

# Virtuoso Traveler

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AUGUST | SEPTEMBER 2019

GLOBE-TROTTING  
FOR GOOD

HOW TO TRAVEL  
SUSTAINABLY ON ALL  
7 CONTINENTS

WHERE  
THE  
WILD  
THINGS  
ARE

A LOOK AT ECO HOTELS,  
EXPEDITION CRUISES, AND  
ACTIVE ADVENTURES IN  
THE GREAT OUTDOORS

I SPY:  
Ecuador's  
Mashpi Lodge.





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& CAMBODIA

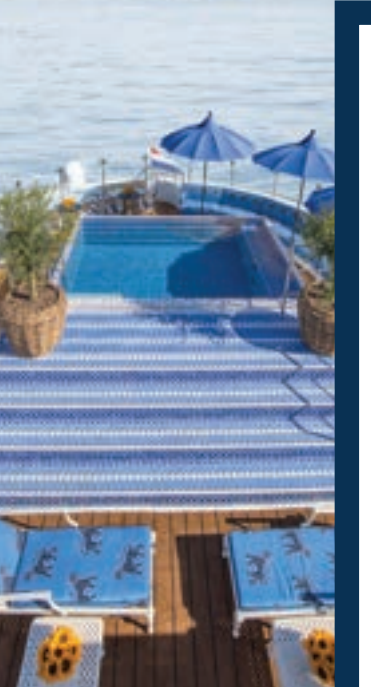
### S.S. LA VENEZIA

PO RIVER,  
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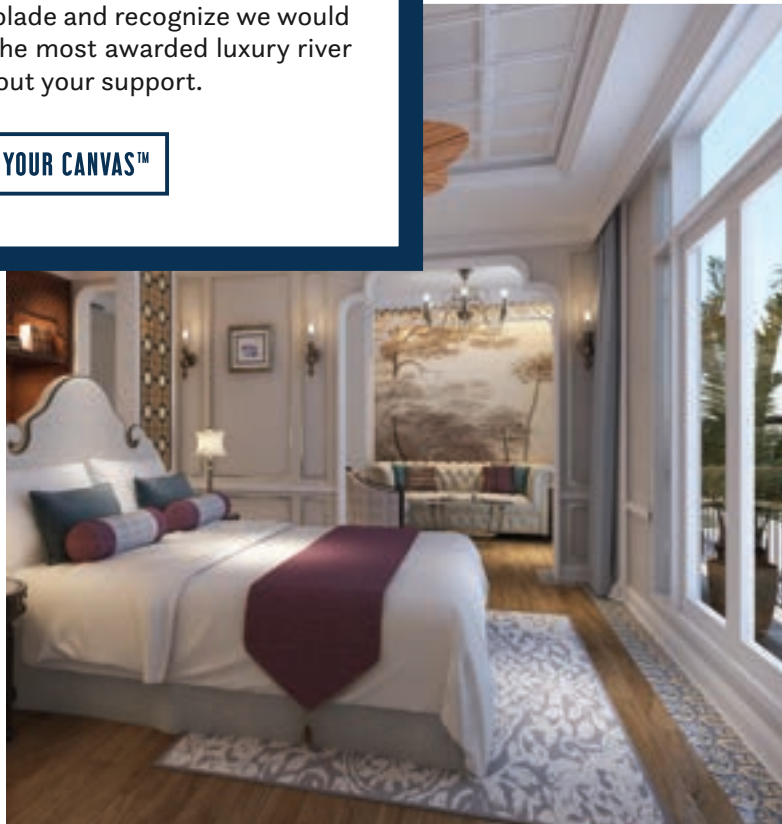
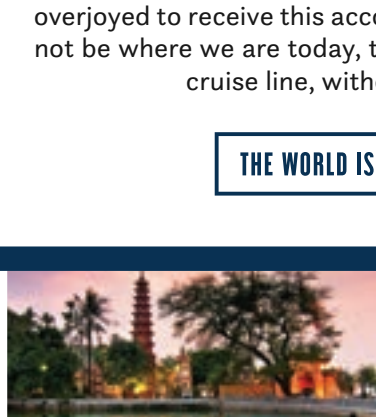
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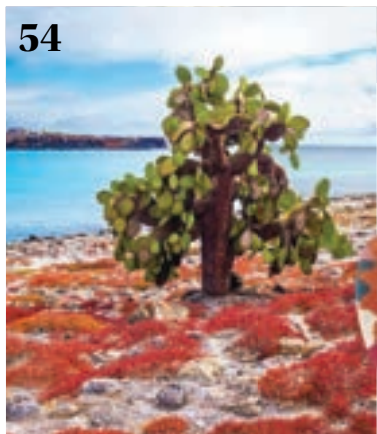
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(TURTLE) REGIEN PAASSEN/ALAMY, (GALÁPAGOS) PAUL VOWLES/GETTY IMAGES

**ON THE COVER** Mashpi Lodge, in Ecuador's Chocó cloud forest, offers guests the chance to spot 500 species of birds, trees, and frogs found nowhere else on earth.

# What Is Virtuoso?

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- **Knows Your Travel Style:** Virtuoso advisors understand what's most important to you, whether it's

taking private cooking classes or simply lounging by the pool.

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- **Expands Your Horizons:** Your advisor will help you think creatively about where to go and what to do. Count on recommendations for hot new destinations, plus new ways to experience those places you've already visited.
- **Can Handle Anything:** When problems occur away from home, consider your advisor your personal help line and "fixer" who knows how to quickly turn things around for the better.

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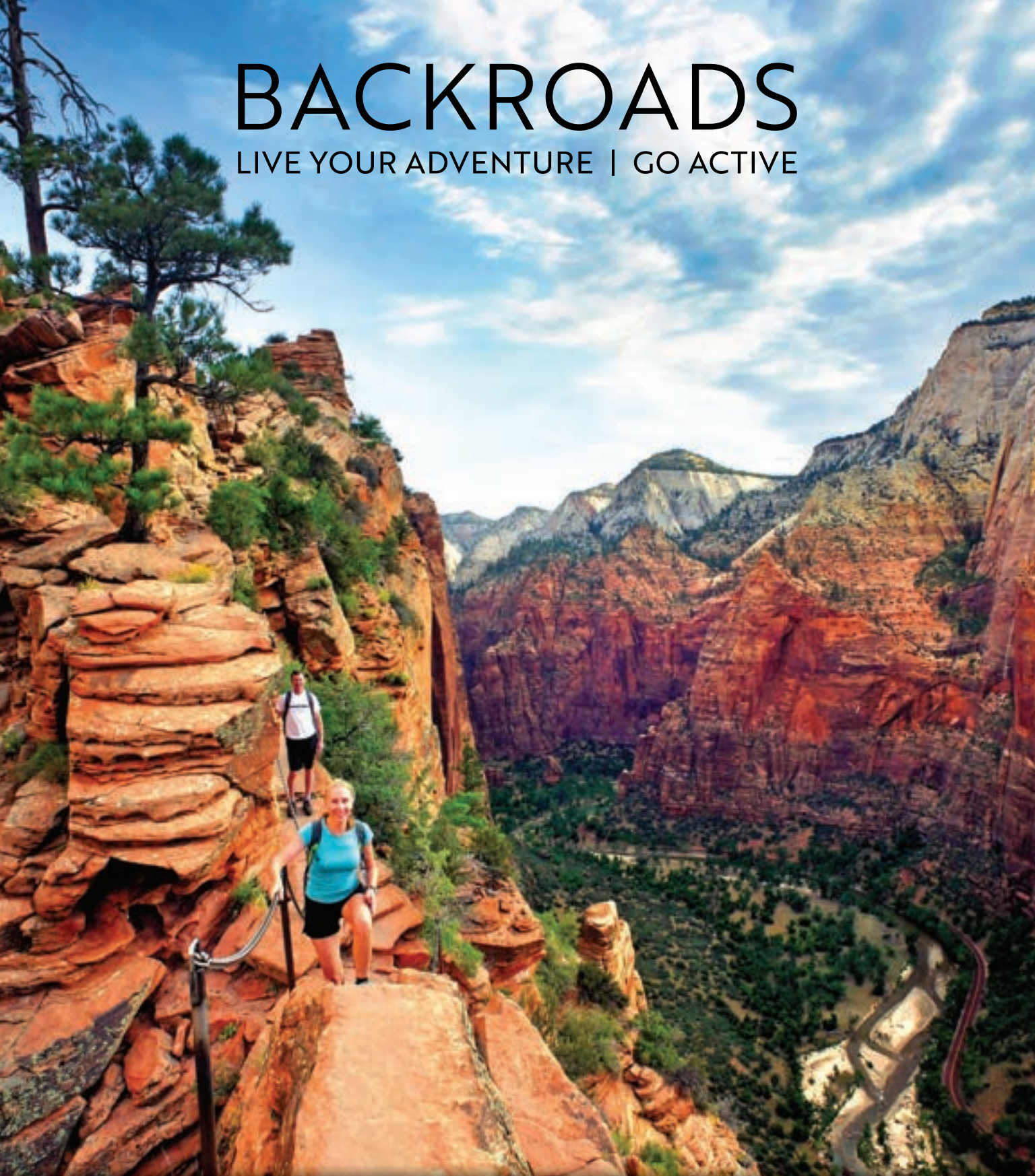
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# COMPASS

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

Turn the page for more hotels that connect you with the great outdoors.



Sundowners at The Lodge at Blue Sky's yurt.

**SKY-HIGH** Nature is known to work wonders on our neurotransmitters, and pleasure seekers get a solid dose of dopamine while hanging out at the yurt at **The Lodge at Blue Sky**. Available for private lunches, dinners, and events, the dwelling boasts some of the most scenic views on this 3,500-acre ranch near Park City, Utah – lounge in an Adirondack chair on the patio and watch the sunset while tasting High West whiskies, produced at a distillery on-site. (For additional libations, guests can hike or ride on horseback to the lodge's tavern, an original structure from the late 1800s.)

Nearly everything at this recently opened 46-room resort revolves around outdoor pursuits, from summertime mountain biking, fly-fishing, and **aerial yoga in an aspen grove** to snowboarding, heli-skiing, and snowshoe treks by the winter moon. Even the wellness spa uses natural, bloom-to-bottle ingredients in its range of mood-improving treatments. *Doubles from \$975; Virtuoso travelers receive daily breakfast credits (\$50 per person) and a \$100 resort credit. Yurt rentals from \$2,500.*

RICHARD SCHULTZ

**COMPASS IS REPORTED BY:** ELAINE GLUSAC, SUSAN HANSON, JEN LYONS, AND DIANE SEPANSKI

# Forces of Nature

Luxury and unspoiled landscapes find natural harmony at these hotels, designed to blur the line between indoor and outdoor living.



**ECUADOR:** CLOUD-FOREST COCOON

## ▲ Mashpi Lodge

A 6,000-acre private reserve preserves some of Ecuador's last remaining cloudscapes.

ON THE COVER

**The Great Indoors:** Located outside Quito, the lodge is “conscious and careful of its jungle environment, which hums with life,” says Berkeley-based Virtuoso travel advisor Varya Simpson. There are glass walls throughout, including in the 24 earthy guest rooms; crack open a window and fall asleep to **nature's soundtrack**.

**The Great Outdoors:** Head out on a range of forest treks (mud boots supplied). “It's primeval and totally quiet,” says Simpson, “except for the occasional birdsong or frog croak.” Grab your binocs for early-morning birding on the terrace, or get an avian-eye view on a gondola or **skybike ride** above the jungle canopy.

**The Details:** From \$1,098 (double or single) per room, per night, including all meals, guided daily excursions, and shared round-trip transfers from select Quito hotels. Virtuoso travelers receive a \$100 spa credit.

**ITALY:** MOUNTAIN MODERNIST

## ▼ Lefay Resort & SPA Dolomiti

Opening in August, this retreat with 88 suites and 22 Wellness Residences in Pinzolo reinterprets the Italian alpine experience.

**The Great Indoors:** Bold, sharp lines replicating the Dolomites' jagged peaks, along with local stone and wood, create a dramatic sense of place. “The architecture of the new Lefay is absolutely stunning,” says Virtuoso advisor Amy Rectenwald of Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania. “Every space, every vantage, the **natural light** flooding in – it's all designed to make you feel like you're outside.” One- to three-bedroom Wellness Residences provide direct access to the spa's hydro-circuit, saunas, and salt grotto.

**The Great Outdoors:** The UNESCO-designated Dolomites offer adventures for all seasons, from summertime hiking and **mountain biking** to spectacular skiing in the winter months.

**The Details:** Contact your Virtuoso advisor for pricing details. Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily plus one dinner and a 50-minute massage for two.





**NEW ZEALAND: LAKESHORE LUXE**

## ◀ **Matakauri Lodge**

Queenstown's rugged beauty creates a spectacular backdrop for this understated boutique hotel.

**The Great Indoors:** Guests instantly connect with ice-blue Lake Wakatipu and the South Island's big three mountains – The Remarkables, Cecil Peak, and Walter Peak – which lie just beyond **floor-to-ceiling windows** throughout the 12-room lodge and Owner's Cottage. "From just about anywhere, you can admire the gorgeous landscape," says Austin, Texas-based Virtuoso advisor Ane Lowe. The indoors are equally appealing, thanks to a refurb last fall. Lowe recommends pairing the scenery with chef Jonathan Rogers' Central Otago cuisine and local wines for "a dining experience that's not to be missed."

**The Great Outdoors:** Anything's possible in the adventure capital of the world. Lowe's favorite activity: touching down in Milford Sound on a heli-tour of World Heritage-listed **Fiordland National Park**.

**The Details:** Doubles from \$985, including breakfast, pre-dinner drinks, and dinner; Virtuoso travelers receive a \$100 spa credit.

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# GOOD EATS

On the menu: Five new food programs that are bringing sustainable dining to the high seas.

## 1 FARM TO SHIP

The local food movement's maxim of "grown here, not flown here" is now echoing across Hawaii, which currently imports nearly 90 percent of its food-stuffs. **UnCruise Adventures** supports the state's move toward sustainable self-sufficiency by building relationships with **Hawaiian farmers and vendors** such as Eti Angst of Kumu Farms, who personally delivers fresh papayas, egg-plant, arugula, and other GMO-free produce straight from her Molokai garden to *Safari Explorer's* galley.



From top: *Safari Explorer* near Lanai, UnCruise chef Sam Spiva talks produce with Kumu Farms' Eti Angst, Hurtigruten's Coastal Kitchen cod, and a "poke" bowl from Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

## 2 PLANT THIS IDEA

Great news for vegans: **Oceania Cruises** recently introduced **extensive plant-based menus** at sea, with 200-plus tasty dishes – think truffle mac and cheese, green curry stir-fry, and coco-vanilla-cashew crème brûlée. The healthy new offerings are available in the main

restaurant and Terrace Café on each of the line's ships, as well as by request when dining in specialty venues.

## 3 VEG OUT

**Regent Seven Seas Cruises'** guests can soon opt for imaginative dishes such as spiced potato and green pea samosas with tamarind chutney; falafel fritters with harissa mayo, cucumber, and mint; and summer berry pudding Chantilly. They're among the 200-plus new plant-based selections that the cruise line will integrate into its

daily menus fleetwide beginning in October.

## 4 SMART LATTE

Direct trade may be all the buzz in coffeehouses these days, but *Intelligentsia* introduced the concept more than two decades ago. That pioneering spirit persuaded **Virgin Voyages** to team up with the Chicago-based roasting company, which will train the new *Scarlet Lady's* baristas and design creative programming such as **latte art**

**classes**, coffee-cocktail tastings, and a coffee lab in the ship's Test Kitchen.

## 5 EAT IT UP

**EAT**, a nonprofit startup based in Oslo, is out to transform the global food system by using sound science and strategic partnerships – like its recent collaboration with **Hurtigruten**. **EAT** scientists and experts are helping the expedition line's culinary team create more plant-rich menu items and further **reduce food waste** on board.





# *YOUR CULTURAL CONNECTION*

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN YOUR DESTINATION  
THIS SUMMER



## ME

IBIZA

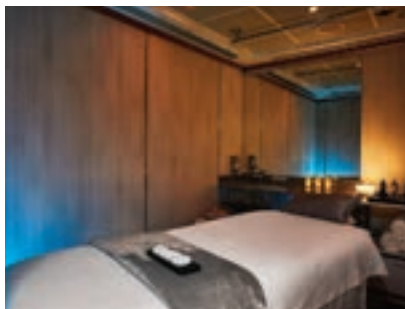
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Clockwise from top: *Silver Cloud* in Svalbard, Norway; a treatment room in the ship's spa; and a Royal Suite.



## SHIP REVIEW

# Cloud Nine

Silversea's refurbished expedition ship strikes a pleasing balance between high-end luxury and adventure.

Cruising's "expedition competition" has brought more new ships and luxury options than ever before. It's also brought more scrutiny from Calgary, Canada-based Virtuoso travel advisor Natasha Rhodes, who pays close attention to each vessel's sustainability features and impact upon the world's waters. So how does she rank *Silver Cloud*, whose extensive 2017 renovation included a number of **eco-initiatives** such as a high-tech reverse-osmosis plant and food digesters to minimize waste? "*Silver Cloud* is a gem," says Rhodes, "and one of the

finest expedition ships cruising today."

A few reasons for her bold claim: the ship's state-of-the-art sonar and thermal-imaging equipment; its team of **more than 20 expedition experts** – including marine biologists, ornithologists, and geologists – who join guests for Zodiac excursions, kayaking, and hikes ashore; an inflatable platform that makes it easier to get in and out of those Zodiacs; and a crew-to-guest ratio of nearly one to one for just 254 passengers (with a max of 200 in polar waters). Here, Rhodes shares more of her top reasons to get on board.

## BREAKING NEW PATHS

An ice-breaking hull allows *Silver Cloud* to navigate the icy waters of Antarctica and the Arctic. Rhodes also calls attention to the ship's more **novel itineraries**, such as a 31-day sailing from Ushuaia to Cape Town that departs next February and covers a host of destinations, including Antarctica, South Georgia, and the rarely visited Gough and Nightingale islands. In January 2021, the ship will depart on its **first world-expedition cruise**, visiting 30 countries while traveling pole to pole over 167 days.

## SEAS THE DAY

Venturing to remote regions inevitably means multiple days at sea. Luckily, Rhodes says, "there's no getting bored on *Silver Cloud*." Guests can browse the bookshelves while scanning the horizon through floor-to-ceiling windows in the **observation library**, listen to live music in the Panorama Lounge, or settle into the theater for expert lectures and film screenings. The ship also features a full spa and fitness center, plus **four dining options**.

## SNAP TO IT

Rhodes calls *Silver Cloud*'s **photo studio** "a game changer." This creative space features multiple Macs and PCs on which guests can retouch and print photos. For a nominal fee, you can join a master class in editing using Adobe's Lightroom and Photoshop, or (Rhodes' favorite) arrange a **private session with the ship's photographer** while ashore or on a Zodiac.

## A SUITE TOUCH

Though expedition cruises often require a degree of flexibility, says Rhodes, "there's something to be said for having a cabin with all the fixed luxuries." The all-suite *Silver Cloud*, she notes, offers large, comfortable accommodations, the majority of which include a **private veranda**. Add personal butler service, Pratesi bedding, and a **nine-option pillow menu** and – sea conditions notwithstanding – "a gratifying night's sleep is nearly guaranteed."



# PERFECTION FROM EVERY PERSPECTIVE



A short helicopter ride away is the top of the world, with a personal tour guide to help you explore a land like no other. Enjoy an experience most can only dream of in a picturesque setting that feels unreal.



## A Trip of Her Own

Women today are pushing more boundaries than ever – including when it comes to travel. “They’re feeling empowered and aren’t afraid of adventure,” says Phoenix-based Virtuoso travel advisor Judi Glass. **Intrepid Group** is one tour provider responding to this growing trend; its series of immersive, **women-only journeys** is designed to take travelers to the farthest reaches while breaking down cultural barriers. A 13-day **Nepal expedition**, for example, has guests hiking in the Himalaya with an all-female mountaineering crew, lodging at a female-run homestay outside Chitwan National Park, and bonding during the women-only Hartalika Teej festival. *Departure: August 10, 2020; from \$1,990.*

# GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM

Find your Zen on these easygoing aqua escapes.

### Kayaking the Sea of Cortés

**1 MIND THIS:** Be present while paddling along Espíritu Santo Island, home to hundreds of playful sea lions, during a seven-day multisport adventure in Baja California. **MORE TO PONDER:** Virtuoso’s on-site connection, **Journey Mexico**, can work with your travel advisor to weave additional highlights – think hiking to waterfalls in the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve and surfing off Los Cerritos Beach – into this customizable trip. *Departures: Any day November 1, 2019, to April 30, 2020; from \$2,746.*

### Angling in the Aegean

**2 MIND THIS:** The real Mykonos is still a low-key island where local fisherfolk make their living by trolling the warm Aegean waters. Your advisor can work with Virtuoso

on-site **Hellenic Tours** to craft a tailor-made Greece vacation that includes a private fishing trip in a classic wooden caïque. **MORE TO PONDER:** Your boat’s crew will turn the day’s catch into a traditional *kakavia* (fish soup) for a sunset dinner on board. *Connect with your Virtuoso advisor for details.*

### Rafting the Chilkat River

**3 MIND THIS:** A scenic float through the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve has you contemplating nature’s majesty during a 15-day Alaska exploration by land and sea. **MORE TO PONDER:** **Tauk** pairs a Princess Cruises’ Inside Passage voyage with activities such as a private whale-watching cruise off Juneau and a jet-boat excursion in the shadow of Denali. *Departures: Multiple dates, May 16 to August 29, 2020; from \$7,490.*



**Guaranteed to float your boat:** Kayaking along Espíritu Santo Island in the Sea of Cortés.

(HIKER) ALIAKSANDR MAZURKOVICH/ALAMY.  
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# Water World

A Virtuoso travel advisor finds true destination immersion in Playa del Carmen.

**Ancient Mayans making the pilgrimage to the island of Cozumel** would stop in Playa del Carmen, which they called Xaman-Ha, or “waters of the north.” Today, the chic resort town on Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula draws water lovers who come to snorkel, sail, and scuba dive in the turquoise sea or, like New York City-based advisor Limor Decter, “just relax on the white

sands with a cold margarita.” A vibrant culture, renowned ruins, and a plethora of posh resorts are even more reason to head there pronto. Decter recommends visiting Playa between mid-October and mid-March, when the temperatures are warm, the humidity is low, and the breeze carries the sounds of the Riviera Maya Jazz Festival (November 28 through 30).



From left: Getting deep in Tulum’s Cenote El Pit, a military macaw at Xcaret nature park, and by the water at Belmond Maroma Resort & Spa.

## WET AND WILD

Decter describes the town’s eco-friendly **Xcaret nature park** as “a major wow” and also raves about Cozumel, which is just a short ferry ride away. Also nearby: the wildlife-rich mangroves of **Sian Ka’an**, a UNESCO-designated biosphere reserve that’s home to more than 300 bird species. Yet Playa’s crown jewels, notes the advisor, are the area’s **cenotes** (limestone sinkholes). Ancient Mayans threw offerings to their gods into these underground pools, which they considered sacred. Today, the mineral-rich waters are revered by snorkelers and divers, and “some cenotes even offer cliff jumping,” she says.

## TERRA FIRMA FUN

Playa’s surf-and-sand days morph into lively, tequila-filled nights, “with much of the fun found along **Fifth Avenue**,” says Decter. The three-mile-long pedestrian walkway is lined with restaurants, bars, and nightclubs featuring live music, as well as boutiques and galleries that showcase artisan wares. Nature lovers can trek through the jungle, while some of the best-preserved Mayan ruins – **Tulum** and **Chichén Itzá** – make for easy day trips.

## HELLO FRESH

Yucatán cuisine relies heavily on Mayan and European influences for “a unique mix of savory and sweet flavors that shines through in each dish,” Decter says. **Cochinita pibil**, the local specialty, is a dish of pork marinated with orange juice,

(CENOTE) CHRISTIAN VIZIL/TANDEMSTOCK.COM.  
(MACAW) KERTULLE/GETTY IMAGES



pungent annatto seed, cinnamon, and other spices; wrapped in a banana leaf; and slow-cooked underground. Additional highlights include **fresh seafood** caught just offshore, along with tantalizing ceviches and **Mayan chocolates**.

### SLEEP SANCTUARIES

With six hotels and resorts in the Virtuoso network, Playa del Carmen offers travelers a choice of stylish stays. Decter loves the under-the-radar vibe of **Hotel Esencia** and **Belmond Maroma Resort & Spa**, two beachfront hideaways that “ooze barefoot luxury at its finest.” **Banyan Tree Mayakoba** boasts one of the world’s best wellness spas, highlighted by its Rainforest hydrothermal circuit. The sprawling, eco-conscious complex, surrounded by freshwater lagoons and mangroves, had her feeling “a Zen bliss from the moment I arrived.” She recommends the all-inclusive **Grand Velas Riviera Maya** for families and others who want a myriad of activities, pools, and restaurants without leaving the resort.



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POSTCARD

# Waiting out Wildlife

During a quest to see a leopard, a couple takes a moment to toast the conclusion of their once-in-a-lifetime trip.

### IN THE MOMENT

From spying lions on the hunt to camping beside a hippo-filled marsh and soaring over the Maasai Mara in a hot-air balloon, Shauna Scott and her husband, Jamie Lamb, had seen it all on their African safari – well, almost. So, on their last day in Tanzania’s **Serengeti National Park**, they told their guide that they still hoped to see a leopard. Later, when he located one sleeping in an acacia tree and advised them that the animal’s nap was far from over, they drove to a more secluded spot to enjoy a **Champagne toast** and reflect on their trip. “When we went back to see the leopard,” says Shauna, “all the other vehicles had left, and we had a front-row seat as it left the tree, wildebeest dinner in tow.”

### THE TRIP

The Edmonton-based couple spent two weeks traveling in **Kenya and Tanzania** on a vacation planned by Virtuoso travel advisor Julie Bates

of Calgary. “Our mission was to see Africa’s Great Migration and every animal possible,” says Shauna of their adventure, which included game drives in wildlife-rich reserves such as Ol Pejeta Conservancy. “Julie took everything we wanted to do and worked within our budget to help us craft our ideal safari.” Jamie also raves about the guides who accompanied them throughout their trip. “We’ll never be able to thank them enough for being such **strong stewards** of this special, precious place on our planet,” he says.

### WHERE NEXT?

In search of more adventure and lifelong memories, Shauna and Jamie are looking forward to a visit to the **Grand Canyon**, where they plan to sleep under the stars and raft along the Colorado River.

### TRAVELER TIP

“If a safari is on your bucket list, **do it now!** Don’t wait for the ‘perfect time.’ It’s a special trip that we’ll remember forever.”  
– *Virtuoso traveler*  
*Shauna Scott*



Cheers to that: Happy hour in Tanzania.

ON THE FLY



## Zeroing In at 35K Feet

Skies above Australia got a little greener this May, when **Qantas** launched the world’s first **zero-waste flight** between Sydney and Adelaide. The airline either recycled, re-used, or composted all products from the 725-mile trip, including food containers, coffee cups, and cutlery. The milestone flight officially marked the start of Qantas’ project to slash the amount of waste it sends to landfills by at least 75 percent by the end of 2021 – the most ambitious reduction of any major airline to date.



I WAS BORN AMONG THE MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS OF  
AUSTRIA, "THE HOSPITALITY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD."  
AND WHEN I WELCOME OUR GUESTS ON BOARD,  
I KNOW, I WAS BORN TO DO THIS.

Hubert  
Hotel Director



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# PLANT IT

As the trend toward healthy and humane eating increases in the U.S., vegan restaurants are on the rise. The following newly opened venues cover the spectrum from elevated street food to fine dining.

Good eats (clockwise from top): Jajaja's artful tacos and *chiles en nogada*, herbs and greens with spiced hazelnut puree and elderberry dressing from Farm Spirit, and Fancy Radish's rutabaga fondue.



## NEW YORK

Swapping out meats and cheese, **Jajaja** reinterprets south-of-the-border favorites. “Fish” tacos, for example, feature hemp- and flax-seed-battered **chayote squash**, and “carnitas” tacos come stuffed with braised hearts of palm and jackfruit. Locally brewed Mexican-style beers and a curated selection of mezcals and tequilas round out the menu. 162 E. Broadway; [jajajamexicana.com](http://jajajamexicana.com).

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

With **Fancy Radish**, chefs Rich Landau and Kate Jacoby bring their veggie crusade from Philadelphia, where they run the popular Vedge, to the nation's capital. The menu draws on global inspiration in dishes such as rutabaga fondue, sunchoke ramen, and **za'atar grilled maitake mushrooms**. 600 H Street NE; [fancyradishdc.com](http://fancyradishdc.com).

## PORTLAND, OREGON

**Farm Spirit** takes vegan food upscale in tasting menus that focus on the **Cascadian bioregion** – it sources roughly 95 percent of its ingredients within 105 miles, including foraged and farm-to-table produce. Menus change continually and, with advanced notice, can include gluten- and nut-free variations. 1403 SE Belmont Street; [farmspiritpd.com](http://farmspiritpd.com).

(FARM SPIRIT) DINA AVILA

# Upwardly Mobile

Three of our favorite free apps designed to help you go green.



**1** **Seafood Watch**, created by the Monterey Bay Aquarium, provides up-to-date recommendations for **sustainable seafood**, plus nearby restaurants that serve ocean-friendly options.



**2** A global peer-to-peer **bike-rental platform, Spinlister** makes it easier to go car-free – and experience destinations like a local – on your next vacation.



**3** Not-so-fun fact: More than 1 million plastic bottles are purchased every minute. Enter **Tap**, which aims to mitigate the trend by revealing nearby **water-refilling stations**.



(SEAFOOD) MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM, (BIKE) IAKOVENKO/GETTY IMAGES, (WATER BOTTLE) LEMON\_TM/GETTY IMAGES

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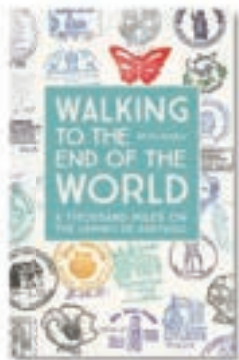


Since 2003, Natural Habitat Adventures has provided more than \$4 million to World Wildlife Fund and will continue to give 1 percent of gross sales plus \$125,000 annually through 2023 in support of WWF's mission.

© Brad Josephs

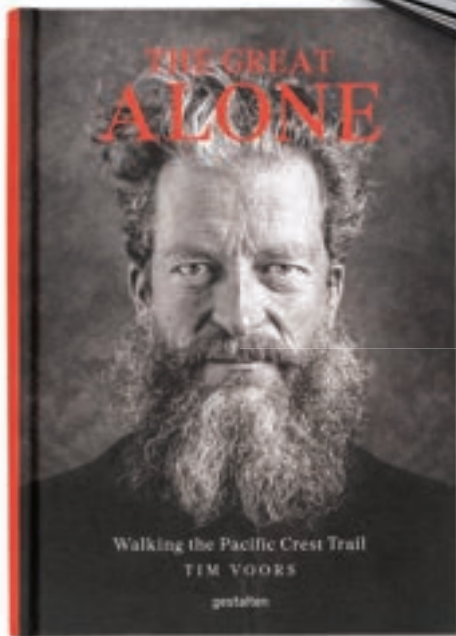
# THE ROAD TAKEN

New memoirs to inspire your next active adventure.



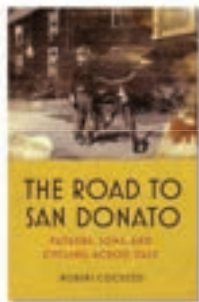
## WALKING

**1** For armchair travelers who've wondered if they too can tackle an epic outdoor adventure, writer Beth Jusino shows us that anything is possible. In *Walking to the End of the World: A Thousand Miles on the Camino de Santiago*, the self-described “nonathlete” and “no risk-taker” recounts her 79-day walk with her husband along the **historic pilgrimage route**, which takes them through France and Spain – plus several pairs of shoes – as they trek up to 15 miles a day to find, at the end, “a gift to the soul.” \$14, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



## HIKING

**2** “The trail taught me to slow down and be more flexible,” says Tim Voors of his **2,650-mile hike** from Campo, Mexico, through the blistering Mojave Desert and Sierra Nevada’s naked peaks to chilly Canada. The photographer/creative director details his solo six-month journey in *The Great Alone: Walking the Pacific Crest Trail*, filled with stunning photos and sage advice for those who would follow in his footsteps: trip prep, food resupply, and trail etiquette – as well as how to endure the inevitable mental and physical challenges. \$28, [bookdepository.com](http://bookdepository.com).

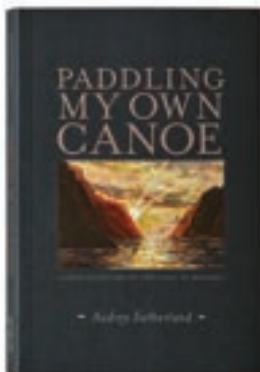


## BIKING

**3** To honor his dying grandfather, American author Robert Cozzuzo set out with his grief-stricken, bicycle-mad 64-year-old father to **pedal to Papa’s birthplace**, a dot-on-the-map village high amid snowy peaks in Italy’s Apennine mountains. *The Road to San Donato: Fathers, Sons, and Cycling Across Italy* recalls their 425-mile ride from Florence, which carries them up thousands of vertical feet and elevates not only their bond with each other, but also with their family’s history in the ancient town. \$25, [mountaineers.org](http://mountaineers.org).

## SWIMMING

**4** In 1962, Audrey Sutherland, a single mother and school counselor, decided to explore the then-isolated northeast side of the Hawaiian island of Molokai – which even today remains relatively undeveloped and untouristed. Published after her death, *Paddling My Own Canoe: A Solo Adventure on the Coast of Molokai* is a testament to the bravery, imagination, and skill of this pioneering adventurer, who **swam the coast’s dangerous waters** while towing an inflatable kayak. Her takeaway? “Go simple, go solo, go now.” \$15, [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com).





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# GO ALFRESCO

Drink outside the box at these breezy outdoor hotel bars.

## OCEAN

### Whale Bar

*St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort*

Make like Moby Dick at this **Maldivian overwater lounge**, whose whimsical whale-shark shape and indigenous henna-style art won it a prestigious SBID International Design Award in 2017. With an Island Mary in hand – the resort serves its tropical take on a Bloody Mary in a seashell – and your eyes resting on the immense Indian Ocean, the term “watering hole” takes on a whole new meaning.



## ROOFTOP

### L.A. Jackson

*Thompson Nashville*

With nightly DJ sets, head-expanding **downtown-skyline views**, and a heart-of-the-action location in the happening Gulch neighborhood, this top-floor terrace has been *the* place to rock a bourbon (not to mention bourbon corn dogs, available at brunch) in Music City, U.S.A. since its opening in 2016.



Sunny-season sipping (from left): St. Regis' Whale Bar, L.A. Jackson's Don Draper Diet cocktail, and going green at the Garden Lounge.

## GARDEN

### Garden Lounge

*Corinthia Hotel London*

Exquisite hand-cut mosaics by French artist Mathilde Jonquière define Corinthia's **intimate, leafy courtyard space**, where a marble-topped terrarium housing exotic plants serves as a bar, and a cigar sommelier dispenses Cuban *puros* from a hand-built humidor to pair with your Mortlach 1938 whisky.



## Cheers to the Earth

**Bar Trigona** might be the world's only cocktail lounge christened for a bee. Head bartender Ashish Sharma named the Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, drinking spot Trigona after the rare (and stingless) Southeast Asian insect, whose complex, sweet-and-sour honey he uses – along with other ingredients from small, local farmers – in his four-section, nature-celebrating menu: fruit, leaf and flower, stem and seed, and root. The bar's überlocal, “**root-to-shoot**” approach, along with a commitment to minimize waste (it spurns single-use plastic straws, coasters, and cocktail napkins), has garnered it the **Ketel One Sustainable Bar Award** for 2019.

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Whether you're discovering the natural wonders of Lake Lucerne, soaking up the views from your VIP seat on the Glacier Express, or embarking on an immersive Grand Train Tour adventure with Rail Europe, the thing you'll want to grab first is a Swiss Travel Pass – your ticket to the entire country. This all-in-one pass also gets you free admission at more than 500 museums, plus excursions throughout the Swiss Alps at half price.





## Breath of Fresh Air

Pristine waters meet the foothills of the snowcapped Alps in the Lake Geneva and Matterhorn Region. Oenophiles will enjoy strolling from vintner to vintner amid the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Lavaux vineyards, tasting white blends and pinot noirs, while adventure seekers may prefer to hike along the cliffside trails to the Gorner Gorge. Wherever you spend your time, don't miss the chance to put your toes in the sand on Geneva's long-awaited new beach, Eaux-Vives, opened in June 2019.

# LAKE GENEVA & MATTERHORN REGION



## GSTAAD

## Fondue with a Side of Scenery

Imagine dipping a chunk of crusty bread into hot, bubbling cheese while sitting in the great outdoors. With three enormous fondue pots and two specially designated huts, a day trip to Fondueland Gstaad lets you relax, socialize, and feast on specialty cheeses from local dairies, all with a mountain landscape as your inspiring backdrop. It's open year-round, so get here on foot, by bike, on snowshoes – or any way you can.

## A Masterpiece in Itself

Once a small Roman customs post, Zurich is now a culturally rich and diverse destination – not to mention one of Europe's most celebrated design capitals. With its countless museums, theaters, galleries, and festivals, you just can't help but feel energized. Get to know the city's creative side by strolling through the Kunsthaus Zurich, walking around Old Town, or hanging out in trendy Zurich West, with its lively boutiques and avant-garde outdoor cafés.

## ZURICH



## City for Connoisseurs

Basel offers more than just a starting or ending point for your next Rhine River cruise. It's an oasis of culture, creativity, and Swiss chocolate! Tour historic landmarks like the late Romanesque-Gothic cathedral. Spend the day wandering a few of the 40 art museums, the highest concentration in the country. Then, dive into a cocoa-tasting journey in town, where you'll sample a delicious selection of sweet treats, each handmade by expert chocolatiers.

## BASEL



## Summer and Winter Wonderland

Known around the world as the festival hall of the Alps, Engadin St. Moritz is a glamorous resort for outdoor lovers of all kinds. Summertime activities include everything from mountain biking, golfing, and sailing to hiking at Switzerland's only national park. And in winter, you'll enjoy miles of cross-country and downhill skiing, snowboarding, and, for the extremely courageous, the St. Moritz bob run, which sends you sliding down a track of ice at 55 miles per hour.



# ST. MORITZ

# INTERLAKEN



## View from the Top

Interlaken and the Jungfrau region are ideal for mesmerizing sights and outdoor pursuits of every level. On a clear day, you can see all the way to Germany's Black Forest and the Vosges in France from Jungfraujoch, the highest railway station in Europe. Enjoy the panoramic alpine views during a hike along spectacular Lake Brienz or Lake Thun, and follow a trail through the striking UNESCO World Natural Heritage Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch.

## Switzerland – the Italian Way

In Ticino, in the southern part of Switzerland, the locals speak Italian. They also love the region's mild year-round climate, perfect for practically any outdoor activity. With lush glaciers, alpine lakes, and more than 2,500 miles of footpaths and trails, you might find yourself hiking through the Alps one day and strolling by the olive trees of Lake Lugano the next. Just be sure to download the hikeTicino app, which gives you access to more than 150 walking tours.



# TICINO

# LUCERNE



## All Hikers Welcome

Switzerland's Lake Lucerne region has some of the best views – and trails to enjoy them on. With a waymarked network of scenic footpaths, hikers can set out on adventures with various levels of difficulty. They range from shorter, family-friendly themed trails that take you past playgrounds, to longer hikes along panoramic paths and exposed ridges, to exciting excursions on the world's first rotating cable railway up to Titlis Glacier, an astounding 10,000 feet in elevation.

SPOTLIGHT ON GREAT BRITAIN



Flower power: Apple blossoms at the National Trust's Cotehele estate.

## Bearing Fruit

Britain's bumblebees, spotted woodpeckers, and mistletoe moths will soon have more places to call home, thanks to a new initiative by the **National Trust**. The independent charity committed to heritage conservation recently announced plans to plant nearly 70 **heritage fruit orchards** by 2025, part of a wider program to create some 60,000 acres of new wildlife habitats across Great Britain. Since the 1950s, the island has lost more than half of its traditional small orchards, the natural haunts of a variety of bird and insect pollinators. To help stem the tide, the new trees are being planted across England and Wales in places such as Penrose in south Cornwall, where the trust just completed a year's-long wetlands restoration.

(BLOSSOMS) STEVEN HAYWOOD, (GALLERIES) DEAN AND CHAPTER OF WESTMINSTER, (BIBLE) ROBIN JONES, (BIBLE DETAIL) DR. JOHN CROOK

## ROYAL DISPLAYS

The exquisitely illuminated Winchester Bible (the largest surviving twelfth-century English bible) and skeletal remains exhumed from six painted wooden caskets - including those believed to be that of an early Anglo-Saxon queen - are among the historical finds on view for the first time in ***Kings and Scribes: The Birth of a Nation***, a new exhibition at Hampshire, England's Winchester Cathedral. Need more of a British heritage fix? The **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries**, a secret space atop Westminster Abbey kept hidden for more than 700 years, opened to the public for the first time in 2018.



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries at Westminster Abbey and (below) pages from the Winchester Bible, now on display at Winchester Cathedral.





Breakfast with a view in Rio de Janeiro.

# Go in the Know

New entry requirements to note before taking off.

- Beginning on January 1, 2021, Americans will need to register with the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) to freely roam within the continent's **Schengen Area**, which comprises 26 member countries that abolished their internal borders. Registration, via an online application, will cost seven euros and be valid for three years; details are available at [etiasvisa.com](http://etiasvisa.com).
- **Brazil**, meanwhile, eased its entry process after dropping its visa requirements this past June for U.S. citizens – as well as those of Canada, Australia, and Japan – who can now visit the country visa-free for up to 90 days and extend their stay for 90 more within the same calendar year.
- Wondering where else in the world you can still travel without a visa? A new website, **Passport Index** ([passportindex.org](http://passportindex.org)), lets you see in real time what's required to visit any country with your passport.

JOHNNY GREIG/GETTY IMAGES



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# GREEN GLOBE-TROTTING

Show the earth some love as you explore it with these eco-friendly products from brands that also give back.

1

## SAIL AWAY

**Sea Bags' Orange Ogunquit Beach tote** features a hidden back pocket for wet swimwear and is printed on recycled sail-cloth sourced from Portland, Maine's working waterfront. \$225, [seabags.com](http://seabags.com).

2

## BEST FOOT FORWARD

**Allbirds** crafts its lightweight and comfortable **Men's Tree Runners** with sustainable (and breathable) eucalyptus tree fiber, using recycled plastic water bottles for laces. *Multiple colors.* \$95, [allbirds.com](http://allbirds.com).

3

## SECOND WIND

**Cotopaxi's unisex Teca half-zip windbreaker** utilizes repurposed polyester taffeta in an ever-changing rainbow of colors. When remnant fabric for one design is finished off, the company creates a new one with a different color combination. *In multiple colors and sizes.* \$80, [cotopaxi.com](http://cotopaxi.com).

4

## CHANGE YOUR TUNE

Powered by the sun and built with sustainable bamboo, **Reveal's solar Bluetooth speaker** doubles as a portable smartphone charger. The company plants a tree for every product sold. \$79, [revealshop.com](http://revealshop.com).

5

## BOLD VISION

**Solo Eyewear** sources sunglass cases and cords from female artisans, donates ten percent of every sale to restoring eyesight

in developing countries, and uses eco-friendly materials – such as repurposed bamboo for the temples of its stylish **Dominican sunglasses.** \$89, [soloeyewear.com](http://soloeyewear.com).

6

## REPURPOSED WITH PURPOSE

Every pair of **Rothy's**, including these **Moroccan Amber loafers**, inspired by ancient ikat dyeing, is born from recycled plastic water bottles. The company has repurposed more than 31 million bottles to date. \$165, [rothys.com](http://rothys.com).

7

## NOT A PAD IDEA

**Looptworks'** 100 percent upcycled **Travel Hoptu 13-inch sleeve** relies on excess neoprene from the wetsuit industry to keep your tablet protected while traveling. *In three colors.* \$30, [looptworks.com](http://looptworks.com).

8

## GOOD CALL

**Pela's iPhone cases** are completely compostable, so you won't be adding more plastic to the landfill when it's time for a new one. We love the new limited-edition Honey Bee version. \$44, [pelacase.com](http://pelacase.com).

9

## AHEAD OF THE PACK

The **Mi Terro duffle suitcase** is designed with durable, lightweight, and low-environmental-impact cork, then accented with handles and straps made from recycled plastic bottles. *In four colors.* \$275, [miterro.com](http://miterro.com).



1



2



9

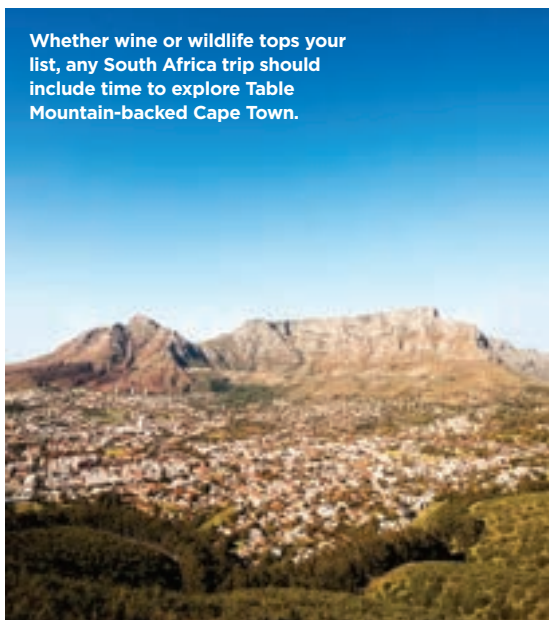


# South Africa: Sip or Safari?

Search for fine pinotage in the Cape Winelands or spy the “big five” in the wild.

By Susan Hanson

Whether wine or wildlife tops your list, any South Africa trip should include time to explore Table Mountain-backed Cape Town.



**S**OUTH AFRICA HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE in Myrna Arroyo's heart. The Virtuoso travel advisor from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, experienced her first safari there, **tracking a young cheetah on foot** in a private game reserve and watching an elephant come so close to her vehicle in Kruger National Park that “it almost touched my companion's camera lens.” The country is particularly attractive for first-time safari-goers, she notes, since English is widely spoken, there's a solid tourism infrastructure, and travelers can find comfortable lodging within every budget. Plus, she adds, “I love that you can combine a safari with all the attractions in Cape Town.”

The advisor was equally impressed by the Cape Winelands, which she says is “every bit as beautiful as Napa Valley, but with monkeys!” South Africa's wine industry has emerged as a world leader of ethical and environmentally focused trading practices, evidenced by the **Integrity & Sustainability certification** that adorns nearly every exported bottle. Arroyo, who is a certified sommelier and self-professed “wine snob,” calls the region's vino “truly delicious.”



## SIP

Though South African producers ship their wine around the world, Arroyo swears they “keep the best bottles for themselves!” Oenophiles can taste the country's signature pinotage (a crossing of pinot noir and cinsaut) along with other varietals while visiting the Cape Winelands with **Access Culinary Trips**. A customizable nine-day tour includes a number of noteworthy culinary experiences – think **cooking lunch in a traditional Zulu home** – that, says the advisor, “would be hard to arrange on your own.” *Departures: Any day March through November 2020; from \$5,490.*



## SAFARI

A tailor-made eight-day journey with **Kensington Tours** takes travelers to two private game reserves adjacent to Kruger National Park. Thornybush offers bush walks that, Arroyo says, “give you a different perspective on the animals,” while Sabi Sand is one of the best places to see Africa's famed “big five” (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and Cape buffalo). “Sabi's **nighttime safari game drives** are a must,” she adds. *Departures: Any day through 2019; from \$4,984.*

(CAPE TOWN) DON BAYLEY/GETTY IMAGES; (VINEYARD) KONSTANTIN KALISHKO/ALAMY; (CHEETAHS) BEN MCRAE/GETTY IMAGES





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# Winning Ways

A toast to the ten finalists of our 2019 Virtuoso Sustainable Tourism Leadership Awards.

By Costas Christ

**S**USTAINABLE TRAVEL HAS reached a tipping point, as more companies join the global movement that's transforming tourism based on three principles: protecting the environment, preserving cultural heritage, and supporting the well-being of local communities. Take plastic: Five years ago, it was barely a topic in the travel industry, but today, it's hard to find a hotel, cruise line, or tour operator without an initiative to eliminate single-use plastic from its operations.

The list of innovators within the Virtuoso network helping to advance best practices like these runs long and deep. Virtuoso's Sustainable Tourism Leadership Awards, now in their

ninth year, continue to recognize these game-changers, who are demonstrating the power of travel to make the world a better place. "The award submissions are so inspiring! Their breadth of work to change the travel industry is impressive," says Chicago-based Margarita Fedorova, one of eight travel-advisor judges who narrowed this year's award entries down to five nominees in each of two categories: hotels and tour operators.

We'll announce the winners in mid-August at Virtuoso Travel Week in Las Vegas and on Virtuoso.com. In the meantime, here are the ten finalists - each a winner in its own right for demonstrating how to make travel a positive force for people and the planet.



Going solar at Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru and (above) Londolozi's staff-run food garden.

## HOTELS

### **Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley, Australia**

The world's first resort to achieve internationally accredited carbon-neutral certification, Emirates One&Only has also restored streambeds and other habitats, establishing wildlife corridors for vulnerable native species such as the duck-billed platypus.

### **Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru**

Four Seasons installed 3,100-plus solar panels on its staff village's roof last year, providing up to 1.1 million kilowatt hours of energy and eliminating up to 800 tons of carbon dioxide annually.

### **Londolozi Game Reserve, South Africa**

In partnership with the Peace Parks Foundation, Londolozi trains local students in traditional wildlife-tracking skills and supports the development of community small businesses, including farms, laundry services, and transportation.

Skagway, Alaska

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## Good Going

### Soneva Fushi, *Maldives*

Soneva Fushi recycles more than 90 percent of its waste in its Eco Centro Waste-to-Wealth program and has partnered with three neighboring island communities to establish waste-management centers.

### Vermejo, a Ted Turner Reserve, *New Mexico*

Working with the Turner Endangered Species Fund, the private reserve is rewilding and restoring habitat and ecosystems across its 500,000 acres; conservation projects include protection of native Rio Grande cut-throat trout. Vermejo also

nixed on-property single-use plastic water bottles.

### TOUR OPERATORS

#### Air New Zealand

The airline has partnered with forest-carbon specialists to source native forest-restoration projects compliant with the New Zealand government's Permanent Forest Sink Initiative, enabling customers to offset carbon emissions from their flights.

#### Insight Vacations & Luxury Gold

Luxury Gold's commitment to supporting more climate-friendly travel includes a coach fleet with EU6 engines

that create approximately 85 percent less carbon dioxide per passenger than car and air travel, and nearly 40 percent less CO<sub>2</sub> per passenger than rail travel.

#### Natural Habitat Adventures

The company launched the world's first Zero Waste Adventure in July, aiming to divert more than 99 percent of on-trip waste from the landfill via reuse, recycling, composting, and other strategies, and will apply the adventure's sustainable-travel lessons to a broader campaign across its worldwide itineraries.

#### Nomadic Expeditions

Nomadic Expeditions' "Cooking for Conservation" program gives villagers in Mongolia who turn in a steel trap used to illegally kill snow leopards a set of highly valued cooking pots in return. To date, it has collected more than 400 poaching traps.

#### Swiss Travel

In addition to ongoing efforts to reduce its waste, carbon emissions, and energy and water use, Costa Rica-based Swiss Travel is also helping revitalize an important park in the coastal city of Limón for the enjoyment of locals and visitors alike. **VI**



Clockwise from left: Recycling leader Soneva Fushi, Air New Zealand helps transport an endangered takahe bird to its new home in the wild, and Natural Habitat Adventures' zero-waste training.

(ZERO-WASTE TRAINING) NATURAL HABITAT ADVENTURES

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*For more information or to book, please contact your Virtuoso travel advisor.*



# Why I Travel

Patty Stegman follows in her father's footsteps to Paris and around the world.

Interviewed by David Hochman



**Patty and Danny Stegman at Angkor Wat and (right) her favorite city, Paris.**

brother and sister-in-law, their four kids, and those kids' partners. You can definitely hear us coming.

**Where have we gone?** Oh, boy! Paris, Colombia, Italy, Brazil, Africa, Paris, Iceland, Turkey – did I mention Paris? I'm definitely my father's daughter.

**My husband, who's from Venezuela,** is a child of Holocaust survivors. His father fought in Israel's War of Independence and had one of the first passports after Israel became a state. We recently visited Jaffa and felt such a powerful connection. Here we were walking on earth that my father-in-law helped create and defend.

**Our travel advisor, Jessica,** is a wizard. Dealing with 14 people's plane tickets, visas, room bookings, and dinner reservations, and then getting us

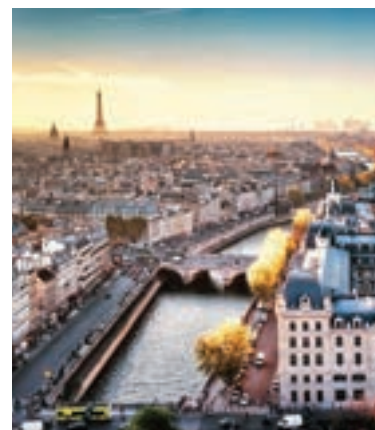
(ANGKOR WAT) PATTY STEGMAN. (PARIS) AUGUSTIN LAZAROUI/GETTY IMAGES

**W**Henever she travels, Patty Stegman carries a small patchwork quilt of fabrics made from her late father's shirts and ties. "It's a memento I hold on to because he inspired me to see the world," says Stegman, 55. With her husband, Danny, 57, an ophthalmologist, and other family members and friends, the family

and marriage therapist is nearly always heading somewhere fabulous from her New Jersey home. "My dad loved Europe, and France in particular, and that love was contagious because there's nothing else that compares," she says. To help inspire and arrange her adventures, Stegman has a standing appointment with New York City-based Virtuoso travel advisor Jessica Levy.

**I travel so I can stop,** turn around, and look back at the view. Looking back informs what'll happen going forward, and it gives perspective on how far you've come.

**We like big group trips.** We'll often take our daughter, Natalie, who's 26; our son, Glen, who's 21; and their significant others. Every December we travel with 14 people. My



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## Traveler's Tale



room upgrades with views overlooking the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, the Bosphorus in Turkey, or Table Mountain in South Africa - I honestly don't know how she manages it. Plus, we always get Champagne and chocolates in the rooms and a guide who somehow hits it off with everybody in our group. It's not an easy feat!

**As a therapist,** I'd say the secret to group travel is respecting other people's needs: Someone needs to be alone, leave them alone; two people feel like hiking, let those two hike. There's something really wonderful about getting to know people morning, noon, and night and figuring out when they get grouchy, what makes them happy, what their rhythms are. We grow and learn together.

**The best travel moments** come when you can get involved and give back. In February, Jessica put us up at Ulusaba, Richard Branson's South African safari lodge, and connected us with Pride 'n Purpose,

which helps disadvantaged and impoverished people living next to the Sabi Sand Game Reserve. It's mind-blowing to see the changes and improvements they're making in these communities.


**The crazy times?** In Iceland our driver veered off the road to avoid running over a bird, and then, when we pursued it, the bird projectile-vomited on us. My husband put regular gas in a diesel car on

the way from Nice to San Remo, Italy, and the car broke down. I think that was the same trip where we had a family bread-throwing fight on a monotonous car ride through the South of France, and we all ended up laughing hysterically with bread in our hair. This is how memories are made.

**I always have a small travel bag ready to go.** There's a Dopp kit with Band-Aids and medicines. I pack

rice cakes and nuts from Trader Joe's for when the airplane's delayed. We have a couple of Uniqlo jackets that fold up tiny in case you need an extra layer. There's a collapsible suitcase in there too, for when we overdo it on purchases.

### WHERE NEXT?

Portugal in July and Panama in September. I haven't been to Australia and New Zealand or Japan or India. And I'd love to go back to Africa. 



Lunch at a private home outside Marrakech and (inset) Stegman's travel keepsake.

**We all ended up laughing hysterically with bread in our hair. This is how memories are made.**

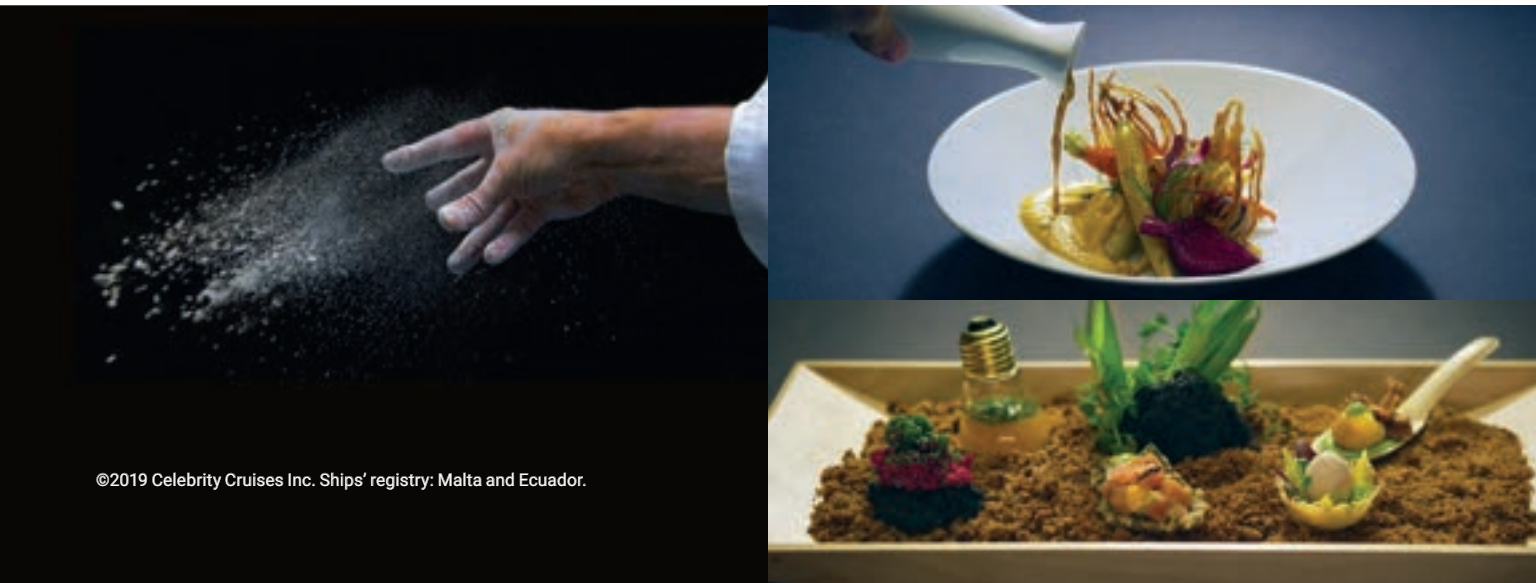




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# Peak Vermont

From epic bike rides to elevated IPAs, blueberry picking to pottery classes, summer in the Green Mountain State is sublime.

By David Hochman



On a country road: South Woodstock, Vermont.

**Y**OU HAVE TO LOVE A hotel that's built for the perfect summer bike ride.

From the stone pillars at the entrance to **Twin Farms** in Barnard, Vermont, it's an effortless ten miles – downhill all the way – through red-clover meadows and birch forests to the **picture-book village of Woodstock**. Chef Nathan Rich sends you off with a box lunch of sandwiches on homemade bread and still-warm chocolate chip cookies. The return trip is just as sweet: The resort drives you back.

Vermont in summer is a breezy pleaser if you do it right. On an extended weekend, the Green Mountain State lives up to its billing, with endless possibilities in those **pine-colored hills** and a rare sense that getting the most from a place sometimes involves taking it easy. Cell service isn't a guarantee in the woodsier spots, which describes much of Vermont, so it's fine to ditch the devices and pick blueberries or perhaps some black-eyed Susans instead. And because average temperatures hover around 70 and daylight lingers past 9 PM, summer tends to overdeliver in these parts.

I live in California but make Vermont an essential stopover this time of year. August doesn't feel like August unless I spend part of it with a cheese-trail map in hand, sniffing around for an award-winning cheddar, or greeting five o'clock with a frosty IPA in a state dubbed the "**Napa Valley of beer**."



For our favorite craft breweries and taprooms in Vermont, visit [blog.virtuoso.com/culinary](http://blog.virtuoso.com/culinary).

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Location: Rio Celeste Waterfall, Tenorio Volcano National Park, Guanacaste

## Long Weekend



Clockwise from left: Twin Farms' Barn Cottage, the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller Mansion, and fly-fishing at Copper Pond.



"In any season, Vermont is all about being outdoors and beholding the beauty of fresh streams, crisp mountain air, and a classic American sense of freedom to roam," says Virtuoso travel advisor David Ourisman of Berkeley, California. "And Twin Farms makes an ideal, casually luxurious base from which to take side trips into nature and one cute town after another." Here's how to get the most from your visit during a three-day stay.

### DAY ONE

It was a modest price to pay for true love. In 1927, when Nobel Prize-winning novelist and playwright Sinclair Lewis asked journalist Dorothy Thompson to marry

him, she agreed, but on one condition: that he buy her a farm with vast lawns, lavish orchards, and "delicious air" – and it had to be in Vermont. The place they found was a Revolutionary-era farmhouse (they paid \$10,000 for it) on a parcel that's now home to Twin Farms.

The lush, adults-only getaway, with just 20 rooms and cottages spread across 300 acres, last year celebrated its 25th anniversary as one of America's most exclusive retreats. It's only two and a half hours from Boston but might as well be "a country unto itself," as Pearl S. Buck once described the whole of Vermont. The resort's six private ski runs double as hiking and biking trails in summer, and there's art

inside and out by such museum-worthy painters and sculptors as Jasper Johns, David Hockney, Milton Avery, and Frank Stella. Summer is a time for kayaking or fly-fishing on Copper Pond in the morning, often followed by long, lazy naps and afternoon mint juleps on the croquet lawn.

The old Yankee magic isn't limited to the resort. **Billings Farm & Museum** (69 Old River Road) in Woodstock is a working dairy-cum-award-winning history project on Vermont's rural heritage – a country store, traditional farmhouse, and farm workshop in one. It's what everyday life here looked like a century ago. Across the road lies **Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National**

**BE THERE** Twin Farms is the ultimate New England retreat, with just 20 rooms and cottages dotted across 300 acres and such uncommon indulgences as a **Japanese onsen** bath and museum-level art in its rooms. *All-inclusive doubles from \$1,700; Virtuoso travelers receive a farm-to-table gift set, plus early check-in and late checkout (if available).*

**“In any season, Vermont is all about being outdoors and beholding the beauty of fresh streams, crisp mountain air, and a classic American sense of freedom to roam.”**



Culinary creations from chef Nathan Rich.

**Historical Park** (54 Elm Street), devoted to conservation history and land stewardship. Tour the historic home of pioneering conservationist George Perkins Marsh or head straight into 555 acres of forest, with more than 20 miles of maintained trails.

Back at Twin Farms, dinner begins with Champagne and nibbles in the main house beside a crackling fireplace (nights cool down even in summer) before chef Rich serves whatever’s fresh from the property’s herb, vegetable, and fruit gardens, and nearby farms such as Kiss the Cow and Fable. The hotel’s wine cellar stocks some 15,000 bottles, and the dining vibe is pure Vermont farm country. As Ourisman says, “You’re treated like royalty without having to put on a jacket and tie for dinner.”

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## Long Weekend

### DAY TWO

Practically anywhere you drive in Vermont is a **scenic route** (it helps that billboards are prohibited). One worthy ride heads north from Barnard past Silver Lake until Route 107 curls west into the Green Mountains. From there, Route 100, edging National Forest land all the way to Killington, is considered by many to be the prettiest drive in the state. Calvin Coolidge's meticulously kept boyhood home is off 100A, offering a portal to a time when a small-town Vermont kid could become president. Route 4 loops you back to Woodstock past two **preserved covered bridges** – one in Taftsville, the other in Quechee.

Whether you get to Woodstock by car or epic bike ride, it's essential to see the town on foot. Laurance Rockefeller, who adopted the village after marrying Mary French, granddaughter of railroad magnate and resident Frederick Billings, worked hard to preserve Woodstock's nineteenth-century character, going so far as to bury the power lines. Fun fact: The **free summer trolley** is powered with electricity generated by cow manure from local farms.

**Worthy Kitchen** (442 Woodstock Road) is an outstanding place for a craft beer, seasonal dishes, and, OK, hand-cut fries cooked in Wagyu beef tallow (you're on vacation!). **Woodstock Farmers' Market** (979 W. Woodstock Road), indoors and open year-round, is a supernova of local organic produce, meats, and cheeses. Open since 1935, **The Yankee Bookshop** (12 Central Street) is the longest-running bookstore in the state, and you'll keep it going longer once you discover its impressive selection of Vermont authors. At **Farmhouse Pottery** (1837 W. Woodstock Road), Zoe and James Zilian run a thriving ceramics studio with a modern homewares boutique and offer "couples clay dates" for you and your significant other to take a turn behind the potter's wheel.

### DAY THREE

Keep an eye overhead as Chris Davis hands you his business card. It says "Master Falconer," and it's worth starting the day with his 45-minute intro "flying session" at **New England Falconry's**



## STAY LONGER

Make a week of your Vermont idyll by adding a few days at Virtuoso's other two properties in the state.

About an hour's drive northwest from Twin Farms, **The Pitcher Inn** in Warren, a boutique hotel with 11 rooms, is the spot to explore the Mad River area by kayak, canoe, sailplane, or golf cart at nearby Sugarbush Resort Golf Club. *Doubles from \$338; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.* Heading north for another hour takes you to Stowe's ski-in, ski-out **Lodge at Spruce Peak**, home to 312 guest accommodations at the base of Spruce Peak Mountain. In warmer months, the terrain lends itself to biking excursions, fly-fishing, zip-lining, and golf. *Contact your Virtuoso advisor for pricing details. Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*



Clockwise from left: Taftsville's covered bridge, a "flying session" at New England Falconry, and some serious comfort food from Worthy Kitchen.

Getting fresh at Kelly Way Gardens.



historic Rutherford Barn in Woodstock (4148 Hartland Hill Road), where trained Harris's hawks will alight on your gloved arm with unspeakable majesty. At **Kelly Way Gardens** (14 The Green), job titles to ponder include butter churner, beekeeper, spirits infuser, and dairywoman. Cooking classes and culinary gatherings, held in a big red barn, celebrate the splendor of the Vermont farm table in summer. Spoiler: You'll want to marry one of those heirloom tomatoes.

Then again, you're excused if you just want to loll around at Twin Farms. Rooms are palatial – even the smallest is 650 square feet – and stocked with fresh coffee, beer, wine, and snacks, all complimentary. Most accommodations have views of the mountains and meadows, with soaking

tubs and porches where you can hurry up and do absolutely nothing.

One amenity not seen elsewhere: a custom jigsaw in each room by **Steve Puzzles**, a family-run Vermont business since 1974. The hand-constructed wooden brainteasers are considered heirlooms and sell for many thousands of dollars. You find them everywhere around Twin Farms, including at **The Pub**, a hidden parlor alongside a covered bridge, where you can sip some very good whiskey, crank up the old Wurlitzer jukebox, and piece together a few mysteries before the rest of life comes calling on Monday. **VT**



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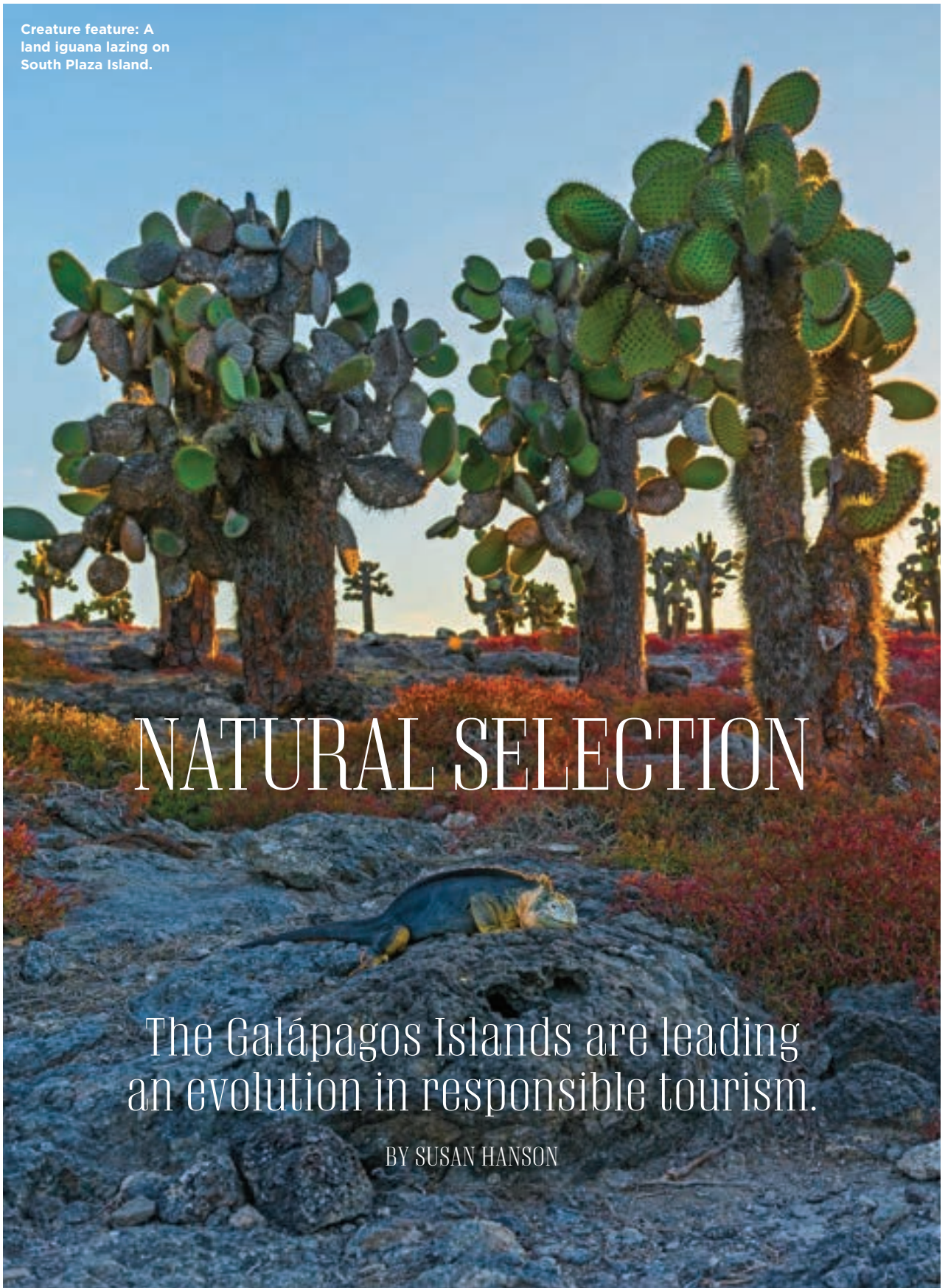


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Creature feature: A  
land iguana lazing on  
South Plaza Island.



# NATURAL SELECTION

The Galápagos Islands are leading  
an evolution in responsible tourism.

BY SUSAN HANSON

SL\_PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES



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<sup>3</sup>Rate is per person, based on double occupancy, for check-in on 12/4/19, Andaz Forest View King Room. Full payment is due at time of booking and is non-refundable. Rate does not include a \$29 per person Departure Tax to be collected at the airport upon departure from Costa Rica.

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## NATURAL SELECTION

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“**W**ATCH YOUR STEP!” OUR guide, Lorenzo Banchana, calls out, and the warning gets passed chain-style to each member of our small group. I soon understand the caution: A booby nest is set precariously just inches off the marked trail.

Trekking in the Galápagos is a practice in mindfulness. You need to stay hyper-alert to each pace, lest your foot land on a bird egg or a black lava rock that turns out to be a marine iguana basking in the sun. It's a delicate balance with being giddy as a schoolgirl as I watch sea lion pups dart around in the gentle surf or a male frigatebird puff out his crimson gular pouch and wrap his wing around his mate while another male dives in and out, vying for her attention.

As sustainable travel takes root in our global consciousness, it's only fitting that these remote islands that transformed how we see the world following Charles

Darwin's famous visit in 1835 are now leading this modern evolution.

Galápagos National Park and Ecuador's Ministry of Tourism have set strict rules for visitors, making the archipelago one of the world's most highly protected wildlife areas and a model for low-impact tourism. Stringent limits are placed on the number of cruise-ship travelers (around 75,000 per year), the size of each tour group (16 or fewer visitors per guide), and the number of people exploring any one place at a time. Authorities also highly regulate what comes into the park, spraying the interior of every plane for pests and diligently scanning luggage for plastic bags and invasive species.

A number of local and international organizations further protect the UNESCO World Heritage site by conducting scientific research, supporting conservation efforts, and even reintroducing species to islands where they were previously erased. In early 2019, for example,

the Galápagos National Park authority gathered more than 1,400 land iguanas from North Seymour Island and released them on nearby Santiago Island, where they had been wiped out by feral pigs. An earlier Galapagos Conservancy project had eradicated the last feral pigs from Santiago in 2000.



**SUCH RIGOROUS MANAGEMENT EFFORTS** have a huge impact on the future of this ecologically diverse hot spot, located some 600 miles from Ecuador's coast. Yet Sheila Gallant-Halloran, a Virtuoso travel advisor from Ottawa, Canada, says it's equally incumbent upon travelers to do their part. “With the number of visitors quadrupling over the past 20 years, sustainable tourism is crucial to the archipelago's survival,” she asserts. “People need to ensure their travel dollars are helping conservation efforts.”



**Taking in Bartolomé Island's twin bays and iconic Pinnacle Rock.**

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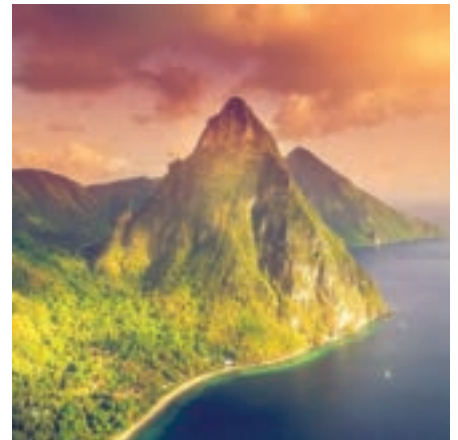
**GOOD NEWS:** In June, UNESCO extended the Galápagos Biosphere Reserve area from around 2 million to 36 million acres, making it one of the largest protected marine areas on the planet.



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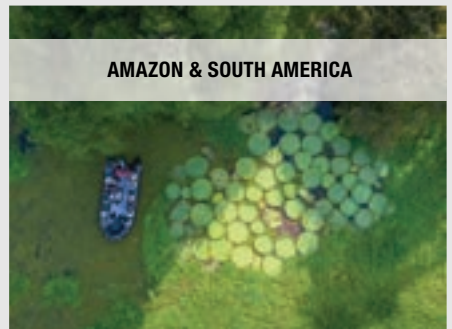


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\*All fares are in U.S. dollars, cruise-only, for new bookings only, per guest, double occupancy, and subject to availability. Taxes, Fees & Port Expenses of \$425 to \$740 per person are additional. Fares are not combinable with any other offer, may vary by sailing date, are capacity controlled, and are subject to change without prior notice. All savings amounts are included in fares shown. Certain restrictions apply. Seabourn reserves the right to correct errors. Ships' registry: Bahamas. ©2019 Seabourn



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DISCOVER THE EXTRAORDINARY WORLDS OF SEABOURN

“The tangible for every traveler is that he or she feels part of a greater good. By the mere act of visiting the Galápagos, you are doing something for the planet. There’s power in that.”

Beno Atan concurs. The experience director for Metropolitan Touring, a Virtuoso on-site connection based in Quito, not only points me to his company’s diligent conservation efforts, but also the fact that proceeds from the park entrance fee (\$100 for most foreign tourists over the age of 12) go directly toward preservation. “The tangible for every traveler,” Atan says, “is that he or she feels part of a greater good. By the mere act of visiting the Galápagos, you are doing something for the planet. There’s power in that.”

I definitely feel part of this inspiring place while cruising aboard *Santa Cruz II*, a 90-passenger expedition ship operated by Metropolitan Touring. The vessel is fitted with the latest sustainable technology (including a waste-water treatment plant), follows strict recycling protocols, and uses a third less fuel than its predecessor. There’s an equal emphasis on social responsibility: Metropolitan staffs the ship with an all-Ecuadorian crew and operates a cultural program that provides cruises for mainland school children who otherwise wouldn’t be able to experience the islands.



TOUR GROUPS HERE ARE NOT ONLY limited in size; they also must be accompanied by a park-licensed naturalist guide – a position that now can only be filled by Ecuadorians born (or married to someone) in the Galápagos. The islands have seen a dramatic jump in human population over the last decades: from around 3,500 in the 1970s to 30,000 or so today. Habitation is restricted to four of the 18 main islands and



Slow travel at its best: Seeing Galápagos giant tortoises on Isabela Island.

DANITA DELMONT CREATIVE/ALAMY

## IN GOOD HANDS

Three ways to go green in the Galápagos.

Sea kayaking by *Santa Cruz II*.



Virtuoso travel advisors can work with **Metropolitan Touring** to create a custom Ecuadorian vacation that includes a five-day Galápagos cruise aboard the *Santa Cruz II*. *Departures: Multiple dates, August 1, 2019, to December 31, 2020; from \$3,910. BOOKEND YOUR TRIP: Casa Gangotena, a 31-room restored mansion in Quito's historic district, can arrange visits to Museo del Carmen Alto (a historic convent built in 1653) or a behind-the-bell-tower peek of UNESCO-designated **San Francisco Church**. *Doubles from \$450; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a six-course tasting dinner for two.**

Summer 2020 sees the launch of **Silversea's** Galápagos-specific new build, the 100-passenger **Silver Origin**, staffed with Ecuadorian national expert guides and featuring dynamic positioning (translation: no anchor to damage the delicate seabed). Other environmentally

conscious gizmos include reverse-osmosis water-purification stations for refilling reusable bottles. **WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT:** Slipping on our water shoes (perfect for Zodiac tours) in the ship's **comfy base camp** and cozying up by the lounge's fire pit. *Contact your Virtuoso advisor for departure and pricing details.*

Set by the edge of an extinct volcanic crater on Santa Cruz Island, **Pikaia Lodge** powers up using solar panels and keeps its 14 rooms cool with a clever cross-ventilation window design. **LOOK FORWARD TO:** Lounging after your land adventures by the Peruvian-marble-decked infinity pool and crossing paths with giant tortoises in the lodge's **private reserve**. *All-inclusive three-night stays from \$4,680 (per person, based on double occupancy, including tax); Virtuoso travelers receive a 60-minute massage for two.*



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From left: Prickly pear cacti grow like trees on Santa Fe Island, and a colorful Sally Lightfoot crab mingles with a marine iguana. Opposite: A baby sea lion gets some beach time.

just three percent of the park’s total land area, with the majority of residents living along the coasts of Santa Cruz and San Cristóbal. Many of them relocated for economic reasons, and Virtuoso advisor Karen Majsay of Neutral Bay, Australia, notes that aggressive education efforts in sustainable farming and fishing methods are helping ensure they live in harmony with the environment.

“Island residents are in a very privileged position to be able to control what happens in their homeland,” says Majsay. “There’s a great responsibility that comes with that privilege – as well as for those visiting there.” The efforts seem to be working, given that the islands we visit appear pristine. When a member of our group spots a lone piece of trash lying along the beach, Banchana tells us it almost certainly washed ashore with the tide.

A Galápagos native, Banchana grew up playing with the sea lions and crabs on San Cristóbal, and volunteered at

its biological research station before becoming a professional guide nearly 18 years ago. His own young family lives on the island, and he’s instilled the same stewardship mind-set in his 11-year-old son. “I tell him how important it is to respect nature,” he says, “since we all have to share the same place.”

Each of the seven naturalist guides aboard *Santa Cruz II* leads his or her own group (aptly named after an iconic species) of no more than 11 guests. The park maintains firm guidelines for activities – kayaking and snorkeling locations must be preapproved; time limits on each beach are rigorously enforced – and it takes a great deal of planning not to cross paths with guests from other ships. As such, our daily itinerary ends up reading like a schedule at Grand Central Station, yet somehow Ramiro Tomala, our expedition leader and another Galápagos native, keeps the entire operation running smoothly and, in turn, all of us exceedingly happy.

“All of the restrictions are in place to keep our ecosystem healthy and ensure as little alteration as possible,” says Tomala. “Imagine how beneficial it would be for our planet if every nation were to do that.”

My group, the Finches, follows in lockstep behind Banchana up the steep Prince Philip’s Steps to a rocky plateau atop Genovesa Island that’s home to vast colonies of red-footed and Nazca boobies, petrels, and frigatebirds. They, like all the island’s wildlife, are totally unafraid – the result, many scientists believe, of losing the “fear or flight” instinct after escaping mainland predators eons ago. Yet Banchana presses us to keep a proper distance – six feet or more – so as not to disturb them, or worse, pass along some bacteria or scent that might, say, cause a mother fur seal to reject her pup. He uses his best herding skills on us, but has absolutely no control over two young boobies who bring their sibling squabble directly into our path.

(CACTI) PAUL VOWLES/ALAMY. (CRAB) HEEB PHOTOS/ESTOCK PHOTO. (SEA LION) JOHN FREEMAN/GETTY IMAGES





ALL THE BOOKS AND BBC EARTH documentaries can't adequately prepare you for the impact of witnessing "Darwin's Eden" up close. I certainly wasn't ready for the sheer multitude of sleepy sea lions lined up on the shore or the shockingly bright colors of a Sally Lightfoot crab. On the final day of our journey, we visit what, for me at least, is the pièce de résistance: the El Chato Tortoise Reserve on Santa Cruz. Meditating on the slow, lumbering movements of giant Galápagos tortoises in the wild seems like the perfect antidote to our data-driven world.

Although UNESCO removed the Galápagos from its "red-list" of endangered sites in 2010, the archipelago's ecosystem remains quite fragile, and it's a frightening possibility that this complex bio-community could vanish in our lifetime. Gallant-Halloran encourages every world traveler to visit as soon as possible, while placing sustainable-tourism practices at the forefront of any adventure. "Go to see what Darwin saw, but through a twenty-first-century ecotourism lens," she implores.

My spirit is buoyed by stewards such as Banchana, whose passion and life's purpose is to preserve the islands. Returning to the ship after one of our last island hikes, he beams while telling me that, when his boy was just 6, he announced his intention to follow in his father's footsteps as a guide, a conservation warrior for the next generation. **VT**



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# A WORLD OF GOOD

HOW TO TRAVEL SUSTAINABLY —  
SOCIALY, CULTURALLY, AND ENVIRONMENTALLY —  
ON ALL SEVEN CONTINENTS.

**BY ELAINE GLUSAC**



RALPH LEE HOPKINS

Responsible travel providers such as Lindblad Expeditions help travelers go green on the White Continent.

**O**n a shore call along Myanmar's Irrawaddy River on Belmond's *Road to Mandalay*, our ship's doctor disembarked to treat villagers at a local clinic, inviting all 86 of us passengers along. Later, we visited Bagan's vast plain of Buddhist stupas and listened to his shipboard talk about his humanitarian work, which the company sponsors. We were enjoying a culturally enriching cruise in luxe surroundings while at the same time supporting sustainable travel, a style of exploration that prioritizes the care of local cultures, economies, and ecosystems.

"You don't necessarily need to visit Belize or Costa Rica or somewhere held up as a poster child for sustainability," says Erin Green, a Virtuoso travel advisor based in Minneapolis. "People are drawn to doing good wherever they travel, so we point our clients toward responsible travel providers that are committed to giving back."

Such efforts can include employing indigenous guides, safeguarding critical habitats, pursuing eco-conscious best practices, and celebrating local cultures. And now there are more options than ever: Globe-trotters can find opportunities to travel sustainably on all seven continents. Here's a curated selection of conscientious choices to consider for your next vacation.

Grazing bison at Vermejo and (below) two of the ranch's lodging options: Costilla Fishing Lodge (left) and Casa Grande.



## NEW MEXICO

FIND SANCTUARY IN THE U.S. SOUTHWEST.

For media mogul and philanthropist Ted Turner, one of the largest landholders in the U.S., opening his vast ranches to guests both helps fund his conservation efforts and relay an environmental message. **Ted Turner Reserves** encompasses 1.1 million acres spread across three properties: two – Ladder and Armendaris ranches – in

southwestern New Mexico and another, Vermejo, in mountainous northern New Mexico and southern Colorado.

“Ted Turner Reserves uses private money to preserve land, so from a tourism perspective, you have access to an exclusive experience, but with **conservation at the heart of it**,” says Chicago-based Virtuoso advisor Margarita Fedorova.

Start by renting Turner’s five-bedroom home at Ladder ranch, refuge to wild bison herds and wolf packs, then head to Armendaris for day trips to meet biologists breeding Bolson tortoises and to hike the Fra Cristobal Mountains. (Day trips to Armendaris and Ladder ranches can also be made from Sierra Grande, a Ted Turner Retreat in Truth or Con-

sequences, New Mexico.) Finally, below snow-capped peaks, Vermejo offers a range of accommodations plus American safaris to view wild horses and fish for native Rio Grande cutthroat trout, **restored to the alpine streams**. *Contact your Virtuoso advisor for pricing details; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*



**YOU’LL ALSO LIKE:** Guests traveling with **Tauk** on a six-day **polar bear safari** in Manitoba can observe *Ursus maritimus* from a specially designed tundra vehicle, watch custom-made BBC Earth on-tour film vignettes, and stay at a lodge built with salvaged wood and recycled materials. *Departures: Multiple dates, November 5, 2019, to November 8, 2020; from \$6,990.*

(BISON) SEAN FITZGERALD, (COSTILLA) KIRK EDWARD GITTINGS, (POLAR BEAR) ANDRE ANITA/GETTY IMAGES



## IT WAS IN BALI...

We headed inland in the afternoon, making our way toward a local temple. It was a work of art and simply beautiful. As our tour was ending, the sun was getting low in the sky and decided to steal the show. Rays of light flickered across the rice fields, shelved into the sides of nearby hills. It was like something out of a movie or a magazine. It's still the first thing I bring up whenever someone asks me about my favorite places... I'll never forget it.

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Meet the Mapuche – “People of the Earth” – in Chilean Patagonia.

# CHILE

FORGE LASTING CULTURAL CONNECTIONS.

**B**ig Five Tours & Expeditions’ dedication to sustainability extends from the front office, where the company cut paper use by 70 percent by offering guests electronic documents, to the field, where it donates 2,000 paper straws annually to the coconut vendors of La Boquilla, Colombia, to reduce plastic waste.

“They really walk the talk,” says Virtuoso advisor Green. Case

in point: “On one of its Chile tours, when Big Five realized that the communities that should be **benefiting from tourism dollars** were not, they re-crafted the itinerary to ensure it was helping the right people.”

On the company’s customizable 14-day Chilean Patagonia tour, guests can spend time with the indigenous **Mapuche community** in Pucón, staying in local-run lodges, visiting a

family in their home, and meeting skilled crafters in silverwork, wood carving, and weaving. There’s also plenty of adventure en route between Buenos Aires and Santiago, including cruising around Cape Horn, penguin viewing at Magdalena Island, ice climbing on Exploradores Glacier, and horseback riding in a Patagonian forest. *Departures: Any day through 2019; from \$11,900.*

## YOU’LL ALSO LIKE:

**Aqua Expeditions** plies the wildest stretches of the Amazon River in **Peru’s Pacaya Samiria National Reserve**, hiring local guides to join ship naturalists on excursions to view pink dolphins and sloths, thereby supporting Amazonian villages with employment. Staffers report wildlife sightings to indigenous chiefs, serving as monitors in the battle against illegal logging, hunting, and fishing. *Departures: Four-, five-, and eight-day cruises aboard the 32-passenger [Aria Amazon](#) and 20-passenger Aqua Nera (beginning in August 2020) run continuously; from \$4,050.*



## SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TIP

“LOOK FOR WAYS TO GIVE BACK DURING YOUR VACATION, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU’RE TRAVELING WITH KIDS. PARTICIPATE IN A BEACH CLEANUP, BRING SUPPLIES TO A LOCAL SCHOOL, OR EMBARK ON A LARGER FUND-RAISING PROJECT. THERE’S NO BETTER WAY TO CONNECT AND SHOW GRATITUDE FOR THE GIFT OF TRAVEL THAN TO DO SOMETHING TO ENRICH THE LIVES OF OTHERS. MANY HOTELS AND TOUR OPERATORS HAVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL CHARITIES AND CAN FACILITATE A GIVE-BACK OPPORTUNITY.”

— HEDY MARKS, VIRTUOSO TRAVEL ADVISOR, ATLANTA

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for more information.

Smaller ships such as the soon-to-sail *La Venezia* can help mitigate tourism's toll on Venice.



# ITALY

TREAD LIGHTLY IN THE CITY OF WATER.

**U**niworld Boutique River Cruise Collection supports small family-run businesses on shore excursions, offers periodic **volunteer opportunities** in port, and aims to ban 60 types of single-use plastics, including straws, water bottles, and bags, across the company by 2022. The cruise line also plants a tree for every

guest who opts for e-docs over paper.

“They’re a leader in **conscientious cruising**,” says Virtuoso advisor Fedorova. “You might think luxury doesn’t mesh well with sustainability, but, in fact, high-end travel providers like this typically have the resources and desire to implement responsible tourism practices.”

Experience Uniworld’s holistic approach to sustainable travel while exploring Italy on an eight-day round-trip-from-Venice voyage aboard the new 130-passenger *La Venezia*, debuting in 2020 and modeling smart design in energy-efficient lighting, air-conditioning, and propeller systems. The small ship (read: a

**smaller footprint** in overtouristed Venice) will call at Chioggia in the Venetian lagoon to see local fisherfolk demonstrate mussel harvesting. On board, chefs rely on ingredients purchased from local farmers and markets where the ship docks. *Departures: Multiple dates, March 29 to November 1, 2020; from \$2,799.*

## SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TIP

“EAT LOCAL. DON’T SEEK OUT FAMILIAR FOODS FROM HOME, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN FLOWN IN. WE WANT TO NOT ONLY VISIT THE SIGHTS, BUT ALSO GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITIES BY SUPPORTING THEM.”  
— HUI JUAN LIM, VIRTUOSO TRAVEL ADVISOR, SINGAPORE



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\*Shipboard credit is \$250 per person.

Making a ME to WE connection in Rajasthan.



FOUR: ASIA

# INDIA

EXTEND A HELPING HAND.

The idea that local communities and economies should benefit from tourism drives **ME to WE**, a social enterprise linking travelers with volunteer projects.

“They’re **life-changing trips**,” says Anne Morgan Scully, a Virtuoso advisor based in McLean, Virginia.

“People want to know that their travels can have a positive impact, and ME to WE makes that possible.”

On the last four days of its 16-day tour of India, **Luxury Gold** partners with ME to WE in the rolling countryside outside Udaipur, combining walks in the Aravalli Mountains

foothills and stays in well-appointed cottages or high-end tents with work on community projects such as **building classrooms and setting up health clinics**. Travelers practice yoga, try block printing, and learn about local life from a men’s or women’s circle. The

small-group trip, limited to 24 guests, begins at Rajasthan’s timeless forts and palaces, and eases into village life with a visit to a Jodhpur home and a firelit camp dinner in the Kanoi sand dunes. *Departures: Multiple dates, September 9, 2019, to April 6, 2020; from \$6,350.*

### SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TIP

“TRAVELERS CAN THINK MICRO OR MACRO WHEN IT COMES TO SUSTAINABILITY. A FEW MICRO TIPS: BRING YOUR OWN REUSABLE STRAW; USE PRODUCTS THAT ARE EASIER ON THE ENVIRONMENT, SUCH AS CORAL-SAFE SUNSCREEN; AND REUSE TOWELS. WHEN IT COMES TO MACRO CHOICES, VOTE WITH YOUR DOLLAR BY WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH YOUR ADVISOR TO CHOOSE THE MOST SUSTAINABLE HOTEL PROPERTY IN YOUR DESTINATION.”

— JESSICA RENSHAW, VIRTUOSO TRAVEL ADVISOR, VANCOUVER, CANADA

# TETIAROA

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Contact your Virtuoso Travel Advisor to book.





Scenes from Rwanda's eco-friendly Magashi Camp and (bottom right) an olive baboon with her baby in Akagera National Park.



## RWANDA

FOLLOW YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.

**H**arness your African adventure to a good cause with **Wilderness Safaris**, which recently extended its partnership with Painted Dog Conservation, a nonprofit that protects the continent's endangered wild dogs. In Zimbabwe's Hwange and Mana Pools national parks, travelers-cum-citizen scientists are encouraged to submit their photos of sightings to help track the packs. Wilderness Safaris

engages in conservation throughout Africa, including Rwanda, where it's currently developing primate-trekking programs in Gishwati-Mukura National Park that will provide local communities with tourism income and jobs while encouraging primate protection.

Until that occurs in early 2020, travelers can visit its new six-tent, solar-powered, and single-use-plastic-free **Magashi Camp**, overlooking

Lake Rwanyakazinga in Akagera National Park. Rwanda's **last protected savanna**, the park offers sanctuary to threatened black rhinos and rare shoebill storks, as well as lions, hippos, Masai giraffes, and more than 500 species of birds. *Doubles from \$470 per person, per night. Contact your Virtuoso travel advisor regarding tailor-made Wilderness Safaris' tours in Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and beyond.*

### YOU'LL ALSO LIKE:

On customizable Kenya and Tanzania trips with **Micato Safaris**, guests can visit the **Harambee Centre** near Nairobi, the base of operations for the company's nonprofit foundation, Micato-AmericaShare. Its 30-year effort to **help orphaned and vulnerable children** earned it a World Tourism Award in 2017. **Safari to consider:** A 12-day adventure that includes game viewing in the Serengeti, visits to Maasai villages, and dining in the Nairobi home of Micato's founders. *Departures: Multiple dates, August 5, 2019, to December 30, 2020; from \$11,000 (including internal flights).*



(MAGASHI CAMP) WILDERNESS SAFARIS; (BABOONS) ARIADNE VAN ZANDBERGEN/GETTY IMAGES; (HARAMBEE CENTRE) MICATO SAFARIS

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# THE GREAT BARRIER REEF & BEYOND

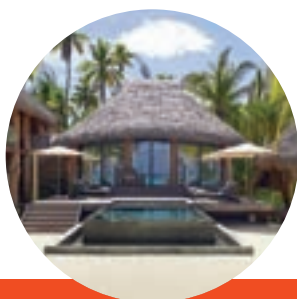
DO RIGHT DOWN UNDER.

**C**ommitted to carbon-neutral trips and office operations since 2007, **Natural Habitat Adventures** in July ran the world's first zero-waste adventure during a weeklong safari in Yellowstone Country. The nature-focused company and partner of the World Wildlife Fund also recently announced a pair of new 12-day, small-group tours focused on

responsible exploration of remote Australian regions.

Its northern trip includes snorkeling Heron Island in the Great Barrier Reef, going **walkabout with an Aboriginal guide** in Daintree National Park, and, in the Outback, visiting ancient rock art in Kakadu National Park. *Departures: Multiple dates, May 4 to October 4, 2020; from \$10,995.* On its southern itinerary,

travelers visit six national parks in the coastal regions. Drives along the Great Ocean Road stop to see koalas, nocturnal excursions in Tasmania seek Tasmanian devils and fairy penguins, and, on Kangaroo Island, guests stay at a **zoologist-owned ecolodge** where wild roos wander the grounds. *Departures: Multiple dates, October 17, 2020, to March 27, 2021; from \$9,995.*



**YOU'LL ALSO LIKE:** Enjoy being cosseted with a clear conscience on a private island in French Polynesia: **The Brando** models sustainable development with seawater air-conditioning, solar power, and earth-friendly building materials. The resort also serves as a **biological research station** for scientists with the environmental nonprofit Tetiaroa Society. *All-inclusive doubles from \$3,725; Virtuoso travelers receive a \$110 resort credit.*

(GREAT BARRIER REEF) REINHARD DIRSCHERL/ALAMY

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Gocta waterfall, Amazonas © Leonel Ortiz / PromPerú



PERU, THE RICHEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD



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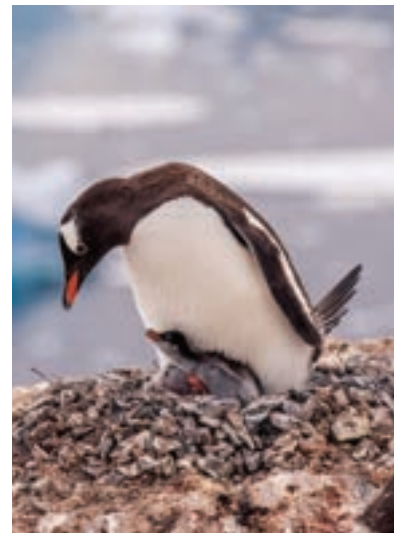
# ANTARCTICA

BE A POSITIVE FORCE ON THE WHITE CONTINENT.

In June, **Lindblad Expeditions** announced it would go **carbon neutral**, offsetting emissions from its fleet, offices, and staff travel while offering guests an online calculator to voluntarily offset their own flights. On its range of Antarctic voyages, Lindblad uses produce grown

on family farms in the Falkland Islands, encourages citizen science through photographing plastics, and serves as a platform for filmmaker James Balog's **Extreme Ice Survey**, which uses time-lapse cameras in remote locations to document the effects of global warming. Scientists

also join voyages to research orca whales. **Cruise to consider:** A 14-day voyage aboard the 148-passenger *National Geographic Explorer*, 102-passenger *Orion*, or 126-passenger *Endurance* (launching in 2020). *Departures: Multiple dates, November 27, 2019, to February 6, 2021; from \$14,680.*



## YOU'LL ALSO LIKE:

Cruise with **leading polar researcher** Dr. James McClintock to learn about the science of climate change observed over his 25-year career on a 13-day **Abercrombie & Kent** adventure. Guests can assist Dr. McClintock on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Palmer Station, a U.S. research outpost A&K has supported for the past 13 years by delivering equipment such as electronic tags for [penguin tracking](#) and webcams for its rookeries. After two nights in Buenos Aires, travelers spend 11 days aboard the 199-passenger *Le Lyrial* in the peak of austral summer, when the season's first penguin chicks hatch. *Departure: January 3, 2021; from \$12,995.*

## SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TIP

"RESORT BOUTIQUES OFTEN STOCK LOCALLY MADE ITEMS THAT DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY. ALSO, SWITCHING OFF YOUR ROOM'S LIGHTS AND AC WHEN YOU'RE OUT AND ABOUT WILL REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION."

— DAYANA BROOKE, VIRTUOSO TRAVEL ADVISOR, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

(ZODIAC) RALPH LEE HOPKINS. (PENGUIN) ABERCROMBIE & KENT



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Voted *Best River Cruise Line* by Virtuoso  
2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2018  
Voted *Best Cruise Line Overall* by Virtuoso, 2017



For More Information,  
See Your **Virtuoso** Travel Advisor

 **AMAWATERWAYS™**  
LEADING THE WAY IN RIVER CRUISING



# IN THE CLOUDS



CITY STYLE, VIBRANT NATURE, AND PERHAPS  
THE WORLD'S TASTIEST POTATOES MARK THE TRAIL  
TO A HIGHER CALLING IN PERU.



STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY KORENA BOLDING SINNETT

Our guide explained how locals have mined salt in Maras since the days of the Inca. Opposite: Thousands of salt pans dot a hillside outside of town.

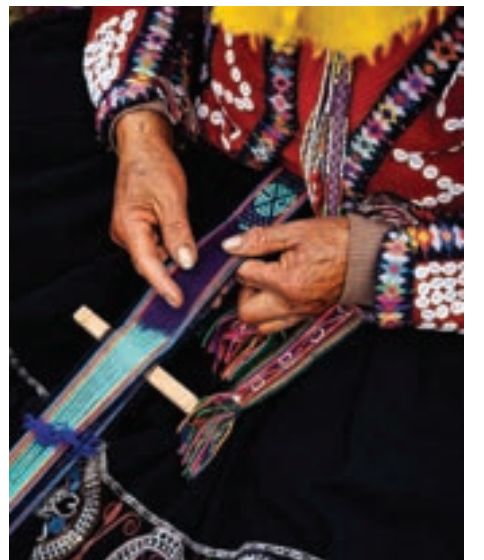


 I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE MACHU PICCHU,

to feel the clouds drifting through its jagged peaks and take in its enormity and the physicality of those crazy Inca stairs in person. My architect husband had long been enthralled with the Inca citadel too. We take a trip every fall, and when it came time to plan our most recent adventure, a classic Peru itinerary – Lima, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, then Cuzco – topped our list.

Lima, our first stop, serves up big, modern-city energy with surfing culture and a side of seriously legit ceviche. I loved exploring the Barranco neighborhood and shopping for local jewelry and accessories in its stylish boutiques. Cuzco greeted us with its typically cooler, sunnier climate, colonial buildings, and laid-back vibe. You can sit on its Plaza de Armas and people-watch for hours. One evening, a large group of schoolchildren paraded through with the police band; the next day, we watched a wedding party celebrate at one of the square's beautiful churches.

**Machu Picchu, with Huayna Picchu right behind it. Opposite (left to right, from top): A Pisac market vendor, ceviche at Cala in Lima, the entrance to Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, Belmond Hotel Monasterio's courtyard in Cuzco, Inca stonework at Machu Picchu, Lima's Barranco district in bloom, blocking the trail at Machu Picchu, dawn at Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba, and Peruvian weaving.**





#### **TIP**

You have to present your passport to enter Machu Picchu; for a great memento, look for the self-serve (and unofficial) passport stamp on a table near the entrance.

**We spent an afternoon with Christian Puklla's family in the Sacred Valley; after lunch, his mother and grandmother showed us how they weave traditional patterns.**

Roughly an hour northwest of Cuzco, the Sacred Valley is a must-see spot en route to Machu Picchu. Its landscapes are like nothing I've ever experienced: The Andes rise up to form a masterpiece backdrop for the color palettes of the salt pans and terraced crop circles at Maras and Moray. Also like nothing I've experienced: the creamy, buttery, super-delicious potatoes from Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba's organic farm in the valley. Peruvians grow more than 3,000 varieties of potatoes – I'm convinced they keep all the good ones. Everything about that hotel feels steeped in a sense of place. My favorite memory is of sitting on our patio under a heavy Peruvian blanket at dawn and watching the fog move across the mountains.

Machu Picchu blew my expectations out of the water: The scale is truly unbelievable. And those stairs are no joke for someone who's five-one – some were waist high on me! I worried about crowds, but our guide reserved an afternoon time slot, which typically yields better weather and fewer tourists (most rush to get in first thing). We stayed until closing and had the place almost to ourselves. The next day, we hiked Huayna Picchu, the sheer peak in the background of many Machu Picchu photos. It was one of the most physically demanding things I've ever done – it's so steep that, at times, you have to bear-crawl up the trail – but I don't believe I've ever heard a silence as pure as we did at its top.

Peru's colors, textures, and flora are a photographer's dream. I think about the women's outfits a lot. And their braids. And I'm still in awe of the civilization that once thrived here.



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**Exclusive Amenity: Up to us\$50 onboard spending money and one plate of chocolate dipped strawberries per stateroom!**

## 10-Day Panama Canal Sunfarer

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*Eurodam*  
12/11/19

OCEAN-VIEW FROM  
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**Exclusive Amenity: Up to us\$50 onboard spending money per stateroom!**

## 7-Day Tropical Caribbean

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*Nieuw Statendam*  
12/15/19

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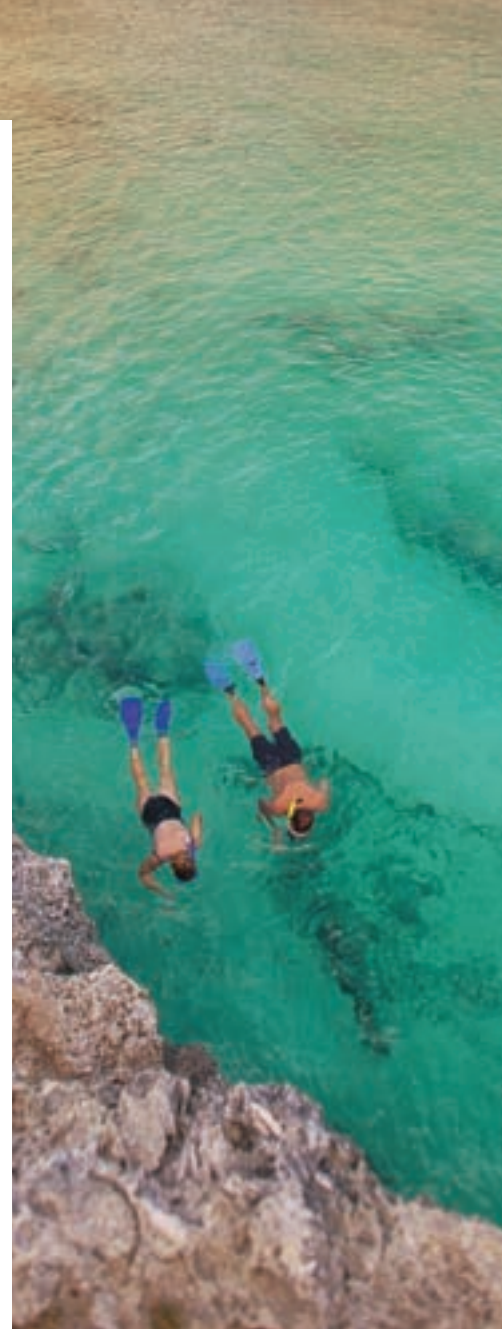
**Exclusive Amenity: Up to us\$50 onboard spending money per stateroom!**



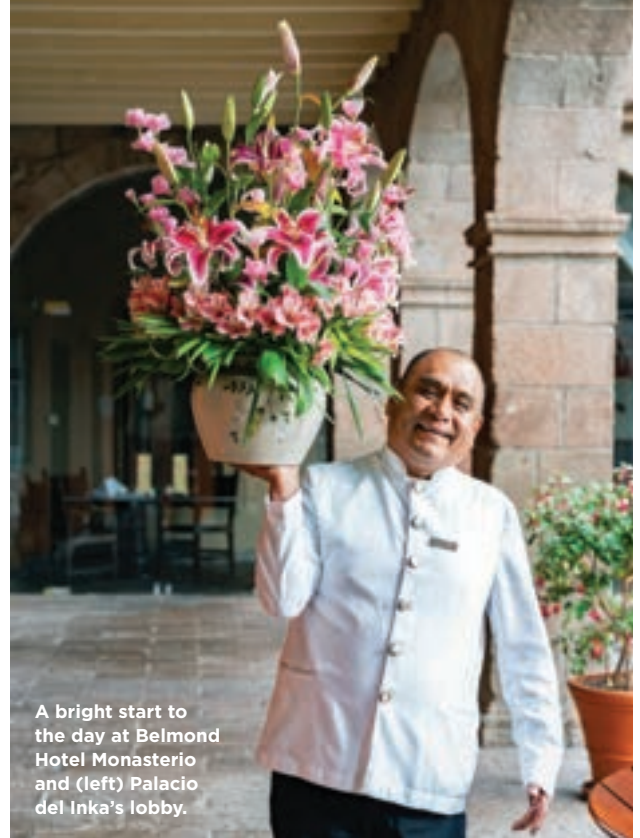
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A bright start to the day at Belmond Hotel Monasterio and (left) Palacio del Inka's lobby.



## PLANS FOR PERU



BUILDING BLOCKS FOR ADVENTURES IN THE LAND OF THE INCA.

### GO

Virtuoso travel advisors can work with **Peru Empire Co.** to create custom tours throughout the country. The eight-day trip featured in this story included privately guided outings in Machu Picchu and to the Pisac market and Maras salt pans in the Sacred Valley, as well as an afternoon with **Andean weavers** to create a personal pattern. *Departures: Any day through 2019; from \$7,105.*

Explore Machu Picchu with private guides and visit Pisac's market and Olantaytambo's ruins in the Sacred Valley with **Ladatco Tours**. A ten-day itinerary features city tours of Cuzco and Lima, as well as three days in the Amazon's Tambopata National Reserve for **nocturnal wildlife-spotting** and other rain-forest adventures. *Departures: Any day through 2019; from \$7,500.*

### STAY

In an upscale suburban district of Lima, **Belmond Miraflores Park** offers peerless city and Pacific coastline views from its 89 suites and the rooftop's pool and Observatory restaurant. Check out a complimentary

bike to explore adjacent **Domodossola Park** and the six-mile-long Malecón. *Doubles from \$295; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.*

Set on 100 lush acres, **Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba's** 36 casitas provide a welcoming home base for exploring Sacred Valley sites. Guests can harvest giant corn, red and black quinoa, and several varieties of potatoes from the **on-site organic farm** for chef-prepared meals. *Doubles from \$462; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a 25-minute massage for two.*

Discover a jungle hideaway of 83 adobe cottages and gurgling waterfalls at **Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel**, just outside the UNESCO World Heritage site. More than **370 orchid species** and 200 bird species thrive on its 12-acre grounds. *Doubles from \$548; Virtuoso travelers receive an aromatherapy welcome kit, breakfast daily, and a 25-minute massage for two.*

Inca mysticism extends beyond Machu Picchu at the **Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel**.

After **shaman-led tours** through the citadel, guests can return to the family-run 62-room property overlooking the Urubamba River for a traditional *pachamanca* lunch, cooked in an underground oven. *Doubles from \$548; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a 50-minute massage for two.*

Housed in a sixteenth-century former monastery, Cuzco's 122-room **Belmond Hotel Monasterio** features one of the city's best independent art collections. Take a private tour led by an expert in religious art and Peruvian history, or relax by the courtyard's **300-year-old cedar tree** with a pisco sour. *Doubles from \$265; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.*

In Cuzco's historic city center, the 203-room **Palacio del Inka** channels its previous life as a Spanish conquistador's mansion through colonial-era artworks and bold Peruvian textiles. Complimentary **oxygen treatments** at its Andes Spirit Spa help guests adjust to the altitude. *Doubles from \$259; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.* **VI**



## **VIRTUOSO TRAVELER EXCLUSIVE OFFERS**



### • **RWANDA RETREAT**

At **One&Only Nyungwe House, Rwanda**, guests can commune with chimpanzees, witness the inner workings of a Rwandan tea plantation, and glimpse Africa's most fascinating wildlife. Set on the edge of the ancient Nyungwe Forest in the mountainous southwestern region of the country, the resort is tucked within a working tea plantation. Guests stay in one of 22 well-appointed rooms or suites that are spread throughout eight stunning villas, all designed to frame exceptional views from windows and newly extended private decks. Designed as a private rain-forest sanctuary, each chic, lodge-inspired room is filled with vibrant artwork, upscale amenities, and a cozy fireplace for cool evenings. From open-air spa treatments and farm-to-table meals, to tracking animals or discovering the art of tea picking, guests have a front-row seat to observe Rwanda's nature and culture. For a bird's-eye view of local landmarks, helicopter tours are also available.

Connect with your Virtuoso travel advisor for rates. Available throughout 2019. Virtuoso exclusive experience includes a \$100-value resort credit; two complimentary activities per person, per day; breakfast for two daily; a room upgrade, if available; early check-in and late checkout, if available; and complimentary Wi-Fi.



### • **ITALIAN STYLE IN THE ARABIAN GULF**

Set apart from the city's skyscrapers, the Mediterranean-style **Bulgari Resort Dubai** resides on its own private island and is home to the exclusive Bulgari Marina and Yacht Club, with a sterling spa and private residences in addition to its resort rooms, suites, and villas. This urban oasis, just a two-minute drive from the mainland over a bridge, never leaves one wanting – several restaurants vie for foodies' favor, and the private beach club, La Spiaggia, tempts sun worshippers with its lovely beach and mosaic outdoor swimming pool. Should guests want to explore Dubai further, the resort is just minutes from the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, and the vast Dubai Mall. It's little surprise that this resort is as thoughtfully crafted as Bulgari's finest jewelry pieces. For added romance, reserve the couple's spa suite, complete with an ocean-view swimming pool lined with gold.

Connect with your Virtuoso travel advisor for rates. Available throughout 2019. Virtuoso exclusive experience includes a \$100-value food and beverage credit; breakfast for two daily; a room upgrade, if available; early check-in and late checkout, if available; and complimentary Wi-Fi.



### • **STARS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA**

As you move throughout Southeast Asia on an immersive 15-night voyage with **Crystal Cruises**, witness the wondrous natural beauty of the region and its rich history, where modern mingles with ancient and mountains meet the sea. You'll stay overnight in several exciting cities, including historic Hanoi and beachy Da Nang, Vietnam. Spend two nights in Ho Chi Minh City, ample time to enjoy this thriving city's delicious markets, sacred temples, and French colonial architecture. After stops in Thailand and Cambodia, cruise into Singapore for a final overnight stay amidst temples, mosques, mansions, polo greens, and aromatic Arab Street. Virtuoso Voyages benefits, including a custom curated shore experience and Virtuoso-hosted welcome reception, add an exclusive touch to your cruise.

Virtuoso fares from **\$4,349** per person. *Crystal Symphony* departs Hong Kong on February 15, 2020; book by August 31, 2019, for best available fares. Your all-inclusive experience includes open bars and lounges with complimentary fine wines, Champagnes, spirits, and specialty coffees; prepaid gratuities in the bar; complimentary unlimited Wi-Fi; and more.

Go now! This year marks the **100th anniversary** of the founding of Grand Canyon National Park. Centennial celebrations and special events are planned throughout 2019.

# STAR POWER

Bring on the night.

## GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

“Visiting the Grand Canyon allows you to disconnect from the outside world and reconnect with yourself, your loved ones, and nature. As a designated **International Dark Sky Park**, it’s also one of the best places in the U.S. to see the night sky’s grand display of shooting stars, constellations, and the Milky Way.”

– *Caroline Bach Wood, Virtuoso travel advisor,  
Bozeman, Montana*



Seeing a green sea turtle slow down  
to get a look at you, that's the  
*exhilaration of discovery.*

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