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DATE	DAYS	VOYAGE	FROM	TO	SHIP
28-Jun-23	7	DA230628007	Copenhagen	Bergen	Silver Dawn
4-Jul-23	10	MO230704010	Reykjavik	Reykjavik	Silver Moon
16-Aug-23	9	SL230816009	Venice	Piraeus	Silver Spirit
8-Sep-23	14	DA230908014	Copenhagen	Copenhagen	Silver Dawn
22-Sep-23	14	MO230922014	Lisbon	Lisbon	Silver Moon
29-Sep-23	17	SN230929017	Lisbon	Lisbon	Silver Nova
29-Oct-23	11	MO231029011	Civitavecchia	Venice	Silver Moon

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# Preflight

INSPIRATION FOR YOUR WANDERLIST



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## Patagonia

Small and mighty:  
Follow the call of the wild to  
South America's tip.



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## Alaska

Gear up for adventure  
in the Last Frontier.







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## Amsterdam

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## Caviar

Save room for the osetra in Michelin-starred Esmé's Mother of Pearl dessert. (Hint: It's in the peanut.)



(AMSTERDAM) CHRIS SCHALKX

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Uninhabited Saint Matthew Island in the Bering Sea.

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### ON THE COVER

Jaipur's Hawa Mahal, aka the Pink Palace. Photography by Madhumita Nandi.



Bergen, Norway

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Summer calls for a splash of color.



A man and a woman are walking hand-in-hand on a dirt path in a desert garden. The woman is wearing a red one-piece swimsuit and a light blue robe, while the man is shirtless and wearing dark shorts. They are both wearing sunglasses. In the background, there is a large saguaro cactus and some trees. The sky is clear and blue.

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# Going Off Script

**R**IGHT NOW I SHOULD really be telling you that summer, the most nostalgic of all seasons, is nearly upon us, exhorting you to connect with your advisor to start planning because the early pandemic's acres of availability and rock-bottom rates have given way to an all-out, wanderlust-fueled travel frenzy. I should be directing you to our must-read story on summer travel, sourced from Virtuoso travel advisors – the industry's most reliable insiders – who are championing less-touristed locales in Europe and Japan, such as Slovenia and Hokkaido, and counseling you on how to gird yourself for travels with a toddler. And I am! This piece provides indispensable, entertaining insight on how to have your best summer travels yet.

But the truth is, I also can't stop thinking about this issue's features on Alaska's hinterlands, by Elaine Glusac, and Chile's new Patagonia National Park, by J.R. Patterson. These gorgeously crafted stories – with photos every bit as arresting as the words – moved me in that specific way that only truly great writing can, with their descriptions of close encounters with nature and musings on our place within it.

Trusted advice and soul-stirring inspiration: Isn't that what we all want from a good travel magazine? (And packing tips – always and forever.) Read on for all of the above and more, including our cover story on Jaipur's thriving block-printing traditions, intel on new hotels, a family-travel guide to Bermuda, book reviews, and other gems. And take it from me and all the travel advisors we consulted for this issue: If you get your summer travel plans underway now, you'll be golden.



MARIKA CAIN  
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

## Cover Star

Jaipur's Hawa Mahal, aka the Pink Palace, which appears on this issue's cover, was built in 1799 at the edge of the City Palace. The latticework of its five-story sandstone facade (which sports 953 windows) served triple duty: It cooled the palace during the hotter months, allowed royal women to gaze at goings-on outside the palace without being seen, and looked completely smashing.



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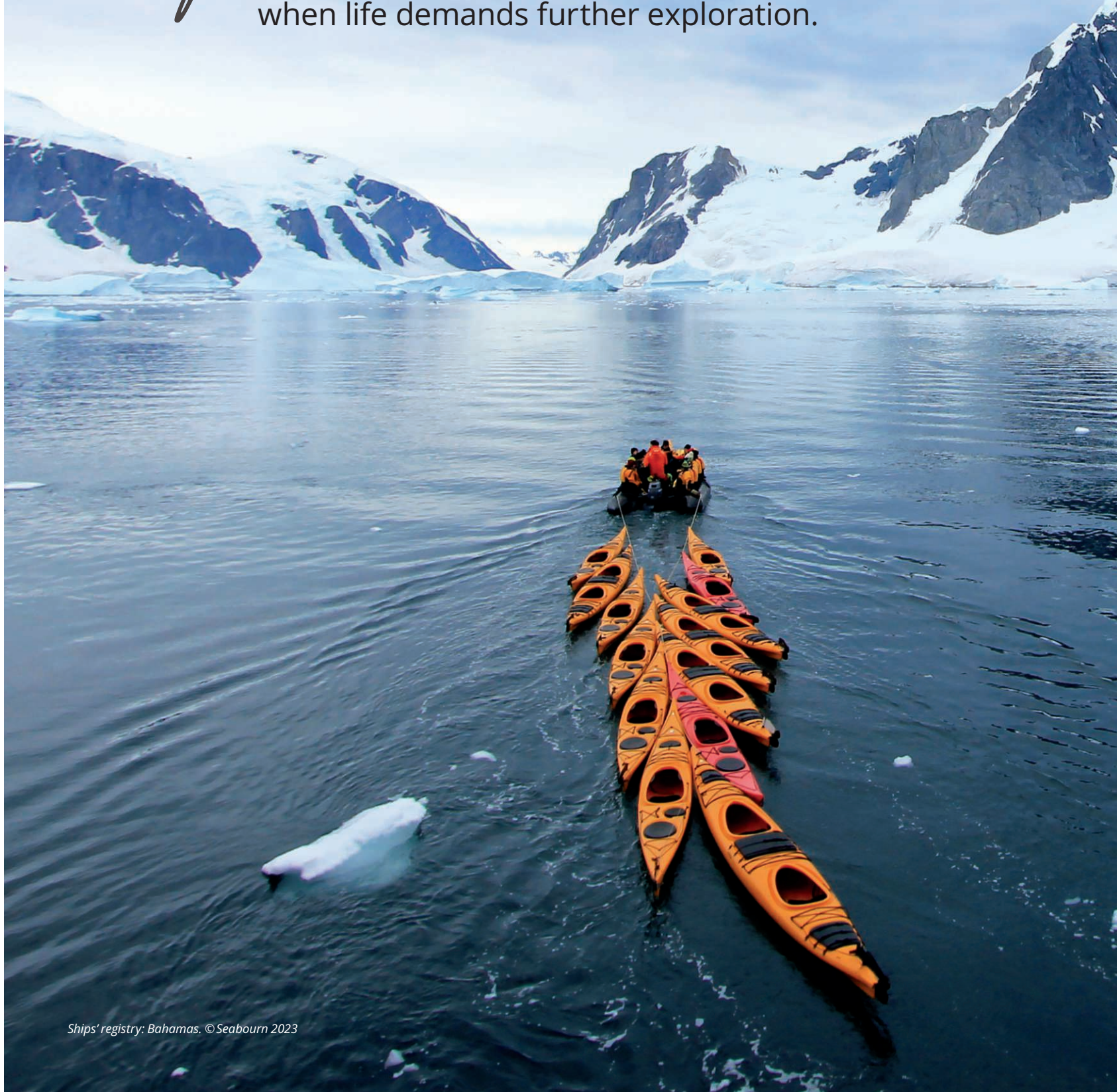


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THE MAGAZINE

“Where are you traveling this summer?”



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Assistant Editor **Auburn Scallon**

“I’m excited to visit Vermont for a friend’s wedding.”

## Design

Design Director **Melanie Prasetyo Fowler**

Art Director **Korena Bolding Sinnott**

## Contributors

Copy Editors **Miriam Bulmer, Diane Sepanski**

Researchers **Donna Blinn, Jillian Dara, Sierra Juarez, Jessica Mueller**

Photo Researcher **Mary Risher**

Digital Retoucher **Walter Kelly**

Writers & Photographers

**Adam Erace, Luis García, Elaine Glusac, David Hochman,**

**Jeff Koehler, Kimberley Lovato, Kevin J. Miyazaki,**

**Chris Schalkx, Kim Brown Seely, Jen Rose Smith, Clara Tuma**

## Marketing/Advertising

Senior Director, Marketing Products & Distribution **Robert Duncan**

Senior Manager, Marketing Programs & Distribution **Kelly Kirchner**

Senior Manager, Consumer Product Marketing **Magdalena Jama**

Manager, Digital Content Marketing **Stephen Cordebas**

## Circulation/Data Services

**Lanecha White,**

**Amy Hyde, Gaylynn Magers**

## Marketing Operations

Senior Director **Kathy Niwa Terrell**

Manager **Natalie Sherman**

Specialists **Carol Lewis, Denise Rodriguez**

Coordinator **Hailee Buchanan**

“The beautiful country-side of Kielce, Poland, to see where my husband grew up.”

## Account Sales

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**Rick Cazzell, Carol Coleman, Xabier Eguren,**

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“The Amalfi Coast to soak up some sun and local culture.”  
– C.G.

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“Portugal, Spain, and Italy on a cruise.”

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## “What’s your packing style?”



Writer  
**Sarah Khan**

New York City

“In Living Color,” page 108

“It’s embarrassing to confess this, given my line of work, but I’m definitely not a carry-on-only type. For trips longer than four or five days, I usually check a bag. I like to prepare for all possible activities and weather, and leave room for shopping.”

**THE REPORT:** “Jaipur’s maximalism appeals to me endlessly – the patterns, the grandeur, the bling. It all comes together so vividly at Patrika Gate, where every color and architectural motif in Rajasthan collide in flamboyant splendor.”

@bysarahkhan



Writer  
**J.R. Patterson**

Gladstone, Canada

“A Country of the Mind,”  
page 98

“Minimal, but I always pack a set of rough duds and one fine outfit. You never know who’ll show up to supper.”

**THE REPORT:** “Chile has some 26,000 glaciers – a significant chunk of the world’s ice. Visiting Patagonia’s Exploradores Glacier, it was possible to see climate change in real time as rocks tumbled from the melting ice into turquoise pools. The ice fields’ mass is so great, it depresses the tectonic plates beneath them, and as they thin and recede, the ground rebounds and uplifts; the stability of the region literally hangs in the balance.”

🐦JRPatterson9



Photographer  
**Madhumita Nandi**

Berlin and Kolkata

“In Living Color,” page 108

“Light and minimalist, with multipurpose items to reduce weight, as I look forward to always enjoying what’s available locally at each location.”

**THE REPORT:** “With each passing day of looking at block-printed textiles, my eyes opened further, and I noticed the intricate patterns of Jaipur’s *jaalis* (mesh structures of Rajput architecture) and *jharokhas* (stone windows). Rajasthan has always reminded me that people are reflections of their landscapes. The environment plays such a significant role in block-printing techniques, not only through the motifs, but also the colors, which depend on the quality of the water and plants used to make dyes.”

@madhumitanandi



Writer  
**Elaine Glusac**

Chicago

“Outer Limits,” page 78

“Ultralight, neutral, and never more than one packed pair of shoes. My motto is ‘Travel more freely, toting less.’ ”

**THE REPORT:** “On Hurtigruten, I found my people: passengers proudly living their passions for photography, birding, and science. If you missed a lecture on volcanology or auklets, you could get a pretty thorough synopsis from the passengers holding binoculars on the foredeck.”

@eglusac





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# Passport

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## At the Copa

Pack your best swimsuits and sequins and get ready to raise a caipirinha to a legend. For 100 years, the **Copacabana Palace** has presided over Rio de Janeiro's most famous beach, an oceanfront bastion of Brazilian glam. The 239-room Belmond hotel – designed by French architect Joseph Gire as a nod to the Riviera's grande dame properties – is celebrating its centennial all year with art exhibitions, marquee guest chefs, and, in August, a poolside gala sure to add a few more samba-fueled stories to the hotel's history of memorable fetes. *Doubles from \$480, including breakfast daily and one 50-minute massage for two.* – Amy Cassell

25 March–April 2023





## Memory Makers

Here's a prescription for making sure vacation photos don't languish, endless scrolls deep in your cell phone's camera roll. Upload favorite shots and customize a photo album on **Artifact Uprising's** website, and the company will ship you a linen-covered book that feels luxe enough to earn a spot on the coffee table. Fujifilm's new **Instax Square Link** printer connects to smartphones via Bluetooth and an easy-to-use app, with an array of optional frames, collages, and sticker add-ons for teenage scrapbooking pursuits. Or ditch the phone altogether and opt for some instant gratification: Fujifilm's hybrid, retro-inspired **Instax Mini Evo** saves photos digitally and prints wallet-size copies directly from its body. Give your sunset shots and family selfies the home they deserve. *Artifact Uprising hardcover travel photo book, from \$72, [artifactuprising.com](https://artifactuprising.com). Instax Square Link smartphone printer, \$140, and Instax Mini Evo hybrid instant camera and smartphone printer, \$200, [instaxus.com](https://instaxus.com). – A.C.*



# Ice Ice Baby

Shave-ice spots may be popping up across the U.S., but the beloved summer treat is distinctly Hawaiian. In the nineteenth century, Japanese workers on the islands' sugar plantations used machetes to shave blocks of ice into snowy flakes, sweetening them with sugar or fruit juice. The indulgence spread to groceries such as Matsumoto's on Oahu's North Shore in the 1950s, where travelers can still get shave ice today, as well as at dozens of shops across the islands. Unlike a crunchy snow cone, shave ice is a fluffy, melt-in-your-mouth experience, customized and flavored with everything from sweetened Japanese adzuki beans to *liliko'i* (passion fruit) syrup and bite-size mochi balls. Just don't call it *shaved ice*: The pidgin-derived name distinguishes Hawaiian devotees, with one exception on Hawaii Island, where it goes by "ice shave." — *Elaine Glusac*

## More Chilled-Out Treats:

- In the Philippines, *halo-halo* – "mix mix" in Tagalog – layers shaved ice and evaporated milk with add-ins such as red beans and *ube* (purple yam) ice cream.
- Ice *kachang*, a staple across Malaysia and Singapore, consists of sweetened beans under shaved ice, topped with syrup and everything from peanuts to durian.
- Synonymous with summer in Japan, *kakigori* sweetens snowlike shaved ice with fruit syrups, condensed milk, or green tea.







## Scotland Goes Wild

Spring is in the air in the Scottish Highlands, where, as the days lengthen and daffodils decorate hillside meadows, a new endeavor is building momentum for Scotland's flourishing rewilding movement. Opening this spring, the **Dundreggan Rewilding Centre** showcases the nonprofit Trees for Life's efforts to restore the Highlands' once-thriving Caledonian Forest – now fragmented by centuries of unchecked grazing, farming, and logging. Visitors can explore nearly four miles of trails winding through the woodlands of the 10,000-acre estate, rich with birch, oak, aspen, Scots pine, hazel, juniper, and ash trees that create a habitat for many of the other 4,000-plus plant and animal species found at Dundreggan.

"Rewilding projects provide the perfect opportunity for travelers to experience Scotland's natural environment and witness first-hand the steps being taken to protect it," says Christopher Sleigh, creative director of **Sleigh's**, a Virtuoso on-site tour connection in the UK. See Dundreggan on a private six-day, sustainability-themed Highlands tour that includes a foraging excursion in Cairngorms National Park, an ecology walk through Mar Lodge Estate National Nature Reserve, and a safari in Perthshire to spy red deer, golden eagles, and mountain hares. *Departures: Any day through 2023; from \$7,300, including accommodations.* – Joel Centano



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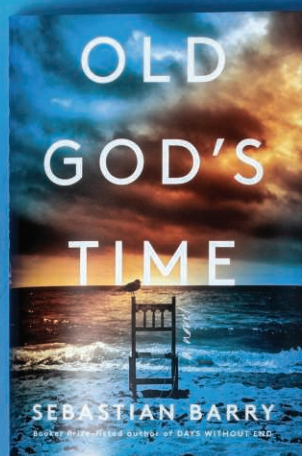


# Carry-On Companions

## OLD GOD'S TIME

BY SEBASTIAN BARRY (*Viking*)

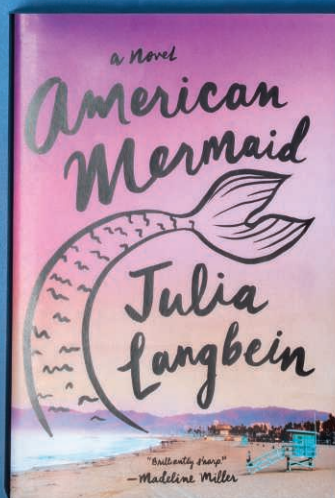
In his ninth novel, Barry turns his narrative prowess to Tom Kettle, a recently retired Garda (police officer) who moves to a house overlooking the Irish Sea in search of solitude. His hopes are dashed when detectives turn up asking about a long-ago case with ties to a murder and his wife, June. Kettle has trouble remembering his connections to the case – and even more trouble remembering which of his loved ones are still alive. Barry, who's known for work that combines energetic plotting with exceptional insight, offers readers a glimpse into the disadvantages (and advantages) of aging.



## AMERICAN MERMAID

BY JULIA LANGBEIN (*Doubleday*)

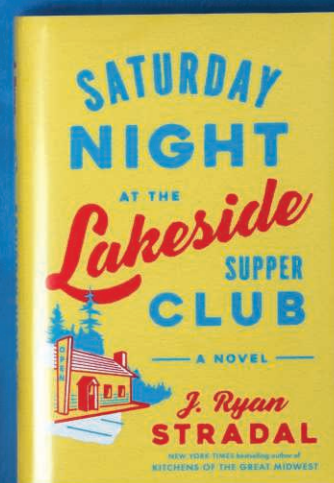
Penelope Schleeman loves her feminist bestseller, *American Mermaid* – until she finds herself in L.A. working on a film adaptation that may change it beyond recognition. This fast, funny satire reveals how creative endeavors can clash with the ways we make a living.



## SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE LAKESIDE SUPPER CLUB

BY J. RYAN STRADAL (*Pamela Dorman Books*)

Ned believes he's about to inherit a chain of diners, while his wife, Mariel, comes into a retro supper club from her grandmother. As the couple copes with tragedy, they must decide whose business will provide the best legacy for their child – and what's most important about their Midwestern roots.

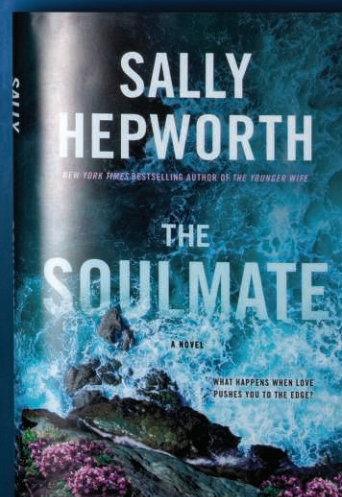


## THE SOULMATE

BY SALLY HEPWORTH (*St. Martin's Press*)

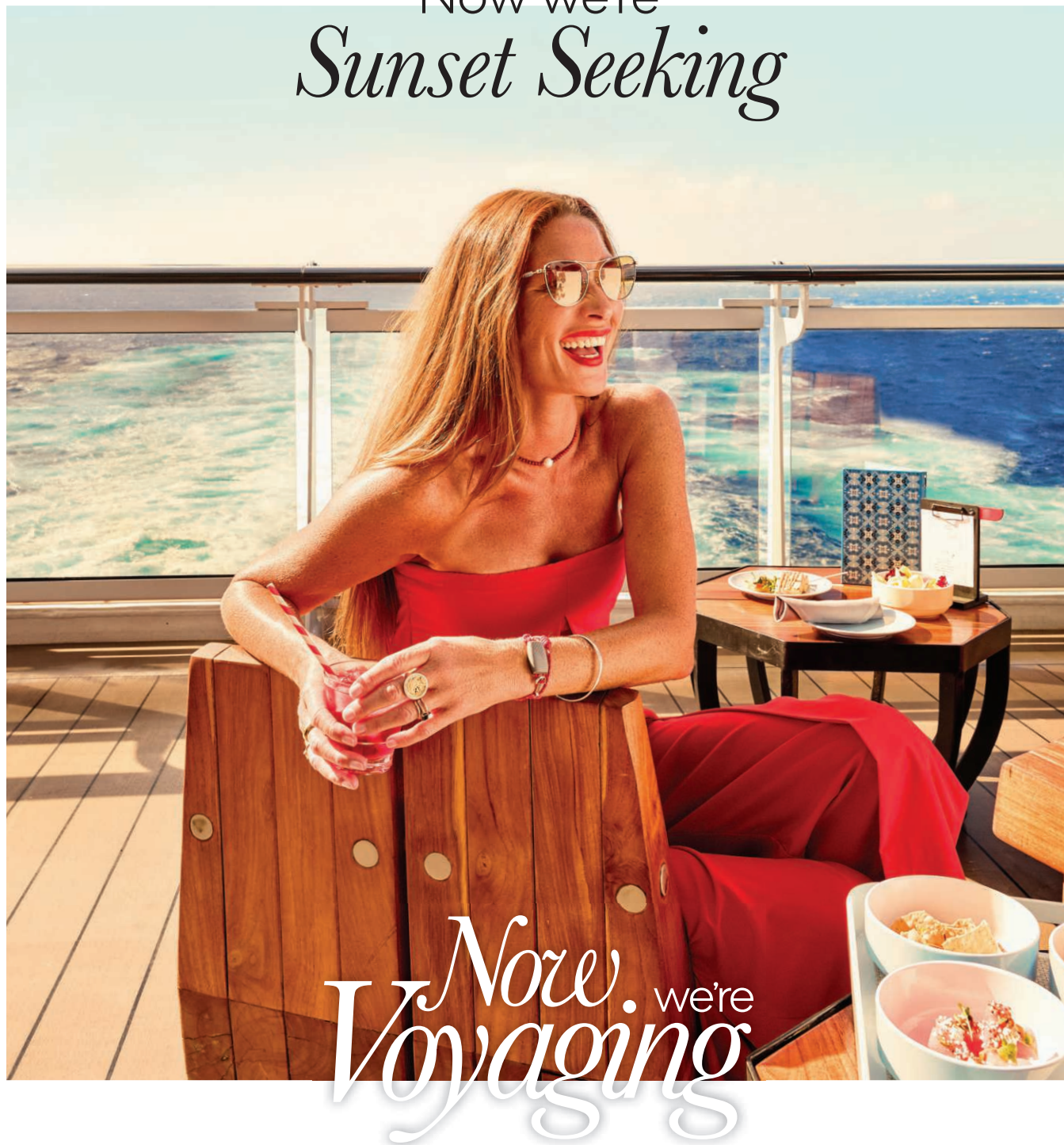
Pippa and Gabe live so close to Australian seacoast cliffs that Gabe often helps talk people intent on self-harm away from the edge. When he doesn't return one night, Pippa discovers ties between him and a woman he may or may not have pushed from the cliff that threaten to unravel her life.

– Bethanne Patrick





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# Off the Map

In these Med outposts, your cruise ship has the port to itself.



### TIMELESS RETREAT: LIPARI, ITALY

Hub of the Aeolian archipelago, a septet of islands hovering off Sicily's northeast coast, Lipari sits amid cobalt-blue seas, its port facing the volcano named for Vulcan, the Roman god of fire, who was said to have his workshop there. Lipari is the largest of the Aeolians, its narrow streets buzzing with motorbikes and lined with cafés and shops selling the island's noteworthy exports: malvasia, a sweet, golden wine varietal, and capers, which grow on odd bushes that sprout vaguely alien-looking flowers. Restaurants dish up seafood, such as simply grilled swordfish lavished with capers, minced anchovy, and red pepper flakes. **Star Clippers'** 166-passenger *Star Clipper* visits Lipari on its seven-night round trips from Rome, which also call on ports in Sicily and along the Amalfi Coast. *Departures: Multiple dates, June 17 through October 7; from \$5,400.*

### SMALL BUT MIGHTY: BOZCAADA, TURKEY

Bucolic Bozcaada guards the mouth of the Dardanelles Strait leading to Istanbul, and its size – diminutive – is key to its charm: The island is small enough

to conquer in a day, yet it still leaves you wanting to return. It was desirable enough for the Venetians, Romans, and Greeks to lay claim at various points, with its vineyard-robed hillsides, testament to 3,000 years of wine-making. Stray from the cobblestoned town on trails leading through lavender fields and olive groves to hideaway beaches inaccessible by car. The 698-passenger *Seven Seas Voyager* calls on Bozcaada, along with other offbeat ports such as Filippi and its fourth-century BC ruins, on **Regent Seven Seas Cruises'** 12-night sailing from Monte Carlo to Athens. *Departure: September 21; from \$13,199.*

### HIDDEN GEM: BONIFACIO, CORSICA

Bonifacio is off the circuit for large ships – only smaller vessels, such as **Ponant's** 184-passenger *Le Bougainville*, can slink through a fjordlike inlet to its small marina at the base of limestone cliffs, where the town itself lines a narrow peninsula. Arched aqueducts cross passages in the steep warren of alleys that lead to the drawbridge of the medieval cliff-top citadel, where ramparts reveal views of the rocky strait between Corsica and

Sardinia. In town, cafés serve hearty island fare – artisanal sausages, wild boar stew, chestnut cake. On a seven-night sailing from Nice to Barcelona, stop at two other choice Corsican ports: Saint-Florent and Calvi. *Departures: August 21 and 28; from \$4,610.*

### THE MYTHIC MUSE: GOZO, MALTA

Plenty of cruise ships visit bustling Malta, but few sidle over to neighboring Gozo, just a few miles away. You can decamp to the strawberry-blond sands of Ramla Bay for swimming and sunning, but the hilly island is notable for the UNESCO World Heritage-listed, megalithic Ggantija Temples – stone structures even older than Stonehenge or Egypt's pyramids. Nearby Calypso's Cave is thought to be the hideout of Homer's *Odyssey* fame, where Ulysses was imprisoned for seven years. On **Seabourn's** nine-night spin from Barcelona to Rome, the 450-passenger *Seabourn Sojourn* will visit Gozo, along with other western Med gems such as Menorca and Sicily's Trapani. *Departures: July 26 and August 25; from \$4,844.*

– David Swanson

Bozcaada, Turkey's restaurant-lined harbor and (opposite) Calypso's Cave overlooking Ramla Bay on Gozo.







## Missoni Goes to the Maldives

It's going to be an haute summer at **One&Only Reethi Rah**: The Italian fashion house Missoni is lending its signature stripes to the beach club and select villas for 2023, in turquoise, blue, and green shades inspired by the 118-villa private-island resort. Towels splashed with the kaleidoscopic motif await snorkelers fresh from sea turtle or manta ray encounters, and beats from the Missoni-fied DJ booth keep beachside partygoers entertained into the night. The pattern also bedecks the Treehouse – a private dining venue tucked into the jungle, serving fresh-caught Maldivian lobster and grilled octopus atop blue-striped table linens. Elsewhere on the island, guests can cool down at the matching popsicle stand or express their own vision of the Maldives at the on-site art studio. In the Grand Residence, the alfresco dining area and cinema – which border the infinity pool and private beach – also sport Missoni stripes echoing the view.

*Doubles from \$2,500, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit. – Emma Franke*

**A prime perch at Reethi Rah's Grand Residence.**





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## Retreat to Kauai

The stream flowing through Kauai's new 252-room **1 Hotel Hanalei Bay**'s open-air lobby sets the scene at the carbon-neutral resort in Princeville, which aims to divert 90 percent of its refuse from landfills and employs native landscaping that virtually eliminates irrigation. In guest rooms, organic materials such as woven willow walls and basalt floors invite travelers to recalibrate to island time. Wellness programs range from after-sun recovery wraps and macadamia-oil massages in the 18-treatment-room spa to evaluations performed by doctors and nutritionists at the medispa, and fitness activities at levels ranging from yogi calm to trail-running breathless. Seven restaurants and bars serve local goods such as dark-roast coffee, plant-based entrees, and poke bowls – best enjoyed with stress-banishing views of Hanalei Bay. *Doubles from \$1,500, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.* – E.G.



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Isaac Hernández at the San Francisco Opera House.

## Center Stage

Dance has shown Isaac Hernández the world.  
**INTERVIEW BY SALLIE LEWIS** PORTRAIT BY LAURA FLIPPEN





**B**ALLET IS IN ISAAC HERNÁNDEZ'S BLOOD. One of 11 children born into a family of dancers in Guadalajara, he won the prestigious Youth America Grand Prix – the largest ballet scholarship competition in the world – at age 12. And in 2018, he became the first Mexican to win the Benois de la Danse, also known as the Oscar of ballet. Today, Hernández is a principal dancer at the San Francisco Ballet and an advocate for Mexico's next generation of talent. "We weren't very wealthy in my family, so we didn't travel much," he says. "It was through dance that I got on my first plane."

On his personal travels, Hernández gravitates to hotels close to nature, in spots such as Mexico's Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve and Thailand's Phi Phi archipelago. But, he says, "My favorite thing is food." While he prefers tacos from a small family eatery on Guadalajara's Avenida Patria, some of his most indelible food memories were made on the streets of Bangkok and Taiwan, and in Tokyo's Tsukiji Market. And he still recalls one spectacular omakase lunch in Fukuoka, Japan. "I was the first customer that afternoon, and the chef asked me to sit in front of him and trust him," he says. "It was the first time I had an emotional reaction from food."

"Traveling is food for my mind and soul," Hernández says – and it's also a reminder of what unites us. "I've found that even though many traditions make us seem different, we're all moved by the same questions, hopes, and dreams of acceptance and belonging."

## MY TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

**1. My Montblanc pen and notebook** for writing down ideas when they find me.

**2. A pair of ballet shoes and some training gear.** The one time I didn't pack them, I needed them for a shoot in Paris and had to improvise.

**3. A Canon AE-1.** I started taking pictures when I was a kid, and I still love printing them to put into albums.

**4. A golf glove and shoes.** I love getting a round in anywhere in the world. One of my favorite courses is at an American army base in Japan.

**5. A sudoku book.** When I travel alone, it helps me stay off the phone!

**6. A suit by Zegna or Hugo Boss.** They're sporty and perfect for travel.

**7. A swimsuit.** Often, my way to recharge is at the sauna or the pool. One of the best experiences I've had was at the Sandunovsky Banya in Moscow, although there you don't need a swimsuit!

**8. Natura Bissé Rosa Mosqueta Oil** is great for hydrating and reducing redness after a long plane ride.

**9. La Roche-Posay's Effaclar** line is the most effective product I've found to treat spots and breakouts.





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## The Virtuoso Life



Tea at The Milestone Hotel.

### ISAAC HERNÁNDEZ'S LONDON

During my seven years as a principal dancer with the English National Ballet, London really won me over. My favorite theater, **The Bridge**, was cofounded by Nicholas Hytner, an incredible film and theater director who ran the National Theatre for 12 years. I've seen everyone from Ralph Fiennes to James Corden perform there. It's located just across from the Tower of London, and on a summer evening, you can have a glass of wine outside during intermission! **Sir John Soane's Museum** in Holborn is an amazing place.

I love food, and **Chutney Mary** on St James's is one of the best Indian restaurants ever. I also love the Greek restaurant **Estiatorio Milos** – they always treat you like family. For an afternoon tea experience, the Red Carnation Hotels are by far the best. They have **The Milestone** in Kensington near the **Royal Albert Hall**, which is a sight to see! If you enjoy whisky like I do, you must stop by the **Soho Whisky Club**, a small place with an

### FYI

"I used to travel with four or five different suits and three to four pairs of shoes, but never once used them all. Find a decent pair of formal shoes that can be casual if needed, and a suit with the same flexibility. You really don't need much."

incredibly knowledgeable staff. It's members only, but nonmembers can book private tastings. You can spend hours there smoking a Cuban cigar and drinking the best whiskies; on your way out, stop by the shop downstairs. In Covent Garden, there's a snug coffee shop on New Row called **The Espresso Room**. It's only a few steps from the **London Coliseum**, which was my home theater. And finally, for great jazz, don't miss the **606 Club** in Chelsea. I've had some amazing nights there. ♡



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Classic Amsterdam: A Dutch bike and Arie in De Pijp.



## Over the River

Venture beyond the Canal Belt to discover the Amsterdam that locals love.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS SCHALKX



WITH TULIP SEASON in full swing, few cities blossom during spring like Amsterdam. As European travel roared back last year, the Dutch capital grabbed headlines with ambitious measures to keep crowds out of its tourist-thronged Canal Belt and give back the cobblestoned streets to the Amsterdammers who call them home. Local leaders announced plans to move the Red Light District to the city's outskirts and placed a moratorium on new souvenir shops. Even the cannabis-vending coffee shops weren't spared: New ordinances prohibit lighting up spliffs in city-center areas. Consider it a gentle nudge to venture off the tourist track into the corners of town that locals have largely kept to themselves. On your next visit to the city, hop a free, 20-minute ferry to **NDSM Wharf** in up-and-coming Noord, where artists' workshops, riverfront hangouts, and spaces such as the **STRAAT** street-art museum blow new life into former shipyards. Or head west, where cultural hub **De Hallen** has revitalized an early 1900s tram depot with shops, galleries, a theater, restaurants and bars, and an expansive food hall.

**EAT** On a tree-shaded corner in the heart of trendy Oud-West, **Karavaan** draws a crowd from breakfast to late-night bites. The all-day menu riffs on Middle Eastern and North African favorites such as *shakshuka* and chicken tagine, but the burgers with piccalilli mayo and sweet-onion chutney are equally delicious. After dark, laptops and coffees make way for mezze spreads, palomas, and espresso martinis.

Taking over a high-ceilinged former working-class coffeehouse from 1902, Nordic-tinged **Foer** is an excellent reason to venture out to Amsterdam's little-visited Eastern Docklands. From his open kitchen stocked with jars of fermenting foraged herbs, chef-owner Steven Broere dishes out plant-forward and intricately plated arrangements of salsify, celeriac, and licorice, among other local ingredients.

Across the IJ River in Noord, the new **Corner Store** restaurant serves



From top: Homes on the Herengracht canal, a yogurt- and pumpkin-based course at Foer, and De Hallen's food hall.



1. Sukha
2. Pulitzer Amsterdam
3. Karavaan
4. De Hallen and The Gathershop
5. Uncommon
6. Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam
7. Arie
8. STRAAT
9. NDSM Wharf
10. Van Dijk & Ko
11. Corner Store
12. Oedipus Taproom
13. Foer





## City Guide



From left: The Gathershop in De Hallen, Oedipus brewery, and a taste of Turkey and the Middle East at Karavaan.



seasonal, Asian-influenced dishes such as mushroom *karaage* and cured halibut with yuzu-chili paste and fennel. With a design that nods to Tokyo's postage-stamp-size listening bars, the counter doubles as a DJ booth and serves natural wines and sake to the sound of jazz and worldly beats.

**DRINK** Also in Noord, **Oedipus Taproom** serves its cheekily named beers – Polyamorie, Mannenliefde (which roughly translates to “male love”) – flavored with elements such as lemongrass and Sichuan pepper right next to the kettles they’re brewed in. This envelope-pushing brewery often experiments with rare hops and new brewing methods – ask for the specials on tap.

**Arie** in the De Pijp district channels a typical Dutch *bruine kroeg* (vintage pub) with a hint of Parisian bistro, serving local craft beers and an assortment of G&Ts.

For a coffee break, stop at **Uncommon** in Helmersbuurt, a roastery that sources beans from small-scale farmers from Ethiopia to Peru. Keep an eye out for its limited-edition roasts to take home.

**SHOP** As its name suggests, **The Gathershop** in cultural hub De Hallen stocks keepsakes from indie design studios and artisans spanning the globe, such as ceramic incense holders from Edinburgh, leather sandals made in Greece, and gold jewelry by Amsterdam-based Koi.

**Van Dijk & Ko's** warehouse on a small Noord industrial estate is a cross-cultural trove of curios and antiques. Weekly deliveries from its partner in Hungary bring in everything from West German ceramics to vintage Eastern Bloc enamelware.

Haarlemmerstraat, a boutique-lined street just north of the Canal Belt, is one of the best places to pick up thoughtful gifts and quirky souvenirs. Stop by the white-and-wood showroom of home-grown clothing brand **Sukha** for breezy cotton shirts, dresses, and other slow fashion made by craftspeople at the store's ateliers in Nepal.

**STAY** No hotel conveys classic Canal Belt charm quite like the **Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam**, which melds rococo

## FYI

“To avoid the city-center crowds, I take the five-minute ferry to Buiksloterweg in Amsterdam-Noord for the Eye Filmmuseum’s fun exhibits, architecture, and waterfront terrace for lunch, sunset drinks, or dinner. Another Noord favorite: casual Hotel de Goudfazant, which isn’t a hotel, but a lively restaurant in a former warehouse.”

– Elisabeth Hoogerbrugge, Virtuoso agency executive, Amsterdam

ceilings and grand spiral staircases with a Guerlain spa and 93 lofty guest rooms. Doubles from \$1,050, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.

Sandwiched between the Prinsengracht and Keizersgracht canals, the art-studded **Pulitzer Amsterdam** combines 25 canal houses into a mazelike blend of tree-shaded nooks, a modern Dutch restaurant, and 225 rooms and suites. Come sunset, board the hotel’s polished teak- and brass-accented saloon boat for a Champagne cruise around the district. Doubles from \$595, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit. 9



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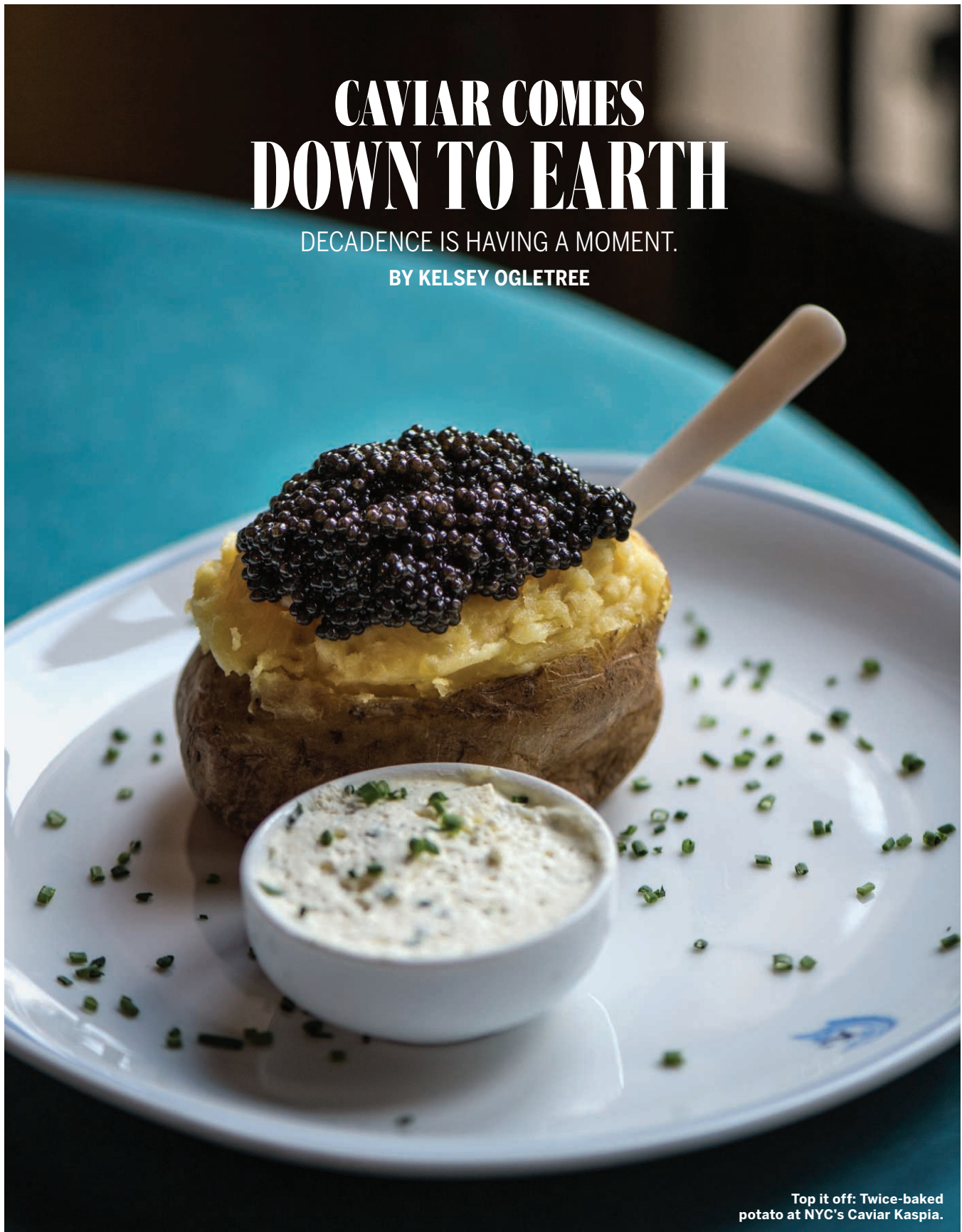
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# CAVIAR COMES DOWN TO EARTH

DECADENCE IS HAVING A MOMENT.

BY KELSEY OGLETREE



Top it off: Twice-baked  
potato at NYC's Caviar Kaspia.





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## Dining



**S**UDDENLY, WE'RE all swimming in caviar. While sturgeon roe has long been a staple of Russian cuisine – and a precious starter at many a white-tablecloth affair – the delicacy is everywhere lately, anchoring tasting menus, sprinkled over ice cream, and even starring in your Gen Z niece's TikTok videos (#CaviarBump).

"Caviar is no longer this untouchable decadence, but a luxury ingredient people are ready to experience," says Anya El-Wattar, a Moscow native and the chef-owner of San Francisco restaurant Birch & Rye.

When the United Nations banned most wild caviar exports in 2006 to protect the endangered beluga sturgeon, farmers stepped in, eyeing a new opportunity. But because it takes at least a decade for the fish to mature and its eggs to be ready to harvest, farm-raised

**"Caviar is no longer this untouchable decadence, but a luxury ingredient people are ready to experience."**



caviar only became available a few years ago. Now that it's more accessible, chefs are seizing the moment – and getting creative. Case in point: El-Wattar's five-course tasting menus at Birch & Rye incorporate osetra and kaluga caviar varieties throughout, and even a vegan version made from beets, mustard seed, and black walnuts.

And while Russian caviar may remain the gold standard, sturgeon farming in the U.S. has made great technological advancements, resulting in higher yields and better-quality caviar available stateside. Good caviar never tastes fishy, but like “high-quality butter kissed by the sea,” says Marai Bolourchi, vice president of Tsar Nicoulai, a sustainable sturgeon farm in Wilton, California. Farms like Bolourchi's are working to remove the intimidation factor from caviar by offering it in a

variety of sizes and grades and encouraging people to enjoy it in unconventional ways. “Traditionalists will place a dollop of caviar on a blini with crème fraîche,” Bolourchi says. “My favorite way is truffle chips, crème fraîche, and a heaping spoon of caviar.”

Regiis Ova, a California-based company with its own brick-and-mortar caviar and Champagne lounge in Yountville, sees caviar consumption in the U.S. increasing, thanks to the sturgeon's greater availability. Cofounders Thomas Keller (of The French Laundry fame) and sturgeon farming executive Shaoching Bishop focus on simplifying caviar for restaurants and educating chefs on how to incorporate it into more-playful dishes: roe-topped waffles, tater tots, or – as at The Americano in Scottsdale, Arizona – fries.

Scott Conant, The Americano's James

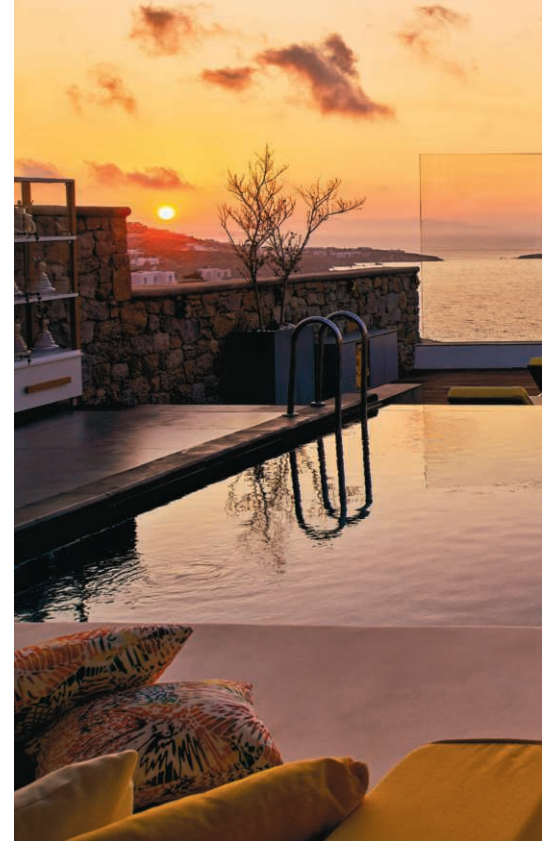


A Caviar Bar spread in Charleston and (opposite) Chicago's Esmé.

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Sweet and savory at Birch & Rye in San Francisco and (opposite) caviar fries at Scottsdale's The Americano.



SARAH FELKER





## FYI

There's no need for sideways glances if you see a "caviar bump" on the menu: The snack, often served with a cocktail or shot of vodka, is a spoonful of caviar placed on and eaten directly from your hand – it goes between your thumb and index finger when you're making a fist. Not into licking your paw? Martiny's in NYC mimics the concept by serving a dollop of caviar on a wooden hand, with a mini gin martini on the side.

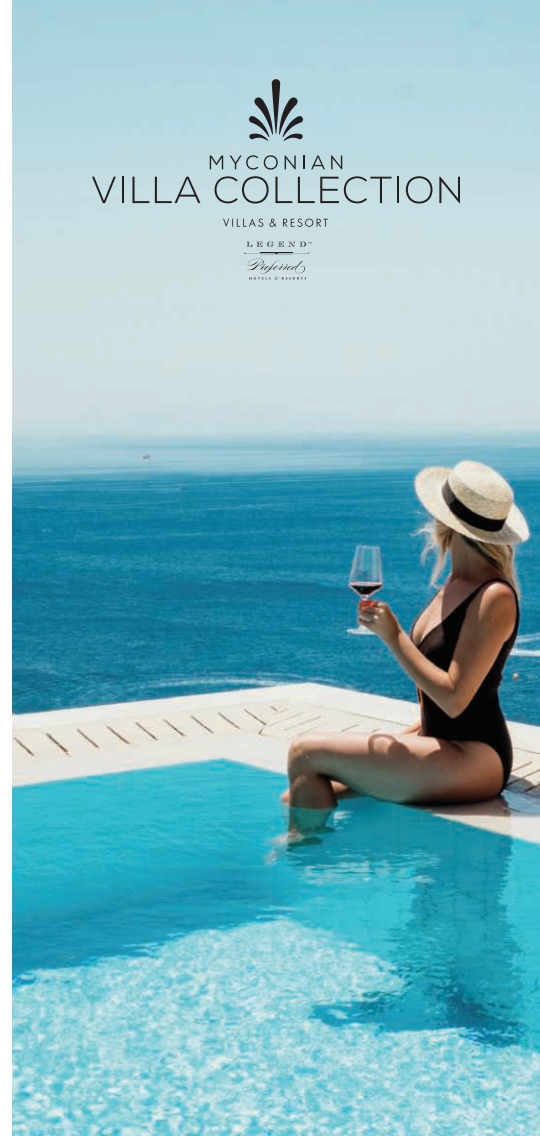
Beard Award-winning chef, debuted the latter at his steak house in 2021, and the high-low side quickly became a fan favorite. Made up of thick-cut fries topped with Italian-farmed Calvisius caviar, crème fraîche, shallots, scallops, and shaved cured egg yolk, the dish is an ideal appetizer for the table or an indulgent main course for one – depending on whether you're willing to share. "Add a glass of Champagne or beer to the mix," Conant says, "and it really doesn't get any better."

CAVIAR ISN'T JUST an opening act anymore – it's the entire show. The famously chic Caviar Kaspia restaurant, founded in Paris nearly a century ago, opened its first location in NYC inside The Mark hotel in February. Seated at mohair banquettes in the glitzy, Jacques Grange-designed space, diners savor traditional caviar presentations and caviar-topped twice-baked potatoes and pastas. With eight varieties on the menu, Caviar Kaspia aims to expand patrons' palates, delivering old favorites and new flavors.

The most coveted reservation in Charleston, South Carolina, right now is Caviar Bar, the eight-seat terrace bar

opened last spring in the Zero George hotel. Executive chef Vinson Petrillo wins over even skeptics with his approachable caviar service, which includes Regiis Ova supreme white sturgeon caviar served with soft-boiled eggs, pillowy brioche, crème fraîche, and potato chips. "I wanted to create a concept that focuses on caviar while being casual and fun," Petrillo says. "Sometimes guests come in thinking that caviar is fishy or salty, but when they try our offerings, a light bulb goes on and they finally understand what makes it special."

Even dessert gets a boost from that crisp pop of brine: Chef Jenner Tomaska of Chicago's Michelin-starred Esmé uses caviar as a flavor-enhancing seasoning. In a dessert called Mother of Pearl, he swirls peanut miso and slightly spicy celery hot sauce into a white-sweet-potato ice cream, topping it with a peanut-shaped white-chocolate shell filled with osetra caviar. It's a dish made for Instagram – fitting, as Tomaska credits social media with helping make once seemingly elite caviar feel more familiar. "The more people see it," he says, "the less trepidation they have in trying it." ♡



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RAA ATOLL, MALDIVES

## JOALI BEING



Embark on a transformative journey at the only well-being island of its kind in the Maldives.

Programs are designed to meet a variety of personal goals, with culinary options envisioned by the retreat's nutritionist for healthy indulging. Stay at least four nights between May 11 and September 20, 2023, and enjoy a complimentary upgrade to half board, 25 percent off a villa, and 40 percent off return seaplane transfers.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$250 well-being credit per stay.

JOALI BEING

RAA ATOLL, MALDIVES

## JOALI Maldives



Experience sustainable glamour at a luxurious art-immersive island retreat.

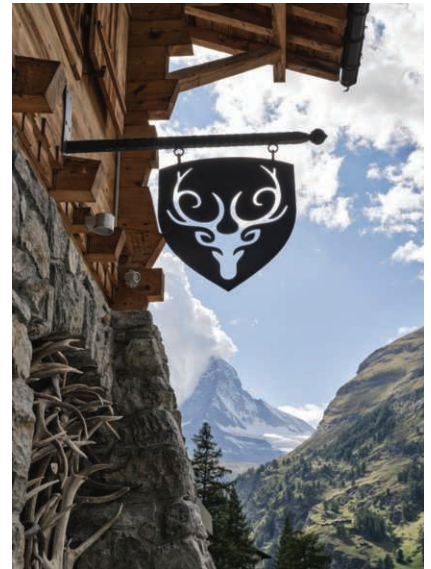
Enjoy a serene holiday, a dreamy romantic getaway, or a joyful family get-together with curated dining experiences to tempt every palate. Receive a complimentary upgrade to half board, 25 percent off a villa, and 40 percent off return seaplane transfers when you stay four or more nights between May 11 and September 30, 2023.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITIES:** 30-minute spa treatment for two and \$150 food and beverage credit per stay.

JOALI  
— MALDIVES —

ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND

## CERVO Mountain Resort



Tucked amid the rugged beauty of Zermatt, this alpine haven is a gateway to the mystical world of the Alps.

Join professionally led yoga, Pilates, and meditation sessions. Try the Japanese onsen and Bhutanese bath during a visit to Mountain Ashram Spa. Sample cheeses and local cuisine in Ferdinand, vegetarian fare in Bazaar, and Italian dishes in Madre Nostra. Celebrate a day of mountain exploration with drinks in the Après Ski.

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

  
CERVO



# EXPEDITION CHIC

Not too formal, not too rugged – Atlas Ocean Voyages channels just the right level of excitement and style for Arctic and Antarctic cruises.

**C**RUISERS CAN SPOT ALL KINDS OF PENGUIN SPECIES on Atlas Ocean Voyages' elegant and relaxed polar voyages. This new line incorporates adventure, ease, and amenities into small-ship expedition cruising, from kayaking excursions around the Antarctic Peninsula – where humpback whales sing haunting melodies and breach amid the waves – to sipping craft cocktails at the ship's bow, known as the Water's Edge Lookout. More than two dozen round-trip sailings from Ushuaia, Argentina, ply Antarctic waters from November through March. Two yacht-style ships – the 196-passenger *World Traveller* and *World Navigator* – give captains the flexibility to slip into quiet bays and chase good weather or prime wildlife-viewing conditions. The ships' hydrojet propulsion and hybrid power-management systems decrease fuel use and allow for near-silent sailing to avoid scaring or stressing the animals that passengers came to see.

That agility and attentive service continue near the other pole, where Arctic expeditions maintain nearly one-to-one guest-to-staff ratios and butler-serviced suites. Ten-night itineraries sail from Longyearbyen in Norway's Svalbard archipelago to Greenland's east coast and Iceland's Westfjords, while 8- to 13-night itineraries tour Norway's glaciers in Tromsø and fishing villages on the country's Lofoten Islands. Passengers can watch polar bears lumbering and sliding along the ice before slipping into an infrared sauna with horizon views.

## International Eats

The *alma* ("soul") menu at Porto on *World Navigator* or Lisboa on *World Traveller* shows off the line's Portuguese roots with homestyle dishes such as *bacalhau à brás* – salt cod with fried potatoes, olives, and eggs. The ships' array of culinary options includes four restaurants (plus room service), with highlights such as charcoal-grilled lamb loin, **lobster thermidor**, and sautéed, brandy-scented mushrooms at 7-Aft Grill.

## Self-Care at Sea

Joggers on the top deck's track might spy enormous gyrfalcons or black-and-white arctic terns soaring overhead. After days spent kayaking fjords, stand-up paddleboarding, or taking the polar plunge, passengers can rejuvenate with massages and treatments at **L'Occitane's SeaSpa**.

## The Real Deal

We know that even the perfect soufflé or spa day can't compete with cultural connections, **breaching whales**, or penguins turning snowfields into play-grounds. Bundle up in a polar-chill-proof parka for Zodiac-based safaris staffed with ornithologists, biologists, and scientists, or step ashore for coffee brewed over an open fire in a Sámi Arctic fishing village.

Prime Antarctic whale-watching at the Water's Edge Lookout on the *World Navigator*.





# VIRTUOSO BEST OF THE BEST

FLORENCE, ITALY

## Brunelleschi Hotel



Visit the only Florence hotel created within a circular sixth-century Byzantine tower and a medieval church.

Spoil yourself with exquisite meals paired with delicious Italian wines in two restaurants: Osteria Pagliazza and two-Michelin-starred Santa Elisabetta. Enjoy an aperitif in the historic Tower Bar. Browse artifacts in the private museum and experience the best of Florence situated in the city's historical center.

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



THAA ATOLL, MALDIVES

## COMO Maalifushi



Choose a private villa or suite nestled amid lush tropical gardens or sitting over-water with a swim-up terrace.

Rejuvenate with holistic wellness treatments, lulled by the soothing whisper of translucent waves. Try locally inspired COMO Shambhala cuisine at beachside Madi, Japanese dishes at Tai, and family-friendly fare at Thila. Stay at least three consecutive nights in 2023 and receive a 50-minute massage for two.

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



EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

## Gleneagles Townhouse



This new city hideaway blends timeless charm with the latest comforts in the heart of Edinburgh on St. Andrew Square.

Savor Scottish dishes with a modern twist in the all-day restaurant and bar. Relax over drinks while taking in stunning city views at the rooftop bar. Enhance your wellness journey by attending one of 40 classes. Enjoy a cryotherapy or infrared sauna experience before retreating to one of the 33 classically charming bedrooms.

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



ENJOY EXCLUSIVE VIRTUOSO AMENITIES AT MORE THAN 1,400 TOP HOTELS AND RESORTS WORLDWIDE.

Room upgrade, when available • Breakfast for two daily • Early check-in and late checkout, when available • Complimentary Wi-Fi • Virtuoso amenity



# SACRED SPACES

Make time for Japan's Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines.

**A**CROSS JAPAN, daily life includes temples and shrines: They're places to pray, to celebrate and mourn, or to find a quiet moment of reflection. Hundreds of thousands of them dot Japan's cities and prefectures, and most welcome visitors. From forest-lined routes to riverside structures, a respectful visit to any of these sites provides a glimpse into modern cultural practices with historic roots.

## An Ancient Pilgrimage

On the Kii Peninsula, south of Osaka in Wakayama Prefecture, the **Kumano Kodo's** 621-mile network of lush, earthen, and cobblestoned routes has drawn Buddhist and Shinto pilgrims to silently pray and meditate for more than a millennium. Travelers follow in the footsteps of Japanese emperors, samurai, and residents while trekking a few hours or a few days, passing through mountain villages and verdant valleys punctuated with sacred monuments. The pilgrimage culminates at the multistory Kumano Nachi Taisha shrine, which stands beside Nachi-no-Otaki, Japan's tallest waterfall. Virtuoso advisors can arrange guides, accommodations, and cultural deep dives (including monk-led meditation sessions) along the route.

## Ray of Light

The Ise Jingu complex, a two-hour train ride east of Osaka in the Mie Prefecture, pays tribute to Amaterasu Omikami, the **Shinto sun goddess**. A sacred mirror – used by fellow gods to lure her out of a cave where she fled after an argument with her brother, thus depriving the world of her light – is thought to be enshrined here (though not available for public viewing). Visitors *can* witness some of the 1,500 rituals performed annually to pray for peace, prosperity, and a good harvest – January, April, and late September are especially popular. Respect is paramount: Ask permission before taking photos at any site, especially of personnel or people in prayer. Another highlight, the 334-foot, cypress Uji Bridge, passes over the Isuzu River and represents the pathway between the gods' land and the human realm.

## Where the Gods Gather

All 8 million Shinto gods are said to converge at the Izumo Taisha grand shrine – dedicated to Okuninushi, creator of Japan's islands – for a ceremonial meeting every fall. Travelers can hop on a one-hour flight from Osaka or a 90-minute flight from Tokyo to the Shimane Prefecture to bask in the calm surrounding **Japan's tallest shrine**, with its peaked roofs and massive straw ropes called *shimenawa* that denote the presence of gods. Honeymooners might add a prayer to Okuninushi, who is also the deity of marriage.



From left: A peaceful walk along a Kumano Kodo trail, the Ise Jingu complex, and a straw *shimenawa* at the Izumo Taisha grand shrine.



## SPOTLIGHT ON: OCEANIA CRUISES

# THE NEW CLASS

Oceania Cruises' latest debut brings a fresh perspective to cruising.

**O**CEANIA CRUISES' first new class of ship in a decade lives up to its Allura name: The 1,200-passenger *Vista* sparkles, from crystal installations to golden accents across its lounges and casino bars. The newcomer debuts in the Mediterranean this May – here's a peek at what to expect.

## Suite Perks

From the one-bedroom, two-veranda Owner's Suites to the largest standard staterooms at sea (290 square feet), every room on board *Vista* has a balcony, a first for the line. Another new addition: single-occupancy cabins designed with **solo travelers** in mind. These come with the line's Concierge-level perks, including complimentary access to the Concierge Lounge and a welcome bottle of Champagne.

## On the Menu

Twelve restaurants, including four new concepts, expand Oceania Cruises' reputation as a culinary leader at sea. Upgraded American classics – including Cobb salad with smoked chicken and braised short ribs on polenta – are highlights at Ember, a contemporary space with white tablecloths and whitewashed brick walls. The health-focused Aquamar Kitchen serves cold-pressed juices in the morning and plates of slow-roasted organic salmon with quinoa tabouleh for lunch, while The Bakery at Baristas adds French and Italian pastries, beignets, and croissants to the line's popular coffee spot. Plan for a special night at the Culinary Center Dining Room, which hosts the line's popular wine- and **Dom Pérignon-paired meals** – *Vista's* outpost brings a Moët & Chandon-paired tasting menu to the bubbly mix.

## At-Sea Diversions

Between stops in Sicily, Haifa, and other Mediterranean ports this summer, onboard activities keep passengers entertained at sea. Cruisers can learn to paint, sculpt, or draw from the creative crew in residence at the Artist Loft, or borrow a book in the Ralph Lauren Home-furnished library. The ship's reimagined beverage program jumps on the mocktail trend, featuring low- to no-alcohol concoctions at Aquamar Kitchen, while two boozy beverage carts kick brunch up a notch with Champagne cocktails and a build-your-own Bloody Mary bar. Bartenders at the **Casino Mixology Bar** sling negronis and cocktails topped with smoke-infused bubbles.



Above: Bright lights and craft cocktails (or mocktails) shine at the Horizons bar on board the new *Vista*.



# IT'S YOUR HEART THAT TAKES YOU PLACES

We make your travels to the world's most magical destinations possible.  
But it's your endless passion for discovery that leads you there.



EXQUISITELY CRAFTED CUISINE. CURATED TRAVEL EXPERIENCES. SMALL SHIP LUXURY.



Ask your Virtuoso Travel Advisor about special voyages with exclusive Virtuoso benefits, such as complimentary Shore Experiences and Pre-Paid Gratuities.



# VIRTUOSO BEST OF THE BEST

DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA

## Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club



Relax and relish your time discovering this sun-kissed resort situated along the spectacular SoCal coastline.

Take in the ocean breeze from your room's private terrace before venturing out to the exclusive beach club, sparkling pools, 18-hole golf course, and immersive spa. Sample delectable cuisine from seven venues. Enjoy a \$100 resort credit and 25 percent off when you stay in a newly renovated guest room through December 30, 2023.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 resort credit per stay.

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

## De L'Europe Amsterdam



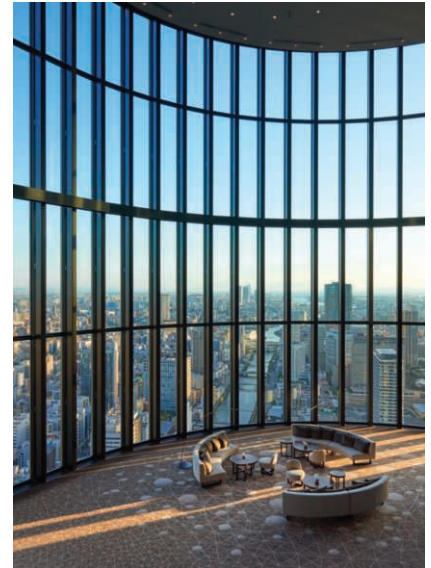
Experience original Amsterdam luxury at this iconic destination set on the banks of the Amstel River since 1896.

Indulge in a luxurious oasis of comfort, dine at three of the city's finest restaurants, and sip cocktails in the iconic Freddy's Bar. Discover the city through the eyes of a local in the creative wing, 't Huys. Receive a complimentary fourth night when you stay by December 31, 2023.

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

OSAKA, JAPAN

## Conrad Osaka



Floor-to-ceiling windows in every room offer river views from the top floors of the Nakanoshima Festival Tower West.

Osaka Station and Osaka Castle are steps away and an underground link connects you to two rail stations. Savor Japanese and Western specialties in five restaurants. Work out in the fitness center, swim in the indoor pool, and relax with hot-stone therapy or a signature tension relief massage.

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

## DE L'EUROPE

**W** WALDORF ASTORIA<sup>®</sup>  
MONARCH BEACH RESORT & CLUB

AMSTERDAM  
FROM 1896 ONWARDS

**CONRAD**<sup>®</sup>  
OSAKA

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# SPANISH MUSE

Inspiration strikes easily in this culture-packed region.



**T**UCKED BETWEEN THE PYRENEES MOUNTAINS and the Mediterranean in northeast Spain, Catalonia shares at least one prominent trait with the world's most renowned artists: a fiercely independent streak. Picasso, Miró, Dalí, and Gaudí all hailed from or spent significant time in the region, soaking up the same seascapes and creative flair that travelers can enjoy today.

## A Picasso Pilgrimage

This year, celebrations across Europe and North America mark the 50th anniversary of the passing of Spanish-born Pablo Picasso, who spent much of his early life in Catalonia. Skip the midday crowds at the Picasso Museum Barcelona: Virtuoso travel advisors can arrange an after-hours tour of the 4,000-plus-piece collection, covering his formative years to his Blue Period. For a deeper dive, head two and a half hours west of Barcelona to the mountainous village of Horta de Sant Joan – home of the **Centre Picasso d'Horta** gallery – to see why the artist famously claimed, “Everything I know, I learned in Horta.”

## Get Surreal

Barcelona-born Joan Miró, a pioneer of the surrealist movement, is known for his avant-garde use of shapes, lines, and color, best seen at the city's **Fundació Joan Miró** museum. The family home that inspired one of his most famous pieces, *The Farm*, sits amid a canvas-worthy landscape in the rural village of Mont-roig del Camp, a roughly 90-minute drive southwest of Barcelona.

For more surrealism, embark on an expert-led tour of the Dalí Triangle, a trio of towns in northeast Catalonia, all around an hour's drive from each other. Salvador Dalí lies buried in a crypt in his hometown of Figueres within the castlelike **Dalí Theatre-Museum** – the building is known as the world's largest surrealist work of art. Swing by coastal Portlligat to see the Salvador Dalí House, a fisherman's hut where Dalí lived and painted, before ending in Púbol at the fifteenth-century Gala-Dalí Castle, a museum and gardens he presented as an extravagant gift to his wife, Gala.

## Whimsy in the City

It's hard to imagine the regional capital of Barcelona without Catalan-born Antoni Gaudí's modernist, nature-inspired architecture: **La Sagrada Família**'s clustered spires pierce the skyline, undulating murals swirl across Park Güell, and a candy-colored facade exudes playfulness at the Casa Batlló museum. Virtuoso advisors can arrange scholar-led or kid-friendly Gaudí-themed walking tours across the city.

Above, from left: Barcelona's Picasso Museum, the seaside Salvador Dalí House in Portlligat, and a Joan Miró mosaic on Barcelona's Las Ramblas.



# HIGH STYLE AT SEA

Explora Journeys' ultraluxe experiences set sail.

**T**HE LATEST FIVE-STAR EXPERIENCE AT SEA is almost here: The 922-passenger *Explora I*, the first ship from contemporary cruise line Explora Journeys, launches from Southampton, England, this July. The slow-cruising philosophy on the all-suite vessel – which calls on northern Europe this summer, followed by North America, South America, and the Caribbean in fall and winter – includes long days and overnights in port. Travelers can linger until almost midnight in Palermo or dive into Rio de Janeiro after dark sans curfew. On board, plenty of space and amenities promise smooth and indulgent sailing ahead.

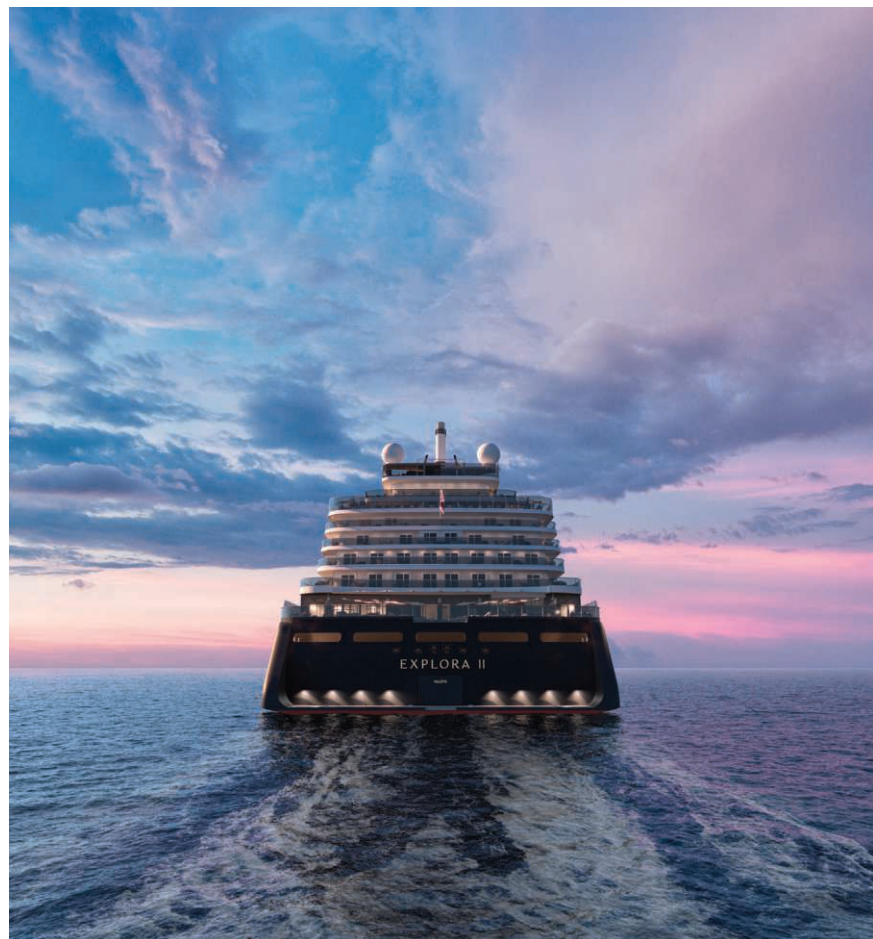
## We Live Here Now

The aesthetic skews airy, comfortable, and elegant across *Explora I*'s 461 **residential-style suites**, with design from London studio Nenmar and furniture by Italian designer Molteni&C. Make yourself at home in

a one-bedroom Ocean Residence, with a living room, hot tub, and 24-hour butler service, or settle into one of the 377-square-foot suites with king-size beds, walk-in closets, and private terraces. Creature comforts across all accommodations include oceanfront views, heated bathroom floors, refillable water bottles, and Champagne on arrival.

## Taste the World

Variety reigns across the ship's 18 restaurants, bars, and lounges. A **sake sommelier** pairs Asian cocktails with kale salads and Wagyu beef *tataki* at Sakura, while the porthole-lined Med Yacht Club goes heavy on seafood, such as grilled octopus over a bed of Taggiasca olives and green beans. Whisky fans can trade notes on smoke and peat at the Malt Whisky Bar, while 270-degree sunset views elevate the cocktail hours and expert-led photography lessons at the Explora Lounge.





## Music and Mindfulness

The onboard soundtrack ranges from tunes played on Steinway & Sons pianos to Postmodern Jukebox-style covers in the Explora Lounge and candlelit **classical-music evenings** in the Journeys Lounge. Guitar-backed storytelling takes place beside the glass-roofed indoor pool (with three more pools outdoors). Live acoustic music in the atrium marks the transition from morning to afternoon – it's one of many daily rituals that celebrate being in the moment, including invigorating sunrise and sunset yoga classes and guided meditations.

## No Worries

Explora Journeys' aim to banish travelers' stress while at sea (and beyond) translates to a host of wellness-centric offerings: private nutritionist consultations for immune-boosting eating, sleep-encouraging yoga practices, and lessons on breathing techniques for easing anxiety. Relaxation runs warm on **heated marble loungers**, cool underneath ice falls, and stress-melting inside the spa's steam room, salt cave, and Finnish sauna. Outdoor rowing machines overlook the water, while virtual coaches provide in-suite personal training for gym-shy passengers.

## What's to Come

Explora Journeys' three- to six-night **regionally focused itineraries** make it easy for cruisers to sample the new line, while 10- to 44-night options encourage longer jaunts. On *Explora I* this summer, passengers can watch humpback whales migrate along the Norwegian coast on a 15-night Southampton-to-Copenhagen sailing or listen to Celtic fiddle music and folk tales in the Shetland Islands on a 14-night round-trip-from-Copenhagen voyage. On a three-night Hamburg-to-Southampton cruise, sample Flemish brews and Belgian chocolate in Bruges by day before digging into aged Loire Valley prime rib at the ship's Marble & Co. Grill for dinner. The 922-passenger *Explora II* (the second of the line's six planned ships) joins the fleet in the summer of 2024, calling on Mediterranean favorites before venturing to the Middle East, Africa, and the Indian Ocean.

From far left: The suite life on *Explora I*, a preview of *Explora II*, *Explora I*'s contemporary style on display, and the Med Yacht Club's grilled octopus.





# VIRTUOSO BEST OF THE BEST

DOHA, QATAR

## Fairmont Doha



This Qatar escape features gold mosaic wall tiling and rich wood paneling inspired by luxury mega-yachts.

Here, you are perfectly situated within the Katara Towers in an exceptional locale along the Arabian Gulf. The exclusive Fairmont Gold lifestyle floor delivers a privileged hotel-within-a-hotel experience. Four restaurants serve seasonally inspired menus, and Fairmont Spa offers holistic wellness experiences.

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

*Fairmont*  
DOHA

DOHA, QATAR

## Raffles Doha



Savor a waterfront setting, bespoke amenities, and personalized butler service in Qatar's only all-suite hotel.

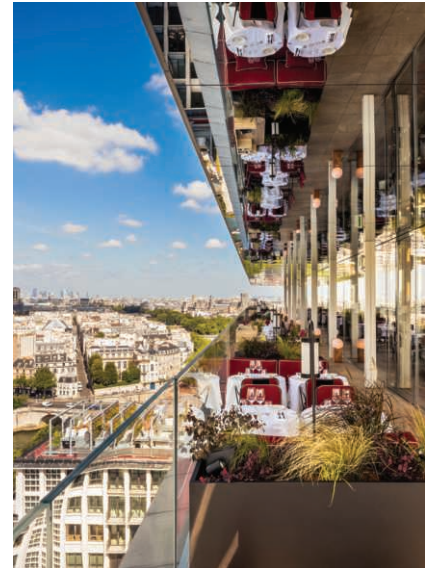
Your welcoming suite is a haven of sumptuous grandeur within the Katara Towers. Join afternoon tea at Malaki Lounge. Smoke the finest cigars in Blue Cigar. Sample northern Italian favorites, Arabesque dishes, and contemporary fare in four venues. Try a multisensory ritual of pure indulgence in Raffles Spa Doha.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITIES:** One-way private airport transfer and \$100 food and beverage credit per stay.

  
RAFFLES  
DOHA

PARIS, FRANCE

## SO/ Paris



Rooted in the worlds of fashion and art, this new hotel is the iconic headquarters for travelers looking to join the front row.

Bonnie – the new restaurant, club, and bar – pairs delicious cuisine and signature cocktails with panoramic views. Try a Spa Maison natural treatment and enjoy access to the sports club and pool. Receive a complimentary fourth night when you stay by December 27, 2023.

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

SO/  
PARIS

This extraordinary collection of Virtuoso Preferred Hotels & Resorts offers once-in-a-lifetime experiences and exclusive amenities you'll only receive through your Virtuoso travel advisor.



SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

## Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows



Experience the best of beachfront living at this chic resort favored by Hollywood legends since its debut in 1921.

Discover endless ways to relax, recharge, and reconnect with luxurious accommodations, a beautiful garden setting, and the silky, white sands of the beach. Visit Exhale Spa for an indoor or outdoor treatment. Get grab-and-go beach favorites, coffee drinks, delicious meals, and craft cocktails at five venues.

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

*Fairmont*  
MIRAMAR HOTEL & BUNGALOWS  
SANTA MONICA

BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

## Tower at The Boca Raton



Sweeping ocean views, world-class dining, and an award-winning spa await at this family-friendly resort.

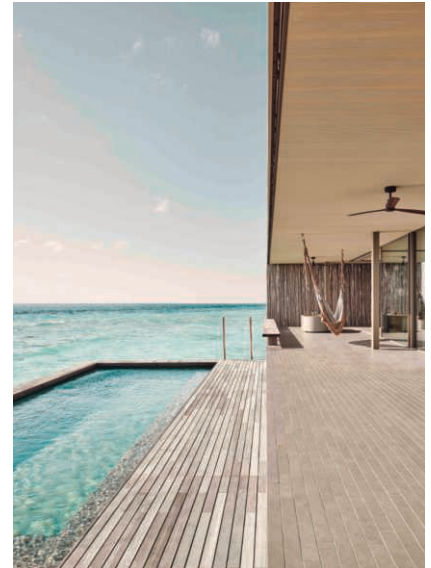
Enjoy endless water fun for all ages at the all-new Harborside Pool Club, with three pools, a lazy river, waterslides, and a FlowRider® surf wave simulator. Receive a complimentary third night with Banyon Bunch kids club for two children when you stay between April 22 and September 30, 2023.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 resort credit per stay.

  
The Boca Raton  
SINCE 1926

MALÉ, MALDIVES

## Patina Maldives Fari Islands



Private villa sanctuaries designed by renowned architect Marcio Kogan blend nature and nurture.

Practice meditation and enjoy immersive spa experiences. Sample the finest cuisine and fresh cocktails at 12 venues. Enjoy 25 percent off your room rate, plus complimentary half board and round-trip speedboat transfers when you stay four or more nights through December 19, 2023.

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

  
PATINA  
MALDIVES • FARİ ISLANDS

ENJOY EXCLUSIVE VIRTUOSO AMENITIES AT MORE THAN 1,400 TOP HOTELS AND RESORTS WORLDWIDE.

Room upgrade, when available • Breakfast for two daily • Early check-in and late checkout, when available • Complimentary Wi-Fi • Virtuoso amenity



## SPOTLIGHT ON: CELEBRITY CRUISES

# VIP TREATMENT

Cruise around Europe like an A-lister, with all the perks (and no paparazzi).

**A**FTER BEACH-CLUB HOPPING IN IBIZA, you might want to slip on your sunglasses and find some privacy – one of many benefits at The Retreat, a ship-within-a-ship resort for suite guests on all Celebrity Cruises ships, including three 2,900-passenger Edge-series vessels: the *Celebrity Edge*, *Celebrity Apex*, and *Celebrity Beyond*. Retreat accommodations – including a 2,500-square-foot suite above the ship's bridge, a split-level villa with a private plunge pool, and a two-bedroom penthouse suite with (multiple!) walk-in closets – make ideal floating homes for cameos in some of Europe's most famous ports. Here, three itineraries we're excited about this summer.

## Style, Design, and Sunshine

Star sightings on a seven-night, Barcelona-to-Civitavecchia (Rome) sailing on the *Celebrity Edge* range from the Cinque Terre's Instagram-famous pastel buildings to local celebrities making artisanal pasta in Tuscany. Cruisers can tour Valencia's futuristic Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, home to Europe's largest aquarium, and stroll **palm-lined beaches** on the French island of Corsica. Luminae, The Retreat's exclusive restaurant, serves dishes curated by chef Daniel Boulud, such as seared branzino and butternut squash pasta. *Departures: Multiple dates, June 10 through September 23; from \$1,399.*

## North Atlantic Adventure

A 12-night, round-trip-from-Amsterdam voyage on the *Celebrity Apex* shines a spotlight on the Netherlands' canals, Iceland's waterfalls, and **Ireland's wild coastline**. Highlights include kayaking through Akureyri's fjord, sipping Guinness and people-watching from Belfast's waterfront pubs, and spending five days at sea relaxing by The Retreat's private pool. Pro tip: Ask The Retreat's concierge where to find the best Scotch in Glasgow before you pull into port. *Departure: August 9; from \$2,417.*

## Mediterranean Gems

The *Celebrity Beyond* spends 11 nights tracing ancient Mediterranean trading routes on a round-trip-from-Civitavecchia (Rome) journey. The ship visits the sun-kissed islands of **Sicily and Santorini** before a stop at the ancient ruins of Ephesus, Turkey, to see its Great Theater and Temple of Artemis. Passengers can breathe the fresh Aegean air while taking in the Greek Isles' whitewashed, blue-roofed buildings from the Magic Carpet, a high-tech lounge and viewing platform that moves up and down the side of the ship. *Departures: Multiple dates, June 5 through August 28; from \$2,919.*

From top: The *Celebrity Apex* off the coast of Santorini, sunshine and privacy at The Retreat's sundeck on the *Celebrity Beyond*, and Iconic Suite views on the *Celebrity Beyond*.





Celebrity **X** Cruises®

# JOURNEY EUROPE

NEW PLACES. NEW SPACES.





A man and a woman are seen from behind, relaxing in a hot tub on a cruise ship balcony. The man is shirtless and the woman is wearing a red one-piece swimsuit. They are both leaning against the edge of the hot tub, looking out at the vast blue ocean under a clear sky. The balcony has a white railing and several white planters with green succulents. The hot tub is white and has a silver faucet on the right side.

## SO MUCH MORE THAN A SUITE ONLY ON CELEBRITY

Enjoy premium drinks, streaming Wi-Fi, tips and up to **\$800 onboard credit per suite**. PLUS when you book The Retreat with your Virtuoso travel advisor receive specialty dining for two and a **\$75 shopping credit**.

Edge Villa Suite on Celebrity Beyond<sup>SM</sup>





## COULD EUROPE GET ANY BETTER? ACTUALLY, YES.

ESCAPE TO THE OLD WORLD IN UNPARALLELED LUXURY.

When you escape to Europe with us, your experiences ashore are just as immersive as your experiences on board. We know all the continent's best-kept secrets and offer the best ways to explore them. Take a thrilling ride through the switchbacks of the Cote d'Azur in a supercharged Italian sports car. Sail around the breathtaking Santorini Caldera on a luxury yacht.

Whatever you love to do, you'll experience the history, beauty, and culture of Europe on our exclusive, customizable Private Journeys<sup>SM</sup>. Get off the beaten path on intimate Small Group Discoveries. Savor the local cuisine on our award-winning Chef's Market Discoveries. After your time ashore, you'll come home to a stunning ship that brings a new level of luxury to the Old World.

We're taking the Old World to new heights of luxury. New is not an understatement for this season in Europe, because our newest ship, Celebrity Beyond<sup>SM</sup>, will be sailing these waters. New itineraries and a new Scandinavian port have been added to our already exciting roster of sailings, including more 7-night itineraries than ever. So, there's never been a better time to plan a journey filled with wonder in Europe.

If you didn't think Europe could get any better, think again. Book The Retreat<sup>®</sup> and enjoy a stunning suite, private dining, and exclusive spaces, like an expanded two-story sundeck. As a guest of The Retreat, you'll also enjoy a long list of thoughtfully curated amenities that start with four newly added perks\*—premium drinks, premium Wi-Fi, tips, and an onboard credit to spend almost any way you like. Focused on your well-being? Our AquaClass<sup>®</sup> Sky Suites and staterooms will surround you with new ways to reinvigorate your mind, body, and spirit. This is the Europe vacation you've been waiting for—and deserve.



All Suites. Exclusive Spaces. All Included.



# TRIANGLE OF HAPPINESS

BERMUDA WAS MADE FOR SUMMER BREAK.

BY AMIEE WHITE BEAZLEY PHOTOGRAPHY BY MEREDITH ANDREWS





From left: Horseshoe Bay's calm breaks and colorful Saint George's Parish, best seen on two wheels.



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## Family Travel



**I**T'S A LITTLE OVER a two-hour flight from NYC to Bermuda – that's one solid afternoon nap or five episodes of *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*, for anyone counting. The island, which sits solo in the North Atlantic about 650 miles off the coast of North Carolina, has long been famous for its honeymoon-appropriate pink-sand beaches (the exoskeletons of a tiny organism called the red foram give them their iconic hue). But its calm waves, protected by coral reefs and rocky outcroppings, also make this mercifully easy-to-reach paradise a family-friendly miracle.

Beach-hopping between Horseshoe Bay and Church Bay in Southampton to Tobacco Bay and Saint Catherine's Beach in Saint George's Parish could fill an entire getaway, but the

21-square-mile island is packed with a variety of diversions – museums, underground cave systems, bike paths on old railways, lush nature preserves – that can keep antsy kids and bored tweens entertained. From Bermuda Day (the last Friday in May), the island's summertime spirit emerges, with open-air markets and celebrations, regattas, and peak sunshine.

### How It Started SAINT GEORGE'S PARISH

Bermuda's British colonial history begins in Saint George's Parish, the island's oldest settlement, founded in 1612 by shipwrecked travelers originally bound for Jamestown, Virginia. Today, the UNESCO World Heritage site on the island's East End is a compact collection of narrow alleys, bright limestone





The Bermuda Railway Trail and (opposite) a post-leap swim at Admiralty House Park.

buildings, fortresses, and centuries-old churches. Virtuoso travel advisors can arrange walking and biking tours through town, where kids can explore cannons and pillories while absorbing tidbits about the island's role in the Revolutionary and Civil wars, and peek at Town Hall's striking cedar interiors. Plan for a pit stop at the Lili Bermuda Perfumery (on Wednesdays or Saturdays) for a pinkies-up afternoon tea or, for a more casual lobster, fish, and conch fritters affair, at Wahoo's Bistro & Patio overlooking Saint George's Harbour.

#### **Bike It Out BERMUDA RAILWAY TRAIL**

In the 1930s and '40s, Bermuda's railway system stretched from Saint George's to Sandys Parish, transporting goods and people across the island. Today,

the converted 18-mile walking, biking, and horseback-riding path is a national park and a fun way to take in some of the island's best views. The trail is divided into nine sections, each ranging from one to almost four miles long: Bike the two-mile stretch between Frank's Bay and Somerset Bridge, or go from Hamilton, the island's capital (and home to some of Bermuda's best restaurants and boutiques), to Coney Island, stopping to picnic and swim at Shelly Bay Beach.

#### **Only the Brave ADMIRALTY HOUSE PARK**

Jutting limestone ledges positioned over deep, clear, and warm water invite the daring to launch themselves from any one of Bermuda's hundreds of cliff-jumping locations. Older kids may contend the best spot is at Admiralty House

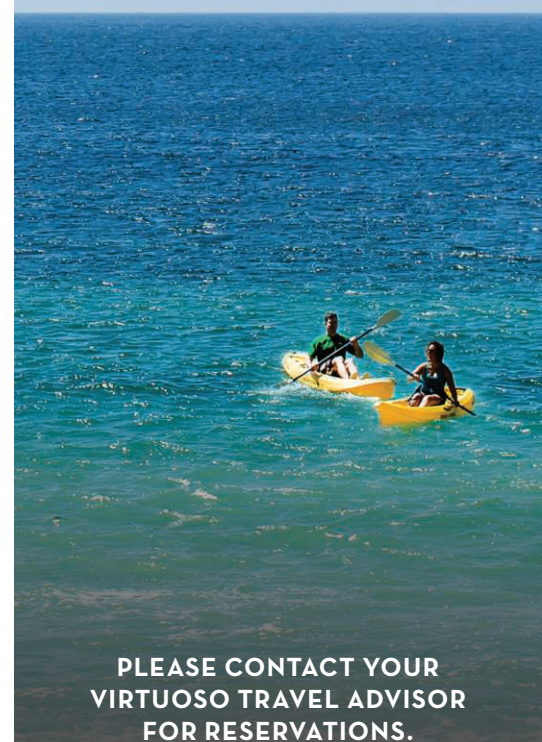


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Park. There, daredevils can climb to the top of a 20-foot perch via centuries-old steps carved into the rocks and through a tunnel where the British Navy once stored munitions. For an entry-level leap, try the mangrove-rimmed Blue Hole, reached via a 15-minute hike from Saint George's Parish (the trailhead starts at Tom Moore's Tavern). Post-dive rewards come in the form of banana scoops at Bailey's Bay Ice Cream Parlour or, for the 18-and-up crowd, a rum swizzle – one of the island's two national drinks (the other is a Dark 'n Stormy) – at the Swizzle Inn.

**Connect to History**  
**AFRICAN DIASPORA**  
**HERITAGE TRAIL**

Approximately 60 percent of Bermudians have African ancestry, as descendants of enslaved people brought to the island from the West Indies and Africa. Travelers can better understand Bermuda's complex history by visiting some of the 13 sites and monuments along the African Diaspora Heritage Trail. The National Museum of Bermuda's exhibit on the history of slavery on the island is a great stop, as is the Tucker House Historic Home, with its exhibit on Joseph Hayne Rainey, an American who fled to Bermuda during the Civil War. After the war, he returned to South Carolina and became the first Black member of the House of Representatives.

**Underground Attractions**  
**CRYSTAL CAVES**

There are some 150 limestone caves around Bermuda, and while many are too dangerous to explore, a handful of safe and easy-to-access sites make for ideal rainy-day adventures. Join a guided tour of Hamilton Parish's Crystal Cave and adjacent Fantasy Cave to descend 120 feet underground and discover a world of subterranean lakes and dripping white limestone stalactites formed millions of years ago. The floating boardwalk that stretches over a gleaming underground lake reveals intricate rock formations beneath the surface.

**Bermuda's calm waves,  
protected by coral reefs and  
rocky outcroppings, make this  
mercifully easy-to-reach paradise  
a family-friendly miracle.**







Crystal Cave and (opposite)  
Saint Peter's Church in  
Saint George's Parish.

## Beach Retreats

**STAY** The 88-room **Rosewood Bermuda** sits on a hilltop overlooking Castle Harbour, a short drive from Hamilton. Seven restaurants and bars, four pools, a golf course, a tennis center, and a private family-friendly beach club top the on-site amenities list, or hop aboard *The Castaway* catamaran to explore sunken shipwrecks and coral reefs during a private snorkeling excursion. *Doubles from \$632, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*

Located in Saint George's Parish next to the seventeenth-century Fort Saint Catherine, the 120-room **St. Regis Bermuda Resort** is the island's newest five-star property. Twenty-one suites and a selection of two- and three-bedroom private residences give multigenerational groups ample options. *Doubles from \$645, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*

An island institution since 1885, the 400-room **Hamilton Princess Hotel and Beach Club** is known to locals as the "Pink Palace." Hamilton and its shops are a five-minute walk away, but hotel perks include three restaurants, an expansive beach club (with three private beaches), a marina, and several tennis and pickleball courts that are – of course – pink. *Doubles from \$309, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.* 📍

# ALASKA BEAR CAMP



Isolated and accessible by private bush flight across Cook Inlet and past glacier-iced volcanoes, Alaska Bear Camp allows just 14 guests immersive encounters with brown bears—an unparalleled experience in Lake Clark National Park!

6 Days / May–Aug  
From \$6395 (+air)



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Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia

# Wild Canadian Summer

Discover the restorative power of Canada's sweeping landscapes and majestic wildlife encounters on the adventure of a lifetime.

Summer is a time to reconnect with nature and explore vast open spaces — from dense forests to open water and the breathtaking expanse in between. It's about catching glimpses of rarely-seen wildlife in their natural habitat. And it's about rediscovering the calm that comes from losing yourself in awe-inspiring, epic views.

On Canada's east and west coasts, you can choose your own adventure. Whether you're navigating the world's longest coastline, communing with grizzlies, or learning from Indigenous communities and their powerful connection to the land, Canadian summers are a recipe for excitement and renewal.

CANADA\*





Kemptville, Nova Scotia

## Epic East Coast Escapes

The best way to explore Atlantic Canada's boundless coastline is on the open road, where all manner of wild experiences can unfold. The Wonders of the Maritimes Road Trip, offered through Canada By Design, is a 10-day journey through time, cultures, and jaw-dropping sights unique to Canada's East Coast.

From Nova Scotia's vibrant capital, Halifax, you'll explore the wave-washed boulders at Peggy's Cove, wander the restored Victorian UNESCO World Heritage Site of Lunenburg, and lose yourself in the old growth forests and traditional Mi'kmaq waterways of Kejimikujik National Park. And that's just on day one.

Your journey continues along the rugged coast of New Brunswick, home of the Reversing Falls Rapids — a unique tidal phenomenon where the Bay of Fundy and St. John River collide to change the water's direction twice a day — and Shediac, known as the Lobster Capital of the World.

A completely different flavor of coastal experience awaits in the hidden coves, red cliffs and expansive white-sand beaches of Prince Edward Island, where a typical stroll can go on for miles. Then you're off to

experience the unyielding beauty of Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Highlands National Park, by way of the renowned Cabot Trail highway, before returning to Halifax with a stop at the historic Fortress of Louisbourg. The sight of this massive reconstructed 16th-century townscape on the shores of the Atlantic is outdone only by the stunning ocean view that surrounds it — befitting the Canadian Maritime Experience.



Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

### 📍 SPOTTED: AWESOME ATLANTIC VISTAS

#### Hopewell Rocks

*Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick*

At low tide, up to 160 billion tonnes of seawater rushes back out into the ocean, exposing muddy red flats and gravity-defying rock formations sculpted by thousands of years of tidal erosion.



#### Lighthouse at Peggy's Point

*Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia*

Built in 1915, this iconic federal heritage building sits perched on a barren outcrop at the entrance to St. Margaret's Bay.





**📍 SPOTTED:  
SUPPORTING CREATURES**

### Bald Eagles

These iconic species thrive in undisturbed forested areas adjacent to large bodies of water — making Canada's West Coast one of the best places to observe them.



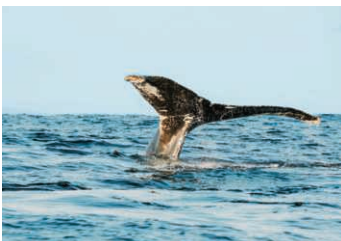
### Atlantic Puffins

These stocky birds return to their nesting colonies in Atlantic Canada every spring. You might see a fight or two break out as newcomers try to steal a prime piece of cliffside real estate.



### Fin and Humpback Whales

These massive creatures summer in eastern Canadian waters, and can be spotted from any number of spectacular viewing sites along the Newfoundland coast.



# Wildlife Encounters of a Canadian Kind

Any glimpse of wildlife exploring its natural habitat can be humbling; Canada's east and west coasts offer even deeper ways to connect with extraordinary species.

The Great Bear Rainforest, a remote stretch of 6.4 million hectares of wilderness across British Columbia's north-central coast, is one of the Earth's last remaining intact ecosystems. It's also home to the Grizzly Bear Retreat, hosted by Entrée Destinations — one of the best places to observe these majestic creatures.

Great Bear Lodge — a floating, red cedar lodge accessible by seaplane from Port Hardy and set below towering mountains at the mouth of Smith Inlet — makes a spectacular home base for exploring the region. But the grizzlies are the stars. From the safety of a blind or by boat, you'll watch for them to emerge from the forest to feed greedily on salmon, without disrupting their environment.

On the other side of the country, a different wildlife adventure awaits: Canada By Design's Newfoundland Discovery Road Trip is a two-week journey through Canada's easternmost province. Spot Atlantic puffins on craggy cliffs

and explore the Avalon Peninsula's waters with massive humpback and minke whales. Watch for moose and caribou while driving through the sweeping Bonavista Peninsula and go whale spotting in Twillingate before setting course for Gros Morne National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site 500 million years in the making. Here, you can hike along a rare outcrop of the earth's mantle, and take in the stunning fjords of Western Brook Pond, where nature's power is on full display.



From left Great Bear Rainforest, British Columbia, Middle Cove Beach, Newfoundland and Labrador.







From left Graham Island, Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, Skidgate Haida Gwaii, British Columbia

## A Remote, Restorative Retreat

It's well established that spending time in nature helps rejuvenate the spirit. An unforgettable trip to the untouched wilderness of Haida Gwaii, an utterly serene cluster of islands 70 miles off the northwest coast of British Columbia, delivers something even more meaningful.

Every aspect of the Haida Gwaii Tour, offered by Entrée Destinations, is grounded in the landscape and the traditions of the Haida People, whose connection to the land goes back thousands of years.

After two days of enjoying Vancouver's most iconic sights, including strolls along the gallery-lined, cobblestone streets of historic Gastown, and the winding Stanley Park Seawall, a two-hour flight and scenic ferry ride will deliver you to the tranquil, driftwood-lined shores of Graham Island. There, Haida House sits nestled in seven acres of woods, outside the village of Tlell.

For four days, you'll experience the warm hospitality of the Haida People as you explore the moss-covered rainforest and the scenic areas that surround it. Meet local artisans, enjoy authentic Haida cuisine and learn about the cultural importance of local wildlife. As you take in a bird's eye view of your surroundings from atop Tow Hill, it's hard not to be overcome by a profound sense of connection. All journeys are memorable, but this one is a gift.



### 📍 SPOTTED: ICONIC LANDMARKS

Discover the stunning and intricately carved totem poles of Old Masset, work that commemorates the more recent events in Haida Gwaii's history.





# RETURN







THE RUGGED BEAUTY OF KODIAK ISLAND  
AND THE ALEUTIANS IS EXTREME  
EVEN BY ALASKAN STANDARDS.

BY ELAINE GLUSAC  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS GARCÍA

THE  
S

Kukak Bay and  
Alaska's Katmai  
National Park.



# VITUS BERING DID NOT SURVIVE

the return voyage across the sea to which he gave his name. In 1741, chased by storms and suffering from scurvy, the Danish explorer and cartographer wrecked on an island near Russia, where he perished. But on that expedition, he saw towering coastal mountains in the future Alaska, the chain of Aleutian Islands that dribble away from the continent's mainland toward Asia, gunmetal-gray seas heaving toward iron skies, and perhaps a ceaseless stream of birds forming an airborne wake from the ship. I know, because 281 years later, I would sail the sea that separates Russia and the United States, feel its heave, and take measure of the immensity of the world in my own cartographic chase.

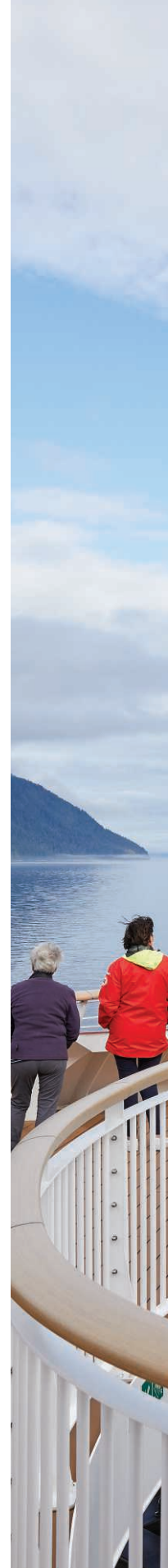
Some trips bore deep, delivering the assurance of intimacy and adding details to the personal maps we assemble through travel. This epic 17-night cruise between Vancouver and Nome, inaugurated by Hurtigruten Expeditions last summer, goes wide, exploring the vastness of Alaska, its still-isolated places, and the persistence of life in harsh conditions.

"This is an expedition," staff tell us aboard the 528-passenger *Roald Amundsen*, suitably named for the Norwegian explorer who was the first to cross Antarctica and reach the South Pole. The nearly 3,200-mile voyage begins familiarly from Vancouver, following Alaska's fertile Inside Passage before turning to lesser-traveled wilds: massive Kodiak Island, the rugged Alaska Peninsula, the Aleutian Islands, and the Bering Sea.

"Nobody goes there," repeated impressed residents of Wrangell and Sitka, two of our early stops. Like the passengers and crew on this initial voyage, they were curious about the mysteries that compel us beyond.

At least we know we have the right ship for the journey. As the travel industry grapples with its contribution to climate change, Hurtigruten has charted a greener path for cruise ships with the hybrid *Amundsen*, launched just before the pandemic, which cuts fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions by 20 percent with intermittent electrical propulsion. Reverse osmosis desalinates drinking water dispensed

The birders' perch atop the *Roald Amundsen*.







from bottle-filling stations (each guest receives their own keeper water bottle). Thick woolen sweaters and thin cashmere layers replace microplastic-made fleece gear in the onboard shop.

Not that you'd need extra thermals. My every photo resembles a *National Geographic* shot with passengers uniformly clad in red Helly Hansen parkas – distributed on the first day to ensure everyone was properly rainproofed (and swagged). Loaner thermal boots set the sartorial standard for weeks of reveling in whatever the North Pacific would deliver, from Canada's placid Johnstone Strait, where an orca's six-foot dorsal fin knifed a buttery wake, to the churning Bering Sea.

IN THE FIRST days, I adjust my lens to Alaska's scale – the state is bigger than California, Montana, and Texas combined – and its abundance. Mountains repeat in reflective waters. Sitka spruce and western hemlock green the hillsides, dripping rain. Flocks of small waterbirds called phalaropes skim by in the hundreds, early quarry in a naming game played by the ship's many birders, easily identified by their extravagant camera gear.

"Red-throated loon!" I hear one shout from behind a viewfinder. "Rhinoceros auklet!" says another. Then harlequin ducks, marbled murrelets, and mammals too, including Dall's porpoises and sightings as specific as "Bigg's killer whale number T72."

My fellow cruisers, I learn, are not any-cruise-will-do Alaska explorers. I hike with a German science teacher, share the sauna with a California botanist, check bird identifications with a Danish couple keeping copious notes on every species, and befriend a Scotsman who recently retired as an Arctic biologist. Not everyone is a scientist, but we all share a passion for nature. When the ship's yogi, Erica Morgan, says at our first morning practice, "Every interaction is a teacher," I believe her.

These "teachers" supplement the knowledge dispensed by Hurtigruten



AT NIGHT, I OPEN  
MY BALCONY  
DOOR AND  
**FALL ASLEEP**  
**LISTENING**  
FOR WHALES  
BREATHING.

A brown bear  
patrols Katmai  
National Park  
and Preserve's  
Geographic  
Harbor. Oppo-  
site: The ship's  
sauna and ca-  
sual Fredheim  
restaurant, and  
a balcony suite.





biologists, naturalists, geologists, ornithologists, and Zodiac captains, who give dimension to the north in lectures on animals, volcanoes, and ecosystems that flood my mind with luminous facts (witness: Spruce trees lining the salmon-filled rivers grow three times faster than elsewhere, thanks to the fertilizing from fish discarded by foraging bears). Workshops in the Science Center – filled with microscopes and replica animal skeletons, delighting my inner fifth grader – examine native plants, microscopic copepods and diatoms skimmed from the water, and bird feathers’ watertight lattice formations.

Life aboard the striking ship, with three restaurants, a spa, and a pool, is only as rugged as guests choose. But the focus remains outdoors: Nearly the entire tenth floor belongs to an observation lounge ringed in glass, and a panoramic window forms one wall of the cedar-scented sauna. I spend countless hours on the open bow and top-deck jogging track, scanning for wildlife, then take refuge in my Scandinavian-sleek suite with down duvets and a minibar stocked with an espresso maker and wine to enjoy on the furnished balcony.

Suite residency includes exclusive access to Lindstrøm, the ship’s culinary star, serving Nordic dishes such as arctic char with king crab and salmon roe. But I’m equally drawn to bustling breakfasts at the main restaurant, Aune, where floor-to-ceiling windows encourage lingering, and burger-and-shake lunches at casual Fredheim. One evening at dinner, a couple stops to watch a raft of sea lions. After several minutes, the husband smiles at his wife and comments, “Don’t forget to eat.”

**WE ROUGHLY MAINTAIN** a destination-a-day schedule through the Inside Passage, visiting Misty Fjords to kayak beneath horsetail waterfalls, Wrangell to hike a mossy rain forest, and Sitka to crane our necks toward Tlingit totem poles. Entering Icy Bay, where the fingers of three tidewater glaciers within Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve calve into icebergs, we leave other ships behind. In Zodiacs, we slalom between ephemeral columns, arches, and mushroomlike bergs used as rafts by harbor seals, their freckled pups wide-eyed and unblinking on the blue ice.

By Kodiak Island we are officially *out there* and on to unvarnished Alaska, free of jewelers and T-shirt shops, mooring at docks near fish canneries. At Kodiak’s Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park, we hike a coastal path through profusions of fireweed and snapdragon-esque monkey flowers. Resting on a grassy clifftop, I watch harlequin ducks below and, across the bay, a pod of humpbacks. Fin whales surround the ship as we depart, rhythmically rising to exhale puffs of mist as if in a choreographed display. At night, I open my sliding balcony door and fall asleep listening for whales breathing.

In the morning, something large and four-legged ambles down a beach, and I know we’ve arrived in Katmai National Park and Preserve, a more than 4-million-acre wilderness set aside, in part, for its many volcanoes – including Novarupta, famed for the twentieth century’s largest eruption – that mark the northern reaches of the Pacific’s Ring of Fire. Inaccessible by road, Katmai protects renowned habitat for brown bears weighing 1,000-plus pounds. From Zodiacs, we spot solitary males digging for clams, a pair wrestling in the sedge, and a mother beachcombing with two cubs against a backdrop of cliffs broken by waterfalls plunging from snowfields above.

This complete immersion in nature continues in the treeless Aleutians, where human history stands out in relief. Unga Island, our first Aleutian, is a ghost town,





abandoned by the Indigenous community after a 1964 earthquake rendered the harbor useless. We disembark on its rocky shore and hike through thigh-high grasses to the former village of gray clapboard houses collapsed, or, at best, slumping – a black-and-white past nesting among wildflowers. At Dutch Harbor, I climb Hill 400, aka Bunker Hill, to explore fortifications built in 1940 to ward off Japanese attacks during World War II.

Heading north from the Aleutians into the Bering Sea, Hurtigruten’s expedition leader predicts “washing-machine weather.” Already, steady rollers have forced the crew to cancel excursions to Mount Cleveland, though we manage to catch it – a perfectly symmetrical stratovolcano fringed in a black-rubble shore – in clear sunshine.

It takes a full day at sea to reach Saint Matthew, an uninhabited island considered the most remote location in the U.S., more than 200 miles from the nearest town. Solemn at a distance, the island squawks to life in trills, cries, and coos as we approach in Zodiacs, pulling up to a columnar basalt cliff where every ledge, crevasse, and nook is colonized by seabirds. Tufted puffins settle atop the sea stack, their comical faces peering from the windswept grass. Then, in a floating movement, we catch an endemic McKay’s bunting – the prized sighting of the sailing – as spray breaks over the bow, showering us in Bering Sea surprise.

Vitus Bering was the first European to name our last call before Nome, Saint Lawrence Island, where the occasional reindeer herder’s hut breaks the tundra, an arctic fox feeds on the beach, and a gray whale surfaces right before our skiff. Back on board, we chart the long, long way we’ve come. “When you look at this map, I hope you don’t see just the journey,” says crew geologist Jessica Picinich, “but the plate tectonics, ocean currents, deep-water krill, and all these wonders that draw us here.” After more than two weeks at sea, it *does* seem different now: full spectrum in parts once blank.

## FYI

“Cruising polar regions under electric power aboard the *Roald Amundsen* is incredibly different than on standard vessels without hybrid engines. It’s so silent as you approach wildlife or a remote glacier, almost like floating in a kayak.”

– Kevin Sharp, *Virtuoso travel advisor, Red Deer, Alberta*





From far left: Kodiak Island's  
Fort Abercrombie State Historical  
Park, the Holy Ascension of Our  
Lord Russian Orthodox Cathedral  
in Unalaska (Dutch Harbor), and  
kayaking Misty Fjords.





From left: A trainer at  
Nome's Arctic Sky Kennel,  
far-flung Saint Matthew  
Island, and the Roald  
Amundsen in Icy Bay.





# CRUISING ALASKA'S LAST FRONTIER

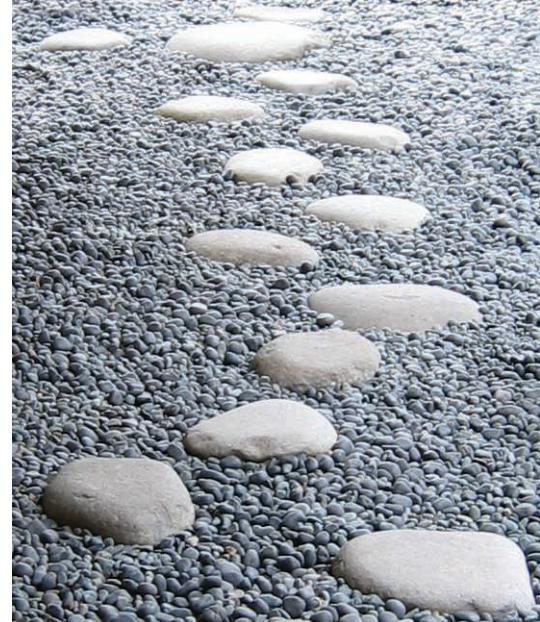
**Hurtigruten Expeditions** will reprise its 17-night voyage aboard the 528-passenger *Roald Amundsen* this summer, exploring Alaska's Inside Passage and Aleutian Islands. *Departures: Multiple dates, July 2 through September 6; from \$8,787.*

Trace the original Russian-Alaska fur trade route along the Aleutians during **Windstar Cruises'** Tokyo-to-Seward crossing. Alaska highlights on the 312-passenger *Star Breeze's* 14-night voyage include Dutch Harbor, Kodiak Island, and bohemian Homer. *Departure: May 26; from \$1,699.*

**Viking** charts the northern Pacific passage from Tokyo to Vancouver

over 22 nights, crossing the Bering Sea to reach the Aleutian Islands, calling at Dutch Harbor, Kodiak Island, and Inside Passage ports on the 930-passenger *Viking Orion*. *Departures: April 29 and September 17; from \$9,599.*

After several calls in Greenland, **Seabourn's** 264-passenger *Seabourn Venture* sails west through the remote Northwest Passage – Canada's Arctic channel – to reach the Bering Sea. The 32-night Reykjavik-to-Vancouver voyage then follows the Alaska coast south and east, cruising the Aleutian Islands and Inside Passage. *Departure: August 26; from \$58,699. ♡*



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# THE SUMMER VACATION PLANNER

Virtuoso advisors' tips and top spots for our  
favorite travel season.

BY JEN ROSE SMITH  
Illustrations by Kathy Kim







**L**AST YEAR WE cheered travel's return with big-ticket trips and visits to beloved haunts. So what are our destinations for the sun-drenched months of 2023? We're dedicating this summer to pure fun: escapes inspired by *The White Lotus*, Europe's less-touristed hideouts, sushi feasts, and chasing the wake of Argentina's World Cup glory.

Perhaps Sicily's San Domenico Palace is pop culture's most sublime avatar, newly sought after since the fourteenth-century former convent set the stage for the delectable mess of *The White Lotus*' second season. "That show has really put the spotlight on Sicily as a destination — so many people are wanting to go there," says Ane Lowe of Austin, Texas.



It's not the only European understudy ready for the main stage. "I think you're going to see a lot of alternative destinations because people were a little taken aback by the crowds last summer," says Manhattan-based Tiffany Layne, whose offbeat fave is mountainous Slovenia. "It's gorgeous, great for adventurers, and outstanding gastronomically." Neighboring Croatia is another star. "It's right on the cusp of becoming really huge, but you can still find the authenticity of a local experience," says Samuel Spencer of Calgary, pointing to private yacht charters as a trending way to explore the country's archipelagic beauty.

And Japan, now welcoming travelers for the first summer since 2019, has returned as a food lover's dream destination. "In Asia it's Japan, hands down," says Pasadena's Melissa Wu, whose clients are planning trips around the country's most refined dining. "They want the best of the best, and you can find that in Japan."

Other travelers are riding World Cup euphoria all the way to Buenos Aires, captivated by coverage of victory parties there, says Stephen Scott of Chicago. The city's architecture, design, and local markets have always won high praise, but, Scott says, it's the winning energy that makes Argentina a marquee destination this summer: "How do you not find excitement in the country that just won the world's biggest sports event?"

Read on for Virtuoso advisors' recommendations – and some travel-tested tips from magazine staff – for summer-vacation success.

### How can I travel responsibly to destinations facing overtourism?

Some overtourism is simply overcrowding, best avoided by skipping popular sites at the busiest times. "If being around

swarms of tourists isn't appealing to you, work with your advisor to find a different destination that's really going to satisfy your desires," says Sacramento-based Rose O'Connor. Dreaming of a summer trip to Amalfi? Consider what draws you there – whether it's seaside glamour, yachting, or delicious seafood – to spark ideas for less-packed options. Amalfi alternatives include trips to up-and-coming Sardinia or island-hopping Croatia's Dalmatian Coast. And with Japan trending this summer, O'Connor suggests bypassing crowds by seeking out eastern Hokkaido's little-known hot springs, villages, and volcanoes. "There are lots of places in Japan that aren't overtouristed," she says. "We have some fantastic travel partners there who can broaden your view of what's possible."

Avoiding overtouristed areas isn't the only issue on travelers' minds; they're curious about destinations' social and environmental bona fides too. Responding to a recent Virtuoso survey, 80 percent of luxury travelers indicated that traveling more responsibly – and with tour companies and resorts that have strong sustainability programs in place – is important to them post-pandemic. A skilled advisor can help, matching travelers to the places that are leading the way. "I really look at sustainability comprehensively – environmentally, socially, and culturally," says O'Connor, who recently completed a master's degree in sustainability from Harvard University. "I look for resorts and tour operators with those elements in their ethos and stated values."

Luxury leaders make doing right aspirational: Six Senses resorts' commitment to regenerative travel extends to buying food from local farmers and fishers, for example, while also supporting health, education, and infrastructure projects. O'Connor also loves Alila, whose Virtuoso properties in Bali,

River cruises' smaller ships dock right in the heart of cities. When you arrive in port, you're able to get off and immediately go exploring.





Encinitas, and Big Sur are designed for zero food waste, giving back to local communities, and minimizing environmental impacts. Such policies translate into richer travel experiences too. “That sort of hotel really has a sense of place,” O’Connor says. “It’s very apparent that it’s helping elevate the entire community.”

### What’s the best cruise for a noncruiser?

Try river cruising, which wins over holdouts with intimate, small-boat experiences. “You feel like you’re in a floating hotel, not a floating city,” says Ane Lowe, who loves that the nimbler craft can visit off-the-radar destinations and dock right in the heart of cities. “When you arrive in port, you’re able to get off and immediately go exploring.”

Popular summer itineraries in Europe include the Rhine, Douro, and Seine, but Lowe’s pick is the Danube, linking Germany to the Black Sea. Its current draws travelers toward uncrowded, lesser-known capitals, from edgy, art-filled Belgrade to the post-Soviet ebullience of Bucharest. “Usually on river cruises the focus is more on the cities you’re visiting versus onboard entertainment,” Lowe says. And the 1,771-mile Danube also offers wine to thrill, flowing between the terraced vineyards and castles of Austria’s UNESCO-listed Wachau wine region and monk-founded ancient vineyards famed for fragrant whites.




**I’m a gluten-free vegan, and my partner is dairy-free. We’re thinking Asia for our honeymoon. Where will we find the best local food that works for both of us?**

“I adore Thailand,” says Tisha Neufville of Holly Springs, Georgia. “The food is phenomenal, and you can do everything from high-end dining to street food safely.” Much Thai food is naturally gluten-free and enriched with luxuriantly vegan



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coconut milk – must-try dishes range from veggie stir-fry *pad pak* to tofu curries and green papaya salad (ask for yours without fish sauce). Taste them in jungle-lush Chiang Mai, she says, a once-bohemian idyll burnished to sophistication by resorts from Anantara and Four Seasons.

### Rome is at the top of my list, but I've seen photos of crowds at the Colosseum and Trevi Fountain. Help!

Just go already. Rome is the Eternal City, but never old hat. “Rome is like an onion – it has so many layers,” says Adamarie King, who for decades spent six months a year in Italy and now lives near Évora, Portugal. Make neighborhoods the focus rather than hitting all the big sites: Street art, boutiques, and

galleries have made a creative hub of the once-gritty San Lorenzo district, King says, while the garden suburb of Garbatella has lesser-known, traditional (and delicious) food markets that have been reenergized amid post-pandemic life.

### We want to go winetasting, but we have two teens in tow. Where can we go that's fun for everyone?

“The South of France, from Nice all the way to Biarritz,” says Katie Stewart, who lives in Stuttgart, Germany, and travels frequently with her kids, ages 13, 15, and 17. She recommends family-friendly Château de Berne, a 1,272-acre wine estate with hiking trails, mountain biking, and vineyards that older teens can safely explore on their own. Within day-tripping

### Are there any proven ways to beat jet lag?

For years my strategy was to just push through it. But when prepping for an assignment in Raja Ampat, Indonesia, I heard about Timeshifter, an app that helps reset (preset?) your circadian rhythms. Enter your destination and flight info, and it creates a personalized, hour-by-hour schedule from a few days before departure until arrival. Prompts include when to have caffeine or cut it out, avoid light (or put on your darkest glasses if you can't), experience sunshine or bright light, take a nap, and go to bed and wake up. It works. I followed the plan closely and arrived – 37 hours of travel and a 15-hour time difference later – feeling shockingly good. – Justin Paul, managing editor



distance: Saint-Tropez beaches and the tawny Provençal village of Tourtour. “You also have so many different tasting regions, so many varieties of wine,” she says.

### What do I do if my luggage gets lost?

Sometimes we boldly go, and our bags just don't. A headache, sure, but also an excuse to go shopping for a few stylish items. Think local: A good concierge should be able to advise you about traditional garb – whether Spanish espadrilles, a designer's take on the embroidered Maya *huipil*, or one of those woolly Icelandic *lopapeysa* sweaters – that doubles as a chic souvenir. Most “lost” luggage is just delayed, and you can track its wayward journey using AirTags. (You do use AirTags, right?) It's also key to file a claim at the baggage desk before leaving the airport, keep a copy of the report, and save your receipts – most airlines will cover the cost of clothes or toiletries if your bags dawdle more than 24 hours.

File a claim at the baggage desk before leaving the airport, keep a copy of the report, and save your receipts.

### Any pro tips for taking memorable travel photos?

There's always a place for sweeping landscape shots, but my favorite travel photos are the quiet still lifes: a local flower captured in light and shadow, colorful roadside fruit stands, a handmade sign's typography, or maybe a favorite straw hat, sunnies, and a cocktail in situ by the pool. And my No. 1 rule after returning from a trip: Always print your favorites! I toss my prints in a big, shallow basket on my coffee table. They always make me smile when I thumb through them. – Korena Bolding Sinnett, art director

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You *can* look cute and fashionable without overpacking. The height of Mediterranean style is *sprezzatura*, which elevates unstudied cool over carefully put together outfits.

### Can I really go to Santorini for a week with a carry-on?

“It can be really helpful to minimize the need to check bags, especially when traveling to a small island,” says Tiffany Layne. Though a self-described overpacker, she strategizes by matching outfits with detailed, day-by-day itineraries, so she can make items work double shifts. “You *can* look cute and fashionable without overpacking,” Layne says. Long dresses, linen pants, wedges, and neutral-toned sandals are island all-stars from brunch to beachside ouzo, and a couple of swimsuits will take care of the rest. Don’t sweat the details: The height of Mediterranean style is *sprezzatura*, which elevates unstudied cool over carefully put-together outfits.

### How do I keep my squirmy 3-year-old happy on a ten-hour flight to Europe?

“Prepare yourself to be there for your little one,” says Katie Stewart. “People assume that items will entertain them, but your attention will be key.” She recommends starting the process at home, building airplane anticipation with conversations, toys, and videos. Keep onboard activities – triangle crayons, workbooks, stickers, games – on a rotation tight enough to match preschool-size attention spans. You probably won’t sleep on the plane, so plan to relax on your first day. “There’s no reason to push any kind of touring,” she says. “If you can afford the extra time, let everyone recover and spend a lot of the day outside.” ♥



### What’s a solid souvenir-shopping strategy?

My most beloved souvenirs (and the gifts that get the best reception) are invariably small, useful things that slip into daily rotation back home. Housewares get a lot of play: Witness the little ceramic bowls I picked up in the Algarve years ago, which my son eats his yogurt out of every morning. Anything unwieldy or uncheckable is out; tea towels, wooden utensils, and paper products are in. – Marika Cain, editorial director



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# A Country

# of the

# Mind

The Río Chacabuco  
in Patagonia  
National Park and  
(opposite) indigenous  
calafate berries.





Reaching **Patagonia** is an epic journey, with a payoff to match.

**BY J.R. PATTERSON** PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEN JUDGE



## GRAND LANDSCAPES WORK IN TWO DIRECTIONS,

pushing us to look both outward, to the limits of our sight, and inward, to ourselves. Argentinean author César Aira said as much in his novel *La costurera y el viento*, writing, “Is this Patagonia? And if this is Patagonia, what am I?”

What I was, late last year, was feeling cramped and cornered in Europe. I needed a goal, even if it was an old one. I knew a grand landscape was the way out, and Patagonia was the one I’d long wanted to see. Like a love letter pushed to the back of the drawer, I needed only to touch the envelope, to breathe its perfume, to remember that old desire.

So perhaps it was sentimentality that had led me to the Andes Mountains, where a herd of reclining guanacos lounged in a verdant pasture rich with dandelions. I had waited so long to see it all: the wide valleys ringed by a crown of mountains still snow-touched in the last weeks of spring; the marbled blend where the green waters of the Río Baker met the brown ribbon of the Río Nef, both white where they dashed over the rocks; the lumpy, tree-covered foothills bunched together like the folds of a dropped rug.

I had come to Patagonia National Park, a 700,000-acre expanse enveloping Chile’s Chacabuco Valley, to stay at the new Explora lodge, an intimate compound of American Craftsman-style stone buildings set in a flat expanse surrounded by pine-covered mountains. Explora’s à la carte approach to activities meant each evening, over cocktails, a guide and I crafted a plan – usually hiking, cycling, or kayaking – for the coming day.

That Explora is the only lodge permitted to operate within the park gives its refinement a sense of the improbable and makes returning to its comfort after a day of sweat and elevation all the more enticing. It helps that the surroundings are satiating in and of themselves, and each morning a guide and I wandered off into the rough country, with packed lunches and an extra pair of socks in our pockets, feeling lucky to be so free from want.

DURING MY FIRST DAY, on a ten-mile ramble through the Avilés Valley, my guide, Iñaki Esnaola, pointed to a squat shrub ripe with small blue berries. “This is the calafate,” he said. “Local people say if you eat the berry, you’ll return to Patagonia.”

Still on a high from my arrival, I was far from thinking about return. I’d set my sights on Patagonia a decade before. From my home in Canada, I’d ridden my motorcycle south for nearly a year, aiming toward that distant land over the curve of the earth. Ultimately, I miscalculated and arrived in Chile to a frigid July winter. Patagonia was *just* there; a thousand more miles would have cinched it. Yet the closer I got, the farther away it seemed. Crossing the snow-covered Andes at the Paso Internacional Los Libertadores proved nearly fatal, the cold seeping into my bones and slowing my mind. When I arrived in Santiago, I knew going any farther south would be too difficult. And so, Patagonia slipped away from me.

Conservationist Douglas Tompkins did something similar in 1968, driving down from California in a van with a group of adventure-junkie friends. In deepest Patagonia, they found a world untouched by mass tourism or commercial enterprise. Twenty years later, Tompkins returned to funnel the fortune he’d made with his apparel lines The North Face and Esprit into purchasing tracts of land to conserve the Patagonian wilderness. In 2004, he and his wife, Kris Tompkins (the former CEO of Patagonia), acquired Estancia Valle Chacabuco, a massive ranch in the Aysén





The Patagonia National Park  
welcoming committee: its  
resident guanacos.







## Today, Patagonia feels like one of the last outposts of freedom, a private corner in a crowded world, a persistent illusion of the Old West.

region's Chacabuco Valley. In 2018, they gifted the land to the Chilean government to help form the core of Patagonia National Park.

An intense period of change began. The government lifted hundreds of miles of fences and extricated livestock from the area. It built rails, campgrounds, and other infrastructure, including ranger stations for the Chilean Parks Agency (CONAF), along with lodging, a museum, and park headquarters (later managed by Explora) nestled on a flat plain near the Río Chacabuco. Renovations are currently underway, and soon Casa Butler, a home once used by visiting conservationists, will be available for guests to rent.

Rewilding Chile is another of Tompkins' legacies and forms a major part of the park. The former ranch had set the natural balance of the landscape akimbo. Tens of thousands of grazing sheep left the grassland little opportunity to recover. The endemic guanacos, a llamalike camelid, had retreated to higher altitudes because they had been fenced out of the area, and the pumas, despite being a protected species in Chile since 1980, were hunted to the brink by *leoneros*, or lion men, hired to protect the livestock.

Now, with the sheep (and fences) gone, the guanacos have returned to the low valleys, and with them, the pumas. They were thrillingly common – every day, someone came to the lodge with news they'd spotted a puma perched on a rocky crest or stealing into a tuft of chapel bushes. Even the estancia's last *leonero* has taken an about-turn, trading his rifle for binoculars in his new role as the park's puma guardian. The pumas, along with local populations of Darwin's rheas and the endangered huemul deer, have all rebounded. Workers from Rewilding Chile, Tompkins' nonprofit conservation organization, opened Chile's first on-site breeding center for Darwin's rheas, and they also bring wounded Andean condors from across Chile to the park for rehabilitation. Lodge guests can contribute financially to support their efforts.

"We want people to become custodians and defenders instead of mere visitors," said Gerardo Acha, manager of Explora Patagonia National Park. "Feeling we're a part of something bigger is rewarding at a different level."

It was Acha who told me about a mother puma with two cubs who had made the valley surrounding the lodge her territory. As I walked the park, I looked for their tracks but saw nothing save the deep, two-toed indents of guanacos and a few marks left by armadillos.

"Maybe you didn't see her, but she definitely saw you," said Manuel Montti, one of the park guides. The sure sign was hearing the warning



A Río Cochrane paddle and (opposite) local gaucho flair.

### FYI

"Patagonia National Park is still very remote and undiscovered. It can be windy anywhere you go in Patagonia, especially in April, so pack a wind-breaker – and a pair of waterproof pants if you're planning to hike."

– Andrew De Angelis,  
Virtuoso travel  
advisor, Calgary





shout of a guanaco. “They’re never wrong. Once you hear a guanaco call, there’s a puma around.”

After we’d walked a mountain trail together, with Manuel pointing out flowers, I began to see for myself the clusters of beach pea, golden orchids, and yellow lady’s purse covering the hillsides, along with edible fungi, which the locals call *pan de indio*, growing on the bark of trees. After watching Manuel pick one and pop it into his mouth, I had a ready snack anytime I was out.

HELD UP TO THE LIGHTEST SCRUTINY, Patagonia is revealed as a rather nebulous concept, a country of the mind founded on a blend of European adventurers and local myths. As a region, it straddles both Chile and Argentina, but its borders are undefined, set loosely around the scooped valleys and lakes left by receding glaciers. Like Timbuktu, it’s synonymous with the end of the earth – it’s the farthest humans walked from Africa. That distance, and the imposing landscape, left the first visitors with fanciful notions. Sailors and mountaineers returned home with stories of giants (the word “Patagonia” is a corruption of Patagones, the name Spanish explorers gave to the area’s Tehuelche Indians), mountains of gold and silver, and a lost capital, the City of the Caesars. In the Chacabuco Valley, it’s still possible to find pieces of ancient civilizations in the arrowheads and cave paintings left behind by the native population.

Today, Patagonia feels like one of the last outposts of freedom, a private corner in a crowded world, a persistent illusion of the Old West. The comparison isn’t erroneous: A gold rush in the late nineteenth century brought many prospectors in this direction. Log cabins and corrals made of rough-sawn pine still sit in grassy leas. Gauchos, astride horses and cloaked in berets and woolly *chamantos*, tend herds of sheep. There’s a sense of extended time, perhaps because the outside world hasn’t been here long – the road only reached the nearby town of Cochrane in 1988.





Explora Patagonia National Park and (opposite) the lodge's creature comforts.

A 45-minute drive from the lodge, on the southern limits of Patagonia National Park, Cochrane is a blockish town sidled against a thigh of mountain. What's lovely about it is true of all the best Rocky Mountain towns: There's a craft brewery and a museum, and streets lined with wooden chalets. I saw people sitting around bonfires roasting meat, apple-cheeked children walking about in thin sweaters, and smiling dogs roaming, giving chase to half-ton trucks loaded down with tight bundles of wool.

Jorge Molina, a kayak instructor who took me out on the Río Cochrane, remembered when there was no road and goods were transported into town by boat. "Everything was done on the river," he said. "I was born on it." That former heavy traffic makes the water's clarity seem like a miracle. As we paddled, Molina took a portable depth sounder from his life vest and pointed it toward the distant but visible river

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**Wild country:** The confluence of the Río Baker and Río Nef, and (opposite) a Chacabuco Valley trek.

## Into Patagonia

**GETTING THERE** Patagonia National Park is open between October and April. The closest airport is in Balmaceda, which travelers reach via connections from Santiago. From there, it's a six-hour drive to the park. Explora can arrange the transfer or a private 45-minute flight from Balmaceda to Cochran, the park's nearest town.

**STAY** At the 13-room **Explora Patagonia National Park**, the park's only lodge, daily excursions include everything from naturalist-led hikes (with options for all difficulty levels) to kayaking, cycling, and horseback riding. Sustainably sourced meals are the creation of the chefs behind the acclaimed Don Julio in Buenos Aires. Proceeds from stays fund park conservation efforts. *Three-night stays from \$3,270 per person, including round-trip airport transfers; all meals, drinks,*

*and guided activities; and a \$100 boutique credit.*

Travelers can combine visits to Explora Patagonia National Park with a stay at its sister property, the 49-room **Explora Torres del Paine**, a 90-minute flight away. Guests spend time exploring the area's peaks, glacier-fed lakes, and sprawling grasslands via horseback, catamaran, and more. *Three-night stays from \$4,170 per person, including round-trip airport transfers, all meals and guided activities, and a \$100 resort credit.*

**GO Ladatco Tours** specializes in custom itineraries across Chile and Argentina. In Patagonia, spring and summer jaunts into the classic Torres del Paine National Park and visits to El Calafate can be combined with a trip to Patagonia National Park. *Pricing for custom tours varies.*

A 14-day, round-trip-from-Buenos Aires group tour with **G Adventures** provides a deep dive into both the Chilean and Argentinean sides of Patagonia. Travelers spend time in Torres del Paine and Tierra del Fuego national parks, spy glaciers near El Calafate, and search for penguins in Ushuaia. *Departure: October 15; from \$6,699.*

Approach Patagonia from the sea on **Regent Seven Seas Cruises'** 21-night, Lima-to-Buenos Aires voyage. The 750-passenger *Seven Seas Splendor* stops in Puerto Chacabuco, where cruisers can explore the region home to Patagonia National Park, before it navigates Chilean fjords, calls on Punta Arenas (the gateway to Torres del Paine), sails around Cape Horn, and visits the Falkland Islands. *Departure: December 20; from \$18,399.*



bottom. “Forty-one point two meters,” he said. Some 139 feet. Looking down, I could see brown trout and the bed-rock that tinted the river the color of a husky’s eyes.

ON MY LAST DAY, I mounted the range that overlooks the Río Chacabuco, and the entire world felt laid out before me. Across the sunlit valley, bright patches of snow looked as pure as spilled cream. French aviator and author Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, who was one of the first to fly over these mountains, saw them as peaceful but “tense with some dark potency.”

There’s a force to everything in Patagonia – the wind, the waterfalls, the sheer mountain faces rising from wide valleys cut with opal rivers. Yet I could not shake the feeling of fragility that emanated from the land. It was fragile the way a sunrise is, or Mozart’s “Ave verum corpus.” At the core of its beauty lies a tenuous fortitude that insists on

its ephemerality. Pure water and virgin forest, like beautiful music and youthful innocence, are the easiest to taint.

Walking with Explora’s guides – most having lived various lives, as artists, veterinarians, and financiers, before wanting something else from life – or chatting with them over pisco sours, I could sense their commitment to preserving not only the physical area around us, but the idea of what it represented: Quiet. Rejuvenation. A second chance.

Heading back to the lodge, I took a calafate berry from a nearby bush and held it between my teeth. I dreaded leaving, if only because I lacked the words to relate what I’d seen. The landscape is as impossible to describe as it is to photograph. It was too grand, just as my desire to be there had been too grand to articulate. “How was Patagonia?” people might ask. And I could only say: Good things come to those who wait. ♡



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JAIPUR'S BLOCK-PRINTING TRADITIONS ARE AS VITAL AS EVER.  
BY SARAH KHAN PHOTOGRAPHY BY MADHUMITA NANDI

Draped in tradition:  
Block-printed fabrics  
spread out to dry at Rasa  
Jaipur's atelier and  
(opposite) Shaivyya  
Gupta's contemporary  
twist on the craft.





Inspiration overhead at  
Jaipur's City Palace.



IN

JAIPUR'S OLD TOWN, shoppers bargain for fabrics and jewelry while street vendors dole out piping-hot *pyaaz ki kachori* and fresh lassi beneath voluminously curved archways, behind rose-tinted facades, and beside handpainted floral murals. Spend an afternoon watching these lively quotidian scenes play out, and it's clear why Rajasthan's Pink City and its dazzling motifs and patterns have lured creatives and craftspeople for generations.

Textile designer Shaivyya Gupta remembers how struck she was by Jaipur's life and color when she moved to the city from Kolkata. "It was unbelievable how people around here embraced color in their everyday life," she says. "The men's turbans and women's skirts and shawls are a riot of prints and bright, happy colors." Jaipur's vivid palette has served Gupta well as a muse: In 2015 she opened her own Jaipur studio, Shaivyya Textiles, through which she captures the city's vibrancy by blending traditional techniques with Indian kitsch and pop-art elements to create distinctly contemporary fabrics.

At the core of her maximalist, forward-looking designs is a method rooted in history. Block printing, in which artisans dip intricately carved wood blocks in inks before applying them to materials by hand, may have been introduced to India by the Chinese, although that isn't definitively clear. Either way, over the centuries, the country has fully embraced block printing as its own. The art form has literally woven itself into the very fabric of the city.

Given the ubiquity of these prints in the Rajasthani wardrobe as well as its collective consciousness, it's no surprise that visitors are curious about the craft. "We have a number of guests who take a day out of their touring and spend it in a studio with the designer and artisans, learning the art and also creating some wonderful souvenirs for themselves," says Shanti Kohli, managing director of India-based Amber Tours. "It's a fun activity, but also a very precise art form."

Kohli often takes travelers to workshops in the villages of Sanganer and Bagru, the country's biggest remaining block-printing hubs. There, guests quickly discover that patience is very much a virtue when it comes to this kind of work: A single yard of cloth typically contains 150 to 200 individual stamps. And block carving is an art in its own right. Master carvers typically fashion blocks from local woods such as roheda (a deciduous desert tree) and sheesham (Indian rosewood); intricate blocks can take as long as two weeks to shape.

FYI

"Don't miss the Gyan Museum. It houses more than 2,500 treasured pieces, including textiles, paintings, antique jewelry, vintage spectacles, rare inscriptions, and objets d'art from around the world, some dating back more than 3,000 years."

— Phoebe Weinberg,  
Virtuoso agency  
executive, Grosse Pointe  
Farms, Michigan

AS WITH SO MANY TRADITIONS in Rajasthan – the state's name itself means "land of the kings" – there is a royal pedigree at play here: Jaipur's ruling families have been patrons of the block-printing form for nearly 300 years. "The maharaja invited skilled artisans of all kinds, from far-flung regions, to settle here," says Rachel Bracken-Singh, design director at Anokhi, one of India's most widely loved clothing and housewares brands, known for airy caftans, quilts, and accessories in lively floral block prints.

But as is the case with so many long-lived traditions, the centuries haven't always been kind, with the introduction of mechanized printing and the reluctance of younger generations to learn the trades of their forebears. The late and beloved maharani – the consummately stylish Rajmata Gayatri Devi – was particularly



An artisan carves a wood block at the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing, and (far right) Shaivyya Gupta creates new design samples at her workshop.

FYI

"No trip to Jaipur is complete without a visit to one of the city's famed gem houses, such as The Gem Palace, for a look at the exquisite artisanship of fine jewelry."

— Isla Steinberg, *Virtuoso*  
travel advisor, Toronto

passionate about reviving and championing Jaipur's block printers in the 1950s. Her legacy remains evident in the discipline's contemporary resurgence. Today, Princess Diya Kumari carries that tradition forward: The PDKF (for Princess Diya Kumari Foundation) Store, which opened inside the City Palace's hallowed walls in 2021, gives Jaipur's female artisans a chic showcase for their work.

Following in the Rajmata's footsteps, Bracken-Singh and other craft crusaders are committed to preventing block printing from dying out. Apart from her role at Anokhi, which has a six-decade history and 27 outposts across the country, she is also the cofounder and director of the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing, which she launched after years of fielding requests from the public to visit the brand's workshops. The three-year restoration of the museum's atmospheric sixteenth-century Rajput *haveli*, or mansion, garnered a UNESCO award for cultural heritage conservation.

Block-printed textiles look deceptively simple, with delicate floral motifs and geometric patterns, but each design tells a much deeper story, says Madhulika Singh Tibrewal. She founded the textile atelier Rasa Jaipur with her husband, Manish, shortly after they arrived in the city in 1998. While Rajasthan may be synonymous with the technique today, block printing takes different forms across the subcontinent, with patterns and shades shifting as you make your way from north to south. "Most traditional block designs have a context and a name, and color has played a very important role, especially with the lack of it in nature in Rajasthan, a desert state," she says.

Block printing's popularity has spread across the world as well. Brands such as the Los Angeles-based Block Shop and the UK's Molly Mahon and Pink City Prints were all inspired or bolstered by their founders' exposure to block printing in Jaipur. Kuwait-based lifestyle brand Ecrú (currently collaborating with Shaivyya Gupta) recently opened a candy-colored boutique in Jaipur.











In the Badal Mahal inside Jaipur's City Palace, women artisans are trained in traditional art forms to craft pieces for the PDKF Store (opposite).





An early adopter, Andrée Pouliot arrived in Jaipur from Ottawa in 1978 and immediately fell in love – with the city and with block printing. “I spent many days and months at the printing workshops, scouring the museums and libraries for reference,” she says. “I pestered printers for details and kept notes.” This led to the launch of the brand Soma Blockprints in 1984. The operation, which began with a lone tailor hunched over a solitary sewing machine, has grown to encompass five outlets across the country. Today, Pouliot divides her time between Canada and India.

You don’t have to be a designer to fall under block printing’s spell. Its vivid colors and intricate patterns give Indian fashion and home goods an instantly recognizable, eye-popping look that runs much more than skin deep. Visiting the workshops gives travelers a chance to connect with not only the practice, but also the people and history behind it. After all, a suitcase filled with block-printed souvenirs also carries the continuation of a beautiful tradition.

## GET TO KNOW JAIPUR

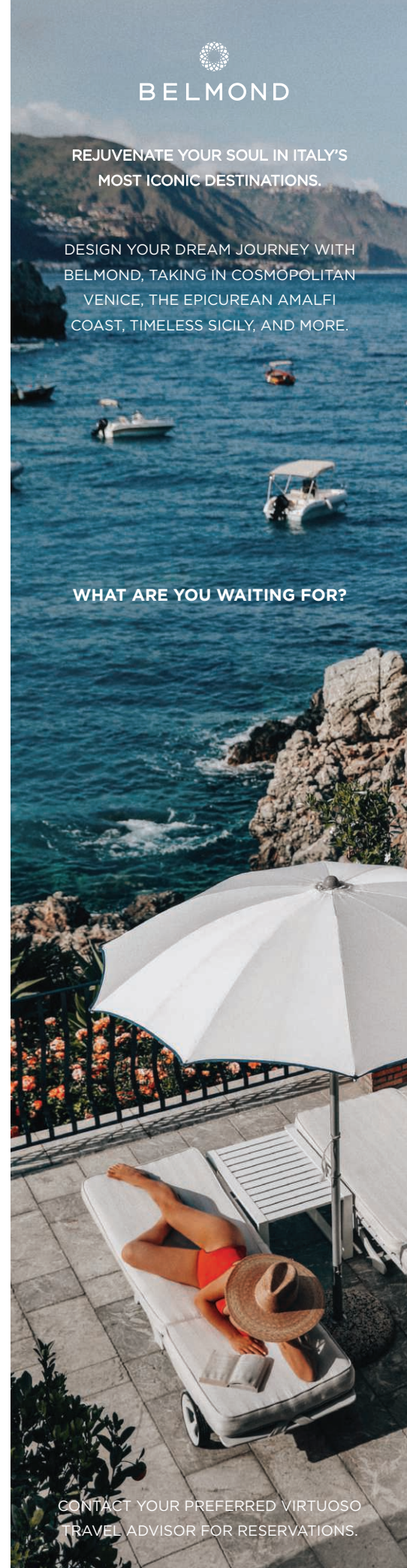
**GO** Virtuoso travel advisors can arrange for visitors to spend two weeks celebrating Indian crafts with on-site connection **Amber Tours**. Begin in Delhi, with a visit to the National Crafts Museum and meetings with private collectors in their homes, before spending four days in Jaipur exploring the city’s historic block-printing ateliers as well as its trendy contemporary shopping and nightlife scene. Then it’s on to Gujarat to discover different forms of block printing: *thappa chappai* in the city of Ahmedabad and

*ajrak* in the desert villages of Kutch. End the trip in Mumbai, the country’s financial and entertainment capital. *Departures: Any day through 2023; from \$9,693, including accommodations at hotels such as The Imperial New Delhi, Jaipur’s Taj Rambagh Palace, and The Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai.*

**STAY** Peacocks meander across the 32 manicured acres of fortlike **Oberoï Rajvilas**, where 71 rooms (including 13 tented rooms and one Royal Tent) overlook a tranquil courtyard and its fountains. *Doubles from*

*\$430, including breakfast daily and one lunch or dinner for two.*

A nineteenth-century edifice that Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II and Maharani Gayatri Devi once called home, **Taj Rambagh Palace** is now an alluring 78-room retreat. After dinner in the gilded *Suvarna Mahal* restaurant, set in an erstwhile ballroom, pop into the Polo Bar for a drink surrounded by memorabilia (polo is a popular royal pastime in Jaipur). *Doubles from \$680, including breakfast daily and one lunch or dinner for two.* 9



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# Pool Party

Summer calls for a splash of color.



***I Just Stopped By***  
Oil on panel

For Carol O'Malia, summer memories revolve around the water: Since childhood, the Massachusetts-based painter has spent annual vacations at a lakeside New Hampshire retreat. "A lot of my work is inspired by that place," she says. "Memories are recorded in time in my paintings." Her bright, dramatic works capture ephemeral moments, as fleeting as those late-August days. They're a cheerful invitation to dive into a little nostalgia. Original work available at [eisenhauergallery.com](http://eisenhauergallery.com). @carolomalialia





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