS FROM:

Florida

### AGE:

66

### YEARS WITH LINDBLAD:

42

### FAVORITE PORT OF CALL:

Banda Neira, a  
small island in  
Indonesia's Moluccas

### NUMBER OF VOYAGES TO ANTARCTICA:

Approximately 175

Ritchie has been part of Lindblad's pioneering expeditions since 1977. The zoologist and naturalist will venture anywhere, but his area of expertise is Antarctica – he's even written a book on it.

### Tell us about expedition cruising in the 1970s.

It should be called the golden age of expedition cruising. Lindblad was the only company doing this sort of travel. We didn't have walkie-talkies, photocopiers, fax machines, telex, satellite communications, or GPS. Many of the places we traveled to were essentially untouched by Westerners. The locals – if there were any – often informed us we were the first passenger ship to visit.

**What first drew you to cruising?** I grew up in south Florida, within walking distance of the

Atlantic. When I was 14, I got an old Boston Whaler, which gave me unlimited access and freedom to explore the Intracoastal Waterway and its backwaters and mangrove islands. While other kids were more interested in school sports, I was out fishing, snorkeling, wading in cypress swamps, bird-watching, and catching snakes, lizards, and turtles, and anything else I could find.

**You wrote *Antarctica Primer*, a guide for travelers to the continent. What's the most important thing first-time cruisers should know?** I think

it's important to know about the history of human exploration beforehand, in order to appreciate the extremes and be ready for a multitude of situations. These are real expeditions, so there can be surprises – that's all part of the excitement. It's why I keep going back.

**GO:** Lindblad's expeditions to Antarctica include a 14-day, round-trip-from-Ushuaia, Argentina, adventure on the 148-passenger *National Geographic Explorer*. Departures: Multiple dates, November 27, 2019, through February 6, 2021; from \$13,890. VI.





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# AT SEA

**FLOATING TO ANTARCTICA,  
AND OTHER DAYDREAMS.**

BY KIM BROWN SEELY


**R**AISED IN CALIFORNIA BY young, adventurous parents with an extreme case of wanderlust, I always knew the way I would travel: independently. I would not sign up for an organized tour of Brussels. I would never ride a bus through China with a name tag pinned to my chest. Set foot in India with 20 or, God forbid, 220 other people, disembarking from a river cruise? Not on your life. Yet as I grew older and less rigid in my ways, I began to see certain advantages in wandering with a group. I realized I'd sometimes missed the boat.

Eleven years ago I visited Antarctica. To get there, you essentially fly to the end of the world and then keep going. I was traveling solo, but would meet up with 135 fellow passengers in Santiago, Chile, before catching a flight to Tierra del Fuego. There, we'd board our ship and plunge south for two queasy days across the Drake Passage. I was terrified.

This was the same month a Canadian-owned expedition cruise ship had hit submerged ice and sank. (Everyone on board was rescued.) Was I afraid of the cold, dark sea? Pitching through the Southern Ocean's stormy latitudes? Wasting away on saltines and scopolamine? Maybe a little. But mostly –

KATHY KIM/ILLUSTRATION DIVISION





and I'm embarrassed to admit this – I was petrified of the prospect of traveling with 135 other people. Who would I sit with? What, in our matching red parkas, would we ever talk about?

Two days into the trip, I lay in my berth (as many did during the crossing), cruising past chunks of ice. The ship's steel hull crunched steadily through frozen floes, making a satisfying sound; light from the crystalline air outside filtered in. There was something hypnotic about the aquamarine landscape as we moved through it. I shut my eyes. Icebergs sailed silent as cathedrals, then faded. A lone wandering albatross soared through my mind. I noticed things: the sway of the ship, the timeless feeling. My cabin was at the ship's stern, with a single bed tucked beneath two windows. And I felt – hiding out there, my body a cloud drifting along – that floating in blissful solitude was perhaps the happiest I'd been in a long time.

"YES, AS EVERYONE KNOWS, MEDITATION and water are wedded, for ever," Herman Melville wrote in his prophetic first chapter of *Moby-Dick*. I'd always been drawn to the sea. But it took being an introvert in Antarctica, a world where everything is reduced to the elements and thoughts have room to roam, to fully appreciate the power of deep-sea contemplation. Daydreaming, an effortless flight of mind, came easily as I slipped anonymously amid my fellow passengers. What a revelation! Mental space to muse, I realized, was a rare luxury – not a feature of my day-to-day life.

One of the great advantages of a group expedition cruise: I wasn't in charge of the expedition. Which meant that the logistics that usually preoccupied me, whether I was

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---

traveling solo or shepherding loved ones, weren't battling for my attention. What's more, there was no television aboard the ship and limited connectivity. Freed from the tyranny of laptop and phone, I suddenly noticed the stack of books I'd brought.

While snowflakes swirled past my window in a mesmerizing squall, I read *The Worst Journey in the World*, the unforgettable tale of 24-year-old Apsley Cherry-Garrard, the youngest member of Scott's doomed British Antarctic Expedition, and his 1911 trek over the ice in the midst of winter in total darkness to collect emperor penguin eggs. Devouring this vivid account of exploration, heroism, suffering, and disaster while ghosting past the Antarctic Peninsula was such a ridiculous privilege that, to this day, it's one of my favorite books.

Before long, the seas calmed, and I emerged from my cabin feeling refreshed in a way I hadn't for years. Clad in Wellington boots and waterproof pants, my fellow

passengers and I chattered away, as gregarious as a penguin colony, waiting to board Zodiacs for shore landings. We ranged from 22 to 92, and almost no one was scary. Everyone had come because they'd dreamed of experiencing terra incognita, and there were lots of solo travelers like me.

My expedition cruise and the mindfulness it afforded made me more open as a traveler to, in the words of William Wordsworth, wandering "lonely as a cloud." I've since tucked myself aboard all manner of ships and even amid a few tour groups. I've sailed the Aegean, river-boated up the Amazon twice, joined hundreds of others cruising up the Yangtze. I've spent nearly a month plying the Coral Sea, motored up the hazy Ganges, crossed the North Sea from Copenhagen to London, drifted about on Mexico's Sea of Cortés, and spent ten days floating Japan's Inland Sea. And every summer, my husband and I sail our 54-foot cutter-rigged sailboat up the long channels and remote coasts of British Columbia.

Why do so many of us yearn to leave the shore? Somewhere in all those miles of water and sky and vastness, time feels different. It's easy, in these globalized days, to rush from one place to another. It's harder to quell our passion for movement and contemplate that motion. At least it is for me. But slowing down to drift, if we're lucky, we feel the healing immensity of the world.

On my Antarctic trip, "the great floodgates of the wonder-world swung open," as Melville said. Icebergs floated. Pelagic birds soared. Once, I swear, I glanced out my cabin window just as a solitary humpback, big as a bus, surfaced.

Years later I can still see him, white as a snow cloud, swimming through my soul. VI





# THE OCEAN

**PLUMBING THE DEPTHS WITH THREE PEOPLE WHO KNOW WATER WELL.**

**INTERVIEWS BY ADAM ERACE**



## **Céline Cousteau**

**Filmmaker, explorer, socio-environmental advocate, jewelry designer**

**I NEVER THOUGHT OF THE OCEAN AS** extraordinary when I was a child, because with the family that I had, it was just a part of growing up. The ocean was an extension of who we were and what we did. My earliest memory of diving, I was with my grandfather [Jacques Cousteau], going on 9 years old, and I went diving with him off the coast of Monaco. Although it seems extraordinary, I see it in the same way as if somebody takes you camping for the weekend for the first time. The equipment was a little bulky at first, and my dive lesson was about ten minutes long, but once I was in the water, I completely forgot about everything because I was like, “Oh my God, this underwater

world!” As a kid, our senses are just right there on the surface.

We started looking for sea urchins – they were purple and blue. We gathered them up and then brought them to the surface and looked at them in a bucket and saw them moving their little tentacles. It’s a very visceral memory. When I’m in or near the ocean, I’m usually working, shooting documentaries, but it never gets dull, from a little bay with a beach to a grand old jungle. I’ve been diving in Chile quite a lot over the years because I did a 12-part documentary series for Chilean television. We went diving basically the entire coastline of Chile, down to Antarctica. There’s always something to see and be still for, for a moment.

Environmental and humanitarian causes are my life’s work. I’ve been working with the TreadRight Foundation as their ambassador since 2015. I really enjoy helping them look at which [sustainable tourism] projects to partner with and how to support them by lending my voice. I know that a lot of people who take vacations want to be able to shut off, so you should do all your thinking before you leave in terms of how to travel thoughtfully and sustainably. That for me is a refillable water bottle (depending on the country I go to, I’ll bring a filter, like a UV-light SteriPEN, as well), and I bring a coffee cup; a bamboo fork, knife, and spoon; and a metal straw. If you have those on hand, you don’t have to think anymore.



## **Daniel Skjeldam**

**CEO, Hurtigruten cruise line**

### **MY BACKGROUND IS IN AVIATION. I**

started my career as low as you possibly can start in the airline industry, as a temp airport check-in agent. Most of my aviation career I was chief commercial officer of Norwegian Air. I joined Hurtigruten as CEO six years ago. It was actually the one job I wanted. The company has a fantastic legacy; we’ve been operating since 1893 and expedition cruising since 1896. When I was a kid, my dad used to take me down to the ships on the Norwegian coast on Sundays.

I try to be on all the ships a few times every year, and we have about ten offices around the world: from Longyearbyen, the northernmost community in the world, to Hong Kong and Seattle. So I’m traveling a



lot; my goal is to visit 100 countries, and I've been to about 90 now. I've gotten very good about working on the road – to run the office from our ships or elsewhere in the world is more of a privilege than a problem.

My favorite place to travel is definitely the polar area. I love kayaking because you get so close to the natural elements and animal life. The birds, the seals, they see you; they're curious. One time during an expedition in Svalbard, we had two beluga whales just a meter away from our kayaks.

This is one of the reasons Hurtigruten has chosen to run the most sustainable ships in the industry, from eliminating single-use plastics to abolishing heavy fuel oil. We really care so much about the environment and the nature and animal life in areas we sail, and we've seen devastating changes. We see glaciers that used to be there, just five, six years ago – they're retracting. And they're melting. We're building the world's first hybrid-powered cruise ships to run on battery packs. The first of them, the *Roald Amundsen*, which is named for the great Norwegian explorer, will sail this May from Hamburg to Kirkenes, then through the Northwest Passage to a very exciting itinerary in the Aleutian Islands.



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## David Doubilet

*National Geographic*  
underwater photojournalist

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**AS LONG AS HUMANS HAVE BEEN ALIVE**  
on the planet, they've looked across the surface of the sea, and it's been, not only

a barrier, but really a frontier to the other seven-tenths of our planet. With the invention of the Aqua-Lung by Jacques Cousteau, he basically gave the human race a vision and a key to this other world. It's a place where the bizarre is commonplace and the surreal is constant.

By the time I was 12, I took my first underwater pictures, and haven't stopped. That's what I really wanted to do my entire life. I wanted to be a *National Geographic* photographer. I was mesmerized by the ocean. My first underwater camera, my father and I built. It was a Kodak Brownie Hawkeye that I put in a rubber bag and attached to the faceplate of an old mask with a mask lamp. You manipulated the controls through the rubber side of the bag. Our first experiments, we forgot to take the air out of it, so it was like a beach ball with a camera bouncing around inside. The pictures were predictably terrible. But I got better.

My wife and partner, Jennifer Hayes, is a scientist, photographer, and writer. We're currently working on a large research grant from *National Geographic*, looking at coral worldwide. We just got back from the Great Barrier Reef – about two-thirds of the reef bleached in 2016 and 2017 thermal events, and one-third died. Reefs are thermometers of climate change, and they're in hot water – truly hot water – right now. The thing with underwater photography is, you don't have to simply deal in anecdotes. You can deal with images that give you a sense of history. This is the hardest thing to do, is to find a place you've been to, find a picture you've made, especially on a coral reef, and then go back to it and see how it's changed. This is really a smoking gun – a smoking fish, as it were – in terms of how climate is changing.

You don't have to be a great diver to see the other seven-tenths. You can see quite a lot snorkeling. You go out on the Zodiac, you go over the side, and you're in this other place on our planet. You're weightless. You're about as close to an alien world as possible, but it's not an alien world. It's our world. VI.

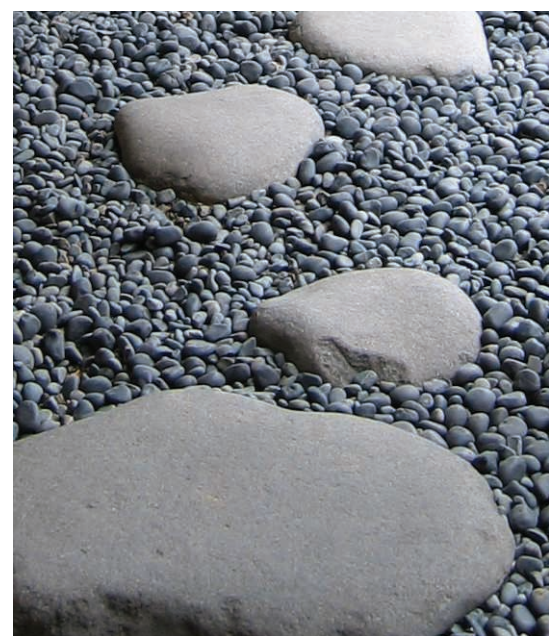


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# HOW TO TRAVEL BETTER

THE TRAVEL TIPS,  
INSIGHT, AND  
ESSENTIALS YOU  
NEED NOW.



## WHERE WE'VE BEEN

"A quick trip to **BALI** to visit family revolved around this relaxing routine: a long breakfast by the beach, shopping on Jalan Raya Seminyak Street, lunch, then back to the beach for a nap, followed by dinner at new favorite restaurants such as Mama San and Sardine." – *Melanie Fowler, design director*

"My family loves spring skiing, and the **WALDORF ASTORIA PARK CITY** makes the perfect home base. Tip: For hassle-free rental equipment, Ski Butlers ([skibutlers.com](http://skibutlers.com)) offers in-room fittings – so you can skip the lines and be forever spoiled." – *Elaine Srnka, vice president and editorial director*



## TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE

● **YOU GO (SOLO), GIRL** One of our favorite trends: Solo female travel. A recent British Airways survey of 9,000 travelers in eight countries found that 75 percent of women are planning to take a trip alone in the next few years – and half of them have already done it. Tour operator Butterfield & Robinson has noticed a 68 percent increase in solo women travelers on its biking and walking trips since 2016. "Women are feeling empowered, and they're not afraid of adventure," says Judi Glass, a Phoenix-based Virtuoso travel advisor. "Women are also traveling more for business and extending their stays for leisure. I travel by myself to London almost every January

for a culture fix – I go to the theater and visit the museums and bookstores I love."

● **WINE ON DEMAND** We still love you, Nespresso machine, but our new favorite in-room gadget is the Plum – a sleek, cubelike appliance that preserves, chills, and pours wine by the glass. It can store two bottles at a time, and a touch-screen menu lets imbibers choose their variety and size of pour. The Plum retails for \$2,000 if you'd like one at home, but it's also popping up in hotels across the U.S. – in some suites at the Four Seasons Resort Orlando at Walt Disney World Resort, for example, and (appropriately) at Solage resort in Napa Valley.

● **CHECK YOURSELF** Re-upping your TSA PreCheck membership just got more convenient: The TSA recently announced an online renewal option for its expedited screening service. PreCheck travelers need to renew their memberships every five years, which can now be done up to six months before expiration at [identogo.com](http://identogo.com). Jet-setters with Global Entry may have already experienced the joys of online renewal, which the U.S. Customs and Border Protection has offered since 2013. Pro tip, either way: Don't let your membership lapse for more than three days after your expiration date, or you'll have to reapply from scratch – and in person.



## ASK THE ADVISORS

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FAMILY SUMMER ESCAPE?

"**The Galápagos.** The lack of natural predators means the islands' abundant wildlife is unafraid of humans – sea lions, for instance, will dart around you and blow bubbles in your face while you're snorkeling. Lindblad Expeditions' cruises are great options for families." – *Andrew Butler, The Woodlands, Texas*

"It's a year-round destination, but I love **Jackson Hole, Wyoming**, in the summer. From the majestic Teton

to the wildlife and the stargazing, you'll connect with nature and leave knowing you've been somewhere very special." – *Kristen Meckem, Bend, Oregon*

"A multigenerational cruise in the **Mediterranean**, with private shore excursions in Italy and Greece planned just for the family, allows for flexibility throughout the day, rather than relying on more-rigid tours and activities." – *Nancy Yale, Fairfield, Connecticut*



Teton views near Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

## PACKING LIST

### WALK A MILE IN THESE WEDGES.

One must-have cruise item, according to Katie Wright, a luxury specialist at Miami's Colonnade Outlets at Sawgrass Mills (where, by arrangement with a Virtuoso travel advisor, guests receive complimentary access to a private shopping lounge): **Jimmy Choo's** Almer 105 wedge sandal. "If I could only bring one pair of shoes on vacation, it would be these," Wright says. "The cork heel is lightweight and high, but very easy to walk on, whether it's cobblestones, sand, or grass." \$475, *Jimmy Choo*.



## BACKGROUND RESEARCH IF YOU'RE GOING TO ...



**ALASKA** ("Grizzlyland," page 102): Watch Katmai National Park's bear cam ([explore.org](http://explore.org)), live-stream video of the brown bears at Brooks Falls. Cameras will be up as soon as the bears emerge from hibernation in the spring.



**THE SOUTH PACIFIC** ("Far and Away," page 76): Read *Typee*, American writer Herman Melville's 1846 debut novel, based on his extended stay with the Typee people on Nuku Hiva in the Marquesas Islands.



**TULUM** ("Playing with Fire," page 60): Add *Hartwood: Bright, Wild Flavors from the Edge of the Yucatán* to your cookbook collection; it's packed with recipes inspired by Eric Werner and Mya Henry's restaurant in Tulum.

# 88

The percentage of Americans who'd opt for sand over snow on their next vacation, according to a recent survey from the U.S. Travel Association.



# TAUCK



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## **VIRTUOSO LIFE EXCLUSIVE OFFERS**



### • **ALASKA'S GLACIER COUNTRY**

Take a cruise like no other that sails the waters off the Alaskan coast. **UnCruise Adventures** has been a leader in the region for 20 years, enabling their captains and crew to navigate its complex waterways and inlets with ease and precision. What if you spot a bear fishing for salmon on the shore? Your captain has the flexibility to swing the boat around for a closer look. Sail round-trip from Juneau and spend a day in Glacier Bay National Park, journey into the Tongass National Forest and Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness, get up close to massive glaciers, search for humpback whales in Frederick Sound and Chatham Strait, kayak and paddleboard in remote inlets, and make discoveries as you beachcomb and explore tide pools. All the while, keep your eyes trained on the shore and sky for black and brown bears, eagles, sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions, and seabirds.

Virtuoso fares from **\$4,095** per person. *S.S. Legacy* departs April 26, 2019 (additional departures available); book by December 31, 2019. Virtuoso exclusive experience includes a \$100 shipboard credit per cabin. Fare includes onboard meals and beverages, transfers and baggage handling, entrance fees to parks, activities and equipment, wellness amenities, and more.



### • **LAGOON LIFE IN SOUTHERN THAILAND**

Rejuvenate and reconnect at the tropical sanctuary that is **Anantara Layan Phuket Resort** on Phuket's stunning western coast. Set on a private stretch of beautiful Layan Beach, this resort is celebrated for its pure indulgences and gracious hospitality, whether you're visiting as a honeymooning couple or a multigenerational family. Choose from 30 rooms and suites, or 47 pool villas in nine different styles – all built to spoil their happy guests. Laze in the beachfront pool, nap the afternoon away in a cozy waterside daybed, catch up over frothy beverages in the pool bar, dive into the sea with exciting water sports, or take a hands-on cooking class. The signature Anantara Spa awaits, with chakra crystal balancing sessions and bamboo massage treatments. Start your day with yoga or muay Thai on the beach at dawn, then cruise about on a private yacht for the afternoon before returning for a sunset toast to your delightful day in paradise.

Connect with your Virtuoso travel advisor for rates. Available throughout 2019. Virtuoso exclusive amenities include one Thai massage for up to two people; up to \$100 resort credit; breakfast for two daily; a room upgrade, if available; and early check-in and late checkout, if available.



### • **STAY MORE, SAVE MORE**

Save more the longer you stay at **Wymara Resort and Villas – Turks and Caicos**, the islands' most contemporary and sumptuous retreat. Huge windows open to Grace Bay Beach views – it's the first thing you see when you enter the dramatic open-air lobby. Walk a bit farther and you're at the edge of the 7,000-square-foot infinity-edge swimming pool. It's easy to slip into that laid-back island lifestyle while dining along the beachfront at Zest, or enjoying sophisticated cuisine at the award-winning Asian fusion restaurant Stelle. Venture into the azure waters by Hobie Cat, kayak, or paddleboard. Snorkel near one of the largest barrier reefs in the world and discover an intricate underwater ecosystem. Golf, ride horseback, or venture out on your own ATV. Sink into a Caicos Coco Calmer foot massage. There will be time for it all, thanks to the incredible savings when you stay longer.

Virtuoso rates from **\$669** per room, per night. Available until December 18, 2019. Virtuoso exclusive experience includes up to 30 percent off room rates; a \$100 resort credit; full breakfast for two daily; a room upgrade, if available; early check-in and late checkout, if available; and complimentary Wi-Fi.



## Souvenir

### TO TOTE HOME:

A beach blanket and bag from Puente Romano, Nicholas Foulkes' coffee-table book on the legendary hotel that launched the destination's starry reputation, and sustainably produced Castillo de Canena olive oil from Lobito de Mar restaurant.



# MARBELLA

## BASK IN THE GLAMOUR OF SOUTHERN SPAIN'S GOLDEN MILE.

With more than 320 days of sunshine annually, the Costa del Sol earns its moniker as the sunniest spot in Spain. Even on a recent fall visit, blue skies and warm temperatures prevailed. During our stay at **Puente Romano**, a 183-room resort with grounds that meander through lush gardens, my husband and I would start each day with a leisurely walk on its famed beach, then return to hit the tennis club's clay courts. After a decadently long lunch at **Marbella Club's** seaside buffet, we'd explore the maze of shops in nearby Old Town, with its historic Plaza de los Naranjos (Orange Square), or perhaps take an afternoon siesta by the pool – all the better to prepare for Marbella's late dining and nightlife scene. Puente Romano alone offers 13 restaurants and bars, including a Nobu outpost and three-Michelin-starred Dani García. – *Elaine Srnka, vice president and editorial director*

**TIP:** Marbella makes a great base for exploring Spain's Andalusia region, including Ronda, Seville, Granada, and Córdoba.

(PHOTOGRAPHY) CHRIS PLAVIDAL (STYLING) HEIDI ADAMS



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