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by Cruise or
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Staying Power

Preserving Bali's
Cultural Traditions

Long Weekend

What's New in
Washington, D.C.
(We're Not
Talking Politics)

SHORE THING

WHY WE LOVE
AMERICA'S
SEASIDE STARS

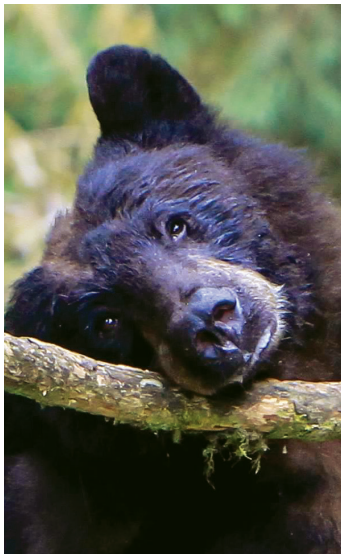
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– CHINESE PROVERB



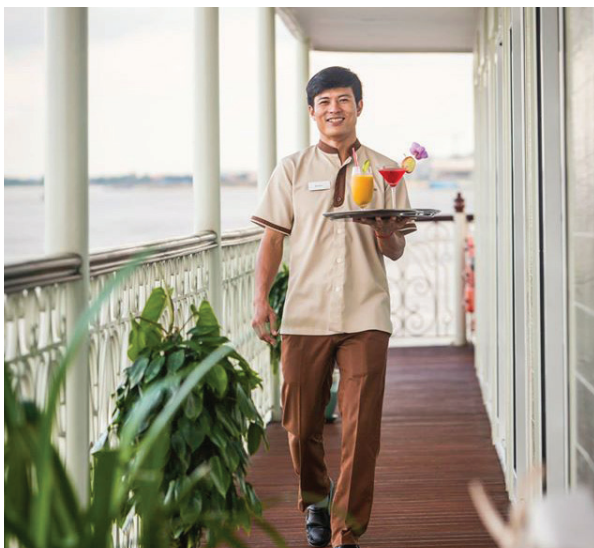
*“Loved visiting remote villages that
others might overlook.”*

– DENISE

India's Golden Triangle & the Sacred Ganges

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“

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– Lisa

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– William

Splendors of Egypt & the Nile

“Having been to India before, I never thought it was possible to travel in comfort and style yet feel very adventurous at the same time.”

– Barbara

ME to WE & the Sacred Ganges

”



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COVER PHOTO BY SUSANNE KREMER

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PICTURE THIS:
*Sunset on
Chile's Easter
Island (see more
on page 54).*

WHY WORK WITH A TRAVEL ADVISOR?

Virtuoso travel advisors elevate every trip. A great advisor ...

- **Knows the World:** The best advisors travel the globe – scouting out hotels, deepening relationships with tour guides, and gleaning firsthand knowledge of destinations for you.
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- **Knows Your Travel Style:** Virtuoso advisors understand what's most important to you, whether it's

taking private cooking classes or simply lounging by the pool.

- **Takes It from Ordinary to Extraordinary:** Virtuoso advisors can assist with everything from big-picture aspects (including knowing where to go – and when) to the details that matter (think booking hotel rooms with the best views).
- **Expands Your Horizons:** Your advisor will help you think creatively about where to go and what to do. Count on recommendations for hot new destinations, plus new ways to experience those places you've already visited.
- **Can Handle Anything:** When problems occur away from home, consider your advisor your personal help line and "fixer" who knows how to quickly turn things around for the better.

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COMPASS

NEWS ON NAVIGATING THE WORLD + THE PERKS AND PRIVILEGES OF USING A VIRTUOSO TRAVEL ADVISOR



Picnic perfect: Private seaside dining at New Zealand's Helena Bay Lodge.

OCEAN TO TABLE Now here's a dinner reservation we'd fly around the world for: an alfresco table for two at **Helena Bay Lodge**, on the northeast tip of New Zealand's North Island. The five-suite property recently introduced a series of immersive experiences, including over-the-top helicopter tours and an all-day **catch-and-cook adventure** in the South Pacific that culminates with a private meal at the secluded lodge's new beach pavilion. Pair seared tuna with a local pinot noir from the 1,000-bottle wine cellar and watch the sunset over the Poor Knights Islands before turning in for the night. Don't worry if your sailing style is more soak-up-the-sun than reel-in-a-kingfish – next year, Helena Bay will debut a custom-built, 45-foot yacht, ideal for lazy days and dinners at sea. *Doubles from \$1,780; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and one complimentary lunch for two. Fishing excursion, \$4,900.*

CHRIS MCLENNAN

COMPASS IS REPORTED BY ELAINE GLUSAC, SUSAN HANSON, JEN LYONS, AND VICTORIA VEILLEUX

Cipriani's Sweet 60

In 1958, Giuseppe Cipriani transformed a barren strip of land on Giudecca Island – a five-minute boat ride from Venice's Saint Mark's Square – into a jet-setter's paradise. Sixty years later, the 96-room **Belmond Hotel Cipriani** is throwing a yearlong anniversary party. Guests can expect a special cocktail menu from legendary bartender Walter Bolzonella (try the vodka-based Hidden Liquid) and exclusive excursions exploring behind-the-scenes Venice. Of course, there are party favors: Limited-edition gifts range from socks by Italian designer Gallo to **Merchant of Venice perfumes**. Where do we RSVP? *Doubles from \$1,512; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*



Hotel havens (from left): Belmond Hotel Cipriani, the lazy river flows through Las Ventanas al Paraíso's new Oasis pool, a beachfront pad at Anantara Quy Nhon Villas, and a private overwater swimming platform at Gansevoort Turks + Caicos.



5 REASONS TO LOVE:
LAS VENTANAS AL PARAÍSO

LET'S GO TO CABO

One of NYC-based Virtuoso travel advisor Amy Stein's favorite sunny escapes is **Los Cabos, Mexico**, and the 84-room Las Ventanas al Paraíso. "There are many aspects that make a good hotel a *great* hotel," Stein says. "Las Ventanas hits them all in a major way."

1 SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. "Las Ventanas appeals to many different types of travelers, especially people who enjoy luxury but want that 'sense of place' feeling too."

2 WATER WORLD. "My fiancé and I spent much of our time at the new Oasis pool, a lovely refuge from the main resort area. On some nights, you can see fireworks over the pool around 9 PM."

3 STYLISH DINING. "The resort's new Arbol restaurant is beyond gorgeous, with a lounge vibe beneath beautifully lit trees."

4 BREATHING ROOM. "The Oceanview Rooftop Terrace Junior Suite features plenty of indoor and outdoor space without feeling too big for a couple. There's a terrace off the bedroom and stairs leading to a rooftop sundeck with shaded seating."

5 LITTLE DETAILS. "The service is on another level: Our butler professionally cleaned our sunglasses when they got wet. I loved the special touches in the room, from an aromatherapy menu to a sewing kit custom-designed for the clothes hanging in the closet."

GO: *Doubles from \$660; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.*

Good Morning, Vietnam

Street food meets the beach at the new **Anantara Quy Nhon Villas**, set to open later this year. Guests at the 26-villa resort – on a quiet stretch of the country's east coast between Da Nang and Nha Trang – only need to wander to their poolside dining pavilion, where a butler serves meals from a barbecue station. Locally sourced bamboo, wood, and stone add genuine warmth to the resort's villas, which are adorned with traditional fishing baskets and household items reimagined as art pieces. Balance lazy days on the beach or in the **jungle spa** with adventures such as lessons in *vo thuat* (Vietnamese martial arts) or snorkeling off nearby Ky Co Island. *Doubles from \$560; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

(SWIMMING PLATFORM) GANSEVOORT TURKS + CAICOS



SPLURGE-WORTHY SPLASH

Say hello to the new four- and five-bedroom villas at the 91-room **Gansevoort Turks + Caicos**. On their own hillside half acres a short drive away from the main resort, the lavish spreads have **oceanfront infinity pools** and private overwater swimming platforms. *Villas from \$4,500 (four-night minimum stay); Virtuoso travelers receive a welcome amenity, an in-villa cocktail bar, and round-trip SUV transfers.*



The Cove is elegantly situated between Cove and Paradise Beaches creating the feeling of being cast away on a private, white-sand sanctuary. The ultra-luxury property was designed by architect Jeffrey Beers to bring high design together with the bluest ocean and mother of pearl hue sand. The result is an open-air lobby that rises and sets with the day, an exclusive poolscape that gently skims the private beaches, stunning and sensual rooms and suites, a collection of unparalleled dining and shopping and purposeful service delivered with Bahamian warmth.

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Britain in Bloom

Over the course of his life, the botanist George Forrest made seven collecting expeditions to the then-remote Chinese province of Yunnan. The “Scottish plant hunter” returned to **Edinburgh’s Royal Botanic Garden** with more than 10,000 species – the largest collection of wild Chinese plants outside the country – including a vast array of rare **rhododendrons**. Guests cruising northern Europe aboard the 264-passenger *Le Boréal* will join renowned horticulturalist and host of PBS’ *Victory Garden*, Holly Shimizu, for springtime tours of the garden (including an on-site lunch with its director), timed to see its rhodies in bloom. **Ponant’s** nine-day themed sailing also features pre-cruise visits to London’s Kew Gardens and the Chelsea Physic Garden, one of the oldest in Great Britain. *Departure: May 14, 2019; from \$4,690.*



GET SHARP

Hone your julienne in a **knife skills class** using chef-fave J.A. Henckels cutlery. The master session, one of 16 new offerings at **Oceania Cruises’** Culinary Center on board *Marina* and *Riviera*, also reviews how to safely use a mandoline slicer.

SEA WELL

Holistic ways to cruise into well-being.



MIND

A special playlist for setting intentions puts a new spin on indoor cycling, with music that helps bikers focus on form, energy, and being present. **Mindful cycling** is one of 20 new classes and seminars offered through **Celebrity Cruises’** revamped wellness program. Designed in partnership with Canyon Ranch, the program concentrates on basics such as conditioning, nutrition, and longevity.



BODY

Heart-pumping hikes and bike rides keep you in tip-top shape during **Backroads’** new active cruise tours. One to consider: a ten-day New Zealand small-ship adventure with tramps along **Tauranga Harbour** and pedaling through vineyard-clad Hawke’s Bay, known for its full-bodied cabernets. *Departures: Multiple dates, February 14 to March 20, 2019; from \$8,098.*



SPIRIT

It’s hard to feel down when you’re watching blue whales breaching in the sea. Spirits get natural lifts on **Lindblad Expeditions’** five-day getaway in California’s **Channel Islands National Park**. The line teamed up with Exhale Spa to offer **paddleboard yoga** and transformative hikes in search of some of the islands’ 145 endemic species. *Departures: October 17 and 24, 2018; from \$2,490.*

(GARDEN) ROBERT HARDING/GETTY IMAGES. (FLOWER) DOLEOB/GETTY IMAGES. (ICON) LAYMIK/THE NOUN PROJECT. (PADDLEBOARD) KYLE FUREY

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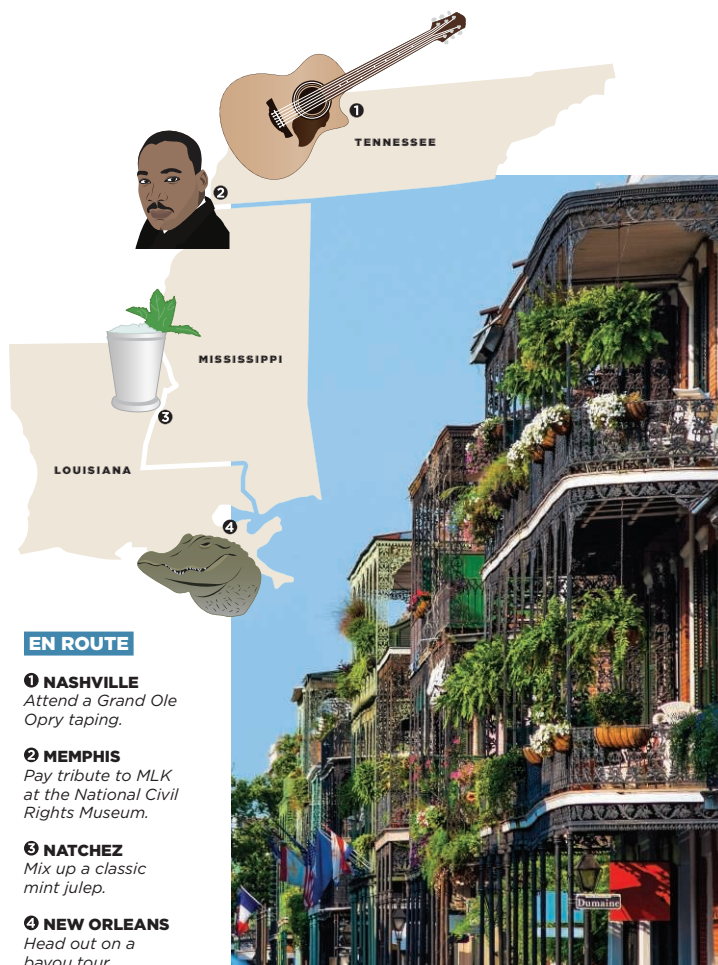
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NOLA Gets Jazzed

As if Bourbon Street needed a reason to get any more boisterous, New Orleans is celebrating its **300th anniversary** this year. Though the Big Easy's global mix of music, cuisines, and cultures has always given it a high ranking on travelers' wish lists, the city is now livelier than ever – with new restaurant and bar openings, expansions to its iconic streetcar line, and special tricentennial events for the ultimate fais-dodo (Cajun dance party). Join the festivities on a nine-day tour from **Luxury Gold** that highlights the sounds of the American South, including a private tour of **Graceland** with one of Elvis' close friends and the chance to record a souvenir track at legendary **Studio B** in Nashville. *Departures: Multiple dates, August 31 to October 19, 2018; from \$3,750.*



EN ROUTE

- 1 NASHVILLE**
Attend a *Grand Ole Opry* taping.
- 2 MEMPHIS**
Pay tribute to MLK at the *National Civil Rights Museum*.
- 3 NATCHEZ**
Mix up a classic mint julep.
- 4 NEW ORLEANS**
Head out on a bayou tour.

LION CITY LAYOVERS Recently launched direct flights from New York have recast **Singapore** as the go-to Southeast Asia gateway. **Remote Lands** helps make the most of your stopover with 12 new tours that shine a spotlight on different aspects of this dynamic city, from foodie strolls through the night markets to mountain biking in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.

INTO THE WILD

Three ways to see – and save – wildlife.



WHITE KNIGHTS

As the Arctic days grow shorter, **polar bears** trudge across Manitoba's icy plains to Hudson Bay in preparation for winter. **Tauck** and BBC Earth teamed up to create a six-day eco-expedition to Churchill, the world's "polar bear capital," to track these snow-white creatures aboard a tricked-out tundra rig. *Departures: Multiple dates, October 24 to November 5, 2019; from \$7,290.*

TRUNK TALK

It took Daphne Sheldrick nearly three decades to learn how to successfully hand-rear abandoned newborn **African elephants**. The conservationist passed away this year at age 83, and you'll learn about her noble mission while meeting an orphan being fostered in your name at the Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage in Nairobi – part of a nine-day, customized Kenya safari with **Big Five Tours & Expeditions**. *Departures: Any day through December 31, 2018; from \$9,450.*

EYE ON THE TIGER

India is home to nearly three-quarters of the world's remaining wild tigers, and, thanks to ecotourism efforts, it's one of the few countries whose feline population is actually increasing. Be part of this success story while searching for **Ben-gals** on **Natural Habitat Adventures'** new seven-day, tiger-intensive expedition in Ranthambore National Park. *Departures: Multiple dates, April 1 to June 10, 2019; from \$6,795.*

(MAP) VERONICA ROSALEZ, (NEW ORLEANS) DAVEL5957/GETTY IMAGES, (POLAR BEAR) HUNTED-DUCK/GETTY IMAGES, (SINGAPORE FLAG) ANBILIRU ADALERTU/THE NOUN PROJECT

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countryside.**

TIP

"Get to Morocco as fast as you can! It's a **feast of color**, sound, and smells. We loved the people, the cultural sites, and the food in this amazing country."

– *Virtuoso traveler*
Betsy Reeder

A Hands-On Holiday

A recent college graduate and her parents get to know Moroccan culture (and livestock) on a once-in-a-lifetime family trip.

IN THE MOMENT

In the countryside between Marrakech and Essaouira, argan oil cooperatives provide **microloan opportunities** for women in need. Goats there eat the fruit from the **argan tree**, and local women collect and process the expelled nuts, producing argan oil, which is used in skincare products. "Our daughter Emily [shown here] was familiar with the work these co-ops are doing and wanted to see the process – and the goats – firsthand," says Virtuoso traveler Betsy Reeder of Waco, Texas.

THE TRIP

Betsy and her husband, Phil, celebrated Emily's early graduation from college by letting her choose somewhere she'd always wanted to go, and their

private, **18-day Morocco journey** with Heritage Tours was born, with help from New Hampshire-based Virtuoso travel advisor Kim Davis-Smith. They spent the night in a **Bedouin camp**, rode camels, visited an authentic hammam, wandered Marrakech's famous medina, took a cooking class, and more.

WHERE NEXT?

Betsy and Phil are looking forward to a two-week driving tour of **Tuscany**, followed by a **Mediterranean voyage** with Azamara Club Cruises, both planned by their travel advisor. "We always work with Kim for our major trips. She understands that we're adventurous, we love to discover new places, and we really want to experience local life."



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PAGE-TURNERS

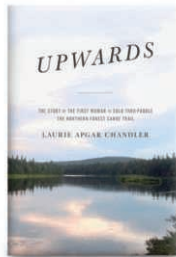
ONE FOR THE ROAD

Women lead the way on these solo adventures.

Author Aubrey Daquinag
kicks back in Marrakech.



Travel blogger Aubrey Daquinag shares her photographs and sense of curiosity in ***Wander Love: Lessons, Tips & Inspiration from a Solo Traveller***. The result is a gorgeous picture book of global exploits from Mexico to Morocco, sprinkled with an eclectic mix of tips on must-visit markets, mindful travel, and how to stay stylish on the road. \$17, amazon.com.



Laurie Apgar Chandler was in her forties when she discovered a passion for paddling. At age 53, she tackled the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the longest inland water path in the U.S.

Upwards: The Story of the First Woman to Solo Thru-Paddle the Northern Forest Canoe Trail

follows Chandler's impressive journey along 740 miles of wilderness waterways between New York and Maine. \$18, maineauthorspublishing.com.



Being present in the moment is not always possible when you're in the company of others. ***Alone Time: Four Seasons, Four Cities, and the Pleasures of Solitude*** by *New York Times* travel columnist Stephanie Rosenbloom explores four themes, each in a distinctive place and time, that reveal the many benefits of traveling alone, be it savoring a delicious meal or being open to moments of serendipity. \$23, barnesandnoble.com.

TRAVEL INTEL

Survey Says

More Americans are getting up from their desks and out on vacation, according to a recent study by the U.S. Travel Association. While the trend is encouraging, 52 percent of the country's work-weary still report leaving unused vacation days on the table. (Your Virtuoso travel advisor has ways to remedy that!) Other key findings:

- Americans forfeited **212 million vacation days** in 2017 – equal to \$62.2 billion in lost benefits, or \$561 per employee.
- What keeps them from taking vacations? Nearly two-thirds (61 percent) of workers cite the fear of **appearing replaceable**. Other top barriers include a heavy workload and lack of coverage at work (56 percent each).
- **Workcations** – travel with the intent of working a regular schedule in a remote location – appeal most to millennials (39 percent), while fewer than one-fifth of baby boomers (18 percent) are excited by the idea.
- Employees who feel that their company culture encourages vacations are **significantly happier** with key components of their lives than those who don't.

HAPPINESS WITH...	ENCOURAGING CULTURE	DISCOURAGING OR AMBIVALENT CULTURE
Your Employer	72%	42%
Your Job	68%	42%
Personal Relationships	79%	72%
Physical Health and Well-being	58%	44%
How Much Vacation Time You Use	77%	51%

PROJECT: TIME OFF



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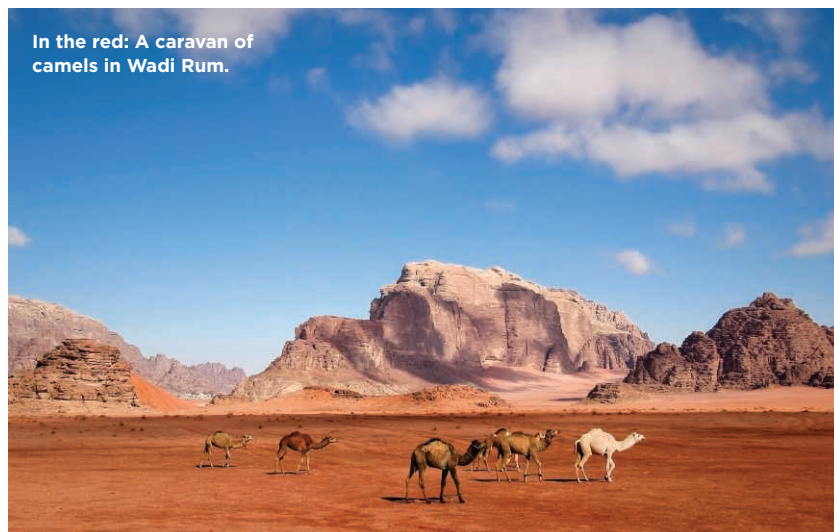


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DANA POINT, CA



MONARCH BEACH
RESORT



In the red: A caravan of camels in Wadi Rum.

Jordan: Beyond the Rose-Red City

Petra, the world-renowned archaeological site in southern Jordan, is the country's biggest attraction. As you approach the ancient city through the winding, mile-long canyon pathway known as the Siq, says Virtuoso travel advisor Shawn Kirschenman, the most spectacular sighting occurs just as you negotiate the final turn. It's there that "a sliver of the magnificent Al-Khazneh [Treasury] comes into view," he describes. "Each step reveals more and more, until suddenly, the narrow, dark gorge opens into a sunny plaza, where the complete masterpiece is revealed."

The Seattle-based advisor, who recently traveled to Jordan on a familiarization tour arranged through the Adventure Travel Trade Association, says the Rose-Red City is indeed a sight to behold. Yet Kirschenman emphasizes that this Middle East country is "so much more than Petra." Here, a few of his impressions.

IN PLAY

"Jordan is an active adventurer's dream, from hiking to horseback riding to **snorkeling in the Red Sea**. In Wadi Hidan, one of the country's hidden treasures, we went floating and swimming through the black basalt canyon in water up to our necks."

PEDAL POWER

"We spent two days cycling some 40 miles on the **new Jordan Bike Trail**, and now I couldn't imagine experiencing this dynamic country any other way. About halfway through our ride, we somehow found the energy to scramble up the rocks and watch the most magnificent sunset."

MAKING CONNECTIONS

"After a long day of mountain biking, we met a kind bedouin named Abu Sabah, who invited us into his home outside Little Petra for **tea and a rest**. He has 14 children, and they live with their animals in a tented desert community."

HUMP DAYS

"Many Western visitors come to Jordan having never laid eyes on a camel. Almost all depart with received wisdom and a strong fondness for these **magical creatures**."

PEAK MOMENT

"We followed our guide up the country's highest mountain, 6,083-foot Jabal Umm ad Dami in Wadi Rum, and were rewarded with sweeping views of **otherworldly landscapes** extending all the way to Saudi Arabia."

Be There: Your travel advisor can work with Virtuoso's on-site connection, **Abercrombie & Kent Jordan**, to craft a personalized journey to Petra and beyond.



Sky-High Yogis

Aerial-yoga fanatics have nothing on practicing pranayama breathing at 30,000 feet. **Cathay Pacific** recently partnered with the Pure Yoga group to create its new Travel Well with Yoga program, a series of videos featuring easy **yoga and meditation exercises** that can be done in flight. The routines, demonstrated by Pure Yoga instructors, are specifically designed to increase circulation, mobility, and relaxation from your airline seat. Travelers can access the videos in a number of languages on their in-flight entertainment screens.



POSITIVE ENERGY

Jet lag can leave even the most frequent of fliers feeling time-zoned out. Enter **Voke chewable tablets**, which provide an **all-natural burst of energy** and **mental clarity** purported to last for hours without the caffeine jitters. Lightweight tins hold seven tabs. \$7, voketab.com.

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Freewheeling in Quito's Plaza de la Independencia.



¡VIVA QUITO!

The world's first UNESCO World Heritage city turns 40.

THERE'S A CERTAIN CACHET THAT comes with being first – although you wouldn't know it from walking the cobblestoned streets of **Centro Histórico** (Old Town) in Quito, the first city to be declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. In pretty **Plaza de la Independencia**, life goes on much as it has for the last half century, with locals deep in discussion on palm-shaded benches next to hawkers selling handmade crafts and crispy *llapingachos* (potato pancakes).

That ageless charm is why now is the time to visit the Ecuadorian capital, home to Latin America's **best-preserved colonial center**. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Quito's inscription into UNESCO, and while the city isn't making much of a to-do over the occasion (except, perhaps, for some extra-dazzling light installations

during the annual **Fiesta de la Luz**, August 8 through 12), you'll still find new and noteworthy attractions among its many baroque churches and pastel palaces.

For example, sections of the sixteenth-century **Saint Francis Convent complex** (477 Cuenca) were recently restored, including the Franciscan brewery and fountain in the main cloister. At **Catedral Metropolitana** (715 Venezuela and Espejo), visitors can now descend to the catacomb-filled, underground crypt and ascend a narrow passageway that leads to one of the city's finest rooftop views. For a sweet break, head to the official store of **Pacari chocolate** (N3-153 Venezuela and Espejo), whose bars swept the "plain/origin dark chocolate" category at the 2017 International Chocolate Awards.



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OYSTER MANIA

Across the U.S., a raft of new oyster bars are championing the simple perfection of naked shellfish. Here are three worth the trip.



◀ LOS ANGELES

Virginia's **fourth-generation family-run** Rappahannock Oyster Co. has gone west with the **Rappahannock Oyster Bar** (787 S. Alameda Street) in downtown L.A. The menu goes beyond bivalves to include clams, scallops, and shrimp, but you'll have a hard time passing up its Rappahannock, Rochambeau, and Olde Salt varieties.

PORTLAND, OREGON

Overlooking Portland's riverfront, **King Tide Fish & Shell** (1510 SW Harbor Way) shucks a rotating selection of local oysters from **sustainable sources** daily. Follow them up with some fresh fish crudo, *tiradito*, or ceviche from the raw bar. Next course: whole grilled fish.

▲ NEW ORLEANS

NOLA's new Pythian Market food hall contains a pearl in the oyster-and-bubbles bar **Cru** (234 Loyola Avenue). Belly up for a selection of Gulf Coast and East Coast oysters, as well as mollusks done tempura-style with truffle mayo, savory small dishes such as tuna tartare, and caviar from **Marlon Alexander**, a former personal chef to Christina Aguilera.

(NEW ORLEANS) RANDY P. SCHMIDT;
(LOS ANGELES) RAPPAHANNOCK OYSTER BAR



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WOMEN

LISSOM FLYTE

These **ultra-lightweight**, barefoot-sensation shoes are a treat for feet on long travel days. *In ten colors/patterns. From \$89, lissom.com.*



MEN

COLE HAAN PINCH HAND-STAINED WEEKENDER

Dress these up, dress them down, and **easily slip them off** in the airport security line. *In four colors. \$130, colehaan.com.*



WOMEN

UGG ANSLEY SLIPPER

These slippers pair a **cozy wool lining** with a rubber sole – perfect for stretching your legs on long-haul flights. *In seven colors. \$100, ugg.com.*



MEN

UWEZO SLIP ON

Proceeds from these one-of-a-kind cowhide shoes go to fund **educational opportunities** for children in East Africa. *In three colors. \$185, uwezobrands.com.*



WOMEN

SEA STAR BEACHCOMBER ESPADRILLE

With a neoprene upper and a **rubber deck-shoe sole**, they're a stylish alternative to water shoes. *In nine colors. \$89, seastarbeachwear.com.*



MEN

MERRELL DOWNTOWN LACE

They're comfortable enough for a full day of exploring, but have a **more polished look** than most walking shoes. *In three colors. \$110, merrell.com.*



WOMEN

DANSKO VIVIAN

A **cork wedge** and suede lining make it possible – and comfortable – to wear these stylish heels even on cobblestoned streets. *In two colors. \$140, dansko.com.*



MEN

SPERRY CUSTOMIZABLE AUTHENTIC ORIGINAL 2-EYE BOAT SHOE

Use Sperry's online design tool to create your own **unique pair**, complete with monogramming. *Multiple colors. From \$120, sperry.com.*



WOMEN

KEEN TERRADORA

Talk about versatile. Keen makes it easy to go from bustling city streets to casual day hikes with this cushy, **breathable walking shoe**. *In four colors. \$120, keenfootwear.com.*



What a Relief

Anyone suffering from **motion sickness** can get queasy at the thought of traveling. Reliefband's new drug-free, **wearable technology** stimulates the body's neural pathways to block waves of nausea – sans side effects and no prescription needed. \$175, reliefband.com.



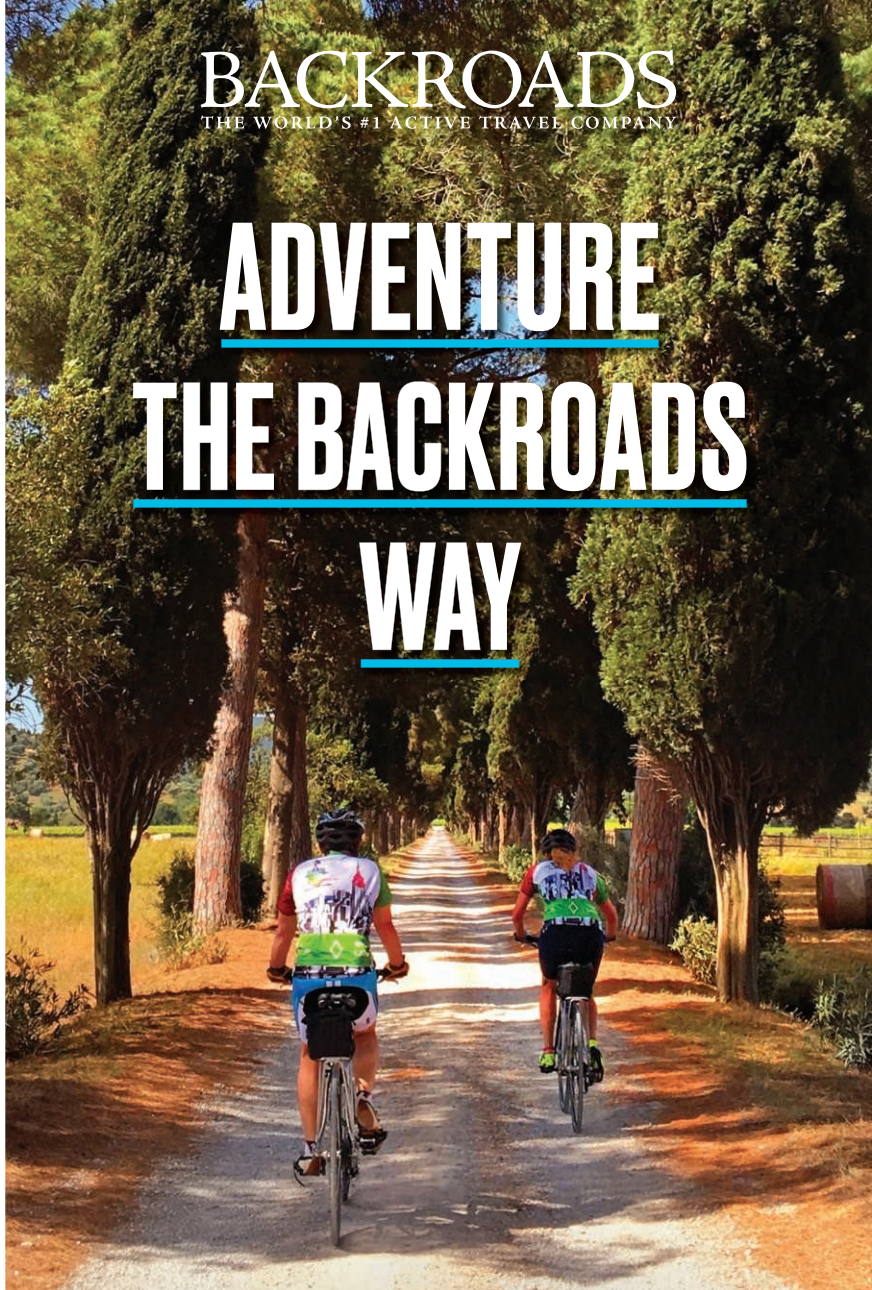
Travel Staple

Add **TSA PreCheck** to your office-supply list. Retail giant Staples recently announced the opening of IdentoGO centers in 50 stores across the U.S., allowing travelers to enroll in the program without a reservation or an additional trip to the airport. Added bonus: The in-store centers also offer **passport photos** and certified birth certificates. Look for them in major metro areas such as New York, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, and Seattle, with more to roll out in the near future. *TSA enrollment fee (valid for five years), \$85.*

(TSA) ANDREW HARRER/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

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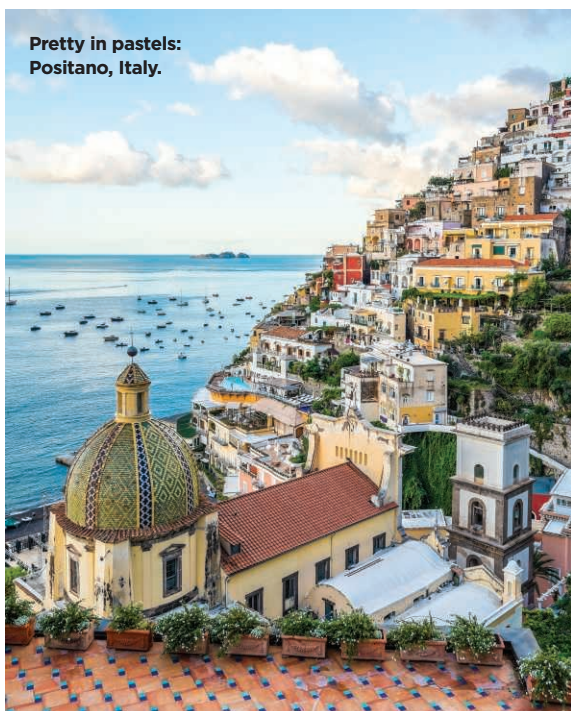
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The Amalfi Coast: Cruise or Clifftop?

Pick your perch for soaking up this iconic corner of Italy. **By Susan Hanson**



Pretty in pastels:
Positano, Italy.

TALY'S AMALFI COAST IS A PHOTOGRAPHER'S DREAM, with each hairpin twist and turn on the region's roads revealing one **postcard-worthy shot** after another. "The Amalfi Coast is all about the views," says Adamarie King, a Virtuoso travel advisor who lives part-time in Italy. "Most travelers are familiar with the photos of **pretty pastel houses** cascading down the hillside into the sea, and that's what they expect to find. Luckily, it's all there for them to discover."

This rugged 30-mile stretch overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea – awash in soaring cliffs, sparkling bays, **medieval towns**, and humble fishing villages – has been a playground for the jet-set crowd since Augustus Caesar built a villa on nearby Capri in the first century. Whether you're settling into a cliffside suite or arriving via cruise ship, that playground can get pretty popular, so King's best advice is to work with your travel advisor to get off the tourist circuit and experience local culture: Hike up to a hidden valley, take a **cooking lesson** in a rural farmhouse, taste wines at a family-run vineyard, or pop into a local trattoria for lunch. King's favorite times of the year to visit are spring and fall, when "the beaches are less crowded, and the weather is lovely."



CRUISE

Spend a day in Amalfi on **Oceania Cruises'** Rome-to-Venice voyage on the 684-passenger *Nautica*. Stroll through **Villa Rufolo's gardens**, pick up souvenirs in Positano, or sip limoncello in a cozy café. Other stops on the ten-day sailing include Sicily, Malta, and Montenegro, but the dolce vita lifestyle remains on board at Toscana, the ship's restaurant serving Tuscan-inspired cuisine. *Departure: October 27, 2018; from \$1,699.*



CLIFFTOP

Legend has it that the three islets of Li Galli – just off Positano and known as the "Sirenuse" – were inhabited by sirens who lured sailors to their shores. Today's visitors are seduced by **Le Sirenuse**, an eighteenth-century villa with 58 rooms that feature vaulted ceilings, handmade tiles, old-master paintings, and, of course, those **stunning coastal views**. *Doubles from \$879; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.*

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A leader in the field: Singita Grumeti funds a local farmers' co-op in Tanzania.

Winners All

Here's to this year's Virtuoso Sustainable Tourism Leadership Awards finalists, whose efforts are creating a brighter future for everyone. **By Costas Christ**

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL HAS GONE FROM TREND TO transformative movement, and the list of innovators within the Virtuoso network helping advance this cause runs long and deep. Wilderness Safaris, for example, commenced operations in 1983 with a mission of **conservation through tourism**, and Fairmont Hotels & Resorts was the first hospitality company in North America to establish green operations, as far back as 1990.

Today, the Virtuoso Sustainable Tourism Leadership Awards, now in its eighth year, recognizes companies that are committed to travel that is environmentally friendly, protects cultural heritage, and contributes to the well-being of local people. "It's incredibly inspiring to see what Virtuoso partners, large and small, are doing to **make the world a better place**," says Sue Kasmar, a Santa Barbara-based Virtuoso agency owner and one of eight travel-advisor judges who helped narrow this year's 150 award entries down to five nominees in each of two categories: Hotels and Tour Operators. We'll announce the winners for each category in mid-August at our annual luxury travel conference and on Virtuoso.com. In the meantime, here are the ten finalists.

HOTELS

EMIRATES ONE&ONLY WOLGAN VALLEY *Australia*

This resort in the Greater Blue Mountains has **restored natural habitat** for rare wildlife and planted more than 200,000 indigenous trees.

FOUR SEASONS RESORT MALDIVES AT LANDAA GIRAAVARU *Maldives*

Four Seasons' Reefscapers project helps **regenerate coral** damaged by climate change. In addition, the coral-growing frames are locally produced, providing small-business development.

MASHPI LODGE *Ecuador*

Located in a former logging area, Mashpi works to rehabilitate biodiversity-rich cloud forest; its efforts have led to the recent discovery of **two new species**: the Mashpi torentee frog and Mashpi magnolia.

SINGITA GRUMETI – SABORA TENTED CAMP *Tanzania*

Singita Grumeti's community efforts include funding a **farmers' cooperative**, training game scouts to reduce poaching (the lodge is adjacent to Serengeti National Park), and establishing a culinary school for locals.

SIX SENSES DOURO VALLEY *Portugal*

Six Senses' on-site Earth Lab teaches guests about conservation, and its **cork exchange program** collects used wine corks and trades them for tree saplings used in reforestation.

TOUR OPERATORS

EXO TRAVEL

As part of its efforts to **eliminate single-use plastics**, EXO gives its guests reusable bottles and refills them with safe, clean water from in-vehicle water bags.

LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

Lindblad's environmentally friendly practices include serving **sustainable seafood**. It also supports conservation and research in fragile destinations such as the Galápagos Islands.

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL

This cruise line partners with the World Wildlife Fund to educate guests on marine conservation, and its **environmental officers** focus on water conservation and recycling.

SWISS TRAVEL

Based in Costa Rica, this company sets annual targets for **reducing energy and water use** and tracks progress toward sustainability goals through a "Smart Flow" system.

WILDCHINA

This China-based tour provider's program to actively **support artisanal cultural heritage** includes establishing a pop-up bazaar in Beijing that showcases traditional crafts from all over the country.

Voted Best Cruise Line Overall by Virtuoso, 2017
Voted Best River Cruise Line by Virtuoso Five Years in a Row
 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016



AmaMagna on the Danube rendering

AmaMagna — A New Dimension in River Cruising

Nearly twice the width of traditional European river ships, AmaMagna is a distinctive evolution of AmaWaterways' European river fleet, with a daring design that transcends her grand dimensions. With **MORE** unique dining venues, **MORE** health and wellness amenities, and **MORE** leisure activities, like water sports and a Concierge Golf Program, you'll have **MORE** ways to indulge. And since the majority of AmaMagna's accommodations are suites, measuring 355 sq. ft., and include full balconies, guests will be treated to **MORE** personal space. The AmaMagna represents a new chapter in river cruising. Join her story in 2019.



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Budapest to Vilshofen
 7-night cruise | May – November

Romantic Danube

Vilshofen to Budapest
 7-night cruise | May – December

Christmas Markets on the Danube

Vilshofen to Budapest or reverse
 7-night cruise | November – December



For More Information,
 See Your Virtuoso Travel Advisor



D.C. Do-Over

A flurry of new attractions brings fresh energy to the U.S. capital.

By Susan Hanson

SCORE YET ANOTHER VICTORY for Washington, D.C. The Washington Capitals' recent Stanley Cup win – the hockey team's first title in its 44-year history – is even more cause for celebration in this dynamic city, which has seen a surge of new restaurants, entertainment venues, exhibition spaces, and revitalized neighborhoods pop up in recent years.

"There's a whole new buzz in D.C. these days," says Jessica Griscavage. The Virtuoso travel advisor, who hails from nearby McLean, Virginia, says a wealth of notable museums, iconic sights, and buzzing nightlife firmly places the U.S. capital among the world's most vibrant and entertaining cities – one that deserves

a second look. "If you haven't been to D.C. in a while," she urges, "now is the time to come back and visit." With the lofty Ritz-Carlton Georgetown, Washington, D.C. as your swank base, here's a three-day blueprint to see what all the buzz is about.

DAY ONE

A half century before there was even a city to explore, Georgetown thrived as a port along the banks of the Potomac; today, it's a hub for high-end fashion, hip cocktail lounges, and luxe hotels. The neighborhood's historic incinerator sat abandoned for decades until its rebirth as The Ritz-Carlton Georgetown, Washington, D.C., which smartly incorporates exposed metal and brick into

its modern design. (The original gantry crane sits atop the hotel lobby space, while the 130-foot-high smokestack now houses a private venue for power lunches.) Griscavage's room to book: the 2,400-square-foot **Ritz-Carlton Suite**, with a wraparound terrace offering views of Georgetown and the river.

Ease into the weekend with a Lavender Frosé and a breath of fresh air in The Yard, the hotel's multitiered garden patio, before a little retail therapy along Georgetown's boutique-lined cobblestoned streets. At **Hu's Wear** (2906 M Street NW) and sister shop **Hu's Shoes** (3005 M Street NW), owner Marlene Hu Aldaba handpicks a curated selection of haute couture she's spotted on runaways from



Views of Georgetown and the Potomac River and (right) The Yard at The Ritz-Carlton Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

(POTOMAC RIVER) EURO BANKS/GETTY IMAGES



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Terms & Conditions Fares are based on Promo LG. *Fare, amenity, taxes, fees and port expenses are based on the March 10, 2019 departure. Featured fares are per person based on double occupancy, cruise or Land+Sea Journeys only. Fares are in U.S. dollars. All savings amounts are included in the fares shown. Taxes, Fees & Port Expenses are additional and range from \$385 to \$390. Subject to availability. For more information about our stateroom categories and suite descriptions, to view deck plans and for full terms and conditions applicable to your cruise, please refer to your travel professional or the appropriate Holland America Line brochure. Offers have limited space, and may be modified or withdrawn without prior notice. Other restrictions may apply. Ships' Registry: The Netherlands.

Long Weekend

TIP

"I recommend flying into **Reagan National Airport**. From there, you can take a short taxi, Uber, or Lyft ride – or easily hop on the metro – and be in downtown D.C. within minutes."
– *Jessica Griscavage, Virtuoso travel advisor, McLean, Virginia*

Manhattan to Milan. Then make your way to **Fiola Mare** (3050 K Street NW), James Beard Award-winning chef Fabio Trabocchi's rustic Italian restaurant and Michelin-starred celebrity magnet (tables fill fast, so have your travel advisor book well in advance).

DAY TWO

Signature biscuits and gravy in **Degrees Bistro** provides sufficient fuel to drive a Tesla Model S, arranged exclusively through the hotel. After a brief demo of the dashboard command center and a test run around the block, you're ready to head along the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway to the **National Museum of African American History and Culture** (1400 Constitution Avenue NW). NMAAHC has been the hottest exhibition ticket in town since its 2016 opening, and while admission is free (as it is at all 19 Smithsonian museums), entry passes are strictly timed and must be reserved up to three months in advance. Spend a few hours perusing the vast collection of artifacts, from a restored 1853 slave cabin and open-cockpit biplane used by the Tuskegee Airmen to Louis Armstrong's trumpet and Michael Jackson's black fedora. A current exhibit on the cultural impact of Oprah Winfrey runs through June 30, 2019.

Next up: a half-hour drive along Maryland Route 190 to nearby Potomac, Maryland, for a visit to the **Glenstone Museum** (12002 Glen Road), a private gem of contemporary art and architecture set on 200 wooded, rolling acres. A new 50,000-square-foot expansion, due for completion in late 2018, increases the exhibition space by nearly fourfold, while

also adding a bookstore and two cafés. Guided tours of the art-filled landscape, including two recently installed outdoor sculptures, are offered daily. Admission is free, although visits must be scheduled in advance.

Back in D.C., **District Wharf** is the place to be. Griscavage calls the new mile-long waterfront development "one of the city's biggest openings in a long time. All the chefs want to be there!" That elite list includes *Top Chef* contestant Kwame Onwuachi, who serves up D.C.'s only Afro-Caribbean cuisine at **Kith/Kin** (801 Wharf Street SW). Walk off those stewed

oxtails along the Wharf's four themed piers; look to catch a live performance at the 6,000-seat, "acoustically advanced" **Anthem** (901 Wharf Street SW) or a more intimate venue such as the **Pearl Street Warehouse** (33 Pearl Street SW).

DAY THREE

Kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding on the Potomac are all the craze these days; rentals are available at **Key Bridge Boathouse** (3500 Water Street NW). Another active option: Reserve one of the hotel's complimentary bikes and cycle along a section of the C&O



Shining light (from top): A sculpted fire pit blazes on District Wharf's Recreation Pier and the NMAAHC's Segregation Gallery.

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Long Weekend

TIP

"Artehouse D.C.

(1238 Maryland Avenue SW), an innovative space of interactive art and light exhibitions, is very trendy right now – and very Instagrammable!"

– Jessica Griscavage

(Chesapeake and Ohio) Canal's former towpath. (The 185-mile trail, which ends in Cumberland, Maryland, is spectacular during fall colors.) For a more controlled sweat, pedal one of the fitness center's Pelotons before a deep-muscle massage or other ESPA treatment in the recently transformed spa.

Spend your last capital hours checking out the **Navy Yard** neighborhood along the Anacostia River. Anchored by its namesake former shipyard and the **National Museum of the U.S. Navy** (736 Sicard Street SE), the redeveloped area is now home to trendy restaurants and bars such as craft brewery **Bluejacket** (300 Tingey Street SE), the Riverwalk Trail System, and plentiful green spaces, along with **Nationals Park** (1500 S. Capitol Street SE). With the Washington Nationals looking to make the Major League Baseball playoffs again in 2018, D.C. just may have another reason to celebrate.



Not your average beers: Craft brews from Bluejacket.



CAPITAL IDEA

How to do D.C. in style.

STAY

Of Virtuoso's 11 hotels in the city, here are three worthy options:

Exposed elements from the 1932 incinerator, a **National Historic Landmark**, create a sense of place at **The Ritz-Carlton Georgetown, Washington, D.C.** Cozy up in front of the Living Room's wood-burning fireplace. *Doubles from \$475; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

Completely renovated in 2017, the 220-room **Park Hyatt Washington, D.C.** is centrally located and regularly celebrated for its Michelin-starred **Blue Duck Tavern**; President Obama has been known to drop by for a slice of its apple pie. *Doubles from \$249; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

Directly across from the White House, the 145-room **Hay-Adams** offers convenient access to the **Smithsonian museums**. Highly recommended: rubbing elbows with D.C.'s elite at Off the Record bar

and the hotel's private monuments-by-night tour. *Doubles from \$339; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

SEE

A guided bicycle ride around the National Mall, a private sport-boat ride on the Potomac, and an insider look at the halls of power – including a **tour of Congress** and a peek inside the Supreme Court – are just a few of the custom D.C. experiences your travel advisor can create by working with one of Virtuoso's on-site connections, **Beyond Times Square**.

EXTEND

A **private viewing of the Declaration of Independence** – part of an exclusive, behind-the-scenes visit to the National Archives – highlights a three-night stay in the nation's capital. Filmmaker Ken Burns helped craft **Tauck's** 11-day Philadelphia-to-D.C. tour through American history, which also visits the Liberty Bell, Gettysburg, Monticello, and Mount Vernon. *Departures: Multiple dates, September 7, 2018, to October 18, 2019; from \$4,890. VT*

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Staying Power

On Bali, forward-thinking hotels help preserve the island's singular culture.

Story and photography by Joel Centano

SUNRISE AND A SUPER-LOW tide on Bali's Sawangan Beach tell a simultaneous story of past, present, and future. In an age-old scene, locals wade through tide pools, meditatively searching for octopuses to sell at nearby markets. Meanwhile, a 180-degree pivot reveals a coastline of contemporary hotels and the telltale signs of the island's unabating building boom.

Blessed with endless beaches, fluorescent-green rice fields, ancient Hindu temples, and welcoming residents renowned for their happiness and warmth, Indonesia's "Island of the Gods" perennially tops many travelers' wish lists – and

for good reason, says Brian Harris, a Colorado-based Virtuoso travel advisor. But as tourism rates rise – Bali now has one of Indonesia's highest concentrations of hotels and has seen its visitor numbers grow by nearly 24 percent annually, according to a recent Colliers report – there's increasing concern that this paradise be preserved.

"It's imperative to recognize that Balinese culture is the main driver of the island's tourism, and the hotels that have this ethos are the ones that succeed," says Harris. "The classic Bali dream trip can still be had," he explains, "but it requires careful planning and knowing

which properties offer pathways into local heritage."

It's this wisdom that informs my own seven-day visit, starting with a stay at The Ritz-Carlton, Bali in Nusa Dua, an Indian Ocean-facing resort where guests can truly engage in local customs. Along its stretch of Sawangan Beach, for instance, a resident Hindu priest leads early-morning soul-purification rituals meant to cleanse body, mind, and spirit while evoking blessings from the Hindu gods of the sun and sea. Guests can also craft Balinese kites and participate in eco-efforts such as sea turtle releases and shore cleanups.

“In even the smallest corners of every village, you’ll find a visual feast of striking scenery, along with the open faces of the friendly people who define this island.”



Clockwise from far left: Mandapa’s vibrant rice fields, Penglipuran village, chef Made Karyasa gets cooking, on the road near Ubud, and Uluwatu temple’s seaside setting.

Beyond the beach, bartenders host cocktail clinics based on arak (Bali’s local spirit); a sarong concierge teaches proper etiquette for how to wear this traditional fabric and heads tours to sarong-making studios; and chefs lead strolls through nearby Kedongan market that culminate in a cooking class and lunch back at the resort’s Bejana restaurant.

“My culinary style reflects my home cooking, learned since I was a child,” chef Made Karyasa tells me while we meander through stalls bursting with vibrant rambutan and dragon fruit, giant prawns, shredded coconut, bamboo shoots, and an array of Balinese spices we later use to prepare staples such as *bumbu genep* (a versatile paste used in various Balinese dishes) and *tum bebek* (spiced minced duck wrapped in banana leaves). “Teaching others is a way for me to pass on this tradition.”

The resort’s cultural concierge offers additional insight into Bali’s identity through Baris dance classes, Indonesian language lessons, and trips to area sites. Following my market tour and lunch, I travel with him to the eleventh-century Uluwatu temple, timed to see a community Kecak performance, in which scores of locals enact an ancient ritual ceremony, dancing and chanting in unison as the setting sun drops into the sea.

“BALI HAS AN ABUNDANCE OF SENSORY riches,” says Varya Simpson, a California-based Virtuoso advisor and former Asian studies instructor at UC Berkeley. “In even the smallest corners of every village,” she adds, “you’ll find a visual feast of striking scenery, along with the open faces of the friendly people who define this island.”

I’m reminded of her words later in the week while touring Ubud – Bali’s cultural and spiritual center – via a vintage Volkswagen convertible. From my base at Mandapa, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, I join a local guide and driver who take me along

Culture Stop

narrow, winding roads that feel more like tunnels carved into surrounding forests profuse with elephant grass, bamboo, and banana trees. As we pilgrimage to a string of the region's cultural gems, white herons take flight from terraced rice fields, women stroll through village streets balancing tiered baskets filled with fruit and flowers on their heads, and incense wafts from ornate roadside shrines.

By midafternoon, we've visited the eleventh-century Pura Kehen, Bangli village's oldest and most sacred Hindu temple; the largely undiscovered Tukad Cepung waterfall (a trek down steep paths and through knee-deep pools is well worth the effort, as

you're likely to have the place to yourself); and pedestrian-friendly Penglipuran village to see its traditional homes, gardens, and shops. The journey also provides chances to meet with local artisans, such as I Made Ada, a master woodcarver from Garuda village whose friendly welcome is as trip-worthy as his work.

Expect the same focus on Balinese culture back at the resort. Guests connect with its artists-in-residence, for example, during exhibitions and workshops, prepare flower tower offerings using locally grown blossoms and coconut leaves, and, within Mandapa's own rice fields, learn to sow the crop while discussing its significance



Sacred perspectives: Temple views at Mandapa and (right) Bangli village's Pura Kehen. Below: John Hardy's Kapal Bambu Boutique.



ROADSIDE ATTRACTION "Everywhere you turn in Bali, there's something beautiful," says Polly Purser, director of heritage at the **John Hardy jewelry workshop**. Though she's describing the island's aesthetic, her words could just as well be about this studio-cum-cultural experience on the road from Nusa Dua to Ubud. Visitors can take a guided tour of the campus, set amid rice fields and built with low-impact materials, to see its artisans bring handcrafted jewelry to life (all pieces are made from recycled gold and silver, and the company is Responsible Jewellery Council-certified). Allow time for **lunch with its staff**, almost all of whom come from local communities. A new **half-day master class** lets guests design their own jewelry; the artists will later finish your work and ship it home to you.

HERITAGE HOTELS

Each of Virtuoso's 13 Balinese properties features immersive experiences steeped in local customs. Here's a sampling:

- ✦ **FOUR SEASONS RESORT BALI AT JIMBARAN BAY** *Denpasar*
Resident experts lead art walks and reveal the symbolism behind **1,500 shrines** in the resort's water gardens.
- ✦ **THE OBEROI, BALI** *Seminyak*
At its on-site temple, a Hindu priest blesses sarong-clad guests during a Balinese **full moon ceremony**.
- ✦ **BULGARI RESORT BALI** *Uluwatu*
Eco-initiatives include mangrove planting and saving Bali's declining apian population by maintaining **bee colonies** at the resort.
- ✦ **AMANKILA** *Manggis*
Cultural experiences range from **beachside yoga classes** to cruises in *jukung*-style Balinese boats.
- ✦ **SOORI BALI** *Kerambitan*
Customized activities connect guests with locals to learn about rice cultivation and **wayang-style artwork**.



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Finding bliss: A soul-purification ritual on Nusa Dua's Sawangan Beach.

in everyday life. "Rice is at the root of our culture," my teacher, Winana, tells me, all the while smiling as he details its elaborate planting ceremonies and ubiquity in Balinese meals. "If we have food, we must have rice." Though a portion of the region's fields has recently been lost to development, he notes, some 80 percent of local families still grow rice on their land.

Spiritual and holistic therapies, based on ancient Balinese beliefs, also highlight stays here, with programs that include water-blessing rituals with a priestess and energy treatments with an intuitive blind healer. Vedic astrology, chakra balancing, and meditation sessions round out the spa menu, as do active disciplines such as vinyasa, hatha, and kundalini yoga.

On my last evening, I'm inspired to try a yoga class at the spa's riverside pavilion, taught – to my surprise – by Winana, who turns out to also be a yoga master. It's my first such class, but after a week on Bali, it's not too difficult to get into the flow, especially when guided by Winana's meditations. We're most likely to be at peace with the future and the past when we do well to focus on the present moment, he reminds his class. "Because happiness," he emphasizes with his unceasing smile, "is right now." It's a valuable souvenir and send-off – and a pleasant reminder that, despite all the changes, so many of Bali's integral traditions still abide.

BALINESE BLESSINGS

How to have a heavenly time in Nusa Dua, Ubud, and beyond.

GO

"One of the best times to visit Bali is during the **dry season** in June," says Brian Harris. "It's less busy than July and August, and has good surfing conditions. Shoulder season in September also offers lower rates and **fewer crowds**."

STAY

Additional cultural experiences at the flower-filled, 313-room **Ritz-Carlton, Bali** include sunset meditation sessions and **lantern-making classes** for kids. Surfing lessons and swan neck show-ers in the spa's Hydro-Vital Pool are available for the aquatically inclined, as are "floating breakfasts" in (yes, *in*) your suite or villa pool. *Doubles from \$250; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily, a \$100 resort credit, and private airport transfers.*

Mandapa, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve – built in the spirit of a traditional

Balinese village – is home to 60 villas and suites, two temples, and culinary options ranging from rice-field barbecues to riverside dining in **private bamboo pods**. Younger guests can keep active at a kids' camp focusing on art, culture, and ecology. *Doubles from \$676; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*

EXPLORE

Your travel advisor can work with Virtuoso's on-site connections to craft customized day trips or longer Bali and Indonesia tours tailored to your tastes. Insider experiences from **ICS Travel Group - Indonesia** include a visit to the home of Pak Enong Ismail, curator of The Sukarno Centre. Adventures with **Asia World Indonesia** have guests meeting with anthropologist and longtime Bali resident Dr. Lawrence Blair for high tea and connecting with Balinese locals in their homes, farms, and schools. **VT**



The Ritz-Carlton, Bali's floating breakfast and (right) all roads lead to something beautiful at Mandapa.

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SHORE

A wide-angle photograph of a tropical coastal town. In the foreground, the calm, clear blue water of a harbor or lagoon reflects the sky and the buildings. Several small boats are docked along the shore. The middle ground is filled with a row of colorful houses, including a prominent orange one, nestled among a dense line of tall palm trees. The background shows a clear, bright blue sky.

**The coast is clear – and steeped in culture,
history, and nature – at America's seaside stars.**

BY ELAINE GLUSAC



One of our favorite places in the sun: Key West, Florida.

We didn't set out from Miami to shock. The first time I took my son, then age 10, to the

Florida Keys, I did my best to model good-parenting beach practices in the way of sunscreen, buddy-swimming, and sun hats. I also packed to uphold decorum with stylish cover-ups and our best resort wear. But my dress standards quickly lapsed to swimsuits alone when the string of beaches that edge the Keys beckoned us repeatedly to park our rental car and jump in. By the time we reached Key West two days later, via the 113-mile coastal Overseas Highway, we were wearing damp, sandy towels as sarongs and, embodied in the widest grins of our trip, the evident satisfaction of not caring one bit about appearances.

Combining the thrill of lands' end and the wonder of the limitless beyond, coastal getaways have a way of delivering serenity stat. "Seaside towns are places to forget worries, relax, literally dig your feet in the sand, get grounded, and reset," says Amber Bogard, a Virtuoso travel advisor based in Miami. "Studies show that being around water and nature is cathartic and nurturing," and such benefits, she adds, can be had whether you're at a historic New England village or a tropical Hawaiian surf break.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration puts the official tally for the U.S. shoreline at just over 95,000 miles, including Hawaii and Alaska. Covering a fraction of them, the following five sea stars span the coastal range of appeal from natural to cultural, laid-back to lively.

MEINZAHN/GETTY IMAGES

THING

1 Key West, Florida

The Conch Republic rises again.

The U.S. held its breath when Hurricane Irma made landfall in South Florida last fall, but fortunately, Key West, a onetime pirate lair 90 miles north of Cuba, bounced back in the same defiant spirit that once drove its campaign to secede from the country as the Conch Republic in the early 1980s.

"The Keys rebounded in a way that demonstrates the region's sense of community and pride," says Bogard. "Key West is a fun, high-energy tropical island that offers a piece of the Caribbean in the U.S. with a quirky, small-town vibe."

New attractions on the island include

the fall opening of **Florida Keys National Wildlife Refugees Nature Center** on nearby Big Pine Key (30587 *Overseas Highway*), home to elfin Key deer. New butterfly and "perfume" gardens, the latter devoted to fragrant flowers, recently opened at the **Key West Garden Club** at West Martello Tower (1100 *Atlantic Boulevard*), a National Historic site. The 28-acre **Truman Waterfront Park** (21 *East Quay Road*), adjacent to one of Key West's best beaches, has added bike lanes, a children's splash park, and a 500-seat amphitheater.

Cheer Key West's resilience on the

new **Cocktail Crawl** walking tour, fueled by signature local drinks such as the Hemingway daiquiri, or take a mojito-making class at the **Key West First Legal Rum Distillery** (105 *Simonton Street*).

BE THERE: On a satellite isle a seven-minute ferry ride from Key West, **Sunset Key Cottages** models escapism with new **beach yoga sessions**, sunset supper picnics, and ice cream delivery to its 40 cottages via a classic conch cruiser bike. *Doubles from \$795; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*

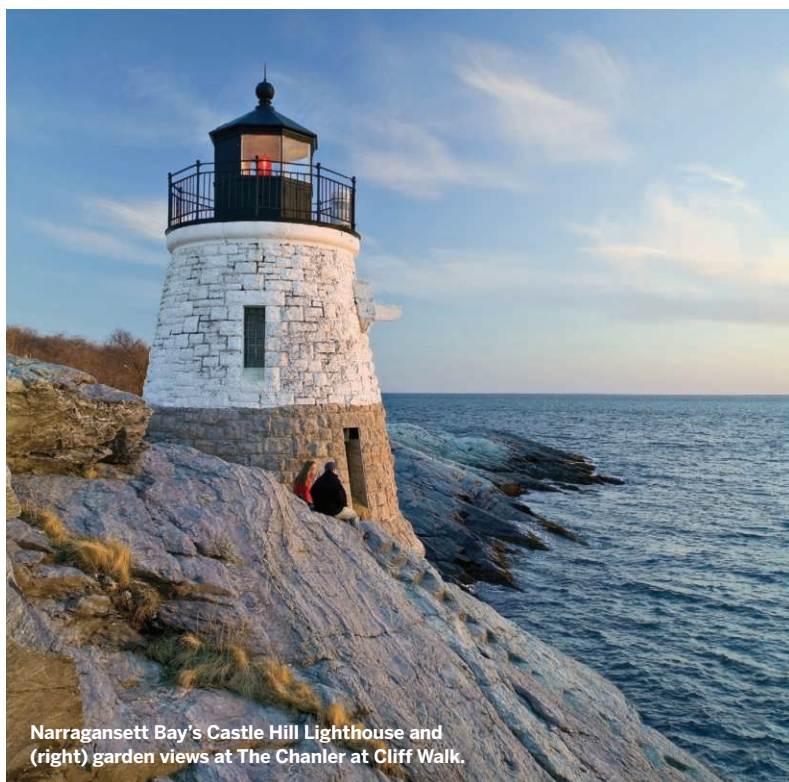
Smathers Beach (also featured on our cover) and (right) the ice-cream man cometh at Sunset Key Cottages.



(BEACH) JAMES SCHWABEL/AGE FOTOSTOCK, (ICE-CREAM MAN) ANDREW HETHERINGTON/REDUX

You'll Also LOVE

With its Cuban flair and colorful street art, **Miami** is an urban analogue to Key West. **Azamara Club Cruises'** five-day Key West and Havana sailing aboard the 690-passenger *Azamara Journey* starts and ends in Miami, providing time to visit Little Havana, the Wynwood Walls to spy its vibrant murals, and the South Beach strands. *Departure: November 20, 2018; from \$1,074.*



Narragansett Bay's Castle Hill Lighthouse and (right) garden views at The Chanler at Cliff Walk.



adds, "except that it's very accessible; you can walk to everything and get close to its homes."

This summer, the grandest of Newport's grand mansions, **The Breakers** (44 Ochre Point Avenue) has opened a new welcome center with a sunlit café where guests can relax after estate tours, including one that explores the house's below-stairs workings via an underground tunnel. A new pass to Doris Duke's home, **Rough Point** (680 Bellevue Avenue), offers entree to the house, grounds, and special exhibitions, which include the bespoke jewelry produced for the tobacco heiress.

"Seafood is, in itself, worth the trip to Rhode Island – think New England lobster, stuffed quahogs [clams], and creamy 'chowda,'" says Kramer. Order fresh-from-the-boat dishes at the new **Stoneacre Brasserie** (28 Washington Square), then toast the former "rum capital of the world" on the new **Newport Cocktail Tour**.

BE THERE: Housed in a nineteenth-century "summer cottage" on Newport's Cliff Walk, **The Chanler at Cliff Walk** channels global destinations, from Morocco to Martha's Vineyard, in **20 themed rooms**. *Doubles from \$660; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

2

Newport, Rhode Island

Wicked good seafood meets historic mansions in the Ocean State.

When Gilded Age magnates sought a summer escape, the Vanderbilts, Astors, and their cohorts chose

Newport, a craggy spot with fresh breezes, a safe harbor, and dramatic views at the base of Aquidneck Island, building grand mansions that attest to the lavish tastes of the time.

"Early nineteenth-century Americans didn't have a style of their own, so they looked to Europe to emulate their grand houses," says Fran Kramer, a Rochester, New York-based Virtuoso advisor and antiques collector who frequently shops in Newport. She recommends strolling the **Cliff Walk**, which divides the Atlantic from the town's titanic homes in a time-erasing three-mile route. "Newport is like the Hamptons of Rhode Island," Kramer

For further New England charm, check out Bar Harbor, also originally a summer colony, or more-bustling Portland, **Maine**, filled with lobster boats and oyster bars. **Regent Seven Seas Cruises'** 11-day New York City-to-Montréal voyage aboard the 490-passenger *Seven Seas Navigator* visits both and includes a shore excursion to Acadia National Park. *Departure: October 18, 2018; from \$7,299.*

3

Santa Barbara, California

A taste of the Mediterranean amid SoCal scenery.

You don't have to squint to see sunny Spain in Santa Barbara. The city's terra-cotta roof tiles and whitewashed colonial architecture speak to its past, first as an eighteenth-century military outpost and mission, and later as a climate-blessed stage for silent American films.

"Santa Barbara is known as the 'American Riviera,' but it offers more than Europe's," says Limor Decter, a New York City-based Virtuoso advisor. "It has a great Spanish and Mediterranean feel, but also the spacious grandeur of California, with the Pacific on one side and the Santa Ynez Mountains on the other."

A gateway to the wine district of the Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Barbara has developed a strong reputation for food and wine, bolstered by the recent opening of **Smithy Kitchen + Bar** (7 E. Anapamu Street) from chef Lauren Herman, who touts locally grown, raised, and caught ingredients. Chef Jessi Singh's Indian food at the new **Bibi Ji** (734 State Street) comes paired

with regional vintages selected by James Beard-awarded sommelier Rajat Parr. **Bluewater Grill** (15 E. Cabrillo Boulevard) serves the area's famous sea urchins, as well as oysters and locally caught fish.

Santa Barbara wouldn't be the American Riviera without swimming, sunning, and surfing on East or Butterfly beaches. Its old-world traditions include Sunday matches at the **Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club** (3375 Foothill

Road), May through October, to stomp the divots between chuckers.

BE THERE: Venturing round-trip from L.A., **Princess Cruises'** four-day West Coast sailing calls on Santa Barbara en route to Ensenada, Mexico. Shore excursions from the 3,080-passenger ***Emerald Princess*** explore the **Old Mission Santa Barbara**, café- and boutique-lined State Street, and Santa Ynez Valley wineries. *Departure:* November 25, 2018; from \$351.



Sunset on the palm-fringed Cabrillo Boulevard Promenade.

BLAINE HARRINGTON/AGE FOTOSTOCK

You'll Also LOVE

There's scenic drama all along the **California coastline**, from San Francisco down to Santa Barbara. Ride the rolling route with **Backroads** on a six-day bike tour, pedaling through arty Carmel-by-the-Sea, Big Sur redwood groves, and the Danish wine district town of Solvang. *Departures:* September 9, and October 7 and 21, 2018; from \$3,498.

4 Astoria, Oregon

History, rugged scenery, and renewed vitality where river meets ocean.

From Fort Clatsop, where Lewis and Clark spent the winter of 1805–06, to restored canneries and fur-trade wharfs, Astoria tells the story of westward expansion against a powerful backdrop where the Columbia River joins the Pacific.

"Astoria is where history meets nature," says Cate Caruso, a Virtuoso advisor located near Portland, Oregon. "And it started with a purpose: Fur traders loaded and unloaded their cargo here. It was also the first settlement on the Pacific Coast and had the first U.S. post office west of the Rockies." For travelers looking for a culturally authentic destination, she adds, "This

town had a reason for being rather than becoming a beach destination simply because it's pretty."

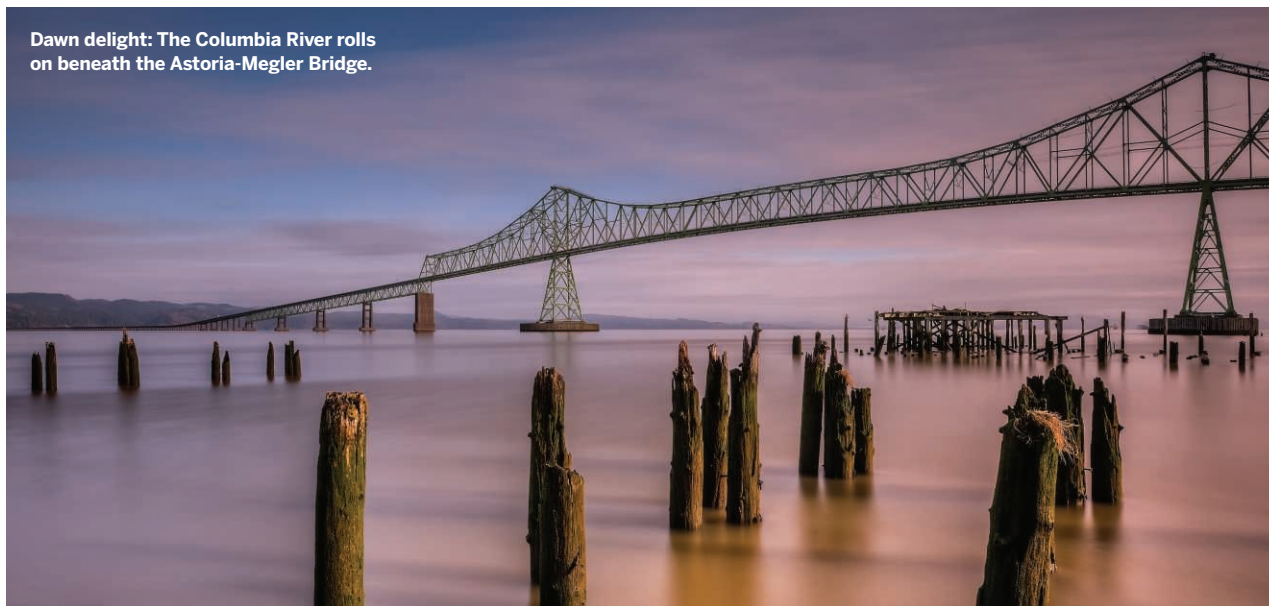
Today, galleries, shops, and small-batch breweries have revived Astoria's historic waterfront. Learn how pilots navigate massive freighters over the Columbia River bar at the **Columbia River Maritime Museum** (1792 Marine Drive). Then visit the **Museum of Whimsy** (1215 Duane Street), in a former 1924 bank now filled with vintage costumes and antique furniture.

Among the dozen-plus breweries in the area, slug a pint of 3-Way IPA at **Fort George Brewery + Public House** (1483 Duane Street) or be sure to nab a spot

on the riverfront deck at the **Astoria Brewing Company** (144 11th Street) and watch the freighters pass by.

BE THERE: **UnCruise Adventures'** eight-day culinary-themed voyage aboard the 86-passenger *Legacy* spends a day in Astoria before heading up the Columbia River. Astoria excursions visit boutique seafood companies and craft breweries with calorie-burning options to stroll the Astoria Riverwalk and climb the 164-step **Astoria Column** for ocean and river panoramas. *Departures: Multiple dates, November 2 to December 7, 2019; from \$4,195.*

Dawn delight: The Columbia River rolls on beneath the Astoria-Megler Bridge.



DAN MIHAJ/GETTY IMAGES

Worth a wander: the string of **shoreside towns south of Astoria**, including quaint Depoe Bay and seashell-strewn Cannon Beach. Your travel advisor can work with Virtuoso's on-site connection, **American Excursionist**, to craft a customized Oregon vacation that couples beachcombing and tide-pool trekking with visits to foodie favorites such as Portland and Bend.



True north shore: A traditional outrigger canoe on Hanalei Bay.

5 Hanalei (Kauai), Hawaii

The spirit of aloha in retro-relaxation mode.

If you're looking for old Hawaii – the laid-back, underdeveloped, lush beach idyll where slack-key guitar hangs in the air and surfers tell time by the tides – look to Kauai, the oldest and northernmost island in the chain. And, more specifically, Hanalei, reached via a one-lane bridge on the North Shore.

"Visiting Hanalei is like taking a walk back in time," says Randy King, a Virtuoso advisor based in Honolulu. "Hanalei, which means 'lei-making' in English, has kept its small-town feeling

with that intimate charm that's slowly disappearing on other Hawaiian islands."

King's perfect day starts with a run on one of the town's long white-sand beaches, then continues with shopping in boutiques such as **Havaiki** (5-5161 Kuhio Highway) for island-made wood carvings, followed by a fortifying plate lunch – like an island version of the Southern meat-and-three – from one of the food trucks that pull up shoreside to feed the surfers.

Add to that a stroll in the **Limahuli Garden & Preserve** (5-8291 Kuhio

Highway) – visit ntbg.org for its reopening date following recent floods; a class at **Hanalei Surf School** (5-5080 Kuhio Highway); and a tour of the pristine **Na Pali Coast** by helicopter or catamaran.

BE THERE: Just ten minutes down the road from Hanalei, the 251-room **St. Regis Princeville** is "a slice of luxury in paradise," says King. New on property: daily morning paddles in a **traditional outrigger canoe**. *Doubles from \$595; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*

MICHAEL SWEET/GETTY IMAGES

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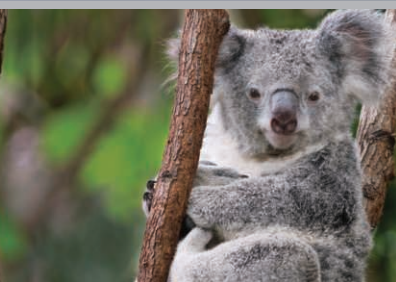
It's hard to choose between cultural Oahu, adventurous Maui, rugged Hawaii Island, and the garden isle of Kauai. Good news: **Tauk** covers each of the **four islands** over a leisurely 12-day tour that includes everything from a visit to Pearl Harbor to a catamaran sailing along the Kohala Coast. *Departures: Multiple dates, August 18 to December 6, 2018; from \$6,990.* **VI**

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Papua New Guinea

A villager in ceremonial
dress outside Port Moresby.



Galápagos

Cacti tower over the stark landscape.

LENS ON THE WORLD

**A look at sought-after destinations
and ports of call through the eyes of
legendary photographer Steve McCurry.**

Steve McCurry's 30-plus-year career has taken him to some of the most remote – and tumultuous – corners of the world. His iconic portrait of a green-eyed Afghan refugee girl is perhaps one of contemporary photography's most recognizable photos. For his current collaboration with Silversea Cruises, McCurry is turning his lens on some of the line's most compelling destinations, revealing the soul of places through their landscapes, people, and wildlife. Here, a few never-before-published images from his recent journeys.



Easter Island

A group of the iconic *moai* and (below) dancers at the annual Tapati Festival, a celebration of the island's indigenous culture.



LIVE THE PICTURES

Sail away with Silversea to McCurry-documented destinations.

◆ Silversea timed its 13-day circumnavigations of **Japan** to give cruisers the best shot at seeing the cherry blossoms' peak. The round-trip route from Tokyo on the 596-passenger *Silver Muse* calls at Maizuru (for Kyoto excursions), Karatsu (known for its castle and pottery), Busan, a South Korean beach-resort city, and more. One high point: a **cable car ride** in the volcanic Hakkoda Mountains outside Aomori. *Departures: April 16 and 29, 2019; from \$7,200.*

◆ Explore **Arctic Norway** aboard the line's newest expedition ship, the 254-passenger *Silver Cloud*. The ten-day cruise from Longyearbyen to Tromsø charts a course through fjords and pack ice in search of polar bears, walrus, and some of the Northern Hemisphere's largest bird colonies. A fleet of Zodiacs and sea kayaks allows for up-close wildlife encounters, **glacier hikes**, and visits to fishing villages en route. *Departure: July 12, 2019; from \$9,180.*

◆ The 100-passenger *Silver Galapagos* is a fixture in Darwin's playground, serving up the **Galápagos'** greatest hits on seven-day sailings from San Cristóbal to Baltra (or the reverse). The islands' wildlife features prominently, including Galápagos sea lions in Gardner Bay, marine iguanas everywhere, and giant tortoises on San Cristóbal. But the landscape also shines, with lava flows and **red-sand beaches**. *Departures: Multiple dates, year-round; from \$7,100. VI*



Western Africa

A traditional dance group performs in Togo.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

A fresh look at our favorite places. Here, swimming with whale sharks in La Paz Bay.

BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

“Jacques Cousteau called the Sea of Cortés ‘the **world’s aquarium**’ because it’s one of our planet’s most biologically diverse bodies of water. Sailing from La Paz in southern Baja, small-ship cruises let travelers immerse themselves in the destination, including the clear waters around nearby Isla Espíritu Santo, a UNESCO World Heritage site that shelters an abundance of bird colonies and sea life.”

– *Michelle Cowell, Virtuoso travel advisor, Pacific Palisades, California*

GO: Swim with sea lions at Los Islotes, see **California gray whales** in Laguna San Ignacio, and spot blue-footed boobies while kayaking around Isla Espíritu Santo on **Lindblad Expeditions’** ten-day Baja California cruise aboard the 100-passenger *National Geographic Venture*.

Departures: Multiple dates, January 12 through March 8, 2019; from \$7,530.





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Photo courtesy of real traveler Meghan Drake

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