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EXPEDITIONS

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AUTHENTIC BEAUTY OF THE POLAR WORLD

Antarctica, by Steve McCurry

Steve McCurry

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Polar bear jumping on ice blocks in the Arctic

POLE TO POLE, SHIP TO SHORE

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Guests kayaking in Svalbard



A napping sea lion and waddling penguins in Antarctica

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Preflight

INSPIRATION FOR YOUR WANDERLIST

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Halifax

Raise a glass – or
a rum-based Her
Majesty's Displeasure –
to the new Queen's
Marque waterfront.



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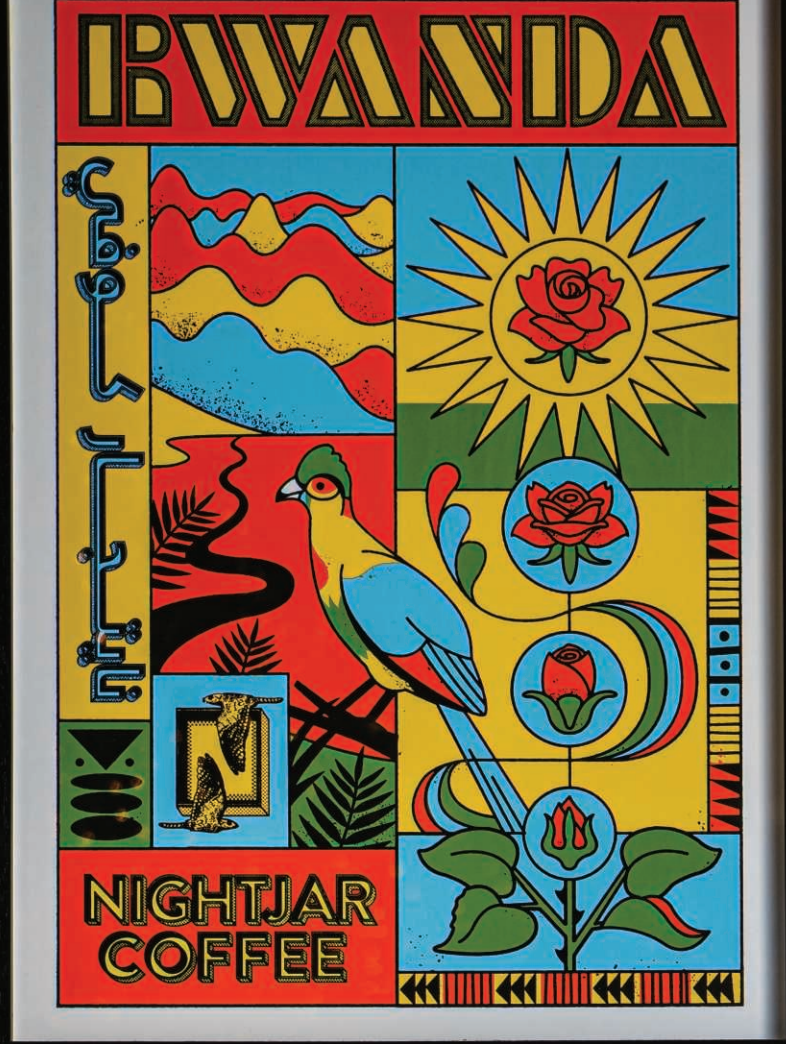
Delhi

Color us happy
about souvenir
shopping in India.

(HALIFAX) DANA DOROBANTU, (DELHI) ATUL PRATAP CHAUHAN



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Dubai

Discover the art-fueled buzz of the emirate's Al Quoz neighborhood.



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Dublin

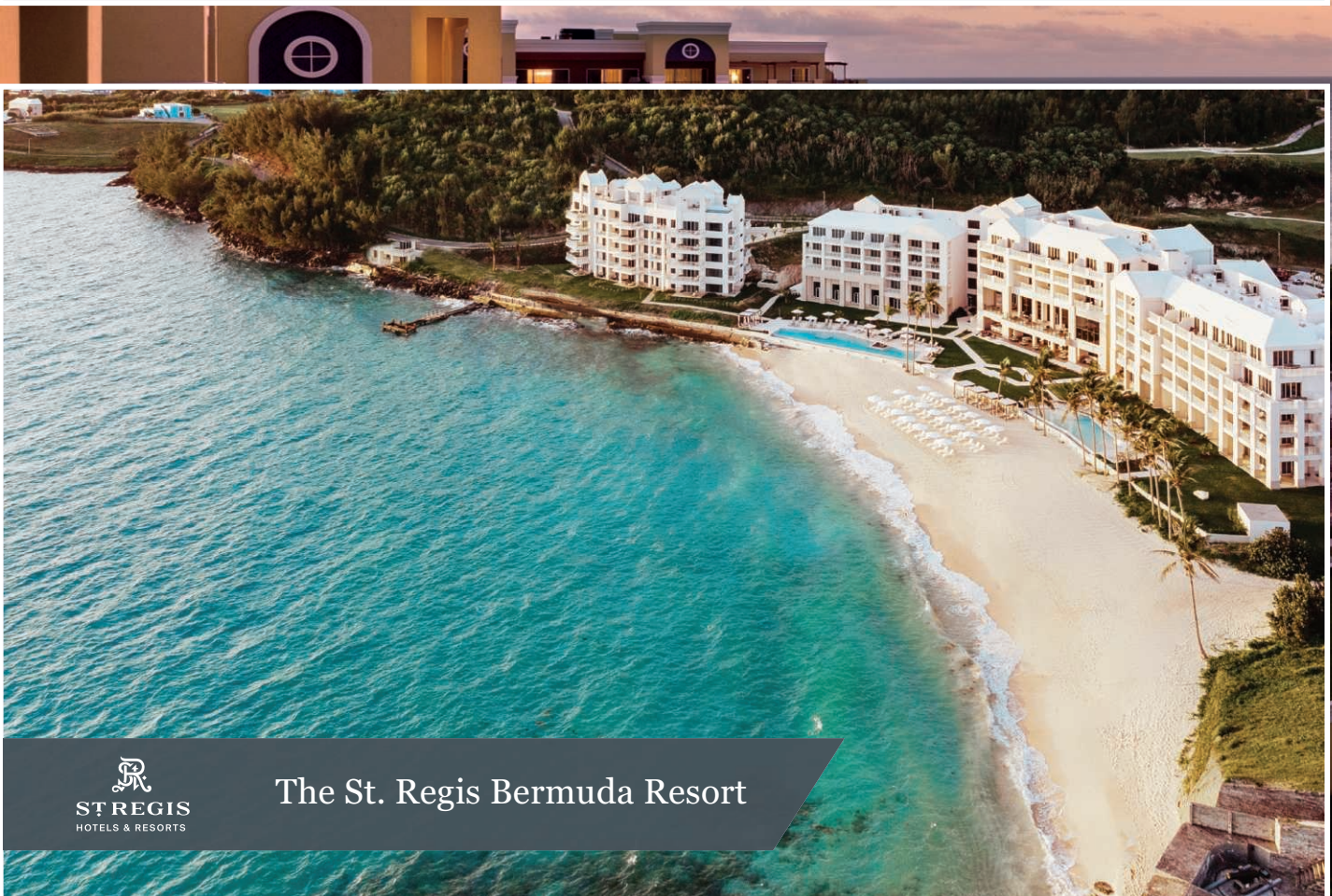
Hidden pleasures
await on the city's
unsung shoreline.





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The Ritz-Carlton, Turks & Caicos



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experiences.



THE RITZ-CARLTON

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

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ON THE COVER

Camo 27. Photography by Thandiwe Muriu.

Abercrombie & Kent

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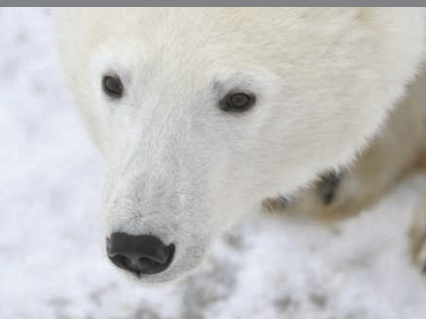
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DELANO

LAS VEGAS

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Boldly Forward

SOMETIMES EVEN A GREAT HOUSE NEEDS AN UPDATE – a chance to showcase its “good bones” in a modern way that makes it all the more inviting and livable. A great magazine is no different. So when Virtuoso’s editorial team started discussing how to reimagine this publication, we knew we would double down on our own good bones: gorgeous photography, page-turning writing, and the unmatched power of the Virtuoso travel network. And we wanted the magazine to reflect the landscape and ethos of travel today.

I’m proud to finally lift the curtain on our new look – and a new name: *Virtuoso, The Magazine*. It’s a reminder that Virtuoso is shorthand for the best in travel: the most-connected travel advisors and the world’s top hotels, tour operators, and cruise lines. We’re debuting a streamlined look and feel meant to appeal to you, today’s travelers – the curious, forward-thinking cadre of explorers who understand that seeing the world is an exciting, essential endeavor, one with beauty and discovery around every corner. I’m grateful to our supremely talented team, whose creativity made every page sing for our readers.

So, grab a spot with a view – or a pool lounger – and settle in. This issue includes an account of Lindblad Expeditions’ first-ever springtime foray into ice-bound Arctic Svalbard, a journey through Dubai’s glitz to its artistic heart, a collection of essays on travel’s power to transform us, and the showstopping work of Kenyan photographer Thandiwe Muriu, the genius behind our cover image. Whether it’s beautifully displayed on your coffee table or well thumbed on your nightstand, we want *Virtuoso* to feel inviting – and to inspire you as we move toward travel’s bright future.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marika Cain".

MARIKA CAIN
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR



What I learned this issue:

Where in-the-know Singaporeans go for late-night street food. ● That certain Dubai towers are so tall, the sun literally sets at different times on high and low floors. ● Which Brazilian city gives Rio's Carnival a run for its money. ● The French word for hangover (it translates to “wooden mouth”). ● That African elephants with especially large tusks are known as “super tuskers.”

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THE MAGAZINE

“What was
your most memorable
solo trip?”



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“Traveling to
Gascony, France,
for a weeklong pastry
course at an eighteenth-
century farmhouse.”

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“A week in Phuket,
navigating taxi
turf wars to catch
the sunset from a
tree-house bar on
the beach.”

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“Tossing a T-shirt
and toothbrush
into my purse
and arriving at
Bangkok’s Hua
Lamphong station
with no plans.”
— K.H.

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“Seeing Big Ben
and Westminster
Abbey, and roaming
London’s streets all
night during a
long layover.”

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PARK HYATT®

Sunbathing at Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa

“Tell us about a favorite adventure.”



**Photographer
Thandiwe Muriu**
Nairobi

Cover and “Kenyan Cool,”
page 144

“Thailand – it was my first time in Asia, and I had no idea what to expect. The food, the landscapes, and the culture were all beautiful beyond what I could have imagined!”

THE REPORT: “The print for the cover photo, *Camo 27*, is reminiscent of a kaleidoscope I played with in my childhood: It’s fun, bright, full of wonder, and deliciously eye-catching. The model’s intricately woven coiffure echoes the elaborate Sunday-best head wraps or weaves African women wear when they’re going to church and for special occasions and events.”

@Thandiwe_Muriu



**Photographer
Kevin J. Miyazaki**
Milwaukee

“Icebreaker,” page 152

“As someone drawn to water – but more often to being on it, rather than in it – snorkeling across the equator in Indonesia’s Raja Ampat archipelago was an experience I’ll never forget.”

THE REPORT: “Each time I walked onto the foredeck of *National Geographic Resolution*, the view was vastly different. The cold air would hit me, along with a new and breathtaking landscape. As a photographer, you can’t ask for anything better.”

@_plate



**Photographers
Katherine and Mariel Tyler,
aka The Tyler Twins**
New York City

The Virtuoso Life, page 66

“One of our most memorable adventures was riding motorcycles through the favelas of Rio.” – *Katherine*

THE REPORT: “The Sabah shoot was extra special to us because Mariel has her master’s in footwear design! We believe that shoes can make or break an outfit, and we appreciate that Sabah shoes’ care and craftsmanship extend into every store detail. We both left the shoot with a new pair – gifts from our new friend.”

@thetylertwins



**Writer and Photographer
Chris Schalkx**
Bangkok

“Small and Mighty,” page 72,
and “Flash Forward,” page 164

“A trip around northern Thailand’s remote corners. I’d visited the area for a decade and thought I knew it. But after cooking with hill tribes in the jungle and traversing lands bordering Myanmar by motorbike, I realized I’d only scratched the surface.”

THE REPORT: “I came to Dubai with the usual preconception that it’s flashy and over-the-top – which, of course, it is. But after I met the filmmakers, tailors, and ceramists around the Al Quoz area, my image of the city completely shifted: Who knew that this fast-moving metropolis was home to such a flourishing creative community?”

@chrsschlxx

Learn about Shamwari's groundbreaking work with wildlife
on African Travel's South Africa's Natural Wonders



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SPOTLIGHT ON: MICATO SAFARIS

WANDERLUST AND WILDLIFE

From hot-air balloon rides to encounters with gorillas, these experiences from Micato Safaris will have you dreaming of an African adventure.

Get a Bird's-Eye View

The continent's landscapes exude new beauty from above: A **private helicopter ride** reveals Africa's vast savannas, massive lakes, and towering mountains – feel the mist from thundering Victoria Falls as you hover overhead. For a quieter but just as exhilarating airborne experience, climb into a hot-air balloon to spy on elephants and giraffes as they meander through the endless plains of the Serengeti and Maasai Mara.

Unpack in Style

Imagine having 50,000 acres of wildlife conservancy to yourself (shared with your animal neighbors, of course). Micato's lodging options across southern and East Africa range from villas and **manor houses** to luxe campsites near national park reserves. Watch the sunrise from an open-air "nest" in Kenya or spread out in private residences, perfect for multigenerational travel, in Botswana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and more.

Spot a Silverback

A small group trek through Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda brings travelers face-to-face with **mountain gorillas**. Once on the brink of extinction, these gentle giants have made a successful comeback, thanks to the combined conservation efforts of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, the Rwandan government, and the country's citizens. This highly coveted activity is limited to uphold that protection: Only a dozen gorilla families live in the park, and no more than eight people may visit any given family each day.

Take to the Waters

Ditching the four-wheel drive for a different kind of wildlife-viewing adventure can provide a fresh and exciting perspective. Hop in a **mokoro** (a traditional canoe made from hollowed-out tree trunks or fiberglass) to spot hippos, crocodiles, and birds in Botswana's Okavango Delta or Chobe National Park. In South Africa, snap photos of penguins diving for their lunch during a kayak safari tour near Cape Town.

Run with Bloodhounds

Using more than 300 million scent receptors, a bloodhound's sense of smell is so accurate that its findings can be used in a U.S. court of law. In Kenya, these perceptive pups help protect endangered animals from the threat of poachers. Witness these skills in action on a Loisaba Conservancy visit with an **anti-poaching unit** or arrange a playful game of hide-and-seek with their handlers to see if you can escape the hounds' 95 percent seeker success rate.



Gorilla-trekking in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park.

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PHOTO: ZORAN JELAČA



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PLACES
TRENDS
CULTURE
STYLE



Milford Sound on New Zealand's South Island.

Destination: Dream Trip

This is the kind of time travel we believe in: Go to sleep in NYC; wake up in New Zealand two mornings later.

It's now possible, as **Air New Zealand** debuts its new route between JFK and Auckland in September. The 17-hour long haul – the first nonstop flight to New Zealand from the U.S. East Coast – departs three times per week, coinciding nicely with the country's removal of some of its strict Covid travel restrictions earlier this year. We're more than ready for some Technicolor-green hills, black-sand beaches, and crisp sauvignon blanc. The jet lag? Nothing a little Middle-earth landscape can't cure. – Amy Cassell



Snack Attack

Proof that acclaimed meals aren't always served on white tablecloths: Asheville, North Carolina's **Chai Pani**, winner of this year's Outstanding Restaurant award from the James Beard Foundation. The colorful restaurant – its name, which means “tea and water,” is a nod to the Indian tradition of snacking over tea – specializes in savory, street-food-style bites known as *chaat*. Expect plates of okra fries, chicken pakoras, and *bhel puri* (a crispy noodle and puffed rice dish with chutney) from chef Meherwan Irani, who immigrated to the U.S. from Maharashtra and opened Chai Pani more than a decade ago to showcase the underrepresented traditions and foods of his childhood.

– Elaine Glusac

Clockwise from top left: A proper Chai Pani *chaat* spread and boozy accompaniment, happy snackers, and chef Meherwan Irani.

THREE MORE GLOBAL RESTAURANTS WHERE STREET FOOD SHINES

● Stop into one of London's six **Bao** locations for pillowy-soft steamed buns, crispy noodle chips, and crowd-pleasing Taiwanese chicken wings.

● **Clyde's Caribbean** in Miami makes a mean Trinidadian bake sandwich: mahi-mahi, shrimp, chicken, or chickpeas in fried bread with house sauces.

● At San Diego's **White Rice**, chef Phillip Esteban pays homage to his Filipino childhood in garlic rice bowls called *silog*, topped with egg and one of many meat or veggie options.

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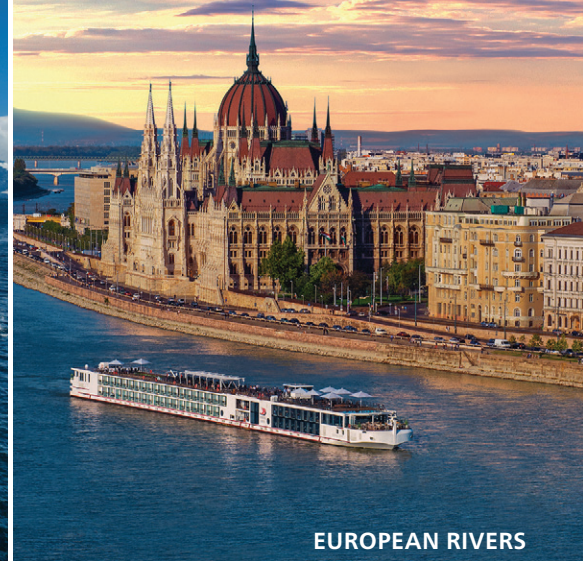




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Trailing Vines

There's more to winetasting in Sonoma Valley than what's in your glass.

Sonoma County has made a name for itself as a wine region for nature lovers, with more than 1,500 square miles of wilderness and 50-plus miles of rugged coastline. We've rounded up winemakers who are leaning into the setting, pairing tastings with outdoor activities and tours that highlight their connection with the surroundings.



Pedaling through the vineyards at Montage Healdsburg.



Just add wine: A tasting at Medlock Ames.

- **Medlock Ames** recently launched a self-guided audio tour that explores the sounds, sights, and organic farming practices across its 340-acre Bell Mountain Ranch outside Healdsburg, followed by a guided tasting of six current-release wines, paired with local organic cheeses.
- Wildflowers, redwoods, and vineyards greet visitors at **Bartholomew Estate Winery**, where three miles of dog-friendly trails, ranging from moderate to difficult, wind through the property's historic 375-acre park. For a more easygoing stroll, follow the paths through the vineyards and estate gardens.
- Near Sebastopol, **Red Car Wine** takes visitors on forest-bathing excursions with a guided meditation walk through nearby redwood groves and vineyards before a tasting paired with cheeses.
- **Kunde Family Winery's** Dog Hike invites visitors and their pups to explore the sprawling 1,850-acre, sustainably farmed estate with fifth-generation winegrower Jordan Kunde. The four-hour trek over moderately hilly terrain begins October 8 – call ahead for dates.
- Take a self-guided 1.2-mile walk through the Wild Oak Estate Vineyard at **St. Francis Winery & Vineyards** and sip wine made from the surrounding vines. Information at points along the way provides a grower's perspective on the winery's 100 percent sustainable production.
- Trails at **Montage Healdsburg** lead through the resort's 15 acres of vineyards and oak groves, and organic honey from its on-site apiary turns up in restaurant dishes and cocktails. *Doubles from \$1,345, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.* – Katie Kelly Bell



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Person of Interest: Lise Legrand

Champagne Concierge

Lise Legrand helps guests at the **Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa** in Champillon, France, uncork the best of the Champagne region through hot-air ballooning above grand cru estates, exclusive tastings, and even proposals among the grapevines.

Best advice for first-time visitors:

Everyone knows Moët & Chandon and Dom Pérignon, but there's a lot to discover with small producers who really love their jobs. I recommend that guests visit two houses per day, since visits usually take about two hours.

Estimated Champagne makers in the region: A lot! We have 16,000 growers and 320 houses.

Faux pas to avoid: Don't wear perfume for tastings at Champagne houses, and never take a sip before everyone is served – or before toasting (*santé!*).

Besides Champagne, make sure to try: Reims' pink biscuits, called *biscuits roses*. My grandparents used to dip them in their Champagne.

Favorite day-off activity: Walking in the vineyards. They aren't private – you can walk through them, just like a forest.

Fun fact about harvest season: Trucks are full of grapes, and the roads get very sticky with grape juice.

If not Champagne, what's in your glass? I love ratafia, a sweet liqueur made with Champagne grapes. Be careful: More than one can give you a hangover.

... which in French is: *Gueule de bois*, which translates roughly to "wooden mouth."

What's this about an in-room "Champagne Please!" call button?

Press it at any hour, and within minutes a server will be at your door with three cuvées for you to choose from.

Doubles from \$850, including breakfast daily and a Champagne-and-cheese tasting for two.

– Blane Bachelor



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Doha's new 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum.

World Cup of Culture

Doha seems bent on making sure spectators have plenty to admire, on and off the pitch, during the FIFA World Cup Qatar, which kicks off in November. The new **3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum** features interactive exhibits on the history of sports dating back to the eighth century BC, the growth of the Olympic Games, and 90 global stars and traditional Qatari sports – including falconry, pearl diving, and camel racing. The 204,000-square-foot space is built into the side of Khalifa International Stadium, a host site for matches, and includes a restaurant from UK-based, Michelin-starred chef Tom Aikens. Elsewhere across Qatar's capital city, more than 40 major works from celebrated artists such as Katharina Fritsch and Olafur Eliasson are being installed at the airport and in parks, shopping centers, and railway stations. Doha is already one of the Middle East's biggest cultural hubs, home to public sculptures by Richard Serra and Louise Bourgeois and the landmark Jean Nouvel-designed National Museum of Qatar. – *E.G.*



But wait, there's more: The Katara Towers in the Lusail district – designed to look like Qatar's national seal – are home to the new 132-room **Raffles Doha** and the 362-room **Fairmont Doha**.

Samaritaine: *the new Parisian experience*

Having re-opened in June 2021 following major refurbishments, Samaritaine had nonetheless been a rendezvous for Paris's shoppers from as early as 1870 and is once again the epicenter of the French capital.



*At Samaritaine,
seamless tax refund is
available for
UK residents*



Situated in the most exclusive enclave of Paris, Samaritaine acts as a 20,000m² vessel for more than 600 brands, including the largest beauty department in Europe. The giant treasure trove embodies and reflects the best of *L'Art de Vivre à la Française* while breaking down barriers. Welcome to a new way of disinhibited shopping, where mismatching is encouraged.

With the demand for new shopping experiences the rejuvenated Samaritaine intends to surprise with a trailblazing formula for those who seek exclusive merchandise and services. Fancy a scrumptious pastry while browsing for the latest accessories?

Having a haircut and a spa in the middle of your shopping? Your wish is Samaritaine's command.

On the fashion side, this hub of creativity offers a chance to connect with brands via pop-ups of exclusive products and limited editions. This just mirrors the architectural duality described earlier.

When it comes to tax refund for non-European Union residents, Samaritaine is also a game changer! No more hour-long line in a

hidden corner of the store to have your tax refund. You can simply ask any Samaritaine's staff member to do it in one of the multiple cash registers in the store. And if you prefer to do it yourself, a dedicated space is available at the beauty floor. Getting cash back while doing your shopping has never been so easy!

And when you think that you have seen it all, here comes the best-kept secret: The store offers many possibilities of bespoke luxury services like Personal Stylists and private historical visits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU CAN VISIT

www.dfs.com/fr/samaritaine/service/listing

Crowning Achievement

Milliner Gigi Burris O'Hara – who crafts her distinctly modern hats using a centuries-old technique she learned while studying fashion in Paris – shares her foolproof method for how to pack a hat.



1.

Roll clothing and place it around the inside perimeter of a hard-sided suitcase. Once you've packed around the sides, start to fill clothing inward, leaving a doughnut-shaped hole in the center of the suitcase.

2.

Fill the hole with your hat, crown side down.

3.

Place soft items such as bathing suits, pajamas, and T-shirts inside the hat's crown to hold its shape.

4.

Place items that can't be rolled (dresses, tailored jackets, etc.) flat on top of the filled-doughnut packing layer. This top layer keeps your hat from moving around in transit.

5.

Pack heavy items, such as toiletry kits, toward the bottom (wheel end) of the suitcase to avoid crushing your hat.

6.

If you're traveling without a hard suitcase, simply wear your hat on the plane. It will start your trip off on a festive note.

Astrid Panama straw hat, \$410, gigiburris.com



THE WONDERS OF

OKINAWA

THREE REASONS WHY OKINAWA SHOULD BE YOUR NEXT VACATION DESTINATION.

Far south from the bustle of Japan's main islands lies subtropical Okinawa, a group of over 160 islands ringed by cerulean waters, white sandy beaches, lush landscapes, and wondrous natural beauty.

STUNNING NATURAL BEAUTY

Swaths of pristine sand, glass-like surf, and colorful marine life make Okinawa's breathtaking beaches ideal for whiling away your days. Many of the best beaches are a quick flight or ferry ride from the main island of Okinawa, such as Futamigaura Beach, featuring a painted blue seascape crowned by panoramic mountain vistas, and Kabira Bay on Ishigaki Island, bordered by tropical rainforests. Sea life thrives here as well. Thanks to warm crystal waters, diverse sea life, and some 200 different coral species, Okinawa is one of the best diving destinations in the world. Uncover nature at its best when you visit Iriomote Island. Nearly shrouded entirely in jungle, this outdoor lover's paradise is the last unexplored region of Japan, and home to unique animals like the Iriomote wild cat. Here you can experience nature's bounty by jungle trekking or canoing through one of Japan's largest mangrove forests.



LOCAL CUISINE

With its amalgamation of Ryukyu, Chinese, Japanese, Southeast Asian, and American cultures, Okinawa's cuisine is a diverse melting pot that vastly differs from mainland Japan. Okinawan people are said to have one of the longest life expectancies in the world, and in particular, because of their diet. Traditional dishes include Goya Chanpuru, a stir-fry made with goya, a bitter vitamin C and fiber-rich melon known for its rejuvenating properties. Once only served to royalty, Rafute is a local pork dish simmered in Awamori, an Okinawan liquor, along with brown sugar and soy sauce. The liquor makes the meat so tender it can be sliced with chopsticks. For dessert, Okinawan raw sugar, a mineral-infused brown sugar with a rich molasses flavor, is eaten like candy.

WORLD CLASS RESORTS

Okinawa offers a variety of hotels from luxury resorts to quaint cottage-style hideaways, in breathtaking locations, such as adjacent to white sand beaches and emerald seas, or amidst tropical forests. Looking for a world-class, indulgent escape? Here you can experience five-star resorts in oasis-like settings, offering exquisitely-appointed, elegant rooms and suites, numerous dining options, championship golf courses, and tranquil spas. Prefer a more authentic-style experience? Some resorts offer accommodations inspired from traditional architecture cues such as the red-tiled roofs and stone walls the island is known for, as well as south-facing, floor-to-ceiling windows designed to let in the gentle southern winds.

COME EXPERIENCE THE PRISTINE, REJUVINATING AND EXHILERATING WONDERS OF OKINAWA

Please visit www.japan.travel/en/us to learn more about all that awaits you in Japan's tropical paradise of Okinawa.



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GETTING THERE

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Pretty Organized

I'm all for spontaneity once I get to a new destination, but when it comes to trip prep, my routine is sacred. No packing commences without a checklist, and no suitcase closes until the packing cubes fit together like a puzzle, which is why I'm in love with these travel cases from **Cuyana**. The Italian leather accessories make organizing jewelry, headbands, and toiletries a breeze (each case has interior dividers and pockets), and they look gorgeous lined up on your hotel bathroom's marble counter. My mantra: An organized traveler is a happy traveler. (And yes, if you're wondering, I always get to the airport two hours early.) *From \$88, [cuyana.com](https://www.cuyana.com). – A.C.*



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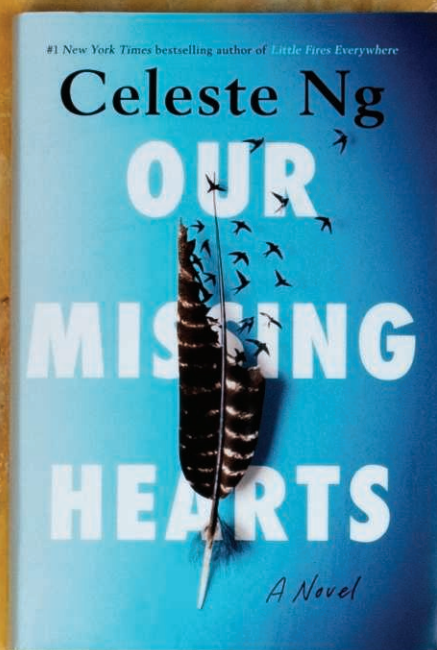
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Carry-On Companions

OUR MISSING HEARTS

BY CELESTE NG (*Penguin Press*)

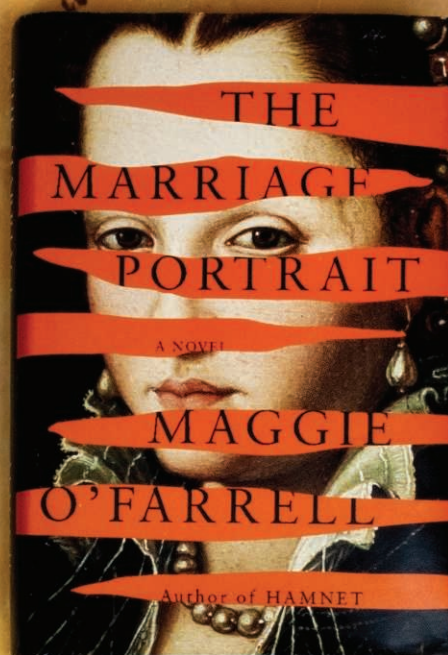
In a future American dystopia, the PACT (Preserving American Culture and Traditions) targets BIPOC people, but especially anyone who appears Asian; children of accused dissidents are regularly taken from their parents to be raised by white people. Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives with his father, Ethan, who works as a librarian at Harvard University, after Bird's Chinese American mother, Margaret Miu, left to join the resistance. When Bird receives a letter that contains a drawing of cats, he embarks on a quest to find his mother and heads to a place he knows might be helpful, his local library, to search for a folktale about cats she used to tell him. As Bird journeys to find his mother, he's aided by an unusual deus ex machina – Margaret's friend, Domi. Ng's latest is a timely novel about what happens when a country allows racist fear to shape its future.



THE MARRIAGE PORTRAIT

BY MAGGIE O'FARRELL (*Knopf*)

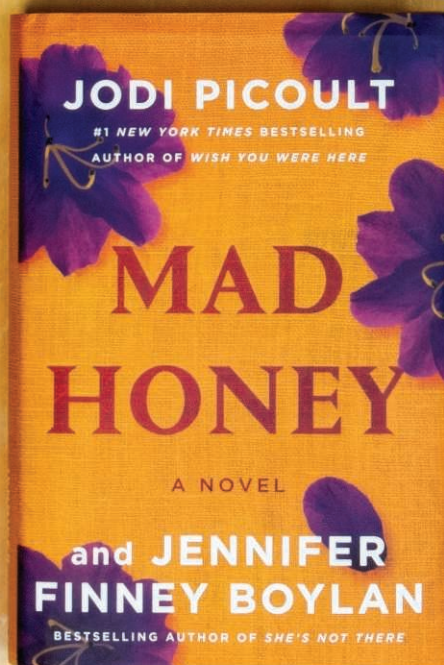
The author of the acclaimed *Hamnet* turns her blazing talent to a reimagining of the story of Lucrezia de' Medici and the rich, ruthless Italian Renaissance Ferrarese court into which she marries.



MAD HONEY

BY JODI PICOULT AND JENNIFER FINNEY BOYLAN (*Ballantine Books*)

Teenaged Lily turns up dead, and her killer has a secret no one has ever guessed. Two powerhouse authors team up for the first time in a novel about two mothers and two children and what happens when we take risks to become our truest selves.

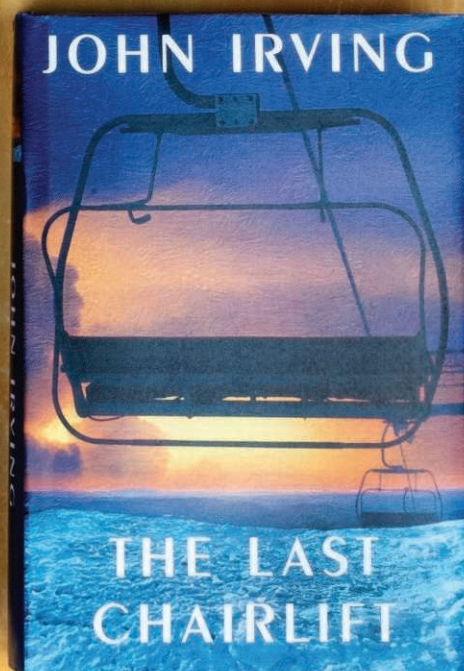


THE LAST CHAIRLIFT

BY JOHN IRVING (*Simon & Schuster*)

When Rachel "Little Ray" Brewster gives up the national slalom circuit to raise her son, Adam, while working as a ski instructor in New England, she sets in motion a mystery. Decades later, Adam needs to solve it in Aspen at the Hotel Jerome, where he was conceived.

– Bethanne Patrick



A wide-angle photograph of a luxurious resort pool. The pool is a large, irregular shape with dark blue water, surrounded by a dark, curved deck. In the background, there's a thatched hut with a large arched opening, and a small island with a tree and lounge chairs. The ocean and a clear blue sky are visible in the distance. Modern white buildings are on the left and right sides of the pool.

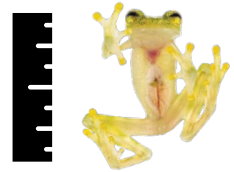
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Rain-Forest Finds

Natural wonders never cease in Ecuador's Mashpi Rainforest Biodiversity Reserve, home to the 24-room **Mashpi Lodge**. Since the lodge-cum-research lab's 2012 opening, resident naturalists have discovered ten species new to science, including their latest find, the translucent, two-centimeter-long Mashpi glass frog. Other coups range from newly discovered orchid and magnolia species to two edible varieties of mushrooms that have made their way into dishes at the lodge's restaurant. "Our ultimate hope with the mushrooms is to train locals how to sustainably cultivate them in greenhouses," says Mashpi's research and biology director, Mateo Roldán. "Then we can buy this product directly from them." *Doubles from \$1,408, including round-trip transfers from Quito hotels, all meals, and guided reserve treks.* — Joel Centano



Yes, this is the Mashpi glass frog's actual size.



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As You Like It

Irish-whiskey appreciation with a twist.

The idea of drinking fine whiskey may invoke visions of period drama characters taking nose-hair-searing sips while their trusty wolfhounds lie nearby, but Ireland's **Adare Manor** thinks outside the barrel. The staff at the 104-room countryside estate believe whiskey is meant to be enjoyed however you want it, which is why mixed drinks sit comfortably beside rare vintages on the menu at the candlelit Tack Room bar. The Woodland Willow, pictured here, is a blend of whiskey, vermouth, port, and Bénédictine that tastes like a pleasant mash-up between an old-fashioned and a Manhattan. Many of the drink's ingredients peaked in popularity in the nineteenth century, but avant-garde glassware from Jakobsen Design and a bar team willing to experiment place the cocktail firmly in trending-now territory. "This drink is about fun," says Adare barman and whiskey ambassador Tommie Doyle. "I didn't bat an eye when someone asked for an Irish coffee with a \$7,000 pour of whiskey – everyone enjoys whiskey differently, and our job is to help them explore." *Doubles from \$1,166, including breakfast daily and one afternoon tea for two.* – Emma Franke



This drink is for sipping, not smoking.

Saudi: So Much More Than You Can Imagine

Saudi Arabia is one of the world's most exciting travel and tourism destinations. Cultural explorers, dedicated travelers, and adventure seekers are attracted to its sweeping deserts, rugged mountains, crystal seas, lush valleys, and thriving modern cities. Visitors from around the world are enthralled by the unexpected diversity of the available experiences, including six iconic UNESCO World Heritage sites and 10,000 archaeological points of interest. There has never been a better time to explore all that this country has to offer.

Read on to discover three of Saudi's top destinations. Your Virtuoso travel advisor can add them to your itinerary with short in-country flights with Saudia Airlines.

Saudia
Welcome
to Arabia



Nabataean tombs
of Hegra.



Saudi Arabia
stargazing.



The Maraya concert
hall in AlUla.

Experience AlUla

In Hegra, Saudi's first UNESCO World Heritage site, visitors can experience ancient tombs that remain from 7,000 years of human civilization, plus stunning natural rock formations and canyons, a plethora of adventure sports options, and cutting-edge art installations.

See the Wonders of Hegra

You can explore over 110 remarkably well-preserved tombs set in Hegra's desert landscape, while learning about the ancient people and culture of AlUla. Along with the wondrous tombs, where the Nabataean elite were laid to rest, you'll see wells and stone-lined water channels demonstrating the civilization's expert craftsmanship.

Spend an Evening Stargazing

AlUla is an ideal locale for stargazing. Far from city lights, the vast open space of the remote desert creates some of the world's most enviable dark skies. You can experience the enchantment on a stargazing tour led by local experts.

Discover Maraya, AlUla

More than just an impressive art installation, Maraya is the largest mirrored building in the world and the setting for concerts, theater, exhibitions, and cultural events. You can visit this inspiring building and enjoy the captivating desert views along with delectable cuisine. Located on Maraya's rooftop, Maraya Social is beloved British chef Jason Atherton's newest restaurant and offers dishes made from locally sourced ingredients.

Uncover Jeddah and the Red Sea

Saudi Arabia's oldest city is Jeddah, a lively, cosmopolitan center that is home to historic architecture, pristine beaches, and world-class cuisine. The city's heart is intact in Al Balad – the magical historic quarter – and the Red Sea is central to it all.

Dive and Snorkel the Red Sea

The pristine world that lies beneath the surface of Saudi Arabia's Red Sea is a rarely experienced wonder in diving. Home to more than 1,200 species of fish (20 percent of which are found only in the Red Sea), Saudi offers a variety of exciting and undiscovered diving destinations for adventurous travelers.

Explore Umluj and its Islands

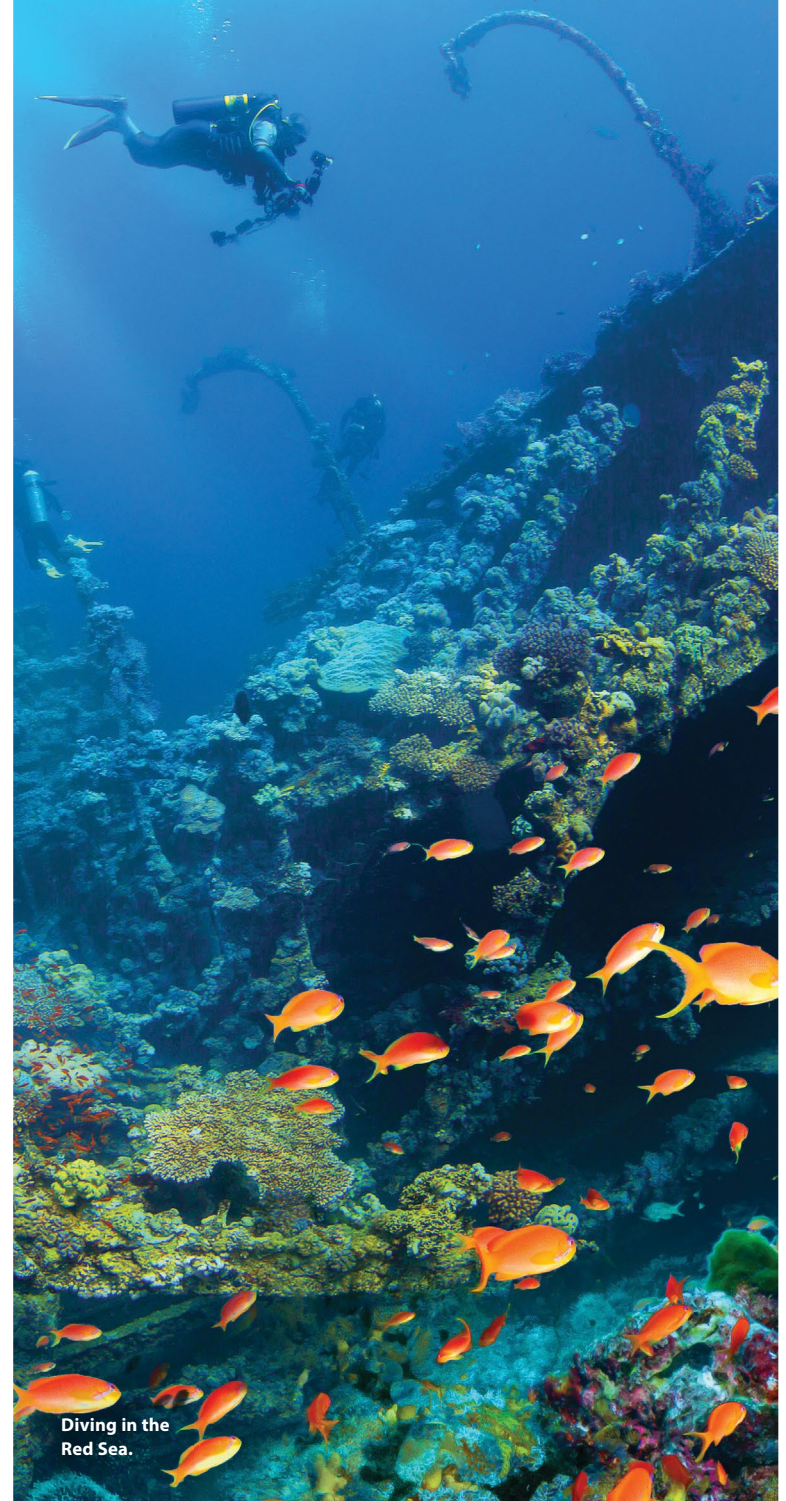
Saudi is host to spectacular and largely unexplored beach destinations. Umluj is a small coastal town where you'll find trees swaying in the breeze, golden stretches of sand, and tranquil blue waters. To the north, travelers can explore more than 100 small islands that are known as the "Maldives of Saudi Arabia" and offer egg-white sands and ancient palm trees.

Tour Historic Al Balad

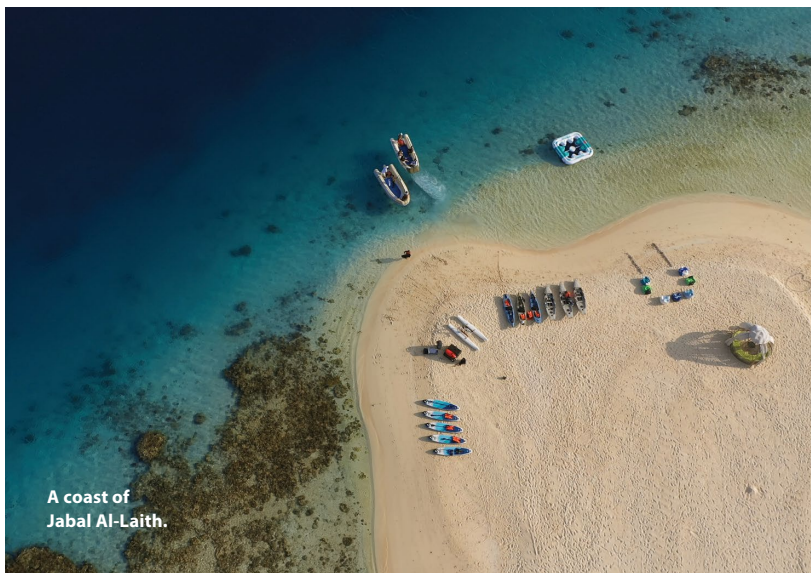
Known as Historical Old Jeddah, Al Balad is a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its intricately designed houses that were built using coral from the depths of the Red Sea and feature colorful enclosed *rawasheen* balconies. This unique architecture is not seen anywhere else in the world and serves as a reminder of what the medieval city's ancient walls once looked like. Some buildings are estimated to be 400 years old, and Al Balad itself may precede Islam.

Experiencing Saudi Arabia is easier than you think!

Ask your Virtuoso travel advisor about online visa applications that only take a few minutes to complete. Your once-in-a-lifetime trip is waiting.



Diving in the Red Sea.



A coast of Jabal Al-Laith.



Historic Jeddah Al Balad.

Delve into Riyadh's Extraordinary Diversity

Riyadh offers visitors the chance to trace Arabia's earliest roots and envision its bold future. Past and present meet when you tour compelling museums, sample dishes made with generations-old recipes, and take in glittering hi-rises alongside ancient architecture.

Savor Najdi Cuisine

Influenced by the region's topography and desert climates, Najdi cuisine is hearty and wholesome. Family recipes for rich stews, wheat, and rice dishes paired with fragrant spices have been passed down through the generations. Meals involve lengthy preparation, but this labor of love is certainly worth the wait.

Explore At-Turaif

Diriyah's historic center is the UNESCO-listed archaeological site in At-Turaif, which was founded in the fifteenth century. It is the original seat of power of Saudi Arabia's Al Saud family and contains the ruins of mud-brick houses connected by narrow alleyways, as well as numerous museums and other intriguing spaces.

Journey to the Edge of the World

Located about a 90-minute drive outside Riyadh, Jebel Fihrayn (known as "The Edge of the World") forms part of the vast Tuwaiq Escarpment which stretches more than 600 kilometers through central Saudi. Arrived at by traversing winding desert trails that run along a Tuwaiq ridge, this spectacular spot offers uninterrupted views across the valley floor and to the horizon.

Ready to go? Direct flights to Riyadh and Jeddah are available from New York, Washington, D.C., and Chicago on Saudia Airlines. Your Virtuoso travel advisor can handle the details.



Nadj Village, an authentic Saudi restaurant.



At-Turaif District in Diriyah.



The Edge of the World.

SPOTLIGHT ON: PONANT

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Cruise through the Arctic and to the North Pole in eco-friendly style on Ponant's luxe new icebreaker.



From top: Travel in Indigenous style, visit pristine landscapes, and set foot on Arctic soil (or snow), from *Le Commandant Charcot*.

PONANT'S NEWEST SHIP, *Le Commandant Charcot*, takes its name from French explorer and polar scientist Jean-Baptiste Charcot – fitting, given the vessel's ambitious itineraries and sustainable pedigree. The 245-passenger expedition ship splits its time between the Arctic and Antarctica, whisking travelers to some of the most hard-to-reach corners of the globe.

Northern Exposure

Le Commandant Charcot spends every spring and summer in the Arctic, bouncing between 15- to 17-night trips through the **Arctic Circle** and 10- to 18-night jaunts around Greenland, Norway, Canada, and Iceland. Travelers fly into Longyearbyen, the capital of Norway's Svalbard archipelago (roughly 650 miles north of mainland Scandinavia), before setting out to carve through Arctic ice floes on the way to Earth's northern axis. The ship's ice-breaking capabilities give cruisers access to areas many other vessels can't reach, such as Greenland's remote northeastern shores, inhabited by Inuit communities.

Comfort with a Conscience

There's no roughing it on board: Interior windows, a glass-paneled rear bridge, and a shipwide promenade deck keep passengers' eyes focused squarely on the natural surroundings. The *Veuve Clicquot* flows freely at the Inneq (Inuit for "fire") terrace bar and in the fine-dining Nuna (meaning "earth") restaurant by Alain Ducasse, while an onboard pastry chef creates desserts rivaling any Parisian patisserie – this is a French ship, after all. In another luxury cruising first, *Le Commandant Charcot's* **hybrid-electric combo** of battery power and liquified natural gas keeps the air cleaner and the ship's movements quieter for aquatic life. Recycled energy from the ship's propulsion heats outdoor benches, and eco-friendly alternatives have replaced single-use plastics throughout.

Super-Cool Excursions

You won't get these experiences at lower latitudes: Mush with Indigenous residents on dogsleds in Greenland, don a dry suit for the ultimate **Arctic polar plunge**, and learn to fish off an ice floe with a naturalist's guidance. Spend some quiet time on deck looking for whales amid glacier-dominated landscapes; for more adventure, zip across icy waters in a Zodiac to go snowshoeing ashore. Passengers can visit *Le Commandant Charcot's* research laboratories to assist with glaciology, oceanography, marine biology, climatology, and social sciences projects, helping protect these delicate regions for future travelers.



Hidden Caribbean

Trade jewelry hawkers and piña coladas for quiet coves and fierce rum punch at these less-touristed outposts.

● MONTSERRAT

The local tourist board once advertised bucolic Montserrat as “the way the Caribbean used to be,” celebrating a quiet lifestyle that lured expats to build villas and The Police and Paul McCartney, among others, to record here. In 1995, the long-dormant Soufrière Hills volcano rumbled awake, burying the former capital and rendering the southern half of the island uninhabitable for years to come. Cruisers can explore this modern-day Pompeii on guided

tours from **Windstar Cruises'** newly refurbished and expanded 312-passenger *Star Pride*, which visits the Volcano Isle on a seven-night voyage round-trip from San Juan. *Departures: Multiple dates, November 19, 2022, through March 11, 2023; from \$3,199.*

● VIRGIN GORDA

The British Virgin Islands represent the archetypal Caribbean archipelago, with 50-plus isles that offer unparalleled yachting. With just 4,000 residents,

From left: Montserrat's Soufrière Hills volcano, baby turtles at Old Hegg, and The Baths on Virgin Gorda.

Virgin Gorda has the chain's trademark white-sand coves and snorkeling, plus an iconic scene-stealer: The Baths, a jumble of giant boulders lumped along the sand. Follow the vague path leading between them to a heavenly cove called, ironically, Devil's Bay. **Star Clippers'** classic four-masted sailing ship, the 166-passenger *Star Flyer*, calls on Virgin Gorda during a seven-night sailing round-trip from Sint-Maarten. *Departures: Multiple dates, December 3, 2022, through March 11, 2023; from \$2,360.*

● BEQUIA

The largest of the Grenadines unfurls off the end of Saint Vincent like the tassel

on a kite and delivers a potent shot of charisma. Bequia (pronounced *beck-wee*) stretches just seven square miles, but it packs in the best of this idyllic island chain. Take in the turtle sanctuary at Old Hegg, or simply find your way to one of several resplendent beaches. Two recommendations: Hire a dinghy or hike about a mile to reach Princess Margaret Beach, named for the royal visitor, or taxi to Lower Bay Beach, guarded by a friendly cat named Laptop. Explore Bequia on a ten-night cruise round-trip from Barbados aboard **Silversea's** new 596-passenger *Silver Dawn*. *Departures: February 8 and March 13, 2023; from \$5,600.*



Cruising

● TERRE-DE-HAUT, LES SAINTES

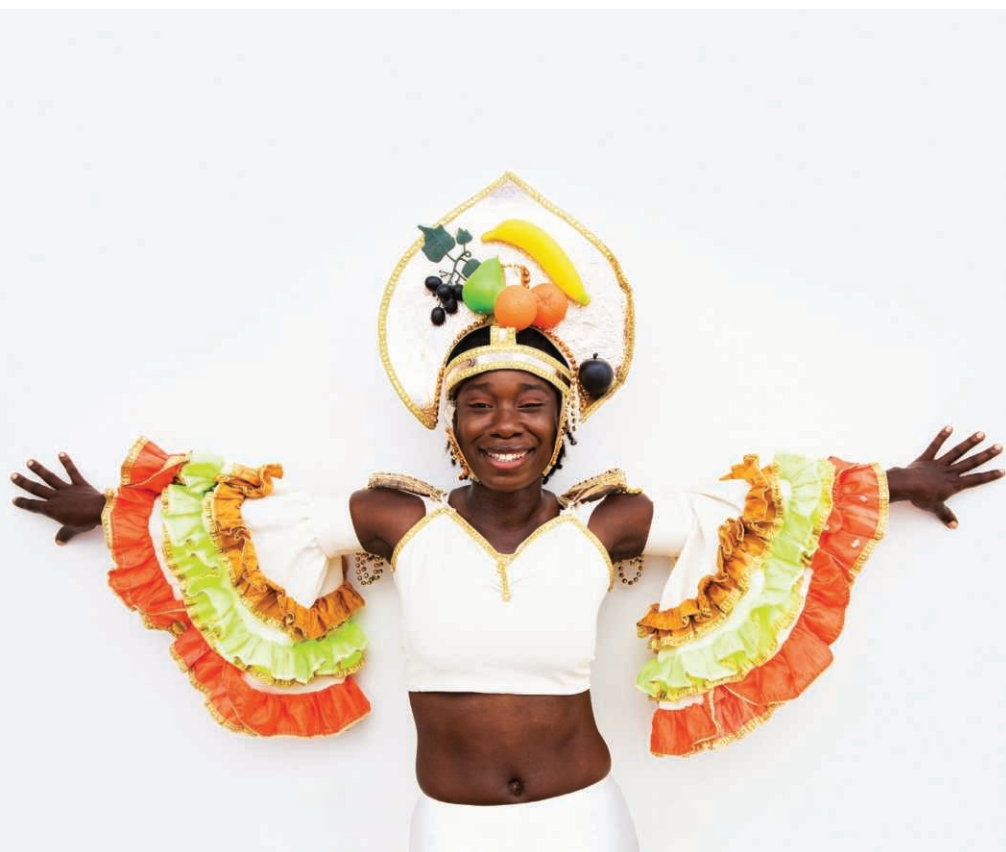
The diminutive Îles des Saintes are an eight-blip cluster of lanky French beauties lolling off Guadeloupe's southern coast. Most are uninhabited, but Terre-de-Haut – laced with protected coves and riven by motorbikes buzzing in and out of the port – comes alive each morning with the arrival of the ferry from Guadeloupe. Boutiques, cafés, and gingerbread-style houses surround the dock, while women sell *tourment d'amour*, delicious salty-sweet coconut tarts that will fortify you on a hike to Fort Napoléon, looming on the bluff above. Terre-de-Haut is reminiscent of Saint Bart's before Rothschild and Rockefeller arrived; **SeaDream Yacht Club's** 112-passenger *SeaDream I* calls here on a seven-night voyage from Saint-Martin to Barbados. *Departure: February 26, 2023; from \$3,999.*

● TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago is a nation of contrasts: Oil-rich Trinidad is famed for its raucous Carnival; Tobago provides a languid landing where Trinis go to unwind amid the Western Hemisphere's oldest forest reserve, which shelters a range of exotic birds, including the blue-crowned motmot and collared trogon. Tawny sand fringes indolent coves such as Pirate's Bay and Englishman's Bay, but allow time to seek out breadfruit pie and tania fritters at Jemma's Tree House restaurant in Speyside, or the crab and dumpling at Miss Trim's in Store Bay. During its maiden Caribbean season, **The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection's** 298-passenger *Evrima* will call at Tobago during a seven-night sailing, round-trip from Barbados. *Departure: March 19, 2023; from \$6,100.*

– David Swanson

**A tale of two islands:
Ready for Trinidad's
Carnival and (right) the
blue-crowned motmot,
native to Tobago's forests.**



(DANCER) JACK HOLLINGSWORTH, (BIRD) DANITA DELMONT/GETTY IMAGES

SPOTLIGHT ON: **ANGUILLA**

ALL IN ON ANGUILLA

This tiny Caribbean island goes big on fun.

SURE, YOU COULD DRIVE AROUND ANGUILLA IN ABOUT 45 MINUTES, but you're going to want way more time to explore. This British overseas territory in the Lesser Antilles packs 33 white-sand beaches into just 35 square miles. Whether you're ready to tie the knot or treat your taste buds, here's what we love about Anguilla.

Bring the Whole Squad

Anguilla caters to family flings with both high-energy and laid-back diversions for all ages. Take the kids on a glass-bottom boat ride to spot sea turtles in Shoal Bay. Older teens and adults can pump up the adrenaline off-roading through Forest Bay's lush oceanside greenery. The island knows how to throw a party, with annual events ranging from a lively, **family-friendly boat race** (Anguilla's national sport) in August to the more adult-oriented atmosphere at the Moonsplash reggae music festival in March, hosted by artist and island legend Bankie Banx at his Dune Preserve indoor-outdoor venue.

Get Swept Away

Sunsets are on display nearly every day, and the island's topography limits rainfall to a few short bursts throughout the year, making Anguilla a popular spot for **destination weddings**. Six Virtuoso resorts on the island offer wedding and honeymoon options that include everything from couple's massages and live guitarists to catered seaside dinners under twinkling lights. Couples looking for more nontraditional nuptials may consider exchanging vows on a sailboat beneath the stars.

Anguilla's secluded private villas, which can come staffed with chefs and butlers, also draw honeymooners to their infinity-edge pools and open-air courtyards with waterfront views. Unwind after the big day with horseback rides on the beach and private spa packages that include Javanese body scrubs and sun-soothing aloe vera wraps.

Pack Your Appetite

Get your fill of conch fritters and the Anguillian national dish – herb-seasoned red snapper with pigeon peas and rice – at chic beachfront restaurants and roadside outposts across the island. Head to Ocean Echo Restaurant on the north coast's Meads Bay for seaside breezes and the island's freshest yellowfin tuna. Grab an umbrella-shaded picnic bench at the SunShine Shack (known locally as "Garvey's") for barbecued chicken legs with Garvey's secret sauce or **grilled lobster** doused in butter and Caribbean Creole seasoning. And on Saturdays, hit The Valley – Anguilla's capital – where Mabel Gumbs' food stand and her corn soup, made with pig tails and salted beef, draw a loyal crowd.



From left: Go for a romantic walk on the beach, get on the water, or take the family off-roading on Anguilla.





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Galapagos Glamping

The Luau Gets Real

The hula- and mai tai-packed luau of days past has evolved. Case in point: The Feast at Mokapu, the new luau at the 321-room **Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort**, which tells the story of the *ahupua'a* (land division), resilience, and restoration of the Hawaiian Islands, including Kaho'olawe, a sacred island that was returned to the Hawaiian people following its use as a bomb practice site during and after World War II. (Guests can see Kaho'olawe from the resort's oceanfront lawn, where the luau is held.) "We've got many great luaus in Hawaii, but authenticity hasn't been the tradition," says Andaz Hawaiian culture training specialist Kalikolehua Storer. "Now that we're more educated about our history, it should be reflected in our luaus." Here, Storer's advice for seeking out a luau with more culture and less cheese.

1. Reframe your expectations. "Do you want fire dances and drums?" Storer asks. "That's OK, but there are luaus that will be bold and ask you to think in other aloha ways."

2. Look for a luau that "talks story," with plenty of storytelling. This practice of conversation among family and friends is at the heart of Hawaiian tradition. Guests should learn something personal, new, and unexpected from the stories presented.

3. Choose a luau that showcases the local history of the island you're visiting. "Luaus should accurately and respectfully represent the people and their place," says Storer.

Doubles from \$1,029, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit. Luau from \$280.

— Amiee White Beazley



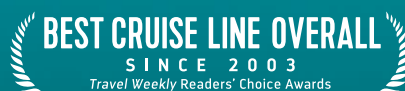
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We Live Here Now

Mandarin Oriental has entered the villa chat: The brand recently launched **Mandarin Oriental Exclusive Homes**, a collection of ultra-luxe residences that includes eight homes in France, Spain, and the UK, ranging from a five-bedroom private-island Balearic retreat with a boat captain on call to a clifftop French Riviera hideaway. (There are plans to add more properties and destinations soon.) The homes combine coveted privacy and space with the perks of a five-star hotel, including a dedicated concierge and personal chefs and housekeepers. Travelers can go full *Downton Abbey* at Cirencester Estate, a ten-bedroom Georgian-style mansion in England's bucolic Cotswolds. The 600-acre property has a tennis court, a heated pool, a lakeside sauna, and rolling lawns ideal for casual croquet or an epic family wedding. *Cotswolds villa from \$8,124, including breakfast daily and a \$250 concierge credit.* — E.G.



Throw a Cotswolds pool party for 20 at Cirencester Estate.

SPOTLIGHT ON: OCEANIA CRUISES

FIND YOUR VOYAGE

Settle in at sea on one of Oceania Cruises' new immersive sailings.

SPENDING A FEW WEEKS (OR MONTHS) AT SEA allows for time to get comfortable, meet your shipmates, and find your favorite onboard nook – not to mention the opportunity to visit dozens of destinations along the way. Oceania Cruises' Grand Voyages, ranging from a few weeks to a few months long, are an ideal way to savor extended sailings. Here, a few highlights:

South of the Equator

Central and South American hot spots such as Mexico, Costa Rica, and Chile – plus three days in Antarctica – fill a 38-night, **Miami-to-Buenos Aires** sailing on the 1,238-passenger *Marina*. Dive along the Mesoamerican Reef, snap photos of toucans and monkeys in Central America, and visit Mayan ruins in Belize. Between ports, the *Marina*'s creature comforts – including six dining venues, a new coffee bar, an alfresco joint with wood-fired pizza, and more than 200 plant-based dishes across the ship – keep passengers happy. Dig into a hearty steak at Polo Grill or, for a more private affair, book La Reserve's seven-course wine-pairing experience. (Pro tip: Spring for the Dom Perignon dinner to celebrate a special occasion.) *Departure: December 3, 2023; from \$7,899.*

Across the Indian Ocean

Sail from Dubai to Papeete, Tahiti, on a 43-night cruise aboard the 656-passenger *Nautica*. More than 75 shore excursion options in India alone help immerse cruisers in local culture, including a Hindu ceremony in Mumbai designed to eliminate negativity. Water-centric activities reign in the South Pacific, where diversions include glass-bottom boat tours in Vanuatu and snorkeling sessions in American Samoa. The *Nautica* is fresh off a spate of updates, including **refreshed suites**, staterooms, and public spaces. *Departure: December 8, 2023; from \$8,399.*

Three Weeks, Three Seas

Tiptoe into grand voyage territory late next year on a 19-night, Istanbul-to-Dubai cruise through the Mediterranean, Red, and Arabian seas aboard the recently refurbished, 1,238-passenger *Riviera*. Take a **chef-led tour** through Istanbul's spice and fish markets, kayak off the coast of Rhodes in the Greek isles, and sip wine made with grapes resurrected from ancient varieties in Cyprus. Up for some action? Go spelunking in Oman's Al-Hoota Cave or horseback riding through a red sandstone canyon in Petra, Jordan. *Departure: November 29, 2023; from \$4,699.*



From top: Port calls in Ushuaia, Argentina, and Bali; and breakfast at sea.

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Walking the Walk

Shoe impresario Mickey Ashmore is shaped by travel.

INTERVIEW BY MARIKA CAIN PORTRAIT BY THE TYLER TWINS

A full-spectrum selection at Sabah House New York.



NYC-BASED MICKEY ASHMORE is a self-described repeat offender. “I like to visit the same place a few times,” says the 35-year-old owner of Sabah, a hand-made-shoe brand with travel at its core. “By the third trip, I find I can really go deeper, feel present; I’m less concerned with seeing it all. I might even feel like a regular at a few spots.”

Ashmore, who launched his shoes inspired by Turkish leather slippers in 2013, works with a family-owned company in Gaziantep, Turkey (he’d previously lived in the country while working for Microsoft), and is an avid and wide-ranging explorer. In addition to deep dives in Turkey, he spends time in El Paso, where Sabah’s second workshop is located, and London, San Francisco, Dallas, and Amagansett – home to Sabah stores. He loves Beirut and spent two formative weeks hiking in Ladakh, India. “Traveling – and living and working abroad – has completely shaped me and, as a result, my business,” he says. “I’d like to think I’ve developed a real love for humanity, a sensitivity to people around the world, and an understanding that diversity is strength.”

MY TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

1. A pair of **Baleen Blue Sabahs**. The waxed nubuck leather makes them extra durable, and the color is super versatile.
2. A double-breasted **Boglioli Milano K-Jacket**. It’s lightweight and wrinkle resistant, takes any outfit up a notch, and has pockets for storage when you’re on the go.
3. A **Sabah roll-up backgammon board**. Sharing a cold beer and a game of backgammon is a great way to get to know someone.
4. A travel-size **Everyday Oil** in Mainstay because it’s good to smell good!
5. A turquoise **Savant Studios trucker hat** – sometimes my hair isn’t so tame.
6. A functional *and* fashionable **print scarf from Drake’s**. I like accessories.
7. The latest copy of the **New Yorker**. There are few better places than a long plane ride to immerse yourself in excellent long-form journalism.
8. **Sabah Sun in Palma green**, my favorite color from our sunglasses collection. It’s rare to find a beautiful green frame!
9. A **Jill Platner Coyote bracelet** brings me good luck.
10. A **Wacaco Nanopresso portable espresso machine**. There are parts of Turkey where I just can’t get the morning coffee I need to function.





FVI

"I always travel with a light coat or blazer so I can look more presentable when needed. I think it's important to dress with dignity when you travel. Of course, I always pack two pairs of Sabahs – a classic and one with a pop of color. Those, plus running shoes, are the only footwear you'll ever need for a warm-weather trip."

– Mickey Ashmore

Mickey Ashmore's Guide to Turkey

After I graduated from college, I moved to Istanbul to work for Microsoft. What was supposed to be a six-month stint turned into two years of expat life, followed by ten years of Sabah and a deep appreciation for Turkey's craftsmanship, culture, and people. My spoken Turkish is pretty

good. I'd like to think I'm an honorary Turk, but you'd have to ask them!

I could probably write a short book on eating and drinking in Istanbul. Some highlights: **Karakoy Lokantasi** is my favorite restaurant in the city. I think it's best for lunch. They have an eggplant

dish, *hunkar begendi* (Sultan's delight) – wow! For a real experience, take a sea taxi across the Bosphorus to **Suna'nin Yeri**, a local fish, mezze, and raki spot right on the ferry dock in Kandilli, on Istanbul's Asian side. There are few more magical experiences than pulling up to the dock in

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Under the radar: The town of Selimiye in Marmaris, where the Med meets the Aegean.

“I could probably write a short book on eating and drinking in Istanbul.”

the early evening, jumping out, and enjoying a simple but delicious meal at sunset on the Bosphorus.

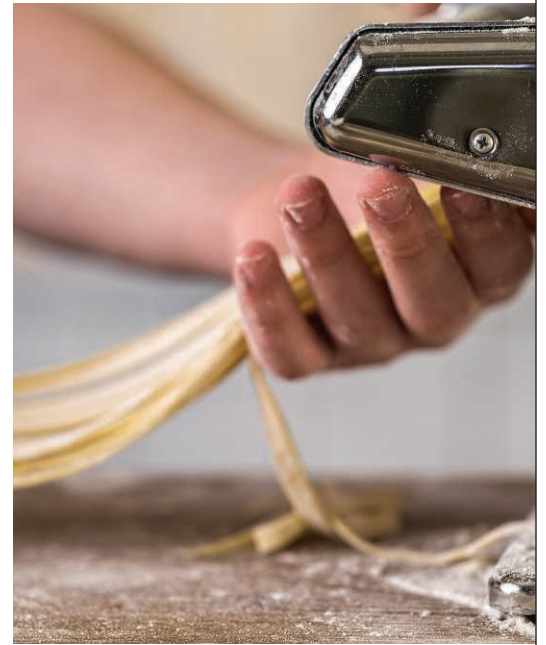
My favorite Istanbul neighborhood that isn't on the obvious trail: **Arnavutkoy**, a historic seaside community a bit farther up the Bosphorus. Wander through its hills, between historic wooden homes and streets lined with restaurants, cafés, and shops. On a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, it makes for excellent people-watching. Finish your visit with a meal at one of the many fish restaurants. My favorite is **Arnavutkoy Balicisi** – great food, great vibe. If you've got the energy, after dinner, walk to the Bebek neighborhood for a drink at **Lucca**.

Farther afield, you can't overlook **Turkey's beaches** – rent a car in Antalya and drive west along the Mediterranean coast. At the point where the Aegean Sea meets the Mediterranean, the coastline gets really interesting at incredible little beach towns such as **Datca**, **Bozburun**, and **Selimiye**. Turning north up the coast, it's one great beach town after another until you reach **Ayvalik** (roughly two hours beyond Izmir), which is lovely. I'd skip the Bodrums and Cesmes and focus on these smaller towns. The Turkish coast is so easy and safe to navigate by car, with incredible, welcoming people – it's the kind of place you can really explore. 📍

SPOTLIGHT ON: **GLOBUS**

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New customizable tours from Globus let travelers curate their excursions in Europe and North America. Choose from a few of our favorites here.



Greece: City Scenes or Island Life?

Kick off an eight-day itinerary in Greece with an in-depth tour of Athens' antiquities and ruins, or swap the city crowds for more relaxed seaside vibes on Cape Sounion at the mainland's southernmost tip. There, you can watch the sunset at the Temple of Poseidon, a monument to the god of the sea. Sample Greek wines at one of Athens' coolest bars or hop over to Aegina (roughly an hour by ferry from the city) to admire the beautifully intact **Temple of Aphaia** and walk along the island's lively seaside promenade. Before heading back to Athens, stop into a taverna for a shot of ouzo and a handful of pistachios, the island's signature snack.

Northern California: Saloons or Summits?

A nine-day Northern California adventure includes time at Mammoth Lakes in the Sierra Nevada, where activities cater to history and nature lovers. Hear colorful stories about infamous characters as you walk through the saloon, jailhouse, and other frozen-in-time buildings in Bodie, a former **gold-mining town** turned state park. Prefer more fresh air? Reach Mammoth Mountain's 11,053-foot summit via gondola before hiking across its wildflower-filled alpine terrain. At sea level, naturalists lead kayak tours on million-year-old Mono Lake (one of North America's oldest bodies of water). The tufa limestone formations jutting from the water resemble lunar landscapes.

Italy: Leisurely Rides or Tuscan Feasts?

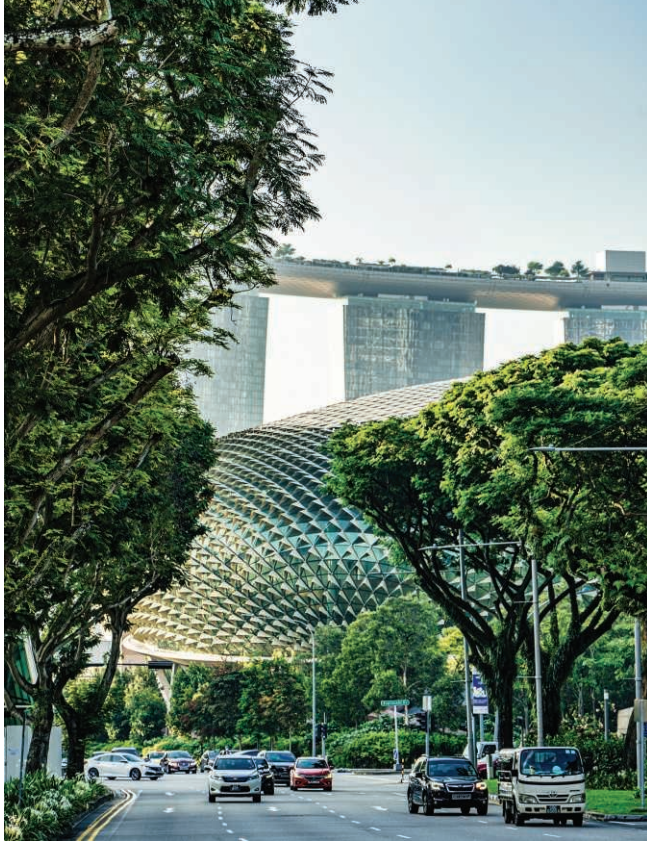
An eight-day tour through Umbria and Tuscany reveals the many delicious layers of northern Italy. Pedal through cobblestoned alleys and piazzas on a small-group bike tour of Florence, or prepare a four-course Tuscan feast under a local chef's guidance (complete with a crash course in making pasta from scratch). Visit the Duomo, Ponte Vecchio, and Uffizi Gallery with an expert guide, who will lead you to a **secret Michelangelo carving**. You'll work up an appetite after all that walking: Don't leave the city without a taste of its signature dishes, including bistecca alla Fiorentina (Florentine steak) or a hearty bowl of *ribollita* (Tuscan bread and vegetable soup).

From left: Greece's Temple of Poseidon, limestone rocks on Mono Lake in California, and making pasta in Tuscany.



Small and Mighty

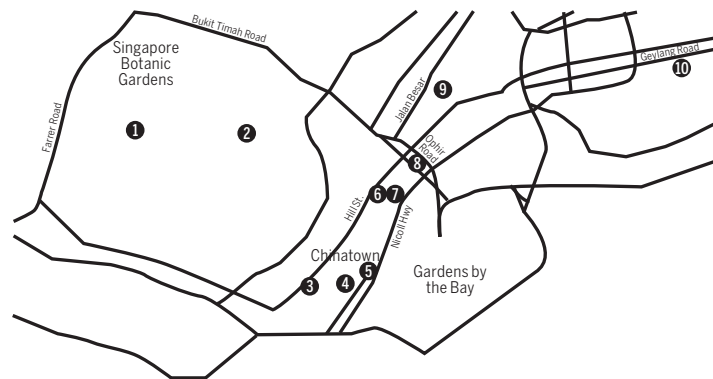
Singapore roars back on the scene.
STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS SCHALKX



Clockwise from top left: Singapore's architecture shines on, brunch hot spot Common Man, and Hat of Cain style. Opposite: Claudine, a colonial chapel turned brasserie.

FROM LITTLE INDIA'S colorful Hindu shrines to the Arab Quarter's onion-domed mosques, Sentosa's palm-studded beaches, and its lush jungle hinterland, Singapore seems to cram the gamut of Asia's natural and cultural highlights into a country smaller than New York City. During the pandemic, this city-state boosted its eco-cred, wrapping up rewilding projects such as the cross-country Rail Corridor trail and the ABC Waters floating wetlands at Jurong Lake, providing even more reasons to lace up the hiking boots. At the same time, the formerly gritty suburb of Joo Chiat saw third-wave coffee shops and rootsy boutiques such as Common Man Coffee Roasters and Crane breathe new life into the area's Peranakan heritage homes.

EAT After turning his fine-dining French restaurant Odette into a three-Michelin-starred hit, chef Julien Royer took his latest opening, **Claudine**, in a more casual direction. Housed in a 1930s chapel in Dempsey Hill, the restaurant focuses on Royer's heirloom family recipes designed for sharing, such as a spot-on



1. Claudine
2. In Good Company
3. Live Twice
4. Appetite
5. Rosemead
6. Analogue
7. Raffles Singapore
8. Andaz Singapore
9. The General Co
10. Hat of Cain



Colorful Joo Chiat and (right)
cocktails at Analogue.





FVI

"Singaporeans are serious about our late-night street-food culture. You can't get more local than galivanting around Geylang at 2 AM. Spanning more than 30 streets known as *lorongs*, this neighborhood offers everything from dim sum to wok-fried noodles in black bean sauce, frog-leg porridge, herbal pork-rib soup, scissor-cut curry rice, and more."

— Hui-Juan Lim, *Virtuoso travel agency cofounder, Singapore*

steak tartare and vol-au-vent with cockscomb and morel mushrooms.

Named after the California hometown of chef David Tang, Central Business District hot spot **Rosemead** redefines what it means to eat locally in a dining scene more often associated with air-lifted produce. Tang works closely with regional farmers for seasonal menus that range from local fish prepared on the open kitchen's lychee-wood grill to flower-flecked plates of mangrove crab tartines and deceptively simple salads with aquaponically grown vegetables.

Equal parts vinyl listening bar, gallery, and food lab, Chinatown's **Appetite** delivers a deep dive into cross-cultural art and cuisine. From behind the U-shaped kitchen counter, chef Ivan Brehm and his team dish out an *omakase* menu that could include everything from Spanish shrimp fritters to sourdough

with Sichuan-pepper-speckled stracciatella cheese.

DRINK Sustainability is key at **Analogue**, a plant-based restaurant and cocktail spot with a bar counter 3D-printed from 3,500 pounds of recycled plastic. Similarly, the drink menu features ingredients with minimal eco-impact, such as vegan honey, blue spirulina, and carob powder instead of resource-heavy cacao.

Moodily lit **Live Twice** pays tribute to mid-century modern Japan. The drinks, mixed by a sharp-suited bar team, are crisp and frill-free, with riffs on Japanese classics such as *mizuwari* highballs with a house blend of whiskies, or creative interpretations such as Roku gin paired with orange riesling and high-mountain tea.

SHOP Dandy gentlemen and women from around Asia flock to Joo Chiat mainstay **Hat of Cain** for custom-fitted

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City Guide



Panama hats woven in Ecuador. At this homey headwear salon, mustachioed owner and longtime Canadian expat Bill Cain advises his clients on everything from brim widths to weaving styles and can customize headbands and feather details.

An unassuming industrial building near Jalan Besar is the surprising setting of **The General Co**, which specializes in artisanal pieces such as made-to-order wallets, luggage tags, and hand-painted leather goods. On the ground floor, woodworking design studio **Roger&Sons** stocks modern cutting boards and coasters.

Hit up the sleek store-café of home-grown fashion label **In Good Company** in the basement of ION Orchard for tactile accessories and men's- and womenswear in bold monochromes and modish silhouettes.

STAY Raffles Singapore might have opened more than a century ago, but a 2019 makeover gave the icon a fresh new look. While its polished teakwood floors and silver cutlery remain, licks of orange and purple in the 115 suites and new restaurants by Alain Ducasse and Anne-Sophie Pic fit right in with the Singapore of today. *Doubles from \$1,000, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

Behind the honeycomb facade of a gleaming high-rise at the crossroads of Kampong Glam, Little India, and Bras Basah Bugis, **Andaz Singapore**'s 342 rooms feature big-city views and summery interiors by Hong Kong design hotshot André Fu. The tepee-dotted rooftop hangout, Mr. Stork, is a brilliant spot for sundowners. *Doubles from \$350, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.* 📍

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Brunelleschi Hotel



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When you choose a suite, enjoy special amenities, including complimentary Champagne, flowers, and one-way transportation in a luxury car. Savor exquisite cuisine in two restaurants, including the two-Michelin-starred Santa Elisabetta. Explore the on-site private Pagliazza museum.

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



PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

Sofitel Legend Casco Viejo Panama



Located in the middle of a UNESCO World Heritage site, this waterfront retreat offers an intimate ambience.

Enjoy luxurious amenities and wellness treatments inspired by local Panamanian culture in the spa and relax in a spacious tearoom. Well-appointed accommodations combine elegant comfort with the latest technology. Choose from a diverse mix of food-and-beverage venues, including a Skybar and lounge.

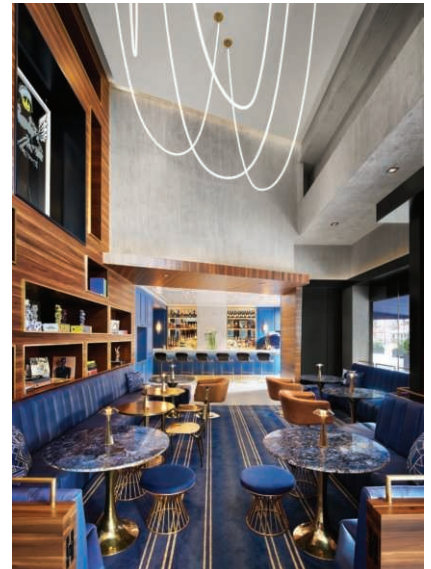
VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 food and beverage credit per stay.



SOFITEL
LEGEND

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Gansevoort Meatpacking



This downtown oasis embodies the industrial history and cultural energy of the historic Meatpacking District.

Newly renovated guest rooms, suites, and the exclusive duplex Poliform Penthouse offer the interactive Mirror Workout Companion and Google Nest Hub digital concierge service. Take in unobstructed Manhattan skyline views from the rooftop pool and terrace, and sample elevated culinary offerings in four lively venues.

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

GANSEVOORT

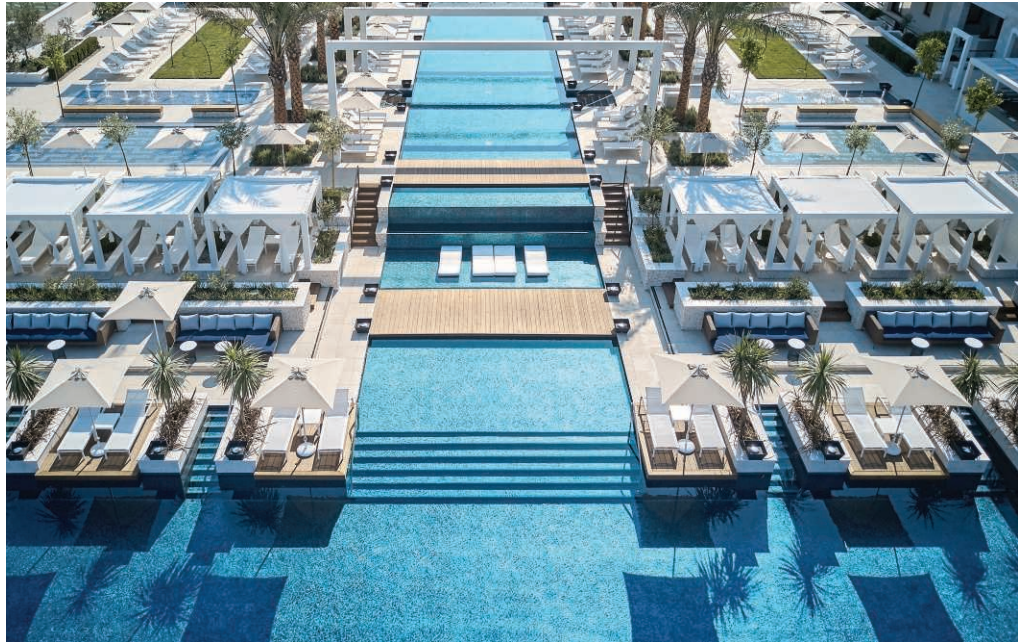
BALKAN BLISS

Five things we love about the Regent Porto Montenegro.

COASTAL VILLAGES, seafaring adventures, and centuries-old, family-run wineries await on the shores of Montenegro, home to one of Regent Hotels & Resorts' seven global locations. The country – located just south of Croatia on the Balkan Peninsula and across the Adriatic Sea from the heel of Italy's boot – is a diverse landscape of jagged peaks, sandy beaches, glacial lakes, and dense forests. The Regent Porto Montenegro provides an ideal base for exploring it all. Here, a few perks of a seaside stay.

At Home on the Harbor

The Regent Porto Montenegro's 175 luxe rooms and suites exude **nautical vibes** in a nod to its location – a former Austro-Hungarian naval base along the Balkan Riviera. The rope light fixtures, sails draped above the beds, and compass-inspired coffee tables hit just the right note of seaside chic, while a calm beige and blue palette complements the scene outdoors.



Views for Days

Palm trees and yachts line the marina just outside the hotel's citrus-hued facade. Take in the bay's **UNESCO-recognized scenery** – glistening turquoise waters, old stone villages dotting the coastline, and mountains jutting out on the horizon – from your suite's balcony or on a plush sun bed at the Pool Bar.

Dive Right In

The multilevel outdoor Pool Club, lined with shaded cabanas and towering palm trees, overlooks Boka Bay and features four pools to splash around in. Sunseekers can relax in the **infinity-edge pool**, while fitness-minded guests can practice their backstroke in a designated lap pool. Two children's pools keep little ones and their families entertained, and an additional 65-foot indoor pool is a boon for wintertime dips (or an escape from the sun).

A Local Bounty

The hotel's Murano restaurant is never short on **fresh seafood**, which shines in Adriatic-inspired dishes infused with organic herbs and served beside locally sourced produce. Highlights include grilled octopus in a citrus sauce and sea bass with smoked cauliflower puree in grapefruit vinaigrette, as well as non-seafood options such as pistachio-crusted lamb, all paired with local Montenegrin wines.

After Sunset

At the end of the day, Regent Porto Montenegro's mahogany-lined Library Bar entices guests to settle into tufted leather seats with a glass of cognac or Scotch as soft lighting sets the mood. If you're craving more fresh air, the blue hour looks best from the bar's west-facing **outdoor terrace** – bonus points if there's a flute of Champagne in your hand.

From calm to kid-friendly, there's a pool for everyone at the Regent Porto Montenegro.

VIRTUOSO BEST OF THE BEST

COZUMEL, MEXICO

Presidente InterContinental Cozumel Resort & Spa



Receive a warm Caribbean welcome at this stunning resort, the perfect place to create unforgettable memories.

Sip premium wines and sample diverse culinary options from four venues or enjoy a private dining experience. Discover hands-on activities such as scuba diving and snorkeling, watch enchanting sunsets from the private white-sand beach, and unlock the secrets to health and peace through ancient Mayan rituals at Ikal Spa.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 resort credit per stay.



NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Park Hyatt New York



Retreat to this haven tucked into the cultural heart of NYC's Midtown, directly across from Carnegie Hall.

Accommodations offer panoramic city views. Explore the hotel's curated art collection and discover serenity in the spa. Enjoy handcrafted cocktails and signature dishes in The Living Room. Stay two nights in a one-bedroom suite or above through December 31, 2022, and receive an additional \$100 hotel credit.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 hotel credit per stay.



PLAYA DEL CARMEN, MEXICO

Banyan Tree Mayakoba



Explore a paradise of untouched nature in a carefully maintained ecosystem at this Asian-inspired getaway.

Experience the luxury of a private pool for every villa, an array of culinary offerings, a PGA golf course, and custom spa treatments. Lounge on the beach or swim in freshwater lagoons and among coral reefs. Receive 25 percent off when you stay four nights or more through December 18, 2023.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: Up to \$200 resort credit per stay.



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PARIS, FRANCE

The Peninsula Paris



Inspired by haute couture, this hotel's customized theme suites are showcases of French heritage and savoir-faire.

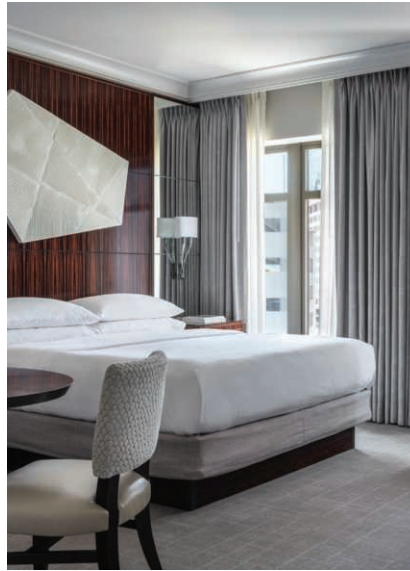
Choose from multiple dining venues, including L'Oiseau Blanc, which pairs French fare and wine with dazzling rooftop panoramas. Swim in the indoor pool and relax with bespoke wellness treatments. Enjoy complimentary transfers when you stay in a Superior Suite and above through December 31, 2022.

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

THE PENINSULA
PARIS

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Waldorf Astoria Atlanta Buckhead



Tucked within the stylish Buckhead neighborhood, this newly renovated hotel places you in the heart of the city.

Savor elegant cuisine with a Southern twist in the new restaurant, Brassica, and experience history and craft from mixologists in the charming bar. Indulge in Afternoon Tea and signature spa treatments. Stay two nights and enjoy a complimentary third night when you stay through December 31, 2022.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 hotel credit per stay.

W
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DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Jumeirah Al Naseem



Visit this beachside retreat offering 40 different restaurants and a wide variety of water activities.

Guest rooms and suites feature garden or ocean views. Savor a world of exquisite tastes and cocktails created by expert mixologists in seven venues. Work with world-class trainers in the state-of-the-art gym and experience indulgent spa experiences amid tropical gardens and azure waterways.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: 50-minute massage for two per stay.

Jumeirah
AL NASEEM
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An aerial photograph of the Rosewood Mayakoba resort in Riviera Maya, Mexico. The image shows a large, modern resort complex with multiple buildings, swimming pools, and lush tropical landscaping. A winding canal or lagoon runs through the property, with a small boat visible in the water. The resort is surrounded by dense greenery and is situated near the ocean, which is visible in the background under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

A SENSE *of* DISCOVERY

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MAYAKOBA
RIVIERA MAYA

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📷 @rwmayakoba

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Tampa's first lifestyle luxury hotel presents a variety of cuisine and cocktails in its seven unique outlets, including a signature restaurant, a rooftop bar, and an elevated nightlife venue. Save 15 percent when you stay three nights or more between September 20, 2022, and December 28, 2022.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 hotel credit per stay.

THE
TAMPA
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SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

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Nestled within the picturesque landscapes of Camelback Mountain, Sanctuary spans 53 acres of lush desert beauty.

Wander manicured grounds and float in the infinity pool. Retreat to your private casita or villa with sweeping natural vistas. Indulge in farm-fresh American fare and sip craft cocktails while gazing upon spectacular Arizona sunsets. Renew mind and body with Asian-inspired spa therapies.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 spa services credit per stay.


SANCTUARY
CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN
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SINGAPORE

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Enjoy warm hospitality and unparalleled culinary experiences at 11 diverse dining concepts. Stay fit with a visit to the Health Club and pamper yourself with relaxing treatments in Chi, The Spa. Receive a complimentary fourth night when you stay three nights in select rooms between now and September 28, 2022.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 hotel credit per stay.


SHANGRI-LA
SINGAPORE

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VIRTUOSO BEST OF THE BEST

PEREZ ZELEDON, COSTA RICA

Hacienda AltaGracia, Auberge Resorts Collection



This serene 50-casita resort includes 180 acres of untamed tropical forest and holistic wellness practices.

Experience adrenaline-packed adventures, soul-stirring wellness journeys, and bespoke experiences. Dine on dishes that spotlight indigenous ingredients from local purveyors. Receive a complimentary fourth night when you stay three nights in select rooms between now and December 15, 2022.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 hotel credit per stay.



Hacienda AltaGracia
AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION
COSTA RICA

GREENOUGH, MONTANA

the green o



Surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty, discover adventure and serenity in this Montana woodland hideaway.

Discover the ultimate privacy with secluded accommodations. Open restaurant windows let cooking aromas mingle with the crisp, pine-scented air as you dine on sustainably prepared dishes crafted from fresh, local ingredients. Connect mind, body, and spirit with blissful wellness treatments.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$300 activity credit per stay.



the green o

WAILEA, MAUI, HAWAII

Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort



Immerse yourself in refined Hawaiian hospitality at this beachfront retreat offering a luxury luau experience.

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VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$100 resort credit per stay.

ANdAZ | MAUI at WAILEA
RESORT

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



LOS CABOS, MEXICO

Waldorf Astoria Los Cabos Pedregal



This refined haven celebrates Mexican heritage, culture, and cuisine next to the glittering Pacific Ocean.

Recognized as the No. 1 Best Resort Hotel in Mexico by *Travel + Leisure's* World's Best Awards 2022, each accommodation offers a private plunge pool and calming ocean views. Receive a complimentary fourth night or save 25 percent on stays of five, six, or seven nights through December 17, 2022.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: \$150 resort credit per stay.



JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA

Shangri-La Jeddah



Along the shores of the Red Sea, this hotel's stylish interiors reflect the sapphire waters and sandy beaches outside.

Four innovative dining concepts blend local influences, traditional flavors, and modern techniques for a unique experience. The Kids Club and supervised play areas help families create unforgettable experiences. Revive and refresh with holistic well-being treatments in the spa.

VIRTUOSO AMENITY: 50-minute massage for two per stay.

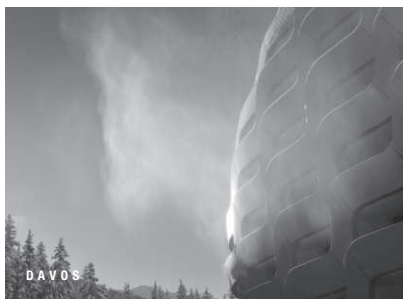


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Rethinking Luxury



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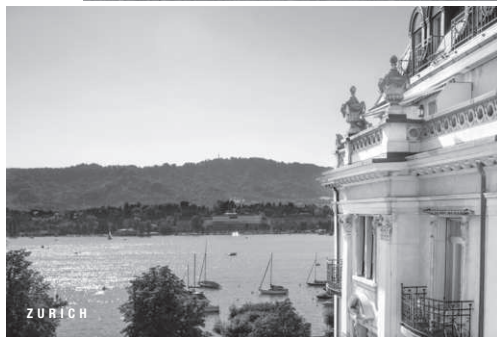


PARIS

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LA RÉSERVE PARIS APARTMENTS · LA RÉSERVE PARIS HOTEL AND SPA
LA RÉSERVE RAMATUELLE HOTEL, SPA AND VILLAS
MONT CERVIN PALACE ZERMATT
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Cool Beans

IN PORTLAND, A NEW WAVE OF COFFEE SHOPS HONORS THE BEVERAGE'S ROOTS. **BY NAOMI TOMKY**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DINA ÁVILA

Portland Cà Phê founder Kim Dam.



Start your day with a delicious treat from a local bakery.



There's nothing more relaxing than enjoying a breathtaking view.



Water sports bring the family together on Bavarian alpine lakes.

Travel for Good in GERMANY

Germany's pristine natural landscapes, freshly sourced cuisine, and sustainability-minded hosts make it easy for travelers to care for the world while actively exploring it. From the Black Forest to Berlin, sustainability experts have weighed in on almost every vacation activity so you can enjoy a memorable trip brimming with feel-good experiences.

The country's many captivating cities offer relaxing, low-impact ways to explore. Stroll through sprawling parks and snack on seasonable delicacies at local markets. Browse boutiques and search for handmade treasures. Experience the country more widely with a visit to the Allgäu region, where you can cycle the cheese route or hike to the Sennalpen mountain pastures. In the High Black Forest, lend a hand at a rustic farm before savoring regional, farm-fresh cuisine. Wherever you move, it's easy to do so responsibly. Germany's transportation system is far reaching, allowing for eco-friendly, experience-oriented, stress-free travels.

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ALMOST ALL COFFEE beans come from the same three parts of the world – Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia – while “coffee culture” stems from elsewhere: Italian espressos popularized by megachains, for example, and a tsunami of third-wave shops embracing the crisp modern aesthetics of Scandinavian cafés. The world’s coffee-growing regions have largely been ignored by the industry, despite having their own flavors and traditions worth savoring.

But in Portland – a Pacific Northwest hub of culinary creativity – immigrants and first-generation Americans are thoughtfully (and deliciously) connecting beans to the places they came from. Mexican beans accompany savory empanadas, Chinese coffee powers gorgeous red-date lattes, and Vietnamese *ca phe sua* is made with beans from the same country. By importing decor, service, and drink styles, along with the coffee itself, these five cafés brew up exciting flavors rarely found in the U.S. – fitting in a city known for its progressive thinking.

The Source: Mexico ESPERANZA TRADING CO.

This plant-filled shop that opened in February is run by the hospitality group behind República, one of Portland’s most popular restaurants. Esperanza serves beans from Mexico and



At Esperanza, clockwise from top left: Executive pastry chef Olivia Bartruff (left) and chef-barista Priscilla Sanchez, a sweet concha, and un cafecito.

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*Offer is valid for new, individual bookings for all Svalbard Express and North Cape Express voyages. Offer applies to the cruise portion of the package only, and displayed 'from' prices are per person, based on double occupancy, in USD (\$) and include taxes, fees, and port expenses. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Offer is only combinable with the Ambassador and Child offers. Other restrictions may apply. Offer is valid June 14-October 31, 2022.



elsewhere, roasted and ground to create an array of coffee drinks, including *café-cito*, *cortadito*, and *café de olla*, a spiced coffee made with cinnamon and *piloncillo* (raw dark sugar). Equally as delicious: the *pan dulce*, rainbow-sprinkle *conchas* (sweet buns), mango empanadas, and *escabeche* cream-cheese rolls made by executive pastry chef Olivia Bartruff and her team.

The Source: China SUPER JOY COFFEE

The country built by tea also grows coffee: China ramped up its coffee production about a decade ago, and Super Joy's stars are beans from Yunnan Province, roasted by co-owner Joe Yang. Yang, a former La Marzocco salesperson in China and a current Q grader (like a sommelier for coffee), puts quality and flavor first, but the deep red (a lucky color in China) bags of beans hint at Super Joy's other goal: to incorporate

Chinese culture into the café. Customers can taste the result of that mission on the streamlined drink menu, which includes espresso drinks made with Chinese peppers, sweet ginger, and caramel soy sauce.

The Source: Vietnam PORTLAND CÀ PHÊ

Deemed as too dark and bitter, Vietnamese robusta coffee beans have long had a bad rap among consumers, taking a back seat to the arabica variety. But robusta's higher caffeine levels and lower sugar content work well in the drinks often served in Vietnam, such as *ca phe sua*, traditionally brewed in a small metal filter called a *phin*, often dripping directly into condensed milk. Founder Kim Dam began roasting Vietnamese beans during the pandemic and ended up turning her hobby into a business. With the intention of changing the reputation of Vietnamese beans,

FYI

"No trip to Portland is complete without a visit to some of the city's hundreds of stationary food carts, parked in groups called pods. For some of the best Brazilian food, visit the Brazilian House cart at the Bite on Belmont pod. I love the *moqueca*, a delicious stew often made with fresh seafood and coconut milk."

— Jubilee Slivkoff, Virtuoso travel advisor, Portland

Above, from left: Super Joy's sweet osmanthus latte and co-owner Joe Yang. Opposite: Portland Cà Phê.



she started creating roasts for her family's banh mi shop, then selling beans online. Last year, she added a small café to her roastery in Southeast Portland, where she serves drinks made using a blend of Vietnam-grown arabica and robusta beans, as well as a small menu of Vietnamese sandwiches, including the house-special pork banh mi.

The Source: Guatemala
CAFÉ ZAMORA

At Café Zamora, marimba music plays in the background as patrons sip pour-overs beneath a Guatemalan flag that hangs from the ceiling. The Southeast Portland shop, opened in 2019, was the realization of a decades-long dream for Héctor Mejía Zamora, who grew up in Santa Rosa, Guatemala, working on his father's coffee farm. Though his dad died when he was 14, Zamora continued pursuing his father's goal to sell high-quality Guatemalan coffee directly to the consumer – Café Zamora brews the



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VANCOUVER'S BOUTIQUE HOTEL

A BALANCED
DIALOGUE OF
NATURE & CITY
IN THE HEART OF
DOWNTOWN
VANCOUVER

Dining



Order up: Brazilian cheese waffles at Nossa Familia Coffee's Central Eastside outpost and (opposite) a Nossa cafezinho.

family farm's beans. The café's second location, an outpost in downtown's popular Portland Food Hall, opened earlier this year. Swing in for iced brews or to pick up a bag of beans to bring home.

The Source: Brazil NOSSA FAMILIA COFFEE

Augusto Carneiro's family has grown coffee in Brazil since the nineteenth century, and while his family's farms no longer supply all the coffee to his

Portland roastery, guests at Nossa Familia's three locations can still taste that legacy in many of the company's "Family Line" roasts, along with farm-direct beans from Latin America. But the Brazilian flavor at Nossa goes beyond the beans – the espresso bar serves the classic *cafezinho* (espresso, hot water, and raw sugar) on its menu of "Nossa Signatures," along with the ideal accompaniment: fresh Brazilian cheese waffles, its twist on the classic *pão de queijo*.



Wake Up and Smell the Coffee

STAY Downtown Portland's 331-room **The Nines** occupies the top nine floors of the former Meier & Frank department store building, capped with a rooftop restaurant and bar laying claim to some of the city's best views. Modern guest rooms channel high-fashion ateliers with brocade wallpaper and jewel-tone-blue furniture, and the 400-plus-piece art collection (curated by a former confidante of Andy Warhol) includes sculptural mannequins in the lobby that nod to the hotel's sartorial past. *Doubles from \$246, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

GO On an eight-day group tour from Seattle to San Francisco, **Collette** introduces travelers to the West Coast's natural and culinary bounty, from Pike Place Market to the Golden Gate Bridge and Fisherman's Wharf. Two nights in Portland (complete with a field trip to Multnomah Falls) provide ample time to caffeinate before cutting through Oregon's Willamette Valley (famous for its pinot noir) on the way to the Pacific Northwest coast. *Departures: Multiple dates, September 5, 2022, through April 28, 2024; from \$2,339.*

Intrepid Travel packs four national park and monument stops (Olympic, Mount Rainier, Crater Lake, and Muir Woods) into its 11-day, Seattle-to-San Francisco group tour, but punctuates the outdoor immersion with some urban adventure too. In Seattle, travelers sip ales at a zero-waste brewery, while the highlight of a full day in Portland is a culinary-themed bike tour to some of the city's best food carts. *Departures: Multiple dates, September 4, 2022, through September 3, 2023; from \$3,436. ♻️*



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Coasting Along Dublin

THE CAPITAL CITY'S SEASHORE IS ITS BEST-KEPT SECRET.

BY YVONNE GORDON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD JAMES TAYLOR

Cliff-top views on the coastal walk from Howth village to Baily Lighthouse.



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THE ISLANDS of
TAHITI



Howth Harbour's restaurant row.

BIRDS CIRCLED and hovered over the sea stack, a square-shaped outcrop just off the island of Ireland's Eye. As our group approached on a small ferry, we could hear the screeches of hundreds of gannets, stationed on every crag of the rock.

Less than a mile from the fishing port of Howth on Dublin's north coast, this tiny, uninhabited isle is home to thousands of seabirds, as well as seals, who lounge on seaweed-covered rocks at low tide as if guarding the shore. Brown-and-white guillemots bobbed up and down on the steel-gray sea, disappearing under the water as we approached, while black cormorants perched on rocks to spread their wings to dry.

Many people don't realize Dublin is a coastal city, but with the new Dublin Coastal Trail, it's easy to explore the seashore that's right on

In less than 30 minutes from Dublin Castle by rail or road, you can be visiting small islands by ferry, sailboat, or sea kayak.

A man and a woman are standing by a large floor-to-ceiling window in a modern villa. The man is wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and olive green trousers, holding a glass of beer. The woman is wearing a long, patterned dress and is also holding a glass. They are both smiling and looking at each other. Outside the window, a balcony with a metal railing and a view of a lush green hillside are visible. Inside the villa, there is a dark leather sofa with a striped pillow, a wooden coffee table with a book on it, and a lamp with a white shade. The room has large windows with patterned curtains.

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Outdoors

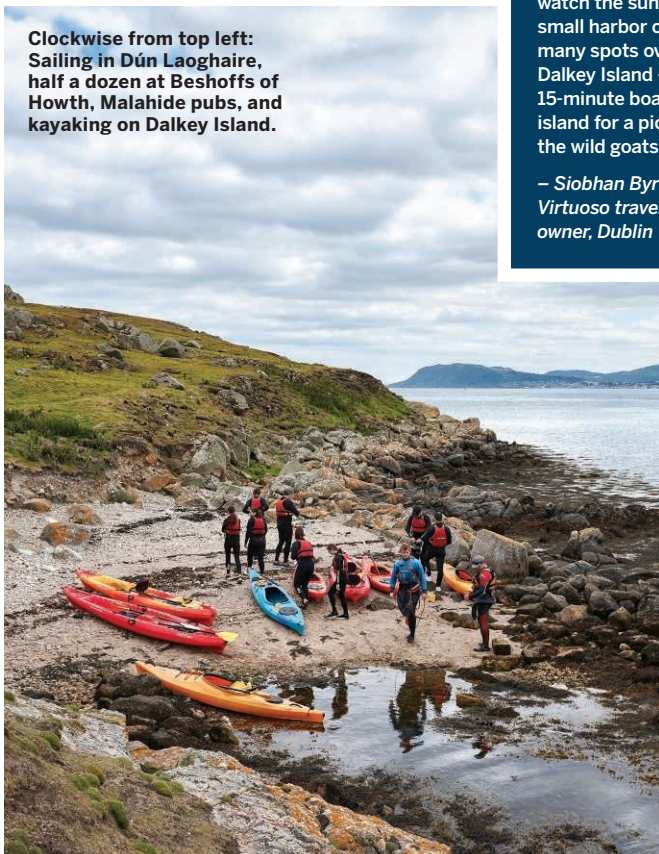


FYI

"If you go to Dalkey, drop by Finnegan's pub for a bite and a pint of Guinness, then watch the sunset from the small harbor or one of the many spots overlooking Dalkey Island – or take a 15-minute boat ride to the island for a picnic alongside the wild goats."

– Siobhan Byrne Learat, Virtuoso travel agency owner, Dublin

Clockwise from top left: Sailing in Dún Laoghaire, half a dozen at Beshoffs of Howth, Malahide pubs, and kayaking on Dalkey Island.



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Killiney Hill, Dublin Bay's southern boundary, is less than ten miles from the heart of the city.

its doorstep. In less than 30 minutes from Dublin Castle by rail or road, you can be worlds away from the capital's buzz and pub crawls, visiting small islands by ferry, sailboat, or sea kayak; strolling beaches; or exploring cliffs, piers, lighthouses, and historic round towers. As someone who has lived on Dublin Bay for years and gotten to know its coves and coastline by paddleboard, tall ship, hiking boot, and more, it's exciting to see travelers discover it.

"The bay is where true Dubliners learned to sail and fish," says Virtuoso travel agency owner and Dublin native Siobhan Byrne Learat. "It's where you snuck out for your first date and kiss."

Officially, the trail runs roughly 68 miles from the fishing port of Skerries in the north to posh Killiney in

the south. The northern stretch winds among sandy beaches and dunes that lead to villages such as Malahide, with its castle, pubs, and cafés, and Howth, a town of harborfront seafood restaurants that's steeped in thousands of years of history and folklore.

To the south, the harbor town of Dún Laoghaire and its two long piers are primed for leisurely weekend outings, with guided motorboat and sailing tours, paddleboard rentals, and four yacht clubs filling the bay with watercraft of all sizes. Hardy locals take to the sea for brisk morning swims year-round in Sandycove. Around the point at Dalkey's Bulloch Harbour, kayaking guides lead paddles along the rocky coastline among porpoises and arctic terns to Lamb Island's seal colony.

"The bay is where true Dubliners learned to sail and fish. It's where you snuck out for your first date and kiss."

“On weekends, Dalkey has always been the posh place to visit,” Learat says of the village Bono now calls home and where Matt Damon holed up with his family during the pandemic lockdown. “It feels like you’re in the heart of a French fishing village, with foodie spots and cozy pubs to chat in for hours with friends.” Plan to play it loose with the schedule, though: “Lunches have a way of turning into relaxed, boozy evenings,” she says. “Dalkey does that to you.”

As our ferry rounded the back of Ireland’s Eye, I still hadn’t spotted the one bird that had lured me out on the bay: the elusive puffin, with its multicolored beak, which migrates here in March to breed and raise its young through the summer. Then, as if on cue, a single puffin appeared, floating on the sea with his guillemot cousins. Moments later, another one perched on the rocks. It was proof that even for someone who lives on the bay, Dublin’s coast has many more jewels to reveal.

Where to Stay in Dublin

Encompassing four restored Georgian town houses with eighteenth-century marble fireplaces and period furniture throughout, the 142-room **Merrion** presides across from the Edwardian Government Buildings, just a few minutes’ walk from the National Gallery of Ireland and Irish Museum of Modern Art. Its two-Michelin-starred Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud has been one of the city’s top tables for decades. *Doubles from \$490, including breakfast daily and one lunch or dinner for two.*

The 265-room **Shelbourne** dates to 1824 and has the grand reception rooms, chandeliers, soaring ceilings, portraits, and prime position across from Saint Stephen’s Green to show for it. Drop by the snug 1824 Bar for a whiskey from one of the city’s best collections. *Doubles from \$590, including breakfast daily and one lunch or dinner for two.*

Set in the heart of Grafton Street’s buzzing shopping, cafés, and nightlife, the 205-room **Westbury** is a stylish sanctuary. Its art deco-themed Gallery and Sidecar bar are popular with locals for afternoon tea and pre- or post-theater cocktails. *Doubles from \$442, including breakfast daily and one lunch or dinner for two.* 📍



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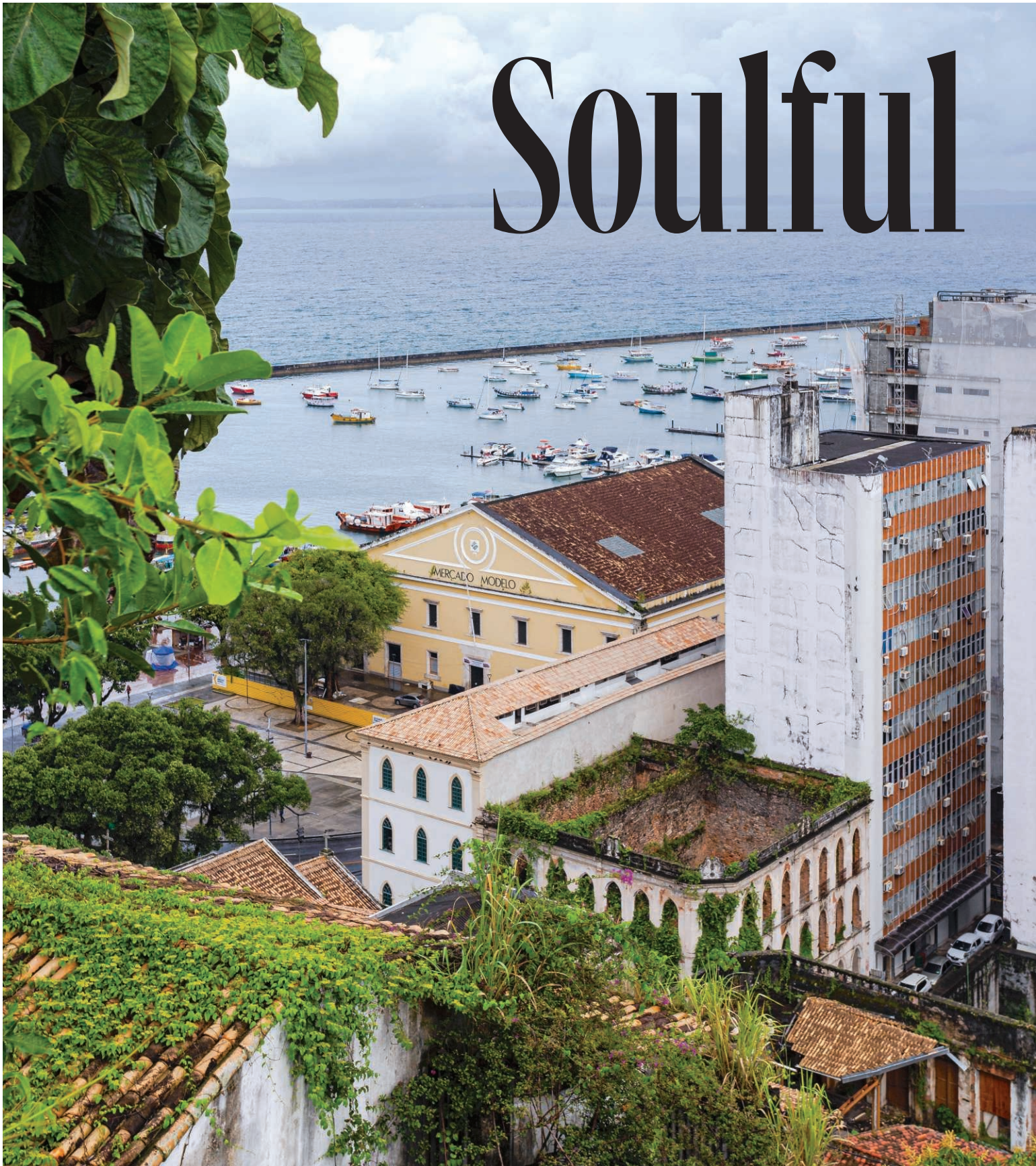
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Salvador

CAIPIRINHAS, CARNAVAL, AND COLONIAL
ARCHITECTURE ENLIVEN THIS CITY ON
BRAZIL'S BAY OF ALL SAINTS.

BY CELESTE MOURE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GABRIELA DALTRO



Blue Praia Bar's caipirinha and
(opposite) the view from the
Lacerda Elevator, connecting
the upper and lower cities.



From left: A traditional drum in the historic Pelourinho neighborhood, Paulo Darzé Galeria, and magnetic coasters from Pau Brasilis.



SALVADOR IS a destination deeply rooted in its African heritage – a vibrant city where the culture of enslaved Africans brought here to build it lives on in the food and religion, the dance, and the music that pulsates at all hours of the day and night. Sitting at the tip of a peninsula separating All Saints’ Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, Bahia’s capital is unadorned in its beauty yet sultry in its vibe. Founded in 1549 by the Portuguese, this northeastern Brazilian city woos travelers with baroque colonial-style churches, historic monuments, and a Carnival celebration that’s revered as one of the world’s largest and most exciting. Whether visitors explore the Cidade Baixa (lower city) or

the Cidade Alta (upper city), they’re surrounded by sparkling sun and beautiful beaches, bright colors worn with flair by residents (and by century-old houses), and parties that break out routinely in the winding cobblestoned streets and squares. No wonder cruise ships large and small call upon the historic port. Here’s how to spend a day in the city.

9 AM

Not far from the cruise ship terminal and set in a restored customs building, **Mercado Modelo** is now home to some 250 stalls where Afro-Brazilian artists and craftspeople showcase their work. Head across the street to **Elevador Lacerda**, an art deco elevator that connects

the lower city to the UNESCO-listed upper city of **Pelourinho**. The first site at the top: **Rio Branco Palace**, the state government’s former headquarters, which dates to 1549.

10 AM

Wander Pelourinho’s streets, following its candy-hued colonial architecture and gold-laden churches to the historic square and, from a darker chapter of the city’s history, a pillory. Nearby, **Igreja e Convento de São Francisco** is perhaps the most impressive baroque church in all of Brazil. A massive silver chandelier hangs from the ornately carved vaulted ceilings above azulejos and jacaranda-wood pews. A few steps away, boutique



Pau Brasilis specializes in locally made crafts, jewelry, woven baskets, and home decor.

12 PM

Stroll the popular Santo Antônio Além do Carmo neighborhood's Rua do Carmo – a street that's home to artists, writers, and expats – to **Cafélier**, a café where vintage marble tables, brass wall sconces, velvet sofas, and black-and-white photos of Salvador's famous artists and writers set the scene. Out back, a lovely bougainvillea-shaded terrace overlooks the bay. After a *café com leite*, continue down the street and pop into its nondescript ateliers, where you might spot artisans working on ceramics, wood, or plaster carvings for the city's churches. You won't see much in the way of signage (or even addresses), but don't let that keep you from stopping in to say hello while they work.

2 PM

Taxi to **Blue Praia Bar**, perched on a cliff above a private cove on Buraço Beach in the lively Rio Vermelho neighborhood. Choose from Balinese-style daybeds for lounging in the sun or tables at the beach bar, where you can sit with your toes in the sand sipping caipirinhas made



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In Port



with the house cachaça. Pair cocktails with codfish croquettes or the Afro-Bahian *arroz de hauçá*, a favored rice dish made with dried meat, shrimp, and coconut milk.

4 PM

The well-heeled Vitória neighborhood is known for museums and galleries, such as **Paulo Darzé Galeria**, showcasing contemporary Bahian and Brazilian sculpture, photography, mixed-media, and painting. A few blocks away, **Museu de Arte da Bahia**, one of Brazil's oldest museums, displays an impressive collection of paintings and decorative arts.

6 PM

Locals gather at tiny **Fisherman's Village** on Rio Vermelho Beach to wrap

up afternoons playing backgammon or cards. It's an ideal spot for sunset photos before heading across the street to **Manga**, a chic restaurant from Salvador-born chef Dante Bassi and his German partner, Katrin, who met while working at São Paulo's celebrated D.O.M. The casual first-floor bar is the neighborhood hot spot for local craft beers, charcuterie boards, and small plates to share. Upstairs, the couple turns out refined 7- and 12-course seasonal tasting menus with standout dishes such as watermelon salad with cucumber, seaweed, and baru nuts, and crab soup with corn and roasted cabbage custard. Each dish, intricately plated with branches, moss, or other natural elements, is an adventure for the eyes as much as the palate.



Buracão Beach and (left) Manga's crab soup.

Sail into Salvador

Travelers on **Celebrity Cruises'** 2,170-passenger *Infinity* spend a day in Salvador during its 14-night journey from Fort Lauderdale to Rio de Janeiro, with stops in Antigua, Saint Lucia, Barbados, and Búzios. *Departure: November 28; from \$928.*

Celebrate the new year aboard **Regent Seven Seas Cruises'** 18-night cruise from Rio to Miami aboard the 684-passenger *Seven Seas Mariner*. Day 4 brings Salvador, where complimentary excursions include a scenic drive through the lower city and a guided walk in the upper city. The ship also calls on Cabo Frio, Maceió, Recife, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Dominican Republic, among other sun-drenched destinations. *Departure: December 20; from \$12,399.*

Spend autumn sailing the warm waters from Trinidad to Salvador

aboard **Lindblad Expeditions'** 148-passenger *National Geographic Explorer*. Among other stops, the 23-night cruise calls on Devil's Island and Belém, and spends three days exploring the Amazon River to spot macaws, toucans, two elusive species of river dolphin, and other wildlife. *Departures: September 24, 2022 and 2023; from \$26,340.*

During its inaugural South American season, new cruise line **Explora Journeys** takes passengers on a 16-night journey from Bridgetown to São Paulo aboard the 922-passenger *Explora I*. Day 9 brings a call at Salvador, where guests join one of the world's biggest street parties and the itinerary's first Carnival. The ship then continues to Rio to partake in another iconic Carnival of sexy costumes, flamboyant floats, dancers, and nonstop revelry. *Departure: January 31, 2024; from \$16,400. 📍*

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One Is the Loveliest Number

SETTING OUT SOLO CAN BE THE ULTIMATE RESET.

BY JEN ROSE SMITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY CASSANDRE MONTORIOL



NOT LONG AGO I traveled to Istanbul, by myself, with deliciously few plans. I spent afternoons riding the Bosphorus ferries between the city's seaside neighborhoods, sipping tulip glasses of the sweet, tannic tea served on board. Inside the cabins, buskers played Turkish folk songs on slender-necked tanburs. Only when dusk faded the city's minarets to shadows would I come ashore, in search of a waterfront dinner as leisurely as my day had been.

I savor these solo meals. Each time I'm in Paris, I take myself out: I'll bring a book and prop my elbows on a bistro's zinc-topped bar, dining to the bal-
lethic murmur of popped corks, clinking

silver, and quiet conversation. Even without the addition of a *crème au caramel*, that sort of night feels like an over-the-top indulgence.

At times I want the world all to myself. Without a companion's pleasant distraction, new sounds and aromas recalibrate my senses. On many journeys I've learned how sweet a little solitude can be, but often, going it alone sparks connections that turn to fast friendships too. After a sunny-faced Parisienne sat beside me in a Luang Prabang patisserie, we spent two days swapping stories on the Mekong River in a slow wooden boat.

Researchers have found that spending time alone has the potential to

**Some travelers
are seeking a
grand adventure;
others see alone
time as a lavish
gift to themselves.**

increase creativity, self-exploration, and renewal. And traveling alone is trending, with Google searches for “solo travel” having grown steadily in the past five years. Companies are responding to the demand, offering special pricing and trips catered to solo travelers. Some travelers are seeking a grand adventure; others see alone time as a lavish gift to themselves.

“Traveling by myself has an element of luxury,” says Denver-based Virtuoso advisor Dana Welch, who recently treated herself to a retreat at Mexico’s Rancho La Puerta. “I didn’t feel obligated to look out for someone else. I did whatever I wanted, ordered room service when I wanted. I engaged with other people, but I spent a lot of time by myself.”

For many, seeking that kind of solitude may feel like unfamiliar territory. Booking a table for one can be intimidating, much less traveling across an ocean. For the solo-curious, a little might go a long way. Planning an afternoon alone in an unfamiliar neighborhood is a good place to start, while group trips catering to solo travelers offer the best of both worlds.

Wherever you find it, the benefits of such time alone can linger. When you’re by yourself, emotional chatter – what experts call “activation” – begins to ease, says psychologist Thuy-vy Nguyen, who studies solitude at Durham University in the UK. “That leaves space for calm and relaxation. When we go into a state of solitude, it’s like hitting a reset button.”

Solo travel can be a reset, or even a kind of chapter break, an unwritten page hinting that your story might soon take an unexpected turn. A few years ago, I spent a long weekend alone in Vienna, one night catching a spellbinding performance of Handel’s *Alcina* amid the Vienna State Opera’s gilded grandeur. At intermission, I drifted toward the bar alongside elegant attendees. Then I slipped away by myself. Bubbly in hand, I followed a sweeping marble staircase down to a vaulted lobby, luxuriating in my fleeting solitude, happily alone in the crowd until the music struck up once more.



Solo Sojourns

GO Some of **AmaWaterways**’ ships feature single-occupancy staterooms (with French balconies) for solo travelers. Watch European landscapes unroll aboard the 144-passenger *AmaDante* as it traverses the Seine River on a seven-night sailing between Paris and Le Havre. Consider pre- or post-trip sojourns in the City of Light, whose spate of recent openings includes the 72-room Cheval Blanc Paris and Bourse de Commerce – Pinault Collection, home to more than 10,000 pieces of contemporary art. *Departures:* Multiple dates, September 17, 2022, through October 21, 2023; from \$2,849.

Dozens of single-occupancy ocean-view staterooms, slightly smaller in size, debut this fall aboard four **Oceania Cruises** ships – the *Regatta*, *Nautica*, *Insignia*, and *Sirena* – making solo travel at sea more appealing. Settle into one during a ten-night voyage round-trip from Bridgetown, Barbados, on the 648-passenger *Sirena*. *Departure:* December 10; from \$2,299.

All-female expeditions from **Intrepid Travel** relaunched this year, giving solo travelers a chance to team up with small groups for big adventures. Such women-only trips mean eye-opening access to places – such as hijab-free Iranian beauty salons – where males are forbidden. One highlight of an eight-day Morocco journey: following hiking trails into the High Atlas mountains, where, in the village of Bou Tharar, travelers join local women to apply and wear exquisite kohl and henna and don traditional Amazigh dress. *Departures:* Multiple dates, September 10, 2022, to November 11, 2023; from \$1,135.

While many companies append charges for single travelers, **Luxury Gold** reduces fees for some trips to make big solo journeys more approachable. The outfitter’s small-group itineraries span six continents with a focus on immersive, VIP experiences, such as a meet and greet with a former All Blacks rugby player during an eight-day jaunt across New Zealand’s North Island. *Departures:* Multiple dates, December 16, 2022, through March 21, 2025; from \$5,080. ♡



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An underwater photograph of a coral reef. In the foreground, there are large, textured coral structures. In the background, a large whale is swimming. The water is a deep blue color.

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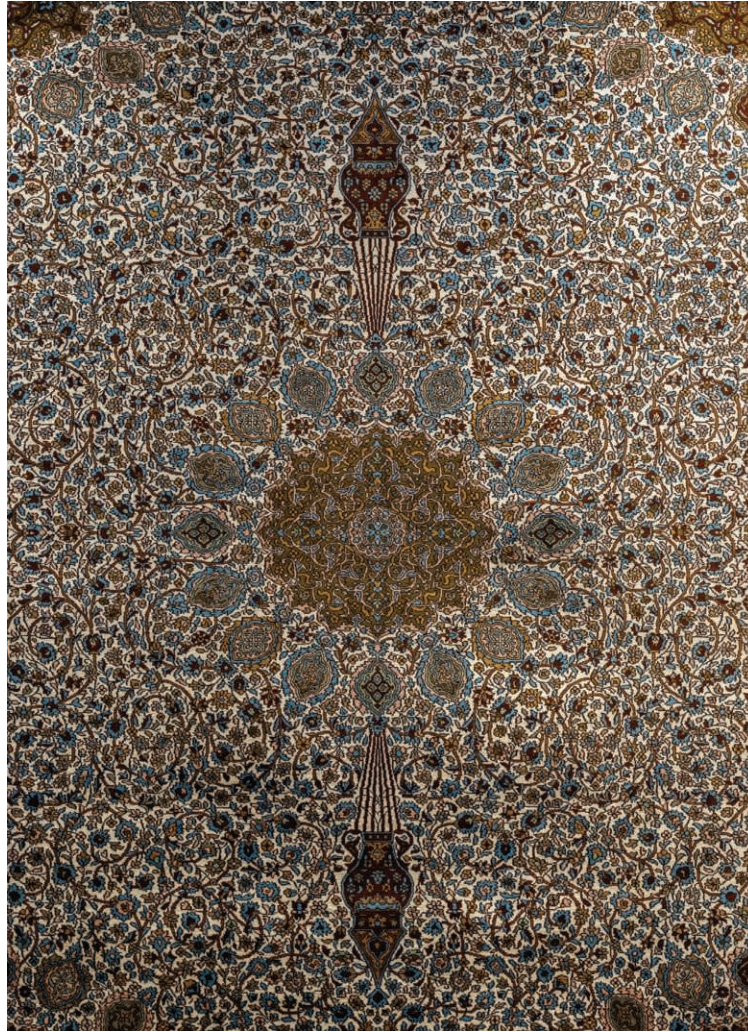
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Sandug's wares include collector-worthy shawls, scarves, and rugs.

TO CALL DELHI a shopping gold mine would be like tagging Rome a hot spot for pasta – it doesn't exactly let the cat out of the bag. Whether you need it, want it, forgot to buy it elsewhere, or just simply *have* to have it, this sprawling megalopolis of more than 20 million people undoubtedly sells it. Home to hypnotic markets and scores of upscale boutiques, the city (which comprises Old Delhi and New Delhi, the official capital) is thrillingly colorful and chaotic – a hodgepodge of snarled lanes and the relentless din of honking, zipping tuk-tuks.

Shopping here requires a road map in addition to your double chai. To help you make the most of Delhi's treasures –

and to help assuage any sensory deluge – we've zeroed in on five stylish Indian souvenirs and the chic (and haggle-free) shops to visit for the ultimate take-home find. From artisan saris to handwoven cashmere, these aren't just primo keepsakes – they're a window into a country and its people.

Cashmere Scarves and Shawls SANDUG

The term "pashmina" has become generic the world over for just about any softer-than-normal scarf or wrap. And while you can find quality cashmere in Delhi's wonderful maze of bazaars, vendors often claim authenticity at the expense of the uneducated buyer. Only

**Shopping in
Delhi requires
a road map in
addition to your
double chai.**

FYI

"Delhi is one of my favorite cities for shopping, and it's especially great for jewelry. I love The Gem Palace boutique in The Oberoi and the Meher Collection in Saket."

— Lisa Blair, Virtuoso travel advisor, Dallas

the seasoned shopper (and trained eye) can pinpoint pure pashmina, the superfine cashmere wool of northern India.

Enter Sanduq, a luxury boutique that sources Kashmir Changthang pashmina – the warmest and softest wool on earth – from Changpa herdsmen in the subcontinent's Ladakh region. Living at an altitude of 14,000 feet, pashmina goats, known as Changthangis, have a thick undercoat that produces fibers six times finer and ten times softer than a human hair. Sanduq (Kashmiri for "treasure chest") works directly with female weavers, who make each product by hand, applying intricate needlepoint stitching. Depending on the ornateness of each design, an embroidered shawl can take two months to three years to complete. Store cofounder Iqbal Mehboob compares those on the latter timeline to museum pieces.

This type of quality ware comes at a price, of course. Basic cashmere scarves push \$300; shawls start at \$375. For embroidered fabrics, carpets, and bedding, prepare to pay top dollar. "Sanduq is a tribute to the women of Kashmir," Mehboob says.

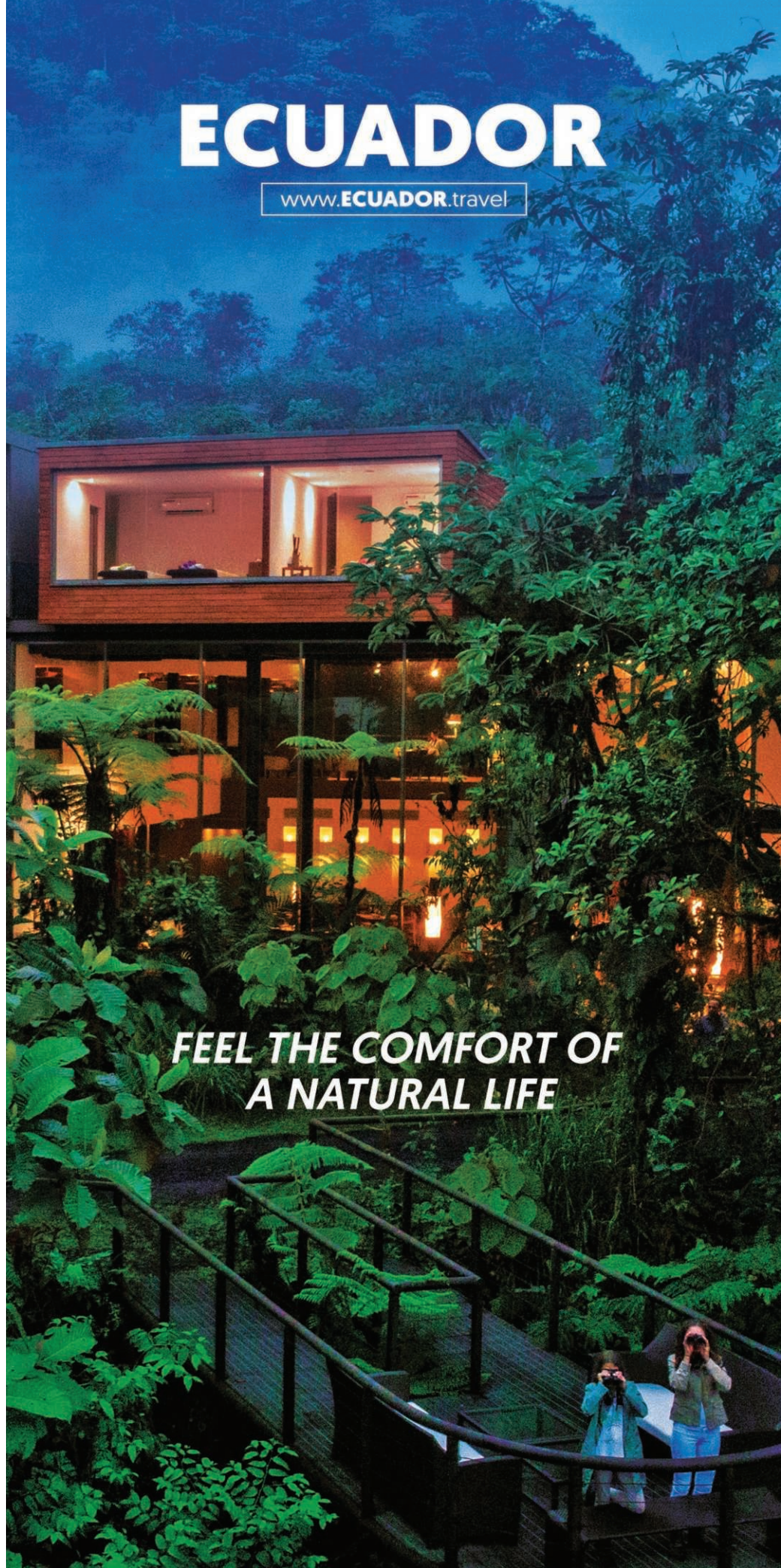
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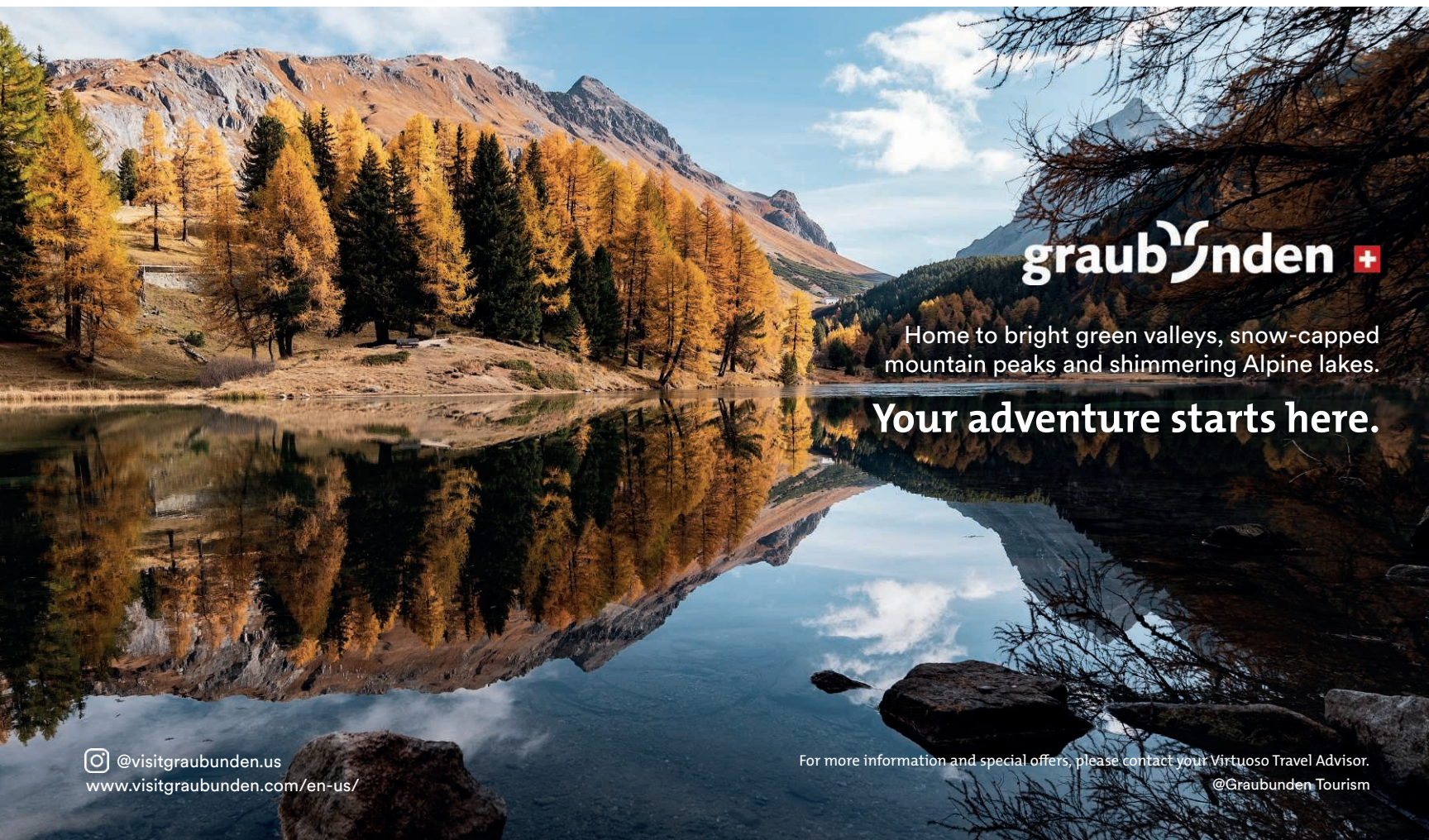


A jeweler at Olivia Dar,
and (left) home emporium
Good Earth.



path. At L'affaire, creative director Swami Krishna Aroop's saris aren't just magic on fabric (and they *are*); they're a preservation of Indian culture. Reverently displayed like works of art (some paired with Sufi verses), each collection celebrates an Indian-specific weaving, printing, dyeing, painting, or embroidery style.

Take the meticulous technique of the Khatri community in Kutch, Gujarat, for example, where artisans work together to create saris that can have upwards of 100,000 hand-tied knots. When done with silk, these designs, known as Bandhini – from the Sanskrit word *bandh*, meaning “to tie” – are technical and historical masterpieces. L'affaire also stocks Baluchar saris from West Bengal, famous for their rich silk and intricate mythological depictions. For years, Aroop has worked tirelessly to support textile weaving. In his words: “If I take away the sari from the Indian subcontinent, I take away the soul of the country.”



graubünden 

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Nappa Dori's flagship and (right) buzzing through Delhi.

Homewares GOOD EARTH

This luxe design house in New Delhi's lively Khan Market is an interior decorator's dream depot. Inspired by nature, Good Earth sells an elaborate range of classic and modern home decor stamped with an Indian ethos. For dining (the brand's most popular niche), look for hand-block-printed Mysore tablecloths and napkins patterned with palms and elephants; for the kitchen, pick up its high-end dinnerware adorned with floral and ocean motifs. Both make ideal wedding and housewarming gifts.

Those with an eye for design will find it hard not to stock up on the cheerful textiles and accessories. The selection of pastel-toned bedspreads,

tiger-striped Tanjore silk cushions, and silver-polished brass *diyas* (oil lamps) makes it easy to brighten interiors with the spirit of India.

Jewelry and Accessories OLIVIA DAR

This woman-owned boutique in Shahpur Jat, one of Delhi's trendiest neighborhoods, lends itself well to haute couture, blending French artistry with Indian craftsmanship. The eponymous line's colorful, bohemian statement pieces, worn from Bollywood to Hollywood, won't break the bank. The tasseled bracelets, hand-embroidered talisman necklaces, sparkle-eye brooches, and sequined peacock earrings (India's national bird) are inspired by Dar's adventures around the globe.

Leather Goods NAPPA DORI

The brainchild of National Institute of Fashion Technology graduate Gautam Sinha, Nappa Dori's modish leather goods could turn a staunch homebody into an ardent world traveler. The makers of this posh accessories label – Hindi for “leather” (*nappa*) and “thread” (*dori*) – handcraft trunks, satchels, and backpacks in homage to the visuals of India, including maharaja-adorned passport cases and rickshaw- and elephant-imprinted wallets, among other items. Launched in 2010 in a quaint Hauz Khas Village studio, the brand has since opened the Nappa Dori Warehouse, an airy concept store that's home to a design library, atelier, and European-style café.

Dig into Delhi

GO Virtuoso on-site connection **Greaves Tours** works with travel advisors to craft custom itineraries across the subcontinent, including guided shopping excursions that can be tailor-made to interests. On a 16-day tour of northern India, for example, travelers can visit the Taj Mahal at sunrise, track Bengal tigers in Ranthambore National Park, and explore the temples of Khajuraho, a UNESCO World Heritage site. *Departures: Any day October 1 through 2022; from \$7,750.*

STAY Long a landmark for the city's elite, **The Oberoi, New Delhi** provides a swank oasis with 24-hour butler service and 220 iPad-controlled rooms. For shopping enthusiasts, its Material Girl Tour offers a customized retail experience with a private shopping guide. *Doubles from \$360, including breakfast daily and one lunch or dinner for two.*

The 254-room **Leela Palace New Delhi** is a lavish retreat bedecked with Italian chandeliers and gold-leafed domes in the Diplomatic Enclave. Book a tour on its art walk for a lesson about its diverse collection of contemporary Indian art, then head to the rooftop Library Bar for some of the best cocktails in town. *Doubles from \$179, including breakfast daily and one dinner for two.* ♡



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Halifax Makes Waves

NOVA SCOTIA'S PORT CITY IS PRIMED FOR YOUR NEXT QUICK ESCAPE.

BY HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANA DOROBANTU



French Canadian: Café Lunette's menu ranges from pastries and *croque monsieurs* to brasserie classics (*moules-frites*) and late-night fondue.

ON A SUNDAY NIGHT in May, Drift restaurant is humming. At one table, eight women laugh over appetizers, local rosé, and a bride-to-be. At another, parents visit with their university-aged daughter and her uneasy boyfriend. The place is packed, and almost every stool at the bar is taken by solo diners or couples waiting for a table. Throughout our meal, my husband and I watch people turn up to the door and leave when they learn the wait.

Not so long ago, Halifax's scene was limited to a few restaurants, pubs, and shoreside kiosks. Canada's largest Maritime city has, for much of the time since its 1749 founding, held fast to its "quiet by day, raucous by night" reputation – which has served it well with everyone from cruising seniors to families and university students. But there's something new in the salty air: Halifax is growing up.

The cranes that fill the city are only the latest wave of a consistent push forward. "Many people think of Halifax as a

shipping hub or a small, foggy fishing city with rugged coastlines," says Virtuoso travel advisor Myranda Miller, who's lived here for years. "We have all that. But they're surprised by the outdoor activities and spaces – the parks, the patios – and how easy it is to get around."

The city's newest unveiling is the Queen's Marque, an upscale development that more than doubled the waterfront's public space and introduced the Maritimes' first luxury boutique hotel, Muir (Gaelic for "sea"), home to Drift. Those would-be diners who balked at the wait times simply had to shift their palate to avoid disappointment. Steps away, Bar Sofia's chef, Anthony Walsh, offers South American tapas and stiff margaritas in a space filled with Rafael Silveira's surrealist paintings – more classic Miami than Canadian seaside. Around the corner, Café Lunette greets the day with coffee and *viennoiserie* (*pains au chocolat* and lemon poppyseed madeleines among them) and wraps up with Parisian bistro

cuisine (including delicious duck confit) at night. Coming soon: a wine bar, a noodle bar, and more.

In fact, all across town new restaurants, galleries, and shops are opening just in time for travelers' return. In short, this isn't the Halifax of yesteryear. "It's more modernized and artsy," Miller says. "But in a good way."

Our early-morning walks along the 2.5-mile stretch of boardwalk outside the Muir place us a few hours ahead of the cruise-ship crowds. One morning we pop into the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, dedicated to the thousands of families who entered here. On another, we take first pick of the multicolored Adirondack chairs that dot the shoreline, before dipping into a line-free ice-cream counter inside Peace by Chocolate, the first brick-and-mortar store for a chocolate company founded by Syrian refugees who give back to international causes. On the north end of town, we discover the small Africville Museum, dedicated

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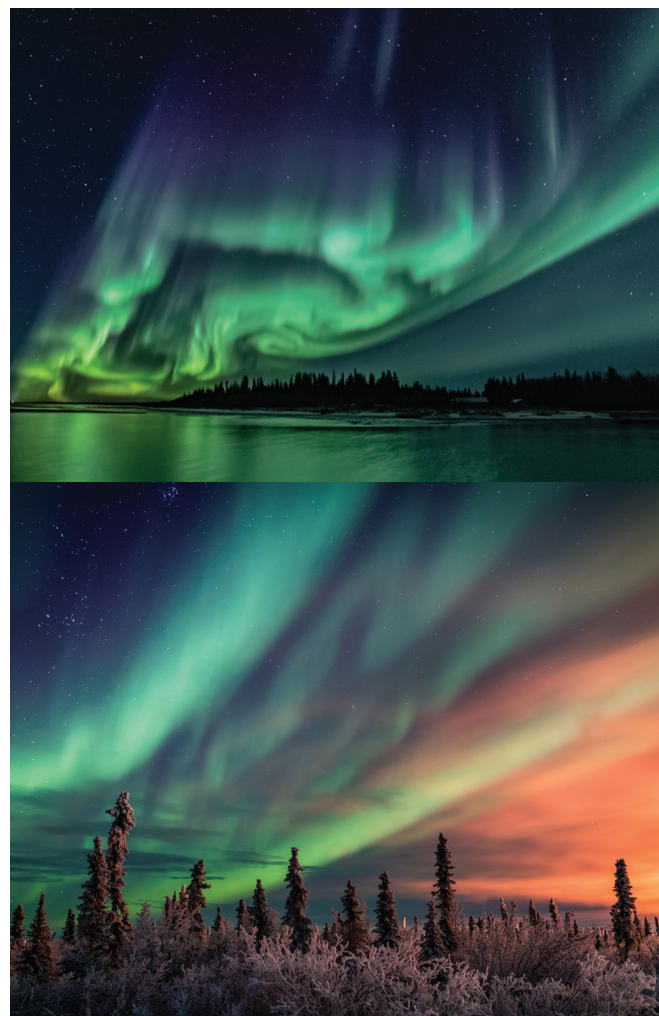
When you see the skies come alive with vibrant streams of bright green and magical flourishes of deep purple, you'll understand why people say the Northwest Territories is the home of the World's Best Aurora. Much of the NWT is under an area known as the Auroral Oval – the celestial stage where the Northern Lights give their amazing performances almost every night.

The Aurora comes out for an average of 240 nights a year, illuminating our skies during two peak seasons. The Fall Aurora season runs from mid-August through to the end of September and the Winter Aurora season from mid-November through early April. Come up to see the Aurora reflected in our open autumn lakes or illuminating the snowy winter expanse – you're sure to be inspired either way.

There are nearly limitless places to get out and see the Aurora in the NWT, and you'll always feel like you have front row seats to a dazzling dance that looks close enough to touch. Whether you're out on an Aurora hunting expedition with a tour operator, standing in awe in front of a remote Aurora lodge, or just driving 10 minutes outside of Yellowknife, your view of the Northern Lights will be like nothing you've ever experienced.

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Long Weekend



Clockwise from top left: Drift's tuna sashimi and hodge podge, Bar Sofia, BKS speakeasy, and Edoardo Tresoldi's *Sail* sculpture on the Queen's Marquee. Opposite: A calm day on the waterfront.

There's something new in the salty air: Halifax is growing up.

to the Black community that thrived on the shore of Bedford Basin until they were forced from their homes in the late 1960s.

After a few days, we venture out to explore Nova Scotia. An hour's drive north brings us to Wolfville, a university town of restored Victorian homes and a classic small-town Main Street peppered with brewpub and cidery patios, small boutiques, and galleries. Wolfville sits on the Minas Basin – part of the Bay of Fundy, which is famous for having the world's highest tidal range – and serves as the gateway to Annapolis Valley wineries. We spend a few leisurely hours at Lightfoot & Wolfville, an organic winery where sheep and pigs often roam free as visitors sip vintages paired with local oysters. Most

of the wines are unavailable outside the province; later, we'll recognize some of their names on Halifax menus.

On our last afternoon, we take to the water that's such a large part of the city's identity aboard the Muir's 36-foot Morris yacht, *Little Wing*. Our captain points out Georges Island, the tiny National Historic Site set in the middle of Halifax Harbour, and neighboring Dartmouth (The Wooden Monkey, a harbor-front vegan restaurant, is apparently reason enough to hop the water taxi across). As we sail, the pace of this far southeast corner of Canada truly takes hold: It's unassumingly laid-back. But as we know, come sunset, a rollicking – if, these days, a bit more re-fined – good time awaits us ashore.



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BOOK SMALL SHIP
ADVENTURES

Long Weekend



Small-lot, biodynamic Annapolis Valley winemaker Lightfoot & Wolfville and (right) Peace by Chocolate.

Head for Halifax

STAY The new 109-room **Muir** channels the city's maritime traditions through shipbuilding materials such as Muntz metal and granite reclaimed from the Halifax seawall. A private art gallery, dining that celebrates local seafood, and exclusive access to the hotel's BKS speakeasy and *Little Wing* yacht make it one of the province's most anticipated arrivals. *Doubles from \$330, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

GO Spend three nights in Halifax during **Globus'** nine-day trip through the Maritimes (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island). Highlights on the coach tour include Peggy's Cove Lighthouse (reportedly the most photographed in Canada), Cape Breton Highlands National Park, and the Hopewell Rocks, home to the world's largest tides, with swings of up to 46 feet. Gaelic music and dance and locavore cuisine feature prominently throughout the journey. *Departures: Multiple dates, June 8 through September 30, 2023; from \$2,570.*

Canada by Design works with Virtuoso travel advisors to create custom trips throughout the country, such as a ten-day self-drive tour of Atlantic Canada, round-trip from Halifax, with whale-watching, a visit to Louisbourg's historic eighteenth-century fortress, and the chance to see the Bay of Fundy's famed Reversing Falls Rapids. *Departures: Any day May 15 through September 23, 2023; from \$1,942, not including car rental.*

Dive into Indigenous, Acadian, and Gaelic cultures on **Collette's** 11-day tour of Atlantic Canada. Travelers spend four nights in Halifax and two in Prince Edward Island's capital, Charlottetown, where one evening concludes with a hands-on cooking feast of prized PEI mussels. *Departure dates and pricing for 2023 trips to be announced.*

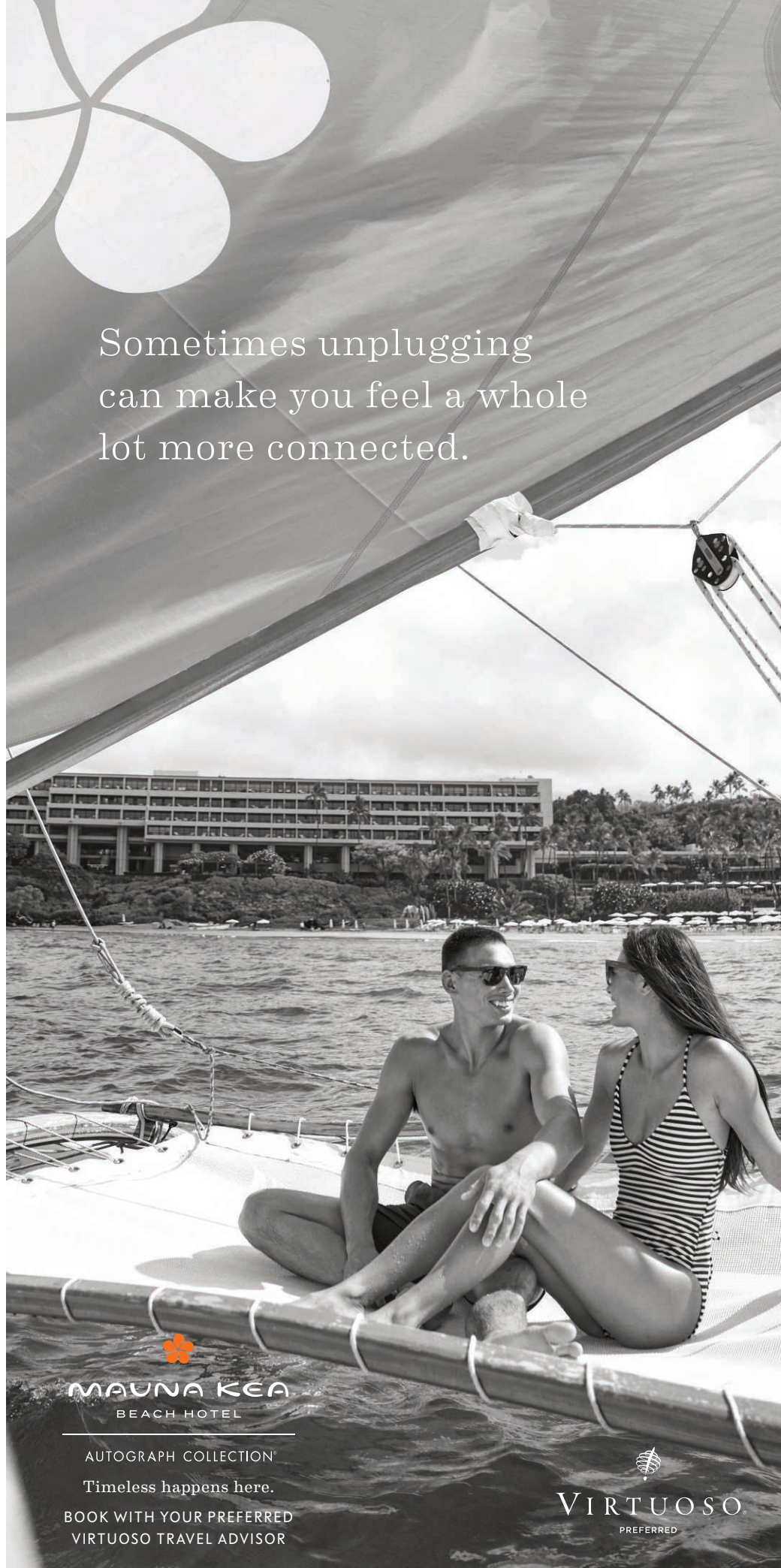


Holland America Line's seven-night cruise from Boston to Québec City aboard the 1,964-passenger *Zuiderdam* celebrates New England and "New France" from Bar Harbor to Cape Breton and beyond, with a call at Halifax on day three. *Departure: August 26, 2023; from \$1,079.*

Explore Atlantic Canada on **Celebrity Cruises'** 12-night voyage round-trip from Boston. The 2,158-passenger *Celebrity Summit* calls at Halifax and Sydney in Nova Scotia, and has an overnight stay in Québec City. *Departures: Multiple dates, August 30 through October 2, 2023; from \$920.*

Oceania Cruises' 11-night sailings between New York City and Montréal spend a day in Halifax and explore the Cape Cod Canal and New Brunswick's Bay of Fundy from the comfort of the 656-passenger *Insignia*. *Departures: Multiple dates, September 21 through October 21, 2023; from \$2,999. 📍*

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7 stops along Switzerland's Grand Train Tour you should not miss



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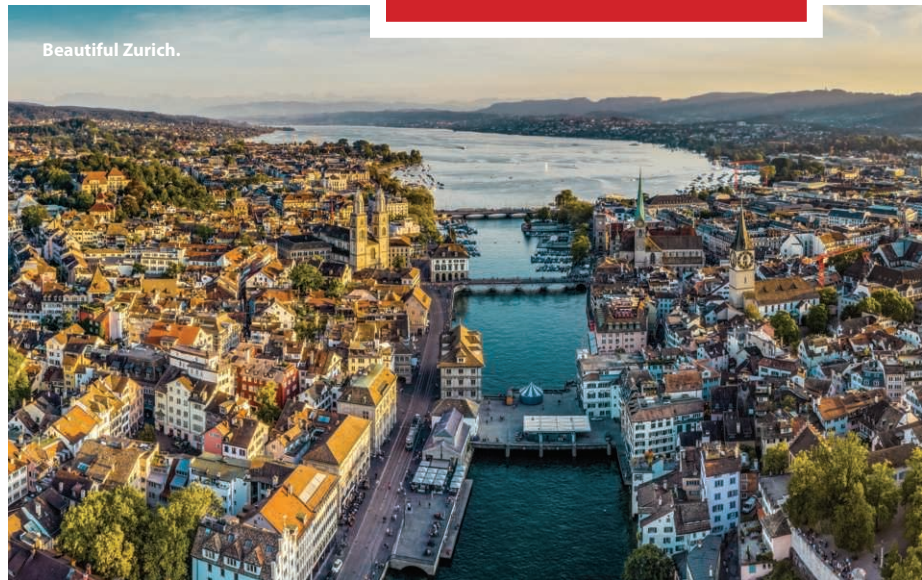
*For the ultimate experience, the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland is a phenomenal 800-mile route combining all panoramic lines, including the legendary **Glacier Express**, which, oxymoronically, travels at a glacial pace. You can access these lines and more with the Swiss Travel Pass, your all-inclusive ticket for exploring Switzerland.*

But where to even begin? We know unlimited access to a country as beautiful as Switzerland can be overwhelming. To help you, here are seven stops you won't want to miss.

Start in **Zurich**. Surrounded by nature, Switzerland's most cosmopolitan city is a wonderful way to begin your journey. After meandering the cobblestone streets of the 2,000-year-old Old Town, pop by the café inside the new Lindt Home of Chocolate for a mid-morning pick-me-up, and stay for a chocolate making workshop. After, catch a train to the industrial-turned-trendy district Zürich-West, overflowing with art, culture, and gastronomy – much like the rest of this city. Zurich has more diversity and art per square-mile than any other city in the world. Don't miss the new wing of the Kunsthau Zürich, designed by David Chipperfield, making it Switzerland's largest art museum.

Next stop: **Interlaken**, where you can dive right into nature – or out of a plane! With numerous outdoor activities on offer year-round, from canyoning to kayaking to skiing, it's clear why this small but sprightly town, situated in the heart of the Alps between lakes Thun and Brienz, is dubbed the Adventure Capital of Europe. It's also your jumping off point for exploring the majestic **Jungfrau Region**, home to the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau (UNESCO World Heritage site). Leave summer behind for fresh icy air and snow-swept panoramas when you hop aboard the iconic **Jungfrau Railway** to the highest railway station in Europe, the Jungfraujoch – Top of Europe, which is now just 45 minutes from the new Grindelwald Terminal.

The **Swiss Travel Pass** gives you unlimited access to the Swiss Travel System – public transportation, scenic trains, buses, and boats – and over 500 museums. Got kids? Ask for the Swiss Family Travel Card, which allows accompanied children under 16 to travel for free.





The shore of
Lake Geneva.

From here, say bonjour to francophone **Geneva**, a truly international city. Situated on the shores of its namesake lake, Geneva is refined, elegant, and surprisingly fun. After exploring Geneva's charming Old Town, the largest in Switzerland, by foot, get some perspective with a one-hour **Lake Geneva** cruise tour, best for admiring Mont-Blanc, the UN, and other sites. Expand your horizons further with a visit to CERN, where scientists are trying to recreate the Big Bang; or learn about time in a more tangible way, by taking a watchmaking workshop with Initium. Then wind down by e-biking through the city's surrounding vineyards.

Continue east along the shores of Lake Geneva to **Lausanne**. Steps from the station is Plateforme 10: a new art district made up of three fabulous museums and two renowned art foundations – one of the many reasons why Lausanne has been named “Best Emerging Culture City 2022” by LCD Awards. Need more proof? It has one of the highest densities of Gault & Millau rated restaurants per square mile in the world. Taste wines from Lausanne's two winegrowing regions – Lavaux, a UNESCO Heritage Site, and la Côte – at one of the many wine bars in the city, or inside the cellars themselves.

Leave the lake for **Zermatt**, home to the most-photographed mountain in the world. This remote, car-free village draws intrepid mountaineers, nature lovers, and foodies alike thanks to its long list of world-class accommodations, and of course, its pièce de resistance: the Matterhorn. While Zermatt has long been a seasonal destination, one 5-star hotel, the historic Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, is keeping its glass doors open and horse-drawn carriages running up to Easter 2023.



Enjoy historic Lausanne.



Zermatt and its
famous mountain.



St. Moritz as a winter wonderland.

From here, take the **Glacier Express** – the world's slowest express train – to **St. Moritz**, the lavish Alpine resort town that was the birthplace of winter mountain tourism in the 1860s, and which today hosts the world's only polo tournament on snow. This classic panoramic trip crosses 291 bridges, two UNESCO World Heritage sites (Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch and Bernina Landscapes), and offers unrestricted views of the remote Rhine Gorge, known as the Swiss Grand Canyon.

Par Excellence: A seven-course menu with wine pairings, personal concierge, and guaranteed window seat? It's easy to see why the new Excellence Class aboard the Glacier Express are the most sought-after seats in Switzerland. Just be sure to make a reservation in advance.

For the grand finale, savor the flavors of the Mediterranean with a sojourn in **Ticino** – where Swiss precision meets Italian pizzazz. Tucked along the country's southern region on the Italian border, this unique cultural destination invites you to experience la dolce vita with culinary treasures such as Ticinese risotto and its prized merlots (Ticino is the only place in the world that makes a dry white merlot) along with stimulating art galleries, museums, festivals, and endless outdoor activities. Arrivederci, Svizzera!



A coffee break in Ticino.



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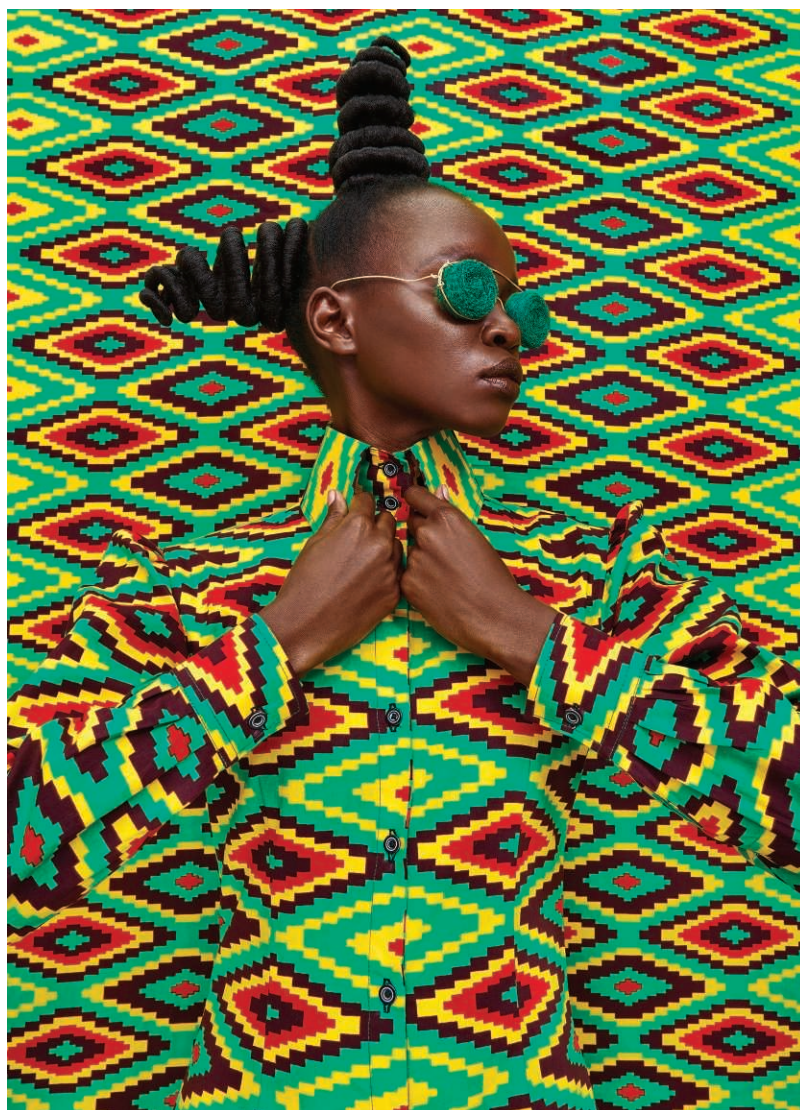
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KENYAN COOL

A fine-art photographer shines a light on the women of her home country.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY **THANDIWE MURIU**

Camo 31 (above) features aviators crafted from the same steel wool used to scrub *sufurias*, aluminum cooking pots. Opposite: *Camo 21*, with glasses hand-beaded by a Maasai artisan and adorned with padlocks like those Kenyan schoolchildren use to lock their desks.

MY PERSONAL WORK BEGAN

as a way to celebrate the beauty of the African woman through the fabrics she wears. I quickly realized, however, there's so much more to it than what we wear or how we look. I wanted to celebrate everything I struggled with in my own beauty journey: my hair, my skin, and my identity as a modern woman living in a more traditional culture.

I called this series *Camo* because the subject of each image camouflages into the background. As individuals, we can lose ourselves to cultural expectations, yet there are such unique and beautiful things about every one of us. It's a little ironic: I want my models to blend into the background even as they stand out.

Camo is joyful art inspired by the joyful people of Kenya. Kenyan men, women, and children dress up in outfits made from brightly colored traditional fabrics whenever we want to look our best, especially at big events. You might see the same fabric on several women, but they each wear it differently, reflecting their personalities.

The objects I use to make the accessories in *Camo* are items I interact with daily as a Kenyan. They were fixtures of my childhood, used by my mother (and probably even my grandmother). I've incorporated bottle tops, plastic combs, sieves, straws, and even bottle brushes. Kenyans are resourceful repurposers. Handheld plastic mirrors might be used as side mirrors on a bicycle weaving through traffic or even as decorative clothing accessories on a Maasai warrior!

The eyewear in one photo, for example, is made from pins often found at the hair stalls in distinct red and yellow fan-shaped holders that have remained unchanged since the 1980s. Another one uses mosquito coils, and a third bicycle gears reminiscent of those found on popular Kenyan bikes from the brand known as Black Mamba. I enjoy fabricating the *Camo* eyewear the most because it requires me to see ordinary objects as the foundation for exciting fashion accessories.

Before creating each new image, I research traditional African hairstyles, then work with a stylist to design a modern interpretation of the hair. I also source fabrics from marketplaces across Africa. This is the hardest part because I'm looking for very specific, colorful pieces. I believe each piece has a personality, and I try to design an outfit that makes the print come alive, working with a local tailor to stitch the clothes.

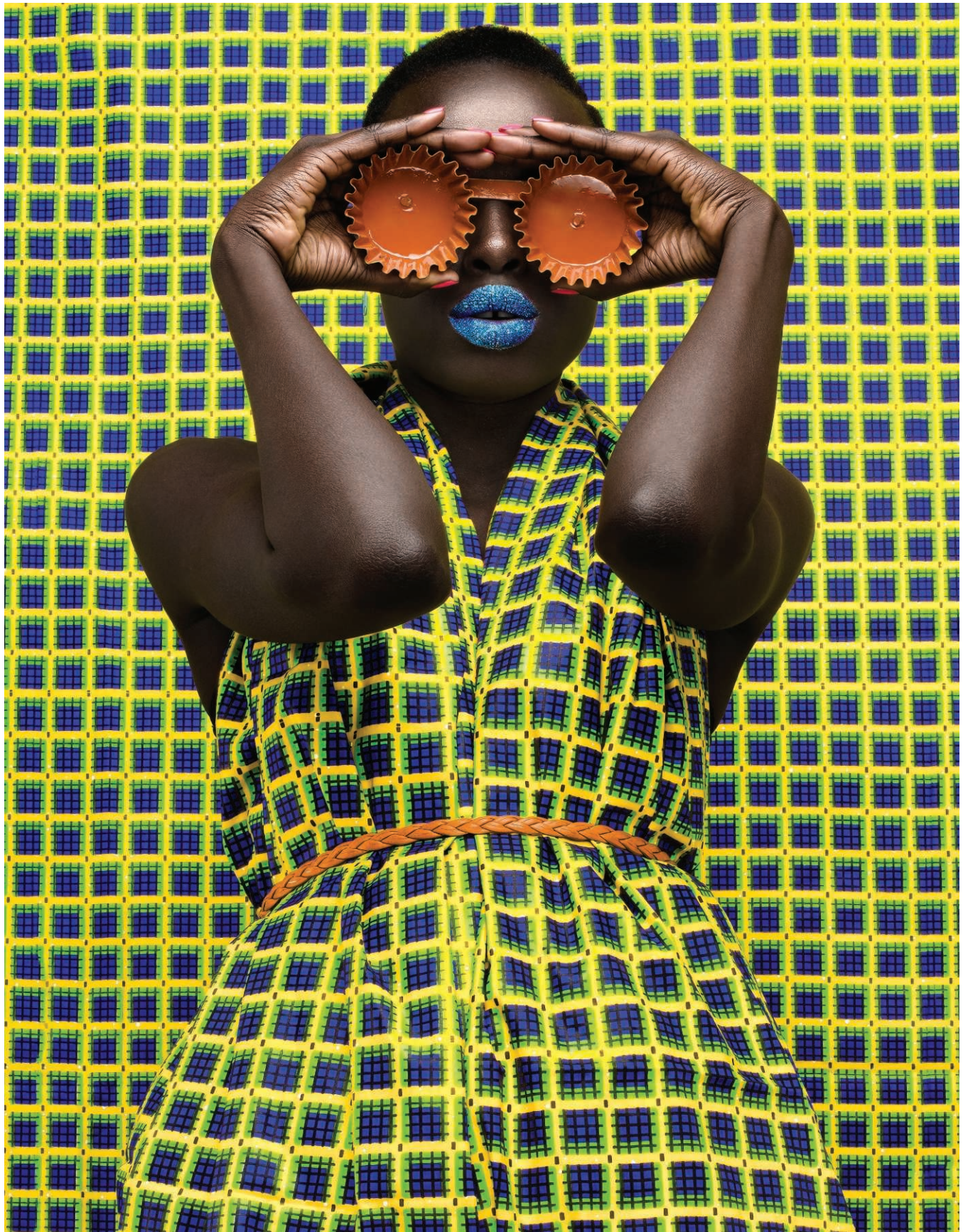
The more I delve into the *Camo* series, the more I learn about my own culture, people, and history. The project has allowed me to view my heritage in a new way. I'm often asked if my works are paintings, and many viewers are shocked to discover the images are all shot in one frame with no Photoshopping. Once or twice, I've watched viewers sneak a quick selfie with my prints, mimicking the model's pose. I'm always delighted to see people joyfully interacting with my work.

***Camo 16* incorporates bottle brushes found in most Kenyan homes.**





Camo 29 features eye-
wear made from mos-
quito coils, and Camo 5
(opposite) repurposes
cupcake holders.





Camo 4, with computer fans from the archaic school machines of the artist's youth.

THANDIWE MURIU'S KENYA

IF YOU HAVE TIME, I SUGGEST TRAVELING THE COUNTRY BY ROAD, to take in the diverse scenery and catch some adventures along the way. From escarpments to tea fields, beaches to hilly towns, Kenya has it all.

Begin in Nairobi, a city that's coming alive artistically. There are metalsmiths crafting bold creations and Maasai markets around the city where skilled hands bead beautiful works. The joy of Nairobi is the warmth of its people, and a smile is readily available in every interaction.

One of my top spots to view and photograph elephants is Amboseli National Park, where they roam in big herds, peacefully foraging. It was there that I saw my first ever "super tusker," Tim, who had tusks almost to the ground. He was magnificent.

The bush is hot and dusty, so why not round off the trip sipping drinks on Lamu's magnificent beaches, where there's magic in the air? Visiting this little island is like stepping back in time to when life was unhurried. Fun fact: There are only two cars on the island – everyone uses boats and donkeys to get around!



GO Take Muriu's tips for a spin with a Kenya exploration from Virtuoso on-site tour connection **andBeyond Kenya**. The nine-day journey by road begins with two nights in Nairobi and visits to the Karen Blixen Museum, the Giraffe Centre, and the elephants of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. Two nights in Amboseli National Park follow, with Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance and wildlife viewing led by Maasai guides. The trip concludes on the coast at a Lamu archipelago resort for snorkeling, fishing, and unwinding. *Departures: Any day through June 2023; from \$6,371.*

STAY **Mahali Mzuri**, Richard Branson's safari camp in Kenya's Olare Motorogi Conservancy, puts travelers in front-row seats for the Great Migration. Zebras, wildebeests, and more pass by the 12 chic tents (each with a private deck) during their annual 1,200-mile circuit from the Serengeti to the Maasai Mara. *Doubles from \$3,040, including all meals and beverages, twice-daily game drives, transfers from Olare Orok airstrip, local market visits, and a \$100 gift shop or spa credit.*

Nairobi's **Fairmont The Norfolk** has hosted a parade of luminary safari-goers since its 1904 opening and provides a verdant base for city explorations. The 139 rooms and suites set around tropical gardens make for an easy retreat from city life. *Doubles from \$239, including breakfast daily and one 50-minute massage for two.*

At **Hemingways Nairobi** in the city's Karen suburb, each of the 45 suites (the smallest are 860 square feet) gets a dedicated butler. Suites also have balconies facing the Ngong Hills, walk-in closets, and canopy beds. The hotel gives travelers quick access to Nairobi classics, including the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and the Giraffe Centre. *Doubles from \$730, including breakfast daily and one 50-minute massage for two.* 📍



ICEBREAKER

A photograph showing two people from behind, standing on a ship's deck and looking out at a vast expanse of broken ice floes. They are wearing blue parkas with fur-lined hoods. The deck has a wooden railing. The ice floes are white and irregularly shaped, floating in dark water.

GETTING TO KNOW ARCTIC SVALBARD.

BY KIM BROWN SEELY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI





B

ITS OF WHITE ICE BOB AROUND OUR SHIP

in the dark-blue sea, and every so often an iceberg floats by. It's 5:30 AM aboard *National Geographic Resolution*, but the sun hasn't set all night. The vessel, on its inaugural voyage to the Arctic, glides silently up a bright fjord, and I'm up early – too excited to sleep – taking in the beauty while northern fulmars streak past like wingmen.

What are the words beyond “beautiful”? Mesmerized, I realize I've forgotten them during these long pandemic years at home. To starboard and port, snowfields etched with reindeer tracks sweep toward black cliffs dusted in snow. Straight off the bow, an aquamarine glacier gleams beneath crystalline sky. I sit and gape. What are the words for a landscape that seems so timeless it brings tears to your eyes?

Lindblad Expeditions was venturing to the high Arctic earlier than usual – in April – with a trip to Svalbard aboard its newest polar vessel, the 126-passenger *Resolution*, named after British explorer Captain James Cook's HMS *Resolution*. I'd signed on with my husband, Jeff, when we learned that Sven-Olof Lindblad, the company's pioneering founder and board co-chair, would be joining this first-ever spring sailing.

Now, triple-vaxed, PCR tested, and well caffeinated, I've already found what will become my favorite place on the ship: the library, a light-filled aerie of blond wood and floor-to-ceiling glass with 270-degree views overlooking the ship's bow. Perched in a caramel-colored leather chair that's tethered to the carpet in case of rough seas, I've made myself a cappuccino, helped myself to a pair of Bushnell binoculars, and am sitting in bliss, taking in the sea, the sky, the snow.

The landscape seems untouched, silent and permanent, but one of the reasons so many of us have come so far to see it is that it's not. The Arctic is unraveling, melting at a frightening rate due to climate change. A new nature and climate study predicts that summer sea ice floating on the surface of the Arctic Ocean could disappear entirely by 2035. (Until recently, scientists didn't think we'd reach this point until 2050 at the earliest.) The Arctic is warming more than twice as fast as the rest of the planet, and there's no element of life unaffected by the immense rate of change here. Many of us have come because the Arctic as we know it – a vast, icy landscape where polar bears prowl and reindeer roam – may soon be just a memory.

“I first visited Svalbard in July 1973 and drove Zodiacs for my dad's ship, the *Lindblad Explorer*,” Sven tells us over cocktails that night. “Back then, the place was so

Freeze frame: *National Geographic Resolution* encounters Svalbard's springtime seascape. Previous spread: Amid the floes.

thick with ice that July was the earliest you could get through it. Now, most of the sea ice is gone by May and June, and the challenge is where to find it.”

This early in spring, there’s still plenty of ice, thankfully. Drawing our cabin’s thick drapes that first morning and squinting out at the midnight sun, my sharp-eyed husband spotted polar-bear tracks crossing an ice floe right beneath our balcony. Not bad for 6 AM.

But knowing how little will soon be left of the ice is heartbreaking. “My hope is that this expedition will be both an experience and a conversation,” Sven had added. “While we profoundly lament this march toward ice extinction, being here this early in the season, a time unthinkable a decade ago, is a wonderful opportunity.”

“Arctic” is derived from *arktos*, the Greek word for “bear.” I would love to see a polar bear in the wild, but there are no guarantees – especially as the ice continues to melt, putting more pressure on bear populations. Jeff snaps an iPhone pic of the tracks, and we scan the scattered floes, on the lookout for cream-colored fur.

THE DAY BEFORE, WE’D RENDEZVOUSED with our 67 fellow passengers in Oslo, Norway, then taken an early-morning charter flight to the Svalbard archipelago, landing in Longyearbyen, the world’s northernmost town. Tucked between snow-covered mountains some 800 miles above the Arctic Circle, Longyearbyen is a tiny, quirky place, home to about 2,400 people, a university, the famous Svalbard Global Seed Vault (which stores roughly 1 million seed samples from around the world in case of apocalyptic disasters), and about 2,500 snowmobiles.

Boarding our ship after buying last-minute gloves and Nordic wool caps along the town’s snowy main drag, we can’t quite believe we’re not only here, but here for the first commercial trip of the season. By summer there will be 30 cruise ships plying these waters (and more than 50 in Antarctica between November and February).

“Polar travel appeals to the curious at heart who want to venture into the wild and remote corners of the world. Age is no barrier,” says Calgary-based Virtuoso travel advisor Jenni Evans. “But it’s important to choose the right ship.” She adds that the most efficient and eco-friendly ships are purpose-built to protect the sea and release fewer emissions. They also have dynamic-positioning systems to avoid using anchors in fragile environments. And of course, Evans advises, smaller expedition vessels carry fewer guests, leaving less impact on protected shores and wildlife.

Departing the dock at Longyearbyen, relieved to know our ship has all these things – as well as one of the industry’s highest ice-class ratings – we turn to starboard and head north, toward Spitsbergen Island’s northwest coast. Our plan is to be “unplanned,” according to expedition leader Bud Lehnhausen, allowing the ship’s expedition team freedom to pivot when weather calls for kayaking or a walrus encounter. “We’re hoping to get up to about 80 degrees north and into lots of pack ice,” Bud adds, grinning.

Eighty degrees north? My husband and I, both sailors, exchange glances, thinking the same thing: *That’s up there!*

Sure enough, when we wake the next morning and pad up to the bridge (open to everyone 24/7 to check out the high-tech nav systems; meet our trip’s captain, Heidi Norling, and navigator, Nicole Pickering; and observe the action as it unfolds), a huge electronic chart table shows the *Resolution* blasting north from Svalbard like a space-ship. Our position: 81.45 degrees.

Outside, it’s snowing lightly, the crew is sweeping snow and ice off the decks, and there’s pack ice as far as you can see. The air temperature is 21 degrees, and many of us are bundled up on the bow before breakfast. It’s hypnotic watching the ship’s prow crunch through solid ice, splitting it into a geometry of white jigsaw pieces with black water borders.



WE ALL RUSH OUT ON DECK – SVEN LINDBLAD IN HIS FLIP-FLOPS AND A FEW SPA-GOERS IN WHITE BATHROBES.



Polar vision (from left): A cold-water paddle in Svalbard, Lindblad Expeditions founder Sven-Olof Lindblad, and *National Geographic Resolution* Navigation Officer Nicole Pickering (left) and Captain Heidi Norling on the ship's bridge.

National Geographic Resolution crew members. Opposite, clockwise from top: Surveying the scene from one of the ship's two sleeping igloos, a well-insulated outing, and a Svalbard reindeer.







Half a dozen Filipino crew members are taking videos, enjoying the novelty of the icebreaker as much as we are. The ship shudders slightly. Aside from the deeply satisfying crunch of ice, we're cut off from all the noise and intrusion of modern-day life (Wi-Fi comes and goes this far north). It feels like a rare luxury, experiencing a place surrounded by silence that stretches all the way to Siberia.

One of the wonders of polar travel today is being able to witness unforgiving environments in extreme comfort. We packed for our ten-night trip to the Arctic in wheeled carry-ons, knowing that Lindblad's faux-fur-trimmed parkas (which travelers get to keep), puffy jackets, and thick neoprene boots – all ordered to fit in advance – would be waiting on board. It was chilly on deck, especially if the wind was blowing, but dressed in my layers I was rarely cold.

For me the greatest pleasure, however, was being inside the light-filled ship, looking out. In addition to the extensive library lounge (with a fireplace and “fire” consisting of water-vapor flames), *Resolution* and its sister ship, *Endurance*, each have a spacious yoga studio with a view off the stern, a spa whose saunas and massage rooms also have astonishing views, two infinity-edge Jacuzzi pools perched so you can sit outside in your swimsuit and watch the snow-covered ridges recede, a light-drenched lounge and bar with more 270-degree views, two restaurants, and the open bridge – with room for dozens of guests at a time and passed hors d'oeuvres during cocktail-hour wildlife sightings.

The design throughout is contemporary Scandinavian: understated, comfortable, and elegant. In the main dining room, tables for two to eight passengers press up against floor-to-ceiling windows. It's delightful having dinner while frozen landscapes pass by and warmth from the ship's super-efficient heating system wafts round your knees. Rather than the standard shipboard buffets of yore, meals are plated and ordered from daily menus, minimizing Covid risk. On rotating nights



each guest is invited to join a private seating of 12 to 20 at the “Cook’s Nook” – a long table on the Observation Deck inspired by Captain Cook’s officers’ table – for a seven-course tasting menu ranging from salmon gravlax with avocado-wasabi puree to braised lamb with shiitake mushrooms.

As the days pass by, I entertain a fantasy that I’m one of the expedition crew and the ship is our floating home – a home designed exceptionally well for exploration. In the evenings there are terrific lectures by onboard naturalists and, on our trip, National Geographic photographer Camille Seaman. And almost every day there’s an unexpected adventure. When we suit up and Zodiac ashore for our first walk in the Arctic – “No wandering off!” our guide, Stefano, reminds us, pointing out Peter the polar-bear guard standing watch on a hill with a rifle – we encounter a herd of Svalbard reindeer, a furry, short-legged subspecies found only in these islands. While the deer put on a show racing over the frozen tundra, we learn how they’ve evolved to eat and eat and eat all summer long, gaining 100 pounds a year to fatten up and survive the winter.

“Imagine how much salad you’d have to eat to gain 100 pounds a year,” Stefano quips, and it occurs to me I might as well relax and try everything on the menu since extra padding in the Arctic keeps you warmer.

Another day Captain Norling noses the ship up to towering black cliff faces while thousands of black-and-white Brünnich’s guillemots swirl above the icy white waves crashing below. Even the colors of the birds are striking, the sheer contrast of black and white drawing so much of this landscape together. Millions of birds flock to Svalbard to nest on the rock outcroppings of the coastline’s near-vertical cliffs. It’s a stirring sight, and we all rush out on deck – Sven Lindblad in his flip-flops and a few spa-goers in white bathrobes. A festive air pervades the Observation Lounge, everyone high on seabirds and fresh, invigorating Arctic air.

From opposite left: A walrus at rest, an 11 PM photo session while fast in ice, Brünnich’s guillemots near their cliffside nesting area, and pork tenderloin at the ship’s Restaurant 270°.



After sharing several outings and meals, we're soon on a first-name basis with half our fellow adventurers. A well-traveled bunch, they range from age 10 to 83, and many are serious amateur photographers. Several had originally booked this trip two years ago and are here now that pandemic travel restrictions have eased. One tells me his wife got a great bonus at work and they'd decided to splurge on a big trip. "Polar bear or penguin?" she'd asked.

By the fifth night we've seen a mother bear and two cubs far off in the distance, but you can tell the photographers are getting anxious. Finally, an announcement comes that a bear has been spotted off the bow, and everyone crowds onto the bridge. An excited buzz fills the space. It's cocktail hour, and Captain Norling and Navigation Officer Pickering run the show, inching the ship silently, slowly, through brilliant sun-burnished ice toward a young polar bear standing in the midst of a pure-white expanse.

It's a thrilling scene, but what makes it unforgettable is that the bear is drenched in blood. She's just killed a seal, and her cream-colored chest, forepaws, and face gleam strawberry-red. White gulls line up, fluttering their wings like an audience that can't sit still, and we're riveted. The white. The bear. The blood. At its most primal level the world is cruel, but also beautiful.

After dramatic encounters like this, it's a comfort to retreat to our sunlit cabin with its spacious sitting area, command-center desk (equipped with an iPad, Bose speaker, and National Geographic atlas), sliding glass doors opening onto a big balcony, walk-in closet, and bathroom with a tub. I love our cabin so much I regretably never try the ship's two "igloos," which have a waiting list of passengers eager to sleep out atop the stern under geodesic glass with hot water bottles and wool blankets for warmth.

The last day of our trip we wake to pale-blue skies streaked with cirrus clouds and speed toward shore for a final walk on the ice. A glacier topped with crenellated peaks sparkles before us, and we take in the silence, the bright warmth of the sun. The full privilege of visiting the Arctic hits me then. The ice we're cruising through is rare and becoming more rare. The remarkable and unusual and bloody animals all rely on ice. And we rely on it too—it's the air conditioner of our planet.

As the Zodiac lands at the edge of the shimmering ice field, I take a long look at the scene before me, the snow piled so light and dry it's like sugar, pray we'll figure out how to save it all somehow, and step ashore.

Hot and cold, from left: A hot tub session aboard the ship, a hike with a glacier backdrop, and a polar bear (with a cub nearby) hunts a seal below the ice.

GO NORTH

Lindblad Expeditions will be running ten-night expeditions to Arctic Svalbard aboard the 126-passenger *National Geographic Resolution* and sister ship *National Geographic Endurance* – the first new polar builds in Lindblad's 50-year history – in May and June 2023, with early-spring trips again in April 2024. Adventurous guests cruise with National Geographic photographers and Lindblad-certified photo instructors and naturalists, sharing kayaks, ice walks, and Zodiac encounters with walrus and icebergs aboard a fully stabilized, ice-class vessel. *Departures: Multiple dates, May 30 through June 20, 2023; from \$12,350.*

With its new 132-passenger, carbon-neutral, ice-class *Sylvia Earle* launching in November 2022, **Aurora Expeditions** takes cruisers on a leisurely 14-night exploration of Svalbard. Some highlights: venturing close to 80 degrees north, hiking over summer tundra abloom with wildflowers, and searching for polar bears, arctic foxes, whales, and puffins. *Departure: June 26, 2023; from \$12,956.*

Silversea's eight-night, late-summer Tromsø-to-Longyearbyen expedition aboard the 274-passenger *Silver Wind* (converted to ice class in 2021) crosses from the tip of mainland Norway to Svalbard, including stops at Gjesværstappan, one of the world's most remote nesting sites for seabirds, and Bear Island, on the border of the Norwegian and Barents seas. The trip includes airfare to and from your point of departure and butler service in every suite. *Departure: July 21, 2023; from \$11,800.*

Quark Expeditions' 13-night sailing from Aberdeen, Scotland, to Longyearbyen on the 128-passenger *Ocean Adventurer* crosses the North Atlantic to some of the most remote islands on earth. Cruisers spend two days exploring the rugged Faroe Islands, sail to the rarely visited volcanic island of Jan Mayen, and spend three days in southern Svalbard – plus four days at sea. *Departure: May 15, 2023; from \$7,891.* 📍

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Dubai's Museum of the
Future is wrapped in
calligraphic windows.

FLASH FORWARD

DUBAI'S BRIGHT FUTURE. STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS SCHALKX



Stardate 2071.

I've just returned from OSS *Hope*, the United Arab Emirates' space station floating 370 miles above Earth. From the shuttle on our descent to Dubai, I observed a cityscape needled with skyscrapers that dwarfed the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower back in the 2020s. Autonomous drones zoomed past before we touched down and disembarked inside a neon-lit library that reminded me of a Yayoi Kusama installation – quite magical, really – though some of my fellow passengers seemed to prefer experiencing our virtual reality journey

through the viewfinder of their phones' cameras. How very 2022 of them.

For now, this optimistic vision remains an LED-powered mirage – one of the handful of exhibitions at Dubai's new Museum of the Future, a boundary-pushing structure shaped like a giant silver lobster claw bedecked in Arabic calligraphy. It debuted to much fanfare this year just as the World Expo wrapped up, and tickets book out days in advance.

In reality, Dubai's lightning-fast progression is palpable. In this giant sandbox



Razzle-dazzle Dubai is surprisingly awash with rootsy creative ingenuities.



**Clockwise from top
left: Jumeirah Al
Qasr and Al Naseem
share one of the city's
prime beaches, and a
negroni at Al Qasr.**

of glass and steel, you can't look anywhere without spotting at least a handful of cranes. Everywhere, construction workers are busy building towers higher and architecturally bolder than the ones already scraping the sky. Nothing seems impossible here.

The UAE's largest city is one of superlatives, after all: a place of freezing ski runs in a desert where temperatures often surpass 100 degrees, of Rolls-Royces parked in front of one of the world's largest malls, of condo towers so high that residents on the top floors start their iftar (a sundown meal breaking the daily fast during Ramadan) three minutes after those at ground level because the sun sets later from their vantage point.

To say that Dubai is having quite the run would be an understatement. As one of the first global tourism hubs to reopen during the pandemic (in July 2020), it became a haven for remote workers and perpetual sunseekers escaping mask mandates and lockdowns at home. Expo 2020, which delayed its opening until October of last year, delivered another boost: By the time of its final show at the tail end of March, the visitor tally had clocked in at almost 25 million. There's the Museum of the Future, of course, and this fall sees the



highly anticipated arrival of the Atlantis The Royal Dubai resort, with its 90-plus swimming pools and restaurants – a whopping 18 in total – by some of the world’s top chefs, including Heston Blumenthal and José Andrés.

No wonder, then, that on any ordinary weekday morning, travelers will find the Jumeirah Al Naseem hotel buzzing with life. From my room, a lofty, cream-colored abode with a bed wide enough to comfortably sleep a camel, I overlooked throngs of vacationers dipping in and out of the Windex-blue Persian Gulf. They were only a fraction of the guests checked in at the rooms and villas composing Madinat Jumeirah, a beachfront jumble of resorts so sprawling I needed a map (and a buggy) to get around. Among its facilities: more than 40 restaurants, 19 indoor and outdoor pools, and a mile of sugar-white sand on which to spend lazy afternoons wondering how Jumeirah keeps the massive gardens so lush and teeming with birds.

Drive up or down the city’s coastline, and you’ll find a pick-and-mix of spots for year-round sunbathing, from humble public beaches to private stretches of sand with bottle service at thumping beach clubs. The infinity-pooled Drift Beach Club at the One&Only Royal Mirage gets top marks, but family-friendly Madinat has several other tricks up its sleeve: Wild Wadi Waterpark, with 17



From left: Abras ferry residents across Dubai Creek, and fattoush salad and mint lemonade at XVA Café.

In reality, Dubai's lightning-fast progression is palpable.

swirling waterslides, including the fastest free-fall slide outside North America; and a full-fledged souk. It's a beachside Disneyland for grown-ups, minus the costumed ducks and mice.

THOUGH DUBAI often grabs headlines for its glitz and over-the-top Saturday brunches, there are equal pleasures to be found in its simpler joys. One afternoon I strolled through the Old Town straddling Dubai Creek. In the Spice Souk's incense-swirled alleys, Technicolor market stalls overflowed with everything from Gobstopper-size spheres of dried indigo and tiny rosebuds to crystalline teardrops of solidified acacia gum sold as a postnatal folk remedy. The droning syllables of the muezzin's call to prayer echoed between the souk's sandstone walls as droves of *kandura*-clad men shuffled to its source.

For a single dirham (about 25 cents), I crossed the creek on an *abra*, one of the traditional no-frills wooden ferries that ply the water 24 hours a day. This corner of town is home to Dubai's oldest remaining building, the eighteenth-century Al Fahidi Fort, with its merloned walls and coral stone watchtowers in the crème caramel hue that defines most of the Gulf's ancient architecture. Around the corner, the popular Arabian Tea House turns out tandoor-fresh flatbread and sweet *karak* tea with cardamom and milk – a wicker-chaired throwback to when locals sought refuge from the midday heat in breezy tea



From left: Efie Gallery and the Mosque of Light in Al Quoz.





Tribes's Courtyard store in Al Quoz specializes in sustainable handmade home decor.

parlors rather than air-conditioned megamalls. The teahouse is perched on the edge of the historic Al Fahidi neighborhood, a labyrinthine enclave that was once a settlement for Persian merchants. They've long since left, their patched-up former homes now occupied by art galleries, courtyard cafés, and handicraft workshops.

Know where to look and you'll find that razzle-dazzle Dubai is surprisingly awash with these rootsy creative ingenuities. One day I followed a local friend's directions to Al Quoz, a dusty industrial estate adjacent to Jumeirah and Business Bay. Upon arrival, it looks like the part of town you'd hit up to get your car fixed: Mechanics' workshops and freight forwarders occupy windowless corrugated-steel hangars. But my first impression was soon proved wrong. The neighborhood's heart, Alserkal Avenue arts center, teemed with laptop-working, green-smoothie-drinking, yoga-mat-toting thirtysomethings. Starting with the arrival of Ayyam Gallery, ceramists, filmmakers, artists, and fashion designers have turned this former marble factory into Dubai's creative epicenter. One of its tenants is Butheina Kazim, who founded the Gulf's first art-house theater, Cinema Akil, in 2014 as a way to bring Dubai's 200 different nationalities together through film.

Looking down the avenue, I spotted a giant LED sign on a rooftop that read "WHEN WILL YOU RETURN": an installation by NYC-based artist Mary Ellen Carroll. Before this visit, when the Dubai I envisioned was one of lavish overindulgence, I figured the city as one of those once-in-a-decade destinations – a fly-and-flop holiday spot for deep-pocketed revelers. Now, I can't help but wonder what else from its past, present, and future awaits discovery. A hotel transfer by air, perhaps? Maybe I'll hop on an electric flying taxi – the emirate has already rolled out test flights.

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Palatial Playgrounds in the City of Gold

STAY With its stucco wind towers and palm-tufted gardens, beachfront **Jumeirah Al Qasr** feels like the grand palace of an erstwhile Arabian dynasty. Its 292 rooms, richly swathed in gold and cobalt, teeter on the right side of old-world opulence, while its facilities and tropical spa place the resort firmly in twenty-first-century Dubai. *Doubles from \$528, including breakfast daily and one lunch or dinner and a 50-minute massage for two.*

Sharing the same beach and many of the same facilities as Al Qasr, **Jumeirah Al Naseem** channels modern Dubai in 435 rooms with leather-trimmed furnishings and hammam-like bathrooms. Young guests will love the turtle-feeding sessions at the on-site rehabilitation lagoon. *Doubles from \$558, including breakfast daily and a 50-minute massage for two.*

With a plum position in the heart of downtown Dubai, the **Address Downtown**'s 220 rooms have stellar views of the Burj Khalifa – and its five-tiered pool delivers a welcome break from the desert heat. The massive spa sports a hammam, a Finnish sauna, and treatments such as medi-diamond facials. *Doubles from \$544, including breakfast daily and one lunch or dinner for two.*

Presiding in a sprawling pyramid near the airport, **Raffles Dubai**'s 240 rooms are some of the Emirates' largest. Hieroglyph engravings in the lobby set the tone for a stay fit for a pharaoh, complete with a *shisha* garden and six bars and restaurants, ranging from Japanese to Italian. *Doubles from \$274, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

When it opens this year, 44 of **Atlantis The Royal Dubai**'s 795 rooms will come with private pools overlooking the Persian Gulf. Make a splash at rooftop lounge Cloud 22, with its nearly 300-foot-long infinity pool and nightclub. *Rates to be announced and will include breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.* 📍



Desert oasis: Jumeirah Al Naseem's pool.

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Five writers on realizing it was more than just a trip.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SARA SINGH

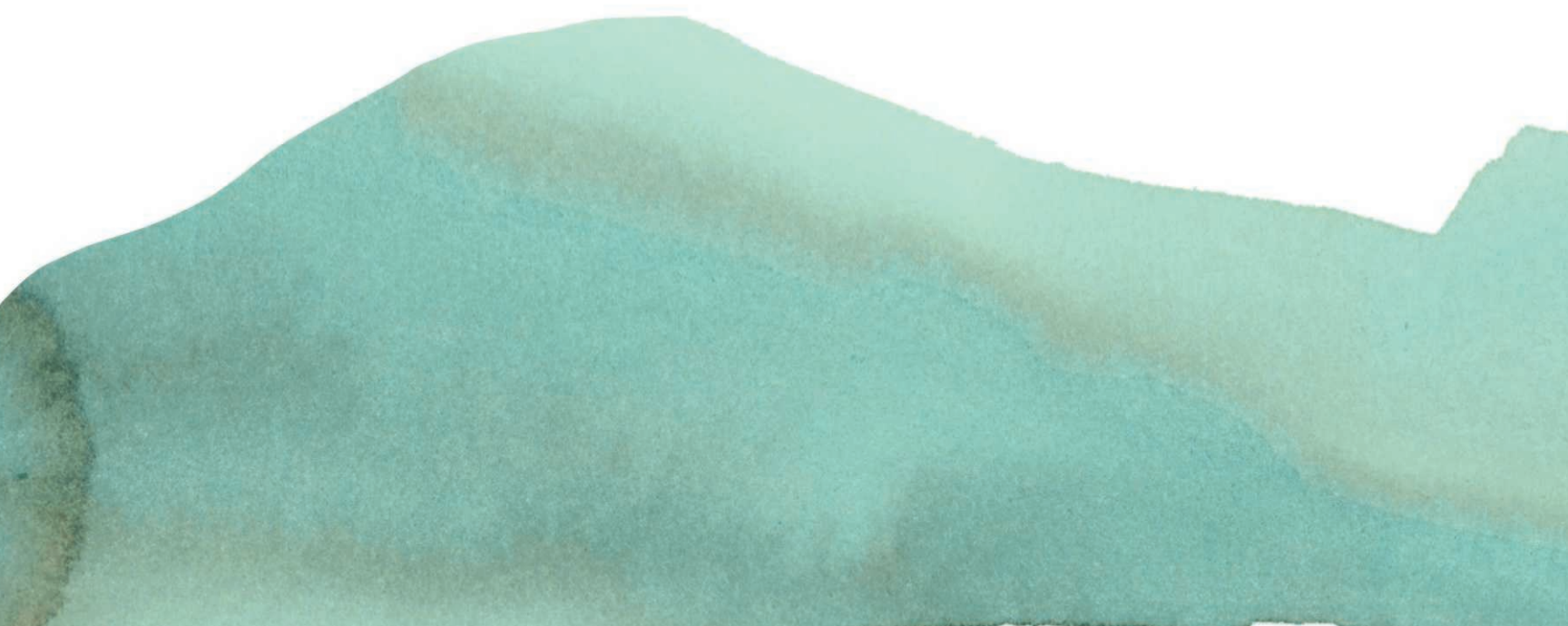
It's true: We never forget our tentpole travel experiences – sunset on the Amalfi Coast, the first chilly step on Antarctic soil, a 4 AM Bastille Day dance party on rue Oberkampf. But in between the obvious thrills and postcard vistas, we've learned the smaller moments can be just as powerful. We asked writers to tell us about those quiet memories that have stuck with them. Their reflections are proof that the most meaningful travel experiences can arrive when you least expect them.

Offline in Luang Prabang

BY KATE WICKERS

THE TRIP CAME AT THE RIGHT TIME. We all needed a break from work, school, and social schedules. And I was worried about how much time my sons (ages 12, 16, and 17) were spending glued to their myriad devices. I wanted them to understand what it felt like to travel untethered from phones and the internet, like my husband and I had during our days backpacking through Southeast Asia in the 1990s.





Luang Prabang, Laos' former royal capital, would give us the opportunity to slow down and connect with the residents and their culture. Upon arrival, I suggested we all go "off comms" during the day and leave our phones at the hotel. Cue the eye-rolling agony. I stood my ground.

"You won't miss them after a day," I promised. "Look around! There's so much to see."

The Lao people joke that the abbreviation "PDR," as in People's Democratic Republic, really stands for "Please Don't Rush." Joy is found here in taking time to observe the minutiae of everyday life – a concept I knew my active sons might deem boring. On a boat trip along the Mekong River, we passed a group of monks constructing a new pontoon. They had stopped for a tea break. Our guide, Kharta, smiled when he saw them.


"They are putting into practice the Lao belief that too much work is bad for you," he told us. "There's a saying that the Vietnamese plant the rice, and the Lao listen to it grow."

"Doesn't that make Lao people sound a bit lazy?" Josh, my oldest, asked.

"Not at all," Kharta answered. "Doing nothing takes practice."

Kharta's words resonated the next day when we visited a sanctuary for Asian black bears and other wildlife rescued from illegal trade. We watched the bears nap in their hammocks, mesmerized by their stillness. I was thrilled to already notice a change in my sons, who had accepted that Snapchat streaks and Instagram Stories could wait. That morning, without me even making the request, they had left their phones behind at the hotel.

Kate Wickers is the author of Shape of a Boy: Family Life Lessons in Far-Flung Places (Aurum).



Kenya, at Last

BY MARY MORRIS

THE BULL ELEPHANT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE. It was at the far edge of a meadow, tucked into a grove of trees. I would have missed it, but Simon, our Maasai guide, did not. It was hot and dusty on our last day in the Maasai Mara. We had arrived at the reserve late and had been bumping along, getting what Simon referred to as a “Maasai massage.” I was sweltering in the back seat, ready to return to our camp, when Simon pulled over.

Slowly the elephant stepped into the field. “How did you see him?” I asked, but Simon just smiled. The elephant gathered grasses with his sweeping trunk. The only sound was the wind and his swooshing through the fields.

“Can we get out?” I asked.

Simon’s eyes panned the fields, searching for predators. When he was certain there were none, he nodded. “Yes, but stay near the Land Cruiser.”

We hadn’t planned to come to Kenya. In fact, we hadn’t planned on going anywhere. Although we’d wanted to go to Africa for years, it had never worked out. But at one point last winter I turned to my husband, Larry, and said, “If not now, when?”

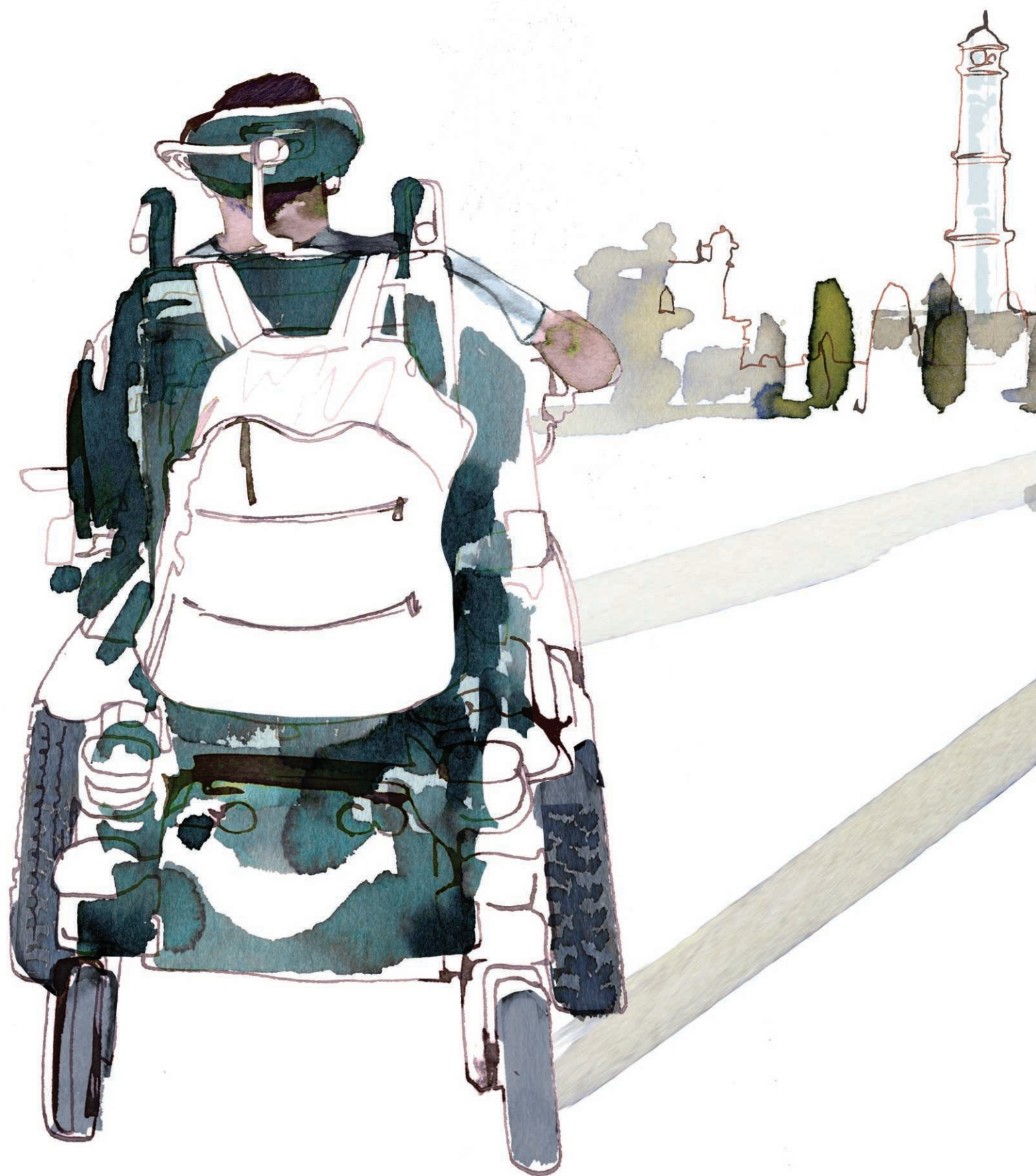
That afternoon, as we drove along in the heat, I thought of the first elephant we’d seen – a female who walked with her baby shielded between her legs. I recalled the lioness panting over the carcass of a buffalo. The hike we’d taken not far from our camp and the family of giraffes that grazed nearby. Our picnic lunch by the riverbank where hippos bathed. And the goat Simon had served the night before as Maasai men danced around the fire.

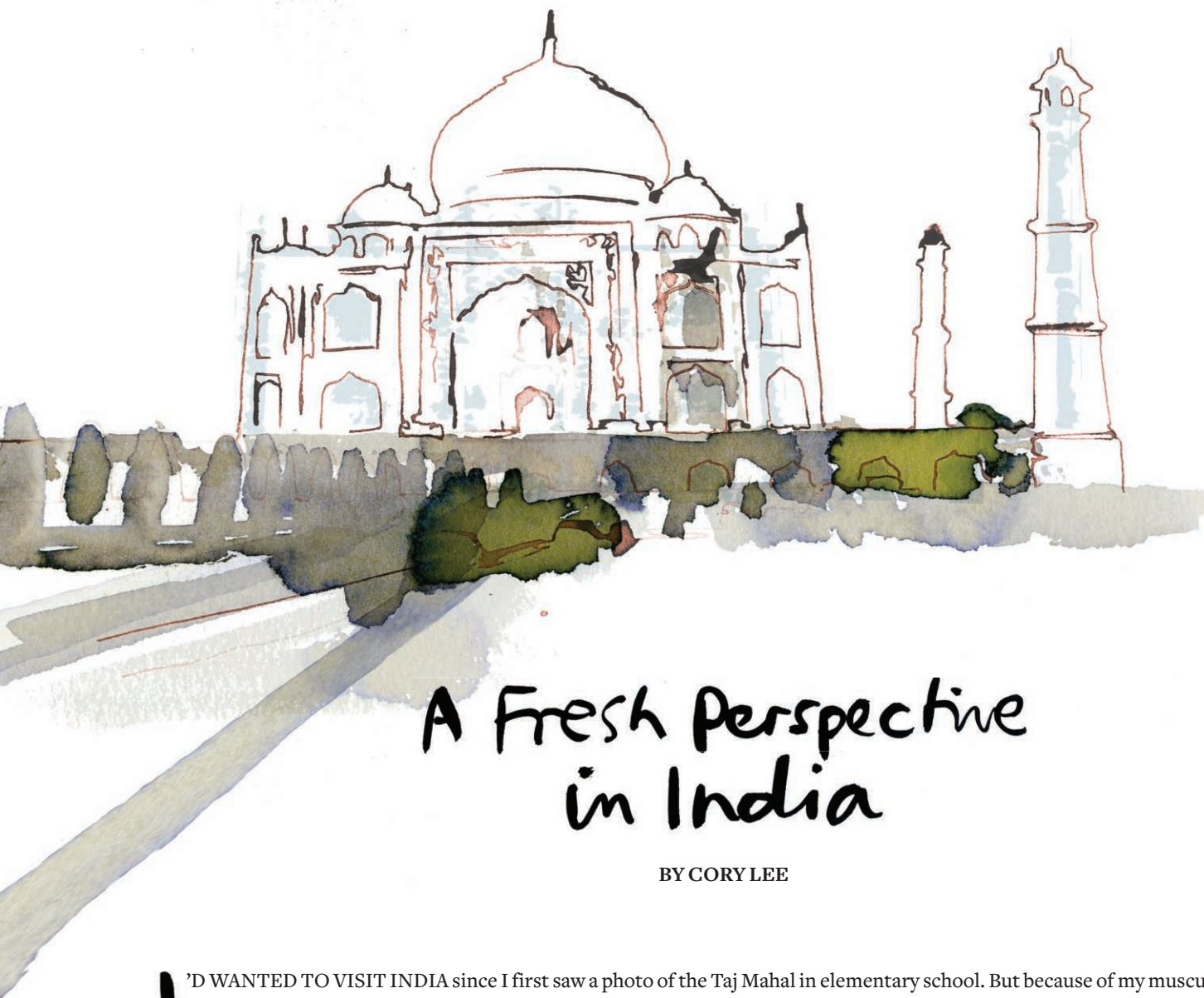
Now, in these waning hours of our trip, the elephant, huge and solitary, approached as we leaned against the Land Cruiser. He moved through the grass in his smooth, almost silent way. I want to move through the world that way, I told myself. It was like watching a living poem.

Safari means “journey” in Swahili, and this was ours. As the elephant receded into the trees, we got back into the Land Cruiser and drove away.

Mary Morris is the author of several story collections, novels, and memoirs, including her latest, All the Way to the Tigers (Anchor).







A Fresh Perspective in India

BY CORY LEE

I'D WANTED TO VISIT INDIA since I first saw a photo of the Taj Mahal in elementary school. But because of my muscular dystrophy and the 400-pound wheelchair I rely on, traveling there was impossible: The country's infrastructure is a challenge for visitors with disabilities. In 2018, I learned about India's first tour company equipped to handle accessible travel; a few months later, I was on my way for eight days of Golden Triangle adventure.

After more than 20 hours in transit, I arrived in Delhi. India was as magical as I expected, and more beautiful than I could've imagined. It was sensory overload in the best way, from the grandeur of the Taj Mahal to Jaipur's pink sandstone facades. There was a catch, though: Every time I rolled down the ramp and out of the van, dozens of people ran over to watch. They pointed at my wheelchair and took photos. After a few days, I started to get annoyed. I felt like a zoo animal, and I didn't understand why everyone was so mesmerized.

But on my fourth day, in Agra, an Indian man walked over to me with tears in his eyes. In broken English, he told me he'd never seen a motorized wheelchair like mine before. "My brother cannot get out of bed or leave the house because he needs a wheelchair," he said, "but we cannot afford it."

In that moment, I realized my privilege. I'm a wheelchair user, but I can leave my house. I can travel to the other side of the world. I've been to all seven continents, and that's only possible because I was born in a place where motorized assistance is the norm, and I have health insurance that pays for a wheelchair that costs as much as a luxury vehicle.

I smiled as the man walked away, knowing I'd never forget our exchange. Then I enjoyed the rest of my trip, stares and all, grateful for the adventure of a lifetime.

Cory Lee runs the popular wheelchair travel blog Curb Free with Cory Lee.



ALMOST TEN YEARS AGO, on my flight from Lagos, I turned in response to an apology from the man next to me. He was traveling with his son, a toddler, who had just quieted after a long spell of crying. I told him it wasn't a problem. Then he asked me why I was headed to New York.

"For my master's," I said.

"That's nice. Have you ever been to New York?"

I told him no.

He looked at me as if shocked. "You have to be careful when you get to New York," he said. I searched his face for context. He seemed to want to say more, but just then his son woke up and began whimpering.

We began our final descent. The city appeared below, a mass of mottled shapes. With each pull downward I felt a rush of fear. It would be the first time I'd live in a foreign country, with no family nearby, and I had little more than \$1,000 in cash. I was already alarmed by my potential alienation, and the lack of irony in the man's voice made me even more anxious. After a little while, I couldn't bear it any longer.

"Can I ask, sir, what do you mean by what you said?"

"What I said?" the man replied, looking flustered.

I repeated the warning he'd given me.

"Oh. You are young. Don't worry. You'll be fine."

His words, though, had reached me at the time of heightened vulnerability during any big journey, that moment prior to arrival in a place I'd never been. As the plane trembled to a halt, I responded with a nervous chuckle and left it at that.

That day, I arrived to something unexpected: a man I'd never met in person, the editor of a magazine I wrote for, welcoming me with a sign bearing my name. I spent my first month living in his apartment, and over the next six years, New York became like a home, due in part to encounters with strangers and friends alike. It was a reminder that my expectations for a place should never be defined by others' assumptions.

*Emmanuel Iduma is the author of the travelogue *A Stranger's Pose* (Cassava Republic Press) and the forthcoming memoir *I Am Still with You: A Reckoning with Silence, Inheritance, and History* (Algonquin Books).*



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A Northwest Connection

BY URSULA PIKE

WHEN MY 9-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER and I traveled to Seattle from our home in Texas several years ago, we of course visited Pike Place Market and the Space Needle, but as a Native American, I wanted to introduce her to the region's Indigenous people. On a cloudless afternoon, with Mount Rainier on display in her glorious, snow-capped beauty, we ferried across Puget Sound to Blake Island, where a local attraction introduced visitors to some of the area's Native community – the island is an ancestral camping ground of the Suquamish Tribe.

Staff greeted us at the dock with bowls of steamed clams. Inside a cedar longhouse, murals painted in the iconic style of the Northwest Coast people covered the walls. We watched Native artists carve wood into miniature whale sculptures. Hunks of salmon sizzled over an open firepit, while a woman told an origin story that wove together elements from multiple Pacific Northwest tribes as men wearing dark, flowing robes and large, ornate black-and-red masks danced to her words across a stage.

After their performance, a Native man told us about the hours of practice he put into learning how to carry the heavy wooden mask while dancing. My daughter stared into the fierce, oversize eyes of the mask, now sitting beside us on a table. As he explained how Suquamish culture is passed between generations, I thought about how I struggled to pass my Indigenous culture to my daughter. We are Karuk and our ancestral territory is near Mount Shasta in California. Water, salmon, and storytelling are important to our tribe too.

When the dancer asked us what tribal nation we were from, my daughter's eyes widened. In Texas, strangers rarely acknowledge our Indigenous identity. To be a Native person often means feeling invisible, erased. But he saw her.

As we boarded the boat to return to Seattle, I thought about the way the man took action every day to keep his culture alive. It was our culture too. My daughter watched for the city's skyline to reappear. I knew she would remember this moment.

Ursula Pike is the author of An Indian among Los Indígenas: A Native Travel Memoir (Heyday Books). ♡



1

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FALLING FOR THE HUDSON VALLEY,
JUST AS THE LEAVES ARE STARTING TO CHANGE.

BY SANDY LANG

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER FRANK EDWARDS

Valley temptations:
Ripe for the picking
near Milton, New York,
and (opposite)
the daily lineup at
Philip Orchards.

With cameras packed

my partner, Peter Frank Edwards, was looking forward to autumn's soft light across the Hudson River Valley. I was too, eager for sweater weather and the leaves' vivid display. Neither of us had spent much time exploring the valley in fall – just an overnight here or there on the way to getaways farther north in New England.

This time, we homed in on a mid- to upper section of the massive river that flows from its headwaters around Albany to New York Harbor, tracing a route through valley towns lined with historic brick buildings now home to galleries and cafés founded by NYC transplants. At its widest, the Hudson stretches some three miles across, its shores and valley dotted with lighthouses and red-painted barns; historic homes of Vanderbilts, Rockefellers, and Roosevelts turned museums; orchards and vineyards with stone fences; and farmers markets and roadside stands filled with all shapes and sizes of colorful gourds.

We planned the trip to catch the peak of fall colors: electric-orange maples, groves of deep-red apples, purple-black cabernet franc clusters at wineries such as Fjord Vineyards in Milton. It was remarkable how much the scenery still mirrored bucolic nineteenth-century Hudson River School paintings – especially so at Olana, the hilltop estate built by landscape artist Frederic Church just downriver from the town of Hudson.

Design and the arts have a strong presence in much of the valley, particularly





Clockwise from far left: Double-drop Kaaterskill Falls near Palenville, Hudson Clothier, and Finch Hudson owners Michael Hofemann (left) and Andrew Arrick.





Former graphic designer and music video director Paula Greif's by-appointment-only ceramics studio.

so in Hudson, a town of roughly 6,000 year-round residents that's home to shops such as ceramist Paula Greif's workshop, apothecary The Quiet Botanist, and Finch Hudson, where owners Andrew Arrick and Michael Hofemann showcase vintage and modern furniture and home goods. A few doors down, fashion designer Mary Vaughn Williams traded more than two dozen years in the NYC industry for her weathered-brick and wood-floored store, Hudson Clothier, which sources wardrobe staples from across the U.S. in an ode to Americana.

It's a theme that carries through to our base, Troutbeck, which has welcomed valley visitors for centuries in the town of Amenia. The stone manor house's parlors are filled with books and curios, among them a framed 1939 letter from a curator at London's Royal Botanic Gardens about the extraordinary collection of clematis vines in Troutbeck's walled garden. The 250-acre estate serves as an idyllic gateway to cycling, fly-fishing, hiking, and wine-tasting in the surrounding hills, with a rustic cider from nearby Graft cidery and seasonal dishes such as a salad with local beets, husk cherries, and hazelnuts waiting upon your return.

My favorite moment of the trip, though, was at Philip Orchards in Claverack. After Peter Frank climbed an orchard ladder for a photo, he plucked a crimson apple from a branch for us to share. Months later, I still remember crunching into the Empire apple in the sunshine, tasting Hudson Valley's fall color and sweetness in each bite.



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We planned the trip to catch the peak of fall colors: electric-orange maples, groves of deep-red apples, purple-black cabernet franc clusters.



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Clockwise from top: Fall color in the valley, and Troutbeck executive chef Gabe McMackin and his seared trout with fresh corn.



Navigating a Hudson River Getaway

STAY An estate, inn, and onetime tavern that dates to the 1700s, 37-room **Troutbeck** sits among woodlands and farms at the valley's eastern edge, about 45 minutes from riverfront Poughkeepsie. Paths lead from the stone manor house and dining room to gardens, cottages, and wellness barns. *Doubles from \$655, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

GO New England-founded **DuVine Cycling + Adventure Co.**'s four-day, fully supported cycling and e-bike Hudson Valley tours use Troutbeck as their home base. Daily rides focus on low-traffic, scenic routes through covered bridges, with rest breaks for farm visits and tastings of artisanal cheeses and local wines, as well as whiskey at a boutique distillery. *Departures: Multiple dates, May through October, 2023; from \$3,995.*

Active travel company **Backroads** leads five-day cycling trips that spin along the Hudson River Valley and into the Catskill Mountains, with stops at limestone Hyde Park mansions and elsewhere on the riverside Millionaires' Row. *Departures: Multiple dates, September 5 through October 16, 2023; from \$3,499.*

Wings Air Helicopters offers private, bird's-eye views of the valley that include a vineyard tour and tasting with a multicourse lunch at Torne Valley or Milea vineyards, round-trip from Manhattan. *Departures: Any day through 2022; from \$5,525 for two or \$11,000 for up to five passengers.* 📍

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Jamie Meares' Furbish Studio is a colorful collection of home goods, inspired by treasures she's picked up during her global travels. She commissioned Phoenix-based artist Jessica Rowe to create a series of matchbook watercolors inspired by some of her favorite places. Each of the bright prints (there are about 100) serves as a mini souvenir. "I hope when people look at these in their homes, they remember past trips and memories made," Rowe says. Prints available at furbishstudio.com.

@furbishstudio and @theaestate

An aerial photograph of a tropical island. The image is dominated by lush green palm trees and dense foliage. In the center, a small, narrow boat with two people is visible on a clear blue body of water. The sky is a deep, vibrant blue, creating a serene and idyllic atmosphere.

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