

ULTIMATE

EXPERIENCES

G'Day!
AUSTRALIA

PLUS: ALASKA. CROATIA. MEXICO. SOUTH AFRICA

Where to Go *Next* ...

As your trusted travel advisor, we evolve your travel wish-list, delivering on where you most desire to go next. With this edition of *Ultimate Experiences*, we celebrate “Where to Go in 2024” – a vetted account of dreamy destinations, yet with unexpected locales like Istria, Croatia; Jutland, Denmark; and South Africa’s Eastern Cape.

The importance and benefits of working with a travel advisor are essential to successful vacationing. We intimately know the dos and don’ts of the most popular destinations, yet remain one step ahead of emerging favorites, too. Ultimately, we save you today’s most cherished asset – time – so you can enjoy spending it with friends and family. Let us help create your ideal vacation enhanced with our exclusive benefits. From complimentary credits and valuable upgrades to expert guides and behind-the-scenes access, we’ll handle all the details. Get ready for 2024 inspiration – this year is poised for global play.

Happy Travels!

**Sleep in luxury,
wrapped in wilderness.**

Come glamping at The Resort at Paws Up, where our luxury tents bring the best of camping together with the comforts of an award-winning resort. Our tents and glampsites are perfect for families who want to play, and stay, together in the great outdoors.



THE RESORT AT
PAWS UP

A flamingo stands in shallow, clear water. Its long, thin legs are visible, and its reflection is perfectly mirrored in the calm water below. The flamingo has pink and white feathers and a long, black beak. In the background, there are more flamingos and a range of mountains under a clear blue sky.

BRILLIANT FRONTIERS

DISCOVER CHILE'S ATACAMA DESERT.

When it comes to desert landscapes, nothing quite compares to Chile's *El Valle de la Luna* and the Atacama Desert. While driving the area's *autopista*, which winds through jagged red-and-brown ridges reminiscent of the back of a Stegosaurus, it's quickly apparent you're entering a unique part of the world. Make ample time to witness its famous flamingos at Chaxa Lagoon in Los Flamencos National Reserve (pictured). In route, Atacama's famous Valley of the Moon will come into sharp focus: a surreal ocean of red sand dunes, sharp maroon ridges, and the occasional white sprinkling of salt. Hiking the area is the best way to feel deeply entrenched in its ethereal beauty, and Instagram-worthy photo opportunities are found around every bend. [uc](#)



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Yohko Scott, Japan National Tourism Organization.

PROTECT YOUR JOURNEY

Reading the fine print, understanding exclusions, and keeping up with ever changing health requirements is a lot to navigate while also planning a vacation. That's where we come in! Contact us and we'll help determine the right travel insurance policy for you based on who is traveling, the type of vacation you're taking, and any pre-existing conditions or potential exclusions. We are here to make sure you feel prepared and confident about your upcoming travels.

ON THE COVER

Rowley Shoals, Kimberley, Australia
Image: Tourism Australia

ESCAPE *Plan*

WHEN I visited the Riviera Nayarit for this issue of *Ultimate Experiences*, I boarded the plane admittedly depleted and frazzled – common among passengers given today’s frenetic technology boom. Yet during my Mexico trip, I was quickly, and thankfully, reminded of travel’s refreshing nature. Oftentimes getting away is exactly what’s needed to return “home” – to a state of emotional well-being. While life’s challenges don’t vanish with take-off, they are given fresh perspective after touching down and discovering new landscapes and cultures.

This issue celebrates two destinations that also immerse guests in positive resets: Australia (page 60) and Canada (page 90). How so? Both countries embrace an adventurous spirit while paying homage to those who came before us. Immersive indigenous cultural experiences allow you to fully engage with history and spirituality. And oh, the Riviera Nayarit! Time spent at the jungle-meets-sea resorts of One&Only Mandarin and Susurros Del Corazón Auberge Resorts Collection (page 76) was a reminder that reveling in nature’s beauty is a powerful pick-me-up.

ENJOY THE ISSUE!



ERIN LENTZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF



From top: My private host at One&Only Mandarin arranged for the Carao pool to open early each morning so I could enjoy private sunrise laps; Treehouse villas blend into the jungle.

ULTIMATE EXPERIENCES

EDITORIAL

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Signature Travel Network is comprised of top-tier travel agencies that share one common objective: serve the personal needs of the discerning traveler. The network’s buying power translates into the ability to leverage worldwide partnerships to provide you the best value and ensure the best service before and during your travels.

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Cruise lines, tour operators, hotels and resorts, airlines, and all other travel service providers are assessing enhanced health and safety protocols in light of COVID-19, and how changing health and safety protocol impact current and future offerings. Actual offerings may vary from what is displayed or described within these pages.

NOTICE: Prior to booking, please consult all applicable U.S. Centers for Disease Control travel advisories, warnings, or recommendations relating to cruise travel, at [cdc.gov/travel/notices](https://www.cdc.gov/travel/notices). If a certain threshold level of COVID-19 is detected onboard a ship during a voyage, the voyage will end immediately, the ship will return to the port of embarkation, and your subsequent travel, including your return home, may be restricted or delayed. Health and safety protocols, guest conduct rules, and regional travel restrictions vary by ship and destination, and are subject to change without notice. Due to evolving health protocols, imagery and messaging may not accurately reflect onboard and destination experiences, offerings, features, or itineraries. These may not be available during your voyage, may vary by ship and destination, and may be subject to change without notice.

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Heather is a Canadian freelance writer and on-air travel host. Her byline frequently appears in *National Geographic*, *Travel + Leisure* and *AFAR*. She is the travel expert on CTV’s national talk program *The Social*; and co-host of *Get, Set, Go!* on CHCH TV. She is never without her laptop and always dreaming of a tropical getaway.

WISH LIST TRIP:
Sailing the Greek islands. I’d love to do a multi-island trip that takes me from one stunning port to the next.

FAVORITE INTERVIEW:
Michael Jordan. I interviewed him as a cub reporter and he was gracious and kind.

WHERE TO NEXT:
I’m heading to Antarctica on a Viking expedition. The ship is gorgeous and I’m as excited for the sea days as the days exploring this region.



Ignacio Maza
EDITOR AT LARGE

As Signature Travel Network’s Senior Advisor, Ignacio Maza has ventured all over the globe. His articles and insights have appeared in *The New York Times*, *AFAR*, *Luxury Travel Advisor*, *ASTA Advisor*, and many more.

LOOKING FORWARD TO:
Returning to Rome. I have not visited the city in many years. Looking forward to seeing old haunts and finding new treasures.

RECENT RIVIERA MAYA FIND:
Maroma, a Belmond Resort. My favorite resort on the best beach in the Riviera Maya, by a mile. The hotel just reopened after a major renovation and is looking fantastic.

WOULD MOST LIKE TO INTERVIEW:
Andrea Wulf, the German-British historian and author of *The Invention of Nature*, an extraordinary book about the life and times of Alexander von Humboldt.



No wind. Just chill.

Between the warm, clear water, blue skies and endless sunshine, the only thing better than being in The Florida Keys, is being here in the middle of winter.



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FEBRUARY 2024

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REFINED RESORTS

Explore the finest in sea-inspired sojourns via Journese.®

IF in search of superior service and bespoke itineraries across the globe, these three properties are poised to deliver. Pack your beach bag and get primed for the best in vitamin sea.



SANCTUARY CAP CANA, A LUXURY COLLECTION ADULT ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORT DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Thanks to its convenient location – just a two-hour flight from Miami – not to mention its vastly unique landscapes, it's little wonder the Dominican Republic is the Caribbean's most visited destination. The island's reputation for all-inclusive luxury only adds to the appeal, and travelers will be hard pressed to find a more suitable paradise than Sanctuary Cap Cana. Set along a stretch of sugar-fine beach, this adults-only, all-inclusive luxury resort exudes romance and relaxation.

Sanctuary Cap Cana is home to six pools, five restaurants, seven bars and lounges, a golf course, and marina, plus a host of daily activities and nightly entertainment. While every villa and suite are sumptuously appointed, those wishing to splurge should consider The Castle suite. You'll find three indoor plunge pools in this 5,500-square-foot oceanfront labyrinth, complemented by VIP butler service.

ANDAZ MAUI AT WALEA RESORT MAUI, HAWAII

Boasting five crescent-shaped beaches, stunning ocean vistas, and some of the world's top golf courses, the South Maui community of Wailea is also home to Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort, a 15-acre beachfront resort offering luxury villas – all with private lanais, sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, personal VIP Concierge service, and enough space for the entire family.

As with all Andaz properties, Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort creates inspiring experiences through culturally rich offerings designed to help guests feel like locals. The *aloha* spirit is evidenced with each farm-to-table dining experience, direct access to Mokapu Beach, and authentic Polynesian hospitality. The villa experience allows guests to feel at home during their stay, with many villas featuring private plunge pools. Full kitchens with premium appliances, ample living space, and custom-made outdoor furniture are just a few of the standard luxuries.



Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort



Secrets Tulum Resort & Beach Club

SECRETS® TULUM RESORT & BEACH CLUB TULUM, MEXICO

Located in the heart of downtown Tulum, the all-suite Secrets Tulum Resort & Beach Club is the very definition of bohemian elegance. Earthy décor, extravagant cenote-inspired architecture, dedicated meditation areas, and secluded pools surrounded by endemic lush vegetation coalesce to create carefree luxury. Every suite is well appointed with contemporary organic material, natural wood elements, unique rock formations, and spa-like soaking tubs.

Outside the adults-only, all-inclusive resort (located 15 minutes from the beach), the stylish property rests against the backdrop of a mystic jungle. These natural environments combine to offer tranquil rejuvenation and unlimited adventure. Within a stone's throw from Tulum's main sights, including its famed historical ruins, the lavish Secrets Tulum Resort & Beach Club won't be a secret much longer. 

 **Coastal Inspiration.** Feel that salty sea breeze calling you? Visit the website found on the back cover, or call or email us and enter **OFFER M26454** to co-create your next beach escape.



CHECK IN

Discover Italy's **Palazzo Cordusio, a Gran Meliá Hotel.**

BY AMY ROBERTS

WHEN prestigious brands like Armani, Prada, Versace, and Valentino line a city's streets, it's safe to assume the bar for luxury is set fairly high. But Palazzo Cordusio, a Gran Meliá Hotel, doesn't just meet that bar, the exclusive boutique property showcasing one of Milan's most storied 19th-century architectural masterpieces elevates it.

Nestled within the historic Palazzo Venezia, Palazzo Cordusio occupies one of the most well-known Renaissance buildings in the city, not to mention one of Milan's most privileged locations.



Clockwise from top left: The hotel is located in the heart of Milan; a stylish rooftop lounge; morning light brightens rooms, which feature city views.

The hotel serves as the starting point for the elegant pedestrian Via Dante and the awe-inspiring medieval Castello Sforzesco. Just steps away in the opposite direction you'll find a collection of more than 4,000 statues, gargoyles, and contrasting styles housed within the Duomo of Milan.

While all of this is impressive, Palazzo Cordusio, a Gran Meliá Hotel, is equally delightful on the inside. Recently refurbished with meticulous attention to detail and utmost care to preserve the historical façade, this exquisite retreat in a majestic historic palace seamlessly combines timeless sophistication and captivating heritage. Each of the 84 elegant rooms and 29 suites feature classical interiors, delicate finishings, and Rubelli textiles emblematic of Milan's understated elegance. Palazzo Cordusio's rejuvenating spa is an oasis of tranquility. A massive indoor swimming pool and relaxing sauna allow guests to blissfully unwind after a delightful day in the bustling city.

In a county famed for its food, it can be difficult to impress discerning gourmands. But the Palazzo Cordusio surpasses expectations for authentic Italian delights. In partnership with Sunset Hospitality Group, the hotel's dining options include Isola, a rooftop terrace overlooking the Duomo and led by Brand Chef Francesco Bagnato. Gioia, the hotel's ground-floor bakery, is created in collaboration with master baker Fabio Bertoni to offer the experience of an authentic Pasticceria. Giardino Cordusio is a state-of-the-art Italian cocktail bar, where diners can choose from a meticulously curated selection of local and international drinks. Guests looking to spice things up will enjoy Sachi Asian Restaurant, known for pushing culinary boundaries. 🍷

➡ **Sumptuous Stays.** Take in the best of Milan in the city's newest hotel. Call or email us, or visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER H12941** for more European inspiration.

Safari, Reimagined

Into Africa with **Alexander+Roberts.**

FROM Africa to Alaska, the luxury tour company Alexander+Roberts has been redefining small-group travel since its inception in 1947. Its "never more than 16 guests" tenet allows travelers authentic and immersive experiences. Even better, all journeys include comprehensive services like transfers, tour flights, gratuities, hand-picked accommodations, and engaging guides. Plus, each of the company's nearly 87 destinations across all seven continents are personally vetted to ensure they meet or exceed the highest standards.

While all Alexander+Roberts tours delve into the history, culture, and nature that make a location remarkable, a safari in Africa is simply an incomparable experience. From South Africa to the Serengeti, these two itineraries are filled with unspeakable beauty and unparalleled access.

ON SAFARI: KENYA + TANZANIA

Covering some of the most wildlife-rich land in all of Africa, this 11-night expedition is the quintessential safari experience – adrenaline-pumping game drives, cultural encounters, luxury accommodations, and ample opportunities to spot the Big Five (lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant, and Cape buffalo) across the Maasai Mara and the Serengeti. The bush is also home to iconic herbivores like giraffes and wildebeest, along with predators including cheetahs and spectacular birds of prey – many of which can be spotting via hot-air balloon rides over the rolling savannah.

JOURNEY TO SOUTH AFRICA + VICTORIA FALLS

Toast to wine, wildlife, and wow-filled moments on this 11-night journey. Game drives across uncrowded private reserves near Kruger National Park are seemingly the highlight, but the wildlife at sea is equally impressive. Spot great white sharks, whales, and penguins in the waters off Africa's most southern tip. Winetasting in the vineyards near Cape Town add a dash of urban sophistication before the thunder of Victoria Falls, which is experienced from both the Zambian and Zimbabwe sides of the river.

For those looking for something even more intimate, Alexander+Roberts offers private journeys to each of its 87 destinations around the world, allowing guests to travel only with friends, family, or others on their personally invited list. 🍷

➡ **Safari GPS.** Ready to discover the best of Africa? Call, email us, or visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26472** for your own safari adventure.

From top: A hot air balloon exploration of the Maasai Mara; fine dining in the African bush; the natural beauty of Victoria Falls.



ALASKA BOUND

Discover a vast, untouched frontier with
Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic.

BY AMY ROBERTS



LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS-NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, the global leader in expedition travel, sails to captivating places near and far in pursuit of discovery, bringing along adventurous travelers to share in the thrill of uncovering the world's wild secrets. Each voyage helps safeguard the planet's treasures by emphasizing nature, preserving culture, and supporting local communities — all while maintaining a 100-percent carbon-neutral footprint.

This is perhaps most evident on a Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic cruise to Alaska. Given they have been exploring the last frontier for over 40 years, the itineraries are just like the company itself — adventure-filled, authentic, and awe-inspiring. And that's just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. Select from seven different itineraries, each in the company of world-renowned scientists, naturalists, educators, and researchers aboard the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic fleet.

EXPLORING ALASKA'S COASTAL WILDERNESS

Voyage into majestic fjords, kayak along the coast, and marvel at humpbacks and breaching orcas. *National Geographic Quest* and *National Geographic Venture* were designed to expertly navigate the fast-moving channels, shallow coves, and small island inlets that traverse this expedition. Alaska's charming and extraordinary wildlife — including sea otters, sea lions, orcas, black bears, and bald eagles — are plentiful near Sitka Sound. The majestic grizzly bear — an iconic symbol of untamed wilderness — can be spotted pacing the sea cliffs, steep fjords, and rock walls that jut 3,000 feet straight out of the ocean in Misty Fjords National Monument. Blue glacial lakes, dizzying waterfalls, and snowcapped peaks surround you during a hike through the Tongass National Forest.

The small ship allows for passage into the narrow Endicott Arm Fjord, which ends with a front-row view of the towering Dawes Glacier. More than 600 feet tall and a half-mile wide, this active icecap is known for spectacular calving displays. Search for carnivorous plants in the Alaskan fishing town of Petersburg on Mitkof Island before spending the day at Glacier Bay National Park, where mountain goats scale the granite walls and ice slabs calve into the water.



VOYAGE TO GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST: NATIVE CULTURE & WILDLIFE IN THE LAND OF THE SPIRIT BEAR

Start in the charming town of Ketchikan, the southernmost city in Alaska known for its native history and culture, alongside its status as the "Salmon Capital of the World." After a restful slumber aboard *National Geographic Venture* wake up in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Canada, and then cruise south to Princess Royal island in search of the elusive spirit bear. It's estimated only 400 spirit bears exist. Different from polar bears, whose fur isn't white, spirit bears are actually black bears born with a recessive gene that causes them to have white fur.

Kayaks and Zodiacs allow guests to explore the verdant fjords and pristine forests inaccessible by road and managed by First Nations people. The narrow Grenville Channel is a dramatic navigational experience. Less than a quarter of a mile across in some areas, a bend in the channel seemingly makes the waterway disappear. The spot of the illusion is where water vessels are left behind in favor of exploration on foot, and you're off to watch the salmon run! 

➔ **Into The Wild.** Alaska awaits. Visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26440** or call or email us for naturally inspired vacations.



Opposite: Exploring glaciers in Alaska. Clockwise from top: Sunset sails in Alaska; kayaking through icebergs; a rare spirit bear walks in the forest.

wellness GPS

Find strength and paradise in **Los Cabos, Mexico.**

A serene haven nestled at the tip of Baja California, the soothing waves, majestic landscapes, and tranquil ambiance of Los Cabos offer the perfect setting for harmonious alignment. Embark on a holistic pursuit of wellness where the balance of mind, body, and soul is not just a concept but a living practice – best exemplified by World Flag Football Champion and Los Cabos' very first Brand Ambassador, Diana Flores.

MEET THE NEW BRAND AMBASSADOR

As a Mexican athlete, Diana Flores carries a deep sense of pride in representing Mexico and Los Cabos on the international stage. Her commitment to fitness, healthy living, and mental well-being beautifully aligns with Los Cabos' emphasis on holistic wellness.

BALANCE THE OPPOSITES

The allure of Los Cabos lies in its ability to blend intense activities with sublime relaxation, much like Flores's own journey between rigorous sports routines to moments of serenity.

Visit one of the region's luxurious resorts and spas, where sanctuaries await for those seeking to rejuvenate and invite balance back into their lives. Invigorate the senses and energize your day outdoors before slipping into calm serenity. Whether hiking rugged trails, diving into the azure waters, or exploring desert landscapes, Los Cabos invites you to embrace the outdoors before turning inward for true R&R.

NOSH TO NOURISH

In Los Cabos, dining is an art form enhancing both body and soul. Much like Flores's own commitment to nutrition, the region's culinary scene nourishes from the inside out. Known for farm-to-table restaurants and wellness-focused menus, meals are celebrations of health and flavor.

A HEART FOR PEOPLE & PLANET

Diana's approachable nature and warmth reflect the very essence of Los Cabos' hospitality. Visitors are not just tourists here; they're part of a community, welcomed with open hearts. Los Cabos' commitment to preserving its natural beauty goes hand-in-hand with sharing it with visitors from around the world. The destination's eco-friendly practices and conservation efforts ensure its wonders remain unspoiled for generations to come.

Together Flores and Los Cabos invite you to discover strength in paradise as you embark on a journey towards self-discovery and holistic well-being in this unique seaside escape. 

➔ **Made for Mexico.** Ready for wellness in paradise? Enter **OFFER M26463** on the website found on the back cover, or call or email us to start planning your getaway.

From top: Exploring El Arco by boat off the coast of Los Cabos; enjoying poolside serenity.

Luxe LANDSCAPES

The route is the reward with
Rocky Mountaineer.

BY **CRISSIBETH COOPER**

FROM meticulous service to gourmet regional flavors, Rocky Mountaineer transcends typical rail journeys, offering guests incredible scenery, delicious cuisine, and a friendly, social atmosphere through North America's most captivating landscapes.

GOLDLEAF SERVICE: RAIL SPLENDOR

GoldLeaf Service, distinguished by its astonishing bi-level glass-dome coaches and exclusive outdoor viewing platforms, is luxury rail travel at its best. Travelers revel in an unrestricted panorama of North America's vastness, complemented by an impeccable service. Those who opt for GoldLeaf Service are treated to more than a visual feast: onboard locally sourced delicacies are flawlessly complemented by a selection of top-tier vintages and spirits, promising a gastronomic delight.

In addition to creating a friendly, comfortable atmosphere, onboard hosts provide illuminating commentary. Masterful storytelling allows guests to engage more deeply with the rich cultural fabric as they traverse each region.



SILVERLEAF PLUS: ROCKY MOUNTAIN PEAKS & RED ROCK VALLEYS

The latest gem in Rocky Mountaineer's crown, the Rockies to the Red Rocks route combines incredible scenery, engaging storytelling, regionally inspired cuisine, and top-notch service perfected over the past 33 years. From the soaring peaks of the Rockies to Utah's mesmerizing Red Rock formations, this two-day train journey connects Denver, Colorado with Moab, Utah, via an overnight stay in historic Glenwood Springs.

Those who opt for the SilverLeaf Plus enhancement will experience a harmonious blend of comfort and nature's grand tapestry, viewed from a choice of oversized glass-dome windows, an outdoor platform, and a plush lounge car. Travelers on this route will also encounter signature hospitality, including tales and tidbits of regional lore and culture narrated by a dedicated onboard host. What truly elevates the adventure is mouth-watering cuisine served between indelible views. Regional ingredients inspire the chefs, and the epicurean creations awe (almost) as much as the vistas.

JOURNEY-BASED LUXURY

Each touchpoint and iconic vantage of a Rocky Mountaineer route is a masterstroke in the art of travel. Set forth on a pilgrimage and bear witness to North America from a truly unique perspective of unmatched elegance. 

➔ **Rail Ready.** All aboard! Enter **OFFER M26456** on the website found on the back cover, or contact us via phone or email, for more online inspiration.

From top: Panoramic views on GoldLeaf Service; gourmet meals are served in style aboard every Rocky Mountaineer journey; discover De Beque Canyon by train.



OPPOSITES *Attract*

Oceania Cruises marries adventure and serenity via unique locales.

BY AMY ROBERTS



TRANQUIL waters, buzzing cities, untamed landscapes, and peaceful luxury. If less-visited islands and far-flung ports are your style, Oceania Cruises' Tropics & Exotics Collection feature more than 150 unique voyages, all designed with contrasting ports and experiences to keep things both unsurpassed and unexpected.

Opposite: Discovering the bright culture of Singapore. Above: Riviera navigates open water.



SINGAPORE TO TAIPEI

Mysterious and exotic, the Far East is where seasoned travelers go for new encounters. Futuristic cities and neon-lit skyscrapers stand juxtaposed against ancient temples and centuries-old traditions. Experience them all on this cruise from Singapore to Taipei.

Stroll Singapore's old Chinese quarter, famous Tiger Balm Gardens, and magnificent National Orchid Garden. Wonder the thriving markets and golden temples of Bangkok, visit Ko Samui's famed beaches and giant Buddha at Wat Phra Yai before discovering the rich heritage of Saigon. The bustling markets in Ho Chi Minh City are best toured as a passenger on a local pedicab, which can also deliver you to the fascinating Cu Chi tunnels. A cruise through the Mekong Delta reveals traditional Vietnam — countryside farms, rice paddies, and rural villages. The glitzy skyline of Hong Kong is a shopper's delight, and quite contrary to Taiwan's soaring marble valleys, cascading waterfalls, suspension bridges, and mountain vistas. Paying your respects at Gangtjiaogong, an immense Matsu temple, or the peaceful Martyrs' Shrine, are profound ways to end the adventure.



From top: City views of Hong Kong; a peek inside Riviera's Concierge Level Veranda Stateroom; sunset vistas aboard Riviera. Opposite: Indelible views from Chile's Laguna San Rafael National Park.

USHUAIA TO SANTIAGO DE CHILE

Beginning at the end of the world, Ushuaia, Argentina, is South America's southernmost tip and home to the spectacular Tierra del Fuego's lakes. Spot sea lions, albatross, penguins, and whales along the famed Beagle Channel as you make your way to Isla de Los Estados and the Falkland Islands. Sheep farms dot the rugged terrain and cliff-lined coasts of this remote South Atlantic archipelago, and the birdwatching is some of the best in the world. Dip your toes in the famous Drake Passage before arriving in Punta Arenas, Chile, where stunning views over the Strait of Magellan await.

In Laguna San Rafael, listen for the distinctive crack and resounding crash of the San Valentin Glacier, which famously calves. Then it's off to Puerto Chacabuco for rugged Patagonia and a drive into the Andes Mountains. On Castro's Chiloé Island, you'll find one of the 16 wooden churches built by Jesuit and Franciscan Catholics from the 17th to 19th centuries. Together, they're a recognized UNESCO World Heritage site. The cosmopolitan energy of Santiago de Chile is the perfect endcap for such a magical journey.

FOR SHORE

Regardless of the itinerary you choose, Oceania Cruises shore excursions are carefully curated to provide ample opportunity to embed yourself in the fabric of the local community. The signature Go Local tours offer over 120 one-of-a-kind experiences that proudly pass on expected stops. Instead, these exclusive small-batch tours introduce passengers to a local way of life.

For those who prefer extended or more traditional excursions, Oceania Cruises offers more than 80 pre, post, and mid-cruise land tours. Historic cities, fabled landmarks, and unbelievable encounters with wildlife are all possible. Ranging from one to five nights, tours offer a variety of cultural opportunities. The awe-inspiring Mount Everest is a sight to behold, and flightseeing over the world's tallest peak is available from either Mumbai or Kathmandu. Let romance win as you explore the world's grandest tribute to love, the Taj Mahal. This architectural marvel is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. The legendary savannahs of Southern Africa — along with their unabashedly indulgent resorts — are a perfect complement to any African Oceania voyage. 

 **Ocean Ready.** Discover the world with Oceania Cruises. Enter **OFFER M26441** on the website found on the back cover for more exotic destinations, or call or email us to further discuss how we can turn your travel wish-list into reality.





LOVE IN THE *Wild*

African Travel Inc.'s 5 reasons to choose Africa for romance.

WHILE there are many romantic places around the world, few can offer a unique experience like Africa. With endless savannahs teeming with wildlife, soft-sand beaches, intimate accommodations, and some of the most idyllic scenery on the planet, Africa has all the ingredients for a romantic escape. Whether planning a honeymoon, anniversary, or a special celebration, African Travel, Inc., the longest-established luxury safari operator focused exclusively on the African continent, creates customized romantic safaris. And if you need further entice, here are five reasons how Africa delivers once-in-a-lifetime romantic adventures.

1. INTIMATE RETREATS IN THE WILDERNESS

Experience a timeless escape in Africa's secluded accommodations, nestled in the heart of untouched wilderness. From luxury safari tents to enchanting tree houses and exquisite villas, these exclusive retreats offer an intimate ambiance, making it easy to disconnect and immerse in the sights, sounds, and starry nights.

2. ROMANTIC MOMENTS ELEVATED BY NATURE

Africa's majestic landscapes set the perfect stage for romance. Whether soaring above the Serengeti in a hot air balloon, cruising the Zambezi River, taking a helicopter ride over Cape Town or enjoying a sundowner overlooking Victoria Falls, every moment becomes a classic romantic adventure.

3. MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS THROUGH GIVING BACK

Delve into the Maasai people's rich stories, join a rhino tracking project, and learn about anti-poaching efforts. Share these enriching experiences with a loved one, creating lasting memories together, and make a positive impact on communities, wildlife, and the planet.

4. THE PERFECT BLEND OF ADVENTURE AND RELAXATION

Experience the best of both worlds by combining a traditional safari with a beach escape to one of Africa's pristine coastal destinations, like Zanzibar, Mozambique, or Seychelles. Relish the privacy of a private island resort, stroll the serene beaches hand in hand, and savor an intimate sandbank picnic.

5. PERSONALIZED SERVICE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

African Travel's Platinum airport experience ensures your journey begins and ends with elegance. Private guides curate tailored adventures, and 24/7 concierge support is on hand to assist. Meticulous attention to detail and personal touches at luxury lodges elevate your African romance to new levels of sophistication. 🍷

➔ **Indelible Memories.** Let us craft your African love story with African Travel, Inc. Enter **OFFER M26451** on the website found on the back cover for more, or call or email us to tailor these journeys to your desires, creating a unique romantic tale.

TOP FLIGHT

Around the world by private jet with
Abercrombie & Kent.

BY AMY ROBERTS

WE have all heard the famous saying, "It's not the destination, it's the journey," but with Abercrombie & Kent's Private Jet Journeys, both will be an adventure you won't forget.



Every luxury is thought of on these new itineraries, starting with the jet experience itself. Think lie-flat massaging beds, gourmet meals, curated entertainment, pampering amenities, personalized service, and effortless jet setting. A professional photographer to document the trip is an added treat.

WILDLIFE & NATURE PRIVATE JET JOURNEY

You'll circle the globe in the span of 26 days, with no more than 48 other guests, on Abercrombie & Kent's Wildlife & Nature Private Jet Journey. The adventure begins on the island of Hawaii, where guests will explore the landscape created by the world's most active volcanos. Learn about efforts to save the endangered native monk seal before jetting off to Fiji, where coral ecosystems give life to more than 2,000 species. From there, touchdown in Tasmania, where you can hand-feed kangaroos, meet with the native wombat, and enjoy a close encounter with the island's namesake — the Tasmanian Devil. Next stop? Indonesia. Marvel at the Komodo Dragon and explore its natural habitat before being wowed by the island's marine biodiversity. Sri Lanka's Yala National Park is home to the world's largest leopards, along with sloth bears, elephants, and more than 200 resident species of birds.



The island of Mauritius is famous for its turquoise waters, lush forests, and wild waterfalls, while a game drive across Zambia's unspoiled wilderness is an unforgettable rush. Search for humpback whales in Brazil and pink river dolphins in the Amazon before heading home.

Abercrombie & Kent offers other equally enticing and exclusive private jet adventures, including Africa: Across a Continent by Private Jet, an inspiring journey taking flight in 2025. Backed by the unbeatable know-how of A&K, the company that invented the luxury African adventure, guests experience the region at its finest including an encounter with two rare primates in the Rwandan jungle, time spent with a local conservation searcher, a stay in a private camp under the Sahara Desert stars in Morocco, and so much more. 🍷

➔ **Jet Set.** Enter **OFFER M26450** on the website found on the back cover, or email or call us directly to discover where Abercrombie & Kent can take you.

Clockwise from top: Discovering wildlife in Sri Lanka; meeting exotic friends like the orangutan; exploring the landscapes of Mauritius.

CULINARY IMMERSION

Navigate the world one meal at a time with Explora Journeys.

BY AMY ROBERTS



DESPITE being the new kid on the ocean, Explora Journeys has already earned a reputation as an industry disrupter, replacing long-standing expectations with ambitious, “I didn’t see that coming” amenities. And nowhere is that mindset more obvious than in the cruise line’s culinary offerings.

Explora Journeys isn’t content with simply helping guests travel the world; the company is also committed to helping them taste it. Explora Journeys’ “journey of discovery” mindset introduces new cuisines and experiences served with a side of stories about the rare ingredients used in each dish. In all, Explora Journeys’ inaugural ship, *EXPLORA I*, offers 18 delectable experiences across six vibrant restaurants and 12 bars. Private in-suite dining and a chef’s kitchen where guests can discover and enjoy diverse flavors from around the world are also on the menu.

From top: Cuisine at Sakura restaurant showcases the freshest seafood; exploring the hilltop village of Algotocín in Spain.



BOTTOM IMAGE: PAUL BARBERA, LEFT IMAGE: SIGNE BIRCK

The second illustrious talent to head the kitchen at Anthology is Emma Bengtsson of Aquavit NYC, a two-Michelin starred restaurant. Bengtsson is the first female and first US-based chef to showcase her culinary talents at Anthology. Acclaimed for her creative interpretations of classic dishes and an innovative culinary approach that incorporates influences from Scandinavia as well as the vibrant flavors of New York City, Bengtsson is a trailblazer for women in fine dining. As the second female chef based in the U.S. to helm a two-Michelin star restaurant, her distinctive style of simplicity and sustainability seamlessly aligns with Explora Journeys' ethos of locally sourced dining experiences that create a culinary "Ocean State of Mind."

"I'm thrilled to partner with Explora Journeys to create a menu that reflects the values I share with the brand," she noted. "I have always had a deep appreciation for local cuisines and sustainably sourced ingredients, so I look forward to bringing these aspects to Anthology and showcasing progressive techniques combined with traditional fare for an outstanding dining experience."

Bengtsson's Anthology menu (available through March) represents the culinary essence of her cuisine at restaurant Aquavit NYC. Diners can enjoy a carefully crafted menu showcasing the best of her creations, using only the freshest and finest ingredients sourced primarily from local producers. She also intends to apply the unique Scandinavian flavor profiles produced by smoking, pickling, fermenting, and curing – all of which are staples at Aquavit NYC. 

➔ **Tasteful Discovery.** Hungry for more? Call, email, or visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26439** for more tasty inspiration.

From left: Michelin dining at Anthology; culinary excellence awaits at Med Yacht Club; the coastal joy of the Mediterranean.



With six unique dining venues, it can be difficult to pick a favorite. Sakura offers an immersive, authentic Pan-Asian dining experience representing Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, and Malaysian cuisine. Marble & Co. Grill is a redefined European steakhouse experience inspired by the marbling found in only the finest cuts of beef. A relaxed celebration of the flavors, ambience, and *dolce vita* are found at the Med Yacht Club, where Mediterranean delights reign. Emporium Marketplace provides effortless all-day dining with produce from around the world, and Fil Rouge is known for its sophisticated international dishes with a French influence. And then there's Anthology, the restaurant that caused Paul Brady, news director and cruise expert at *Travel + Leisure*, to write, "Sourcing superlative luxury seems to be a specialty of Explora Journeys."

Not unlike a museum with rotating exhibitions, Anthology acts as a culinary stage for guest chefs to curate menus showcasing global cuisines.



"Anthology acts as a culinary stage for guest chefs to curate menus showcasing global cuisines."

RIVER REVELRY

Navigate the heart of Europe with AmaWaterways.

BY CRISSIBETH COOPER

A SOJOURN with AmaWaterways is an invitation to experience Europe's rivers as an active participant in rich, historical tapestries. AmaWaterways offers a portal to the intimate, sophisticated exploration of Europe's famous aquatic arteries.



TIMELESS CURRENTS

Sailing along storied rivers like the Danube, Rhine, and Seine, AmaWaterways vessels access the core of historic towns and cities, offering an immediacy of experience. This closeness to the destination is not just geographical but cultural as well; each port of call is an opportunity for immersive exploration, whether it's wandering through medieval villages dotted with castles, biking through a bustling capital, or visiting vineyards that stretch as far as the eye can see. You'll marvel at each view, a testament to nature's splendor and human ingenuity.

LUXURIOUS LIVING AFLOAT

The ships themselves reflect the blend of opulence and comfort that is the hallmark of AmaWaterways. Spacious and uncrowded, many staterooms come complete with first-in-class twin balconies, allowing occupants to absorb the ever-changing scenic beauty in private splendor. With fewer guests than typical cruises, the public spaces, from the sun deck to the pickleball court, are designed to foster a sense of community and connection among like-minded travelers, all the while maintaining an air of relaxation and calm.



Opposite: Views of the Marienberg Fortress in Würzburg, Germany. Clockwise from top left: The owner's suite on AmaMagna; onboard culinary excellence; wine tasting in Pinhão, Portugal.

EPICUREAN EXPEDITIONS

As members of the internationally recognized La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs and Tables et Auberges de France, onboard dining is an event unto itself. Reflecting the channels they navigate, menus are a homage to the region, an exploration of local ingredients and flavors crafted with gourmet flair. Paired with complimentary wines from the very grape vines that skirt the sundrenched riverbanks, each multi-course meal is not just nourishing but celebrates the culinary heritage of Europe.

DISTINGUISHED DISCOVERY

What truly sets AmaWaterways apart is its dedication to personalization and enrichment. An attentive and knowledgeable crew ensures every need is met and every curiosity indulged. Expertly conceived (and included) excursions are diverse and engaging. From guided hikes to museum tours, from small cooking classes to interaction with local artisans, these experiences deepen the understanding and appreciation of the destinations. Meaningful encounters reshape your perspective and leave an indelible mark on your identity.

To that end, an AmaWaterways journey is as much about the internal voyage as the external. Though high-speed Wi-Fi is available, it's a chance to mentally disconnect from the rush of life and reconnect with the rhythms of nature and culture. The rivers of Europe, with their centuries-old stories, become teachers, guides, and companions.

In an age where travel can feel hurried, AmaWaterways is a beacon of depth and authenticity. The inclusive approach with respect to amenities ensures a hassle-free adventure: sit back and allow the experienced locals to suggest a wide swath of activities, meals, and specialized excursions. Your mind at complete ease, you'll sail in luxury on these ancient life forces — the very arteries that nurtured human civilization — while celebrating the sustained power and beauty of flowing rivers. 

 **A River Runs Through It.** Enter **OFFER M26437** on the website found on the back cover or call or email us for more information on how river cruising can be the ultimate reset.



Sea the WORLD

Discover 2025 World Voyages by **Cunard®**

BY AVERY BREDESEN

REDEFINE your concept of world exploration on the Cunard® 2025 full World Voyage and World Voyage segments. Prepare to embark on a truly exceptional adventure across the globe, with experts and itineraries ensuring cultural and culinary immersion.

EPIC ITINERARIES

From the remote paradisaical islands of Tonga to the bustling urban life and impressive architecture of Dubai, discover the world one port at a time with Cunard. Depart from iconic cities like New York, London, Sydney, and Singapore aboard full and segmented World Voyages with an array of length options. See it all on an immersive 98-night full world tour, or opt for a more concise 17-night sampling – ideal for those seeking a taste of the world's wonders, complete with a Panama Canal crossing.

INCLUSIONS THAT DELIGHT

Cunard's World Voyages are renowned for exclusive experiences. Indulge in specialty dining at Steakhouse at The Verandah, revel in hosted onboard cocktail parties, and mix and mingle with fellow travelers during the grand Welcome Aboard Reception and enchanting Shoreside Gala. Guests booked in Grill Suites or Balcony staterooms will also enjoy the addition of a private car and driver while on shore.

ELEGANCE AFLOAT: QUEEN ANNE®

The newest addition to Cunard's fleet, *Queen Anne*® is a celebration of luxury and style. The ship's interior features opulent touches and elegant decor, an exceptional setting for your World Voyage. Explore the stunning library and immerse yourself in a vacation read. Enjoy a cozy movie night from the comfort of your stateroom. Or unwind after the day's adventures in a Princess or Queens Grill Suite – your private sanctuary at sea. With a rich tapestry of finishes, plus inspiring art and an attentive butler at hand, these well-appointed suites promise an exceptional experience.

Enjoy additional amenities and the benefit of sailing with an experienced, personable host who is on board to ensure your cruise is more enjoyable (on select sailings). Plus, onboard "By Invitation Only" parties provide opportunities to meet fellow travelers and share stories of discoveries ashore. 🍷

➔ **Lap of Luxury.** Enter **OFFER M26438** on the website found on the back cover for a digital download, or alternatively, call or email us for the finest escapes on the sea.

NAVIGATING NIRVANA

Explore Kimberley's untamed eden with **Seabourn**.

BY CRISSIBETH COOPER

FEW corners of the earth retain the enchanting aura of the undiscovered, yet the Kimberley region of Australia, the South Pacific, and Papua New Guinea stand proudly among hidden treasures. These destinations defy the sense of "been there, done that," as the narrative of nature is largely unwritten by tourist footprints.

A Seabourn expedition to Australia's Kimberley region opens the door to such a journey, offering a pivotal foray into a realm of unspoiled beauty, where nature and culture perfectly intertwine. Situated in the rugged northwest of Australia, the Kimberley unfolds vivid natural wonders, including soaring mountain ranges, expansive savannahs, age-old rock formations, and clear, mirror-like waterways. The Kimberley isn't just a destination; it's an emotion — a place where earth's chronicles unfurl.

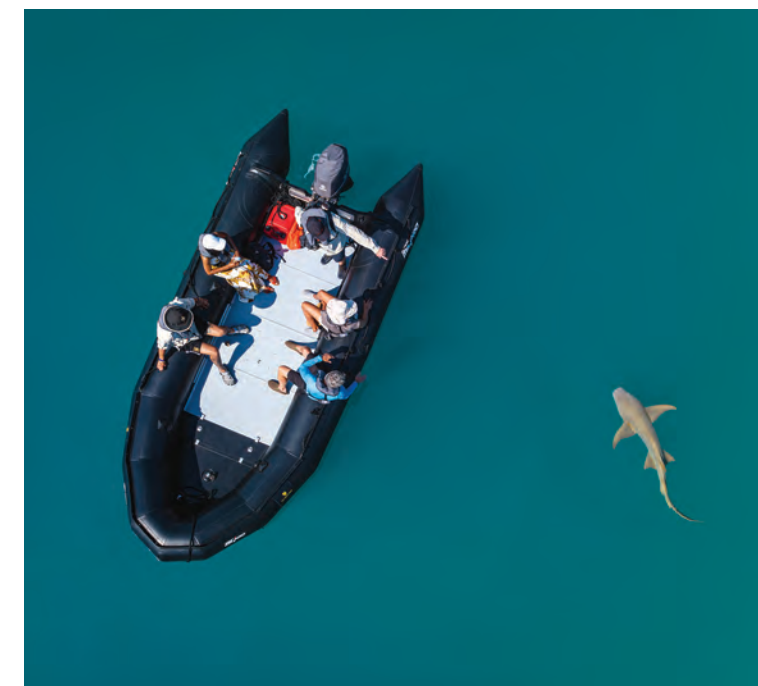
When visiting Papua New Guinea on a Seabourn adventure, you'll discover Kavieng and Balgai Bay. The area is a surfing hotspot thanks to consistent North Pacific swells, while scuba enthusiasts discover some 600 coral species, massive schools of pelagic fish, and phenomenal dive sites like the signature Albatross Passage. Paddle a kayak around reef-fringed islands, go birding in the rainforest's interior, or cycle along part of the 120-mile-long, white-coral Bulominski Highway that stretches the length of the island.

And when cruising the South Pacific, your itinerary includes a stop in Oahu, Hawaii, where you will visit Pearl Harbor. In French Polynesia's Bora Bora, explore crystalline waters and powder-soft beaches, plus the Marae Fare-Opu temple ruins. Papeete, Tahiti reveals lush hillside nature trails, and the city's famous food truck scene. And while experiencing the small island of Alofi, you'll scuba, snorkel, and tee off for island golf.

After a day of exploration concludes, retire to your ocean-front floating sanctuary. From gourmet culinary delights to impeccably appointed suites and a range of onboard amenities, every wish is quietly anticipated for a seamless retreat. Whether you're lounging on a sun-kissed deck or partaking in a rejuvenating spa treatment, the concept of adventure melds flawlessly with indulgence. 🍷

➔ **Aussie Adventures.** Travel with Seabourn and experience Australia and the South Pacific like never before. Visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26445** or, alternatively, call or email us for a deeper dive.

From top: Seabourn Venture's Wintergarden Suite; exploring the Porosus Creek mangroves off Hunter River in the Kimberley; up close with nurse sharks in Kuri Bay.



Shore Thing

When venturing with **Uniworld Boutique River Cruises**, explore ashore and travel with purpose.



STEPPING onto a ship is an anticipatory thrill. But for those who sail with Uniworld Boutique River Cruises — known for its all-inclusive amenities and experiences, custom itineraries, and bespoke shore excursions — the extra exhilaration also comes when you step off the ship in destinations like Europe, Asia, Egypt, India, and South America.

Break a sweat with a “Let’s Go” active adventure featuring walking, hiking, cycling, kayaking, and golfing. Live like an established resident on an immersive “Do as the Locals Do” tour that features the hidden gems missing from the tourist brochures. Opt for a lively “Nights Out” memory that includes private after-hours access to some of the most popular attractions. Or enjoy an in-depth experience in a quaint destination during a “Village Day.”

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® EXPERIENCES

Even better than Uniworld’s Carefully Curated Shore Excursions program is knowing that no matter which itinerary you choose, you’ll be traveling with purpose. That’s because Uniworld’s MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experiences allow guests to have a positive and direct impact on the communities they explore. Designed to protect the land, rivers, and wildlife that awe us all, MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experiences also help advance the United Nations Global Goals, which include sustainability, conservation, quality education, gender equality, eliminating poverty, and more.

MILAN, VENICE, & THE JEWELS OF VENETO

Italy is a country of legendary cities, and considering Venice and Milan top the list, it’s a good thing this journey covers them both, and the S.S. *La Venezia* is one of the very few cruise ships small enough to dock in Venice.



A private after-hours visit to St. Mark’s Basilica allows you to see the glorious church in the evening light, sans the crowds. Play gondolier for a day with a rowing lesson led by Row Venice, a non-profit organization of female rowers dedicated to preserving the sport and empowering woman rowers.

INDIA’S GOLDEN TRIANGLE & THE SACRED GANGES

Circumnavigate the Golden Triangle — Delhi, Jaipur and Agra — with stops at Mother Teresa’s tomb, the Rajbari Temples, Mahatma Gandhi’s memorial, and of course, the world’s grandest tribute to love, the Taj Mahal. Other wonders of romance include a massive red sandstone marble tomb in Delhi and the Pink City of Jaipur, with its ornate royal palace that was painted in a dusty pink to welcome members of the British Royal Family. Tour the Calcutta Rescue and experience first-hand the impact this organization makes on the people living in the slums throughout India. Access to healthcare, education, and safe, clean drinking water are the charity’s mission.

TULIPS & WINDMILLS

From the canals of Amsterdam to the belfry of Bruges, discover the best of the Netherlands and Belgium as you delight in the aquatic highways and byways of these two amazing countries. While most famous for its windmills and millions of tulips, the Netherlands is also a major world producer of cheese (making nearly two billion pounds each year!). Visit an authentic dairy farm, where Dutch cheese making traditions and sustainable practices are alive and well on the farm. 🇳🇱

➔ **River Cruising.** Enter **OFFER M26447** on the website found on the back cover for more, or call or email us directly to co-create your escape plan.

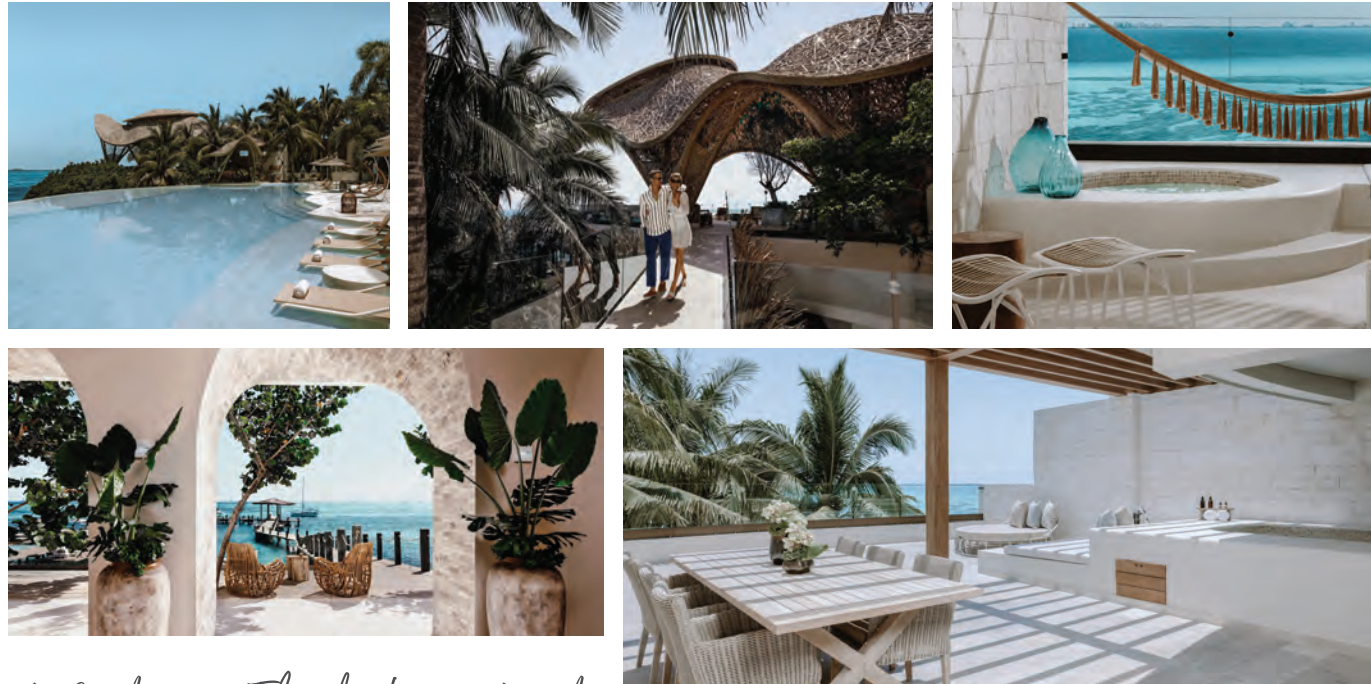
Opposite: The famed tulips and windmills of Amsterdam. Clockwise from top: Architectural wonders await; S.S. Beatrice sails the rivers of Europe; suite style aboard S.S. Bon Voyage.

IMPRESSION

BY SECRETS

ISLA MUJERES

Discover Impression Isla Mujeres By Secrets



A Boutique Island Haven Awaits

Discover Isla Mujeres, Mexico, one of the most exclusive Caribbean destinations, when you stay at this distinctive boutique haven built along the stunning shore. From your luxury catamaran arrival to your romantic oceanfront terrace to exquisite cuisine crafted by our master chefs – every moment is designed to impress.

Bask in elevated luxury where privacy abounds, personal needs are anticipated and the highest levels of service are customary. Elevated *Endless Privileges*® inclusions, lavish suites with awe-inspiring views, curated gastronomy and tailored experiences provide the ultimate escape for pure indulgence and inspired moments.



Contact your travel advisor for more information.

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HAUTE ESCAPES
Ireland & Scotland

Exploring Montmajour Abbey in the French countryside with Backroads.



THE Insider's Guide

Editor at Large **Ignacio Maza** checks into Canada's Sonora Resort.

AFTER a thrilling 50-minute flight over the spectacular vistas of western British Columbia, our Agusta helicopter swooped low over evergreen forests and rocky outcrops, gently landing in Sonora Resort's helipad. The moment the pilot opened the passenger door and I walked off the aircraft, I felt transported to another world. If there is a place with a more magical arrival than landing at Sonora Resort, I have yet to experience it. Because of its remote location, the only way to reach the property is by air or sea. While you could fly commercial air service from Vancouver to the town of Campbell River and transfer to a water taxi to reach the resort, this longer journey lacks the excitement of arriving by seaplane or helicopter.

THE LOCATION

The Discovery Islands are located at the northern end of the Inside Passage, between Vancouver Island and the mainland. This pristine archipelago, made up of 10 islands, is perhaps British Columbia's best kept secret. Sonora Resort, located on the namesake island, is surrounded by a vast wilderness of tidal channels, with fast-moving waters and distant snowy peaks.

THE BACKSTORY

Opened in 1980, Sonora Resort started as a fishing lodge popular among avid sportsmen. In 2003, the property was renovated and enhanced with additional guestrooms, villas, upgraded facilities, and has since evolved into today's luxury resort.

THE ACCOMMODATIONS

The resort has a total of 88 well-appointed guestrooms and suites, with wood floors, gas fireplaces, cozy beds, and large windows. Guestrooms are clustered in different lodges, each with common living areas featuring stone fireplaces and high ceilings, and most frame water views. You'll find various levels of accommodations, with Diamond class the highest category. The most requested guestrooms are the Diamond Balcony (with just four on property).

For families or friends traveling together, two- to six-bedroom suites offer plenty of room. And if you're seeking additional privacy, seclusion, and ultimate luxury, Sea Lion and Eagle Rock villas feature four bedrooms and oversized layouts that can accommodate up to 10 guests under one roof. The villas are beautifully decorated with every creature comfort you can think of and showcase museum-quality BC art.

THE DINING

A highlight of any stay at Sonora Resort is the fantastic cuisine at every meal. The property is a member of Relais & Chateaux, which means the quality of ingredients, preparation, and menus are top-notch. The resort is committed to sourcing produce from sustainable sources and supporting nearby farmers and fishing communities. I found the cuisine fresh, in sync with the season, innovative, and delicious. At dinner, enjoy a specially prepared four-course tasting menu, in addition to a la carte options. An added bonus? The resort's award-winning wine cellar houses more than 1,500 bottles of local and international varietals.

THE FACILITIES

After a day of adventures, unwind at Island Currents, Sonora Resort's oceanside spa and a haven of health and wellness. Soak in the resort's mineral pools overlooking the channel or sign up for a daily yoga class. In addition, you'll find a heated pool, indoor tennis court, game room, and golf simulator on property, which is ideal for inclement weather.



Opposite: Aerial views of Sonora Resort. Clockwise from top: Up close with grizzly bears; gourmet dining is elevated with local ingredients; salmon fishing.

THE ACTIVITIES

Sonora Resort's forte is its exceptional menu of experiences and adventures, from easy canoe paddles on a nearby lake to challenging hikes in the alpine zone of BC's coastal range. Of top note, the resort is known for superb fishing in the waters surrounding the resort and nearby rivers. Anglers can also go fly-fishing via helicopter in the pristine rivers and lakes of western BC. All five of the main Pacific salmon varieties are found near the resort, with Chinook being the star attraction. And if you're a first timer, don't worry, as expert guides can show you the ropes.

Beyond fishing, go ocean kayaking in the Surge Narrows Marine Park, hike in old-growth rainforests, and enjoy eco-adventures in a fast zodiac in search of orcas, eagles, and sea lions. For next-level experiences, board a helicopter and fly over the immense BC landscapes and enjoy extraordinary adventures like stand-up paddleboarding in a remote glacial lake, hiking stunning peaks and glaciers, or touching down on a mountaintop for a champagne toast and the ultimate photo opportunity.

If you visit in September and October, don't miss seeing grizzly bears in the wild. The elusive apex predators of BC visit the mouth of the Orford River to feed on salmon-filled waters. Of all the activities I experienced at Sonora, seeing grizzly bears up close in the company of Cheyanne Hackett, my Homalco First Nations guide, was the most memorable. The resort also offers serene lakes ideal for swimming and watersports, as well as archery and guided or independent hikes. 



➔ **Canada Calling.** Let us elevate your stay with valuable privileges and more. Visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER H6904** for additional info, or call or email us directly for expert advising.

From top: Glacial kayaking; poolside with a view at Sonora Resort.



THE SONORA SCENE

Ignacio Maza's tips for the *ultimate* stay.

THE VALUE

Sonora Resort is all-inclusive. Gourmet meals, house wines, on-property facilities, and many activities are included in the daily rate.

THE VIBE

Casual, friendly, and relaxed. In spring and fall, there are more adults and honeymooners staying on property. From mid-June to early September, expect more families.

THE ITINERARY

Leave time in your schedule to explore the property and surrounding trails on your own, like The Discovery Island Viewpoint.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Sonora Resort is a very special wilderness retreat surrounded by the beautifully unspoiled landscapes of BC's Discovery Islands. The property offers a wonderful mix of world-class adventures, fine dining, and comfortable accommodations. Best of all, a team of 100 professionals will make you feel at home from the moment you arrive.

READY TO GO?

- The resort is open May 1-October 15.
- Because of the short season and the overall experience and value offered, demand exceeds supply. Book way ahead, to ensure you receive preferred dates.
- If arriving by helicopter or seaplane, your luggage cannot exceed 25 pounds per person. When traveling by boat, there are no restrictions.
- Air services depart from Vancouver's south terminal, where you will find luggage storage facilities.
- What to pack: waterproof hiking shoes, water-resistant jacket for all-day comfort, resort casual attire, swimsuit, sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses. The resort provides guests with light and heavy rain and windproof gear, rubber boots, and umbrellas.



TAKE OFF

Travel around the world by private jet with **National Geographic Expeditions.**

BY AMY ROBERTS

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS has built its global reputation on exclusive relationships with scientists, museums, and research sites, so you can gain privileged access to the most extraordinary places on earth.

With a total of nine itineraries, National Geographic's world adventure allows passengers to circumnavigate the globe in a way that doesn't just save time, but savors it. Trips cater to a variety of interests — wildlife, nature, culture, architecture, history, and more. Every journey includes privileged access in dozens of destinations. And of course, experts from Nat Geo's legendary team of photographers, filmmakers, educators, wildlife biologists, and more are handpicked to accompany each excursion.

The Hidden Marvels tour takes guests to the Korean Demilitarized Zone, more commonly known as the DMZ, a 160-mile strip of land that separates South and North Korea and has become a haven for wildlife in recent years. Peering across the DMZ, you might spot any of the 6,000 species residing in this unlikely place, including a yellow-throated marten, red-crowned crane, or Asiatic black bear.

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Meet with a traditional shaman in Mongolia's Gobi Desert, home to one of the last remaining nomadic cultures in the world.

Roam the well-preserved medieval palaces and mosques of Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan, before witnessing mountain gorillas in Rwanda. Stroll Luxor's enormous etched columns and the Great Sphinx of Giza before wine tasting and an Italian cooking class in Sicily. Lastly, soaking in the mineral-rich waters of Iceland's Blue Lagoon is the perfect way to unwind before heading back to the U.S.

PRIVATE JET EXPEDITIONS

Regardless of the itinerary, an Around the World by Private Jet Expedition — from Easter Island to Angkor Wat and from the Great Barrier Reef to the Serengeti Plain — allows guests to experience a luxurious journey of discovery, both of self and of the planet. 

➔ **Jet Set.** See the world with those that know it best. Enter **OFFER M26458** on the website found on the back cover for a global immersion, or email us for more info.

Pursuit of PLAY

Discover Southern France with **Backroads**.

IMMERSE yourself in the beauty, culture, and flavors of Southern France, all while experiencing the unrivaled quality and attention to detail that Backroads is known for. With plenty of biking options, van support, and an array of out-of-the-saddle adventures, you can truly tailor your experience to any activity level.

PEDAL PROVENCE

Lavender-scented breezes, the sight of sun-soaked hillsides, the first sip of wine at the end of a long day, the bike pedals shifting under your feet. Delight your senses on an enchanting week-long bike journey through the purple fields of Provence and the clustered, hilltop villages of the Luberon.

CYCLE THROUGH PARADISE

The gentle slopes and quaint country roads of Luberon are ideal terrain for both seasoned cyclists and newbies alike. Ride through the villages of Céreste and Reillanne with the snowy peaks of the Alps in the distance, pedal amid rolling hills and lavender fields, and cross ancient Roman stone arch bridges during this journey through nature and history.

OUT OF THE SADDLE

Explore the history of Provence's impressive *perchés* (perched villages), including the charming hamlet of Bonnieux. Embark on engaging walking tours, where you can wander the cobblestone streets and 12th-century castle of Gordes, plus explore the captivating town of Ménerbes, known for its captivating architecture and artistic history. Stop to admire the medieval Sénanque Abbey and other ancient structures stretching back to Roman times.

When you're ready to refresh road-tired muscles, discover true relaxation with an afternoon visit to one of the region's finest spas. Unwind with a moment of serenity during a massage featuring essential oils from the local farms and fields.

CULINARY DELIGHTS & WINE TASTING

Provence is a haven for food and wine enthusiasts. Enjoy small group wine tastings in renowned Côtes du Rhône. Explore Provençal gastronomy with its concept of "terroir" (food of the land), an emphasis on fresh and local produce and ingredients. Sample everything from five-star refined cuisine to local village favorites — goat cheese wrapped in chestnut leaves. 

➔ **Magic of Provence.** Explore the French countryside by bike. Call, email, or enter **OFFER M26452** on the website found on the back cover for active adventures.

From top: Discovering the beauty of France by bike; wine break with Backroads.



SAFARI SCENE

Tauck celebrates Kenya and Tanzania's life-altering terrain.

TO journey through the storied plains of Kenya and Tanzania is to embrace the quintessence of travel. The allure of a safari lies in the whisper of the tall grass, the distant roar of a lion, and the myriad stories that every paw print on the savannah tells. Here, the pulse of Africa is palpable, with each day promising new stories.

As the dawn breaks over Kenya's Maasai Mara game reserve, the allure of the safari unfolds in its purest essence. Floating aloft in a hot air balloon, the tranquility of flight offers a serene vantage point over a wilderness waking to the day. The vast savannah unfolds beneath you — a living mosaic of wandering herds and whispering grasses, welcoming the sun with a burst of activity.

Below, after the gentle touch of the balloon's basket to the earth, a champagne breakfast in the bush awaits. Surrounded by the untamed wilderness, the clinking of glasses resonates in harmony with the awakening sounds of the savannah, creating an unforgettable moment in the heart of Maasai Mara's game reserve.

With Tauck, the African safari is envisioned as an intimate journey limited to 30 guests. You can feel your place on the planet among zebras, elephants, giraffes, and others in the animal kingdom. Each growl and grunt teach a new language; each shared glance is a dialogue that leaves you forever changed. Moments of pure wonder transpire daily: a lioness nurturing her cubs, the great wildebeest migration thundering across the plains, and elephants silhouetted against a setting sun.

Your odyssey takes you to the storied landscapes of Amboseli National Park, where animals roam with the snow-capped peak of Mount Kilimanjaro as an inspiring backdrop.

Here, in the cradle of humanity, you are not just an observer but a participant in a story that is as old as time. The journey with Tauck is enriched by visits to the Ol Pejeta and Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancies, where conservation is lived and breathed. These sanctuaries bring you face-to-face with the reality of preservation and the spirit of protected species.

Your knowledgeable Tauck Director along with local guides offer a seamless, enlightening experience. Their knowledge and passion illuminate each encounter, transforming sights into insights and ensuring that every moment is imbued with significance. The Tauck experience marks not just a moment in travel, but a defining juncture in life's grand narrative. 

➔ **Maasai Mara Moments.** Interested in learning more about safaris? Call or email us, or enter the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26459**.



From top: Close encounters with African elephants; a lion and its cubs enjoy an afternoon nap.



Compass Rose restaurant aboard Seven Seas Grandeur®.

TASTE *of travel*

Enjoy a feast for the senses aboard
Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

BY AVERY BREDESEN

Explore the ancient traditions of the Mediterranean to the natural bounty of Alaska while embarking on a journey with Regent Seven Seas Cruises. Whether indulging in exquisite onboard meals, taking expert-led culinary classes, sipping fine wines, or exploring local flavors ashore, forge a deeper connection with your destination through its flavors.

EPICUREAN INDULGENCE™

When dining aboard Regent's opulent fleet, every thirst and taste preference is catered to — from delectable plant-based meals to flawlessly aged steaks. Each ship features several complimentary dining options, including room service. And while some restaurants may require reservations, many are open seating, granting you the liberty to savor whatever culinary delight your taste buds crave, precisely when you crave it.

Cut into a perfectly-cooked tenderloin at the elegant steakhouse Prime 7, sip fine wines paired with authentic Italian al fresco at Sette Mari at La Veranda, and design your own meal from exquisite selections of sides, sauces, pastas, and main features of beef, poultry, and fish at Compass Rose — just a few onboard meal options.



EPICUREAN EXPLORATIONS™

There are few better ways to immerse yourself in the history and culture of your destination than through its food. Regent's Epicurean Explorations feature culinary-focused adventures that celebrate distinctive flavors of various destinations through tours and hands-on, expert-led experiences and tastings.

EPICUREAN ENRICHMENT™

Recreating your favorite dishes at home is the ultimate souvenir. Go a step further and sharpen your skills in a hands-on cooking class with professional chefs at Regent's world-class Culinary Arts Kitchen, a professional-grade culinary teaching facility aboard select ships.

True foodies can feed their passion on Epicurean Spotlight Voyages, featuring specially crafted itineraries focused on the local and cultural flavors of the area. Listen and learn from special guests like masterful vintners and celebrated chefs as they share their knowledge along the way.



MEDITERRANEAN FLAVORS

Sun-seeking gourmands will flock towards Mediterranean shores to savor the rich flavors of the area's varied cultures while cruising seaside cities across Greece and Turkey. Wander vibrant, bustling spice markets, savor a traditional Turkish lunch with sweet, flakey baklava in Istanbul. Linger over a meal of local specialties like stuffed eggplant or grilled seafood accompanied by a glass of wine in Kavala.

While cruising along Italian shores, sip local wines paired with Sicilian bites at a renowned wine estate. Sample the finest Pizza Margherita in Naples — purportedly first created to honor the visiting Queen Margherita of Savoy. Pasta lovers unite on a pasta tour of Gragnano, where you can indulge in an Italian feast while learning how deeply connected each dish is to both place and people.

ALASKAN CULINARY ADVENTURES

Venture north to experience nature's bounty and experiences rooted in the hunter-gatherer lifestyle of the indigenous people during the Native Culture and Alaskan Cuisine cruise from Seward to Vancouver. Get a true taste of the wild against a stunning backdrop of endless green forests, abundant wildlife, and majestic peaks plunging straight into the sea.

Meet restaurateurs and learn how unique products are made plus enjoy a selection of local beers crafted with glacial water at a brewery in Sitka.



Taste fresh, sustainably grown oysters at a family-owned floating farm in Ketchikan before a 90-minute hands-on cooking class back onboard at the Culinary Arts Kitchen. After whale watching or sea kayaking in Juneau, dig into an all-you-can-eat feast of fresh catch and classic Alaskan dishes at a salmon bake.

SAVOR THE SEAS

Regent Seven Seas Cruises' Epicurean Perfection™ program is your passport to the world's diverse and exquisite flavors. Indulge your senses while going deeper to explore the heart and soul of each destination, bite by bite. *Bon appétit!*

➞ **Flavorful Escapes.** Dine on the open seas in style. Call, email, or enter **OFFER M26444** on the website found on the back cover and unlock the keys to unique culinary adventures.



Opposite, from top: Luxury dining at Pacific Rim on Seven Seas Explorer®; culinary masterpieces prepared by the chefs at Pacific Rim. Top: All fresco dining at La Veranda. Above, clockwise from top left: Fine dining at Chartreuse; the ocean-inspired Compass Rose on Seven Seas Mariner®; culinary creations elevate all five senses at Chartreuse; experience Prime 7 on Seven Seas Grandeur®; caviar bites at Compass Rose; luxe lounging at Prime 7 on Seven Seas Explorer®; savory steak served at Prime 7; Chartreuse on Seven Seas Grandeur®.



Celtic Crossroads

Luxury meets legend with Brendan Vacations.

ENVISION a realm where crisp air is tinged with peat smoke's embrace, where ancient castles murmur centuries-old arcana, and where emerald landscapes stretch under boundless skies. This is the realm offered by Brendan Vacations, a gateway to immersing yourself in Celtic wonder.

In a world where time is the ultimate luxury, discerning travelers seek not just vacations, but transformative experiences curated by trusted experts. Brendan Vacations, a name synonymous with exquisite travel in Ireland and Scotland, delivers such journeys. From the highlands of Scotland to the verdant landscapes of Ireland, every trip is a cornucopia of local insights. Whether choosing a guided tour or an entirely bespoke itinerary, you'll cherish the tailored experiences that are managed and personally delivered by passionate, fun-loving locals who delight in divulging the secrets of their homeland.



AWAKEN YOUR SENSES

Handpicked havens ensure an unparalleled blend of heritage and hospitality. Rest easy knowing each selection has been scrupulously vetted. Imagine yourself ensconced in a charming manor house, the crackling fireplace echoing with tales of bygone eras, yet your every comfort attended to with the utmost modern finesse. Or perhaps you prefer a homey stone cottage by a pristine loch, waking to a mist swirling over a glassy reflection of rugged peaks. Whatever your proclivities, accommodations will breathe life into your personal vision of luxury.

CHOREOGRAPHED DANCES OF DISCOVERY

Explore ancient ruins steeped in myth and legend, whispering tales of chivalry and intrigue. Hike through heather-carpeted moors, the wind carrying the cry of solitary gulls, or tee off on championship golf courses sculpted by nature's hand. From private tastings in hidden whisky distilleries to picnics amidst fields of wildflowers, every experience is tailored to your preferences.

TREASURE YOUR TRIP

An itinerary is a guide, not an edict. Days won't be dictated by regimented schedules or hurried sightseeing. Instead, you'll become acquainted with the art of savoring, of lingering in the embrace of each moment. 🍷

➡ **Customized Itineraries.** Start planning your Outlander-inspired trip today! Call or email us directly, or alternatively, visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26457** for expert access to the best of Ireland and Scotland.

From top: The historic Ashford Castle in Ireland; exploring Scotland with Highland Safari.

TAHITIAN SOUL & SEA

Sail into Polynesian paradise with Paul Gauguin Cruises.

BY CRISSIBETH COOPER

Picture yourself on the crystalline waters of the South Seas, aboard a vessel where unparalleled luxury and immersive cultural exploration coalesce. Welcome to the Paul Gauguin Cruises experience — a sojourn navigating idyllic islands and guided by the heart of the company: Les Gauguins and Les Gauguines. These individuals aren't merely staff; they are hand-selected local Tahitian ambassadors who orchestrate an intimate, unique voyage for the discerning traveler.

A CULTURAL IMMERSION, TAILORED TO YOUR COMFORT

Guided by the vibrant Les Gauguins and Les Gauguines, your journey becomes a cultural haven, marrying comfort with an intimate understanding of Tahitian art, history, and traditions. Days are imbued with enlightening folklore and language sessions, while evenings pulse to the beat of traditional Tahitian *ote'a*, or the invigorating Marquesan haka. This melding of luxury and authentic engagement creates an experience like no other — a sanctuary both lavish and effortlessly serene.

TRUE AUTHENTICITY IN EVERY INTERACTION

As you sail through the cerulean waters, the sincerity of Les Gauguins and Les Gauguines becomes evident. This is lived culture — an unfettered sharing of their life's customs and traditions, manifested through every encounter. Their presence offers a living tapestry of Tahitian customs, elevating your experience. This is particularly poignant in culinary offerings. Prepared with care and genuine passion, the Tahitian gastronomy not only elevates your culinary experience but also serves as an intimate gateway to the local culture.

ON LAND AS WELL AS SEA

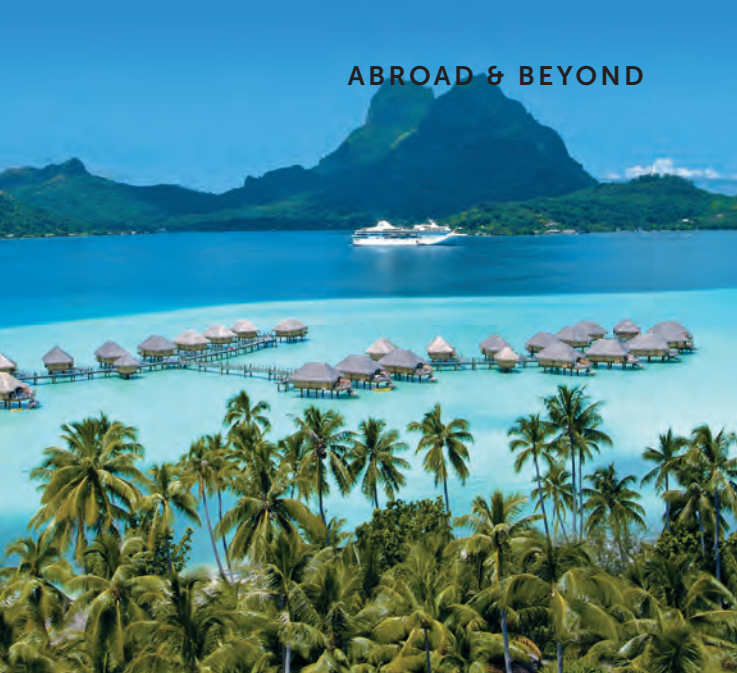
Your cultural ambassadors' expertise extends far beyond the plush interiors of the m/s *Paul Gauguin*. They also craft experiences on terra firma, offering shore excursions that serve as a vivid tableau of local Polynesian life. Whether leading you through bustling villages or guiding you to culturally significant sites, each foray off the ship becomes another chapter in your ongoing narrative of discovery. This holistic approach ensures your cultural odyssey seamlessly transitions from aquatic elegance to the rich tapestry of life on land.

TAHITIAN DREAMS IN RESERVE

With this unprecedented approach to cruising, meaningful moments abound. For the privileged guests, this is not just a trip, but a dance with Polynesian culture, creating cherished memories that echo long after the journey ends. 🍷

➡ **Let's Talk Tahiti.** Dreaming of an Tahitian vacation on the south seas? Enter **OFFER M26442** on the website found on the back cover for more ocean inspiration.

From top: Exploring Bora Bora; Polynesian dancers; island hopping with Paul Gauguin Cruises.





ADVENTURES ABOARD

By merging scientific breakthroughs and environmental sustainability with immersive experiences, each of these explorer expeditions offers a unique opportunity to delve deeper into the mysteries and conservation efforts surrounding the world's most captivating, yet delicate, destinations.

Learn from expert "Guests of Honor" from The Explorers Club. Esteemed researchers, scientists, and change-makers impart their wisdom via exclusive speaker series and onshore programs. Established in 1904, The Explorers Club is a multifaceted nonprofit organization committed to advancing education and scientific exploration across land, sea, air, and space, with a prestigious membership roster boasting legendary names like Neil Armstrong, Jane Goodall, and Edmund Hillary among its 3,500 global members.

Two such explorer-led adventures include spotting manatees in Belize with the globally renowned "Manatee Man," Jamal Galves. Or learn about efforts to combat the illicit wildlife and shark trade while cruising Japan's subtropical islands with Diego Cardeñoso, a Distinguished Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Florida International University.

RESEARCH MEETS REFINEMENT

Ponant's cutting-edge luxury vessels redefine the boundaries of exploration and sustainability, making them a preferred choice for discerning, environmentally conscious travelers seeking to venture into remote regions while enjoying the pinnacle of luxury.

Set sail to the South Pole aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*, the world's only luxury icebreaker ship, or explore tropical paradises on *Le Champlain*. Despite rugged capabilities, each ship is a haven of opulence. Passengers enjoy high-end amenities, including spacious suites with private balconies, a lounge and pool offering panoramic views, a well-equipped fitness room, a rejuvenating spa, and several dining options featuring French-inspired and global cuisine.



Ponant's smaller vessels provide a more intimate and personalized experience while incorporating advanced environmental technologies to minimize impact on fragile ecosystems.

BECOME AN EXPLORER

Set sail on a tropical expedition cruise and uncover the sublime natural landscapes of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Immerse yourself in the rich heritage and breathtaking landscapes of Japan's tropical Okinawa and Yaeyama Islands in the Ryukyu archipelago during an expedition from Naha to Taiwan. Explore the vivid marine life and visit UNESCO World Heritage sites in Zanzibar during an expedition in the Indian Ocean. Lose yourself in lush jungles and mesmerizing shores on a cruise between Honduras and Belize. These are just a few of the extraordinary moments awaiting you with Ponant and The Explorers Club.

Whether you crave warm tropical paradises or the thrill of a polar plunge, there's an adventure to satisfy every seeker. With 12 collaborative expeditions scheduled from 2024 to 2026, your next unforgettable journey awaits. 

 **Venture Further.** Become an explorer. Enter **OFFER M26443** on the website found on the back cover, or call or email us for more sea-inspired adventures.

Opposite: Le Commandant Charcot navigates ice fields in the North Pole. Clockwise from top: Kayaking among icebergs; scientist for a day on the Weddell Sea; dog sledding on remote fields.

VAST VOYAGES

Manifest immersive global experiences with **Ponant**.

BY AVERY BREDESEN

INDULGE your curiosity and embark on a voyage of a lifetime on a Ponant expedition in partnership with The Explorers Club. Whether exploring the North Pole, vibrant Papua New Guinea landscapes, or the mysteries of Antarctica, meticulously designed itineraries with riveting special guests are your ticket to exceptional adventures and wild discoveries.



PAST & PRESENT

Viking commemorates the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

WHILE travel inspires us to celebrate new experiences and destinations, it also offers a unique point of view into historic events that have informed the here and now. As such, this year Viking is celebrating one of the most historic global events with special voyages and unique itineraries to revisit the impact of World War II.

PARIS & D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY: NEW 2024 RIVER VOYAGE

Commemorate Operation Overlord on this epic adventure, which showcases how D-Day was the catalyst for the liberation of Western Europe from German occupation. When in Paris, your ship will be docked in the heart of the city, offering views of the Eiffel Tower. Next, sail through Normandy and visit D-Day sites and explore landmark museums while also revisiting epic World War II milestones. Witness poignant displays and hear inspiring tales of bravery as you experience a journey of remembrance. Itinerary highlights include visiting the homes of World War II codebreakers in London; exploring the medieval quarter in Normandy; and visiting the Utah Beach landing museum for a comprehensive overview of D-Day.

PARIS & THE HEART OF NORMANDY

This voyage celebrates history, art, food, and tradition in France's most alluring urban and pastoral settings. Dock in the heart of Paris, admiring views of the Eiffel Tower and a replica of the Statue of Liberty from your ship.



Experience history firsthand at the Normandy beaches and delight in Rouen's Gothic architecture. Explore Giverny and the charming house and gardens where Claude Monet lived and worked, which inspired many of his masterpieces. Itinerary highlights include visiting the legendary Normandy coast and the American Cemetery; visiting the hilltop Chateau Gaillard, built in the 12th-century by Richard the Lionheart; and an illumination sail along the Seine to explore Paris, the City of Light.

LONDON, PARIS & D-DAY

Similar to the 80th anniversary river voyage, this adventure caters to those who appreciate London, Paris, and inspiring history. Itinerary highlights include exploring iconic London, the seat of British resistance during World War II; visiting London's D-Day Museum; admiring iconic Parisian landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Louvre; navigating the cobblestone streets of Vernon, France; discovering how D-Day landings were planned during a visit to the Churchill War Rooms; and discovering what the World War II-era was like in Paris. 📍

➔ **History at a Glance.** Immerse yourself in D-Day and the history of the regions. Enter **OFFER M26448** on the website found on the back cover, or call or email us, to navigate the world's top waterways.

Opposite: The Eiffel Tower at dusk. Clockwise from top: London views from The River Thames; a Viking longship docked in Normandy, France; itineraries take guests to famous monuments.

BEYOND *the ordinary*

Experience private-yacht style adventures with **Windstar Cruises**.

BY AVERY BREDESEN

WITH a focus on intimate explorations and cultural immersions, Windstar's array of one-week to nearly one-month itineraries are a gateway to the world's hidden treasures. Bid *adieu* to the hustle and bustle of larger cruises and savor the essence of casual luxury on voyages designed to leave a lasting memory.

SMALL SHIP ADVANTAGE

Welcoming just 148 to 342 discerning guests per cruise and maintaining a remarkable 1:1.5 staff-to-guest ratio, a standout Windstar feature is the size of the vessels. Each yacht is uniquely equipped to navigate the world's most charming and less-traveled ports, granting guests the unique opportunity to explore unspoiled villages. Linger in small cafés, meet with locals, and savor the authentic flavors of each destination.

THE GREEK ODYSSEY

Experience the land of myth and legend on a cruise worthy of the Greek gods. Visit the medieval city of Monemvasia, dine on a five-course dinner under the stars in Ephesus while being serenaded by an Aegean Chamber Orchestra trio, and feast your eyes on the iconic blue-and-white structures of Santorini. Choose between sailing ships or all-suite ships to make the most of your Greek adventure.

ICELAND UNVEILED

Iceland's ethereal landscapes and vibrant culture are on full display during "Around Iceland" voyages. Bask in the breathtaking beauty of Iceland's natural wonders. Hike emerald hills to remote waterfalls, dip in the iconic Blue Lagoon, and enjoy local delicacies at fishing villages.

Listen as local entertainers spin stories of Icelandic folklore and serenade you with ballads of the country's rich heritage in the idyllic Icelandic community of Seydisfjörður. Don't miss the chance to explore Heimaey Island, with its unique charm and unspoiled beauty.

FAR FROM ORDINARY

No crowds. No rush. Delight in every detail. Windstar Cruises has set a new standard for exploration and adventure with intimate sojourns designed to connect you more deeply with each destination. Experience more with complimentary Destination Discovery Events granting guests a rare insider's look at local landmarks, history, and culture. 

 **Luxury at Sea.** Sail the open waters for your next vacation. Call or email us, or visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26449** for ultimate experiences.



CULTURAL CONNECTION

Uncover the best of Africa with
Micato Safaris.

DISCOVER a deeper understanding and appreciation of Africa with immersive cultural experiences designed to connect you with its people, rich history, and unique environments — alongside incredible animal encounters — during a Classic or Private Safari with Micato.

CAPTIVATED BY CULTURE

Venture through diverse national parks and reserves while your Safari Director and Driver-Guide share knowledge of the region's indigenous tribes, like the Maasai and Samburu in East Africa. Plus, enjoy hands-on cultural family experiences, like bow-and-arrow making, nighttime beading class around the campfire, and dance instruction with Maasai warriors.

LEARNING FROM LOCALS

While experiencing Cape Town in South Africa, witness a part of peacemaking history with a visit to Robben Island by private helicopter. Tour the former jail with Nelson Mandela's personal prison guard, followed by a rooftop dinner at a nearby restaurant. Art collectors will enjoy the private viewing at the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art followed by dinner with local artists, while budding chefs can savor a cooking lesson from a local chef.

GIVE BACK

For over 36 years, Micato has proudly supported The Harambee Community Centre. Located in the heart of the Mukuru Slum, this center provides the community with life-changing educational programs, skillbuilding opportunities, and other resources. Visit the libraries and computer labs while meeting with student beneficiaries during your trip.

GO BEYOND WITH MICATO

Micato offers three distinct ways to embark on a safari adventure. For those who enjoy small groups, join a popular Classic Safari which is a pre-set itineraries offered year-round and all departures are guaranteed to operate. Alternatively, personalize your journey with a Custom Safari. For groups of friends or extended families traveling together, opt for the Private Classic Safari. 

 **Safari Sophisticate.** Experience Africa like never before. Call, email us, or visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26455** for a digital escape.



From top: In the wild with lions on a Micato Safari; creating connections with the Maasai tribe.

DIVERSE DESTINATIONS

Discover multi-destination **Silversea Expeditions**, from polar ice to the tropics.

BY AVERY BREDESEN

WHILE there's nothing wrong with following a well-traveled path, an audacious few carve new routes, setting the world alight with daring tales. In the realm of ultra-luxury travel, a new breed of adventure awaits with Silversea Expeditions: a multi-destination expedition cruise crafted for those with a taste for the truly exquisite. From the enigmatic ice realms of Antarctica and the Arctic to the diverse treasure troves of the Galápagos and the wild Kimberley, Silversea expeditions are for those who are ready to script their own epics.



ANTARCTICA: A LEAP INTO THE PRISTINE

Imagine venturing into the heart of Antarctica. Silversea's ice-class fleet takes you to a world beyond imagination, where the silence is profound and the landscapes pure. Whether choosing to cross the iconic Drake Passage or taking a private charter flight to King George Island, every expedition is designed to immerse you in the otherworldly wonders of the White Continent. Witness penguin colonies, capture the awe of mighty icebergs, and revel in the beauty of the Antarctic wilderness.

ARCTIC: YOUR TRUE NORTH AWAITS

The Arctic calls for the intrepid, and Silversea answers with soul-stirring expeditions. Glide alongside glaciers, watch as polar bears traverse the ice, and listen to the crackle of ancient icebergs. In the Arctic, every sense is awakened, and every moment is a brush with the extraordinary. Cutting-edge navigation and technology push the boundaries of polar expeditions. Navigate the remote waterways of Greenland, encounter rich wildlife, and delve into the fascinating culture of the Inuit people. Each journey with Silversea is an odyssey, a passage through time and nature.

GALÁPAGOS: EVOLUTIONARY WONDERS

Further afield, the Galápagos Islands beckon with unique landscapes and fearless wildlife. Silversea's *Silver Origin*, designed exclusively for this archipelago, offers an intimate connection to the islands' natural wonders. With expert guides leading the way, guests become explorers, encountering remarkable creatures such as marine iguanas and blue-footed boobies.

KIMBERLEY: AUSTRALIA'S HIDDEN GEM

In Australia, the Kimberley region offers an expedition like no other. This land of dramatic gorges and sprawling reefs teems with life above and below the water. Silversea's deep knowledge of the region, cultivated through years of exploration, opens doors to exclusive experiences. From Zodiac trips that reveal the secrets of the Montgomery Reef to encounters with ancient Aboriginal art, the Kimberley is a jewel in the crown of pioneering travel.

**THE SILVERSEA DIFFERENCE:
LUXURY MEETS DISCOVERY**

Silversea's fleet, including the new *Silver Endeavour* and the custom-built *Silver Origin*, represents the pinnacle of expedition luxury. Guests enjoy spacious all-suite accommodations, personalized service, and intimate ships fostering a sense of camaraderie among like-minded trailblazers. With an industry-leading crew-to-guest ratio, every need is anticipated, and every comfort provided.

Aboard Silversea Expeditions, the world's most remote and breathtaking destinations are unveiled. Step away from the common with Silversea and embark on a journey of the most uncommon discovery. 

 **Peak Exploration.** Discover the biodiversity and natural wonders that await you at these dream destinations. Visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26446** for a deeper dive.

Opposite: Bird's-eye view of an Arctic expedition. From top: Silver Origin in the Galápagos; expeditions along Hunter River in the Kimberley; suites feature private verandas; penguin scouting in Antarctica.



HONOURING GUESTS SINCE 1913

Hotel Excelsior Dubrovnik

A Mediterranean gem
steeped in glamour

While many Dubrovnik hotels claim to have the city’s landmarks on their doorstep, few can claim landmark status themselves.

Just few steps from UNESCO’s Old Town, Excelsior’s 158 lavish rooms and suites feature breathtaking views of the sun-bathed city walls and serene Adriatic sea. The views also spread from each of the hotel’s three restaurants, indoor pool and glamorous spa area, as well as the Excelsior’s beach.

Aside from the location the hotel celebrates more than 100-years of outstanding quality of service, hosting many celebrities that visited Dubrovnik.



TO MAKE A RESERVATION, PLEASE CONTACT
YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR.



ULTIMATE EXPERIENCES
FEBRUARY 2024

Excelsior

60
G'DAY AUSTRALIA
The "It" List

70
CRYSTAL CLEAR
Exceptional at Sea

76
WHERE TO GO IN 2024
Vetted & Vast

86
RIVIERA NAYARIT
Jungle Meets Sea

90
WINTER IN CANADA
The Adventurist

Susurros Del Corazón, Auberge Resorts Collection, in Riviera Nayarit, Mexico.

An aerial photograph of a vast, arid landscape featuring deep red, cracked earth and winding sand dunes. A small figure of a person is visible in the middle ground, providing a sense of scale to the immense natural formations. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, earthy tones of red, orange, and brown.

AUSTRALIA

2024'S DREAMIEST DESTINATION

There's no better time than now to
discover this enchanting country.

BY AMY ROBERTS

COME SAY G'DAY

Australia's eight different states are each wildly unique, offering their own incredible landscapes, culture, adventure, wildlife, cuisine, and exquisite accommodations. Yet despite their distinctive personalities and exceptional attributes, they are all connected by an invisible thread, creating an interwoven tapestry of kinship and belonging.

A land of collaborative contradictions – UNESCO World Heritage sites and world-class cities, desert outback and biodiverse rainforests, Aboriginal cultures and multi-national chefs, endless coastline and 175-year-old vines, the largest reef system on the planet and the most fascinating creatures on land – Australia is equal parts mellow and mesmerizing.

Regardless of where you visit, you're certain to hear a hearty "G'day, Mate," from a local. The greeting is much more than a "hello." It's an expression of intent, an authentic invitation wishing you to have a good day, and quite often, a desire to help make it happen. Whether you need directions, restaurant recommendations, or someone to take your picture as a kangaroo hops along in the background, Australians are famously happy to help. Given their next-level friendliness, don't be surprised if your amateur photographer turns the picture into a group selfie and invites you for dinner!

The country is brimming with high-quality accommodations and one-of-a-kind experiences, many of which don't cost a thing. And with a favorable conversion rate your dollar goes even further. Plus, there are several direct, overnight flights from the United States and Canada, allowing visitors to fall asleep in LA and wake up in Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane, so there really is no better time to book an Australian vacation. But if you do need another little nudge, the country's enchanting beaches, stunning natural beauty, sublime weather, incredible wildlife, friendly locals, and the oldest continuing Indigenous cultures in the world, might just be the push needed to get your passport stamped.

Previous page: Gantheaume Point, Broome. Clockwise from top left: Enjoying a chartered sailing tour on Sydney Harbour; luxury lodging in Uluru; the Canberra Balloon Spectacular; learning about Aboriginal culture in Adelaide; connecting with local art at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra; exploring Shelley Beach Sea Cave in New South Wales.





ADELAIDE & SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australia promises an authentic Australian experience, delivered through its focus on WOW (Wildlife, Outback, and Wine) moments, all easily accessible from the vibrant boutique city of Adelaide (also referred to by its Indigenous name, Tarntanya).

THE ADVENTURIST. The koala population is abundant throughout in South Australia, and these adorable marsupials can be found across the state’s lush bushlands. Get up close and personal with koalas, as well as seals, sealions, and 'roos on the aptly named Kangaroo Island. Along the nearly 1,700-mile-long Murray River, you'll find dozens of bumble-gum pink lakes and salt pans against outback scenery. A bird’s-eye view from a scenic flight is a must for any photographer.

THE FOODIE. Steeped in history yet on the cutting edge of innovation, Adelaide is a culinary playground, home to fine dining restaurants, award-winning cafés, and bustling food markets. It’s also home base for visiting any of the 700-plus wineries throughout the state, which is one of the 11 Great Wine Capitals of the World.

SEA ME! An underwater adrenaline rush awaits in the turquoise waters off the Eyre Peninsula, the only place in Australia you can dive with great white sharks (in a cage, of course). Those needing a slightly tamer marine experience can swim alongside playful wild dolphins or curious sea lions. From June through September, Southern Right Whales put on quite a show along the coast. A purpose-built boardwalk allows visitors to spot newly born calves and observe as they learn to breach.

DID YOU KNOW? Adelaide’s South Australia Museum is home to the world's largest collection of Australian Aboriginal cultural material, with over 3,000 artifacts on display, including the culturally significant Yuendumu Doors.

ROOM KEY. Positioned in the heart of Adelaide, Sofitel Adelaide is just steps from the Adelaide Rundle Mall, Riverbank Precinct & Adelaide Central Market, and a short walk to the iconic Adelaide Oval and Convention & Exhibition Center.

Clockwise from top: Barrel-aged exploration in Adelaide's wine country; vineyard tour with vino in hand; up close with koalas.



FROM TOP: MARK WATSON; GREG ELM/STOCK VICTORIA



MELBOURNE & VICTORIA

Considered Australia’s cultural heartbeat, Melbourne (also known to by its Indigenous name, Narm) is often ranked as one of the most livable cities in the world. It’s easy to understand why, given its vibrant arts scene, cultural diversity, inviting beaches, thrilling sporting events, stunning Great Ocean Road, and natural rejuvenation. Add in the food scene, and you may never want to depart this enchanting area.

THE FOODIE. Melbourne alone boasts over 3,500 restaurants, and you’ll find cuisine from more than 70 countries throughout the city. The expansive offerings are best appreciated via a guided tour of the city with a local, where you'll learn about foodie trails and the best places to eat and drink through an interactive tasting experiences. Many tours touch on the fascinating immigration experience. Immigrants are to thank for the city’s keen focus on coffee, too. After WWII, Italians brought espresso coffee with them, and decades later cafés and coffee shops still keep the city caffeinated (for an extra jolt, try a cup of Melbourne Magic). The state of Victoria is also home to the Yarra Valley, a premier wine growing region producing both wine and some of the world's finest gin.

HOLISTIC WELLNESS. The Mornington Peninsula is a relaxed version of the Hamptons where you can indulge in wine, wellness, and wildlife activities or golf Australia's greatest courses. National Geographic named the state one of the most exciting to visit in 2024 because of its hot springs. Here you'll find dozens of natural geothermal mineral springs and pools that harmoniously dot the natural landscape and are filled with water straight from the earth’s core, over 2,000 feet below the surface. Several area spas are built around this natural healing environment. The recently opened Alba Thermal Springs & Spa offers restorative healing treatments in each of its 31 pools. Pampering self-care is the goal at the Peninsula Hot Springs. Try the Moroccan hammam, a detoxifying experience for mind and body.

From top: The 12 Apostles rock along Victoria's rugged coastline; Melbourne's vibrant cityscape; Brighton bathing boxes in Melbourne.

CONNECTION & CREATIVITY. Learn the history behind Melbourne’s famous graffitied laneways during a street art masterclass led by one of the city’s most authentic street artists. Plan your visit to coincide with the Formula 1 Grand Prix or the Australia Open. Or connect with the city and its artists during the annual Rising festival, where visual art, installations, live performances, unique food, and bold ideas are celebrated day and night.





CANBERRA & AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Equivalent to America's Washington D.C., the Australian Capital Territory is home to the country's capital city, Canberra. Discover federal government institutions, national monuments, and important museums. But surprisingly, you'll also find a wealth of natural beauty, recreation, and cultural attractions that tell 65,000 years of First Nations history.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE. Named for the Aboriginal word for mountain ranges, Namadgi National Park is the only national park in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Offering over 262 thousand acres, the park encompasses 46 percent of the ACT. Explore nearly 100 miles of bushwalking trails that wind through the Australian Alps, the country's tallest mountain range. Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve borders the national park, offering even more opportunity for bushwalks and wildlife viewing. Chances are good for spotting a koala in the Eucalypt Forest, or pop over to The Sanctuary, a large wetland area where the odd, beloved, and endangered platypus can be found.

IMMERSIVE CULTURE. Learn more about Indigenous culture and art at the National Gallery, which houses the country's most valuable collection of art — over 155,000 works of art created by more than 15,000 artists — including the world's largest collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art. Or learn about the inner workings of the Australian government during a guided tour of the Australian Parliament House.

THE FOODIE. With more restaurants per 100,000 people than any other Australian city, it's safe to say you'll be well fed in the ACT. The state is internationally known for its food, wine, and coffee culture. For foodies who like to forage, join a truffle hunt at The Truffle Farm.

From top: The Australian War Memorial; farm-to-table decadence at the Truffle Farm; Parliament of Australia.



SYDNEY & NEW SOUTH WALES

Considered by many to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Sydney (also recognized by its Indigenous name, Warrane) is home to iconic architectural landmarks like the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. While Bondi Beach might be the most famous, the city is home to more than 100 beaches, and the state boasts over 1,000 miles of picture-perfect coastline.

LIFE AQUATIC: Sydney is a water lover's paradise, so getting wet is nearly mandatory. Hundreds of species of fish can be spotted by snorkelers and scuba divers, while deep-sea fishing is found just beyond the harbour. Discover idyllic harbor bays and inlets by yacht, or go stand-up paddleboarding or kayaking. Did we mention the world-class surf beaches throughout New South Wales?

DID YOU KNOW? There are over one million tiles on the Sydney Opera House roof (all self-cleaning), because rainwater washes away dirt so manual cleaning isn't required.

NOT TO MISS: Heading south from Sydney, the NSW South Coast is home to Jervis Bay, Kangaroo Valley, and the Sapphire Coast, which stretches from Bermagui to Wonboyn. Endless curves of sand and sparkling waters beckon. The NSW North Coast is filled with national parks, lush wilderness, and pristine beaches. The coastal towns of Byron Bay, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, and Port Stephens all boast decadent food scenes and are swathed in enviable coastal vibes. Just an hour from Sydney, the Hawkesbury River and Central Coast regions offer delightful encounters with wildlife and authentic experiences such as shucking your own fresh oysters.

And just two hours from Sydney, the Hunter Valley is one of Australia's pre-eminent wine destinations and Australia's oldest wine region, with over 150 cellar doors. The World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains, only 90 minutes from Sydney, are justifiably famous, and the easy Three Sisters trail walk in Katoomba delivers magical valley views. A two-hour flight from Sydney is untouched Lord Howe Island. This World Heritage-listed island is home to just 382 permanent residents and offers unlimited options for adventure — hiking, fishing, snorkeling, and bird watching, along with local gourmet produce, luxury resorts and spas.



FROM TOP: TOURISM AUSTRALIA; ROHAN THOMSON, PEW PEW STUDIO; TOURISM AUSTRALIA
IMAGE: DESTINATION NSW

Vivid Sydney, Australia's biggest and brightest festival



ULURU & THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Formerly known as Ayers Rock, Uluru is one of Australia’s most revered attractions. Rising dramatically from the desert floor, the massive red rock is estimated to be about half a billion years old. This national treasure, combined with the state’s historical artifacts and Aboriginal cultural experiences, is just one reason the Northern Territory lives up to its slogan, “Different in every sense.”

INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES. The celebration of Aboriginal culture is an intrinsic part of the Northern Territory’s identity. From traditional ceremonial practices to world-class contemporary arts, the story of Aboriginal culture resonates globally.

The Northern Territory offers a wealth of ways to experience the world’s oldest living culture. Peruse Aboriginal art galleries in the quirky outback town of Alice Springs, or marvel at ancient rock art and historical artifacts. Connect with the oldest living culture areas on earth at Kakadu National Park, home to the largest concentrations of rock art sites. Some paintings are up to 20,000 years old, which makes the artwork one of the longest historical records of any group of people. The paintings provide a fascinating record of Aboriginal life over thousands of years, and show the close personal relationship Bininj/Mungguy share with their land and spiritual heritage.

ALL ABOUT ADVENTURE. Observe one of the world’s largest monoliths from every angle on a walk with a Traditional Owner, or atop a camel’s back. While Uluru-Kata Tjuta is the state’s most popular national park, there are countless others to explore, including Tjoritja West MacDonnell National Park, where you can take a dip in the cold waters of one the park’s permanent waterholes. A hot-air balloon ride in Alice Springs provides an aerial opportunity to spot kangaroos, wild camels, dingoes, or even an elusive bandicoot as they make their way across the Red Centre. When visiting the lush and tropical Top End, amazing wildlife experiences are found in Darwin’s Kakadu and Nitmiluk National Parks.

From top: Exploring The Northern Territory; aerial views of Longitude 131° and Uluru.



IMAGES: TOURISM NT
IMAGE: TOURISM AUSTRALIA



PERTH & WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australia is the nation’s largest state and features the country’s longest stretch of coastline. And with eight hours of sunshine every single day of the year, it’s always summer here. Western Australia also boasts more rock and Aboriginal art than anywhere else in the country, and is home to natural wonders, supernatural contrasts, and rare experiences. If that’s not reason enough to visit, it’s also the only place in the world you can see a quokka – the happiest animal in the world.

SEA ME! Halfway between Perth (Boorloo) and Broome (Rubibi) lies the Ningaloo Reef, the largest fringing reef in the world. Despite resting just a short swim from the shore, the reef is virtually untouched, leading to its remarkable biodiversity. It’s home to over 300 varieties of coral and 500 species of fish, including the largest of them all – whale sharks.



In fact, the Ningaloo Reef is one of the few places in the world swimming with whale sharks is possible. In Talbot Bay, witness what Sir David Attenborough calls “one of the greatest natural wonders of the world.” Formed by large, powerful tidal movements, the swirling waters of the Horizontal Falls are a natural phenomenon.

SUN, SAND, AND SMILES. The beaches in Western Australian are regularly voted among the best in the world, and it’s not hard to understand why. Over 7,500 miles of picturesque coastline stretch along the state, totaling some 3,500 beaches, including Lucky Bay, where kangaroos are known to bask on the sparkling white sand. Just offshore from the city of Perth, you’ll find Rottnest Island, a protected nature reserve and the only place in the world you can see the quokka, a small wallaby-like marsupial known for its constant smile.

DID YOU KNOW? Western Australia makes for the ultimate road trip. Head to the resort town of Kalbarri or cruise along the gorgeous Western Australian coast.

ROOM KEY. Crown Towers Perth is prestigious without being pretentious. Discover some of the best views and fine dining in the area from your luxury basecamp. 

 **Enchanting Australia.** Discover even more of this incredible country by calling, emailing, or visiting the website found on the back cover and entering **OFFER M26460** for insider access.

Kayaking in Roebuck Bay, Broome.



TOP RIGHT IMAGE: TOM GRIFFITHS



OCEAN ELEGANCE

Discover the next chapter
of Crystal.

BY AMY ROBERTS



SUITES & GUEST ROOMS

A recent remodel reduced passenger capacity to provide more living space, including a 645-square-foot Junior Crystal Penthouse Suite, which combines two staterooms into one spacious suite, complete with separate dining and living areas, and a private veranda. The Crystal Penthouse Suite is even more expansive, offering up to 1,265 square feet, walk-in closets, a private jacuzzi, and panoramic ocean views. Regardless of your accommodation choice, you'll revel in contemporary refinement and elevated details, including:

- Fine Italian linens made by Jesurum Venezia 1870
- Luxurious bathroom amenities, including natural handmade soaps and marbled floors
- The comforts of home – sumptuous mattresses, plush bathrobes, and a selection of pillows
- Maximized in-room relaxation spaces that perfectly blend craftsmanship and comfort

AT YOUR SERVICE

With more than three decades of experience, Crystal has perfected the art of exquisitely intuitive service. With nearly one staff member for every guest, personalized butler service in all room categories, a familial crew known for anticipating needs, it's easy to understand why discerning travelers recognize Crystal as the gold standard for impeccable, non-intrusive service.

WHEN Crystal relaunched under the Abercrombie & Kent (A&K) travel group, the news made big waves throughout the industry. Afterall, A&K is considered a trailblazer in travel. So, when it acquired Crystal in the summer of 2022, sophisticated travelers desiring immersive journeys at sea were equally excited to hear the news. Revered for its personalized service, onboard elegance, and enriching destinations, the company's new official slogan: Crystal – Exceptional at Sea – is as fitting as it is alluring. Here's what else you'll now find on a Crystal voyage.

ALL INCLUSIVE

Meals, drinks, and all entertainment are covered, unless desiring specific reservations or cocktails not on the all-inclusive menu. Oh, and here's a tip: there's no need to leave one. With Crystal, all-inclusive means gratuities too.

Previous page, from left: Dining al fresco with Crystal; toasting aboard Crystal Symphony. Clockwise from top left: At-sea service ensures indelible stays; the Junior Suite Penthouse bathroom aboard Crystal Serenity; vantage points abound aboard Crystal ships; modern rooms feature stylish décor.



TOP LEFT IMAGE: TOM GRIFFITHS





IMAGES: TOM GRIFFITHS

DELIGHTFUL DINING

With upwards of nine unique dining options on every ship, passengers are spoiled for choice when it comes to cuisine. Delight in a regionally inspired, six-course meal featuring locally sourced ingredients paired with sublime wines or opt for the ease of European pastries and gourmet cheeses. If you prefer a cozy meal for two, in-suite dining is an option any time of day or night. But be certain to plan at least one visit to Umi Uma, the Peruvian Japanese establishment led by Master Chef Nobuyuki (Nobu) Matsuhisa. Crystal is the only cruise line to offer Nobu restaurants at sea, and this specialty dining experience by the famed Michelin-starred chef is not to be missed.

EDUCATION & ENTERTAINMENT

While at sea, Crystal features a plethora of learning and entertainment opportunities to expand your knowledge (or just sit back and enjoy the show!). Luminaries in their field and titans in their industry are welcomed to the stage, including sports stars, celebrities, scientists, and even the occasional astronaut. The cruise line's University@Sea program offers interactive instructions for a variety of hobbies — photography, golf, bridge, even ballroom dancing. And most evenings you'll find multiple live performances across the onboard venues — live music, stand-up comedy, and off-Broadway plays to name a few.

IMAGINATIVE ITINERARIES

Immerse yourself in the world's most breathtaking destinations as you travel throughout the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Canada, New England, Alaska, the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, Middle East, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. Each itinerary is thoughtfully curated to showcase the local way of life in each port. In Tuscany, discover the art of truffle hunting and sample the region's finest antipasti with local estate owners. Wander through Istanbul's ancient sites — the Hippodrome of Constantinople and the Topkapı Palace — with an expert guide. Explore the many flavors of Sri Lanka before visiting the ornate pagodas of Myanmar's storied former capital, Yangon. Or marvel at the architectural eye candy in Singapore, the majestic fjords of New Zealand, and the intricate coral reefs in Cairns and Alotau, Papua New Guinea.

WELLNESS AT SEA

While Crystal has partnered with esteemed nutritionist Dalila Roglieri to ensure all meals are as nourishing as they are flavorful, the concept of wellness extends far beyond food. Crystal also boasts state-of-the-art gyms featuring Technogym equipment, personal training, pickleball and tennis courts, and even an onboard golf pro. Treatments at the Aurora Spa ensure pampering rejuvenation and a holistic approach to wellness. 🌊

➔ **Style at Sea.** Ready to set sail with Crystal? Visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26473** or email or call us directly to book your elegant escape.

Clockwise from top right: Showstopping entertainment aboard Crystal Symphony; experience elevated cuisine by Master Chef Nobuyuki (Nobu) Matsuhisa; dining at Umi Uma aboard the Crystal Serenity.



2024 EDITION

where to go NOW

Editor-at-Large **Ignacio Maza** is always looking for authentic places, emerging destinations, and new ways to experience beloved classic locales. Here are his recommendations on where to venture next.





ISTRIA, CROATIA

The Adriatic’s hidden gem is Istria, Croatia’s heart-shaped region in the country’s northwest. Explore charming coastal cities such as Poreč, Novigrad, and Rovinj, Dubrovnik’s northern rival. Dining is a highlight, as Istria is Croatia’s pantry, justly famous for the quality of its wines, orchards, and truffles. The region’s 2,000-year-old-plus history comes alive at Pula’s Roman amphitheater and the sixth-century Basilica in Poreč, among many sites. If you can peel yourself away from the clear turquoise waters and beautiful beaches, visit Istria’s countryside, especially Motovun, the historic hilltop town and an absolute must.

JUTLAND, DENMARK

Denmark’s wild and rugged northwest is closer than ever, with new air service from Newark to Aalborg. This sparsely populated region is perfect for travelers seeking adventure, culture, and gastronomy. Admire Aalborg’s architectural heritage, from medieval landmarks to masterpieces by Alvar Aalto and Jørn Utzon, of Sydney Opera House fame. Outdoor enthusiasts can hike Thy National Park (Denmark’s first), or ride the waves off Cold Hawaii, Northern Europe’s surfing mecca. Taste Jutland’s fine dining at Emil, Tri, and Svinkløv restaurants. Don’t miss REGAN Vest, a 1960s secret nuclear bunker and astonishing time capsule.

FEZ, MOROCCO

Morocco’s former capital is the country’s spiritual and cultural heart. Fez’s ancient Medina will remind you of Jerusalem, with narrow alleys, old traveler’s inns, and historic monuments dating back over a thousand years. The city’s craftsmen, shopkeepers, and traders keep age-old traditions alive, like the centuries-old leather tanneries. Admire masterpieces of Islamic architecture when visiting Al-Attarine Madrasa, Nejjarine Museum, and the Kairouine Mosque, home to one of the world’s oldest universities. Lastly, a must see: Fes El-Bali, the labyrinthine neighborhood that is the largest car-free urban area in the world.

THE EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa’s best kept secret is the Eastern Cape, where the Atlantic meets the Indian Ocean. Swim in world-class, wide-open beaches, and enjoy superb dining and delectable oysters in Knysna. Celebrate 30 years of South African democracy in the region that is home to the Xhosa people, and also Nelson Mandela’s birthplace. For a rush of adrenaline, try the Bloukrans Bridge Bungee, the world’s highest bungee adventure. Spot wildlife and rare birds at malaria-free Shamwari Private Game Reserve and Addo Elephant National Park, while dramatic coastal scenery awaits at Tsitsikamma National Park and marine reserve.

ALULA, SAUDI ARABIA

This oasis in Saudi Arabia’ northwest was a capital of legendary kingdoms and the crossroads of incense traders in ancient times. The star attraction here is Hegra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with countless Nabatean tombs carved into the rocks. Most impressive? Qasr Al-Farid, the lonely fortress. Unique adventures abound, including camel safaris, sandboarding, epic hikes, and unforgettable events like music festival Azimuth. Enjoy fine dining atop the world’s largest mirrored building, with cuisine by Michelin-star chef Jason Atherton at Maraya Social. Your home in the desert is Habitas AlUla resort, with private villas surrounded by sandstone cliffs.



Previous page, clockwise from top left: Colorful details of Seoul, South Korea’s Gyeongbokgung Palace; harborside in Istria, Croatia; historic housing in Aalborg Jutland, Denmark; an aloha state-of-mind in Hawai’i; ancient exploration in Hegra, Saudi Arabia; sole searching in Morocco; authentic flavors of Los Cabos, Mexico. Opposite, clockwise from top left: traditional Xhosa Tribe women in South Africa; aerial views of Istria, Croatia; camel crossing in AlUla, Saudi Arabia; the rugged shoreline of Jutland, Denmark.



CHIANG RAI, THAILAND

Located in the heart of the Golden Triangle, where Thailand meets Laos and Myanmar, is Chiang Rai — smaller, more authentic, and less developed than better-known Chiang Mai. Thailand’s northernmost region is covered with forests, mountains, and winding rivers. Visit Chiang Rai’s White Temple, a privately-owned art exhibit in the style of a Buddhist temple. Explore nearby villages like Mae Kampong — a model for responsible community tourism. Go on great hikes and bike adventures. Stay at the Anantara Golden Triangle Resort, the luxurious sanctuary with an onsite elephant camp and opportunities to interact with Thailand’s gentle giants.

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Asia’s rising star, where the past meets the future, continues to reinvent itself. Start at Seoul Sky, Korea’s highest observation deck found atop the 123-story-high Lotte Tower. Learn about the country’s rich history at Gyeongbokgung Palace and explore 600-year-old Bukchon Hanok Village. Dive into Korea’s vibrant culinary scene, which features harmonized traditional menus at Jingwansa Temple in the outskirts of Seoul, street food at Gwangjang Market, or dining at Michelin-starred restaurants. Shop for handicrafts and art in Insadong’s cobblestone streets, and make sure you visit Seoul’s Blue House, the former presidential residence now open to the public.



Opposite: The famed temples of Chiang Rai, Thailand. Above: Exploring the unique Gyeongbokgung Palace in South Korea.

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

There is something for everyone in Queensland, Australia’s oversized state (twice the size of Texas), with a thousand different ecosystems. The technicolor underwater world of the Great Barrier Reef is just the beginning. Enjoy the white-sand beaches of Gold Coast and the Whitsundays, check out vibrant Brisbane, experience the Outback, or explore the Daintree Rainforest (older than the Amazon) on a walkabout with an indigenous custodian. Stay in one-of-a-kind luxury lodges set within a vast cattle station in the outback, a treehouse deep in the rainforest, or a secluded island retreat on the Barrier Reef.

SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand’s wonderland is closer than ever, with flights from the United States to Christchurch, where heritage buildings meet cutting-edge architecture. Paddle down the Avon River in a traditional waka (canoe) and discover the legacy of the Maori culture. Board the TranzAlpine train enroute to New Zealand’s west coast, then sail across a glacial lake to catch views of Aoraki (Mt. Cook), the country’s highest mountain. Experience next-level hospitality at luxury retreats like Blanket Bay, Azur Lodge, and The Marlborough resort. Pristine natural landscapes, breathtaking vistas, friendly Kiwis, and memorable adventures are waiting for you.

THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Visit The Hawaiian Islands with a fresh outlook. Learn about Hawai‘i’s culture while visiting O‘ahu’s Waimea Valley or admiring ancient sites along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail on the Island of Hawai‘i. Discover about Hawai‘i’s rich flora while wandering through Kaua‘i’s Allerton Garden, a landscape architecture masterpiece, and a backdrop to Hollywood films. For adventure seekers, hike Maui’s Sliding Sands Trail at Haleakalā Volcano’s summit, or mystical Pipiwai Trail, with bamboo forests and waterfalls. Taste Hawaiian cuisine, including small-plate lunches, shaved ice traditional luau dishes, fine dining, and the freshest seafood ever. Wherever you go, feel the warmth of heartfelt alohas.

THE YUKON, NORTHERN TERRITORIES & NUNAVUT, CANADA

Canada’s boundless north, covering 50 percent of the country’s territory, remains an undiscovered treasure. Explore a land of evergreen forests, abundant wildlife, limitless tundra, and the home of Inuit and First Nations communities, with rich cultures going back millennia. Meet resident artists, elders, and guides for a fresh outlook into the far north. Stay at indigenous-owned lodges for an immersive experience. Discover sparsely visited National Parks like Nahanni, home of Dehcho First Nation. From spring to fall, hike the tundra, fish, and spot herds of caribou and musk oxen. Visit in winter for the dogsledding, snowshoeing, and the Northern Lights.

LOS CABOS, MEXICO

Mexico’s sunniest destination offers endless adventures between two seas. Experience a marine safari, swimming with whale sharks, and snorkeling in one of North America’s best coral reefs. Hike or bike the Sierra de la Laguna in search of hot springs. Kayak to Land’s End at El Arco. Explore the art galleries of San José del Cabo and the picturesque village of Todos Santos. Taste authentic farm-to-table menus at Monte Cardón, and don’t miss dinner with magical views at Sunset Monalisa. Stay at Montage Los Cabos, an idyllic sanctuary facing one of Los Cabos’ premier beaches.

Clockwise from top left: The Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Queensland, Australia; surf’s up in Maui, Hawai‘i; stunning scenery in South Island, New Zealand; camping with the northern lights in Yellowknife, Northern Canada.





ATACAMA DESERT, CHILE

This sacred, majestic land in Chile’s northeast is a region of arid plateaus, salt flats, and otherworldly landscapes in the shadow of the mighty Andes. Marvel at the high-altitude lagoons of Piedras Rojas (at 14,000 feet over sea level), and spot flamingos at Laguna Chaxa. Visit ancient Inca fortresses, surf the sand dunes, or hike the Valley of the Moon and surrounding mountains streaked with orange and pink. At night, enjoy superb stargazing with the clearest skies in the southern hemisphere. Stay at Explora Lodge, a pioneer luxury resort in this region and the idyllic base camp for Atacama adventures.

ANTARCTICA

There have never been more and better ways to experience the White Continent – the coldest, driest, highest, and windiest on earth. New itineraries and next-generation expedition ships with creature comforts make this the perfect time to visit the ultimate frontier. Antarctica’s stunning scenery and rich wildlife will amaze you, with countless seals, whales, birds, and over 10 million penguins. Explore natural wonders by zodiac, helicopter, submarine, kayak, and walks ashore. A great option: Skip the Drake Passage by flying direct from South America to Antarctica, then board your expedition ship. 



 **Get Out There!** Ready for more global adventure? Visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26466** for online inspiration, or call or email us to dreamsmith your next escape.

Opposite: The striking landscape of the Atacama Desert in Chile at sunset. Above: Ocean adventures in Antarctica.



THE WONDERS of Riviera Nayarit

Two spectacular resorts are redefining Mexico's most coveted coastline.

BY ERIN LENTZ

La abuela is the 500-year-old tree that anchors and protects the One&Only Mandarin. When I first encountered this “grandmother” of a *higuera blanca*, the land around her was still undeveloped. As I toured the property by golf cart, the developer shared plans and pointed to where resort amenities and private villas would eventually spring to life. Hugging the most coveted coastline in the Riviera Nayarit, Mandarin was tangible even then.

When I returned to the property eight years later, *la abuela* was just as I remembered, only this time I experienced her magnificence with my 14-year-old son and a small group of hikers. Led by a private guide, we removed our shoes and laid down at the foot of the tree where we enjoyed a moment of silence. During this cleansing ritual, marked by the scent of burning palo santo and the sound of a soft wind, and after also experiencing Susurros Del Corazón, Auberge Resorts Collection, I vowed to visit the Riviera Nayarit often — as the energy and culture in this part of Mexico are simply irresistible.

ONE&ONLY MANDARINA

A one-hour drive from Puerto Vallarta, the One&Only Mandarin has become the most talked about destination resort in the Riviera Nayarit. Here, the jungle tumbles to the sea, human interaction harmonizes with nature, and architecture is purposefully positioned to respect the land.

STAY: Chic, eco-designed villas and treehouses are situated along the edge of the rainforest, among ancient trees and volcanic rock. The Grand Villas, which range in size from one- to three-bedrooms, take design cues from nature, employing native materials, Mexican artistry, and striking design. For those traveling with extended family or groups of couples, the property is home to the first One&Only Mandarin Private Homes in the Western hemisphere (see sidebar on Signature Villas), offering the ultimate escape for milestone celebrations. Each villa — and every guest — is serviced by several hosts who cater to your every whim.

PLAY: One&Only Mandarin is built for both downtime and epic adventure. My teen couldn't wait to tackle the mountain biking and Mandarin Jungle Course, while I quickly booked time at the One&Only Spa. My recommendation: the Wirikuta Sacred Purification with two therapists. We spent lazy afternoons under the sun at two stylish beach clubs, and I'll forever cherish sunrise laps in the adult-only infinity pool. Mandarin also has access to some of the best surfing in the area, while private boat charters take guests diving, deep sea fishing, and snorkeling. Be sure to kayak and stand-up paddleboard right from the Jetty Beach Club, perfect your serve at the Tennis Academy, and catch a round of soccer, pickleball, basketball, and archery.



Clockwise from top: Iconic architecture of the One&Only Mandarin includes cliffside infinity pools; surf's up in the Pacific; pool views of Villa Banderas.

BOTTOM IMAGES: RUPERT PEACE

RIDE: Mandarinina overlooks a vast valley where developer RLH Properties designed the Mandarinina Polo & Equestrian Club. The facility includes a tournament size polo field, state-of-the-art stable, 30,000-square-foot jumping area, 13,000-square foot dressage area, 10 acres of grass pastures, and even a veterinary clinic and bridle path to the beach. An on-site barn manager cares for the horses, while a professional polo player assists with training and lessons. Novices and experienced riders can choose horseback lessons, jungle-to-ocean trail rides, and polo classes, or simply sit back and experience the grandeur of a professional polo match.

SIP & SAVOR: The dining scene is equally impressive as the endless resort views, with three unique restaurant concepts and The Treetop bar tucked away in the jungle. The standout is Carao by celebrity Chef Enrique Olvera. Suspended on the cliffside, the restaurant serves a twist on traditional Mexican cuisine with daring departures, showcasing Olvera's passion for global travel.



From left: A jungle paradise awaits at One&Only Mandarinina's Cliff Villa; framed landscapes from one of the expansive Signature Villa living rooms.



HAUTE PROPERTY

One&Only Signature Villas offer the ultimate Mexican retreat.

A collection of 55 private villas designed by celebrity architect Rick Joy, One&Only Mandarinina Private Homes are perched atop the Sierra de Vallejo mountain range. As the debut of One&Only Private Homes in the Western Hemisphere, the ultra-luxe homes have been purchased by pro athletes, famous entrepreneurs, and West Coast celebrities. The four- to 10-bedroom Signature Villas are also available to rent, which means you can live like royalty while treated to the finest amenities of the One&Only Mandarinina resort. Signature Villas are finished with lush gardens, sun-drenched decks, infinity pools, firepits, jacuzzis, chef's kitchens, wine cellars, private cinemas, and gyms.



➔ **The Magic of Mexico.** Can you hear Riviera Nayarit calling? Visit the website found on the back cover and enter **OFFER M26895** for rich cultural immersions or call or email us for sea-inspired escapes.

Clockwise from top left: Susurros Del Corazón, Auberge Resorts Collection; poolside cocktails at Acapulco; gourmet dining at Casamilpa.

SUSURROS DEL CORAZÓN, AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION

This property within the Auberge Resorts Collection is another immersive cultural experience that celebrates the authentic spirit of the jungle-meets-sea Riviera Nayarit, yet Susurros Del Corazón is only 40 minutes north of the Puerto Vallarta airport.

STAY: Bright, airy, and contemporary, garden and oceanfront Casitas and Studios feature large indoor-outdoor spaces, private terraces, and floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that usher in the breeze of the Bahía de Banderas. The contemporary design reflects Mexico's rich craft culture with regional furnishings and textiles, carrying a sense of place from your guest room to each stylish gathering space. Peruse local art in the open-air lounge, order coffee from the resort's charming food truck, and try a jalapeno-infused margarita at the chic, swim-up bar. Families can unwind in spacious two-to-four bedroom residential villas, while couples will revel in the property's romantic vibe.

PLAY: The sea is your daily muse, as the resort lines the unspoiled Mexican coastline with swim-friendly beaches. Susurros Del Corazón pulses to a musical playlist created specifically for the resort, while unique ocean adventures abound. Take a surf safari with local pros, search for humpback whales on a private boat charter, or simply while away the day at the resort's three stacked, scenic pools. The property is also a haven for both wellness and fitness, with beach HIIT classes, a state-of-the-art gym, and personal training. ONDA is the largest resort spa in Bahía de Banderas, where the El Cuerpo body treatment and ritual is practically mandatory. And while you may never want to leave the resort grounds, your dedicated concierge can arrange for fun ATV adventures to the Bohemian surf town of Sayulita – a must-do for kids and kids at heart.

SIP & SAVOR: Cuisine and cocktails are daily works of art at Susurros Del Corazón, home to the seasonally inspired Casamilpa restaurant, and pop-up dining experiences feel fun and adventurous. Tequila connoisseurs will enjoy the House of the Sun Tasting Room with Casa Del Sol, while immersive experiences include roasting your own *elote* (Mexican street corn) or discovering the art of *zarandeado*, an ancient Mexican grilling technique that originated on the Pacific Coast of Nayarit more than 500 years ago. Expert culinary guides show guests how to prepare a whole fish, complemented with beautiful grilled vegetables and Susurros del Corazón's unforgettable guacamole. 🌮

WINTER ON THE RANGE

The snowy prairies of Alberta and Saskatchewan deliver an especially epic adventure.

BY HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS



Above: Dogsledding in Alberta. Opposite: View from the bridge at Saskatchewan river crossing in Banff National Park.

WITH each winter comes more opportunities for cold-weather experiences, but for those looking for a truly extraordinary destination, Canada consistently tops the lists. And while the country's coasts have long been a popular choice, a different region is now attracting the attention of adventurous travelers: the prairies of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Do the winter temperatures here seem implausible at times? Of course — all the better for crisper air, clearer ice, and more challenging climbs. There's also plenty of adventure-light experiences to be had, from ice skating on a picture-perfect frozen lake to learning about Canada's Indigenous Peoples in a historical wildlife park. Pack your parka and let's go.

LEFT IMAGE: TRAVEL ALBERTA / MIKE SEEHAGEL



Walk in the footsteps of explorers at the Columbia Icefields.

JASPER, ALBERTA

Set between Banff National Park and Jasper National Park, this 17-mile-long wonder is the largest icefield in the Rockies. Walk on 10,000-year-old sheets of ice that can be as deep as 1200 feet or take a specially developed ATV machine out further to explore the Athabasca glacier, one of six glaciers fed from Icefield waters. Sip straight-from-the-glacier water while learning about the continued efforts to preserve this historic environmental phenomenon that is vital to the world’s ecosystems.

STAY: For a room with an ultimate view, book the Glacier View Lodge. With floor-to-ceiling windows, the prime location offers incredible views of the glaciers — even while perched beside a roaring fire.

DON’T MISS: The Columbia Icefield Skywalk. This glass walkway suspended 918 feet above the Sunwapta valley provides a breathtaking experience. Along the short route you’ll see fossils and interpretive explanations of your surroundings, and of course, stunning views. Keep your eyes peeled and you’ll likely spot wildlife including mountain goats, bighorn sheep, and elk on the surrounding rocky cliffs.



From top: Walking on the Columbia Icefield Skywalk; ancient ice at Columbia Icefields. Opposite: Bird's-eye view of the Twin Lake's waterfall.



Cast a line between waterfalls in Saskatchewan.

A PENINSULA BETWEEN MOUNTAIN & OTTER LAKES, NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN

Catch a float plane from Missinipe to this remote fly-in lodge that’s tucked into the boreal forest between Robertson Falls and Twin Falls. The anglers’ paradise is perfectly positioned for access to the Churchill River system, as well as the Walleye and northern pike that fill its waters.

STAY: Twin Falls Lodge, built in 2021, boasts three new suites alongside its four fetching cabins. Expect the modern comforts you need (yes, there’s Wi-Fi) as well as breakfast and dinner prepared by an on-site chef and shore lunches featuring the fish you just caught.

DON’T MISS: The surrounding landscape. Hikers can check out Indigenous rock paintings and book a guided cultural tour, while photographers will marvel at how the soft light lands on nature by day and the exquisite northern lights at night.



Make cultural connections at Métis Crossing.

SMOKY LAKE, ALBERTA

At this 512-acre, Indigenous-owned property, a cultural center shares the story of the Métis, one of the Indigenous groups in Canada. The descendants of European fur traders and First Nations people have lived in this area since at least the 1700s, and now offer insights into their culture and history, including traditional crafts and performances. Here you'll also discover a 320-acre wildlife park — home once again to bison that long ago roamed the land.

STAY: A 40-room lodge is on-site, while the eight Sky Watching Domes are designed for glampers who enjoy falling asleep under the night sky.

DON'T MISS: Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on the property, as well as sampling the inspired cuisine in the Cultural Gathering Center.



From top: The Métis Crossing Gathering Center; bison viewing in the Métis Crossing Wildlife Park. Opposite: Practicing hockey skills on Lake Louise.

Fall in love with winter on Lake Louise.

LAKE LOUISE, ALBERTA

If you're looking to boost your winter spirits, try twirling on a frozen lake in the shadows of the snow-capped Rocky Mountains. Lake Louise is an all-season destination, but the wintertime offers a quintessentially Canadian experience. Locals and visitors alike don skates and take to the ice for everything from glides with pals to pick-up hockey games.

STAY: Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise was originally built as a base for alpinists over 100 years ago, and today is an ultra-luxurious resort and spa. Each winter, the hotel sponsors an on-lake Ice Bar, where cocktails and spiked hot chocolate help keep you cozy.

DON'T MISS: An evening skate session. Afternoon experiences are always wonderful, but at night the lit-up frozen lake feels extra-quiet and especially magical. 



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FROM TOP: JAY R. McDONALD; PHOTOS COURTESY MÉTIS CROSSING



POSTCARD FROM...

YOHKO SCOTT, JAPAN NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION

WOULD MOST LIKE TO DINE WITH: There is a very famous ukiyo-e painter in Japan named Utagawa Hiroshige. His prints capture the beauty of everyday life in Japan from the Edo period. His work features flowing riverbanks, snow-capped shrines, and bustling streets, with Mt. Fuji standing majestically in the background. Even today, you can stand where he once stood and see the view he once saw — some landscapes have changed over the ages while others look just the same. I would like to meet the man who saw such natural splendor in the ordinary and immortalized it for us to appreciate hundreds of years later.

WISH-LIST TRIP: Even though I live in sunny LA, I can't help but miss the beaches of Japan. I want to island-hop all around Okinawa. Most people who visit this subtropical region stick to well-known ports and city centers like Ishigaki and Naha, but I would love to take a month to do a deep-dive and explore all the smaller islands, too; there are actually 160 islands in total! The culture in Okinawa is truly unique from mainland Japan, and you can't go wrong with a vacation basking in the sun and swimming in crystal-clear waters.

NEVER TRAVEL WITHOUT: I always have a small notebook and my favorite pen with me, wherever I go. Commemorating each place I visit with photos is the standard practice, but I find it's a wonderful exercise to write down my emotions and thoughts I have, wherever I happen to be.



FAVORITE ASPECT OF JAPANESE CULTURE:

There is a word in Japanese, *omotenashi*, which roughly translates to "hospitality." Some people are familiar with this word regarding the exceptional attention to detail in Japan's service industry, but truth be told, it extends far beyond the mentality of "the customer is always right." There's a deeper implication of predicting or anticipating your guest's wants and needs before they themselves even know it, and doing everything you can to ensure they have a wonderful experience. You will notice this *omotenashi* everywhere you go in Japan, from the attentive care of retailers to the cleaning staff of the bullet train who will bow to you as you board.

FAVORITE PART OF JAPAN TO VISIT: I consider Kyoto to be something of a second home. I'm particularly drawn to the Buddhist temples for which this beautiful area is known worldwide. I relish the opportunity to tour different temples, speak with the monks, and take part in *zazen* meditation. The tranquil and somber grounds provide the perfect environment for self-reflection and contemplation.

WHEN I'M NOT WORKING YOU'LL FIND ME: Doing yoga at home or visiting the local spa. Wellness and relaxation are very important in Japan; it's never a bad idea to take time to soak in hot springs, meditate, and recharge from the hectic work week. ☯



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