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JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2021

VIRTUOSO LIFE

The Reset Issue

A NEW YEAR
IN TRAVEL

WHERE TO GO NEXT
WHY TOURISM MATTERS
HOW TO TRAVEL NOW





Jumby Bay Island, Antigua.



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STAFF-TO-GUEST RATIO	1:1.5	1:2.4
SPACE-TO-GUEST RATIO*	73.9:1	60.2:1

*Space-To-Guest Ratio based on gross tonnage

Number of guests aboard

Seven Seas Splendor

Premium Cruise Line



👤 = 100 GUESTS
GUEST CAPACITY: 750



👤 = 100 GUESTS
GUEST CAPACITY: 3,046

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I'D LIKE TO START 2021 WITH A MESSAGE of gratitude to you, the clients of our Virtuoso travel advisors. As someone who's dedicated my life to the agencies and advisors that make up the Virtuoso network, I want to thank you for the very real impact your travels have on people's lives.

Your safaris and polar explorations, your weekend trips to favorite cities, your family beach getaways have made travel and tourism one of the greatest drivers of employment in the world. In numerous communities in the developing world and in areas with limited employment opportunities, tourism is the key to a better future for many. In fact, over the past five years, our industry has created 20 percent of all new jobs across the globe, increasing entrepreneurial opportunities for small businesses, women, and minorities.

Virtuoso is a member of the World Travel & Tourism Council, an organization whose mission is raising awareness of travel's economic and social impact. In 2019 the WTTC reported

that the travel industry represented 10.3 percent of the world's GDP, supporting 330 million jobs.

And then Covid-19 changed everything. An estimated 197 million travel-related jobs could have been lost last year. Prolonged travel restrictions could cause a \$5.5 trillion loss to the global economy.

Virtuoso believes in travel as a force for good, supporting the sustainability pillars of protecting the planet, preserving natural and cultural heritage, and benefiting local economies. This Great Travel Depression is having devastating effects on remote destinations that rely on tourism, endangering the protection of animals and habitats, and driving high unemployment in these areas.

Travel will return, stronger than ever. We know that when you deem it safe, you'll be ready to enhance your "Return on Life," as we call it, through the experiences you and your travel advisor create together.

Travel has a triple bottom line: the joy of dreaming, the excitement of the experience, and a lifetime of memories that grow more valuable each day. No one can stop us from dreaming. So why not get together with your advisor to dream about what's next? And if you're looking for a fun way to plan, let your advisor introduce you to Wanderlist, a digital tool for helping you organize and share your dreams.

Thank you for your passion for travel and loyalty to your advisor. Whenever you're ready, your advisor is waiting to help you plan your next adventure.

MATTHEW D. UPCHURCH
Chairman and CEO, Virtuoso

collette



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ON THE HORIZON OF new memories

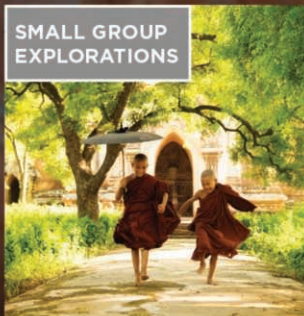
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62 THE TRAVEL RESET

Welcoming 2021 with big dreams – and inspiration to spare.

BY MARIKA CAIN, AMY CASSELL,
SAMANTHA FALEWÉE, AND
JUSTIN PAUL

74 THE WORLD IS WAITING

A look at the people and places affected by undertourism – and poised to welcome us back.

BY MARIKA CAIN

88 TRAVELER'S TOOL KIT

Your expert-sourced, door-to-door guide for getting back out there.

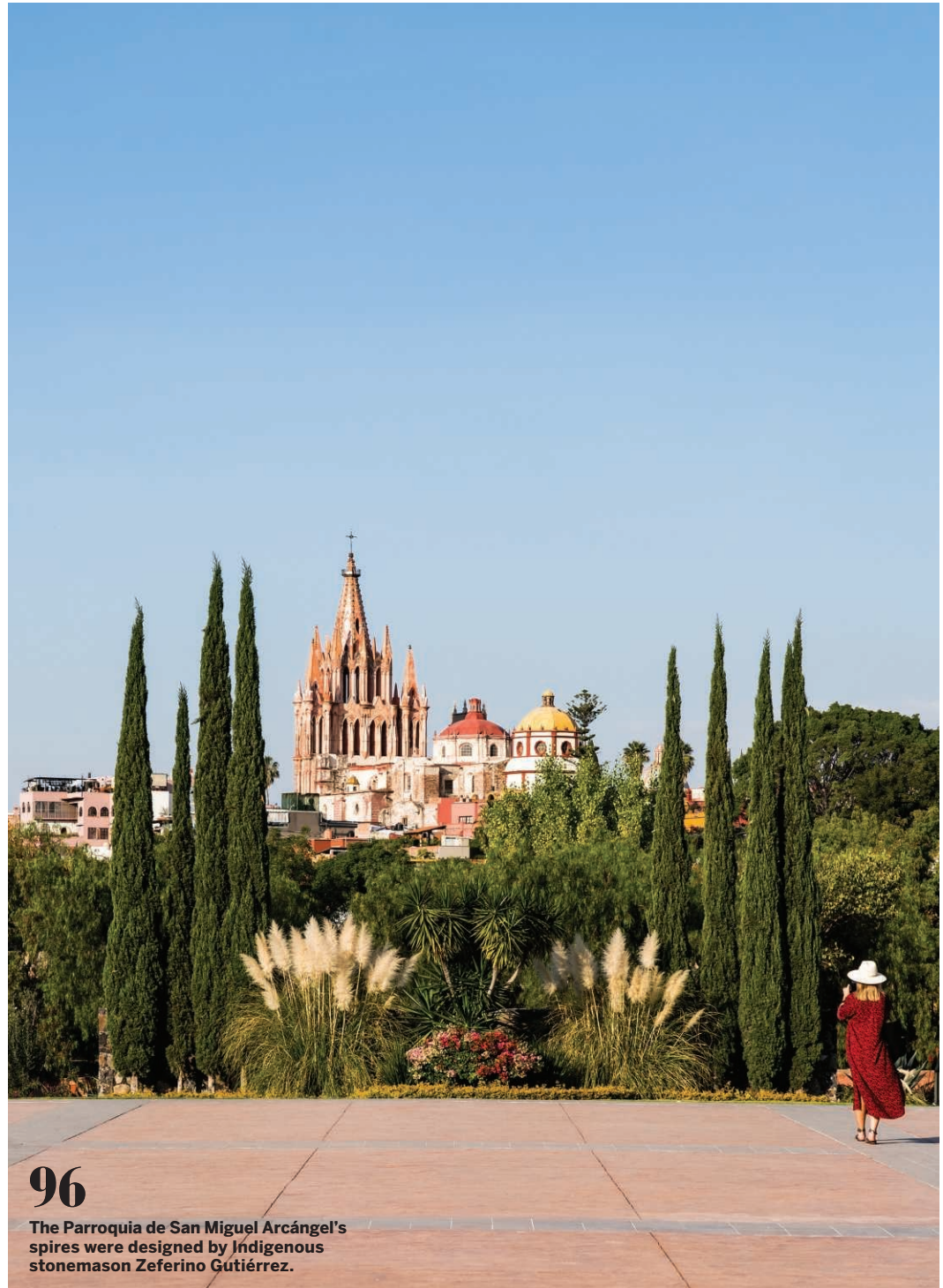
BY ELAINE GLUSAC

96 POSTCARDS FROM SAN MIGUEL

Big love for a small Mexican enclave.

BY KORENA BOLDING SINNETT

Covid-19 has changed the way we travel. Virtuoso advisors stay up to date on the current restrictions and health and safety protocols you'll encounter, wherever your adventures lead.



96

The Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel's spires were designed by Indigenous stonemason Zeferino Gutiérrez.

(COVER) ANDREA ARMELLIN/ESTOCK PHOTO. (SAN MIGUEL) KORENA BOLDING SINNETT

On the Cover

Carefree days ahead: A lazy afternoon on Lake Garda in Italy's Veneto region. The country (once again) tops travelers' lists.

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**Virtuoso clients receive \$500 shipboard credit per suite when booking by February 28, 2021.
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CONTENTS

ISSUE 121
January | February 2021

16 EDITOR'S NOTE

17 CONTRIBUTORS

20 JUST BACK

25 PASSPORT

32 **BON VOYAGE**
Ritz-Carlton readies its first yacht, plus a new riverboat in the Amazon.

34 **SUITE TALK**
Our favorite new suite in London and Rocco Forte's Sicilian retreat, Villa Ignea.

38 **SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL**
Resolutions to travel by, green cruising, and more.

42 **CITY TO GO**
Discover Honolulu's heartbeat in Kakaako.

44 **SEAT AT THE BAR**
Cider Revolution
Cheers to a new year: Swedes say *skål* to a new wave of craft cider.

48 **ON THE TABLE**
Health and Great Taste at Stake
Berlin's vegetarian chefs outshine their omnivore peers.

29



48



56



42



52 **QUICK ESCAPE**
Insiders' Antigua
Find secluded beaches and low-key charm in this underrated, never overbuilt Caribbean heaven.

56 **CONSCIOUS COMEBACK**
African Awakening
How to have a sustainable safari.

60 **IN MY BAG**
My Travel Essentials
Crisis manager Judy Smith packs her Jimmy Choos and leaves the details to a pro.

104 **NEED TO KNOW**
How to Travel Better
The travel tips, insight, and essentials you need now.

106 **POINT OF VIEW**
Fresh Starts
Three perspectives on seizing the new year's opportunities, in life and in travel.

108 **GALLERY**
Powder Palette
Artist Golsa Golchini's textural ode to winter fun.

(HAWAIIAN WOMAN) NATASHALEE, (FOOD) CHRISTIAN KERBER, (HOT-AIR BALLOON) RYAN HILTON

VIRTUOSO LIFE®

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VICE PRESIDENT/EDITORIAL DIRECTOR **ELAINE GRUY SRNKA**
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 MANAGER, DIGITAL CONTENT **AMY CASSELL**
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"A head-clearing jog. All the better if it's at sunrise in a new-to-me city."

DESIGN

DESIGN DIRECTOR **MELANIE PRASETYO FOWLER**
 ART DIRECTOR **KORENA BOLDING SINNETT**
 SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER **VERONICA ROSALEZ**

CONTRIBUTORS

COPY EDITORS **MIRIAM BULMER, DIANE SEPANSKI**
 RESEARCHERS **DONNA BLINN, JESSICA MUELLER**
 PHOTO RESEARCHER **MARY RISHER** DIGITAL RETOUCHER **WALTER KELLY**
 WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS **NANNA DÍZ, MICHAEL FRANK, LUIS GARCÍA, ELAINE GLUSAC, DAVID HOCHMAN, JEFF KOEHLER, KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI, KIM BROWN SEELY**

MARKETING/ADVERTISING/PR

MANAGING DIRECTOR, GLOBAL PUBLIC RELATIONS **MISTY EWING BELLES**
 MANAGING DIRECTOR, CONSUMER PRODUCT MANAGEMENT **ANDREW LOCKE**
 MANAGING DIRECTOR, GLOBAL MARKETING STRATEGY **LAURA SPORT**
 DIRECTOR, MARKETING PRODUCTS & PROGRAMS **ROBERT DUNCAN**
 MANAGER, DIGITAL MARKETING **KELLY KIRCHNER**

CIRCULATION/DATA SERVICES

LANECHA WHITE
AMY HYDE, GAYLYNN MAGERS

MARKETING OPERATIONS

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 SENIOR MANAGER **MARTIN NOGUEIRA**
 SPECIALIST **NATALIE SHERMAN**
 COORDINATOR **HALEY COWSER**

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"After 2020, we could all use a refresh – I'm doing my best to re-create SHA Wellness Clinic's Kushi diet."

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"WHAT'S YOUR WELLNESS RITUAL?"



TOAST TO 2021: The St. Regis Bloody Mary set by Saint-Louis. \$1,800 at St. Regis Hotels & Resorts boutiques.

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Let's Try This Again

IF YOU'RE READING THIS, CONGRATULATIONS – hindsight really is 2020 and you made it through what has to be one of the craziest years in history. I know the Covid cloud of uncertainty won't magically lift with a new calendar page, yet I can't help but feel hopeful about turning '21 and all the good things it may bring.

I'm a bloom-where-I'm-planted kind of gal, and I've made the most of staying closer to home, with my kids nearby and my dog underfoot. But when I reflect on what I've missed most about traveling, it's human connection. I truly, deeply miss visiting friends and family who live

beyond my bubble, collaborating with my Virtuoso coworkers in person instead of on a video screen, and catching up with beloved colleagues at events around the world – and I can't wait to see everyone soon.

I'm also eager to once again experience the anticipation of planning a trip, the rituals of getting there, the thrill of discovering a new destination, or the comfort of returning to a favorite one. My husband, a commercial airline pilot, and I have worked in the travel industry for over two decades, so this pandemic has hit home doubly hard. For us, it goes beyond a financial impact; travel is a way of life and a passion.

This issue is all about fresh starts. You'll find inspiration on where to go when you're ready to travel again, as well as insight on what you need to know about this new era in travel, with ever-changing restrictions, protocols, requirements, and pivots. (Hint: Rely on your Virtuoso advisor – and pack your patience.)

It's said that travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer, and our resources have definitely been depleted in more ways than one. Here's to refueling and refilling and getting back out there (safely) again.

Elaine Snrka

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

ON OUR WANDERLISTS

Though we haven't traveled as much as we usually do, the *Virtuoso Life* team have been cooling our jets by dreaming about where we want to go when we can get back out there again.

- "Finally checking into Grand Hotel Tremezzo on Lake Como to get an insider's take on the destination." – *Mrika Cain, managing editor*
- "A big reunion with my extended family – maybe to Wyoming or the Florida Keys. And Italy with my husband and our daughter, which was at the top of our 2020 Wanderlist, and will remain there for 2021." – *Amy Cassell, manager, digital content*
- "Against all odds my family is still supposed to go to South Africa this March, so that'd be number one – fingers crossed." – *Samantha Falewée, assistant editor*
- "Biking with Backroads through Croatia and Slovenia, before I'm too old for active adventures." – *Melanie Fowler, design director*
- "A surf retreat in Costa Rica." – *Justin Paul, senior editor*
- "I'm taking my mom to see the cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C." – *Veronica Rosalez, senior graphic designer*
- "Gorilla trekking in Rwanda or truffle hunting in Italy – a girl can dream." – *Korena Bolding Sinnett, art director*



Photographer
Christian Kerber
Hamburg, Germany
 “Health and Great Taste at Stake,” page 48
THE REPORT: “I’m usually an omnivore – my grandparents had two butcher shops in Berlin. However, I was thrilled about Berlin’s vegetarian cuisine and the variety I discovered while shooting this story. Frea was the first zero-waste restaurant I ever visited, and it served wonderful drinks and food.”
ON MY RADAR: “I would love to check out some of the small, lesser-known Greek islands, such as Folegandros, Amorgos, or Serifos.”
 @christiankerber.photo



Writer
Ingrid K. Williams
Lerici, Italy
 “Cider Revolution,” page 44
THE REPORT: “For someone who already appreciates natural wines, the funky, fizzy Swedish ciders I sampled for this story felt like a natural next step. An added benefit: a lower alcohol content, which makes these bottles my go-to for guilt-free midweek tippling.”
ON MY RADAR: “I’m dreaming of a long summer holiday on Denmark’s North Zealand coast – the so-called Danish Riviera – with its windswept white-sand beaches and historic seaside hotels.”
 @ingridkwilliams



Illustrator
Andrew Joyce
Tokyo
 “Traveler’s Tool Kit,” page 85
THE REPORT: “Like everything else in our lives this year, travel has changed so much. Illustrating this article made me realize that it doesn’t have to mean ‘international’ – with so many local businesses struggling, it’s a perfect time to explore what’s near us.”
ON MY RADAR: “My home country, the UK. I’ve been living outside of it for half my life now, and I like the sound of going back as a tourist seeing the sights.”
 @andrewjoyce
 illustration



Art Director
Korena Bolding Sinnett
Dallas
 “Postcards from San Miguel,” page 96
THE REPORT: “I loved San Miguel’s small-town feel and creative energy. During some free time, I wandered down a little side street and found the most gorgeous perfumery, with scents inspired by Mexican botanicals. From the colorful architecture to the local crafts and native flora, I can see why artists of all types are attracted to the town.”
ON MY RADAR: “After 2020, I’m ready for a grand adventure, like chasing after artisan textiles in Morocco or Spanish pottery on Mallorca.”
 @korenasinnett



Writer
Elaine Glusac
Chicago
 “Traveler’s Tool Kit,” page 85
THE REPORT: “As someone who’s spent the last year reporting on how and when to resume travel safely, I’m more optimistic than ever. Things may be more circumscribed for a time, but the resources we have – from travel advisors watching our backs to new insurance policies that cover pandemics – should encourage everyone.”
ON MY RADAR: “Kauai. I want to support a community that really stood by its residents and used science to keep everyone safe.”
 @eglusac

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Mexico Spotlight

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► BREAK FOR THE RIVIERA MAYA

Trumbull, Connecticut-based Virtuoso travel advisor Carissa Gulyas recently spent ten days exploring Cancún and the Riviera Maya. “It’s been a few years since my last visit to Mexico, but being there during the pandemic, I felt very comfortable,” she says. Here’s her report.

BEAT THE RUSH Without the cruise ships, there are far fewer crowds. Wait times at airports are shorter, and resort pools and beaches have plenty of space to spread out.

PLAN AHEAD Due to fewer travelers, social distancing, and reduced-capacity protocols, it can be tough to get into a restaurant or on a day tour if you wait until the last minute.

Right now, travelers should double-check how many on-property restaurants are open and inquire about the entertainment. I recommend pre-reserving dining and activities for at least your first two days.

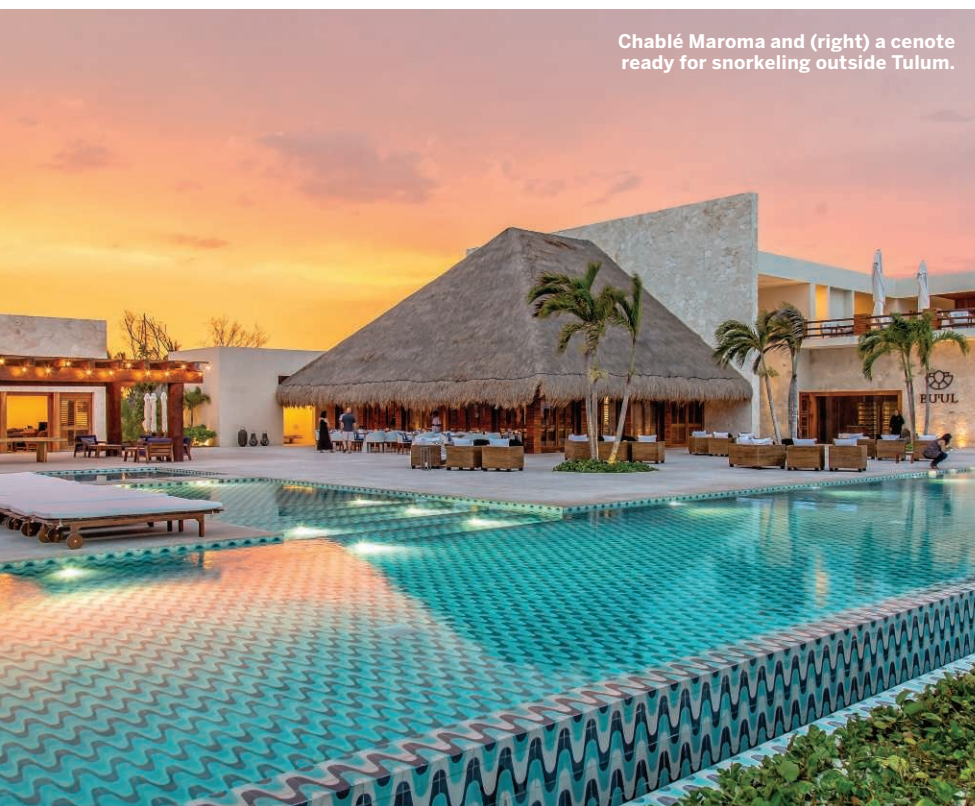
FIRST IMPRESSIONS Upon arrival, my driver sanitized my luggage and had extra masks, sanitizer, and sanitizing wipes for me. All the resorts had sanitizer stations for our shoes at the lobby entrance – as well as at most on-property restaurants. Staff recorded our temperatures prior to entering each resort, and at one they even took our heart rate.

RESORT LIFE I stayed at several properties, but my favorite was **Banyan Tree Mayakoba**. Every villa has a private yard, a large plunge

pool, and bikes. Breakfast during an electric-boat ecotour of the mangroves was so beautiful and relaxing, with the captain pointing out wildlife. The hotel also offers this outing in the evening, with tapas.

HAPPIEST HOURS If you like nature, privacy, and a great beach, **Chablé Maroma** is for you – it’s on the most pristine white-sand beach I saw during my trip. The palm trees are perfectly placed by the water for relaxing in the shade, and staff carve benches into the sand with a decorated picnic table in between for drinks or a private dinner.

LAST SPLASH Leave your hotel for a swim in the cenotes. They’re beautiful, and each is completely distinct.



Chablé Maroma and (right) a cenote ready for snorkeling outside Tulum.



(CENOTE) JONAH PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES



The new Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos at Costa Palmas and (right) sportfishing on the Sea of Cortés.



► BASKING IN BAJA

Seattle-based advisor Nathan Cripps' five-day trip to Los Cabos allowed him to check out the new **Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos at Costa Palmas** and see how resorts and the destination are handling health and safety protocols. "Cabo has always been one of my favorite places for a quick getaway," he says. "I love its contrast of mountainous desert meeting the azure Sea of Cortés. You can still get off the beaten track and discover quiet fishing villages, secluded beaches, and a vibrant art scene."

WHY NOW? With resorts at 50 percent occupancy or lower, Los Cabos feels much more exclusive and private than before. That means fewer anglers out hunting for marlin, open tee times at sought-after golf courses, and less traffic on the desert trails.

NEW KID IN BAJA Costa Palmas is a new resort development an hour north of San José del Cabo, around Cabo Pulmo on the Sea of Cortés. It's far from the megaresorts and has gorgeous, swimmable beaches – in contrast with most beaches around Cabo San Lucas, which are known for strong currents. The Four Seasons has a feeling of remoteness. I loved strolling the wide-open beaches and watching the colors of the Sierra de la Laguna change throughout the day. One highlight: A handful of other guests and I joined a marine biologist and released around 200 baby turtles into the sea.

PEACE OF MIND Initially I worried that health protocols would be so stringent, I wouldn't be able to relax. However, at all the resorts I visited, they were wide ranging and thorough,

but never felt in-your-face. At dinner, servers physically distanced without being obvious, specific staff delivered food while others cleared plates, and servers didn't move from table to table. Overall, I felt safer in Cabo than during my typical trip to the grocery store.

GREAT TASTE My favorite meal was at a private table overlooking the ocean at **Chileno Bay Resort & Residences**. As the courses were served, I watched the moon rise over the sea and enjoyed a fireworks show down the coast. I capped the night with a stroll on Playa Chileno by starlight.

GET HOOKED The peninsula is famous for sportfishing – have your advisor charter a boat for a day to chase wahoo, mahi-mahi, yellowfin tuna, and marlin. **VI**



VOTED BEST RIVER CRUISE LINE

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Cruising the Danube River

RESET, RECHARGE AND RIVER CRUISE

When you can safely return to traveling abroad, you may wish to embrace a different vacation experience. One where you can unpack once and discover multiple countries on a longer journey. For the greatest peace of mind, explore Europe's rivers with AmaWaterways – the only U.S. based river cruise line to have successful operating experience with enhanced safety protocols in 2020.

WHY SAIL WITH AMAWATERWAYS?

With AmaWaterways, you will be treated to a level of care and a wealth of amenities unparalleled on the rivers. Aboard your award-winning river cruise ship, you'll find the luxury of space, a large open-air Sun Deck with a walking track and swimming pool or whirlpool. Enjoy maximum relaxation and ever-changing landscapes along the legendary Danube and Rhine rivers, or while sailing through France or Portugal.

Every exquisite meal, including at The Chef's Table specialty restaurant, is included in your cruise fare, as are wine, beer and soft drinks during lunch, dinner and the cruise line's Sip & Sail daily cocktail hour. And, to ensure you can stay connected to your loved ones while sailing, high-quality complimentary Wi-Fi is available on board fleetwide.



Ultra-spacious balcony suite, AmaMagna

A VARIETY OF INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

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Enjoy open-air experiences with small-group hiking excursions.

With up to four included guided hikes and five guided bike rides per 7-night journey, active travelers can cycle along the Danube River in Austria from charming Dürnstein to Melk, bike through the Alsatian city of Strasbourg on the Rhine, and so much more.

Prefer exploring at a more leisurely pace? AmaWaterways also offers included city tours for gentle walkers and late risers as well as immersive culinary-themed Special Interest Tours.



Exercise on the Sun Deck

ENHANCE YOUR BEST SELF

AmaWaterways strives to ensure every guest is able to enhance their best self on the river. Head to the open-air Sun Deck for a stretching class or active wellness walk led by a professionally trained Wellness Host. With approximately four complimentary fitness classes offered each day, as well as soothing spa treatments available, there is no shortage of ways to improve your wellness on board.



Spin with a view, AmaMagna

The line's expert chefs pride themselves on serving regionally-inspired cuisine with only the freshest seasonal ingredients. You'll find a variety of health-conscious choices at every meal, with enticing low-sodium, vegetarian and gluten-free options. Aboard the AmaMagna, you'll enjoy the intimate Al Fresco Restaurant, one of four unique dining venues on board, which serves lighter vegetable-forward fare.



Exquisite health-conscious cuisine

UNPACK ONCE, STAY AWHILE

For the ultimate river cruise experience, reserve an all-encompassing journey that allows you to unpack once and revel in maximum relaxation as you sail through eight countries in two weeks. With AmaWaterways' Grand Danube Cruise, you'll discover four capitals - Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna and Belgrade - as well as off-the-beaten-path villages in Croatia and Romania.

Save up to \$1,500 per stateroom on select sailings, with flexible limited-time policies!



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PLACES
TRENDS
CULTURE
& STYLE

« PASSPORT »

Cruising 32
Hotel News 34
Sustainable Travel 38

PASSPORT IS REPORTED BY: Joel Centano, Elaine Glusac, and Bethanne Patrick



MARC DONAGE/PINAULT COLLECTION/TADAO ANDO-ARCHITECT & ASSOCIATES
NINEY ET MARCA ARCHITECTES, AGENCE PIERRE-ANTOINE GATIER

TRADING SPACES

Paris has a new contemporary art champion this year: The much-anticipated **Bourse de Commerce – Pinault Collection**, housing the 10,000-piece collection amassed by French billionaire François Pinault (Kering, the luxury group he founded, owns Christie's auction house and brands such as Gucci, Saint Laurent, and Alexander McQueen), will open on January 23 between

the Louvre and the Centre Pompidou. Minimalist architect Tadao Ando tackled the job of converting Paris' domed eighteenth-century commodities exchange, which once stored wheat, into a skylighted rotunda ringed by a cylindrical staircase. Michelin-starred chefs Michel and Sébastien Bras oversee the third-story Halle aux Grains restaurant, an homage in name and in grain-based fare to the building's original function. boursedecommerce.fr.

Passport

FOOD & SPIRITS

Liquid Omakase

In Manhattan, on Thursday nights only (once indoor dining resumes), chef Hiroki Odo runs the new **Backroom by o.d.o.**, a whisky lounge in a Greenwich Village apartment penthouse. Rare Japanese whiskies from the House of Suntory – including some from the chef's personal collection – come paired with hors d'oeuvres such as tiger shrimp with ginger jelly and a whisky-raisin-butter sandwich in a boozy omakase progression. \$200. 39 E. 13th Street; westerly-nyc.com.

L.A. Glam

A Wolfgang Puck meal overlooking the Sunset Strip from a West Hollywood rooftop is about as L.A. as it gets. Opening this winter, **Merois** basks in the SoCal balm with chandeliers glimmering on its 11th-floor rooftop terrace. On the menu: Puck's French-meets-California

cuisine, along with Asian accents in dishes such as warm lobster salad, bigeye tuna with caviar, and Snake River Farms' tomahawk rib eyes. 8430 Sunset Boulevard.

A Cut Above

The 582-room Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes adds a new high-profile restaurant to its dining venues with **Knife & Spoon**, a steak and seafood house from James Beard-nominated chef John Tesar. Florida fish meets Texas-raised 44 Farms beef – dry-aged from 45 to 240 days – on the surf-and-turf menu. 4012 Central Florida Parkway.



From top: Knife & Spoon's 45-day dry-aged steak and mastiha-based Highland 2.0., marinated bigeye tuna with caviar from Merois, and Backroom by o.d.o.'s chirashi sushi bento box.

ART & CULTURE

ART-MUSEMENT PARK



Experiential art casts a wide net, from digital projections by collectives such as teamLab that fill entire rooms to James Turrell's monochromatically lit *Ganzfeld* studies of light, space, and perception. Scale and interactivity unite them. In Miami, **Superblue**, the first in a forthcoming series of exhibition centers dedicated to these monumental works (future locations to be announced), showcases installations by teamLab and Turrell, and debuts *Forest of Us*, a mirrored maze by celebrated stage designer Es Devlin. The exhibit, *Every Wall Is a Door*, takes over a 50,000-square-foot former industrial space opposite the new Rubell Museum in the emerging Allapattah neighborhood. *Through 2022; superblue.com.*

Es Devlin's vision for Superblue.

(STEAK AND COCKTAIL) JEFF HERRON (SUPERBLUE) ES DEVLIN STUDIO. (LORNA MOLONY) CORMAC BYRNE

PERSON OF INTEREST

Lorna Moloney

Genealogist

Dromoland Castle's in-house genealogist for the past eight years helps travelers reconnect with their Irish roots. After an initial consultation and research, Moloney presents findings to guests in person over afternoon tea at the 97-room County Clare estate – or, occasionally these days, by Zoom.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Ireland's 22,090 registered surnames are a mixture of Gaelic, Viking, and Anglo-Norman origins. O'Brien is one of the most common, and shows someone is a descendant of the tenth-century king of Ireland, Brian Boru.

A FUN GENEALOGICAL LINK YOU'VE

UNEARTHED: One client's ancestor pretended to be a man to join the army. After a successful campaign as a young soldier, she revealed her gender, married, and had children.

HAVE ANY DROMOLAND GUESTS HIT THE JACKPOT WITH BLOODLINES? Many. One found family links to the pirate queen Grace O'Malley, a revered and fierce woman who met with Queen Elizabeth I, conversed in Latin, and had her last child on the pirate ship she commanded.

WHAT ABOUT REUNITING WITH LONG-LOST RELATIVES? A couple of years ago, we traced the Mulherns of Philadelphia to County Donegal's famous Mulhern tweed weavers in Ardara, and arranged what proved to be an emotional reunion.

GIVE US A TASTE OF DROMOLAND'S COLORFUL HISTORY: Maire Rua, "Red Mary," was famous for her ruthless retention of land. After her husband died fighting the British in 1651, Maire drove her carriage to Limerick, dressed in her finest clothes, and offered to marry any one of Cromwell's officers in order to keep her family's land. Her resulting third marriage saved the O'Brien estate, which her son Donough used to build wealth and eventually establish Dromoland.

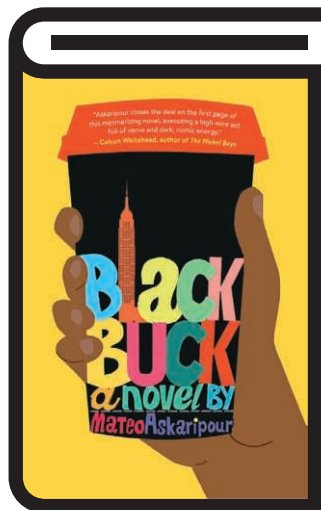
Doubles from \$367, including breakfast daily and round-trip Shannon Airport transfers. Genealogy tracing from \$300.



Roots sleuth,
Lorna Moloney.

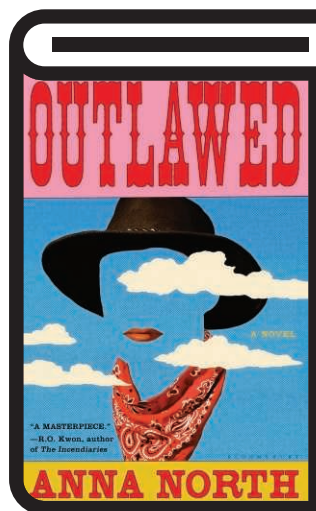
BOOKS

CARRY-ON COMPANIONS



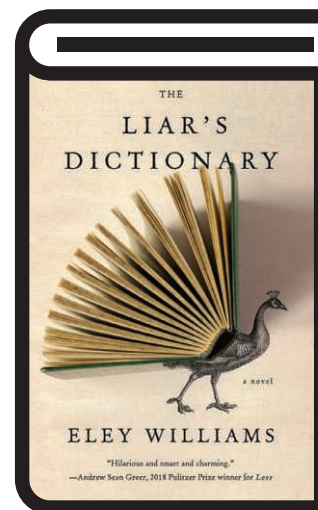
● **BLACK BUCK** BY MATEO ASKARIPOUR (*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*, \$26) “Sales is as American as slavery, and America is long overdue for a new salesman,” says Mateo Askaripour about his electrifying debut novel. Darren, a young Black man working at a tech startup, learns you can hit rock bottom faster than you can zoom to the top – and no one cares about you when you’re down. Relevant and with ruthless wit, the satire follows Darren’s rise and fall in sales at the company and his realization that it’s more important to inspire other people of color to enter the game than it is for him to win it.

● **MY YEAR ABROAD** BY CHANG-RAE LEE (*Riverhead Books*, \$28) The author, whose previous novels include a PEN/Hemingway Award winner and a Pulitzer finalist, here excavates the life of Asian American Tiller Bardmon, raised in the fictional college town of Dunbar, New Jersey, by his white father and part-Chinese mother. While working as a dishwasher to pay for his education, Tiller meets culinary impresario Pong Lou, owner of restaurants such as Gnarly Gnoodle and MadMad Maki. Pong convinces Tiller to ride along on a trip across Asia, where the young man’s life is upended. The novel unfolds over a little more than a year between chapters about Tiller looking for kicks and those about the present-day man as a responsible adult – albeit one in witness protection.



● **OUTLAWED** BY ANNA NORTH (*Bloomsbury*, \$26) Ada, a very young wife in an alternate, religiously rigid version of 1894 America, lives in a town where the barren are burned as witches. So when she fails to conceive within a year of her marriage, Ada chooses to become a fugitive and joins the Hole in the Wall Gang – led by preacher-turned-robber “the Kid,” whose purpose is safety for all outcast women. The gang and its “Kid” bear little resemblance to the historical names they carry: It’s the Wild West, but with feminist high stakes, as Ada, a midwife’s daughter, becomes a “doctor” to her new comrades and helps them hurtle to a surprising but satisfying fate.

● **THE LIAR’S DICTIONARY** BY ELEY WILLIAMS (*Doubleday*, \$27) Victorian lexicographer Peter Winceworth and modern lexicography intern Mallory will never meet, but the Brit’s work on Swansby’s *New Encyclopaedic Dictionary* changes her life. His bitter fake entries, which would become known as “mountweazels” in the twentieth century, lead Mallory, tasked with digitizing the fictional dictionary, on an odd chase to discover who might be making frightening calls to Swansby’s on a regular basis. When an explosion at her office forces Mallory to recognize the importance of her life partner, Pip, the novel turns from arcane to compassionate, setting a new standard for gay picaresque.





ASPEN-APPROVED

Seventy-plus years of snow-sports tech meets bold 1970s color-blocking in Obermeyer's new synthetic-down **Jacqueline jacket**. \$239, obermeyer.com.

FUTURE ASTRONAUTS As **Virgin Galactic** gears up for its final test flights and commercial launch from New Mexico's Spaceport America, the spaceline recently added two pilots to its crew: Patrick Moran and Jameel Janjua. In addition to being a lead test pilot for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, Moran has also served as a test-pilot instructor during his 20-year career with the U.S. Marines; Janjua has logged more than 4,000 hours in 45-plus aircraft during two decades with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Flight Upgrade

Let's make that next hop to Maui (or the Maldives) more comfortable than ever.



The new **travel pillow by Bullbird** slips snugly around the back of your neck to support your head, cushioned by memory foam to keep the spine in alignment. Plus, it's a fraction of the size of the usual suspects. \$60, bullbirdgear.com.



Bose QuietComfort earbuds pack the noise-canceling power and sound quality of the company's over-ear headphones in a travel-friendly, lightweight size. Adjustable active noise canceling lets you tune the world out in three ways: completely; partially, for spatial awareness when jogging or cycling; or not at all, so you can carry on conversations while listening to music. \$280, bose.com.



Nabee compression socks put pep in your step with bright patterns (and increased circulation and decreased leg fatigue). \$30, nabeesocks.com.



REMEMBER THE FUTURE

The corners of the world that make your heart sing
– and those you have yet to explore.

The fine flavors of the world you've savored
onboard and on your explorations
– and those you have yet to taste.

It's all ahead of you.
#RememberTheFuture



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Clockwise from top: Previews of *Evrima* and *Aqua Nera*, and the new *Star Breeze*.

DEFT DISCOVERY

Pop the Champagne: **The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection's** first ship, the 298-passenger *Evrima*, will embark on its maiden voyage in April – a ten-day sail from Lisbon to Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Named with the Greek word for “discovery,” the ship conveys a mega-yacht vibe with suites ranging up to 1,091 square feet, each with a private terrace, a king bed, and personal concierge service. A marina on the ship's aft will supply lounge chairs and water toys – sea kayaks, paddleboards, and the like – while cocktails and canapés will be served on the open-air Marina Terrace. Cruisers can choose from nine dining venues for Champagne-and-caviar pairings, open-air and late-night options, and tasting menus from Michelin-starred chef Sven Elverfeld. (After dinner, the humidor lounge will offer cognacs and hand-rolled cigars.) *Evrima* will spend the summer cruising Mediterranean favorites, head to the wild coast of eastern Canada and New England in the fall, and celebrate the winter holidays in the Caribbean. *Inaugural departure: April 22; from \$9,100.*



Smoke on the Water

Windstar Cruises' 312-passenger *Star Breeze* debuts in May as the first of three yachts to show off the results of a sweeping renovation. That means an upgraded spa, fitness area, and pool, plus 50 new suites (including the three-bedroom Grand Owner's Suite). On the dining front, the alfresco Star Grill by Steven Raichlen will deliver dishes such as smoked shrimp and maple-sriracha drumsticks from the barbecue specialist, while Spanish chef Anthony Sasso of Michelin-starred Casa Mono will craft tapas at restaurant Cuadro 44 by Anthony Sasso. Sister ships *Star Legend* and *Star Pride* will debut identical enhancements later this year.

NATURAL CHOICE

This spring, **Aqua Expeditions'** new 40-passenger *Aqua Nera* will join sister ship *Aria Amazon* in Iquitos, Peru, for expeditions in South America's richest ecosystem. Daily naturalist-led, small-group excursions depart to spy three-toed sloths and toucans, explore local communities on all-terrain-bike tours, kayak, fish for piranhas, and search for the Amazon's endangered pink river dolphin. The line is noted for its cuisine: Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino will host two special culinary sailings this year, and the kitchen sources more than 70 percent of its ingredients from the region for favorites such as paiche fish (sustainably line-caught, then grilled with local potatoes), spicy fermented *aji negro* yuca sauce, and ceviche. *Inaugural Aqua Nera departure: April 3; from \$6,580.*



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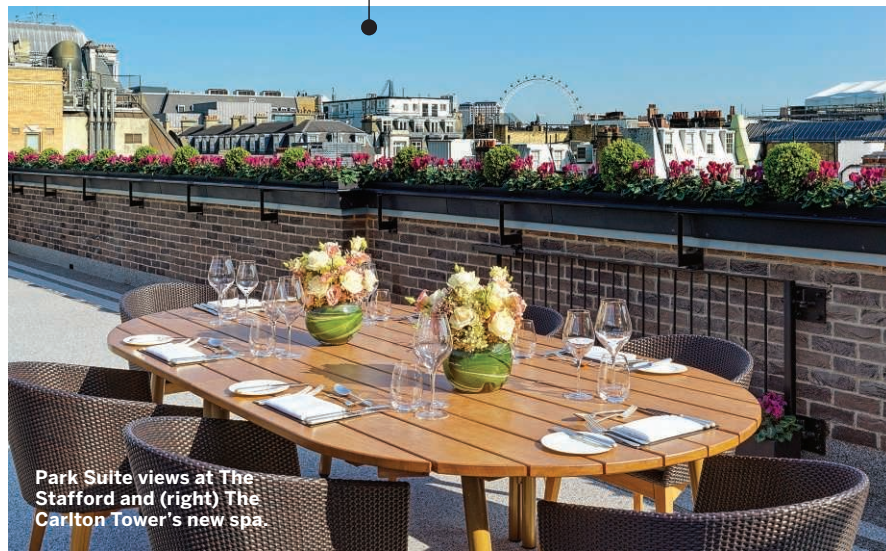
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HOT HOTELS

Where to stay in London and Boston plus a sleek base for the Summer Olympics.

The new two-story Park Suite at the 105-room **Stafford London** maintains its ultra-British character – Morris & Co. curtains, bespoke burr walnut tables, a Calcutta marble fireplace – while adding a modern must: a private terrace with views to Parliament and the London Eye. The 108-year-old Saint James’s hotel also updated 17 guest rooms, furnished with antique reproduction chairs, fabric headboards, and cityscape paintings that underscore The Stafford’s central location near Buckingham Palace. *Doubles from \$495 and Park Suite from \$2,055, including breakfast daily and lunch or dinner once during stay.*



Park Suite views at The Stafford and (right) The Carlton Tower’s new spa.

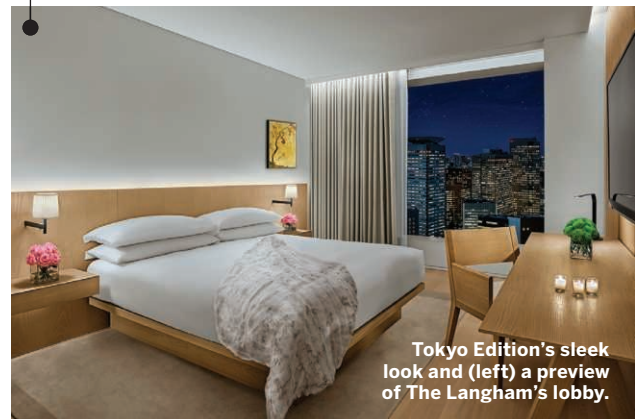


After a 15-month renovation, **The Carlton Tower Jumeirah** reintroduces itself in London’s fashionable Knightsbridge neighborhood, with fewer (186) but larger rooms, new balcony suites, a spa, and private access to adjacent Cadogan Place Gardens and their tennis courts. Prepare for all-day tea service and London’s largest swimming pool. *Doubles from \$715, including an upgrade at time of booking, breakfast daily, and a \$100 hotel credit.*

Opening this spring after a two-year transformation, **The Langham, Boston** will introduce a new firelit lobby, a private club lounge, and 312 updated rooms in the original 1922 Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. The buzz: Hospitality agency the Gorgeous Group, which brought the modern Wigmore pub to The Langham, London, will handle the restaurant, bar, and terrace. *Doubles from \$429, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*



Inspired by Buddhist temples, architect Kengo Kuma designed a central two-story lobby for the new 206-room **Tokyo Edition, Toranomom**, surrounded by gathering spaces that include three restaurants overseen by celebrated British chef Tom Aikens. *Doubles from \$475, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*



Tokyo Edition’s sleek look and (left) a preview of The Langham’s lobby.

NEW HOTEL

Sicilian Splendor

A historic seaside palazzo reopens as a much-anticipated retreat.



Clockwise from left: A peek at the garden with Aleppo pines and citrus trees, a Junior Suite with ocean views, and a poolside, nineteenth-century homage to ancient ruins.

IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, THE FLORIO FAMILY REIGNED IN SICILY AS PHILANTHROPISTS AND arts patrons, hosting foreign royalty at their villa overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea. This May, the belle epoque home reawakens as the 100-room **Villa Igiea, a Rocco Forte Hotel** – mirrored grand ballroom, sea-facing veranda, frescoed bar for sunset *aperitivi*, and all. (The hotel's 1,130-square-foot Presidential Suite claims the title for most sumptuous accommodation, with wood floors, antique furniture, and a private terrace.)

When not lounging by the pool or taking in Palermo's sights, guests can charter yachts or speedboats at the marina next to the hotel and zip around the Gulf of Palermo. Mediterranean style extends to the spa's traditional majolica tiles and treatments that use products from Irene Forte, the sustainable skincare line by Rocco Forte's daughter. Chef Fulvio Pierangelini oversees the three dining areas, including the main terrace restaurant, serving traditional Sicilian pasta and seafood dishes with Italian wines. *Doubles from \$503, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

LIVE YOUR TRAVEL DREAMS

What's on your Wanderlist?



It's a great time to dream about future travel using Wanderlist, Virtuoso's digital travel planning tool. Create a shared list with friends and family that will help you and your advisor craft a lifetime of unforgettable travels.

[virtuoso.com/wanderlist](https://www.virtuoso.com/wanderlist)



ON TOUR

Fabric of the Community



Nilda Callañaupa Alvarez in her element and (right) The TreadRight Foundation's Shannon Guihan.

The first person from Chinchero, Peru, to attend college, Nilda Callañaupa Alvarez went on to become a community organizer, author, and international speaker. In 1996, she also cofounded the Centro de Textiles Tradicionales del Cusco to preserve Peru's pre-Incan textile traditions and generate economic opportunities for her fellow female weavers in the region. "This is a project started by women, for women, and managed by women," she says. Travelers with tour operator **Luxury Gold** can visit the center to meet Callañaupa Alvarez and learn about her life's mission, watch weavers at work, and buy woven goods.

Such visits are urgently needed now, says Shannon Guihan, chief sustainability officer of **The TreadRight Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of Luxury Gold's parent company. "In a post-Covid era, sustainable travel will be even more critical as we begin to explore the world again and help rebuild local economies," she says. Lend a hand during a 12-day Peruvian journey that also connects travelers with artisan markets in Chinchero and Cuzco's San Blas neighborhood. *Departures: Multiple dates, March 19 through October 29; from \$5,595.*

TIP

"Communities across the globe are in the midst of economic and environmental crises, and it's more important than ever for us to recognize our responsibility to be stewards of the earth. By offering us the chance to participate in the recovery of the destinations we visit, **regenerative travel** provides insight into the interconnectedness of our precious world and the vital role each of us plays in sustaining it. It allows us to go beyond the principle of treading lightly to one of leaving the people and places we experience **better off than when we arrived**. Ultimately, regenerative travel delivers us from a state of powerlessness to one of purpose, enabling global transformation, one adventure at a time."

— Rose O'Connor, Virtuoso travel advisor, Granite Bay, California

SPOTLIGHT: Looking for a resource to learn about sustainability initiatives worldwide? Virtuoso is proud to support **EarthX**, an organization dedicated to a global shift toward a more sustainable and secure future. Check out earthx.org for a host of films, conferences, and more.

CRUISING

NORDIC IN NATURE

Norway takes nature seriously. In fact, it has an official “right to roam” law, or *allemannsretten*, that guarantees peoples’ freedom to explore the great outdoors – as long as they show respect for the environment. Do both this summer on **Ponant’s** eight-day sustainability-focused expedition cruise from Bergen to Oslo. Between gazing at crystalline fjords, alpine peaks, and gushing waterfalls, guests can chat with climate-change researchers in Bergen, a ranger in Raet National Park, and onboard guest speaker Elizabeth Kolbert, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*. Good to know: Ponant recently became the first international cruise line to receive Green Marine certification for its eco-standards, so count on the 184-passenger *Dumont-d’Urville* to pass lightly through pristine areas such as UNESCO-protected Geirangerfjord. *Departure: June 30; from \$5,860.*



Wild, wild north:
Norway's Geirangerfjord.

Nicolas Dubreuil, Ponant’s polar- and tropical-expedition expert and director of sustainability talks about the nexus of cruising and conservation.

● **Expedition cruising**, especially on our small ships, lets travelers experience remote destinations and learn from cultures that aren’t accessible to larger ships. And we can ensure that our impact is minimal and transitory.

● **Ponant’s fleet** is designed to be environmentally friendly. We recycle water and reduce waste, eschew heavy fuel oil in favor of low-sulfur marine gasoil or hybrid-electric-LNG technology, offset any emissions by 150 percent, and carry out environmental-impact studies for each new itinerary.

● **Education and involvement** are essential. Our itineraries often allow guests to participate in research studies with scientists or local cleanup projects so they can appreciate both the impact they might have on the environment and what we can learn from each other to move forward to a sustainable future.

● **This Norway voyage** will help guests understand the stakes of protecting our planet. By meeting and dialoguing with climate experts, travelers will better comprehend the world around them and be inspired to contribute, on their own scale, to conservation.

RESOLUTIONS

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

After a year filled with canceled flights and quarantine, the start of 2021 is “a great time to reset our intention to travel,” says Virtuoso advisor Theresa Jackson of Allendale, New Jersey. “But it’s also the time to reset our intention to travel in ways that will help the world heal and then thrive moving forward.” Here, her top five New Year’s goals for globe-trotters.

- 1 Lessen your footprint.** Our plastic use increased significantly during the Covid shutdowns. To reverse that trend on future travels, remember to pack refillable water bottles, reusable bamboo cutlery for flights, and enough nondisposable masks to last your trip.
- 2 Be a giver.** Consider spending a portion of your vacation volunteering, or look to contribute funds and supplies to local schools or antipoaching units.
- 3 Buy local.** Supporting community artisans and vendors creates a ripple effect: Buying hand-crafted textiles or jewelry from a women-run micro-industry, for instance, often funds children’s educations.
- 4 Think small.** Along with providing an intimate experience, smaller lodgings tend to be more effective in using renewable energy sources and providing locally grown food and carbon-free tours via electric vehicle or on foot.
- 5 Invest wisely.** Ask where your travel dollars will be going and let it be known you’d like to support conscientious providers. By simply, say, selecting a specific lodge, you can help conserve and grow wildlife populations. Similarly, using local guides and drivers strengthens your connection to a destination and delivers a greater economic impact to the community.



A meditative moment in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

BEST PRACTICES

BY THE BOOK

Virtuoso on-site Asia tour operator **EXO Travel** provides guides and guests with a handbook (printed on recycled paper, of course) filled with advice on responsible travel. Here, some of their best advice – and how to practice it.

TIP

TRIP

Learn how to say “hello,” “good-bye,” and “thank you” in the local language.

Study basic Lao with an introductory language class in Vientiane, Laos.

Respect cultural sites.

Learn etiquette from a local guide before touring Buddhist temples in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Connect with people before taking pictures.

Spend time with and photograph a geisha during a photo workshop in Kyoto, Japan.

Support local economies and artisan traditions.

Buy handcrafted bamboo baskets in the lesser-visited village of Bao La, Vietnam.

Protect flora and fauna.

Plant mangroves in Bali and visit ethical elephant camps in Sumatra, Indonesia.

FRESH AIR

RAMBLE ON

What's missing from official maps in England and Wales? Nearly 50,000 miles of historic footpaths, according to the UK-based Ramblers group (ramblers.org.uk), whose finding follows a citizen geography effort to shine a light on the countries' lost trails. Next step for the group that's wild about green spaces and all things walking: gathering support to legally register the newly discovered routes so perambulators can enjoy them in perpetuity.



Travelers can stretch their legs in England's Peak District, home to one of the Ramblers' picks for "best places to roam free." A three-day walking tour from **Intrepid Travel** wends past ponds, dales, and farmland en route to historic villages – and village pubs. The low-carbon tour celebrates slow travel, says Intrepid environmental-impact specialist Susanne Etti, who adds, "It features smaller-scale accommodation plus village eateries, bakeries, and microbreweries, which supports local communities while also allowing travelers to stroll to each meal." *Departures: Multiple dates, April 2 through October 20; from \$475, including accommodations.*

GOODS

Shoe-Ins

Eco sneakers that put your best foot forward.



Rio, Brazil-based **Cariuma** maintains ethical factories, and its sneakers, born from sustainable raw materials such as bamboo and cork, are built to last (read: less landfill waste). *Men's canvas Oca Lows, \$79, cariuma.com.*



Handmade in Le Marche, Italy, each pair of **Yatay's** 100 percent vegan sneakers has a unique code on its heels. When customers enter their code on the company's website, Yatay plants a tree in Kenya on their behalf – more than 110,000 pounds of carbon dioxide have been absorbed to date. *Unisex Neven Lows, \$270, yatayatay.com.*



NYC's **Nothing New** makes its sneakers with recycled cotton, plastic, and fishing nets. Bonus: The company purchases carbon credits to fully offset its production emissions. *Women's Low Tops, \$95, nothingnew.com.*

(PEAK DISTRICT) CHRIS HEBURN/GETTY IMAGES



Honolulu's Heartbeat

Kakaako is the city's rising tide of cool.

BY ELAINE GLUSAC PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATASHA LEE

GO FOR The beaches of Waikiki and the ubiquitous ABC Stores often obscure Honolulu's urban heart. Now that Hawaii has eliminated its mandatory two-week quarantine for travelers with a negative Covid test, the city is ready to welcome visitors back. Check its pulse in the emerging Kakaako neighborhood, between Waikiki and downtown, where former car dealerships and industrial buildings have been covered in murals, attracting locally owned shops, start-up microbreweries, and daring restaurants. It's also the birthplace of Pow! Wow! Hawaii – a celebration of street art that has been replicated around the world, from mainland cities to Israel and Japan, among other countries.

On the slopes of Diamond Head, the late heiress and art collector Doris Duke turned her oceanside home into a museum

devoted to Islamic art from Turkey, Egypt, Iran, and beyond. With new galleries, the renamed **Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design** displays an incomparable collection of tile murals, textiles, and carvings.

EAT Chef Peter Merriman, one of Hawaii's early farm-to-table champions, brings his fresh focus to Kakaako in **Merriman's Honolulu** (1108 Auahi Street). The restaurant is currently operating a pop-up outdoor burger and beer garden with restaurant favorites such as smoked taro hummus, keahole lobster with drawn butter, and grass-fed steaks from Maui.

Honolulu's Japanese cult favorite **Rinka** (1001 Queen Street) moved to larger digs in Kakaako last year, making it somewhat

Clockwise from top left: Hideout refreshment, Waikiki, Kakaako cool, fresh leis, and the Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design.

TIP

"A visit to Salt at Our Kakaako is a must. If you have time, Korean market H Mart on the second floor is a great place for lunch."

— Randy P. King,
Virtuoso travel agency owner, Honolulu

easier to get a table for enjoying its sashimi combinations and signature black-sesame tofu with sea urchin.

Jason Yamaguchi, nephew of acclaimed chef Roy Yamaguchi, fuses French and Japanese influences in dishes such as crab with edamame coulis and a black-sesame tuille, and matcha sponge cake with strawberry mousse at the recently opened **Mugen** (2452 Kalakaua Avenue), across from Waikiki Beach.

DRINK Kakaako's **WorkPlay** (814 Ilaniwai Street) quenches thirsts with coffee by day and, by night, with craft cocktails and a robust spirits list that includes small-batch rums from Oahu's boutique KoHana Distillers.

Hop a couple of blocks south to sample a Peach Bum pale ale or a Sandbar saison at **Hana Koa Brewing Co.** (962 Kawaihāo Street), which offers a broad selection of beers on tap as well as brewery tours on weekends.

Hit Waikiki's rooftop **Hideout** (2299 Kuhio Avenue) for live sets from local musicians and mai tais on the lanai, with some couches and tables set in sand.

SHOP At Kakaako's open-air retail and dining center **Salt** (675 Auahi Street), island-born fashion and accessories boutique **Milo** sells its canvas bags and T-shirts, gifts

such as brass limpet-shell bottle openers, and surfer Kelly Slater's clothing line, Outerknown.

Kahala has made classic aloha shirts since 1936. Find vintage patterns at its Salt shop (685 Auahi Street), as well as contemporary print patterns and the island's most stylish beach towels.

STAY While the 552-room **Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikiki Beach** was already a culinary destination for chef Keiji Nakazawa's highly praised Sushi Sho, its La Vie has also become a city favorite for open-air dining and beach views. The restaurant's multicourse menus feature modern French cuisine, such as Niihau antelope tartare, and quail with truffles and foie gras, with the option of pairing courses with French wines. *Doubles from \$550, including breakfast daily, a \$100 resort credit, and complimentary admission to the Honolulu Museum of Art.*

Guests at the 338-room **Kahala Hotel & Resort** arrive to views of Diamond Head and Koko Head crater and a seawater lagoon that's home to bottlenose dolphins. Reserve a table at Plumeria Beach House's ocean-front terrace for bento boxes, wok-fried whole fish, and crab- and macadamia-nut-crusted salmon. *Doubles from \$425, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit. VI.*



Clockwise from top left:
Mugen, local flair, Hana
Koa brewery, and Kahala.

Cider Revolution

Cheers to a new year: Swedes say *skål* to a new wave of craft cider.

BY INGRID K. WILLIAMS



Fruits of their labor: Swedish ciders incorporate flavors beyond apple.

FOR YEARS, SWEDISH CIDER WAS NOTHING more than nostalgia for me. The flavor memory – lightly fizzy, cloyingly sweet – could instantly transport me back to a summer abroad in the university town of Uppsala, where my go-to beverage was Rekorderlig pear cider, a cheap, mass-produced alco-soda.

But over the past few years, a new generation of cider makers has begun experimenting with co-fermenting

apples, pears, and other Swedish fruits. The result: delightfully funky, fruity, bubbly bottles that push the boundaries of what we traditionally think of as cider.

Given my long-ago memories of sickly-sweet ciders, I met this nascent revolution with skepticism. Then a cloudy, light-orange bottle that delivered notes of tropical fruits from 100 percent Swedish apples won me over. The name on the label was Fruktstereo, a Malmö-based

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19 Glas wine (and cider) bar in Stockholm.

APPLES TO APPLES

Where to sample Swedish craft ciders.

STOCKHOLM Head to the **Spritmuseum**, whose bar pours a tasting flight of Swedish craft ciders, including Brännland Iscider, an ice cider from northern Sweden, and bottles from Fruktstereo and Pomologik. *Djurgårdsvägen 38; spritmuseum.se.*

Many Stockholm bars and restaurants have craft ciders and fruit pét-nats on the menu. Try the wine bar **19 Glas** (*Stora Nygatan 19; 19glas.se*) in Gamla Stan, or head to Vasastan's neighborhood bistro **Babette** (*Roslagsgatan 6; babette.se*). At **Savant Bar** (*Tegnergatan 4; savantbar.se*), a cozy natural-wine café, you can often find Brutes cider pét-nat by the glass.

THE U.S. A small but growing number of bars and restaurants in the States have caught on to the Swedish craft cider trend. To sample the latest releases from Fruktstereo, seek out a Scandi-themed spot, such as Brooklyn's **Tørst** (*615 Manhattan Avenue; torstnyc.com*) or Atlanta's **8Arm** restaurant and natural wine bar (*710 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE; 8armatl.com*).

Swedish craft ciders are also on the menu at **Forestry Camp Bar and Restaurant** in Asheville, North Carolina (*10 Shady Oak Drive; forestrycamp.com*); Houston's **Vinology Bottle Shop + Tasting Bar** (*2314 Bissonnet; vinologyhouston.com*);

com); **The Catbird Seat** restaurant in Nashville (*1711 Division Street; thecatbirdseatrestaurant.com*); **The Four Horsemen** restaurant and wine bar in Brooklyn (*295 Grand Street; fourhorsemenbk.com*); and **Motor City Wine**, a bar and shop in Detroit (*1949 Michigan Avenue; motorcitywine.com*).

Many retail stores ship Fruktstereo bottles nationwide, including **The Natural Wine Shoppe**, an online shop based in Washington, D.C. (*thenaturalwineshoppe.com*), and **Dandelion Wine**, a boutique shop in Greenpoint, Brooklyn (*153 Franklin Street; dandelionwinenyc.com*).

“Fruit is fruit. There’s a lot of similarities to wine-making when it comes to fermenting all types of fruits.”

producer founded by Mikael Nypelius and Karl Sjöström, two former sommeliers and wine importers who started making ciders from fermented Swedish fruits in 2016. “Fruit is fruit,” Nypelius says. “There’s a lot of similarities to wine-making when it comes to fermenting all types of fruits.”

When it came to naming their nontraditional ciders, especially those not made exclusively from apples, the pair faced a dilemma. “We started calling everything ‘fruit pét-nats,’ just to have our own little name for it,” Nypelius explains. It was a nod to *pétillant naturel*, the natural method of producing sparkling wine that the pair employed to create bubbly fruit ciders. Other Swedish producers soon followed suit, and today you’ll find bottles labeled “fruit pét-nat,” “cider pét-nat,” and “craft cider,” among other things. Some are made only with apples; others incorporate a variety of Nordic produce, from rhubarb and carrots to foraged blackberries and cast-off fruit from pear growers.

One common thread is the desire to use the bounty of the surrounding land and forests. At Pomologik, a cidery outside Stockholm run by Oskar Palm and Johan Sjöstedt, local apples are turned into classic ciders aged in oak barrels. “For me, Noma was a big part of it,” Sjöstedt says, referring to René Redzepi’s influential Copenhagen restaurant. “I did my sommelier internship there, and that’s when I



Cider central:
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started realizing that we can actually look in our own backyard and find stuff that can be magnificent in many ways.”

Over at Brutes, another Stockholm-area newcomer, a zero-waste approach inspires the team to create cuvées with cherries, plums, Japanese flowering quince, spent riesling skins, blueberries, chokeberries, pears, and apples. “Rather than making cider, we’re trying to make wine, but from fruits,” says Brutes co-owner Tobias Eriksson. Recent releases include a “slosé,” a sparkling cider made with wild sloe berries and apples from abandoned orchards.

The growth of the natural wine movement gives these producers hope that interest in funky, naturally fermented wines made from fruits other than grapes might also be on the rise. “I think we’re heading for a world that’s a bit more accepting when it comes to different types

of fruit,” Nypelius says. Today, Fruktste-reo exports to 24 countries, and in 2019 the founders published *Cider Revolution!*, a DIY guide for those interested in making their own cider and fruit pét-nats.

“For many years, everyone said it was impossible to produce cider on Swedish apples,” says Anna-Karin Svanberg, a curator at Stockholm’s Spritmuseum, dedicated to the history and culture of alcohol. Swedish apple varieties were thought to be best suited for eating, not cider making, she explains. Now there are so many quality producers around the country that the museum hosts an annual cider championship. Last year, it also staged a nine-month exhibition about Swedish cider. And as exports continue to increase, drinkers around the world are raising glasses of these tradition-busting Swedish craft ciders. VI.

Health and Great Taste at Stake

Berlin's vegetarian chefs outshine their omnivore peers.
BY MICHAEL FRANK PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIAN KERBER



Cookies Cream's "caviar" with egg yolk, potato, and brown butter.



Clockwise from top left: Handmade winter cabbage and shiitake agnolotti in a saffron sauce; vintage Berlin; Kopps' Jerusalem artichoke with chervil root, lentil chips, quince, and sour cherries; and Cookies Cream owner Heinz Gindullis.

PERHAPS NO CAPITAL CITY IN Europe is as laid-back as Berlin. People never seem to be in a hurry walking the hundreds of miles of urban footpaths, and that casual vibe extends to its restaurants, where you're far more likely to see diners in puffy vests and flannel shirts than wearing sport coats (during the pandemic, Berlin's outdoor restaurant culture has been in full effect). And because Germany is the economic engine that drives the EU, Berlin has long attracted creative types – so it's hardly surprising that it would rise as a hot spot of vegan and vegetarian dining.

Along with a concern for animal welfare,

the trend has been fed by a desire for a more sustainable, lower-carbon-footprint lifestyle, with chefs from around the world creating inventive meat-free menus, and spaces where carnivores and vegans break bread together without a side of self-righteousness. Most importantly, not only is the food fun, good for the planet's future, and, of course, locavore-focused – it's also straight-up delicious. Here are four servings for your next trip.

Scoop of the Scene COOKIES CREAM

"Cookie" Heinz Gindullis launched his hospitality career running a series of illicit

dance clubs into the early 2000s, while he was still in his teens. But in 2007, the life-long vegetarian debuted a licensed speak-easy-style bar that today is the home of Michelin-starred Cookies Cream, Germany's first vegetarian restaurant to earn the status. The 80-seat hideout is still hard to find, with an unsigned entrance on a dead-end street just beyond the opera house. But once you're inside, culinary creativity reigns. Consider the "caviar" course, a play on deviled eggs and caviar that's served in faux eggshells. One contains a potato puree that tastes of butter and sour cream (as well as actual egg); the other holds black-algae-and-soy "caviar," with all of the toothsome

On the Table



Clockwise from bottom left: Frea owner David Johannes Suchy and the restaurant's vegan chocolate mousse with beetroot granita, and Kopps' pears with chocolate and almonds. Opposite: An East Side Gallery mural depicting the famed socialist fraternal kiss between Soviet and East German leaders Leonid Brezhnev and Erich Honecker; this stretch of the Berlin Wall forms the world's longest open-air gallery.



pop and clean saline flavor of real roe. Parmesan dumplings with Périgord truffle and chives make for a comfort-food hit with a toasty pine-nut-crust exterior. Order the five-course tasting menu with wine pairings, or choose nonalcoholic pairings. The scene may have changed, but Cookies hasn't lost one irreverent step – reserve tables at



least two weeks in advance. *Behrenstrasse 55; cookiescream.com.*

Casually Classy KOPPS

According to one server, most regulars at the city's vegan champion since 2011 aren't even vegetarian, and it's easy to see Kopps'

broad appeal. Reclaimed windows frame mirrors along one wall, while a jigsaw of overlapping distressed doors lines part of the ceiling – but that's where the shabby-chic vibe ends. Waitstaff in crisp white shirts and ties drop artfully composed dishes at candlelit tables. A smoky grilled artichoke heart is punched up with citrus dressing and toasted chanterelles. Porcini mushrooms lend richness to an earthy celeriac dish, which is brightened by the sweetness of sliced grapes and rounded by soy, while a roasted golden-turnip-and-potato entrée, enhanced by apples, cranberries, and tangy leek, channels a gratin. And no one will miss the dairy in desserts such as the rich, gluten-free chocolate lava cake. *Linienstrasse 94; kopps-berlin.de.*

Waste Not, Want More FREA

Youthful trendsetters and mismatched, donated furniture fill this white-walled space that feels Danish modern, with a dash of homey. Behind the polish, Frea's soul is pure too: The vegan spot is the country's first zero-waste restaurant. Within 24 hours, the kitchen's innovative composter turns table and kitchen scraps into fertilizer, which is returned to the organic farmers the restaurant partners with. It's all honorable, but not nearly as impressive as the crusty sourdough and flatbreads made with Bavarian grains, fried and smoked potato-fennel salad, and daily handmade pasta, such as an herbaceous tortelli in a celeriac sauce with fermented carrots, shiitake mushrooms, and mustard seeds. *Torstrasse 180; frea.de.*

Sweet Spot TRIBECA ICE CREAM

Berliner Klaus Zinsmeister named his shop after the Manhattan neighborhood where he honed his ice-cream skills, using house-made nut milks for dairy, and coconut, rice, or pure cane sugars as sweeteners. Flavors range from intense raw chocolate to blue coconut to banana pecan, and have the rich creaminess of a French vanilla made from Jersey cow milk. The whitewashed interior, outdoor picnic table, and soy- and gluten-free scoops make this a favorite in the family-friendly Prenzlauer Berg. *Rykestrasse 40; tribecaicecream.com.*



WHERE TO STAY IN BERLIN

Three servings of German hospitality.

The 385-room **Hotel Adlon Kempinski Berlin** places guests steps from the Reichstag (capitol building) and Mitte's museums. Among its three bars and restaurants, Quarré serves bistro lunches on Pariser Platz on an outdoor terrace with great views of the Brandenburg Gate. *Doubles from \$308, including a room upgrade at time of booking, breakfast daily, a \$100 hotel credit, and late checkout.*

The **Waldorf Astoria Berlin** looks out on the fashionable Ku'damm (Kurfürstendamm) neighborhood, with 232 rooms featuring floor-to-ceiling windows, private balconies in King Tower Suites, and Germany's only Guerlain Spa. Its 15th-floor Library lounge serves afternoon tea and tea cocktails daily starting at 4 PM. *Doubles from \$318, including a room upgrade at time of booking, breakfast daily, and a \$100 hotel credit.*

Orania.Berlin presides in Kreuzberg, the city's creative heart, home to many of Berlin's murals and top galleries. The hotel embraces the neighborhood vibe with 41 rooms that feel more in line with artists' studios and lofts than hotel suites, and (post-pandemic) a sultry lobby bar for live jazz. *Doubles from \$330, including breakfast daily, a complimentary minibar, and a \$100 dining credit. VI.*

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Bright horizon: English Harbour from Shirley Heights Lookout.



Insiders’ Antigua

Find secluded beaches and low-key charm in this underrated, never overbuilt Caribbean haven.

BY KELSEY OGLETREE

ON MY FINAL MORNING IN ANTIGUA LAST YEAR, I GOT UP with the sun and headed to the beach – less than a minute’s walk from my room at Curtain Bluff. I kicked off my sandals and strolled down the “rough” beach, as they call it at the resort, watching the waves roll in. Suddenly, I spotted a tiny movement a few feet from the water’s edge. It wasn’t turtle season, which runs June through October in the Caribbean, but there he was: a baby sea turtle, smaller than a bar of soap, wildly flapping his flippers on the beach, all alone.

I almost didn’t pull out my phone, wanting to soak up the precious moment rather than record it. But on the way home, as I replayed those 13 seconds of the tiny hatchling fighting his way into the sea, I was glad I had. Clichéd though it may sound, the video gave me a sense of hope over the months of the pandemic, an inkling that perseverance and determination go a long way toward getting where you want to be.

ALESSANDRO LAI/GETTY IMAGES

The tenacious little turtle could also be a symbol of Antigua's resiliency. It was the first of the Caribbean islands to reopen following the massive lockdowns that began last March, with the first commercial flight, from Miami, landing at V.C. Bird International Airport in June.

Rob Sherman, managing director of Curtain Bluff for the past 25 years, says that although the beaches were empty for months, "you could still catch a fish or eat a mango. It was kind of peaceful and nice." It's that persistently chill vibe that drew visitors to Antigua before, and continues to do so.

Today, Antigua's restaurants are open again, hotel employees are back to work, and the economy is picking up steam. One reason: the natural social distancing that the 108-square-mile island's topography (and its 365 beaches) permits. "We don't have crowded beaches or high-rise hotels," says Dean Fenton, U.S. tourism director for the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority. "We've never overbuilt, so you can find your space in the sun." Antigua also has one of the region's most temperate climates, thanks to near-constant trade winds.

One essential experience, says Fenton, an Antiguan native himself, is the ten-day Antigua Carnival, which has taken place every summer since 1957 (except for 2020) to celebrate the island's emancipation from slavery. "This wasn't a festival just born to make money – people want to experience what it stood for," Fenton says. Today, the vibe at Carnival (which is currently on for 2021) is much the same as it was in the early years, with locals cooking in traditional coal pots, playing steel drums, and staging calypso competitions in the streets. Here, a few more Antiguan must-sees.

The Institution SHIRLEY HEIGHTS LOOKOUT

Thirty-three years ago, "someone had an idea to have a barbecue on top of this beautiful hill," Fenton says. Not only is this former military lookout the best sunset view, he adds, but it provides a slice of Antiguan culture you can't get anywhere else. Every Sunday afternoon, staff turn out seafood, ribs, chicken, and rum punch while the Halcyon Steel Orchestra brings the beats. Tourists show up first; locals come after the sun's

gone down. "If someone comes to Antigua and doesn't go to this, they've missed a lot," says Fenton. *English Harbour.*

Rum Bunch PAPA ZOUK

Said to have the Caribbean's largest rum collection, this intimate, colorful restaurant in Saint John's (the capital city) also prides itself on seafood. The no-frills fried snapper is a local favorite for dinner, washed down with a tall Ti' Punch – a

rum-heavy twist on a classic Caribbean cocktail. *Corner of Hilda Davis Drive and Dickenson Bay Street, Saint John's.*

Laid-Back Lobster BEACH BUM BAR AND GRILL

This unpretentious spot in Half Moon Bay gets the seaside hangout right. Also known as Tippi's (after co-owner Tippi Thomas), it serves the island's top lobster on tables in the sand. Forget "no shirt, no shoes, no service" – visitors arrive in bikinis or swim



Antigua musts, clockwise from top: Curtain Bluff from above, decked out for carnival season, and Shirley Heights Lookout's Sunday barbecue fare.

Quick Escape

trunks (or suits and ties) for lunch or dinner. *Half Moon Bay, Saint John's.*

Culture Vulture

HEMINGWAYS CARIBBEAN CAFE

Known for its grilled rock lobster and steamed cockles, plus desserts such as Antiguan bread pudding with rum sauce, Hemingways is located in an 1829 building overlooking Saint John's. From its second-floor terrace, diners get a classic view of the Heritage Quay shopping district and the city's bustling streets. *Lower Saint Mary's Street, Saint John's; hemingwayantigua.com.*

Rock Stop

THE GOLDSMITTY

Dutch-born Hans Smit has been designing his organic-looking jewelry on Antigua for nearly 50 years. His Saint John's store showcases gold, gems, pearls, and "Antiguanite." Smit polishes the latter – a locally sourced, 13-million-year-old petrified coral – to a high shine, then sets it in gold or silver for rings, earrings, and pendants. *11 Redcliffe Quay, Saint John's; goldsmitty.com.*

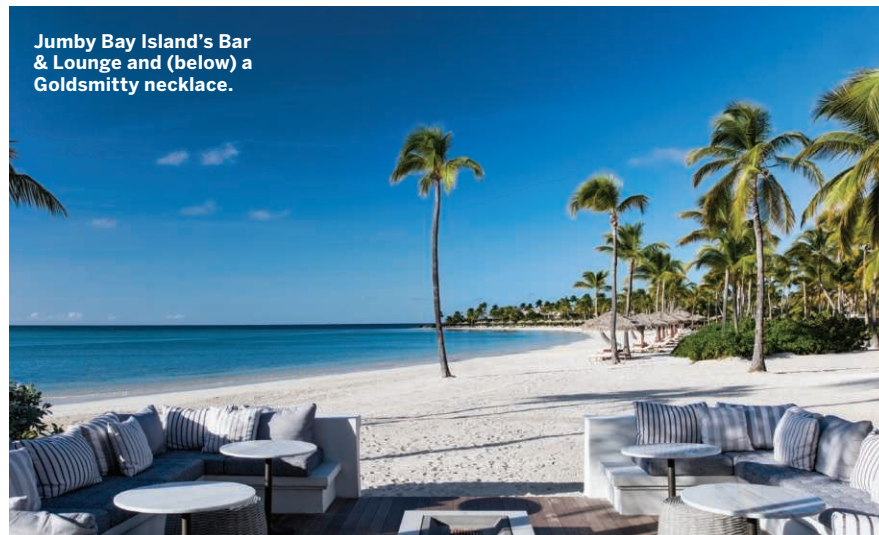
SPF Set

BEST BEACHES

On the island's northwestern coast, Dickenson Bay's sugary white sand and calm, shallow waters make it popular – and great for families. There's a resort vibe here, with souvenir booths, glass-bottomed-boat tours, dolphin-viewing tours, and beach chair rentals. Quiet and secluded Ffryes Beach at the southwestern end is known for its spectacular sunsets and crystal-clear waters.



“We’ve never overbuilt, so you can find your space in the sun.”



ISLAND TIME

Where to stay on Antigua.

With 72 oceanfront accommodations, **Curtain Bluff Resort** is well suited to families coming for extended stays. The all-inclusive property is known for its outstanding tennis program, as well as water sports, fishing excursions, guided village hikes, and pickleball courts. The calm beachfront feels more like a lake than an ocean. *Doubles from \$1,535, including all meals and a \$100 resort credit.*

Opt for an outdoor session in **Carlisle Bay's** serene 17,000-square-foot spa or an in-room treatment in a Bay Suite. Set on a peaceful beach on Antigua's southern

shore, the 87-room, all-suite resort offers horseback riding through Falmouth Bay, swimming with stingrays, guided rain-forest hikes, and complimentary sailing and windsurfing. *Suites from \$648, including breakfast and afternoon tea daily, a rain-forest hike, an Antiguan cooking demonstration, a two-hour boat excursion, and a \$100 resort credit.*

Reopened last November, the Oetker Collection's 28-suite, all-inclusive, private **Jumby Bay Island** (just two miles off the Antiguan coast) unveiled newly transformed accommodations and a fresh look for its spa,

restaurants, and common areas. With suites and villas dotted across the island, social distancing comes naturally here. *Suites from \$3,350, including a welcome amenity, all meals and beverages, and a \$100 spa credit.*

With canopy beds, outdoor showers, and just 30 airy suites set on 16 lush acres of tropical gardens, all-inclusive **Hermitage Bay** blends naturally with its habitat. Weekly poolside cooking classes incorporate ingredients from the on-site garden. *Suites from \$1,900, including a welcome amenity, all meals, and a \$100 resort credit.* VI.



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African Awakening

How to have a sustainable safari.

BY JOEL CENTANO

ALTHOUGH THE PANDEMIC PUT SAFARI DREAMS ON hold for much of 2020, advisors and tour operators say the classic African adventure is poised for a considerable comeback in 2021 and beyond. Countries from Kenya to South Africa have reopened, prompting some travelers to proceed with last year's postponed plans and many others to sign up for all that safaris offer: natural social distancing, reconnecting with loved ones, time in the wild. As bookings rise, it's a good time to consider what it means to safari responsibly, especially in the wake of shutdowns that led to increases in poaching in some countries and losses of local tourism jobs. Here, insights from experts on how we can ensure that these African sojourns aren't simply the trips of a lifetime, but that they also help sustain the places we visit for generations to come.



A Maasai warrior – and Mount Kilimanjaro – in Kenya and (below) Grumeti Reserve, Tanzania.



(WARRIOR) GETTY IMAGES; (GIRAFFES) RYAN HILTON

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Shipboard credits are available in the following amounts: \$1,000 USD shipboard credit per Premium Suite (\$500 USD per guest) for sailings 14 days or over; \$400 USD shipboard credit per standard suite/stateroom (\$200 USD per guest) for sailings 14 days or over; \$400 USD per Premium Suite (\$200 USD per guest) for sailings less than 14 days; \$200 USD per standard suite/stateroom (\$100 USD per guest) for sailings less than 14 days.

Shore excursions using shipboard credit must be booked onboard. Single fares will receive shipboard credit at the per guest rate. The Captain's Exclusive Beverage Package is only available for guests booking a Premium Suite. One free hotel night is per suite/stateroom in any category. Premium Suites include the following categories: Owner's Suite and Classic Suite, and on Wind Surf Bridge Suite, Officer's Suite, and Suites. Standard Stateroom/Suites include: Stateroom categories B, BX, A, AX, TX, and Guaranteed, and Suite categories Ocean View, Balcony, Star Porthole, Star Balcony, Deluxe, and Guaranteed Suite.

For all 2021 departures, deposits are 5% of the cruise fare, hotel, and non-discountable amounts.

Certain restrictions apply. All fares mentioned are per person, in US dollars, cruise only, based on double occupancy in lowest category, and include non-discountable amounts. Taxes, Fees and Port Expenses are additional and are published at www.windstarcruises.com. Offer is valid on new bookings only and subject to availability. Consult your Windstar representative for promotional offer or discount combinability. Bookings are non-transferable; no name changes can be made nor can this offer be applied retroactively. Cancellation fees may apply, please see website for details. Fuel surcharges may be imposed or increased over time. Offer is capacity controlled and may be withdrawn or modified at Windstar's discretion at any time. Information contained herein is accurate at time of publication and subject to change without notice. All terms and conditions stated on the Windstar website apply. Cruises are provided subject to the terms and conditions of the Passage Contract. Offer expires on March 31, 2021. Ships' registry: Bahamas, 20-0773

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Conscious Comeback



soap, shampoo, and conditioner. (As camps try to minimize their impact on the environment, it's important to think about what you're putting down the drain and leaving behind, including empty plastic bottles.) And save space in your luggage for supplies that will benefit local communities, schools, and charities, but be sure to consult with your travel advisor first about what's actually needed. You can also go to packforapurpose.org for info on reputable organizations and programs, along with their specific needs and drop-off locations.

I visited Kenya recently and cannot stress enough how safe the country is for travel. Negative Covid tests are required, temperatures are taken at airports and lodges, hand sanitizer is everywhere (I even saw handwashing stations in the bush!), and social distancing is taken very seriously – my small group enjoyed private game vehicles and dining wherever we went.



GET INVOLVED

Lydia Nzayo, general manager, Singita Kwitonda Lodge and Kataza House, Rwanda

Stay at lodges that let you actively participate in conservation programs. Our guests, for example, can plant trees as part of an ambitious reforestation program – to date, we've planted more than 250,000 saplings to restore habitat for endangered mountain gorillas. Funds from our treks in nearby Volcanoes National Park also support efforts to save this species while creating sustainable jobs for locals as field rangers and porters. And my best advice for gorilla treks: Limit your filming or photographing to 20 minutes and then just enjoy the moment, being present without any devices.



TRAVEL LIGHT

Kathy Boate, Virtuoso travel advisor, London

Pack light and don't forget that conscientious camps will provide you with biodegradable

Clockwise from top: Afloat over the Serengeti, safari sustenance and breakfast protocols in Tanzania, and a mountain gorilla encounter in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park.



(HOT AIR BALLOON, FOOD, AND BREAKFAST) RYAN HILTON, (RWANDA) DIVESH MISTRY/GETTY IMAGES



EAT LOCAL

Murray Gardiner, cofounder and CEO, Giltedge Africa, South Africa

It's critical that any community or township tour is done ethically, so Giltedge only works with select companies that are Fair Trade Tourism-certified or that we've personally vetted. This ensures travelers' tourism dollars directly benefit shops, gardens, and after-school projects in the places they visit. Also be sure to dine at restaurants that support South Africa's farmers and winemakers – it's likely the easiest way to bolster our local economies. In and near Cape Town, three of my favorites are Babel Restaurant; Local, a restaurant and retail space at Heritage Square; and Chefs Warehouse & Canteen.



CHOOSE WISELY

Ryan Hilton, Virtuoso travel advisor, Sarasota, Florida

The most important contribution you can make is to travel on a well-planned safari. By crafting an itinerary with a Virtuoso advisor, you can ensure you support camps, lodges, and operators that are committed to conservation and community development. Wilderness Safaris, for example, is responsible for the largest-ever international translocation of black and southern white rhinos in an effort to repopulate these species to the wilds of northern Botswana.

Singita's lodges also do exceptional work throughout the region – its children's food program in Zimbabwe, for instance, nourishes thousands of kids each school day.

And to allay any health concerns: My family and I felt very safe while traveling in Tanzania last fall. Along with airports and planes, the properties that are open (and the vehicles they're using to transport guests) are sparkling clean. The biggest difference is the presence of masks – they're everywhere.



SUPPORT EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Lorna Macleod, cofounder and executive director, Micato-AmericaShare, New York City

The most powerful tool for sustainable change in Africa is education. Through our One for One Commitment, Micato sends a child to school for every guest on safari, so just by traveling with us you have a direct and lasting impact. Travelers in East and South Africa can also make a hands-on difference by engaging with students at our Harambee Community Centre Library near Nairobi and the Red Hill Library outside Cape Town. The simple act of spending time with these children does more good than you can imagine.



TURN OFF GEOTAGGING

Ikalaheng "Ike" Mogalakwe, head safari guide, Xigera Safari Lodge, Botswana

As travelers post safari photos to social media sites, they don't realize that those posts are embedded with geotags containing GPS locations of the sightings. Unfortunately, this allows poachers to track animals of value. We always advise our guests to keep their posts private and remove any geotags, which is easily done by accessing your

device settings to turn off your GPS location. By doing so, you can help keep Africa's wildlife safe.



SEEK AUTHENTIC CONNECTIONS

Charlotte French, Virtuoso travel advisor, Wilmington, North Carolina

Support Indigenous people. Work with a travel advisor to include visits to authentic – not “show” – villages so you can learn about local communities and their cultural traditions. This allows you to contribute to their schools and projects, and to purchase craftwork directly from the artisans who made it.

I also suggest staying at lodges in community-owned conservancies, as these provide a framework and the right incentives to protect animals and reduce human-wildlife conflicts that can arise over natural resources. On my Kenya safari last October with Big Five Tours & Expeditions, I visited the Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy and Mara Naboisho Conservancy. They're located on land leased from Samburu and Maasai community landowners, respectively, and offer groundbreaking examples of how tourism can create sustainable livelihoods while also ensuring wildlife conservation. VI.



I DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT:

- 1.** **Ebby Rane's** Quartermaster carry-on comes with its own coordinated packing cubes and carryalls.
- 2.** **Ugg Lenon** pajamas make me feel like I'm home even when I'm on the road.
- 3.** Whether I'm going to a meeting or onstage speaking, black **Jimmy Choo Romy 85** pumps are my go-to.
- 4.** **Fenty Beauty** Slip Shine Sheer Shiny lipstick in Cookies & Cocoa.
- 5.** My **Louis Vuitton** Neverfull shoulder bag.
- 6.** A great **book**. I loved *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett.
- 7.** A good **protein bar** – I like RX Bar or Lärabar.
- 8.** I'm traditional: I still use a **soft-backed planner** for handwriting my thoughts and tasks.
- 9.** A **Dolce & Gabbana** business suit. But really, anything that looks and makes me feel great is what I go with.
- 10.** I always travel with a piece of **fruit** in my bag for an easy, healthy option.
- 11.** **Tom Ford** eyeglasses. VI.

My Travel Essentials

Crisis manager Judy Smith packs her Jimmy Choos and leaves the details to a pro.

WASHINGTON, D.C.-based Judy Smith is a powerhouse lawyer, author, crisis-management expert, and TV producer, with clients ranging from Sony to Angelina Jolie. But *Scandal* devotees might know her better as the real Olivia Pope – Smith's life story inspired the series. With Smith & Company offices in D.C.,

L.A., NYC, and London, during normal times, she travels most days of the week. Off the clock, though, she likes to spend time with her family in places that are beautiful or warm – or both. One standout pre-Covid trip: a jaunt from London to Morocco for stays at Dar Ahlam in Ouarzazate and The Royal Mansour Marrakech. Still on her list: the

Maldives. Her Virtuoso travel advisor, Raschinna Findlay, paves the way for crisis-free trips. "She always recommends the best places based on what she knows I like, and somehow the people are always prepared for my arrival," Smith says. "I'm sure it's the heads-up they get from Raschinna. She's made my travel over the past ten years so much more enjoyable."



3.



4.



1.

AWE AT EVERY TURN.

When you cruise with Norwegian, the thrill of Alaska journeys with you. Whip past glaciers and push the limits on an exhilarating race track at sea or take in the majestic views from the incredible 180-degree Observation Lounge. Watch for whales in the Pacific while relaxing on a heated lounger in the Thermal Suite. Then indulge on delicious cuisine in a unique specialty restaurant followed by an amazing show.

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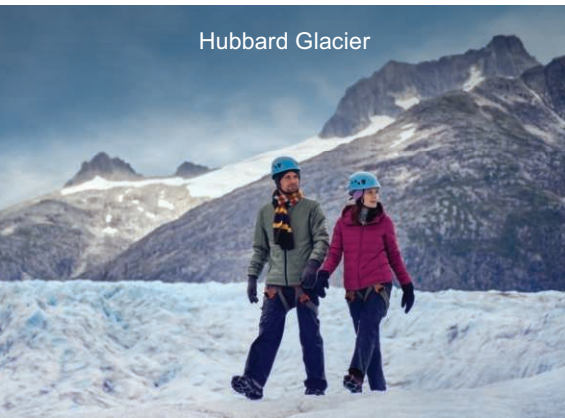
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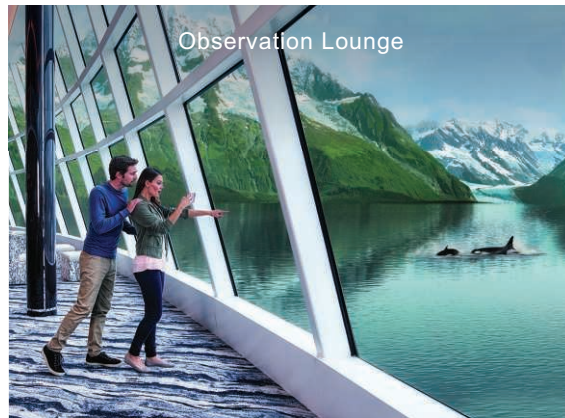
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Hubbard Glacier



Observation Lounge



Thermal Suite





On our list for 2021:
Joyful moments.

DIAMOND DOGS/GETTY IMAGES



THE TRAVEL RESET

Welcoming 2021 with big dreams –
and inspiration to spare.

BY MARIKA CAIN, AMY CASSELL,
SAMANTHA FALEWÉE, AND JUSTIN PAUL

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALI MACDONALD

NO ONE COULD HAVE PREDICTED HOW PROFOUNDLY THE WORLD WOULD change last year – and how profoundly we would miss getting out there to see it. But we’re greeting the new year with renewed hope, curiosity, and inspiration. With that in mind, we designed this compendium of top destinations (yes, Italy’s still No. 1), wellness and adventure escapes (socially distant spas and fresh-air-filled bike trips), and other current-era-appropriate getaways (luxury RV tours, work-from-hotel stays) to inform future travels, big and small.

More good news: If you’re reading this, you likely already work with a Virtuoso travel advisor, so we don’t have to remind you about the unparalleled access, expert knowledge, save-the-day skills, and amazing travel perks your advisor wields. A Virtuoso advisor is essentially a specialist in *you* – from your hotel must-haves and air travel pet peeves to your been-there, done-that destinations and take-me-there-now dreams. And let’s not forget the magic they can work for last-minute weekends and close-to-home trips. Our travel chops might be a little rusty after 2020, but when the time is right, let’s dust off our passports and get back out there.

REFRESH YOUR WANDERLIST

Destinations worth planning for – and a tool to help you dream.

Last year, thousands of people logged on to Virtuoso Wanderlist – our new trip-inspiration platform – to browse, save, and share vacation ideas with their friends, family, and travel advisors. The interactive tool lets travelers curate a wish list and plan for the future. Wanderlist’s ten most-saved destinations span the globe, from the Outback to the Land of Fire and Ice. These destinations promise less dreaming and more doing – whenever you’re ready to wander again.

1. Italy

From Dolomite summits to Sicilian shores, the allure of la dolce vita continues unabated.

2. France

The 72-room **Cheval Blanc Paris** was set to open last spring, but the pandemic pushed its long-awaited debut to 2021. Rooms overlook the Seine, facing the Left Bank; spa rituals are by Dior; and French chef Arnaud Donckele will oversee the dining program, which includes a rooftop terrace with

We'll always have Italy (when the time is right) and (opposite) Kyoto.



SERGEY BORISOV/GETTY IMAGES



Eiffel Tower views. It's a *très* chic way to return to the City of Light. Rates to be announced, including fast-track customs service, complimentary private round-trip airport transfers, and breakfast daily.

3. Australia

We can't wait for the land down under to reopen to travelers.

4. Greece

Virtuoso advisors have fielded

a huge increase in private yacht inquiries – and private yachting doesn't get much dreamier than the Greek isles. **The Moorings** offers crewed charters from Athens on a six-passenger catamaran, with a completely customizable itinerary: Visit ancient Olympia on the Peloponnese, island-hop (hikers love Kea; families shouldn't skip Hydra), and snorkel in the Saronic Gulf. *Eight-day crewed (captain and chef) charters from \$20,249, available April through October.*

5. Japan

Travelers remain in wait-and-see mode regarding Tokyo's postponed Summer Olympic Games, which have been rescheduled for July. The Japanese government is planning to allow spectators to attend as is deemed safe and prudent – your Virtuoso travel advisor can keep you updated. International sporting events aside, Japan's draw remains, and **Artisans of Leisure** is

launching new experiences in the country to satisfy demand. On our Wanderlist: a 14-day spa-, nature-, and spirituality-focused jaunt from Tokyo, with stops for tea ceremonies in Kyoto, healing hot springs soaks in Hakone, *shinrin-yoku* (forest bathing) sessions on Yakushima Island, and more. It's a two-week master class in the Zen we're channeling in the months ahead. *Departures: Any day through 2021; from \$29,150.*



From left: Cape Town's Table Mountain; kayaking past Maori carvings in Taupo, New Zealand; and exploring Iceland's Stokksnes Peninsula.



6. South Africa

Winelands, safaris, and Cape Town cool are perennial draws.

7. United Kingdom

The English countryside is an ideal place to socially distance, and there's plenty of space to spread out at 70-room **Coworth Park**, set on 240 acres in Berkshire County. The hotel is debuting North Lodge, an exclusive-use, three-bedroom Georgian gatehouse. Guests can gather for a chef-prepared dinner in their cottage's private garden or stroll over to the main house for a meal at Michelin-starred Restaurant Coworth Park. *North Lodge from \$4,620 for up to six guests, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

(SOUTH AFRICA) SUBMAN/GETTY IMAGES

THE NEW SLANG

Pandemic travel lingo for navigating the year ahead.

* **COVIDIENT**: A responsible traveler who adheres to government health and safety regulations and recommendations – not to be confused with “covidots,” who flout them.

* **IMMUNITY PASSPORT**: An as-yet-nonexistent certificate or app that confirms its bearer has antibodies that fight Covid-19 or is vaccinated.

* **REMOTE YEAR**: Taking the office or classroom virtually anywhere with strong Wi-Fi and a view, such as Bermuda (which waived work-visa restrictions) or the Maldives.

* **TRAVEL BUBBLE**: An agreement between countries to mutually open their borders while denying visitors from any other countries.

* **TRAVEL CORRIDOR**: An agreement formed by two countries or cities that allows people who test negative for Covid-19 to travel between them without quarantining for 14 days. Also known as an “air corridor” or “air bridge.”

* **TRAVEL POD**: Two families or a small group of friends, aka a “quaranteam,” who travel together while adhering to agreed-upon health and safety protocols (mask wearing, social distancing, pre-trip Covid tests, quarantining before departure).



8. Iceland

After months of exploring our own backyards, we're not surprised to see Iceland's otherworldly landscapes at the top of travelers' minds. Make plans to spy the country's dramatic coastline from the bow of **Ponant's** new hybrid-powered ship, the 270-passenger *Commandant-Charcot*, which is set to debut in May. A 15-day expedition to Greenland

begins in Le Havre and ends in Iceland's capital, Reykjavík. *Departure: May 31; from \$18,150.*

9. Spain

Barcelona, San Sebastián, and the Iberian Peninsula's sunny southern shores beckon.

10. New Zealand

When the time is right, knock out two top-ten destinations

at once on **Abercrombie & Kent's** new 17-day trip to New Zealand and Australia. The ultraluxe, small-group adventure (capped at 18 travelers) focuses on exclusive access to some of the countries' most popular places, including a day sailing along the Great Barrier Reef, a VIP tour of the Sydney Opera House, and a private winetasting in Queenstown. *Departures: Any day through 2021; from \$29,150.*

THE WELLNESS REBOOT

In 2021, self-care knows no borders.

We love the massage therapists, smoothie-bar mixologists, and trainers who transform trips into spells of bliss. But the health merits of getting back out in the world run more than skin deep: “The benefit of travel is having meaningful experiences that build into our personal biography – and then sharing those stories with others,” says Todd Kashdan, George Mason University professor of psychology and coauthor of *The Upside of Your Dark Side*. “Data shows that within the first four to five weeks after a vacation, you see an increase in job engagement; an increase in low-energy positivity throughout the day – contentment, serenity, tranquility; and a decrease in burnout.” Nourish your best self with these getaways.

Mind

In New York’s Hudson Valley, 36-room **Troutbeck** sprawls on 250 acres of land, encompassing meadows, wooded trails, two creeks, tennis courts, and a garden house – an atmosphere that has long attracted writers and naturalists (Mark Twain and Henry David Thoreau among them). Last fall, the hotel expanded its appeal with the opening of The Barns. The Tall Barn, with 27-foot ceilings, offers meditation classes, rise-and-shine yoga, and mindfulness sessions, while the 3,500-square-foot Long Barn features a gym and treatment rooms for acupuncture, massage, and *gua sha* facial treatments (facial massage with a jade stone), all designed to relax the mind. *Doubles from \$477, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

Body

Last June, the 103-room **Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa**

in Baden-Baden, Germany, met the pandemic with a new health program at its stand-alone, five-story Villa Stéphanie: a three-day course focused on boosting the immune system. Expect a medical consultation, oxygen inhalation treatments, and ozone therapy, as well as a customized diet, full-body massage, and more-holistic elements such as physical training and hiking. *Villa Stéphanie doubles from \$1,500 (three-night minimum).*

Soul

Where better to seek peace than in Bhutan, whose “gross national happiness” index famously informs daily life. **Amankora** comprises five lodges across the country, each built to meld with its environment, including Amankora Punakha, surrounded by rice terraces, and Amankora Bumthang, where visitors can join local monks in prayer. During the pandemic pause, the hotel planted several acres of sustainable crops to support

Om here: Amankora Punakha Lodge in Bhutan.



The health merits of getting back out in the world run more than skin deep.

local communities and staff. When the doors reopen this March, visit monasteries and hike to ancient cliffside

temples. *Doubles from \$1,525, including breakfast daily and a hot-stone massage at Amankora Paro Lodge.*

MED-SPA MAKEOVER

Anyone who’s spent the past months trying not to notice their own laugh lines during Zoom calls might consider checking into a full-service operation, such as the 104-room **SHA Wellness Clinic** in Alicante, Spain, for anything from tooth whitening to detox to Botox. After the headache that was 2020, we say: Treat yourself. *Doubles from \$475, including a \$60 daily treatment credit.*

PRIORITIES CHECK

The **World Travel & Tourism Council** recently published easy steps you can take to make your travel sustainable. Here are a few we're adding to our travel resolutions; look for the whole list at wtcc.org.

1. PACK LIGHT AND SMART. Every additional pound you pack requires additional jet fuel. Also consider packing items that help reduce plastic waste, such as a reusable mask; a refillable water bottle, purifier, or filter; a reusable bag; and your own toiletries, to avoid single-use hotel products.

2. SUPPORT ANIMAL WELFARE AND NATURE PRESERVATION. Look for tours that respect wildlife and keep a safe distance from animals, opt for wildlife sanctuaries and accredited rehabilitation centers where you can help protect rescued and orphaned animals, choose a sunscreen that doesn't damage marine life, and when scuba diving or snorkeling, do so responsibly to make sure you aren't treading on the coral.

3. DEMAND SUSTAINABILITY. It's important to tell businesses that you expect sustainable practices. Fill in feedback forms when you have the chance, or speak to managers when you can.

WANDERLUSTER/GETTY IMAGES



Wildlife worth preserving in Namibia's Etosha National Park.



Safe sailing is on the horizon.

GET (BACK) ON BOARD

Some thoughts on setting sail again.

The months-long cruising pause has deepened our appreciation for travel on the water – the thrill of pulling into a new port, the calm of the wide horizon, and the ease of seeing the world from the

comfort of a floating hotel. We asked a few travel-industry friends to tell us what they’re most looking forward to about cruising’s return.

* “I can’t wait for that feeling that comes with being at sea, anticipating the promise of onshore explorations ahead. **A cruise can be so many different things** – an expedition to Antarctica, a river float through French vineyards, or a voyage on a resort-style ship with enough amenities to engage everyone from kids to grandparents. But the one commonality I really love is only having to unpack once, and then getting to relax and enjoy

the trip.” – *Samuel Spencer, Virtuoso travel advisor, Calgary*

* “Travelers are looking to escape the routine that has become their daily lives during the pandemic. On an Arctic expedition cruise, each day is different, depending on the weather, tides, ice conditions, and wildlife. When we plan an itinerary, we build in flexibility so we can take advantage of serendipitous moments, from bringing the ship closer to shore to spy polar bears to altering course to follow a pod of whales. **There’s a new discovery daily.**” – *Bob Simpson, vice president of expedition cruising, Abercrombie & Kent*

* “I’m ready to help plan voyages for my clients who are excited to cruise again, and that often includes not just the cruise, but pre- and post-adventures as well. **Travel advisors can get pretty creative:** For 2021, I’m already working on a Jordan adventure for a group of 13 travelers before their Nile cruise, and a history-focused, post-cruise stay in Rome for a family heading to the Mediterranean.”

– *Monika Dysart, Virtuoso travel advisor, Saint Louis, Missouri*





Quality time at Explora Atacama and (above) Belmond Cap Juluca.

FAMILY MATTERS

We could all use a break.

The pandemic introduced a stubborn wrinkle to family vacation planning – but it’s still possible to make it happen. Whether you want to bunker down with your immediate relations or (responsibly) venture out with your travel pod, here are safe landing spots for the whole clan, from modest to mind-blowing.

Field Trip

The one upside of remote learning is that you can do it anywhere with a Wi-Fi signal. Hotels have seized on this perk, rolling out remote work and learning packages designed to accommodate the whole family’s needs. Southern California’s **Ojai Valley Inn**, for instance, outfits rooms with kid-size desks, gives adults nine-to-five conference-room access on weekdays, and helps everyone unwind with a family-game-night basket and daily deliveries of fresh juice and snacks. *Remote work and learn stay from \$487.*

Upscale RV Break

Take it on the road with an eight-day **American Excursionist** RV tour of the American Southwest, either self-driven in a compact RV or with a private driver/guide in a 40-foot, high-end motor home, with hotel stays along the way. *Compact RV trip from*

\$5,960 per person; full-size RV trip from \$7,700 per person.

The Month Abroad

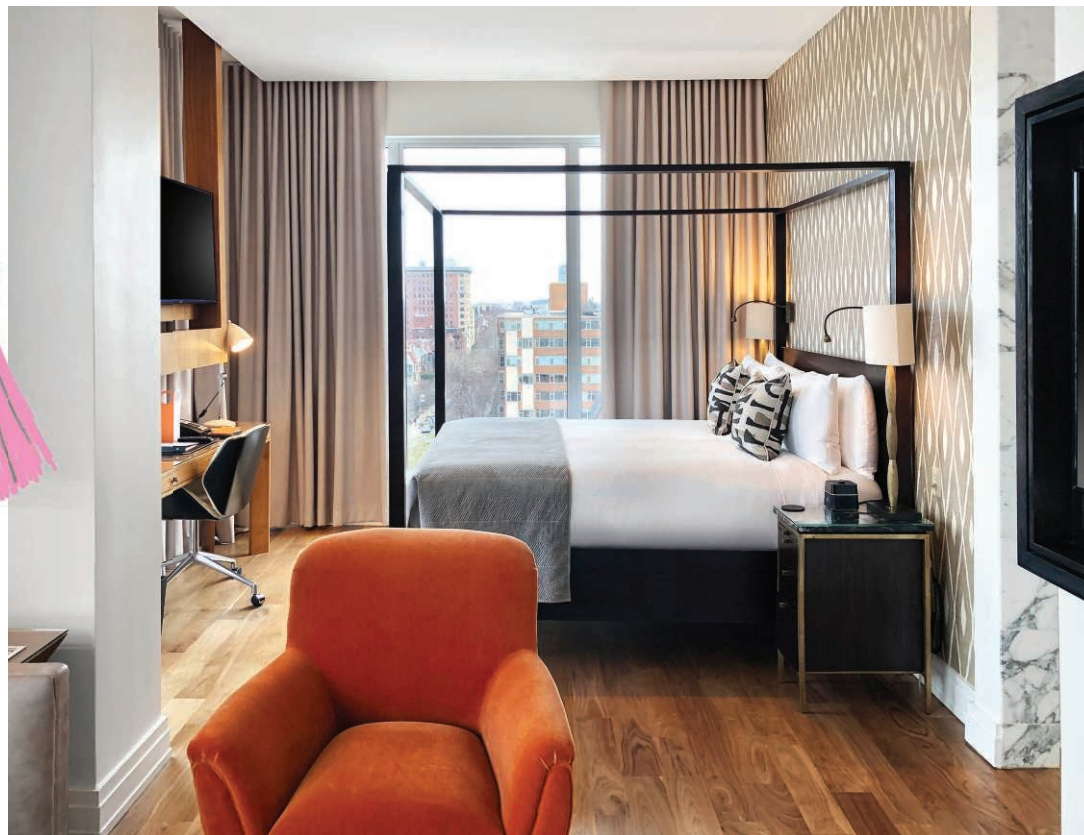
Check into **Belmond Cap Juluca** on Anguilla for a stay of 30 (or more) days, and you’ll get breakfast daily, a weekly spa treatment, laundry service, and a daily resort credit of \$100. *Junior suite from \$1,391 per day for a 30-day stay.*

The Over-the-Top Escape

Make a break for South America with an **Explora** lodge buyout for up to 25 guests – and take it to the max with optional private jet transfers. Fresh desert air and adventure in abundance are on the itinerary – for example, with an **Explora Atacama** sojourn in Chile. *Lodge buyout from \$20,000 per day (minimum three days; private jet transfers extra).*

NEW LOOKS

Hotels around the world have taken advantage of the pause to spruce up. We can't wait to visit these.



London's **Beaumont** opted to keep its doors closed throughout the pandemic (while retaining its staff) in order to fast-forward a large-scale upgrade. When it reopens this spring, the hotel will feature updated dining venues and an expanded gym.

Le Bristol Paris debuted a reimagined garden, Le Jardin Français; refreshed rooms with Italian linens; and more.

The Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C., was able to quickly wrap up its two-year, top-to-bottom renovation, reopening in full mid-century splendor.

La Mamounia welcomed guests back to Marrakech with a new Pierre Hermé tea salon, a caviar and Champagne bar, and Italian and Asian restaurants by Jean-Georges Vongerichten.

Just outside San Diego, **Park Hyatt Aviara Resort, Golf Club & Spa** has overhauled its rooms with wood entries and a palette of cool blue and gray, and created a Mediterranean-inspired outdoor living room off the lobby.

W South Beach has reopened following a \$30 million renovation, which included updates to five private, three-floor, poolside bungalows and all other rooms; a new 9,000-square-foot spa; and noteworthy additions (Warhol, Basquiat) to its multimillion-dollar art collection.

Four Seasons Resort Hualalai on the island of Hawaii reopened in December with a new free-form, oceanfront King's Pond pool; a complete room overhaul will conclude this spring.





Tasmania's Wineglass Bay and (below) taking on Snowmass slopes.



ADVENTURE TIME

Hike, schuss, and spin away from it all in the great outdoors.

Stepping Out

Lace up for Tasmania's Three Capes Track with **Butterfield & Robinson's** 12-day private hiking trip in the Australian island state. A four-day, 30-mile trek between three eco-lodges traverses eucalyptus forest, coastal heathland, and cliffs that top out some 900 feet above the sea. Also on the trail map: three days exploring Freycinet National Park's pink granite mountains and Wineglass Bay. *Departures: Any day, October 1 through April 30, 2022; from \$9,495.*

Clicked In

Families can take on Aspen's slopes with tour operator **SkiUSA**. Two peak recommendations: seven nights in a two-bedroom residence at the 168-room Viceroy Snowmass or, for extra privacy and social distancing, in Hotel Jerome's stand-alone, three-bedroom Penthouse C at the Mill. *Departures: Any day through March 31; Viceroy residence from \$9,185 and*

Penthouse C from \$42,015, including six days of lift tickets and skiing or snowboarding rentals for two adults and two children.

Two Wheels in the Med

Cycle some of the Mediterranean's most scenic islands with **DuVine Cycling + Adventure Co.**'s private bike and sailing tours of the Turkish coast, Croatia's Dalmatian Islands, Greece, and Sardinia. Eight days in Dalmatia feature 11- to 34-mile daily rides on the islands of Brac, Korcula, Hvar, and Vis, with artist studio visits and winery stops, plus sunset swims and cocktails on *Stella Maris*, a 16-passenger gulet yacht. *Departures: Mid-April through mid-October; from \$11,995 per person. VI.*





Widespread undertourism brought on by the pandemic has affected the 330 million people worldwide who rely on tourism for their livelihoods. A look at the people and places poised to welcome us back.

BY MARIKA CAIN

The World Is Waiting .



(INDIA) SAMARITA TAMBAK/ALAMY.
(ITALY) ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ITALY: A gondolier awaits customers in an unusually quiet Venice, a destination once in danger of being loved to death by travelers. The pandemic has prompted some to rethink the city's approach to tourism, which brings in an estimated \$3.3 billion annually and directly employs about half its residents. *Opposite:* **INDIA:** Pre-pandemic, the Taj Mahal in Agra saw up to 70,000 visitors per day; a reopening last September capped that number at just 5,000.





(1) PA IMAGES/ALAMY, (2) KAI SCHWOERER/GETTY IMAGES, (3) LAM YIK/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES
(4) REUTERS/ALAMY, (5) KORENA BOLDING SINNETT, (6) OLI SCARFF/AFP/GETTY IMAGES,
(7) MIQUEL BENITEZ/GETTY IMAGES, (8) SUSAN WRIGHT, (9) ANE RIX/ALAMY



197 million

Estimated travel- and tourism-related jobs lost in 2020, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council.

KENYA: The pandemic has been trying for those who earn their living from travelers on safari in the Maasai Mara National Reserve. *Opposite:* **1. IRELAND:** A barman at The Bankers Bar in Dublin's city center. **2. NEW ZEALAND:** Meniscus Wines in Akaroa relies heavily on cruise-ship passengers for business. Co-owner Gay Epstein, pictured here, closed the winery early for the season in 2020. **5. HONG KONG:** At Crown Super Deluxe restaurant, Covid restrictions curtailed hours and capacity. **4. FRANCE:** Catherine Pégard, president of the Château de Versailles, poses in the Hall of Mirrors. The popular historic site has closed intermittently during the pandemic. **5. MEXICO:** Staff members at the Rosewood San Miguel de Allende. **6. ENGLAND:** Station master Chandra Law stands on the platform of East Lancashire Railway's Ramsbottom Station in northern England. **7. SPAIN:** Joan Bayen of Bar Pinotxo, age 86, has worked for 70 years in Barcelona's Boqueria Market. Catalonia is more reliant on tourism than any other area in Spain. **8. ITALY:** Artist Sergio Biliotti in his Florence studio. Losses from the collapse of tourism to Italy in 2020 are estimated at \$34 billion. **9. JAPAN:** A street vendor in Tokyo's Tsukiji outer market.







CHESNOT/GETTY IMAGES



1 in 10
Number of
people worldwide
employed in travel-
related fields
in 2019.

FRANCE: A woman sits outside the Louvre in Paris. The museum, along with scores of other French institutions, closed for the first time in March of last year as the pandemic began, and again in October in response to a second wave.

MOROCCO: Quiet and deserted during the pandemic, Jemaa el-Fna market square in Marrakech typically bustles with snake charmers and other performers, and the tourists who flock there to see them.



AUSTRALIA: A rare image of Sydney's iconic Opera House without crowds. The country's stringent pandemic restrictions quelled the virus but brought international tourism to a standstill.



10.3

Percent of global GDP generated by travel and tourism in 2019. The industry is a powerful driver for employment of women and minorities especially.

CHINA: A woman in traditional Chinese dress visits the Treasure Gallery at Beijing's Palace Museum.







(NYC) CULTURA CREATIVE LTD/ALAMY, (BRAZIL) PAULO VELOZO/GETTY IMAGES

U.S.: The Brooklyn Bridge with room to spare. *Opposite:* **BRAZIL:** Rio de Janeiro’s famous Copacabana Beach, sans sunbathers. The city has postponed its 2021 Carnival parade, an event that generated \$725 million in 2020, much of that from tourism. VI



Brook: “Our first was such a wonderful experience we wanted to return with our granddaughter, son and other family and friends. The *Endeavor II* was lovely. The naturalists were outstanding in their depth of knowledge and were great with the kids—they had special programs for them.”



Chester: “My husband and I learned so much. Great options for exploring via hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, and zodiac riding. My only complaint: the food was too good. I am walking extra miles now...”

GALÁPAGOS IN THEIR WORDS

Lars-Eric Lindblad brought the first expedition travelers to Galápagos in 1967. For over 50 years, we’ve refined our understanding of what matters to people, and as a result, offer the most meaningful and rewarding guest experience, while also supporting Galápagos conservation through the Lindblad-National Geographic Fund. Judging from the reviews by many Virtuoso guests, we’re succeeding in our mission.

**For the experience of a lifetime:
join Lindblad-National Geographic on
expedition in Galápagos.**



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Wayne: “...perfectly curated, organized, and executed by the Lindblad people who were professional, friendly, engaged, and truly interested in everyone having the experience of a lifetime.”



Vermont: “Ship was wonderful from every aspect. Highly recommend them for people wanting small ship adventure with great science resources aboard.”



Liz: “The naturalists were perfect companions.”



Your expert-sourced, door-to-door guide for getting back out there.

BY ELAINE GLUSAC Illustrations by Andrew Joyce

PRE-TRIP CHECKLIST

TOP CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE.

- Check your passport now to ensure it's valid through 2021 – renewal turnaround time is running 10 to 12 weeks, and even expedited service is four to six weeks. The shortcut: Travelers scheduled to depart within 72 hours may make appointments to apply in person at passport agencies and centers.
- Did you raid your toiletry kit while sheltering in place? Time to restock those go-bag basics.
- Visit destinations where your travel dollars make the most impact. For example, due to undertourism in Kenya and Botswana, where safari operators provide employment and fund conservation initiatives, poaching for bushmeat has risen. Closer to home, boutique hotels and local businesses are struggling too. "With travel restrictions in place for many international destinations, I talk to my clients about travel in the U.S.," says Newport Beach-based Virtuoso travel advisor Colleen O'Keefe. "You can see communities around the country that need you."
- Consult the U.S. State Department's country-specific Covid-19 pages (travel.state.gov) for up-to-date alerts and entry requirements, and ask your advisor about logistics and what to expect on arrival. "I spend a lot of time researching where people can get tested and how this all works," says Atlanta-based advisor Georgia Schley Ritchie. "For example, if you're going to Tanzania via Amsterdam, how will the layover be treated? Our role as your advocate has really expanded."
- Purchase "Cancel for Any Reason" travel insurance to protect your investment against trip cancellation or interruption due to job loss, family emergency, or simply a change of heart due to travel advisories or quarantine restrictions.

TIP

From airports to attractions, look for the World Travel & Tourism Council's "Safe Travels" stamp, which indicates a travel business meets the global body's specific safety and hygiene standards.



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EARLY CHECK-IN AND LATE CHECKOUT, WHEN AVAILABLE •
COMPLIMENTARY WI-FI • VIRTUOSO AMENITY

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA

The Resort at Pelican Hill



Pelican Peace of Mind cleaning and safety protocols ensure your well-being is the highest priority.

Perched on acres of unrivaled coastal beauty, this secluded sanctuary offers outdoor dining and plenty of space to spread out. Villas and bungalows are private, stand-alone retreats. Golf at two courses, swim in three pools, and take part in adventures like kayaking, cycling, and hiking.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 resort credit per stay.



DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA

Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club



Legendary laid-back luxury and iconic Waldorf service come together at last in Southern California.

Experience a new era of elegance as the Monarch Beach Resort makes its debut as the Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club. Sand, sea, and service await with a private beach club, oceanfront golf, a luxury spa, sparkling pools, and inspired cuisine. Safety standards are enhanced through the Hilton CleanStay program.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 resort credit per stay.



MALIBU, CALIFORNIA

Malibu Beach Inn



This seaside haven in the heart of Malibu has a GBAC STAR accreditation for high cleanliness standards.

Wake to the soothing sounds of the sea, enjoy spa treatments, and browse the curated art collection. Book your stay between now and December 30, 2021, and indulge in a private dining suite package that includes a customized four-course chef's tasting menu, served on your private terrace overlooking the Pacific.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 resort credit per stay.



IN TRANSIT

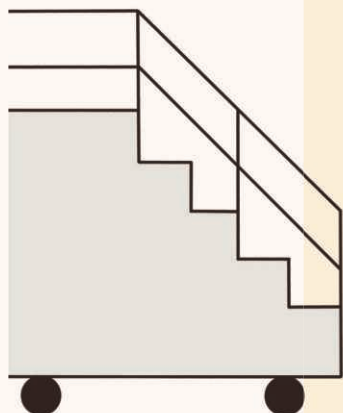
CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF

Turns out, air travel is pretty safe.

With the addition of hospital-grade air filtration, enhanced cleaning, and, often, fogging the cabin with germicidal electrostatic sprayers, airplanes have proven to be a safe mode of transportation during the pandemic – even if it's impossible to maintain six feet of social distance in flight.

“The good news is that the aircraft themselves have very efficient air-filtration systems, so that part of the trip is relatively safe,” says Dr. Henry Wu, the director of Emory TravelWell Center and an associate professor of infectious diseases at Atlanta’s Emory University School of Medicine. “If you keep your mask on, the risks of transmission are fairly low.”

In fact, a recent study by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health put the risk of flying below that of grocery shopping, and a Defense Department study concluded that a passenger on a full flight with everyone wearing masks would have to sit next to an infectious flier for at least 54 hours to inhale a dangerous dose of the virus. Doctors stress the importance of adhering to the public health basics – practicing good hand hygiene, wearing a mask, carrying hand sanitizer – during travel. Also consider wearing a face shield to protect your eyes, and minimize time spent eating and drinking to avoid removing your mask.



Airport Innovations

• To avoid long and congested lines, travelers at Denver International Airport can reserve a 15-minute appointment slot to pass through dedicated TSA screening lanes (one standard, one PreCheck) by using the app **VeriFLY**. Post-screening, users board an exclusive reduced-capacity train car to their concourse.

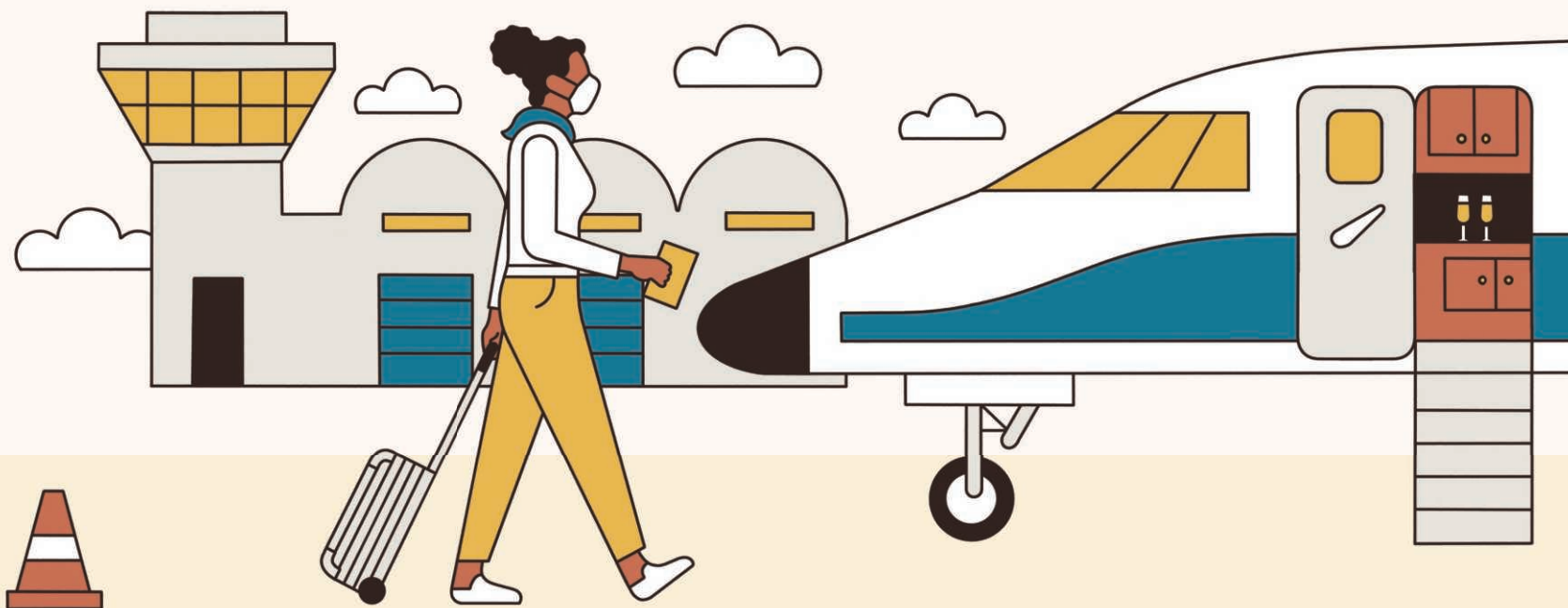
• Tampa International Airport was the first U.S. airport to host a Covid-19 testing center. Now, former XpresSpa locations at Boston, Newark, New York (JFK), and other airports have become **XpresCheck** Covid testing centers.

• Singapore’s Changi Airport has installed touchless systems, including bag-check kiosks with sensors you point at to make selections, **facial recognition** at immigration that replaces fingerprint scanning, and remote temperature screening.

TRAVEL ADVISOR INTEL

“I just spent three weeks in Tahiti, and the flights were very safe and comfortable. Masks are required during the entire flight – I highly suggest bringing several you find comfortable so you can change to a fresh one if it’s a long-haul. The planes themselves are very clean. Services are limited both at the airports and in flight, so plan food and snacks accordingly.”

– Carl Henderson, Toronto



Join the Jet Set

If you can swing it, traveling by private jet helps avoid proximity to others and minimize time in the air – for example, four hours from New York to a Montana ranch versus ten hours with a layover if going commercial. “The value is in the time saved, the lack of exposure, and the guarantee of nonstop point-to-point travel,” says Moorestown, New Jersey-based advisor Meredith Broder, who frequently books clients with **Privé Jets**.

Drive Time

Like airlines, rental car companies have boosted their cleaning standards. **Hertz**, for example, now has a 15-point process that ends with a sealed door, indicating no one has entered the vehicle since it was sanitized.

WHEEL OF TRAVEL



CHOOSE YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE >

> CRUISE

SEA CHANGE

What to expect when cruising resumes, and where you can sail off into the sunset.

In November, when the CDC replaced its “no-sail” order with a conditional framework dependent on ships meeting new and rigorous health requirements, the industry breathed a sigh of relief. However, meeting those conditions has caused many lines – the policy covers ships carrying more than 250 passengers and crew – to delay sailings until spring.

When cruising does resume, many changes will be visible, including socially distanced seating everywhere from pools to entertainment venues, no self-service buffets, and mask requirements for crew and passengers. Others will be less evident, though equally important, such as upgraded air-filtration systems and medical treatment centers.

Itineraries will likely be shorter at first and adhere to local health requirements. “The idea of wandering around freely in port may not be possible in all places,” says Brian Salerno, senior vice president of maritime policy for the Cruise Lines International Association. “We still want to make it fun, but with a view to preserving that level of protection, so the virus isn’t introduced to the ship and the local population is protected.”

Some smaller vessels safely resumed sailing over the summer. **AmaWaterways** ran European river sailings July through November and introduced private dining on its cabin balconies. **Belmond Afloat in France** relaunched in August with a fleet of barges that accommodate private groups of 4 to 12 guests.

Virtuoso advisor Georgia Schley Ritchie felt comfortable traveling in the South Pacific with **Paul Gauguin Cruises** in September, with pre-testing required by French Polynesia and testing provided once she landed in Tahiti. “By the time we got on board, you really felt good about it because everyone had been through all the testing,” she says.

Guests wore masks except during meals and over drinks, and with reduced-capacity protocols, the *Paul Gauguin* had plenty of space to spread out. “In some ways, it’s a great time to travel because you can do what you want to do when you want to do it, and never stand in line,” Schley Ritchie says.

RIVER REPORT

“We didn’t know how many international guests would be ready to return to travel. In Egypt, those with an adventurous spirit were rewarded by being able to spend time at the pyramids and the Sphinx with no other tourists around.”

– Ahmed Talaat, senior boat manager, Abercrombie & Kent river cruises



> TOURS



THE ROAD AHEAD

Privacy, open spaces, and health-conscious guides are a hit with travelers now.

Currently, many advisors are recommending socially distant forms of travel, including road trips and villa rentals, or destinations big on outdoor activities, such as safari camps, beaches, national parks, and ranches.

“For people who want to travel but want to do it safely, there’s pent-up demand,” says Virtuoso advisor Joey Levy of New York City. “Beach destinations that take testing and safety requirements seriously will do well,” he says, saluting Anguilla and Saint Lucia as prime examples.

With smaller groups and limited international arrivals, advisor June Kleier from Scottsdale, Arizona, found Yellowstone National Park uncrowded last summer. “There’s a benefit to seeing the national parks right now without tour buses around,” she says. Here’s a snapshot of the types of changes tour companies are making to hit the road safely:

• **Insight Vacations** and **Luxury Gold** introduced a dedicated “well-being director” to select tours to ensure health and safety protocols are met throughout the trip.

• **Backroads** expanded its portfolio of private cycling and walking trips in more than 60 countries. Groups of eight or more can take over a scheduled date, while smaller groups can opt in and out of larger group plans with their own van and guide at their disposal.

• **Overseas Leisure Group** launched a series of socially distanced luxury RV trips – for example, ten days exploring the wilds of Wyoming and Montana that end with a stay at **The Resort at Paws Up**.

JUST BACK FROM SAINT BART’S

“Everyone was warm and welcoming, though there were more elbow bumps than double kisses. The message was, ‘We can live with this, but we have to take certain steps,’ and there was big respect for people wearing masks.”

– Joey Levy, Virtuoso travel advisor

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CALIFORNIA

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> HOTELS

CHECK IN

The new landscape of dining, sleeping, and keeping fit away from home.

Hotels have adapted to the pandemic with enhanced cleaning protocols, as well as social distancing reminders in lobbies, capacity caps where required, and, often, elective housekeeping during the course of your stay. Room service has surged (frequently with contactless delivery), and most dining rooms, where permitted, have moved outside, thanks to heated tents.

Fitness centers have restricted capacity and, in some cases, gone private: For instance, five new Rooftop Wellness Suites at the 50-room **Hotel Esencia** on Mexico's Riviera

Maya include the Mirror, which offers virtual fitness classes viewed through a full-length mirror.

"The pandemic has accelerated technologies that bring to life contactless transactions," says John Flynn, vice president of administration and the head of health and safety vision for MGM Resorts, noting scannable QR codes to access restaurant menus and digital check-in for keyless guest-room access. Amenity kits in Las Vegas' 3,900-room **Bellagio** and 4,000-room **Aria Resort & Casino** now include masks and hand sanitizer.



HOME

WELCOME BACK

The keys to many safe returns.

Coming home may require a formal quarantine, but regardless of government policies, the CDC suggests maintaining your distance from anyone who didn't travel with you for 10 days, wearing a mask inside the home if your housemates didn't travel with you, washing and sanitizing your hands often, and self-monitoring for Covid-19 symptoms.

Check in with your advisor to discuss what you loved most about the trip, what you would change, and where to head next. VI



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L'AUBERGE de SEDONA

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POSTCARDS FROM SAN MIGUEL



The city's Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel as seen from the Rosewood San Miguel and (opposite) local flora.



Big love for
a small
Mexican enclave.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY
KORENA BOLDING SINNETT



I'VE HAD MANY MEMORABLE MEXICAN BEACH vacations, but as a photographer, what really gets my heart racing (and shutter clicking) is immersing myself in the day-to-day life of a Mexican city. The UNESCO World Heritage site of San Miguel de Allende drew me for its arts scene, artisan traditions, and Spanish colonial architecture. About 150 miles north of Mexico City in the Mexican highlands, its low skyline is dotted with colorful buildings, green palms, and slender cypress. Golden hour glows a peachy pink, fitting for a town whose most iconic structure is the rose-colored Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel. San Miguel's arts institute, the Escuela de Bellas Artes (a former convent), is integral to its pull as an artists' community.

Travel right now is, of course, a personal decision. After weighing the options late last year, I masked up for

a flight to SMA and arrived to find a city where Covid protocols were taken seriously, including a mask ordinance and QR-code checks to prove hotel reservations for nonresidents. I checked into the Rosewood San Miguel de Allende, which feels like a luxe hacienda – and welcomed me with a personalized Casa Dragones margarita-making kit.

The city of 76,000 is small – smaller than I'd imagined. The cobblestones are no joke (appropriate footwear is a must), but well worth navigating for finds at the many cool boutiques, galleries, and markets. I discovered a new *tajín* spice blend for sprinkling on jicama and brought some back as a souvenir, made my own mini *mojiganga* (San Miguel's traditional giant papier-mâché puppet) at a local artist's studio, and returned home with photos that reaffirmed my love for Mexico's cities.



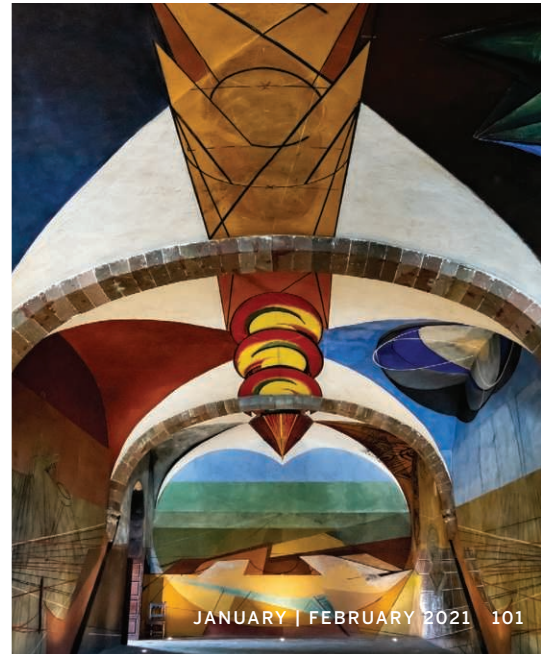
From left: A street corner flower shop, a grand entrance, and artist Hermes Arroyo at his studio with his traditional papier-mâché *mojigangas*.







San Miguel moments, clockwise from top left: On the street in San Miguel, a residence bedroom at the Rosewood San Miguel de Allende, locals catching the good light at the hotel's rooftop bar, an artful breakfast, an unfinished mural by artist David Alfaro Siqueiros housed in the Escuela de Bellas Artes, Mexican designer Carla Fernández's boutique, Xinú perfumes, and local color. Opposite: Mercado Ignacio Ramirez.





Woven, glazed, and gorgeous: Local crafts to tote home.



TIP

Pack an extra duffel for souvenirs. You'll want to bring all the pottery, leather goods, and textiles back home.

SMA THE RIGHT WAY

San Miguel hotels and explorations.

STAY The best vantage point at the 67-room **Rosewood San Miguel de Allende** in the center of the city is its Luna Rooftop Tapas Bar, for 360-degree vistas of the city's skyline. The property's gardens burst with lavender, bougainvillea, and hibiscus, a rich complement to the hotel's interiors, which are filled with Mexican art, handcarved wood flourishes, and locally made pottery. *Doubles from \$720, including breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.*

The 37-room **Belmond Casa de Sierra Nevada** is spread throughout several Spanish

colonial buildings, including a seventeenth-century fortress. Perfect for a travel pod: standalone, multiroom houses (some with private plunge pools) that groups can reserve in their entirety. Talavera tiles and free-flowing palomas complete the vibe. *Doubles from \$275, including breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.*

GO **Artisans of Leisure's** seven-day private tour of Mexico City and San Miguel introduces travelers to the cities' great galleries and small museums, and includes stays at the Four

Seasons Hotel Mexico City and either the Rosewood or Belmond in San Miguel. Another highlight: a stop at the site of the ancient city of Teotihuacan. *Departures: Any day through 2021; from \$8,650.*

Virtuoso on-site tour operator **Journey Mexico** works with travel advisors to arrange a full-day arts- and artisan-focused exploration of San Miguel. The customizable tour might include visits to a rug-making workshop, art galleries, artists' studios, and local murals. *Departures: Through 2021; from \$408. VI*

2021

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NEW! Heli-hiking in the Canadian Rockies—a helicopter to take you to the highest peaks, and a luxurious spa to bring you back down to earth.



BACKROADS

HOW TO TRAVEL BETTER

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



WE'RE OBSESSED WITH

Essènci, a new super-sustainable French skincare line, is made with organic essential oils such as raspberry seed and immortelle, harvested from rocky slopes in Corsica. Full-size products come in refillable Limoges porcelain vessels; for travel, we're packing the roll-on L'Immortela Elixir, with its sweet, grassy scent and notes of lavender. \$160, essenciskincare.com.

45

The percentage of air travel passengers ready to shed their paper passports for digital identities.

Source: World Travel & Tourism Council



Land of opportunity: Ireland could be your door to a second passport.

TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE

HALL PASS Pandemic travel bans (and, let's face it, partisan politics) have led to a spike in applications for a **second passport**. "Our clients aren't used to being held back," says Manhattan-based Virtuoso travel agency owner Jack Ezon, who has helped numerous clients secure passports from Portugal, Austria, and Ireland, among other countries. "Especially when it's related to going to a familiar destination like Italy or London," he adds. Jamaica, Chile, and many European nations offer citizenship if your parents or grandparents were born there, but Hungary extends it to applicants whose family tree takes root in the nineteenth-century Austro-Hungarian Empire. Benefits

go far beyond escaping 2020 burnout: Passports from EU countries let holders travel freely, live, and work there, for instance, and a second passport may allow for easier travel in countries where your native passport draws more scrutiny.

CLEARED FOR ARRIVAL

United Airlines and Cathay Pacific recently tested **Common-Pass** on flights between New York and London and Hong Kong and Singapore. The app, a collaboration between the Swiss-based Commons Project and the World Economic Forum, enables travelers to securely verify Covid-19 test results and vaccination records with airline employees and immigration officials. Lufthansa, Swiss, and Virgin

Atlantic have since signed on to roll out the digital travel pass – an internationally accepted standard that replaces a piecemeal system susceptible to fraud (in November, French police busted a ring selling fake negative Covid-19 test certificates at Charles de Gaulle Airport).

TIMED RIGHT Peninsula Hotels

has kicked off 2021 by introducing flexible check-in and checkout times at all its properties. The policy, launched at The Peninsula Beverly Hills a couple of years ago, gives guests rooms for the entire days on either end of their stays – especially nice when your long-haul arrives at 6 AM or departs around midnight.

(IRELAND) FEDEPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES. (DIGITAL IDENTITY STATISTIC) WORLD TRAVEL & TOURISM COUNCIL/OLIVER WYMAN TRAVELER COVID-19 SURVEY; RTI RESEARCH; VISA. IATA, GLOBALDATA, WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, WORLD BANK

INTERVIEW

LIFE ON THE GO

Last October, when Alison Corazzini realized that she and her 14-year-old son, Jack, could take their work and homeschool routines on the road, they went for it. The human resources executive called up her Chicago-based Virtuoso travel advisor, Geoffrey Ravoire, to help map out a ten-state, 2,964-mile adventure from their home in Richmond, Virginia.

It's hard to describe the joy of exploring a new city after so many months at home – I was giddy for much of the trip. And seeing new parts of the country through my son's eyes was such a gift.

We managed our schedules by blocking mornings for work and classes, and improvising the rest – like Jack practicing trumpet for band outside in the Ozarks and taking an algebra exam at 9 PM from our safari-style tented camp in the Smoky Mountains.

Love a son who wakes at 4 AM to relight our woodstove's fire because the tent is chilly. Loved him a little less when I realized he used most of our toilet paper doing so.

Geoffrey made planning so much fun.

I approached him with the states we wanted to visit; he came back with adventures in each one and an assortment of accommodations. If it weren't for him, we would've missed Alabama's U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the incredible Cadillac Ranch in Texas, and one of the trip's more meaningful moments at Memphis' Civil Rights Museum.

When you plan to avoid hotel elevators due to Covid, confirm your floor in advance. Taking the stairs to our

tenth-floor room in Memphis is something I never want to repeat again.

One standout experience was our last crazy day: We drove the High Road from Santa Fe to Taos to walk across the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, then headed to Colorado's Great Sand Dunes National Park to sandboard, on to Colorado Springs for great takeout, and finally to Denver to sleep.

Jack's tip for teens solo road-tripping with Mom:

"You might need a two-week vacation after your vacation to recover!"

Where next? Geoffrey helped map out a fun road trip to Charleston and Savannah, which my husband, two daughters, Jack, and I are hoping to take in early spring. And, fingers crossed, we'll all be hiking the Inca Trail in April.



Rafting in the Great Smoky Mountains.

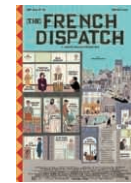
BACKGROUND RESEARCH

IF YOU'RE GOING TO ...



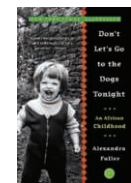
HAWAII

("Honolulu's Heartbeat," page 42) Get on the preorder list for two-time *Top Chef* finalist Sheldon Simeon's *Cook Real Hawaii* (photographed by *Virtuoso Life* contributor Kevin J. Miyazaki), out in March, which shares 100 recipes for island comfort food such as wok-fried poke and charred *huli huli* chicken.



FRANCE

("The Travel Reset," page 62) Frances McDormand and Bill Murray star in *The French Dispatch*, Wes Anderson's latest, out January 28. The film follows an American journalist and his expat colleagues as they pull together an issue in a fictional twentieth-century French city.



SOUTHERN AFRICA

("African Awakening," page 56) Alexandra Fuller recounts her childhood in war-torn Rhodesia (modern-day Zimbabwe) in *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*, her darkly humorous 2001 memoir that doubles as a poignant love letter to the continent. VI

FRESH STARTS

THREE PERSPECTIVES ON SEIZING THE NEW YEAR'S OPPORTUNITIES, IN LIFE AND IN TRAVEL.

INTERVIEWS BY ADAM ERACE



Dr. Nicola Finley

Integrative physician,
Canyon Ranch Tucson

WE ALL DEFINE A FRESH START IN A DIFFERENT way. At Canyon Ranch, it could be someone who has a medical condition and wants a second opinion, someone who's really busy at home and hasn't had a chance to get a physical and blood work, someone who's had a loss in their life and is looking for a way to move forward, or someone who just wants to take a different perspective on "How can I be the best me?"

During the pandemic, we're all under some level of stress and need new coping strategies: exploring yoga for the first time or developing a new exercise program that works within the context of what's going on currently.

A common theme I see, especially at the beginning of the year, is weight management, which isn't just about a number on the scale, but about looking at the whole person – metabolism, blood pressure, cholesterol, body composition – then bringing in chefs and registered dietitians for the nutrition point of view. The healthiest weight for someone might be a different weight than what they first perceived.

From a physician's perspective, we know people who are socially isolated don't live as long. Travel allows us to connect – to food, to culture, to other people. Fun, joy, and laughter are important parts of wellness that are also associated with living longer. As adults, we can be successful in our careers or successful within our family, but we also need to have fun for ourselves. I'm giving my patients permission to think, "If my doctor says joy is important, maybe it's something I should focus on as well."



James Thornton

CEO, Intrepid Group

I'VE LIVED IN AUSTRALIA FOR 13 YEARS, but I never traveled *within* Australia because I'm always going here, there, and everywhere. So for the first time, I'm really exploring my own backyard. I've got a family trip down to the Mornington Peninsula, to the wineries. I'm heading up to Sydney in a couple of weeks, then off to Tasmania. These are places we know are always there, and we kind of take them for granted. For

“Travel allows us to connect – to food, to culture, to other people. Fun, joy, and laughter are important parts of wellness that are associated with living longer.”

maybe the first time, we're having to explore community and country at a localized level. There's a real desire to get out and support coffee shops, restaurants, vineyards, and other small businesses that are struggling through the pandemic.

Travelers can make a fresh start by staying close to home. Our English clients can go cycling in the Lake District or through the Isles of Scilly, those tiny islands off the coast of Cornwall. We're seeing Australians head to Broome for stunning, chilled-out relaxation on the beach, followed by four-wheeling and camping in the Kimberley. It's a fantastic opportunity to realize the beauty that exists before you.

Intrepid is the world's largest provider of adventure travel experiences, with three tour-operator brands and 25 destination-management companies. We're also the world's largest certified travel B Corp, alongside the likes of Patagonia, The Body Shop, and Ben & Jerry's – businesses that are working toward becoming a force for good. January 2020 was the biggest month in our history: record bookings, four years of record revenue growth and profitability. And by March, we'd ceased operations for the first time in our 31-year history. But we used the opportunity to try to reimagine Intrepid. We no longer had an excuse for why we couldn't start to change things.

We looked at our 2025 strategy and saw what parts of it we could accelerate, like our ten-step quick-start guide to decarbonizing your travel business. Back in 2014, Intrepid was the first global tour operator to ban

elephant rides – since then, 200 operators around the world have followed our lead – so we also released a tool kit that includes tips on how to draft and implement more animal-friendly practices within tourism organizations.

If we don't rebuild responsibly and do things differently when travel does return, in 30 years the natural environments and cities that we in the travel industry use to show off will be devastated. Now, we have an opportunity to take action.



Sunny Jin
Executive chef, The Resort at
Paws Up, Montana

WE ALL GET STUCK SOMETIMES. WE GET in routines, and all of a sudden they become habits. For my 40th birthday three years ago, my wife and I road-tripped from

Oregon to Minnesota, zigzagging through all the national parks. Fly-fishing in Montana had been on my bucket list since childhood. We made a three-day stop, and I remember that feeling of, “Wow, life is just perfect here.” Six months later, I was working at Paws Up.

To make a fresh start in the kitchen, you have to challenge yourself. Find something new at the grocery store, like rutabaga. Get into something unfamiliar and maybe uncomfortable, and you'll start to develop a clearer understanding of it. Maybe you thought a parsnip was just a white carrot, but then you realize it's supersweet, with sugars that caramelize well, and it can apply to so many more dishes. Spices can take dishes in totally different directions too. At Paws Up, our standard meat rub is equal parts kosher salt and brown sugar, but from there it's a blank slate: What if we introduce ancho chili or cardamom? It changes not just the rub, but the entire dish.

At the resort, we learned a lot from 2020. It taught us that we need more variety. Between activities, guests want to dine quickly, but don't want to sacrifice quality, so in 2021 we're expanding our new outdoor lunch spot, the Shed, into its own restaurant. People are here on vacation, but they want to eat healthy, so I try to incorporate lots of hearty vegetables and grains. Instead of deep-frying chicken, we sear it in olive oil to create a nice crust, then finish it in the oven. Eating healthy doesn't mean you can't have rich foods. VI

POWDER PALETTE

A TEXTURAL ODE TO WINTER FUN.



A Framed White
Mixed media and acrylic
on a vintage frame
2020

Tehran-born, Milan-based artist **Golsa Golchini** aims to transport observers to different places with her work. "I believe that our world needs a kind and friendly type of art," she says. "Something that can make us smile during hard times." @golsa.golchini; returnonart.com.

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