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SPRING 2016

REJUVENATE IN RIVERA maya

A **Smoky Mountains** Story | Natural Wonders of the **West**
Insider's Guide to **Naples, Florida** | **Sicily's** Baroque Beauty
PLUS: Getaways from \$257 (Page 79)

IntervalWorld.com

This is an advertisement for Interval's

Initially, we thought we would show you what some of the tools look like —

IntervalWorld.com on a big desktop screen,
the **Interval International® app** on a tablet,
the **mobile website** on a smartphone.
But is that what you want to see when you open a magazine?
OK, OK, here's a glimpse:



The way we see it, the tools are just a means to an end.
They simplify. They expedite. They inform. Take these for example:

You go to **Community** on the Web to ask a fellow member
where to get the best fish tacos in Cancún.

You tune in to **Interval HD** for a Las Vegas video.

You check out the **Interval Exchange Tracker** to see that
another member has traded her home resort in Myrtle Beach for a week in Malta.

And then?

You book a last-minute **Getaway** while waiting in the car-pool line,
or you confirm an **exchange** between binge-watched episodes of *Scandal*.

And before the 11:00 news is over,
you've booked your rental car through **Interval Travel®**.

digital vacation-planning tools.

Once the tools do their job, you do your best to forget yours.

We suspect it will play out a lot like this.



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Happiness in Traveling (Even on the Run)

WHAT'S GOING ON AT **IntervalWorld.com**
AND IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA REALM



#tbt

REMINISCE WITH US

This year, Throwback Thursday has a whole new meaning. We're celebrating our 40th anniversary in 2016, and we'd love to take a trip down memory lane with you. Do you have a cherished family photo of the whole gang at Walt Disney World? A hilarious, heartwarming, or just plain unforgettable vacation story that you never get tired of telling? Then by all means, share it! Post your exchange or Getaway pictures and memories on Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag **#Interval40** for a chance to be featured on Interval's social media pages!



PLAN YOUR NEXT GETAWAY

On the hunt for a great Getaway online? Now you can book even further in advance — up to 18 months prior to your desired travel date. And remember: If you search for Getaways on the Interval International® app and don't immediately find what you're looking for, just set up a Getaway Alert. You can customize it to the date range, resorts, and destination you're eyeing, and if it becomes available, you'll be notified immediately. You can book Getaways on the app, too, so you can pounce on that deal right away — even when you're on the go!



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COVER: Taking a dip in a limestone sinkhole (*cenote*) in Mexico's Riviera Maya.
(Image Source)



Scan the QR code with your mobile device to view this issue of *Interval World*® online.

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Exchange Your Point of View.

Change your line of sight for a row of palm trees. Trade for a week of culture in the big city. Head for a respite in the wooded hills. And here's how to make it happen: **Deposit** your week and place a request as early as two years before your check-in date. You'll enhance your trading power, and you'll get up to a four-year travel window to find the vacation you want. Points-based member? Simply place a request and keep your points until we confirm that you have enough to make your exchange. Ahhh! The crisp, clean mountain air smells a whole lot better after an exchange!

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BENEFITS ETC.

Easy Exchange Tips

You want to make an exchange. You're ready to make an exchange. Now you just need to know *how* to make an exchange. Here are some helpful tips and tricks to help you land the vacation of your dreams.

MAXIMIZE YOUR TRADING POWER

Remember this key fact: Your trading power is not only determined by the resort quality and the demand of the week that you relinquish, but also by a factor that you're in complete control of: the lead time of your deposit. If you deposit two years in advance of your home resort week, your trading power will be greater than if you do so, say, six months in advance. Better still, your power is locked in at the time of your deposit. That's powerful.

PLACE A REQUEST ASAP

Here's another fact: 97 percent of Interval exchange requests result in a confirmation.* And when you place a request early — up to two years before the check-in date of your week — you give yourself a larger travel window.

EXPAND YOUR OPTIONS

When it comes to making an exchange, being flexible can make all the difference in the world. Here's an easy rule to remember: When you place a request, always include:

- Three different resorts and one time period
- One resort and three time periods or
- Two resorts and two time periods

IT PAYS TO GO SMALL

Multiple-bedroom units are great for large groups. But if your traveling party can comfortably function in a smaller space, you'd be wise to go for it. That's because resorts often have more studios and one-bedroom units than larger ones. To improve your exchange opportunities, request the smallest-sized unit that will accommodate you and your vacation companions.

FLEXIBILITY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Put more change in your exchange. With E-Plus®, you can retrade your confirmed exchange up to three times. You can change destinations, resorts, and/or travel dates — up until 24 hours before check-in. Just purchase E-Plus when you place a request or within five days of receiving your confirmation to take advantage of this exciting benefit.

[FLEX YOUR EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE. DEPOSIT AND PLACE A REQUEST TODAY AT INTERVALWORLD.COM!](http://IntervalWorld.com)

GOT POINTS?

If you're a member at a points-based club, place a request and keep your points until we confirm that you have enough to make the exchange you have chosen. Some members who trade with points can exchange online; others have to contact their club. The TDI and unit size are among the factors used to determine the number of points you will need to confirm an exchange.

*Source: Interval International's 2015 Buyers' Guide. In 2014, 884,011 exchanges were properly applied for and subsequently confirmed by Interval International. The confirmation rate on all exchange requests was 97 percent. This figure is a summary of the exchange requests entered with the exchange program, and does not indicate a member's probability of being confirmed to any specific choice or range of choices, since availability at individual locations may vary.

BENEFITS ETC.

IT'S GOOD TO BE ELITE

Introducing the new standard: Interval International Elite Resorts. As the newest and most prestigious addition to Interval's multitiered Resort Recognition program, Elite Resorts represent the very best of Interval's network.

To easily identify top-level properties that exceed Interval's high affiliation standards, look for those recognized as Interval International Elite Resorts, Interval International Premier Resorts, and Interval International Select Resorts at IntervalWorld.com.



Interval International Elite Resorts are the very best of Interval's network, providing an extraordinary vacation experience, exceptional service, and luxurious features and appointments. They are identified by the lotus , a symbol of purity and perfection.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT INTERVAL'S RESORT RECOGNITION PROGRAM ON PAGE 17 OF THE TRAVEL

MEMBER SPECIAL: CASH SAVINGS ON BIDWISE!

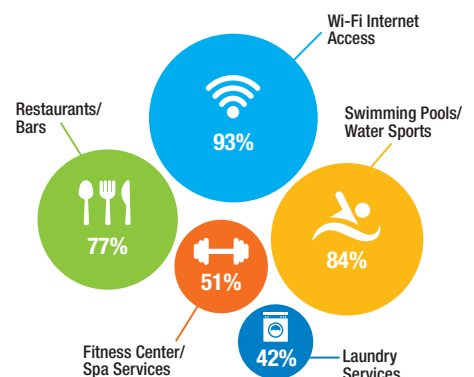
Have you checked out the Offers & Extras tab on IntervalWorld.com? It's chock-full of great deals on everything from clothing and luggage to travel guides and attraction tickets.

And now, you can **get \$10 to use toward any BidWiseAuctions purchase** just for being an Interval member. (Promotion is limited to one per customer per account.) With BidWise, you can save up to 80 percent on jewelry, collectibles, electronics, and more. All auctions start at \$1 and have no reserve restrictions. What's more, you can earn Bid Bucks, amounting to five percent of the total net purchase price for all auctions you win each calendar month. These Bid Bucks can then be used as a discount toward your next winning auction the following month.


Get \$10 off any BidWiseAuctions purchase today!
Go to IntervalWorld.com and click the Offers & Extras tab.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: FUN FACTS FROM


TOP 5 RESORT AMENITIES**





Interval International Premier Resorts provide an outstanding vacation experience, with state-of-the-art conveniences, and modern features and appointments. They are identified by the laurel , a symbol of distinction, high standards, and status.

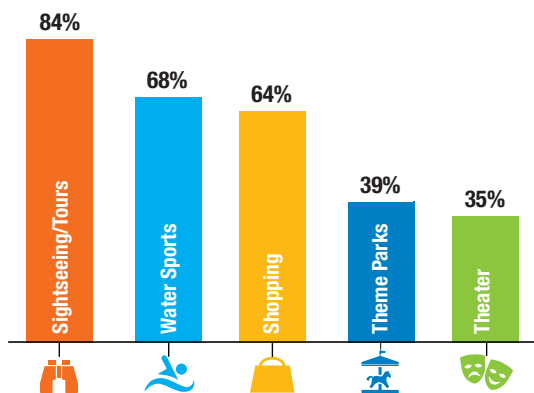


Interval International Select Resorts provide a great vacation experience, and are distinguished by a comfortable and homelike atmosphere. They are identified by the pineapple , a centuries-old symbol of hospitality, welcome, friendliness, and warmth.

PLANNER, THEN MAKE AN EXCHANGE OR PURCHASE A GETAWAY ON INTERVALWORLD.COM!

INTERVAL'S 2015 U.S. MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

TOP 5 VACATION ACTIVITIES**



**Multiple responses permitted

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Chicago Title Company has been a title provider to the real estate industry since 1847. With its timeshare division, Chicago Title Timeshare, changing timeshare ownership is a quick, simple process. Whether you are looking to add parties, remove current owners, or complete a transfer into a current owner's trust, Chicago Title Timeshare can help.

Visit chicagotitletimeshare.com/intervalworld, or call 844.259.0327, and let Chicago Title Timeshare help with your timeshare transfer needs.

BENEFITS ETC.



NOW BETTER THAN BEFORE!

CHOOSE2: BECAUSE 2 VACATIONS ARE BETTER THAN 1!

Now, you can turn your upcoming confirmed exchange into *two* seven-day vacations — without giving up another week or any additional points.* Reserve a second unit for the same week at the same resort or at one nearby, and vacation with family or friends. Travel the week after your confirmed exchange or any Choose2 week thereafter. Stay another week at the same resort, visit a different resort, or even go to a different destination.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CHOOSE2 AND VIEW ANTICIPATED AVAILABILITY, GO TO INTERVALWORLD.COM.



*The Choose2 program requires the standard exchange fee for each week reserved.

*Preferred*SM
HOTELS & RESORTS



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You can receive special pricing of **10 to 50 percent off published rates** at participating Preferred Hotels & Resorts properties. For more information, sign in to IntervalWorld.com, click on Offers & Extras, and visit our Vacations page today.

WIN A RESORT WEEK!

Every time you make an exchange or take a Getaway, you have a chance to win a Resort Accommodations Certificate, good for a one-week stay at an Interval resort. With your confirmation, you'll receive an evaluation form, which is also available at IntervalWorld.com. Complete a Vacation Evaluation form when you return, and you'll be entered automatically into a resort week drawing.

December 2015's winners are Francis and Dorothea Henninger of Highland Lakes, New Jersey; January 2016's winner is Angeline Carney of Palos Park, Illinois; and February 2016's winner is Pamela A. Carey of Holderness, New Hampshire.



THE CARD THAT POINTS TO REWARDS

Here's a card that's worthy of space in your wallet: The Interval International Visa Signature[®] card with WorldPoints[®] rewards lets you earn one point for every dollar you spend on purchases. Redeem your points for:

- Interval rewards, including Interval membership renewals
- Dining, Getaways, and travel rewards
- Cash, gift cards, and more

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Discounts on the best hotel rates powered by the Orbitz Partner Network — only on IntervalWorld.com!

UP TO 10% OFF HOTELS



Upgrading Really Pays Book just five nights at a \$300-a-night hotel in New York City and save up to \$150. That pays for the price to upgrade to Platinum – and then some!

Randy Farris/Corbis

VACATION YOUR WAY WITH **SHORTSTAY EXCHANGE**

With ShortStay Exchange, you don't have to take full-week vacations.

Flexibility That Conforms to You: Whether you want to enjoy a romantic interlude over the weekend or a six-night family gathering (or both!), ShortStay Exchange offers unparalleled flexibility.

Turn One Into Two: Pick the week you're going to trade, then select from the available destinations and receive an instant confirmation of one to six nights. It's that simple! The rest of your week will be deposited in our system, and you'll have until the expiration date to make your other ShortStay Exchange. Have points? You can make as many ShortStay Exchanges as your available points allow.

Visit IntervalWorld.com today and take advantage of this amazing benefit!

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Myrtle Beach, South Carolina READY FOR THIS JELLY(FISH)?

View thousands of translucent, glowing jellyfish at Planet Jellies, Ripley's Aquarium's largest addition since its opening in the '90s. The 5,000-square-foot color-shifting exhibit, which opened last summer, features 10 tanks and displays showcasing five types of jellyfish: Atlantic and Japanese sea nettle; moon; spotted lagoon; and upside-down. Though most of the exhibit is a spectator sport, there's also a play area for children and a touch tank where you can "pet" a moon jelly on its rounded top without risking a sting.

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

INTERNATIONAL ADDITIONS

New eating and entertainment options are in store for Williamsburg's Busch Gardens, including a market-style restaurant and craft-beer room opening this spring, and an open-air evening show debuting in the summer. Inspired by the travels of Marco Polo, the brand-new eatery offers Asian, Italian, and Mediterranean entrees and artisan flatbreads. Feeling thirsty? Sample one (or more) of the 30 local and regional brews at the new beer room inside the park's Das Festhaus hall. And when you're not busy indulging, be sure to check out the evening entertainment — a contemporary reinterpretation of the classic tale *The Three Musketeers* — in the Royal Palace Theatre.

GETAWAY TO

Williamsburg

Weekly rates starting at:

\$257

INTERVAL PLATINUM

\$207

INTERVAL GOLD

\$232

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west

Las Vegas, Nevada SIN(FULLY INDULGENT) CITY

Las Vegas is a city that doesn't hold back; it's the perfect destination for over-the-top gaming, fashion, and entertainment. It's also known for impressive buffets, and none stands out quite like The Buffet at Wynn Las Vegas — for good reason. And now, that indulgent smorgasbord is even better, with more than 120 new dishes, all skillfully presented. With offerings such as Guinness-braised short ribs, made-to-order crepes, Australian lamb T-bone chops, and even spaghetti and meatballs made from an old Sinatra family recipe, this is not your mother's buffet.

CENTRAL OREGON SUBTERRANEAN EXPLORATION

Central Oregon's picturesque streams and forests may be prime locations for outdoor activities, but there's plenty to discover beneath its surface, too. Underground lava tubes run through Bend and other areas of central Oregon, part of massive cave systems that, once upon a time, were sources of flowing molten lava. To access areas not open to the general public, book an excursion through Wanderlust Tours. You'll don helmets and headlamps, and descend to a network of tunnels with a guide who sheds light on the caves' history and what lives and grows inside.

VAIL, COLORADO SKIS DOWN, BOWS UP

For nearly 30 years, the world's top orchestras have been converging in the mountains of Colorado for a summer concert series perfect for any classical music fan. This year's Bravo! Vail festival — which includes performances by the New York Philharmonic, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields — kicks off on June 23 and runs through August 4. Not only are concertgoers treated to a spectacle of sublime talent, it's done against the backdrop of the Rocky Mountains.



GETAWAY TO

Vail

Weekly rates starting at:

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INTERVAL GOLD

\$302

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STAR WARS UP CLOSE

The new Star Wars Launch Bay at Disney's Hollywood Studios, which opened in late 2015, celebrates the iconic movie franchise's past, present, and future. This walk-through attraction is home to a large collection of memorabilia, including Luke Skywalker's lightsaber, stormtrooper costumes, and a model of the Millennium Falcon. Watch a short film celebrating this epic saga, complete with behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with producers and directors, or meet and greet with Darth Vader and Chewbacca. Visitors can also enjoy *Symphony in the Stars: A Galactic Spectacular*, a nightly *Star Wars*-themed fireworks show featuring the music of John Williams.

PANDORA'S PLAYGROUND

It's hard to believe that it has been more than five years since audiences were whisked away to the fantastical world of Pandora in James Cameron's 2009 film *Avatar*. And now, fans will soon be able to experience that mystical world firsthand at Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom. Set to open next year, no detail will be overlooked, from the alien planet's floating mountains to the bioluminescent forest (in which visitors' footprints will glow as they walk through). You will even be able to hop aboard flying banshees to take in an aerial view of the lush land below.



GETAWAY TO

Orlando

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INTERVAL PLATINUM
\$207

INTERVAL GOLD
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ON GETAWAYS

David Roark/Disney; Dylan Cole/Disney



O-Town EATS

With its vast selection of gourmet, locally sourced products, Winter Garden's **Plant Street Market** — which opened just last year — is a foodie mecca.

THE SETTING: The lengthy brick building that houses the dozen or so eateries of Plant Street Market sits on a semisecluded street in the heart of Winter Garden. Outside, you'll find patio seating under a canopy of oak trees, perfect for digging in to the treats you pick up. Inside, old meets new, with an industrial framework (think exposed metal ceiling and gray walls) softened with polished floors and pendant-style light fixtures throughout.

THE MENU: Stop by The Pop Parlour for an all-natural ice pop unlike any you've had before; each is handmade with organic local fruits and herbs. They even have an alcohol-infused selection for adults. Crooked Can Brewing Co. offers a variety of limited-edition and specialty beers on tap. Those with a sweet tooth will love the artisanal confections (Macarons and gelato, anyone?) at David Ramirez Chocolates. And The Sacred Olive is the place to go for olive oil blends, spices, vinegars, and gift boxes.

THE PARTICULARS: Plant Street Market is open seven days a week; hours vary by venue. For more information, call 786.671.1748 or visit plantstmarket.com.



MAUI
PADDLE SCHOOL

Take to the seas just like the ancient Polynesians — who first settled the Hawaiian Islands more than 1,000 years ago — on a six-person outrigger canoe. Maui Paddle Sports offers excursions in these traditional-style vessels, which begin with 30 minutes of instruction, followed by 90 minutes on the water. You'll be led by two experienced guides, who share their knowledge of Maui's local marine life and the navigation techniques employed by the Polynesians.

Big Island
100 YEARS OF VOLCANOES

It has been a full century since the site of two active volcanoes — Mauna Loa and Kilauea — was officially named Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and its centennial is being marked with a yearlong celebration. On top of a national parks quilt show and the annual BioBlitz (a two-day event that invites visitors to find and inventory as many living plants and animals in the park as they can), there are monthly Tuesday night After Dark in the Park educational programs with like-themed daytime hikes each following Saturday. Summer themes include local salt production sites and a look into park restoration efforts.

OAHU
SHOP TILL YOU DROP

Waikiki's International Market Place is set to open anew this August, fresh off a \$350 million redevelopment. Located on a 6-acre site, the three-story open-air shopping center will include more than 70 retail outlets, including the state's first Saks Fifth Avenue. Also onboard are several top-level restaurants, including Roy Yamaguchi's Eating House 1849, Michael Mina's The Street and StripSteak, and Yauatcha, a Michelin-starred dim sum teahouse. Designed to inspire a Hawaiian sense of place, the retail hub includes a Grand Lanai area for alfresco dining, water features, native landscaping, and an iconic 100-year-old banyan tree that was purposely preserved in the center's design.

GETAWAY TO

Oahu

Weekly rates starting at:
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\$639

INTERVAL GOLD
\$664

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Don Stocum/Photo Resource Hawaii; Judy Waytuk/Alamy Stock Photo; Judy Waytuk/Alamy Stock Photo

mexico

San José del Cabo SOUTH-OF-THE-BORDER STYLE

In the ten years since it first opened in San Francisco, menswear boutique Self Edge has expanded to cities across the U.S. Its first international outpost brings it south of the border to an off-the-beaten-path location on an organic farm in San José del Cabo, Mexico. While shoppers will still find the typical array of Japanese and American labels, high-quality denim, and leather accessories the shop has become known for, expect to find additional Mexican brands, as well as accessories inspired by the region's beaches and sunny weather. And it's not the only reason to visit: Flora Farm is home to the celebrated Flora's Field Kitchen restaurant, known for its farm-to-table fare.

PUERTO PEÑASCO

ROCK (AND ROLL) BY THE SURF

Don't let the name fool you. Puerto Peñasco's annual Circus Mexicus has nothing to do with the clown- and animal-laden big tops of your childhood. Rather, this is a four-day summer beachside concert series — running from June 9 – 12 — featuring a wide range of rock 'n' roll performers. Held every year since 2000, when Tempe, Arizona, rock band Roger Clyne & The Peacemakers pinpointed Puerto Peñasco as the perfect place for a concert, Circus Mexicus is known as the area's biggest beachfront weekend festival. Be sure to pack lots of sunscreen; Saturday's festivities begin bright and early at 8 a.m. and don't stop until the wee hours of the night.

RIVIERA NAYARIT TURTLE TIME

In the summer and fall months, the beaches of Mexico's Riviera Nayarit serve as nesting sites for green, hawksbill, leatherback, and Olive Ridley sea turtles. During this time, visitors can stop by Grupo Ecológico de la Costa Verde, a turtle nursery that helps keep the eggs safe until they hatch. When hatchlings are available, you can watch as they are released at sundown.



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Riviera Nayarit

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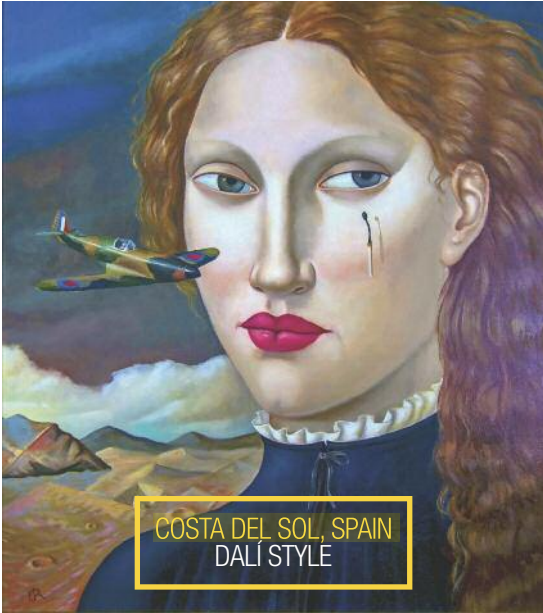
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COSTA DEL SOL, SPAIN
DALÍ STYLE

Time's almost up to visit the Carlos Revilla exhibit at the Costa del Sol's Marbella Ralli Museum, home to one of Europe's preeminent collections of Latin American art. Currently on display through September 15, Revilla's striking mid-20th-century art, which spans from surrealism to magical realism, is full of vibrant hues, symbolism, and captivating subjects. The son of a diplomat, the Peruvian artist is known for works that reflect his ties to the Spanish surrealists, including a close friendship with Salvador Dalí.

rallimuseums.org

St. Lucia SUMMERTIME, ISLAND STYLE

You never have to look hard to find a good time in the Caribbean. But if you want to experience the ultimate in island parties, there's nothing quite like Carnival. On St. Lucia, the two-month-long series of events spans from May to July. Carnivalgoers can expect lots of bright colors, music, food, and celebration, and the festivities run the gamut from pageants to parades to concerts and beyond.

GETAWAY TO

Costa del Sol

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A Thing of Wonder

Setting sail in 2017, MSC's first Vista-class cruise ship is "designed to amaze."



WHO'S IT FOR?

Cruisers seeking Continental flavor without sacrificing big-ship amenities have met their perfect match. Billed as "the largest and most innovative cruise ship ever built by a global European-based cruise line," the 4,500-passenger *MSC Meraviglia* is especially well suited for families, thanks to its multicabin staterooms sleeping up to six or 10.

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

High-quality, made-from-scratch Italian cuisine is among MSC's signature traits. Each of its ships boasts a seven-course menu in its main dining room with a different regional Italian specialty every night. But what has our mouths watering the most is a rendering of the onboard Eataly, a floating version of celebrity chef Mario Batali's famed multilevel New York City hotspot.

HOW TO SPEND THE DAYS AT SEA?

With more than 355,000 square feet of public space, passengers won't have to look hard for entertainment while at sea. Highlights include an indoor promenade with bars, eateries, and shops, and an outdoor water park that's connected to a multilevel indoor amusement park. Perhaps the most impressive feature on the entire ship, however, is the ceiling of the indoor promenade. Look up while strolling the space and you'll see a 5,167-square-foot LED screen that serves

as an indoor "digital sky," displaying changing imagery at all hours.

HOW TO SPEND THE DAYS IN PORT?

Browse modern art in a 17th-century mansion at Marseille's Musée Cantini. Tour one of Europe's largest aquariums, home to some 400 species of marine animals, in Genoa. Peruse artifacts from the ancient civilizations of Pompeii and Herculaneum at Naples' National Archaeological Museum. Visit Messina's Teatro Greco (pictured above left), an ancient amphitheater with sweeping Mediterranean views. And in Valletta, view two of Caravaggio's finest paintings at St. John's Co-Cathedral. ■

Mediterranean Cruise Aboard *MSC Meraviglia*

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Embarks June 24, 2017

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Price is per person, double occupancy, and is subject to availability and to change without notice. Taxes, fees, and port expenses of \$43 per person are additional. Airfare, cruise line surcharges, and insurance are additional.



SWEET SUITE PERKS

Building on its reputation for refined comfort at sea, Holland America Line is treating its guests to brand-new amenities. All levels of the cruise line's suites — Pinnacle, Neptune, Vista, and Signature — are now equipped with coffee and espresso machines and a Bose entertainment docking station. In addition, bathrooms are stocked with Elemis products, and guests can enjoy complimentary mimosas with their in-room breakfast.



LITTLE MOUSE, BIG CITY

Disney Cruise Line is making its triumphant return to The City That Never Sleeps later this year. Starting in October, the family-friendly *Disney Magic* will depart on a limited series of sailings from lower Manhattan for the first time since 2012, heading north to Canada and south to the Caribbean. For the ultimate Disney experience, opt for one of four Bahamas sailings with an all-day stop in Port Canaveral (Orlando) — transportation to and from Disney World and a Park Hopper ticket are included. To see the sights of the Eastern Caribbean, pick the November 5 voyage to St. Maarten; Tortola, British Virgin Islands; and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Or, for a unique fall-foliage experience, embark on an October 2 Canadian Coastline cruise, which calls in Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Saint John, New Brunswick.



SHIPBOARD SPECTACLE

Celebrity Cruises is stepping up its entertainment game in a big way, introducing 18 exclusive shows — running the gamut from drama to dance to comedy and beyond — over the course of 18 months (through this fall). What can you expect? Aboard the *Constellation*, guests can witness an enchanting reimagining of the classic fairy tale in *Elyria*; and on the *Summit*, incredible illusions unfold in *iMagic*, using holograms, lasers, and even iPads to weave a dazzling story. In addition, the cruise line is launching 10 entertainment experiences, such as vintage circus theme parties, which will take place in various venues throughout the ships.



Chloe Rice/Disney; 2013 Illuminate Ent Inc./Celebrity Cruises; Royal Caribbean International; Princess Cruise Lines, Ltd.



SLEW OF SLIDES

Amusement enthusiasts will have even more ways to get an adrenaline rush on a Royal Caribbean cruise this year, thanks to the addition of several waterslides aboard the *Liberty of the Seas* and *Harmony of the Seas*. *Harmony*, set to relaunch in May, will return with four thrilling new slides: a trio of three-deckers that collectively make up The Perfect Storm, and the Ultimate Abyss, which drops 10 decks from the top of the ship's AquaTheater all the way down to the Boardwalk. The recently renovated *Liberty* boasts two new racer slides and the boomerang-style Tidal Wave, which sends guests on rafts down a steep drop and then shoots them up an almost-vertical wall for a momentary sensation of weightlessness.



Big Names at Sea

AUSSIE EATS

Acclaimed Australian chef, restaurateur, television personality, and author Curtis Stone has teamed up with Princess Cruises to introduce a trio of new dining experiences available on its global fleet. The main dining rooms of each Princess ship now feature Crafted by Curtis menu items, a sampling of dishes created by Stone. Chef's Table by Curtis Stone includes a Champagne- and hors d'oeuvres-infused galley tour, followed by a multicourse meal from the onboard executive chef. And select ships — the *Emerald Princess*, *Ruby Princess*, *Coral Princess*, and *Sun Princess* — are now home to Share by Curtis Stone, an exclusive family-style restaurant.



HIGH-SEAS FASHION

Out to sea and nothing to wear? Save room in your suitcase for some new designer duds on your next sailing with Norwegian Cruise Line. Guests riding aboard the recently launched *Norwegian Escape* can now browse the racks of two well-known name-brand boutiques: Lacoste and Carolina Herrera. The former carries items such as its signature polos, while the latter's offerings include luxury handbags and footwear. This marks the first time either brand has set up shop at sea, joining Bulgari, Hublot, Tissot, and Uno de 50 aboard NCL.



Eastern Caribbean Aboard The *Norwegian Escape*

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Price is per person, double occupancy, and is subject to availability and to change without notice. Taxes, fees, and port expenses of \$127 are additional. Airfare, cruise line surcharges, and insurance are additional.



SILVERADO COOKING SCHOOL

Sense of Place

COOKING CLASSES ACROSS THE U.S.

BY BETSY SHELDON

Picture yourself in New Orleans' French Quarter, breathing in the aromas of a simmering crawfish étouffée. Studying local produce at a farmers market in California wine country. Listening to the crackle of frying chicken in Savannah, Georgia. Wherever you travel, cooking classes are the perfect way to dive headfirst into an area's local culture. Here are some of our top picks for culinary instruction across the U.S., all within driving distance of resorts in Interval's network.



NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF COOKING NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Tucked into a renovated molasses warehouse in the heart of the French Quarter, the New Orleans School of Cooking specializes in the classic recipes of the Big Easy. With plenty of commentary on local food folklore, students chop, stir, and season favorites from jambalaya to pralines as they prepare an authentic menu, which they enjoy at the end of a three-hour session. Take home recipes — and even ingredients: The Louisiana General Store in the same building carries locally sourced products representing the full range of Cajun and Creole cuisines. To sign up for a hands-on cooking class (\$139), visit neworleansschoolofcooking.com or call 800.237.4841.

MIDWEST LIVING CULINARY & CRAFT SCHOOL BRANSON, MISSOURI

All recipes demonstrated at the Midwest Living Culinary & Craft School, an attraction at the Silver Dollar City amusement park, have been pulled from the test kitchens of *Midwest Living* magazine. The focus is on Midwestern cuisine, of course, but skills learned range from perfecting the art of a flaky pie crust to preparing an elegant tea party. The classroom, in a turn-of-the-century-style farmhouse, features tiered theater seating and large TV screens so participants can catch every detail of the demonstration. While there is no hands-on cooking in the 60-minute classes, attendees get samples, take-home recipes, and a *Midwest Living* magazine. For a schedule of classes (\$15 per class, seating available on a first-come, first-served basis), visit silverdollarcity.com or call 800.475.9370.

TO MARKET, TO MARKET

Couple your cooking class with a food-focused shopping spree.

New Orleans, Louisiana

The French Market is *the* destination for Crescent City staples. You'll find everything from Cajun spice blends to freshly made pralines; many vendors will package your purchases for travel. frenchmarket.org; 504.522.2621

Branson, Missouri

The Amish Country Store has a large selection of items sure to delight home cooks, including bulk spices, canning supplies, and fruit jams. amishcountrystoreonline.com; 866.891.5514

Oakville (Napa Valley), California

Oakville Grocery, open since 1881, is California's oldest continually operating grocery store. Known for its impressive sandwich selections, it's the perfect place to stock up on picnic supplies and peruse local gourmet goods. oakvillegrocery.com; 707.944.8802

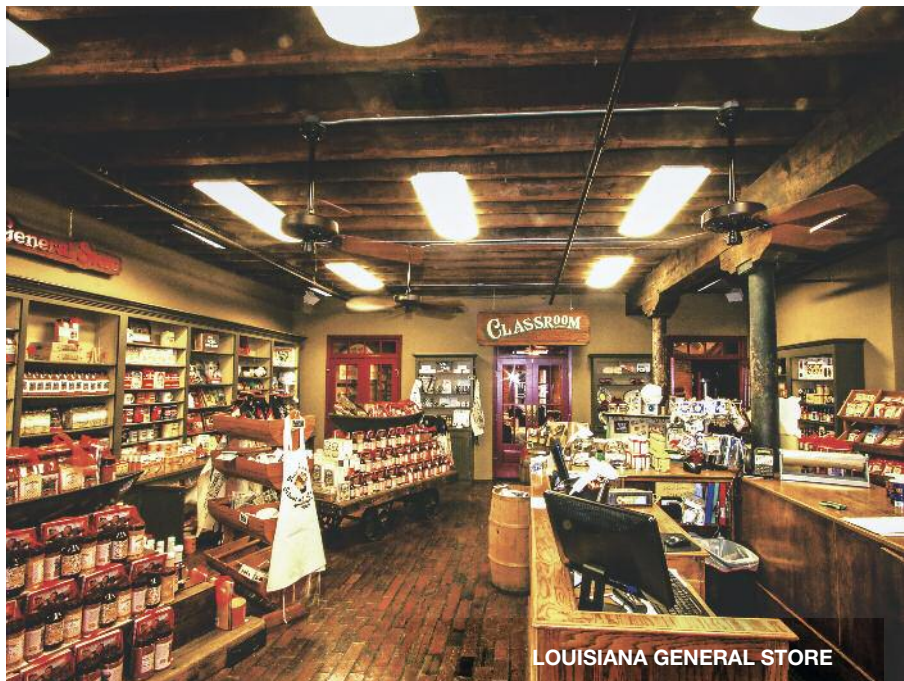
Sedona, Arizona

ChocolaTree Organic Oasis has an all-vegan and gluten-free eatery, a garden sanctuary, handcrafted raw chocolates, and a marketplace. chocolatree.com; 928.282.2997

Savannah, Georgia

Savannah Bee Company offers honey and mead (honey wine) tastings, along with a wide range of artisanal honeys, honeycombs, and flavored whipped varieties. savannahbee.com; 912.233.7873

NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF COOKING



LOUISIANA GENERAL STORE



CHEF JOE RANDALL

SILVERADO COOKING SCHOOL NAPA, CALIFORNIA

The Napa Farmers' Market Lunch Class at the Silverado Cooking School begins at the farmers market, where golden peppers, ruby beets, green artichokes, and other local bounty create a kaleidoscope of color. After selecting the freshest ingredients, the class heads to the kitchen for a culinary journey under the guidance of owner/chef Malcolm de Sieyes. Participants prepare a three-course lunch, which always features in-season produce — perhaps a corn-basil soup or strawberry shortcake — and take-home recipes for the dishes created. An impressive wine list, showcasing the region's best, is available for purchase. For more about the four-hour class (\$120) and others, visit silveradocookingschool.com or call 707.927.3591.

AUTHENTIC AYURVEDA OF SEDONA SEDONA, ARIZONA

In the land of psychic vortexes, crystal energy, and spiritual wellness, learning to cook according to the ancient Indian ayurvedic tradition seems only fitting. In her classes at Authentic Ayurveda of Sedona, practitioner Avani Sukhadia teaches participants the healing power of Indian spices, how to eat and prepare food for each mind-body

type, or *dosha*, what to consume on a cleansing diet, and other kitchen curatives and recipes for leading a healthy life. And along the way, students gather some tantalizing recipes: warming vegetable curries, cooling yogurt salads, and, of course, authentic chai tea. Classes for four or more students are \$108 per person for a three-and-a-half-hour session. For more information, visit ayurvedasedona.com or call 928.284.1114.

CHEF JOE RANDALL'S COOKING SCHOOL SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Some have described Chef Joe Randall's Cooking School classes as a religious experience. And the award-winning culinarian does confess to preaching the gospel of authentic Southern cooking. Indeed, he's been known to convert participants into true believers, with a devotion to rib-sticking recipes that showcase classic ingredients, from okra to grits. A hefty schedule of evening classes offers both demonstration and hands-on lessons that always conclude with a memorable meal, featuring favorites such as Southern fried chicken, gumbo, and crispy crabcakes. But, chef Joe warns, "We serve hearty portions — remember to eat lightly on the day of your class." Three-hour classes average \$75. Sign up online at chefjoerandall.com or call 912.303.0409. ■

chefjoerandall.com; Bon Appetit/Alamy Stock Photo

Chef Joe Randall's Savannah Crabcakes

Chef Joe created this recipe for the Baltimore Fishmarket in 1988, which sold 500 pounds of the delicacy a week.

1/4 cup butter (1/2 stick)
1 small onion, minced
4 egg yolks
2 teaspoons Coleman's dry mustard
8 slices white bread crusts, trimmed, flattened, and finely diced
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 teaspoons Old Bay seasoning
1/2 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons freshly chopped parsley
3 dashes Tabasco sauce

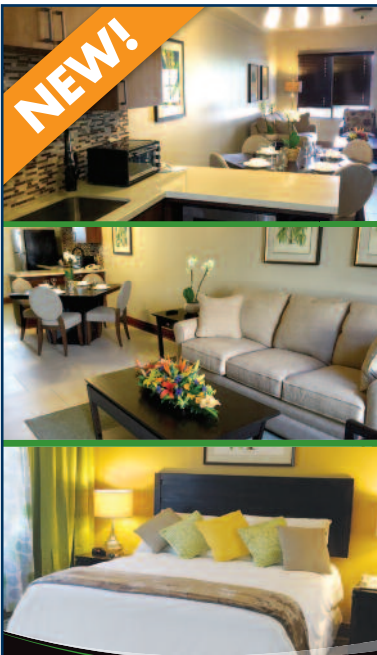
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon white pepper
3 pounds jumbo lump crabmeat, picked clean

Breeding
2 eggs, beaten
1 cup milk
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup fresh breadcrumbs
Peanut oil for deep frying

Heat butter in a small saute pan and cook onion until transparent. Set aside. In a large bowl, combine onion, egg yolks, and mustard. Stir in bread, cayenne pepper, Old Bay seasoning, mayonnaise, parsley, Tabasco sauce, Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, salt, and pepper. Gently fold in the crabmeat, being careful not to break up the lumps. Form into 3-ounce crabcakes.

Preheat deep fryer to 350 degrees.

In a small bowl, combine beaten eggs and milk. Dip crabcakes in flour and then, using a slotted spoon, dip in the egg wash. Sprinkle with fresh breadcrumbs, coating well. Deep-fry five minutes or until golden brown. Serve with lemon wedges and tartar sauce. Makes eight servings.



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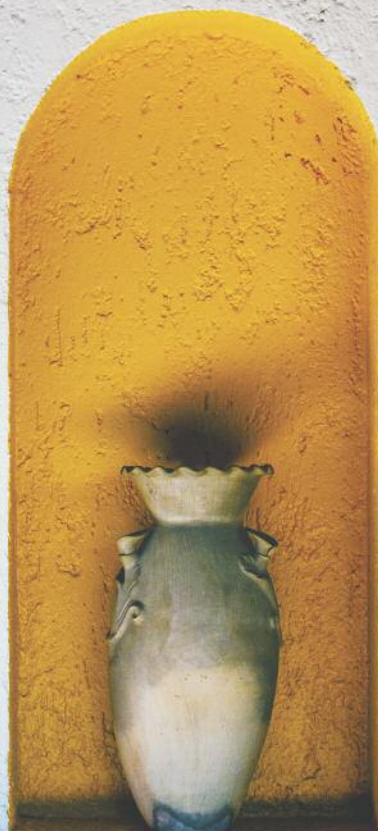
Feats of Clay

Mexico's pottery traditions present ample souvenir choices.

BY BETSY SHELDON

Clay creations have been a part of Mexico's craft tradition for thousands of years. The original populations took advantage of regions blessed with soils ideal for shaping and firing into functional vessels for cooking, carrying, and storing. Then, with the arrival of the Spanish, new processes were introduced and incorporated organically into the local clay-working culture. The result? A spectrum of styles and a pottery-lover's dream.

Although some ceramic forms come from a specific region or even village, those covered at right are typically found in gift, handcraft, and souvenir stores throughout Mexico. ■





BARRO NEGRO

Origin: San Bartolo Coyotepec, Oaxaca

Defining features: Shiny, silvery-black glazed exteriors with pierced decorations

In the 1950s, Oaxacan potter Doña Rosa Real de Nieto pioneered a new ceramics style, polishing dull clay with quartz until it shone like glass. Once fired, the pieces turned a glossy black with a startling metallic sheen. Today, *barro negro* is the community's trademark handicraft.



TALAVERA

Origin: Puebla, Puebla

Defining features: Painted surfaces depicting anything from fruit and flowers to geometric motifs heavily influenced by Spanish-Moorish traditions

In the 16th century, Spanish potters discovered that the soils of Mexico's Puebla region were ideal for a ceramics style popular in their native country, and the area became the hub of a vibrant industry. Only wares from certified workshops can be legally identified as Talavera.



MATA ORTIZ

Origin: Mata Ortiz, Chihuahua

Defining features: Precise and detailed patterns with curvilinear sweeps of movement, and abstract depictions of desert animals and flora

Mata Ortiz pottery is a modernistic riff on a pre-Hispanic form. A poor farmer named Juan Quezada Celado is credited with reinventing the style in the 1960s, based on the decorative images on earthenware ruins found in an archeological site near the town of Mata Ortiz.



TONALÁ BRUÑIDO

Origin: Tonalá, Jalisco

Defining features: Bright colors with a distinct satiny shine, often featuring fantastical animals and lavish blooms

Colorful creations, featuring flora, fauna, and the *bruñido* (burnished) style are hallmarks of the pottery produced in Tonalá since colonial times. Porcelain-fine clay results in high-quality pieces, known for their surrealistic designs that speak of local folklore.



GREEN GLAZED POTTERY

Origin: Santa María Atzompa, Oaxaca

Defining features: Glossy jade-green hue, often decorated with reliefs of flowers, leaves, and other designs

The town of Santa María Atzompa is known for its green pottery, with the color coming from a certain type of glaze that's been used for generations. The glaze and technique were introduced by the Spanish colonists to a civilization that had been making pottery in a similar way for centuries.

SHOPPING FOR POTTERY

Cancún

Plaza Bonita Cancún, located downtown on Avenida Xel-há, resembles a Mexican village, lined with restaurants and shops selling handicrafts. Next to it is Mercado 28, a market popular with locals. plazabonita.mx; +52 99 8884 7105

Riviera Maya

La Quinta Avenida (5th Avenue) is a 3-mile-long pedestrian shopping street in bustling Playa del Carmen, strung with restaurants, cafes, and shops offering ceramics from all regions of Mexico. Be sure to visit *Siete Detalles*, just off of 5th Avenue. sietedetalles.com; +52 98 4879 4510

Puerto Vallarta

Alfarería Tlaquepaque in downtown Puerto Vallarta specializes in Mexican folk art from all over the country, including pottery and clay creations. +52 32 2223 2121

Cabo San Lucas

Mexican Pottery is packed with Talavera-type ceramics, offering a lead-free warranty and an abundance of patterns. mexicanpottery-art.com; +52 62 4105 0046

San José del Cabo

Necri Boutique, in the heart of the town's Art District, showcases authentic Talavera and barro negro pottery, as well as other ceramics and handicrafts. necri.com.mx; +52 62 4130 7500

GETTING YOUR POTTERY HOME IN ONE PIECE

Most reputable retailers are set up to pack and ship your items home in special padding and containers. That said, here are a few tips on protecting your purchase.

1. Confirm that the package will be shipped via a major carrier such as FedEx or UPS.
2. Have the merchant include your contact information on the air bill.
3. Take down the merchant's contact information, as well as the tracking number.
4. Check to see if the carrier's insurance will cover the value of your purchase. If not, consider buying extra.





© Getty Images/Flickr/RF

5 PERFECT DAYS ON THE **Riviera Maya**

BY JANICE AND GEORGE MUCALOV

Whether you yearn to discover ancient cultures, thirst for adventure, or seek serenity, one of these five day-trips is sure to suit your style. (That is, if you can tear yourself away from your fabulous resort.)

The sea is cerulean. The sand is powdery white. The coral reefs teem with colorful fish. And the resorts, often all-inclusive, are so amazing that you may never want to leave. Think pampering spas, a variety of water sports and activities, gourmet dining choices galore — all in lush, tropical, perfectly landscaped settings.

This is the Riviera Maya. The 100-mile strip of fabled Caribbean coastline on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula stretches south of Cancún, down from Puerto Morelos, past Tulum, and to the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve. You could easily spend your entire visit at your resort, departing refreshed and fully satisfied. But do ditch your beach chair. At least for a day or two. Mayan ruins, breathtaking limestone sinkholes, jungle adventure parks, and much, much more present once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Read on for five ways to have a perfect day on the Riviera Maya, tailored to your tastes, whatever they may be. Mixing and matching is allowed.

1

A PERFECT DAY FOR: CULTURE ENTHUSIASTS

Morning

Kick off your day at Cobá, the ancient Mayan city that flourished between 400 and 1100 A.D. Buried deep in the jungle, most of it hasn't been uncovered, lending an air of mystery. Scale the steep stone steps to the top of Nohuch Mul, the Yucatán's tallest pyramid at more than 130 feet high, and puzzle over the limestone hoops at two ball courts. Ponder the risks of the game — it's believed the loser (or maybe the winner) was sacrificed at the end. You can explore on your own, but the tree-shaded site is big, so you'll want to rent a bicycle or get a pedicab to take you around. Or, to maximize your understanding and appreciation of the Maya's history and culture, go with a guided tour.

Afternoon

Cool off with a dip in a *cenote*. The Riviera Maya is riddled with hundreds of these natural limestone sinkholes, which the Maya believed were sacred gateways to the underworld. Take your pick of the three subterranean grottoes just minutes from Cobá: Choo-Ha, Tamcach-Ha, and Multum-Ha. These smaller, off-the-beaten-path cenotes offer the unforgettable experience of descending into underground depths beneath the jungle without the crowds the more-touristed pools attract. Choo-Ha's shallow, fish-populated waters and stalactites and stalagmites are ideal for families with children; Tamcach-Ha's narrow spiral-staircase entrance and dual diving platforms will thrill the adventurous; and Multum-Ha's clear waters are perfect for snorkeling. Whether you visit one, two, or three, you'll undoubtedly agree with the Maya — they look absolutely otherworldly.

Dinner

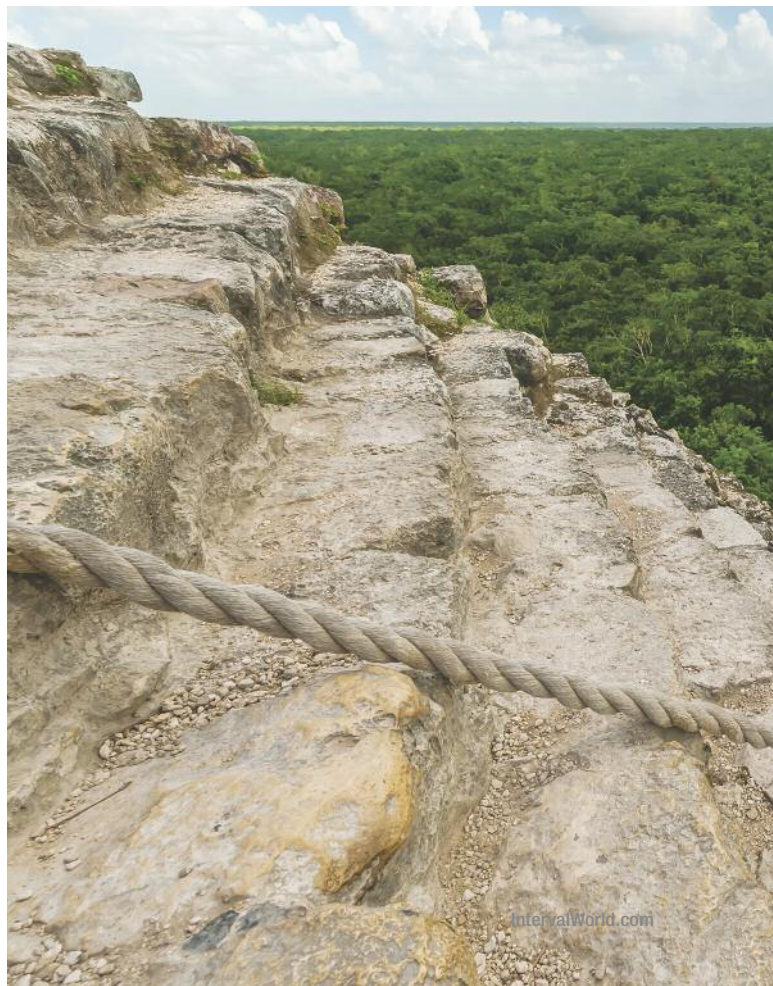
Head into Playa del Carmen ("Playa" for short), the Riviera Maya's vibrant city hub, and stroll along Fifth Avenue. Lined with shops, restaurants, and bars, the pedestrian promenade buzzes at night with roving musicians, diners, and clubgoers. For a taste of Mayan cuisine, dine at Yaxche. Its well-rounded menu of difficult-to-pronounce dishes leans heavily on sour orange juice, *xcatic* chili peppers, and reddish *achiote*. Try the crunchy duck served with cucumber salad and tortillas.

Evening

End the night with a mezcal tasting at Don Mezcal, a cool little bar off Fifth Avenue. Like tequila, mezcal is made from the agave plant, but it's smokier and more intense. The ancient Mayans drank mezcal and its predecessor *pulque* as a way to celebrate the gods. (It's said that if you drink a lot, you could hallucinate.) Ask the bartender to pour sampler shots of some of the numerous varieties stocked — you might get a couple on the house.



Cosmopolitan Playa del Carmen is the Riviera Maya's hub for shopping, dining, and nightlife.





Intrepid visitors can scale Cobá's Nohuch Mul, the Yucatán's tallest pyramid, for rewarding vistas of the dense jungle canopy.

Fideicomiso de Promoción Turística de Riviera Maya e Isla Cozumel; Blaine Harrington/Robert Harding

2

A PERFECT DAY FOR: ADVENTURE JUNKIES

Morning

Heart-pounding fun? You got it! Spend the day at Xplor, arguably the Riviera Maya's most adventurous theme park. The biggest thrills are its two circuits of 14 zip lines; start here for an immediate adrenaline rush. You'll fly high over the jungle: One zip line is almost 150 feet above the ground. Channel your inner Indiana Jones as you splash down into a cenote on one zip line and wobble across swinging wooden bridges to reach others.

Afternoon

Don't linger too long over the lunch buffet (included in admission). An exciting ride in an amphibious ATV awaits. Navigate bumpy jungle trails through giant mud puddles, over suspended bridges, and down into caves. End your Xplor day rafting through underground caves and swimming in stalactite-festooned cenotes.

Dinner

Time for adventure of a different kind now: *Joyà*, a magical dinner show by the world-renowned performing group Cirque du Soleil. Prepare to be wowed as you approach the specially designed theater via a wooden walkway around a lagoon, continuing into an intimate seating area that feels almost like a giant blue cenote. The cuisine served during its three-course dining experience is infused with no less creativity than the performance itself, and starts one hour before the show. Sip Moët & Chandon; bite into your dragon-breath appetizer and breathe out smoke; and delight in a quartet of chocolate, tropical-fruit, and flower desserts housed in a faux book. Each element is delicious, and artfully presented with the utmost attention to detail.

Evening

Settle back in your seat — *Joyà* has begun. A contortionist flutters down from above like a jellyfish. Trapeze artists swing on vines. A juggler levitates fiery balls. Watch thrilling stunts and be totally enchanted as you follow the adventures of *Joyà*, a teenage girl who takes a trip through history.

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plan payable to the resort.

3

A PERFECT DAY FOR: NATURE LOVERS

Morning

The 1.3-million-acre UNESCO World Heritage site of Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve will be your playground for the day. Sian Ka'an is home to an incredible diversity of ecosystems: wetlands, native tropical forest, mangrove lagoons, and the second-largest barrier reef in the world. As a biosphere reserve, it's protected through sustainable tourism. (Visitors may only access certain areas.) You can take a public *colectivo* minibus to get there, but your money supports Maya guides and park keepers if you go with Community Tours Sian Ka'an. Enjoy a serenade of birdsong as you hike past tangled vines around the steep-walled pyramids of Muyil, one of the oldest Mayan sites. Marvel at enormous ceiba trees, held sacred by the Maya as the tree of life, connecting earth with the underworld and sky.

Afternoon

From Muyil, a forest boardwalk leads to a dock where small boats ferry visitors across two lagoons and through a 1,000-year-old Mayan canal. Keep your eyes peeled for agile dolphins. At the entrance to a gently flowing river, dive into the clear water and float past mangroves using your life jacket as a seat. See pelicans, ibises, and — if you're lucky — maybe even small (harmless) freshwater crocodiles. Take a longer boat tour, and you could catch a glimpse of reclusive manatees, too. Whatever creatures you see, you'll be in awe of the untouched wilderness that surrounds you.

Dinner

Does the idea of lightly seared ahi tuna with soy-and-butter sauce tickle your taste buds? In Playa, Oh Lala! is a lovely intimate spot for dinner. Not too fancy. Just locally sourced, international food done really well. Oh Lala! gets top ratings on TripAdvisor (and with good reason) and only has nine tables, so email Geral@ohlalabygeorge.com to reserve in advance.

Evening

Summer visitors to the Riviera Maya can witness — and even take part in conserving — a remarkable phenomenon of nature. Between May and September, female green and loggerhead turtles complete epic migrations (sometimes hundreds of miles) and come ashore at night to lay their eggs on the same beaches where they were born years earlier. Your resort may offer tours, or you can book with Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México at X'cacel Beach. Through this organization, you can also volunteer to help study, collect data on, and protect the nests and endangered creatures.



The underground caverns at Kantun-Chi ecopark are home to striking stalactites and stalagmites.





Once a major crossroads of trading routes, the Mayan city of Tulum maintains a sense of grandeur in its unique seaside setting.

Huber/SimeisStock Photo; Fideicomiso de Promoción Turística de Riviera Maya e Isla Cozumel

A PERFECT DAY FOR: FAMILIES WITH KIDS



Morning

This day is all about kid-friendly fun that's easy on the wallet. Make your way to Kantun-Chi, a small, welcoming ecopark about a half-hour drive south of Playa. It's less expensive than better-known Xcaret and Xplor parks. Sign up for the grotto activity (ages 6 and up). You'll don helmets, booties, and life jackets, then wade through underground river passageways with a guide. Lit by ceiling lamps, the stalactites and stalagmites are easier for kids to see than those in darker caves that require snorkeling. Small catfish and bats can be spotted, too. Wrap up your visit with a ride in a horse cart to an open cenote, where the kids can swim and kayak. Grown-ups can join in, or relax in a deck chair.

Afternoon

Akumal Bay is where you snorkel with enormous sea turtles in the wild. Most people go in the morning, so you'll avoid the crowds in the afternoon. Akumal means "place of the turtles" in Mayan, and here the gentle giants congregate in the shallow bay to chomp on sea grass growing on the sandy ocean floor. You don't have to swim far to spy them. Ask the Akumal Ecological Center about equipment rentals or a guide.

Dinner

Dinner is at nearby La Buena Vida. This beach bar and restaurant has a treehouse kids can climb, tables in the sand, a pool to swim in, hammocks, bean bags for lounging, and bar swings. On the menu? Shrimp fritters, fresh salads, fish tacos, ribs, and burgers (so picky eaters won't go hungry). Parents and grandparents may appreciate that the margaritas are just over \$2 at happy hour. (5:00 to 7:00 p.m.) Try the tamarind ones.

Evening

For a sweet treat before bed, hit Tepoznieves in Playa. Festooned from floor to ceiling with bright tropical art, this adorable ice cream parlor offers more than 40 different flavors, from strawberry cheesecake to mango with chile — something to please every palate. The only problem? Which one to choose.

A PERFECT DAY FOR: SERENITY SEEKERS



Morning

Greet your day in laid-back Tulum. Along the town's blindingly white 7-mile beach, eco-chic hotels run on solar power and organic restaurants thrive. Tulum's crowning jewel is its Mayan ruins, perched



A shaman chants and creates cleansing herb-scented vapor in a traditional Mayan *temazcal* (steam bath).

on a 40-foot cliff overlooking turquoise waters. This was the only Mayan city built by the sea, and has wooden stairs leading down to a beautiful beach where you can swim. Arrive when the site opens at 8:00 a.m., and (sunning iguanas aside) you could be the only living souls around. Explore and relax a while, then drop in at the glass-walled Sanará yoga studio for a 10:15 a.m. yoga class (10:30 a.m. on Sundays) surrounded by full-on sea views. Ahhh ... surfside sun salutations don't get any better.

Afternoon

Open to a *temazcal*? It's a traditional Maya sweat lodge purification. In Tulum, Maya Spa was the first to create the experience for Riviera Maya visitors almost 20 years ago. Sit in a small, circular stone hut as a shaman chants and shares Mayan wisdom while throwing herb-infused water on hot rocks, enveloping you in steam. It's an intense experience, and even skeptics say they feel physically, mentally, and spiritually cleansed after.

Dinner

Back in Playa, embark on a leisurely journey into culinary bliss at the acclaimed Cocina de Autor. Hailed by *Food & Wine* magazine as one of the 100 Best New Food and Drink Experiences, it's celebrated for its cutting-edge, modernist cuisine. Think melt-in-your-mouth tuna with avocado foam, grilled scallop on a slice of beet in hibiscus-raspberry sauce, and chocolate mushrooms. There's no menu, and the chefs choose your 14 tasting courses. Reserve in advance, and allow three hours to savor each and every heavenly mouthful.

AREA RESORTS



Playacar Palace (PKP)*

Located minutes from the heart of Playa del Carmen, Playacar Palace is an upscale oceanfront resort with direct beach access, an on-site spa, and an oceanview pool. Most units have balconies with stunning views of Cozumel and the Caribbean Sea.

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and CZP**



Cozumel Palace (CZP)*

A serene refuge on the island of Cozumel, this beachfront resort is within walking distance of downtown San Miguel. Guests can relax at one of four outdoor swimming pools and snorkel right from the beach. Nearby activities include swimming with dolphins and reef diving.



The Grand Bliss Riviera Maya (GBM)

Conveniently located between Puerto Morelos and Playa del Carmen, The Grand Bliss Riviera Maya offers a relaxing beach-vacation experience. Enjoy the serenity of a private pool and garden views from your balcony and receive personalized attention and pampering in an ambiance of casual elegance.



Grand Luxxe Residence Club Riviera Maya (LXR)

The perfect setting for a tropical escape, this beachfront resort features spacious, modern accommodations. On-site amenities include Jack Nicklaus golf, tennis courts, a Brio Health Spa and Fitness Center, 13 restaurants, a pool with concierge, and beach access.



Azul Sensatori Mexico, a Gourmet Inclusive Hotel (AZS)*

Situated along more than 1,000 feet of beachfront in Puerto Morelos, Azul Sensatori is an excellent choice for families, with its Azulitos Kids Club and Breeze Teens Club. Guests can spend their day lounging on a beach bed or indulging in spa treatments.

To view all of the Riviera Maya resorts in Interval's network, go to IntervalWorld.com.

*This is an all-inclusive resort, requiring the purchase of a meal plan payable to the resort.

Evening

Back at your resort, slip off your sandals and stroll barefoot in the sand by the light of the moon — the perfect way to reflect on your mellow day. ■

Janice and George Mucalov are award-winning travel writers who contribute to many U.S. and Canadian magazines and newspapers. Follow their adventures on their travel blog sandinmysuitcase.com and on Twitter @SandInSuitcase.

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NATURE'S SPECTACLE

MESQUITE HAS GAMBLING AND GOLF — AND IS AN IDEAL JUMPING-OFF POINT FOR DISCOVERING SOME OF THE WEST'S MOST STRIKING TERRAIN.

BY J.B. BISSELL

Unless you've driven south on Interstate 15 through Utah and Arizona en route to Las Vegas, you've probably never heard of Mesquite, Nevada. Actually, even if you *have* driven I-15 south to Sin City, you probably don't remember Mesquite. It's a small town just across the Nevada state line that exists — let's be honest — simply because it provides southbound travelers their first opportunity to double down on a blackjack table. (Las Vegas is another 80 miles or so from here.)

But while gaming opportunists may have given rise to the initial development, over the course of its recent history, Mesquite has added a host of other vacation attractions, including multiple championship-caliber golf courses, a wide range of restaurants, and plenty of live entertainment.

Geography, though, remains Mesquite's greatest strength — and not only because of its position on the lucky side of the Nevada border. The town is a day-trip away from some of the region's most scenically breathtaking natural areas, such as the Grand Canyon's North Rim (pictured here). Yes, it's a bit more than three hours away, but peering across this massive chasm — a site you must experience in person in order to truly comprehend the majesty — is worth every minute of the drive.

Turn the page for a photographic tour of just some of the incredible natural wonders less than three hours from Mesquite.



ZION NATIONAL PARK

Location: Southwest Utah; 1:30 from Mesquite

What you'll see:

The postcard version of the American Southwest. Zion is 229 square miles of storybook-caliber scenery that features a collection of claustrophobic canyons complete with red and tan sandstone cliffs that rise up to 2,000 feet. Snaking along the picturesque ravines, the Virgin River system helps sustain a hearty juniper and pine population.

Take it easy:

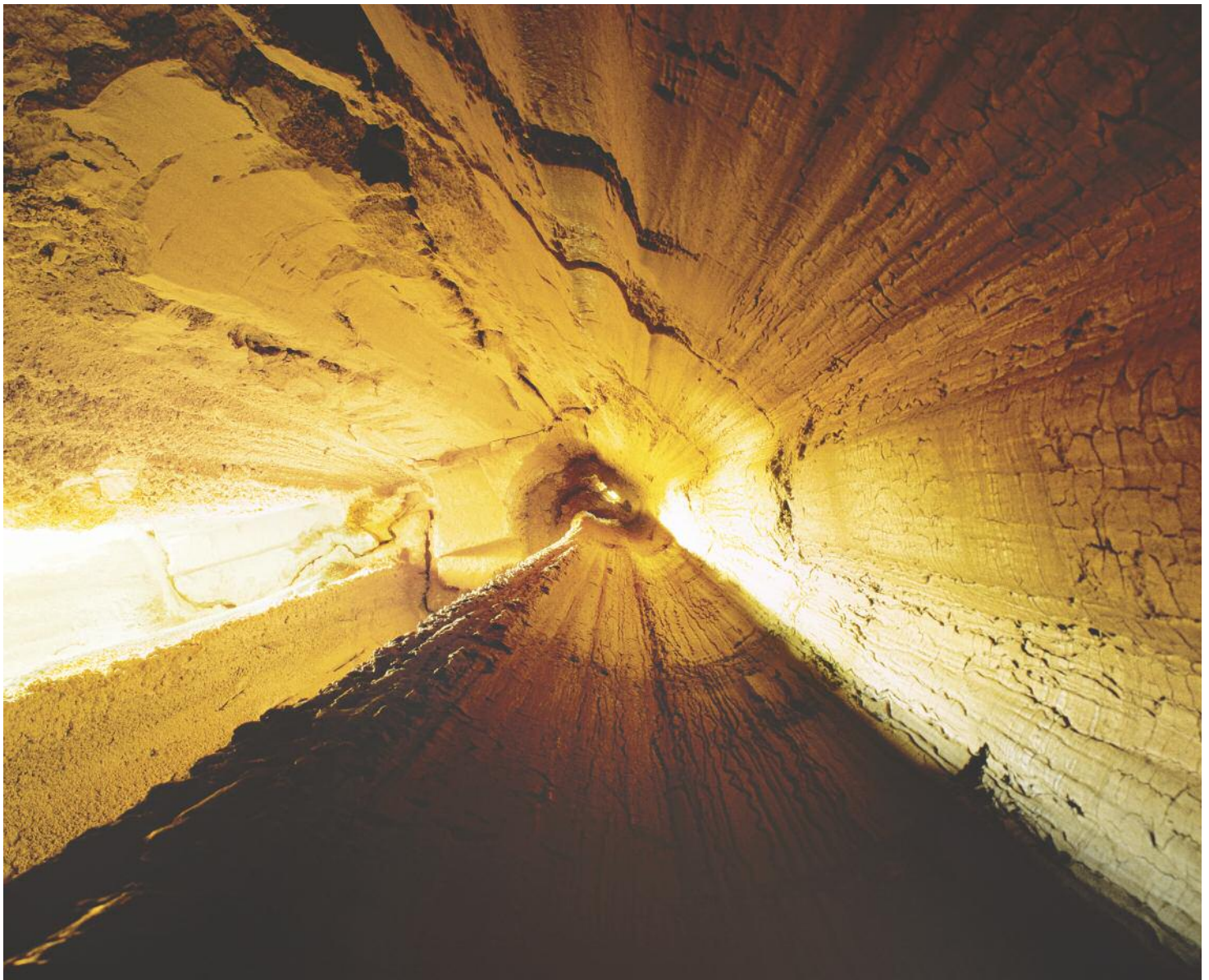
Bring your binoculars to see bald eagles and California condors; stop at a visitor center for a complete checklist of the more than 200 winged species that can be spotted here.

Work up a sweat:

Book a local outfitter for a day of canyoneering, hiking, rappelling, climbing, and maybe even splashing around Zion's famous gorges.

Don't miss:

The Narrows. Not surprisingly, this is the narrowest part of the canyon — and arguably the most impressive. There's a wheelchair-accessible path so everyone can witness the entrance. From there, it's possible to continue exploring if you don't mind hiking upstream *in* the Virgin River.



CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK

Location: Southeast Nevada; 2:20 from Mesquite

What you'll see:

Nearly 2,000 acres of otherworldly landscape created by volcanic eruptions, tectonic shifting, and subsequent flooding and draining that all occurred over the course of tens of millions of years. The end result is a labyrinthine system of rock fins, slot canyons, and cave-like structures.

Take it easy:

This is the desert, so it's going to be hot during the day. Pack a lunch and enjoy the view of the surrounding bentonite clay formations from the relative comfort of the shaded picnic area.

Work up a sweat:

At just 3 miles, the Juniper Draw Loop isn't very long, but it will get you away from the main areas so you can enjoy more remote sections of the park. If you have time, add a 1-mile jaunt to Miller Point.

Don't miss:

The chance to spot animal tracks, either in the sand or, especially after a rainstorm, imprinted in the soft clay stone. Resident wildlife includes black-tailed jackrabbits, cottontail rabbits, coyotes, foxes, and mule deer.

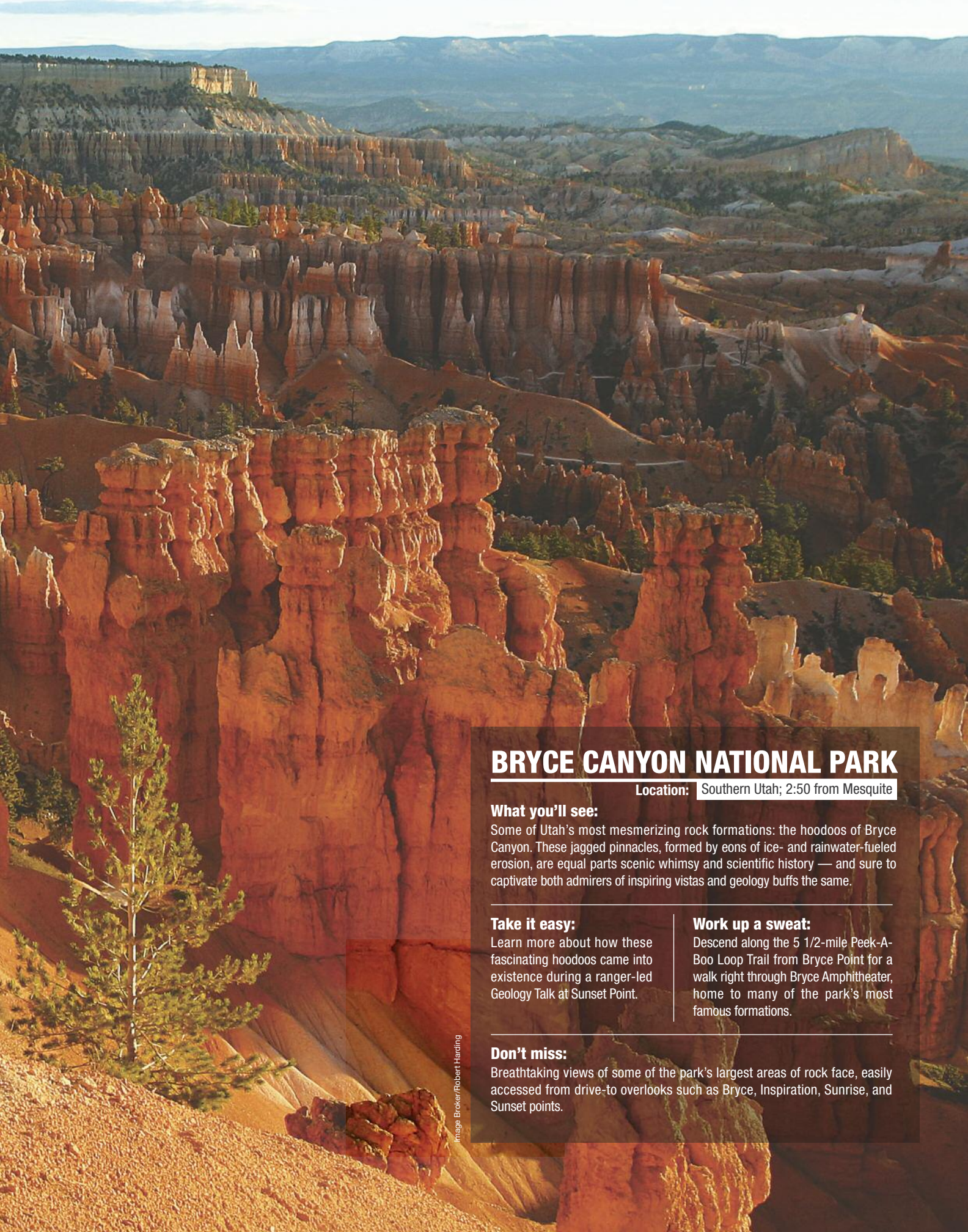
Way Out West

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BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Location: Southern Utah; 2:50 from Mesquite

What you'll see:

Some of Utah's most mesmerizing rock formations: the hoodoos of Bryce Canyon. These jagged pinnacles, formed by eons of ice- and rainwater-fueled erosion, are equal parts scenic whimsy and scientific history — and sure to captivate both admirers of inspiring vistas and geology buffs the same.

Take it easy:

Learn more about how these fascinating hoodoos came into existence during a ranger-led Geology Talk at Sunset Point.

Work up a sweat:

Descend along the 5 1/2-mile Peek-A-Boo Loop Trail from Bryce Point for a walk right through Bryce Amphitheater, home to many of the park's most famous formations.

Don't miss:

Breathtaking views of some of the park's largest areas of rock face, easily accessed from drive-to overlooks such as Bryce, Inspiration, Sunrise, and Sunset points.



DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

Location: Southwest Utah; 2:15 from Mesquite

What you'll see:

Seemingly endless stretches of untouched wilderness. Dixie National Forest spans some 170 miles from west to east across Utah. It contains four distinct geographic areas, where you can find everything from desert vegetation to mountain lakes to high-altitude forests punctuated by aspen groves and bristlecone pine trees.

Take it easy:

Head to Panguitch Lake with your rod and reel for a leisurely day of casting for brook, brown, cutthroat, and rainbow trout.

Work up a sweat:

The elevation changes and extensive trail network make Dixie National Forest prime mountain biking territory. Consider the Blowhard and Dark Hollow paths if you like to mix your pedaling with great views.

Don't miss:

Wildflowers in bloom at Cedar Breaks National Monument, where the summer sun coaxes a colorful display of aspen bluebells, Colorado columbines, kittentails, and scarlet paintbrushes from the verdant meadows.



AREA RESORTS



CasaBlanca Vacation Club (CA5)

Entertainment options abound at CasaBlanca Vacation Club, from live performances at the Sky Dome Lounge to the race and sports book, table games, and 800-plus slot machines at its on-site casino.



VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

Location: Southern Nevada; 1:05 from Mesquite

What you'll see:

A spectacular sandstone landscape that, when set against blue sky and illuminated by incessant sunshine, is apropos of the park's name. The red rock formations are impressive from a distance, but you'll want to explore close up, too, in order to spy the petrified forests and 3,000-year-old petroglyphs.

Take it easy:

There are a handful of short, easy hiking paths here that lead to some of the park's best sights. The Petrified Logs Loop and Balancing Rock Trail are both less than a mile long.

Work up a sweat:

Longer walks, including the Pinnacles Loop and Natural Arches Trail, lead to other worthwhile photo ops — and add some rock-scrambling excitement to the trip.

Don't miss:

Atlal Rock and the stone walls that were etched with stories, instructions, and other prehistoric pictograph messages by native inhabitants thousands of years ago.

Image Broker/Robert Harding, Aurora/Robert Harding

Masters Villas at Paradise Canyon (MAS)

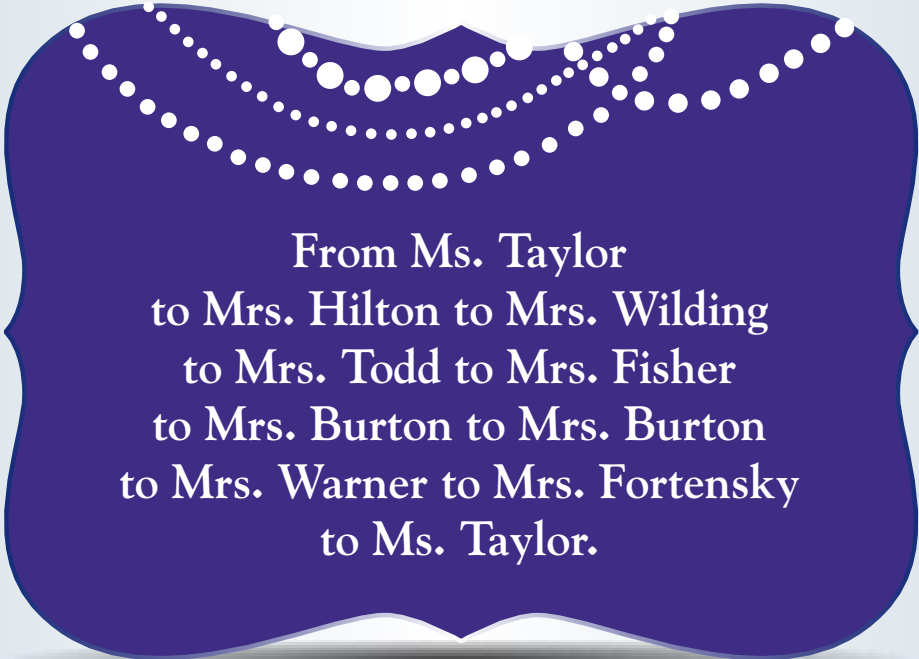
A true golfer's paradise, this all-villa resort includes a golf cart with every unit and reduced golf rates. Guests can enjoy the on-site swimming pool and tennis courts or practice their swing at the adjacent Oasis Golf Club driving range.



Highland Estates Resort (HGL)

Conveniently located just off of Interstate 15, Highland Estates is ideal for travelers seeking Mesquite's quiet side. On-site amenities include two pools, a hot tub, fitness center, shuffleboard, tennis, and evening dining.

For more information on these resorts, go to IntervalWorld.com.



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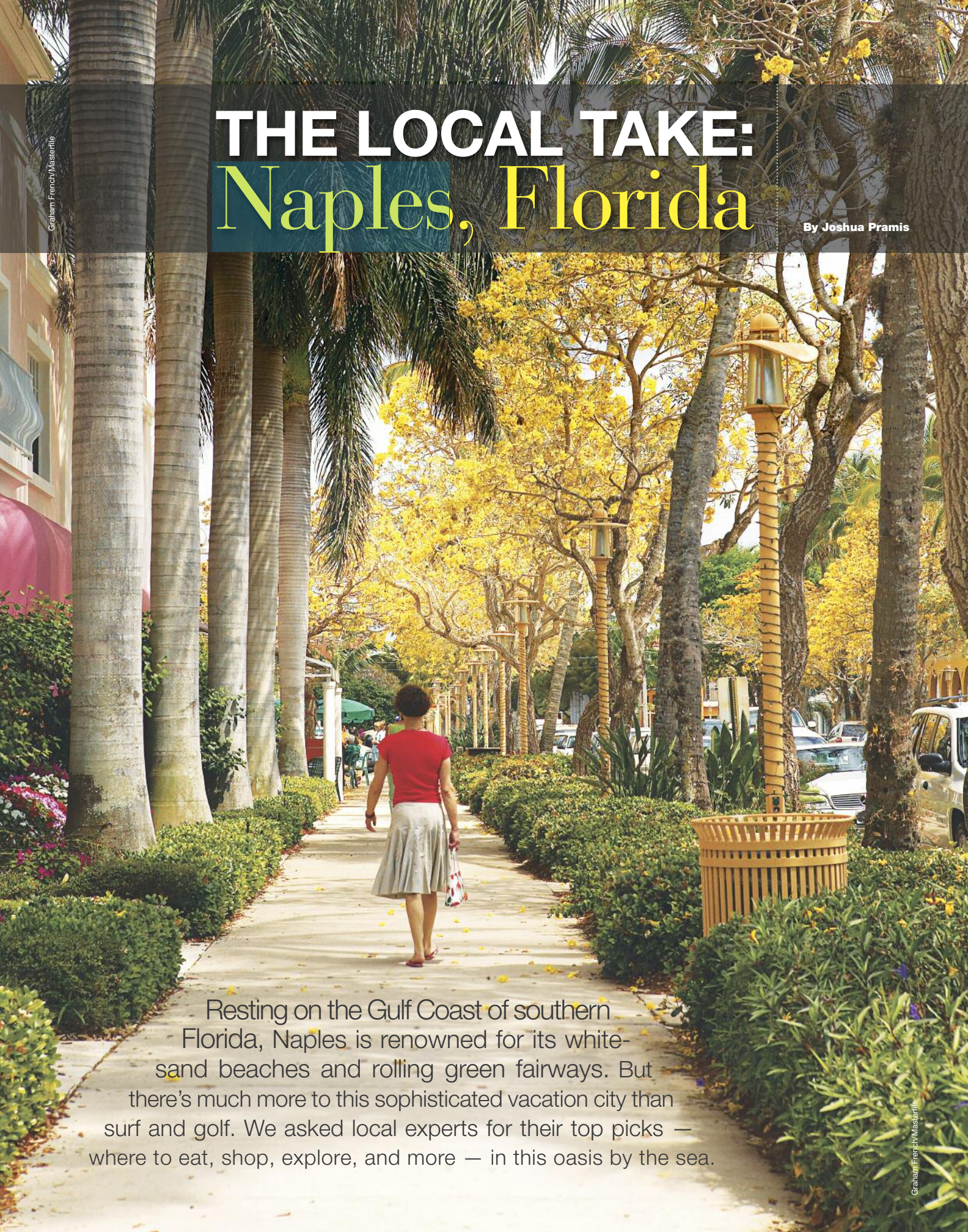


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THE LOCAL TAKE: Naples, Florida

By Joshua Pramis

A woman in a red shirt and grey skirt is walking away from the camera on a paved sidewalk. The sidewalk is lined with tall palm trees on the left and a row of trees with bright yellow blossoms on the right. A woman in a red shirt and grey skirt is walking away from the camera on a paved sidewalk. The sidewalk is lined with tall palm trees on the left and a row of trees with bright yellow blossoms on the right. A woman in a red shirt and grey skirt is walking away from the camera on a paved sidewalk. The sidewalk is lined with tall palm trees on the left and a row of trees with bright yellow blossoms on the right.

Resting on the Gulf Coast of southern Florida, Naples is renowned for its white-sand beaches and rolling green fairways. But there's much more to this sophisticated vacation city than surf and golf. We asked local experts for their top picks — where to eat, shop, explore, and more — in this oasis by the sea.

The Insiders



SHARON KENNY FOOD CRITIC

Sharon Kenny is a restaurant reviewer for Southwest Florida's *The News-Press*.

Hidden Gems "Some of our greatest restaurants are in unassuming little strip malls, like Jimmy P's Charred. With the butcher shop right next door, you can be sure they serve the freshest and highest quality meat in his restaurant!"

Locally Sourced "There are a few farmers markets in Naples, but I love the one in Old Naples on Third Street South."

Naples Staples Old Naples is "where you find some of the best restaurants like Sea Salt, The Continental, and Campiello, plus the very first Tommy Bahama restaurant and store." ❶

Dinner for Two "One of my favorite areas in Naples is Crayton Cove around the City Dock. There are a few casual restaurants and lots of galleries in this very pretty neighborhood, but my favorite is Bleu Provence. It's the most romantic restaurant in Naples."

Day-trip: Swamp Safari "If you're up for adventure, there are lots of places along [Highway 41] that offer airboat or swamp buggy rides. I like Wooten's [Everglades Airboat Tours] because they also have a live alligator show and you can even hold a baby alligator!" (:45 from Naples)



ELAINE REED HISTORY BUFF

Elaine Reed is president and CEO of the Naples Historical Society.

Explore on Foot "The best area for walking is in the Naples Historic District. The streets and alleys are as they were originally platted in 1888!"

History in a Half Block "The two most iconic historical sites are The Naples Pier ❷ and Historic Palm Cottage. They happen to be a half block from each other, so it's an easy stroll to enjoy both."

Real Estate Envy "Eleventh Avenue South is home to what the [Naples Historical] Society refers to as 'Cottage Row.' There are many restored houses in this area and [they] are visually pleasing to the eye."

Go-To Dish "I enjoy 'fruits' from the sea. The Chilean sea bass from USS Nemo's is one of my all-time favorites."

Day-trip: Gator Feast "No trip to southwest Florida is complete without a trip to Chokoloskee! Feast on alligator and return to Naples for an evening after-dinner drink while watching the sun set over the Gulf of Mexico. (1:00)



JO-ANN SANBORN LANDSCAPE ARTIST

Jo-Ann Sanborn is an award-winning painter based on Marco Island, Florida.

Get the Backstory "I love the Marco Island Historical Museum for exhibits about the history of southwest Florida."

Public Art "One of my favorites is the large glass sculpture outside of the parking garage on Eighth Street. ❸ It changes color with the movement of traffic and pedestrians."

Moment of Peace Head to "the end of Tigertail Beach. Early in the morning, with the sun coming up, it feels like you are the only person on Earth and it's 5,000 years ago."

Galleries Galore "Both Marco Island Center for the Arts and Naples' Von Liebig [Art Center] have monthly gallery exhibitions and wonderful gift shops. I have a public studio/gallery on the Esplanade on Marco and love visitors!"

Day-trip: One With Nature "My inspiration for painting comes from the Everglades, so I highly recommend a trip. You can visit Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Rookery Bay Environmental [Learning] Center, or take a walk on the Marsh Trail." (:20 – :50)



JENNIFER ADAMS LIFESTYLE BLOGGER

Jennifer Adams is the voice behind *The New Naples*, a website geared toward young residents.

Shop for a Cause "The unofficial Design District in downtown Naples is fun; it's a cluster of home decor boutiques along 10th Street North, many of which are resale shops whose sales benefit local charities."

Oh-So-Florida Fashion "Breezy tunics and colorful resort wear that easily transition from beach to dinner are musts in southwest Florida. C. Orrico ❹ and Tickled Pink ... are go-to spots for these."

See and Be Seen "Third Street South is beautiful — lined with trees and historic buildings from the 1930s. It's great for people-watching and window-shopping."

BLTs for Brunch "The atmosphere [at The Bay House] is like none other... and the menu is predominantly seafood with a Southern feel. My go-to menu item is the Sea BLT."

Day-trip: Boca Grande "It's the quintessential Old Florida beach town. Everyone gets around on golf carts, there's fresh seafood everywhere you go, and nothing is cookie-cutter." (1:50)



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AREA RESORT



Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham Naples (HTW)
Centered around a lush tropical courtyard, Hawthorn Suites features an outdoor heated pool, whirlpool spa, putting green, exercise facility, and barbecue area. Guests can enjoy a daily complimentary hot-breakfast buffet and happy hour Monday through Thursday.

To view all of the Naples-area resorts in Interval's network, go to IntervalWorld.com.

Away in the Smokies

EXPLORING AMERICA'S MOST-VISITED NATIONAL PARK
BY WAY OF [GATLINBURG](#), TENNESSEE. BY [JUDY GARRISON](#)



I have two options.

When I need a quick drive-to escape from my Georgia home, I can travel four hours east, toward a coastline of sandy beaches, to Jekyll Island's driftwood beach, where loggerhead sea turtles seek safe haven. I can take ownership of a parcel of sand, a beach towel marking my spot as the salty breeze flips its corners. *I can escape the heat here.*

Or, I can venture north, deep into the Appalachian range known as the Great Smoky Mountains, and be swallowed by culture and breathtaking vistas, where katydids and crickets serenade. Although summer is the South's most unforgiving season, here, mornings are cool, refreshing.

There are always two very good choices. *As for me, I travel north.*



A striking display of the vivid blue vapor that gives the Smoky Mountains its name. FACING: Great Smoky Mountains National Park is rife with stunning scenery and overlooks to take it all in.

LOVE AT FIRST VISIT

My love affair with the Great Smoky Mountains began at an early age, when my family loaded up our pea-green Chevy pickup and headed northward. As if an invisible chalk line dissected these chains of layered peaks, crossing state lines into North Carolina immediately produced cooler air.

It's been many years since that first journey into the Smokies, but I still feel a sense of wonder as I drive through Cherokee, North Carolina, rapidly approaching entry into the park. Once past Cherokee, the southern entrance to the Blue Ridge Parkway veers northeast, but I continue into the Oconaluftee Visitor Center for a stamp in my national parks passport. Adjacent is the Mountain

Farm Museum and a collection of assembled historical structures gathered from the park, which speak to an earlier time of mountaineering. A half-mile north, on its original site, is Mingus Mill, where in 1886 a miller ground corn for his community.

This valley signals entry into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Attracting between 8 and 10 million visitors annually, Great Smoky Mountains is America's most-visited national park, where more than 500,000 acres are decorated ridges of hardwoods, red spruce, pines, and Fraser firs. Named for the blue mist that hovers around peaks and valleys, the mountains were called *shaconage* (place of blue smoke) by the Cherokee. A UNESCO World Heritage site, its relatively untouched forest is home to flora, plus many animal species, including elk and the American black bear.

And if the timing is perfect, elk will be roaming the Farm Museum's flatlands, munching on grasses, and farther along the route, a bear will make a roadside sprint in search of food. Rest assured, traffic will snarl, people will grab cameras, and making it the next 30 miles over the mountain before sunset will be forgotten.

THE ULTIMATE SELFIE

Nearing the top where North Carolina and Tennessee state lines intersect, I detour about 7 miles in search of Clingmans Dome, the highest point in Tennessee, on the Appalachian Trail, and in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. From the parking area, it's a steep half-mile hike to the observation tower perched at 6,643 feet. As I ascend the paved pathway, the temperature drops a good 15 degrees. At the summit, a spiral walkway leads to the top of the 54-foot tower, and my push is rewarded with breathtaking views. For many, it's one of those bucket-list moments well worth the sweat.

Back on the main road, a must-stop is Newfound Gap, where the highway crests the mountain and begins its descent. It is the park's largest overlook area, where travelers from around the world pose for the ultimate selfie with the Smokies as the backdrop. Unobstructed



Water streams down a millrace, powering the turbine at historic Mingus Mill.



Sugarlands Distilling Company offers free distillery tours and tastings of its nine varieties of moonshine.

views of what is considered the park's lowest drivable pass, or low point in a mountain ridge, showcase a forest ecosystem rivaling that of the entire eastern seaboard.

DAZZLING DISPLAY

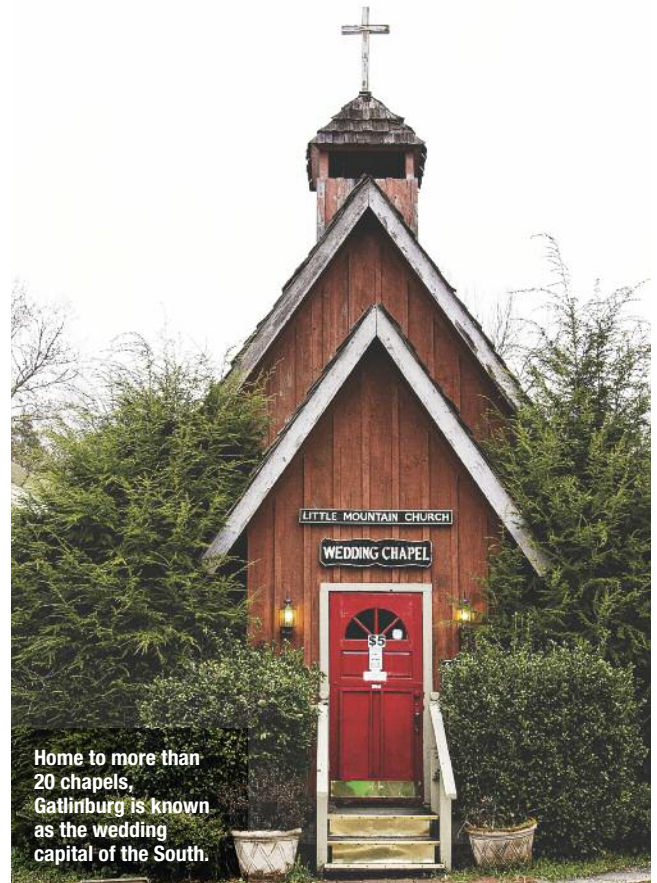
For many, these smoky blue mountains are heaven year-round. More than 80 hiking trails span from east to west, from Big Creek to Cades Cove, on which wanderers discover waterfalls and old-growth forests. For the young ones, an added appreciation of this wooded wonderland can be fostered through the Junior Ranger program, in which participants earn a badge and discover how the mountains were formed and changed over time. Hands-on programs feature creepy-crawly critters as well as pigs and chickens.

Great Smoky Mountains is also one of only a handful of places in the U.S. to witness a dazzling natural display. Each year in late May or early June, mating season for the synchronous fireflies commences. Thousands flutter about, while people in lawn chairs sit for hours, eyes wide open in fascination as the little creatures illuminate the night sky. The best viewing area? Elkmont near Cades Cove. Arrive two hours before sunset to secure a spot to sit, and leave the flashlights behind. (During predicted peak activity, visitors must secure a parking pass, available through recreation.gov.)

A DESTINATION IS BORN

The serpentine road moves me down the mountain. I pass through three short tunnels, laying on my car horn — a childhood ritual — loving the echoes, hoping the car behind me follows suit. Then, a canopy of trees appears, forming a natural tunnel delivering me into the tiny town of Gatlinburg.

Gatlinburg's allure is built upon its history. A bustling logging community through the early 1930s, the town's atmosphere changed once the National Park claimed ownership of neighboring lands. With that, the people came. By the 1940s, it had transformed into a vacation destination for the everyman as well as notables like author Ray Bradbury, Lady Bird Johnson, and Boudleaux and Felice Bryant, who penned the Tennessee state song "Rocky Top" in Room 388 of the Gatlinburg Inn. Building on its reputation as the



park's gateway, in the 1970s, Gatlinburg blossomed into a popular wedding and elopement destination. Little fairy-tale wedding chapels popped up on every corner, while personnel at downtown shops would plan your wedding, rent you a dress, and book a cabin for the honeymoon. Gatlinburg has never let go of its romantic side; if you drive slowly through the city, there's a good chance you'll spot "Just Married" stenciled on a car window.

GOOD OLD-FASHIONED FUN

Today, Gatlinburg is on everyone's list. Summer in Gatlinburg is as much a tradition as pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving. However, no family drama on tap, for Gatlinburg is a multigenerational destination, mingling an excitement for adventure with a passion for history, pleasing grandson and grandpa equally. There's minigolf for the competitors;

Sips Up! Crowds circle, shoulder to shoulder, and in the middle, an arm lifts a bottle high, raising up a different version every few minutes. The crowd roars, the communion cups steady, and the bottle tilts. It's moonshine tasting on Gatlinburg's Parkway.

With four distillers — Ole Smoky, Davy Crockett's, Doc Collier, and Sugarlands — visitors of age can experience history in liquid form. Each distillery draws its legacy and recipe from moonshiners who have filtered through these hills and hollows for decades.

One of the newest is Sugarlands Distilling Company, named after the Sugarlands area of the Great Smoky Mountains, historically known as a moonshiners' paradise where access and discoverability were difficult. With more than 250,000 visitors during the summer season, Sugarlands offers free tastings of all nine flavors, with their Appalachian Apple Pie made with caramel and green apples crowned as favorite.

It's pure fun, confirm those who pour and those who taste. Tour the still house, see the process, and then, gather around the guy or gal who's pouring a taste of Sugarlands and in unison blast their signature phrase, "Sips up!"

Take Thee to Tennessee

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Ober Gatlinburg's Aerial Tram, the 407-foot-tall Space Needle, and the iconic Sky Lift for those who want to reach the summit and enjoy the valley view; and white-water rafting and tubing if you're eager to get your feet wet. For a little underwater action, head to Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies and its walk-through underwater tunnel; I must remind myself there's a barrier between me and the 6-foot shark circling overhead. Ripley's saves the best experience for the end: the Penguin Playhouse, where at feeding time, the little guys waddle up, line up, and eat up at the fish toss.

PANCAKES ON THE PARKWAY

Nothing like water to make you hungry. The Parkway, the main downtown thoroughfare, splits rows of shops offering everything from candied apples to pancakes. You simply can't visit Gatlinburg without having pancakes at one of its seven houses, and of course, you'll hear everyone asking the same question: Why so many? The most popular legend goes back to logging days, when keeping the hard-working men full and satisfied for a day's work was paramount. If you sample just one during your visit, make it Crockett's Breakfast Camp's one-inch-thick cake. Add a skillet full of sugar-cured ham and fresh eggs, and well, you're full. Did I mention the cinnamon buns are as big as your head?

And what's the South without barbecue? There's none better than Hungry Bear BBQ. Located in an electric-blue house on the northern end of the Parkway, Hungry Bear has a pit smoking out back packed with ribs, briskets, and sausages. The pulled pork is tasty and lean, but the rib sandwich (with their hot sauce, of course) makes me order two to go.

There's also the carnival food, as I like to call it. There are grab-and-walk treats such as corn dogs, red candied apples, caramel corn, and donuts. Donut Friar is glazed-donut perfection. For taffy, stop at Ole Smoky Candy Kitchen, where the best taffy logs this side of Atlantic City are handmade each day by the Dych family. You can buy it by the piece; I buy it by the pound. The peanut butter pound.

SHOPPERS AND SHAKERS

If it's shopping you fancy, you can find that here, too. From trinkets to T-shirts to inspirational slogans, even an authentic Irish sweater shop,

store after store will send you into sensory overload. Once I've window-shopped and purchased a few souvenirs, I ride the trolley 3 miles outside the city to Glades Road. Known as the Great Smoky Arts and Crafts Community, this 8-mile loop is home to more than 120 working artists, including potters, photographers, and weavers. Today, I visit with Robert Alewine at Alewine Pottery, where the maple leaf has become his signature of 40 years of mastery at the wheel.

I have one more stop to make that combines the best of two worlds: history and shopping. There's nothing that will amaze you quite like The Salt and Pepper Shaker Museum, where you can view the world's history in shaker form (over 20,000 pairs) and purchase your own unique set.

I always leave Gatlinburg more content than when I arrived. I find that with two options for a short drive-to trip, this is the one I come back to, over and over again. Season after season. Even in the heat of summer, Gatlinburg manages to engage my senses, invigorate my soul, and replenish my spirit until I return to the mountains again. ■

Judy Garrison is a freelance writer and editor from Athens, Georgia. She is the author of *North Georgia Moonshine* and blogs at seeingsouthern.com.

Judy Garrison



Be prepared to loosen your waistband at Crockett's Breakfast Camp, where your meal comes in a cast-iron skillet and the pancakes are an inch thick.

AREA RESORTS



Westgate Smoky Mountain Resort & Spa (WSM)

Standout on-site amenities stay true to theme at the sprawling Appalachia-inspired Westgate Smoky Mountain Resort & Spa, from the Wild Bear Falls retractable-roof water park to the Smoky Mountains Ice Cream Shop.



MountainLoft Resort (MNT and MN1)

A pure sense of place envelops guests from their very first glimpse of MountainLoft's entrance on a winding, tree-lined country road. On-site amenities include a kids' club, game room, massages, fitness center, four outdoor hot tubs, and three pools.



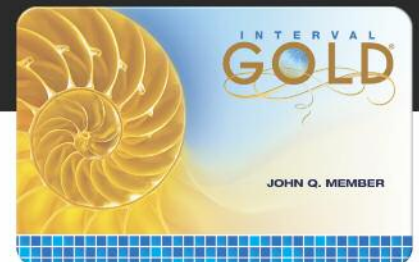
Laurel Point Resort (PLP)

Located 1 mile from Great Smoky Mountains National Park and just over a mile from downtown Gatlinburg, Laurel Point Resort is a well-situated home away from home. On-site offerings include Wi-Fi, a picnic pavilion with gas grills, an indoor pool, hot tub, saunas, and exercise room.

To view all of the Gatlinburg-area resorts in Interval's network, go to IntervalWorld.com.



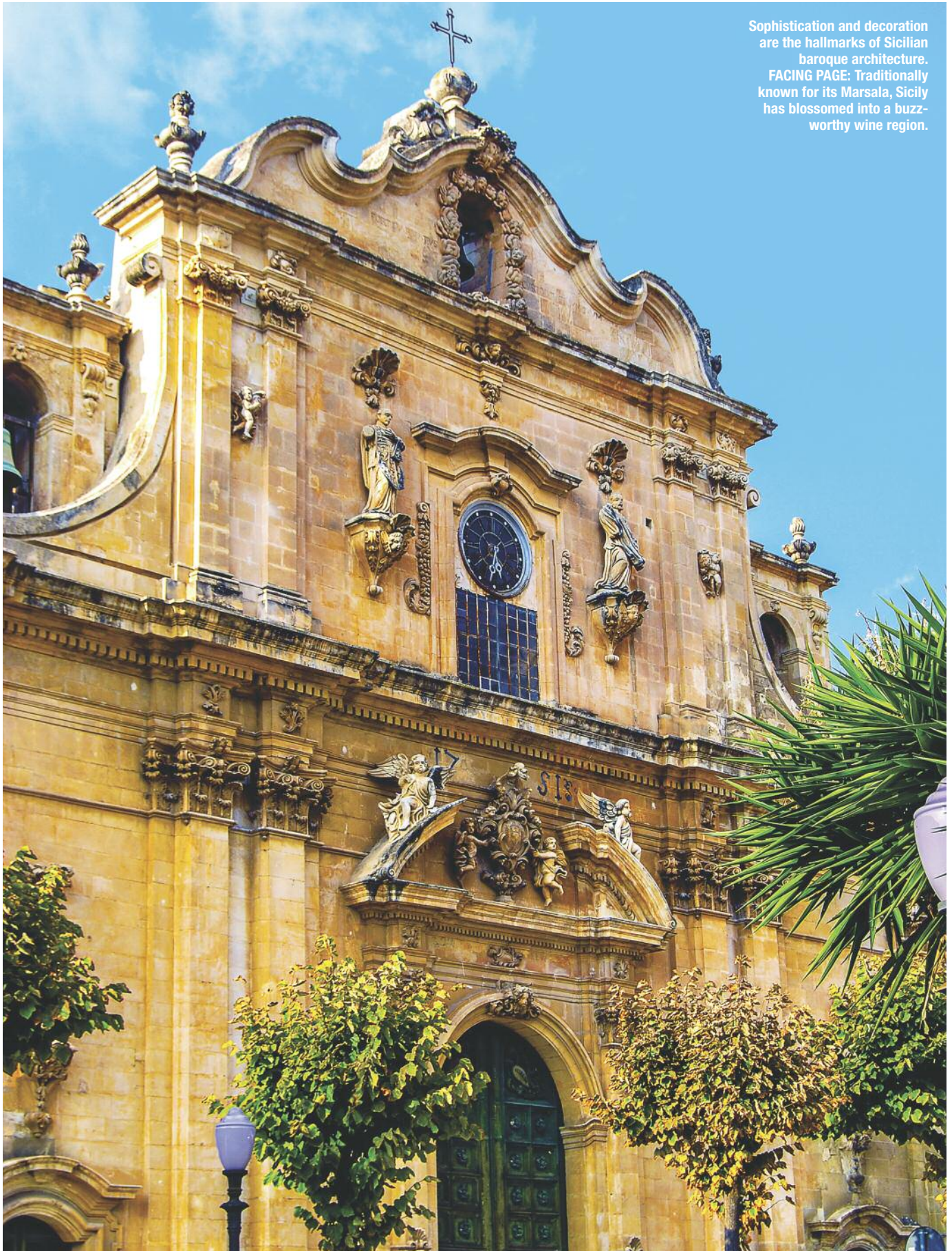
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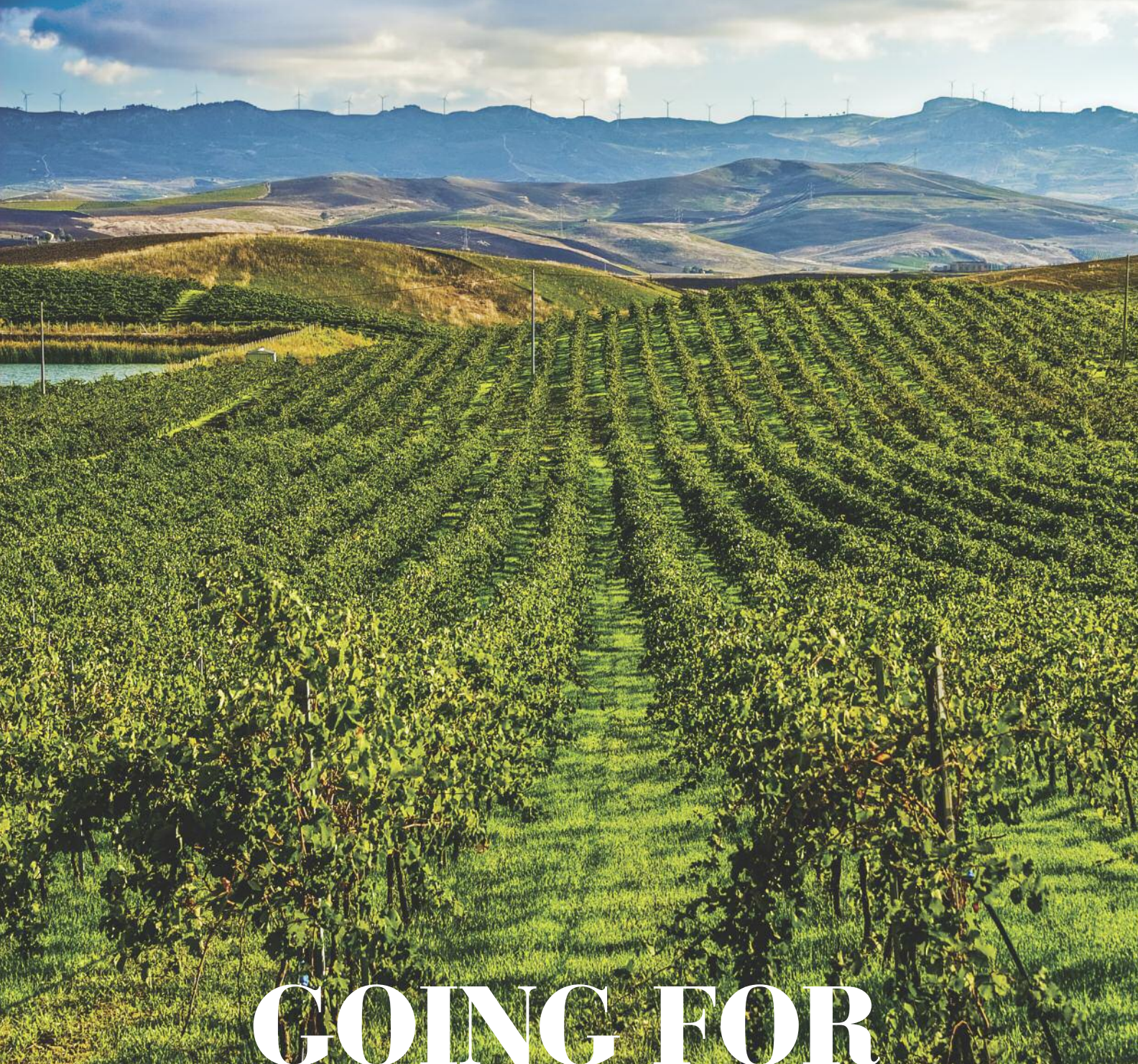
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Sophistication and decoration are the hallmarks of Sicilian baroque architecture. FACING PAGE: Traditionally known for its Marsala, Sicily has blossomed into a buzz-worthy wine region.



GOING FOR BAROQUE

With well-tended vineyards, olive groves, and gnarled carob trees setting the backdrop for the ornately designed structures of the main towns, the southeastern corner of [Sicily](#) proudly displays its enchanting character. **By Lisa Gerard-Sharp**



“INVADE SICILY — EVERYONE ELSE HAS” MIGHT BE THIS ITALIAN ISLAND’S RALLYING CRY. SICILY’S DNA IS GREEK, ROMAN, ARAB, NORMAN, NORTH AFRICAN, AND SPANISH.

This exoticism feeds into everything, from the fusion architecture to the fabulous food. I’m with my strawberry-blond Sicilian guide, Pilar, blessed with a Spanish name, Norman looks, and a baroque mind. Pilar tells me that politically incorrect Sicilians still refer to dark-haired girls as Moors, and blonds or redheads as Normans.

We’re eating orange and fennel *insalata* (salad), a legacy of Arab rule, and shedding stereotypes with every bite. The Mafia will not feature on our tour, except perhaps through the eyes of Inspector Salvo Montalbano, the wildly popular (fictional) Sicilian TV detective. Southeastern Sicily is seen as a haven beyond the Mafia’s reptilian gaze. Centered on the town of Ragusa, this aloof rural region has been referred to as “an island within an island.” While the west of Sicily was historically neglected by absentee barons, here the local gentry cherished the land.

As for baroque, the heavily decorated style that has become the region’s calling card, “It goes beyond buildings — it’s about how we see the world,” says Pilar. Construction after the devastating 1693 earthquake ushered in a golden age for Sicilian architecture. The UNESCO World Heritage site–designated towns of Ragusa, Modica, Scicli, and Noto are a riot of ornamentation, fanciful balconies, and flowing staircases. It’s a game of silhouettes and tricky perspectives.

But baroque is also about Sicilian excess, distortion, decadence, and disguise — light and shade in all senses.

RECONSTRUCTED RAGUSA

Ragusa, set on nearly the same latitude as Tunis, Tunisia, sits atop a dramatic mountain spur riddled by ravines. The 1693 earthquake didn’t entirely wipe the slate clean here. Ragusa Ibla, the broodingly baroque lower town, was rebuilt on a medieval street plan by nobles too enamored with the place to leave. In Ibla, all roads lead to Piazza Duomo, the sublime central square, and it’s here that we head after our lunch. The sloping square is lined with palms and princely mansions, but dominated by Rosario Gagliardi’s San Giorgio cathedral, a baroque masterpiece. My gaze is drawn up from its convex center, seemingly writhing with statues, to its wedding-cake crescendo. Sicilian film director Roberto Ando believes baroque is “a paradigm of Sicily — tortuous, eccentric, secretive, the endless search for a form.”

A short walk away, the sculpted balconies of the palace known as Palazzo Cosentini are a melange of fantastic bare-breasted sirens and monsters with flaring nostrils. Leering faces proffer scorpions or serpents instead of tongues, a warning not to gossip. But curiosity gets the better of me when passing the “conversation club,” Circolo di Conversazione. I poke my nose into the nobles’ private club and am soon chatting with Baron Arezzo, whose former family castle, Castello di Donnafugata, now acts as the lair of the Mafia boss in the Montalbano series. He unlocks his palace and private theater and offers us a tour. Only in Sicily is such hospitality and spontaneity the norm. People are proud, keen to show their homes (or palaces) to any visitor showing a bit of courtesy, interest, and enthusiasm.

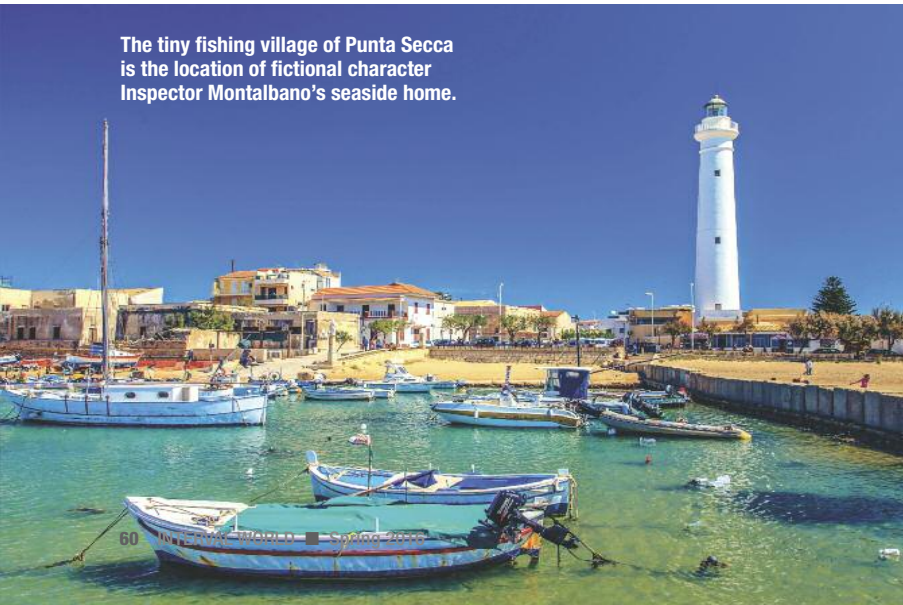
My guide and I idle away the day, exploring secret shrines, family crests, and decorative fountains. Ibla is intimate, shifting from showy staircases and tawny mansions to hidden gardens and filigree balconies hung with laundry. For a gastronomic feast, Pilar recommends Il Duomo by the main square. Here, Michelin-starred chef Ciccio

Sultano creates magic with local lamb, pistachios, fennel, almond sorbet, ricotta-stuffed cannoli, and Nero d’Avola wine. The culinarian can also talk the talk: “My cooking is voluptuously baroque because I am baroque: I never remove anything from my recipes but just pile on more.”

MODICA: UPPER AND LOWER

Between Ragusa and neighboring Modica, rugged limestone plains are carved into angular crests and canyons. Modica itself is multilayered, with tiers of sumptuous churches and shabby palaces stacked on the hill. The next afternoon we clamber up the sweeping staircase to San Giorgio cathedral (this one also designed by Gagliardi, and considered to be his greatest triumph).

The tiny fishing village of Punta Secca is the location of fictional character Inspector Montalbano’s seaside home.



A Feast for the Senses

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Be proactive; walk
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and praise what you
see. Ask if you can
visit, and chances are
you'll be extended an
invitation in a display
of Sicilian hospitality.



A signature Sicilian sweet, *pasta reale* is crafted of marzipan, shaped and painted to resemble fresh fruit.

The vision is one of ornamental splendor, shadowy recesses, and a soaring belfry silhouetted against the sky. Modica Alta, the high town, smugly surveys the tumble of medieval alleyways below.

Modica Bassa, the moody lower town, spills down the side of a river gorge. We watch the *passeggiata*, the early-evening parade of fashionable residents out for a stroll, as it flows onto Corso Umberto, passing noble mansions, baroque churches, and friendly bars. Here, too, is Sicily's chocolate heart. In Dolceria Bonajuto artisanal chocolate shop, we tuck into the famously granular chocolate first made by the Aztecs and introduced to Sicily by the 16th-century Spaniards. The Aztec-style vanilla and hot-pepper flavor bombs are not for the faint-hearted.

ON LOCATION IN SCICLI

Morning brings baroque Scicli, set between Modica and the coast. We stroll along Via Mormino Penna, the well-preserved baroque street, centered on the church of San Giovanni, with its concave-convex facade. On neighboring mansions, corbeled balconies depict mythical beasts, Moors, and ghoulish masks. The flamboyant Palazzo Fava displays a riot of creatures, including cherubs on horseback. Pilar suggests returning at sunset when the stone is tinged apricot and violet.

Scicli also doubles as a filming location for the beloved Inspector Montalbano series. Thanks to the seductive scenery and sense of small-town Sicily, Andrea Camilleri's best-selling detective novels make for equally engaging television. Shot largely around Ragusa and Scicli, this romanticized portrait of Sicily features an astute, food-loving detective. Sheepishly, we line up to see the police inspector's office in the town hall. The real mayor is resigned to sharing his office with a phantom and his fans.

A rustic lunch fits the bill. At the cavelike La Grotta, the anchovy-encrusted bruschetta and rich cannoli would have Inspector Montalbano in raptures. Before parting, we walk off lunch in Gli Aromi, a glorified herb garden where the scents of oregano, thyme, mint, and basil end up in herbal cocktails that taste of Sicily.

Summer in Scicli means Sampieri beach, where a traditional fishing village is framed by sand dunes. Today there's no sign of Montalbano's men along the sweeping arc of sand. (The remnants of an abandoned brickyard by the dunes often form a moonlit backdrop to the latest murky murder.) The detective's beachfront home lies just west at Punta Secca, beyond the boat-lined Marina di Ragusa. In Montalbano's honor, the bar sells his favorite rice balls, *arancini*.

We stop for a delectable pistachio-and-ricotta ice cream at Blue

Moon in Donnalucata, a beach resort close to Sampieri. Sicilians are convinced they invented ice cream, but they were certainly given a helping hand by the eighth-century Arab settlers who used snow to cool their fruit syrups. Superb Sicilian artisanal ice cream often makes use of creamy carobs, almonds, and hazelnuts.

NOTO-WORTHY

The next afternoon we head to Noto. Widely considered the epitome of Sicilian baroque style and architecture, the town is both blatantly theatrical and deeply rational. Visitors praise its proportion, symmetry, and sense of spectacle. Sicilians simply call it "a garden of stone." The palaces glow with a soft inner light, especially the peachy Palazzo Villadorata, which evokes the sumptuous lifestyle of the nobility. The ornate balconies are supported by a parade of snarling mythical monsters, from griffins to dragons and centaurs. We retreat to Caffè Sicilia, a celebrated pastry shop, where Pilar can't resist sickeningly sweet *cassata*, made with ricotta and candied fruit, and I fall for *torrone*, nougat infused with honey and almonds.

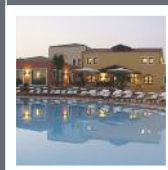
Later, Pilar leaves me for dinner in Cantina Modica, an ancestral palace that masquerades as a simple inn. In a typical gesture of Sicilian generosity, the suave Baron Alessandro Modica sweeps me (and a few other random guests) into his family museum upstairs. We feast on estate wine and cheese while admiring the family furniture.

Legendary Sicilian hospitality is as cloyingly sweet as cassata. Kindness can come in the form of a bunch of just-picked grapes or the keys to a long-closed church — or a museum tour with a young baron. Accept it all. Pilar's final advice rings in my ears: "Flattery opens most doors, and today's invader is tomorrow's treasured guest." ■

Lisa Gerard-Sharp is an award-winning British travel writer and Italy and France expert who contributes to *National Geographic Traveller*, *CNN*, and *The Telegraph*. Lisa has covered Sicily from its dark days — interviewing anti-Mafia judges — to the island's confident resurgence in recent years.

Lisa Gerard-Sharp

AREA RESORT



Residence Marsa Sicla 2 (RMD)*

Situated near the golden sands of Sampieri beach, Residence Marsa Sicla 2's village-like structures are surrounded by lemon trees. Guests can indulge in thalassotherapy and other spa treatments, swim in the expansive pool, and dine at the on-site restaurant and wood oven-equipped pizzeria.

* This resort requires the purchase of a Half Board Meal Plan payable at the resort.

To view all of the Sicily resorts in Interval's network, go to IntervalWorld.com.



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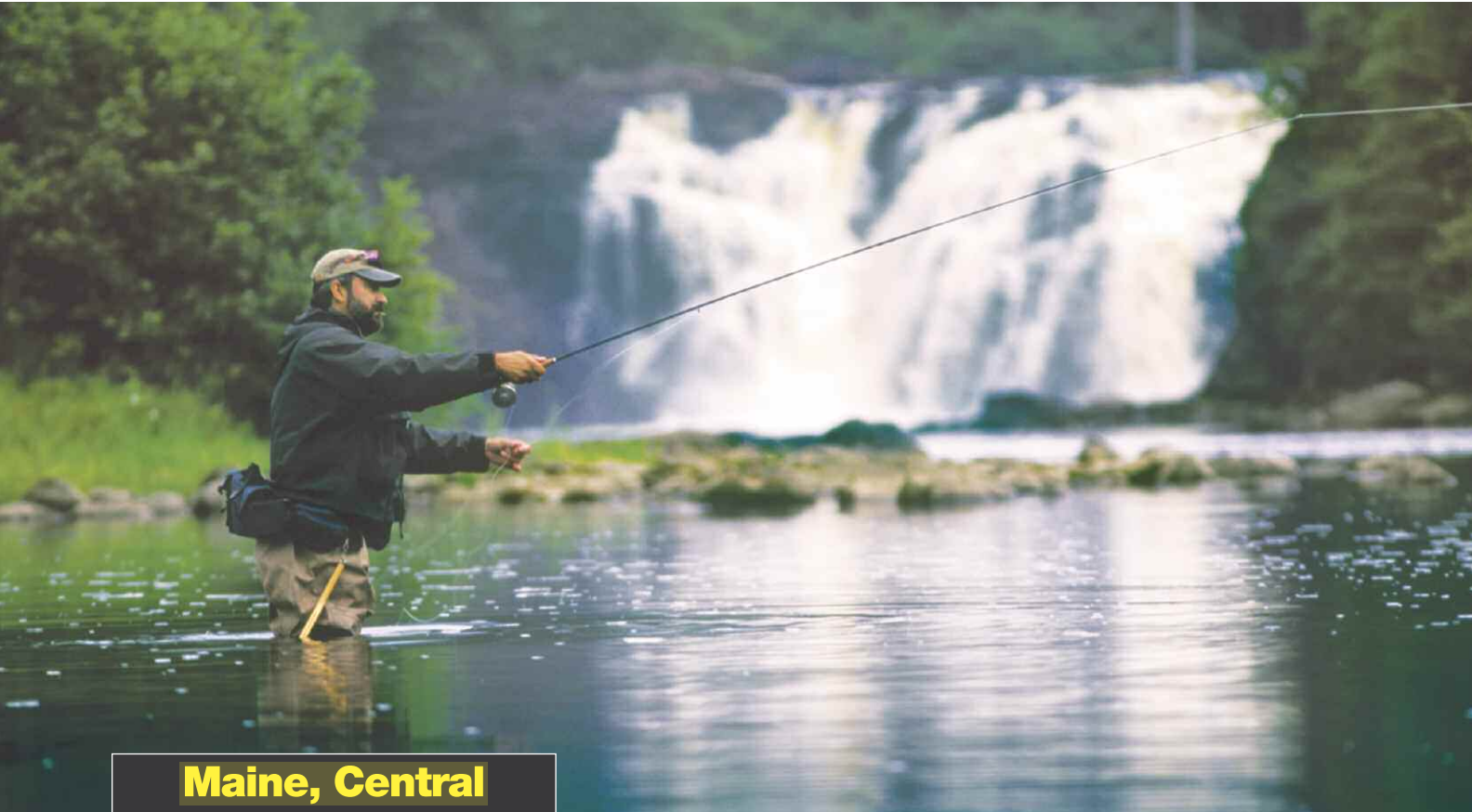
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Maine, Central

Dotted with lakes, this forested, delightfully underdeveloped region is perfect for anyone seeking pastoral solitude.

What to do: Get back to nature with days spent boating, fishing, and hiking. And be sure to look out for wildlife: Animal lovers will be thrilled with the variety of fauna — including bear, beaver, deer, fox, and moose — that call the area home.

Where to do it: For hikers, the Island Falls Trail is a great place to start. Seeking a more challenging trek? Set your sights on Big Squaw Mountain, which offers stunning vistas across the region. To leave land, sign up for a moose-watching canoe tour with Greenville's Northwoods Outfitters, or rent a kayak and go bass fishing on Mattawamkeag Lake.

Why go now: Because spring has sprung. The area is flush with the colors of the season, the wildlife is more active, and it is less crowded than the summer months, when families from cities across the northeast flock to the state.

Insider's tip: Maine was once among the world's most productive logging regions. Learn about the industry, and what it was like to live and work in a logging camp, at the Patten Lumbermen's Museum.

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Breckenridge, Colorado

Whether or not there's snow on the slopes, Breckenridge offers an abundance of fantastic outdoor pursuits, from the active to the relaxing.

What to do: Spend a day hiking or fishing, or enjoy some late-season spring skiing. Linger over a meal with a view and explore the town's art galleries — you can even release your inner artist during a hands-on workshop.

Where to do it: Whether you're taking a chairlift or using foot power to explore the nearby peaks, the 9,600-foot-high town of Breckenridge is the perfect basecamp for fresh-air fun. When it's time to dine, snag a table at the Victorian-inspired Hearthstone Restaurant and soak up the sweeping mountain landscape of Tenmile Range. And for a gallery stroll, the downtown Arts District offers plenty to peruse.

Why go now: To enjoy the best of both worlds. If your visit coincides with a seasonal snowstorm, you'll be cutting a swath through exquisite fresh powder. And if the weather is warmer, having an afternoon picnic in a town park offers quite the consolation prize.

Insider's tip: A visit to the Breckenridge Welcome Center on Main Street is an absolute must. It's home to a 19th-century log cabin and multimedia displays covering the town's history.

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and Cuyo
Argentina, Entre Rios

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Tunisia
Egypt, Red Sea
The Gambia

Austria, Alps

Just a day-trip away from the historic city of Salzburg, this picture-perfect region is home to glistening lakes, verdant forests, and breathtaking peaks.

What to do: Spend a day touring Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and baroque-art paradise. The city offers striking architectural scenery, including the 11th-century Hohensalzburg Fortress. Ski the surrounding slopes or, as the warm spring sunshine returns to the highlands, hike, bike, and discover the area's natural wonders.

Where to do it: While most cultural pursuits can be found in Salzburg, the majority of outdoor adventures will take place in the surrounding Alps. Explore the vast Hohe Tauern National Park. Tour the otherworldly Eisriesenwelt ice cave. And if the slopes are open, you'll be in the heart of Austria's Ski amadé region, which boasts more than 470 miles of runs ranging from beginner to expert.

Why go now: With winter waning, you'll enjoy a shoulder season, with the crowds that inundate the ski lifts having gone home, and the summer visitors not yet having arrived. That means more room for you when you enjoy a pint at a local Bierstube (alehouse)!

Insider's tip: Purchase a Salzburg Card at a tourist office in the city (or online before you arrive at salzburg.info) for free access to top attractions and public transportation.



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Family First

BEN KIM | OAHU, HAWAII

Working 12-hour days and weekends left Ben Kim little time for family vacations. But after missing out on his family's Interval exchanges two years in a row, he was determined to join his wife, Jennie, and their sons Matthew, 11, and Adam, 7, on their exchange to Oahu. The Kims' Oahu trip proved unforgettable: They took surf lessons, snorkeled with turtles, kayaked, hiked, visited a pineapple plantation farm, ate shave ice every day, and drove around the island in search of rainbows. Most importantly, Ben says, "I discovered my family again." Shortly after the trip, Ben decided to seek more balance in his life, and accepted a new job that allows him to spend more time with his wife and sons. "We are a happier family," Ben says. "And a simple vacation is all it took to better enrich our lives."

A Haven in Helen

JUDITH BETANCOURT | HELEN, GEORGIA

Having vacationed several times through their Interval membership in their home state of Florida, Judith Betancourt and her husband, Jesus, decided it was time to introduce their children to destinations farther afield. So Judith; Jesus; their 10-year-old son, Justin; and 7-year-old daughter, Jianna; piled into the car and set off for an Interval exchange to Helen in Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains. "What a treat, our backyard was the Chattahoochee River!" Judith says. "Our kids had a blast tubing, swimming, exploring, and just hanging out in the river. First time for all of us, playing in such a beautiful environment outdoors." Far removed from their day-to-day Miami life, the family relished the mountain views and "the sound of waterfalls and streams everywhere." They also visited the nearby Yonah Mountain Vineyards and took advantage of the area's plethora of outdoor amusements, including zip lining, ATV riding, and white-water rafting.



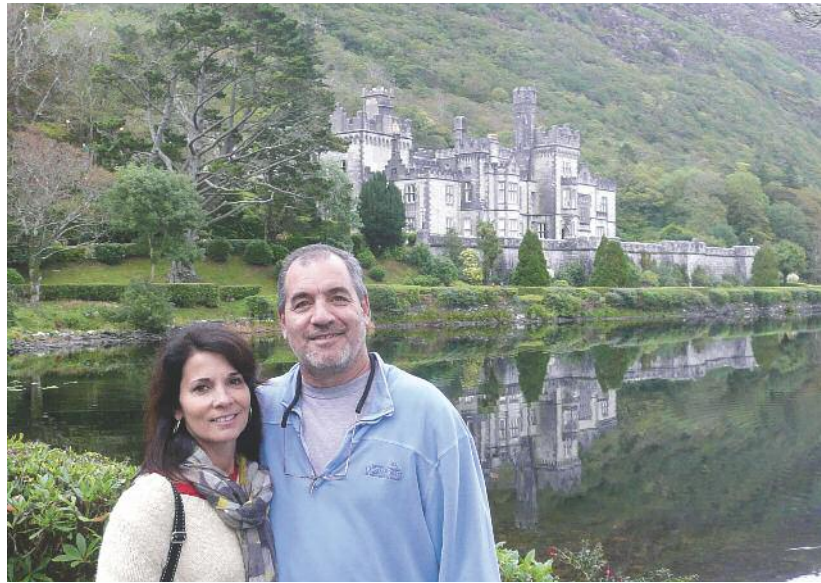
“We would have never visited Ireland had we not had a timeshare. Being a member of Interval allows us to trade to go on awesome trips and see incredible sites.”

— Sharon Raitzyk

Irish Adventures

BILL AND SHARON RAITZYK | IRELAND

Sharon Raitzyk's husband, Bill, had long dreamed of a visit to Ireland. And thanks to an Interval exchange, the pair was finally able to embark on "the trip of a lifetime," using their resort as a home base to explore the country. The couple stayed near the picturesque coast of Connemara in western Ireland, and visited the harbor city of Galway, toured the Benedictine monastery Kylemore Abbey, walked along the stunning Cliffs of Moher, and saw many castles. "We played golf and ate wonderful food from one end of the country to the other," Sharon says. As a perfect ending, the Raitzyks wrapped up their trip with a visit to Dublin. "We would have never visited Ireland had we not had a timeshare," Sharon says. "Being a member of Interval allows us to trade to go on awesome trips and see incredible sites."



Classic Maine

CHUCK HARTBAUER | ELLSWORTH, MAINE

Having enjoyed many a vacation on the south Atlantic coast, Chuck and Pennie Hartbauer, along with Chuck's sister and brother-in-law, were ready for a change of scenery. Eager to experience the north Atlantic coast, they were happy to secure an exchange to Ellsworth, Maine. "The resort was spacious and located within easy driving distance to the Acadia National Park and Bar Harbor," Chuck says. The group of four relished almost daily visits to the park and seeing the area's scenic wonders, including Southwest Harbor and Jordan Pond. They also enjoyed feasting on the famed Jordan Pond House popovers and ate Maine lobster rolls four out of the six days of their trip. And of course, "the vacation would not have been complete without a side trip to Bar Harbor, a quaint little town where you could get souvenirs and book boat and whale-watching tours," Chuck says.

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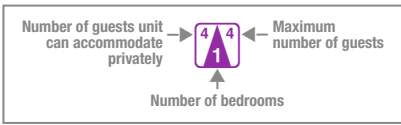
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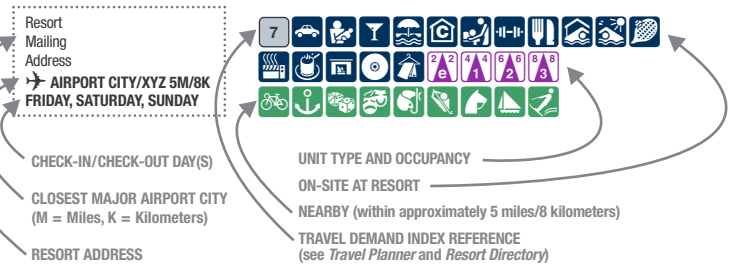
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GUIDE TO SYMBOLS

Resort Example



This text identifies the unique attributes of each resort. You'll find a brief description that may include information about the resort's environment, location, amenities, facilities, and area attractions located on-site or near the resort. Each feature is designed to help you select a resort that will provide the vacation experience you're looking for.



Guide To Symbols

■ On-site
 ■ Nearby
 ■ Unit Type and Occupancy

	Babysitting Referral		Golf		Skiing (Downhill)		Lock-Off		00 Travel Demand Index Chart Number
	Bar/Cocktail Lounge		Grocery or Convenience Store		Swimming Pool (Indoors)		Wheelchair Accessible		
	Beach		Horseback Riding		Swimming Pool (Outdoors)				
	Bicycle Trails		Lake		Tennis		2 2 H Hotel Room (Usually no cooking facilities) Private sleeping capacity/ maximum occupancy		6 8 3 Three Bedrooms Private sleeping capacity/ maximum occupancy
	Boat Marina/Launching		Playground		Waterskiing		2 2 e Efficiency/Studio (Usually with cooking facilities) Private sleeping capacity/ maximum occupancy		8 10 4 Four Bedrooms Private sleeping capacity/ maximum occupancy
	Car Rentals		Racquetball		Whirlpool Spa or Hot Tub		2 4 1 One Bedroom Private sleeping capacity/ maximum occupancy		
	Casino Gambling		Restaurant		Air Conditioning (In Units)		4 6 2 Two Bedrooms Private sleeping capacity/ maximum occupancy		
	Clubhouse		Sailing/Rentals		Cooking Facilities (In Units)				
	Day Spa		Sauna or Steam Room		DVD or VCR (In Units)				
	Entertainment (Live)		Scuba Diving		Fireplace (In Units)				
	Exercise Room (Equipped)		Skating (Ice)		Laundry Facilities				
	Fishing		Skiing (Cross-Country)		Pets Allowed				

EXCHANGE/AMENITIES AVAILABILITY

Many new member resorts have a limited number of vacation units available to the exchange system. Resorts shown as "UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION" are currently in various stages of construction or are in the process of making improvements in accommodations or facilities. No amenities symbols are shown for these resorts.

Usage fees may be imposed by some resorts. Certain amenities, facilities, and activities may not be available at all times of the year.

The availability of specific amenities and the continued affiliation of resorts shown in this magazine are subject to change without notice.

For resorts under construction, the architect's rendering shown may vary significantly from the appearance of the resort upon completion. Interior photographs are of typical vacation units and are not necessarily representative of every unit at the resort.

NEW MEMBER RESORTS



BELLEAIR BEACH CLUB • BBU
 BELLEAIR BEACH, FLORIDA • 727.517.2582
belleairbeachclubhotel.com

Belleair Beach Club is located on the Gulf of Mexico in the small community of Belleair Beach. The resort offers a quiet and relaxing vacation with all the amenities of home. Guests can enjoy pristine white sands or cool off at a beachfront pool deck. Belleair Beach Club is 3 miles south of Clearwater Beach and is convenient to Tampa and St. Petersburg area attractions.

3200 Gulf Boulevard
 Belleair Beach, FL 33786
 ✈️ TAMPA/TPA 23M/37K
 FRIDAY, SATURDAY



BRIGANTINE QUARTERS • BRQ
 HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA • 843.842.2201
brigantinequartershhi.com

Brigantine Quarters is picturesque and private with plenty of action just a stone's throw away, including great shopping, dining, and the wide, sandy, Atlantic beach for which Hilton Head Island is famous. Biking is a way of life here, with more than 20 miles of paths for exploring beautiful, natural scenery. The resort offers the perfect accommodations for a golfing foursome or a family looking for an ideal vacation destination.

55 Barcelona Drive
 Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
 ✈️ SAVANNAH/SAV 35M/56K
 SATURDAY



MARRIOTT VACATION CLUB AT THE MAYFLOWER • MFL
 WASHINGTON, D.C. • 202.347.3000
marriottvacationclub.com

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, The Mayflower is located in the heart of the city's downtown district. Accommodations feature plush bedding, high-end bath products, Wi-Fi, and flat-screen TVs. Enjoy a meal at the on-site brasserie, Edgar Bar & Kitchen, or step outside and explore Dupont Circle and other nearby attractions. The fitness center offers a range of equipment, and on-demand movie entertainment will delight children of all ages. Historic opulence and modern style combine for a unique vacation experience at this refined hotel in the nation's capital.

1127 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
 Seventh Floor
 Washington, D.C. 20036
 ✈️ WASHINGTON, D.C./DCA 5M/8K
 MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY,
 THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY,
 SUNDAY



SHELL VACATIONS CLUB AT INN AT THE PARK • IAP
 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA • 619.291.0999
shellvacationsclub.com

Located in the vibrant Hillcrest neighborhood, Shell Vacations Club at Inn at the Park is central to many attractions and sights and is a prime starting point for exploring the amazing city of San Diego. Accommodations are studios, and one- and two-bedroom suites. This historic property is within walking distance of the world-renowned San Diego Zoo, Old Globe Theatre, 15 museums, and many top-notch cultural offerings. If you are looking for city excitement with a lively nightlife, fine dining, corner cafes, and designer boutiques, you'll find it here.

525 Spruce Street
 San Diego, CA 92103
 ✈️ SAN DIEGO/SAN 3M/5K
 FRIDAY



NEW MEMBER RESORTS



THE DUNES CLUB • DUC

BERMUDA DUNES, CALIFORNIA • 760.772.9877
dunesclubpalmsprings.com

Originally a small hotel catering to the Hollywood elite, The Dunes Club is a boutique-style property located in the Palm Springs area. Guests enjoy a relaxing atmosphere away from the hustle and bustle of the desert city's larger resorts. It is situated on the 17th fairway in the private gated community of Bermuda Dunes Country Club — the original home of the PGA's Bob Hope Classic — and surrounded by other golf courses. The resort is approximately 20 minutes' drive from the shopping and dining venues in downtown Palm Springs.

42-325 Adams Street
 Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203
 ✈️ PALM SPRINGS/PSP 18M/29K
 FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY



ALII KAI RESORT • AIK

PRINCEVILLE, KAUAI, HAWAII • 808.826.6002
aliikairesort.com

Aii Kai Resort is situated on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the tropical splendor of the surrounding Kauai landscape. The resort offers spacious two-bedroom condominiums. Guests can experience the spirit of this beautiful island — whether relaxing at the pool, enjoying any of the leisure activities available nearby, or taking in romantic sunset views from the balcony.

3830 Edward Road
 Princeville, Kauai, HI 96722
 ✈️ LIHUE/LIH 29M/46K
 SATURDAY

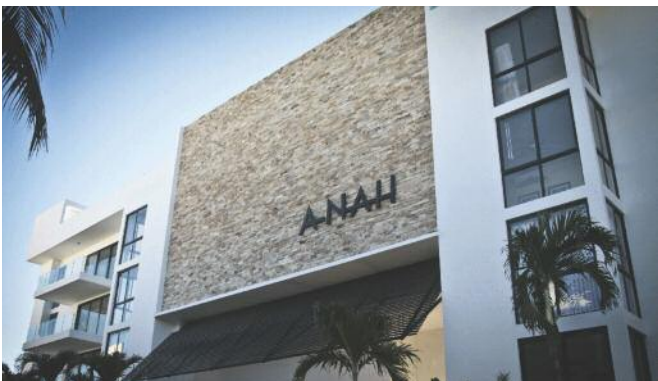


PACIFIC SHORES RESORT & SPA • PCF

NANOOSE BAY, BRITISH COLUMBIA • 250.586.7262
pacific-shores.com

Pacific Shores Resort & Spa is tucked away on the peaceful waters of spectacular Craig Bay near Parksville, British Columbia. It offers the ideal base for exploring the Parksville and Qualicum Beach areas' 15 acres of botanical gardens and woodland trails with panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean. The resort offers the opportunity to experience a great Vancouver Island vacation.

1-1600 Strouger Road
 Nanose Bay, British Columbia V9P 9B7
 Canada
 ✈️ VICTORIA/YYJ 105M/168K
 SATURDAY, SUNDAY



A-NAH PLAYA DEL CARMEN • ANH

PLAYA DEL CARMEN, QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO • 984.8031117
anahsuites.mx

A-nah Playa del Carmen is located just a few blocks from Fifth Avenue, and only steps away from shopping, a wide variety of restaurants, and some of the best people-watching spots in the world. Accommodations are spacious one- and two-bedroom condominiums. Amenities on-site include a spa, gym, business center, yoga room, three whirlpool spas, a rooftop pool, front desk and concierge service, 24-hour security, elevators, gardens, handicapped-accessible facilities, open cinema, and parking.

Avenida 20
 Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo 77710
 Mexico
 ✈️ CANCÚN/CUN 40M/64K
 MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY,
 THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY,
 SUNDAY





ALLTUM MIRAMAR SUITES – VILLAGES & RESORT • AMS
 EL HIGO, SAN CARLOS, PANAMÁ OESTE, PANAMA • 396.2140
grupoelpoblado.com

Alltum Miramar Suites – Villages & Resort is located in Panama's San Carlos district, at kilometer 110 on the Interamerican Highway. Amenities on-site include a swimming pool and restaurant. Nearby are several miles of beaches framing beautiful landscapes of mountains and the lush Valle de Antón (Anton Valley). Relax on soft sands, take a dip in the ocean, and walk or bike along ecological trails. The resort is situated about one hour's drive from Panama City.

Corregimiento de El Higo
 San Carlos, Panamá Oeste
 Panama
 ✈ PANAMA CITY/PTY 47M/75K
 FRIDAY



MUSSULO RESORT BY MANTRA • MUB
 CONDE, PARAÍBA, BRAZIL • 83.3298.2750
mussulobymantra.com

Mussulo Resort by Mantra is located near Praia de Tabatinga beach and 12 miles from the city of João Pessoa, the capital of the state of Paraíba. One- and two-bedroom units are housed in the resort's 102 bungalows. On-site, guests can enjoy the spa, outdoor swimming pool, kids' club, and dining. A beach club is located 1.2 miles from the resort, accessible via a complimentary shuttle. This is an all-inclusive resort, requiring the purchase of a meal plan payable to the resort.

Lotemento Cidade Balneário Novo
 Mundo, s/n
 Lote 01, Quadra Z33
 Conde, Paraíba 58322-000
 Brazil
 ✈ JOÃO PESSOA/JPA 26M/42K
 FRIDAY



TERRA & MAR PRIVILEGE • TMP
 BARRA GRANDE, BAHIA, BRAZIL • 73.3258.6501
terraemarprivilege.com.br

Situated in the coastal village of Barra Grande on the Maraú Peninsula, Terra & Mar Privilege has 40 rooms equipped with Wi-Fi. On-site amenities include dining, a playground, and an outdoor swimming pool. The resort is steps away from the beach, four blocks from the town center, and a short drive to Taipu de Fora beach, known for its natural pool.

Avenida Maraú
 Barra Grande, Bahia 45520-000
 Brazil
 ✈ ILHÉUS/IOS 79M/126K
 FRIDAY



DANAIDE RESORT • DND
 SCANZANO JONICO, MATERA, ITALY • 0825.207682
danaideresort.it

Basilicata is a beautiful region nestled between Calabria and Puglia on the Ionian coast of southern Italy. The area's second largest town, Matera, was selected as the European Capital of Culture for 2019. Danaide Resort is located about 2.5 miles from Scanzano Jonico near Policoro. Ideal for families with children, it is adjacent to a lush pine forest, which separates the property from a wide pristine beach and clear sea.

Via Lido Torre
 Scanzano Jonico, Matera (MT) 75020
 Italy
 ✈ BARI/BRI 88M/141K
 SATURDAY

84 UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION

NEW MEMBER RESORTS



PORTO SOUTH BEACH VACATION CLUB • PRZ
 AIN SOKHNA, EGYPT • 012.11449071 • 012.11449079
amer-group.com

This beachfront resort in Ain Sokhna offers an escape to a world of fun. There is something for everyone in the family to enjoy, including international restaurants, outdoor cafes, sports facilities, a kids' club, large swimming pools, as well as a nearby private beach.

Km. 28 Zaafarana
 Hurghada Road
 Ain Sokhna (South), Red Sea
 Egypt
 ✈️ CAIRO/CAI 100M/160K
 FRIDAY



BEST WESTERN YANTAI HOTEL • YAN
 YANTAI, SHANDONG, CHINA • 8653.5686.1555
bestwestern.net.cn

The resort is located in the beautiful coastal city of Yantai near a spectacular harbor. Accommodations are two-bedroom units with a living room, dining room, and kitchen. Amenities on-site include an 8-D movie theater, a fitness center, a swimming pool, spa, and restaurants. The resort is conveniently situated close to train and bus stations, ports, and highways.

18 Zhifutuan Road
 Yantai 269003, Shandong
 China
 ✈️ YANTAI/YNT 13M/21K
 SATURDAY



ACQUA AT NOVOTEL SUITES MANILA • NSM
 MANDALUYONG, MANILA, PHILIPPINES • 02.793.8982
novotelsuitesmanila.com

Managed by Accor, Acqua at Novotel Suites Manila has a riverfront setting just over a bridge from the Makati central business district's many attractions. The accommodations have a stylish, contemporary aesthetic, with nature-infused motifs in the decor. Guests will enjoy a first-class international restaurant, cafe, themed lounge, state-of-the-art fitness facility, and iconic infinity pool and deck. Many hotel services are available around the clock.

Coronado
 Mandaluyong, Metro Manila 1207
 Philippines
 ✈️ MANILA/MNL 4M/6K
 SATURDAY



MANILA



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A different kind of resort is coming to Maui

Hawaiians have profound respect for *nanea*—relaxation of the mind, body and spirit. This ancient Hawaiian ideal is the foundation for The Westin Nanea Ocean Villas, the newest Westin resort on Kā'anapali Beach.

This one-of-a-kind resort will immerse you in authentic Hawaiian experiences. As part of your stay, you can explore cultural, botanical, artistic and culinary island traditions.

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SEE IT COME TO LIFE AT DISCOVERNANEA.COM.*

THE WESTIN
NANEA OCEAN VILLAS
KĀ'ANAPALI, MAUI

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RESIDENCES



FEATURED RESORT:
Belle Mont Farm at Kittitian Hill
Kittitian Hill, St. Kitts

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Cancún, Mexico*

FROM \$257 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$37

Interval Platinum From **\$207** Per Week

Interval Gold From **\$232** Per Week

With the turquoise sea and endless stretches of open sand (not to mention those refreshing umbrella drinks), it's easy to lose yourself in the Cancún beach scene. But you'd be remiss if you didn't look below the surface; book an excursion with Scuba Diving Cancún to swim among the 400-plus sculptures at the MUSA underwater museum that also serves as a manmade reef.

*This is an all-inclusive resort, requiring the purchase of a meal plan payable to the resort.



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Lake Tahoe, Nevada

FROM \$307 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$44

Interval Platinum From **\$257 Per Week**

Interval Gold From **\$282 Per Week**

A favorite destination for legendary celebrities such as Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr., Lake Tahoe remains a top vacation choice today, and there's no question why. The piercingly blue freshwater lake, set against the backdrop of the Sierra Nevada mountains, is a picturesque landscape for an outdoor excursion (think: hiking, kayaking, and more). Explore on your own or book a tour with the Tahoe Adventure Company.



San Diego, California

FROM \$587 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$84

Interval Platinum From **\$537 Per Week**

Interval Gold From **\$562 Per Week**

Hop aboard a free trolley and ride it to the Hillcrest Farmers Market, open every Sunday year-round. Browse the nearly 200 outdoor stalls selling everything from local produce and baked goods to arts and crafts and fresh flowers.

Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

FROM \$327 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$47

Interval Platinum From **\$277 Per Week**

Interval Gold From **\$302 Per Week**

Explore the hidden beauty beneath the surf on a snorkeling tour of Chileno Bay. While underwater, you'll be treated to a dazzling show of brilliantly colored coral and tropical fish darting around in every direction.



Phoenix Area, Arizona

FROM \$337 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$49

Interval Platinum From **\$287 Per Week**

Interval Gold From **\$312 Per Week**

Head to the Old Town section of Scottsdale, where you'll find easily walkable neighborhoods, art galleries, dozens of unique shops, and museums. For a dose of history, take a self-guided walking tour with stops at the Rusty Spur Saloon and Cavalliere's Blacksmith Shop.



Punta Cana, Dominican Republic*

FROM \$259 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$37

Interval Platinum From **\$209 Per Week**

Interval Gold From **\$234 Per Week**

Spend a day on an activity-packed adventure through Viator: Ride an off-road buggy along a jungle path, stop for a swim in an ecological park's lagoon, sail in a catamaran on the Caribbean Sea, then dine by the water on Playa Blanca.

*This is an all-inclusive resort, requiring the purchase of a meal plan payable to the resort.

Vancouver Island, British Columbia

FROM \$879 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$126

Interval Platinum From **\$829 Per Week**

Interval Gold From **\$854 Per Week**

This island is a nature-lover's dream. Its 12,079 square feet of terrain is packed with an abundance of starkly contrasting ecosystems, from mountains to rolling meadows and even rain forests. Saddle up and explore the great outdoors on a guided horseback tour.



Riviera Nayarit, Mexico*

FROM \$259 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$37

Interval Platinum From **\$209 Per Week**

Interval Gold From **\$234 Per Week**

Soak up the laid-back vibes in the beach village of Sayulita, one of the most popular surf and paddleboard destinations in Riviera Nayarit. Stroll barefoot, perusing street vendors' handmade wares and sampling fresh ceviche at a table perched on the sand.

*This is an all-inclusive resort, requiring the purchase of a meal plan payable to the resort.



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on GETAWAYS

Poconos, Pennsylvania

FROM \$277 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$40

Interval Platinum From **\$227** Per Week

Interval Gold From **\$252** Per Week

Home to some 150 lakes, the Poconos offers warm-weather water sports in abundance. Head to Lake Wallenpaupack, where the variety is anything but lacking: You'll find parasailing, jet skiing, and kayaking, just to name a few. Looking for something on land? At 2,400 square miles, there are ample opportunities to take a hike and explore.



Alps, Austria

FROM \$317 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$46

Interval Platinum From **\$267** Per Week

Interval Gold From **\$292** Per Week

Go for a hike and breathe in the fresh Alpine air. The National Park Center in Mittersill offers 30 different park ranger-led options that let you experience the region's flora and fauna and myriad photo-worthy views.

French Polynesia

FROM \$1,689 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$242

Interval Platinum From **\$1,639** Per Week

Interval Gold From **\$1,664** Per Week

As the sun goes down in Papeete, head to Vai'ete Square for a taste of Tahiti's answer to food trucks: *roulottes*. Try a bit of whatever piques your interest, be it crepes, pizza, or *poisson cru*, French Polynesia's national dish.



Las Vegas, Nevada

FROM \$377 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$54

Interval Platinum From **\$327 Per Week**

Interval Gold From **\$352 Per Week**

Ready for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the Strip? Book an excursion to Red Rock Canyon, about 30 minutes due west, where you'll find more than a dozen desert hiking trails for a variety of fitness levels.



Balearic Islands, Spain

FROM \$279 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$40

Interval Platinum From **\$229 Per Week**

Interval Gold From **\$254 Per Week**

Marvel at Palma de Mallorca's awe-inspiring La Seu, a massive Gothic cathedral that overlooks the harbor. Walk through the remains of the city of Medina Mayurqa at the 10th-century Arab Baths, decorated with mixed-and-matched columns thought to be salvaged from Roman ruins.

Grand Cayman

FROM \$779 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$112

Interval Platinum From **\$729 Per Week**

Interval Gold From **\$754 Per Week**

Shop until you drop (tax-free!) in Camana Bay. Its numerous stores feature designer-label clothing, home-decor accessories, jewelry, and resortwear. Be sure to linger a while at the West Indies Wine Company, sampling some of their 80 wines offered by the glass.

Jamaica*

FROM \$279 PER WEEK

Nightly Average From \$40

Interval Platinum From **\$229 Per Week**

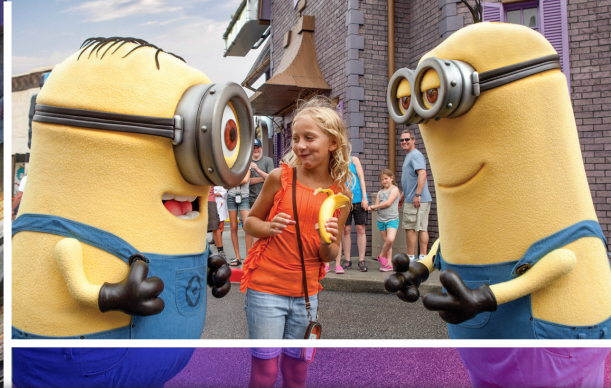
Interval Gold From **\$254 Per Week**

Get up close and personal with sea creatures at Dolphin Cove in Ocho Rios. There's an aquarium, shark show, snorkeling with stingrays, and swimming with dolphins — even glass-bottomed kayaks that let you explore both above and below the water.

*This is an all-inclusive resort, requiring the purchase of a meal plan payable to the resort.



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14-Night Southern Caribbean From \$1,059

DATE: November 27, 2016

SHIP: Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Breakaway*

ITINERARY: New York, New York; San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; Tortola, British Virgin Islands; St. Maarten; Martinique; Barbados; St. Lucia; St. Kitts; New York

As the ship's name suggests, this voyage provides an absolute breakaway from your real-world routine. You'll be at sea for the first couple of days, giving you plenty of time to familiarize yourself with the ship's exceptional amenities and 29 eateries, ranging from O'Sheehan's Neighborhood Bar & Grill to Shanghai's Noodle Bar to Moderno Churrascaria. After dinner, catch a Broadway-style production of *Rock of Ages* or *Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy*. Before you know it, you'll be basking in the Caribbean sun — relaxing on beach after beach — and ready to go snorkeling around Tortola, tour a Concorde aircraft on Barbados, or explore a rain forest on St. Lucia.

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cruise VACATIONS

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7-Night Eastern Caribbean From \$700

DATES: September 11, 25, 2016

SHIP: Royal Caribbean International's *Allure of the Seas*

ITINERARY: Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Nassau, Bahamas; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; St. Maarten; Fort Lauderdale

Taxes, fees, and port expenses of \$115 per person are additional.

You'll arrive in Nassau less than 24 hours after boarding the ship, but with a day of sunning on the beach or gallivanting around world-famous Atlantis, it won't take long to get into full vacation chill-out mode. Continue relaxing at *Allure of the Seas*' Vitality Spa, where facials, massages, and countless other treatments are on offer, or take that novel you've been wanting to read up to the adults-only Solarium for some well-deserved quiet time. Back ashore, take advantage of the duty-free shopping on St. Thomas and head to St. Maarten's Orient Beach for great views and a seaside lunch.



Royal Caribbean International

Island-Hop

ITINERARY

BEYOND THE BEACH

10-Night Hawaii From \$1,489

May 7, 2017

Celebrity Solstice

Taxes, fees, and port expenses of \$68 per person are additional.

Honolulu (Oahu; embark), Lahaina (Maui), Hilo and Kailua-Kona (Big Island), Hawaii; Vancouver, British Columbia (disembark)

Explore the barren, otherworldly terrain of Haleakala Crater or the lush Iao Valley on Maui. And on the Big Island, be sure to tour Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.



7-Night Eastern Caribbean From \$949

June 4, 25, 2016

Norwegian Escape

New Ship!

Miami, Florida; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; Tortola, British Virgin Islands; Nassau, Bahamas; Miami

Transfer from Norwegian's largest ship to a 65-foot catamaran for a voyage to Shipwreck Cove, where you'll snorkel past multicolored reef fish and curious turtles.



7-Night Western Caribbean From \$629

August 21, 2016

Liberty of the Seas

Taxes, fees, and port expenses of \$100 per person are additional.

Galveston, Texas; Cozumel, Mexico; Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands; Falmouth, Jamaica; Galveston

Take a day-trip to Tulum, home to a number of impressive Maya monuments such as El Castillo pyramid, Temple of the Descending God, and House of the Columns.



COZUMEL

6-Night Eastern Caribbean From \$1,560

DATE: December 30, 2016

SHIP: Disney Cruise Line's *Disney Magic*

ITINERARY: Miami, Florida; Cozumel, Mexico; Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands; Castaway Cay, Bahamas; Miami

The entire family will find plenty to do aboard the *Magic*, from character meet and greets to live shows and delicious dining at the Animator's Palette and Pinocchio's Pizzeria. (Or, sneak away to Palo, an Italian restaurant reserved for grown-ups.) Beyond the boat, all-ages snorkeling is the ideal way to while away an afternoon in Cozumel, and building sandcastles or simply soaking up the sun's rays are the activities du jour on Grand Cayman's Seven Mile Beach. On Castaway Cay, a private paradise for Disney guests, swim to the 2,400-square-foot Pelican Plunge for waterslide action, or stay dry at the Grouper Game Pavilion.



Take The Kids

6-Night Mexican Riviera From \$409

October 30, 2016
Carnival Miracle



ITINERARY

Long Beach (Los Angeles), California; Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Long Beach

FAMILY FUN

Book a comfortable motorized cruise out to Land's End to see the iconic El Arco, home to a colony of sea lions, and the golden sands of Playa del Amor.

3-Night Bahamas From \$561

November 4, 2016
Disney Dream



Port Canaveral (Orlando), Florida; Nassau and Castaway Cay, Bahamas; Port Canaveral

Get your camera ready to snap some adorable family photos with playful sea lions — mid flipper shake, perhaps, or full-blown hug — at Blue Lagoon Island's Dolphin Encounters attraction.

7-Night Hawaii From \$1,629

August 6, 13, 20, 2016
Pride of America



Honolulu (Oahu), Kahului (Maui), Hilo and Kailua-Kona (Big Island), Nawiliwili (Kauai), and Honolulu, Hawaii

Visit four Hawaiian islands — hang out in Waikiki, navigate the Road to Hana, visit the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, and cruise the Na Pali Coast — on this comprehensive itinerary.

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7-Night Western Mediterranean From \$1,099

DATE: October 16, 2016

SHIP: Royal Caribbean International's *Harmony of the Seas*

ITINERARY: Barcelona and Palma de Mallorca, Spain; Marseille (Provence), France; La Spezia (Florence and Pisa), Civitavecchia (Rome), and Naples, Italy; Barcelona

Taxes, fees, and port expenses of \$82 per person are additional.

With so many sights and cities to see throughout the Mediterranean, a cruise is an ideal way to make the most of your European vacation. And with its AquaTheater, Bionic Bar, and Central Park, *Harmony of the Seas* makes the entire voyage all the better. Go subterranean to see Mallorca's Caves of Drach and discover Marseille aboard a Segway. Embark on an 11-hour Tuscan tour that highlights both Florence and Pisa. In Rome, requisite stops include the Colosseum and Forum, and in Naples, seeing Pompei is a must, as is sampling some of the local tomatoes and mozzarella.

Explore Abroad

ITINERARY

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

17-Night Australia From \$1,999

September 10, 2016

Dawn Princess



Taxes, fees, and port expenses of \$360 per person are additional.

Fremantle (Perth; embark), Geraldton, Broome, Kimberley Coast (cruising), Darwin, and Yorkeys Knob (Cairns), Australia; Alotau, Papua New Guinea; Brisbane and Sydney, Australia (disembark)

Circumnavigate nearly all of Australia on this voyage from Perth north and around to Sydney. Visit some of the country's lesser-known scenic spots, and call on Papua New Guinea.

7-Night Mediterranean From \$719

October 8, 22, 2017

MSC Meraviglia



New Ship!

Genoa, Naples, and Messina (Sicily), Italy; Valletta (Malta); Barcelona, Spain; Marseille (Provence), France; Genoa

Descend 130 feet beneath the famous streets of Naples for a candlelit investigation of Napoli Sotterranea (Naples Underground), where narrow passages and relics date back some 2,400 years.

8-Night Mediterranean From \$720

September 23, 2016

Carnival Vista



New Ship!

Barcelona, Spain; Palermo (Sicily), Naples, Civitavecchia (Rome), and Livorno (Florence and Pisa), Italy; Marseille (Provence), France; Palma de Mallorca and Barcelona, Spain

After a day at sea to enjoy Carnival's new ship, prepare for an itinerary packed with nonstop cultural fare: from Sicily's Valley of the Temples to wine tasting on Mallorca.

THREE GORGES



12-Night China From \$3,442

DATES: August 3, 23, 2016

SHIP: Viking River Cruises' *Viking Emerald*

ITINERARY: Beijing (embark; three nights), Xi'an (two nights), Chongqing, Shibaozhai Temple, Three Gorges (two nights), Jingzhou, and Shanghai (disembark; two nights), China

If you've ever wanted to discover some of China's amazing history firsthand, along with a bit of its up-to-the-minute present, this trip is perfect. Start in Beijing with a visit to the Forbidden City and one of the best-preserved sections of the Great Wall. Fly to Xi'an, home to the famous terra-cotta army. Then it's on to Chongqing to board the *Viking Emerald* and begin a scenic cruise along the Yangtze River that includes the picturesque Three Gorges territory. In Shanghai, walk the tranquil Bund, relishing the view of the futuristic city skyline, and enjoy a performance by the Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe.



Keep It Classy

7-Night Alaska From \$999

July 16, 23, 30, 2016

Crown Princess

Taxes, fees, and port expenses of \$219 per person are additional.



ITINERARY

Seattle, Washington; Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay National Park (cruising), and Ketchikan, Alaska; Victoria, British Columbia; Seattle

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

Watch icebergs calve from majestic Margerie Glacier, and spot sea otters and black bears while drifting through Glacier Bay National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

7-Night Canada and New England From \$1,399

September 10, 2016

ms Veendam



Montreal (embark), Saint Lawrence River (cruising), and Québec City, Québec; Gulf of Saint Lawrence (cruising); Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Sydney and Halifax, Nova Scotia; Bar Harbor, Maine; Boston, Massachusetts (disembark)

Stroll along Québec City's Petit Champlain, stopping to peruse a boutique and snack at a cafe before touring Upper Town in a horse-drawn carriage.

12-Night South America From \$4,499

November 7, 2016

Insignia



Buenos Aires, Argentina (overnight; embark); Montevideo and Punta del Este, Uruguay; Rio Grande, Porto Belo, São Paulo, Parati, Ilha Grande, Búzios, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (overnight; disembark)

Mix the arts into your vacation at Punta del Este, where you can study masterworks at the Ralli Museum — including some by Dalí and Miró — and still hit the beach.

CRUISE VACATIONS prices are per person, double occupancy, cruise-only, and do not include airfare unless specified. Government taxes, insurance, and fuel supplement, where applicable, are additional. Cruise travel insurance is available and strongly recommended. Prices are subject to availability and to change without notice. Space is limited and will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. Certain restrictions apply. Lower prices are available during low season based on ship and itinerary.

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tour PACKAGES

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YELLOWSTONE

8-Day Classic National Parks

VALID JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2016

From \$1,449 per person

ITINERARY: Rapid City, South Dakota; Cody, Hayden Valley, and Jackson, Wyoming; Salt Lake City, Utah

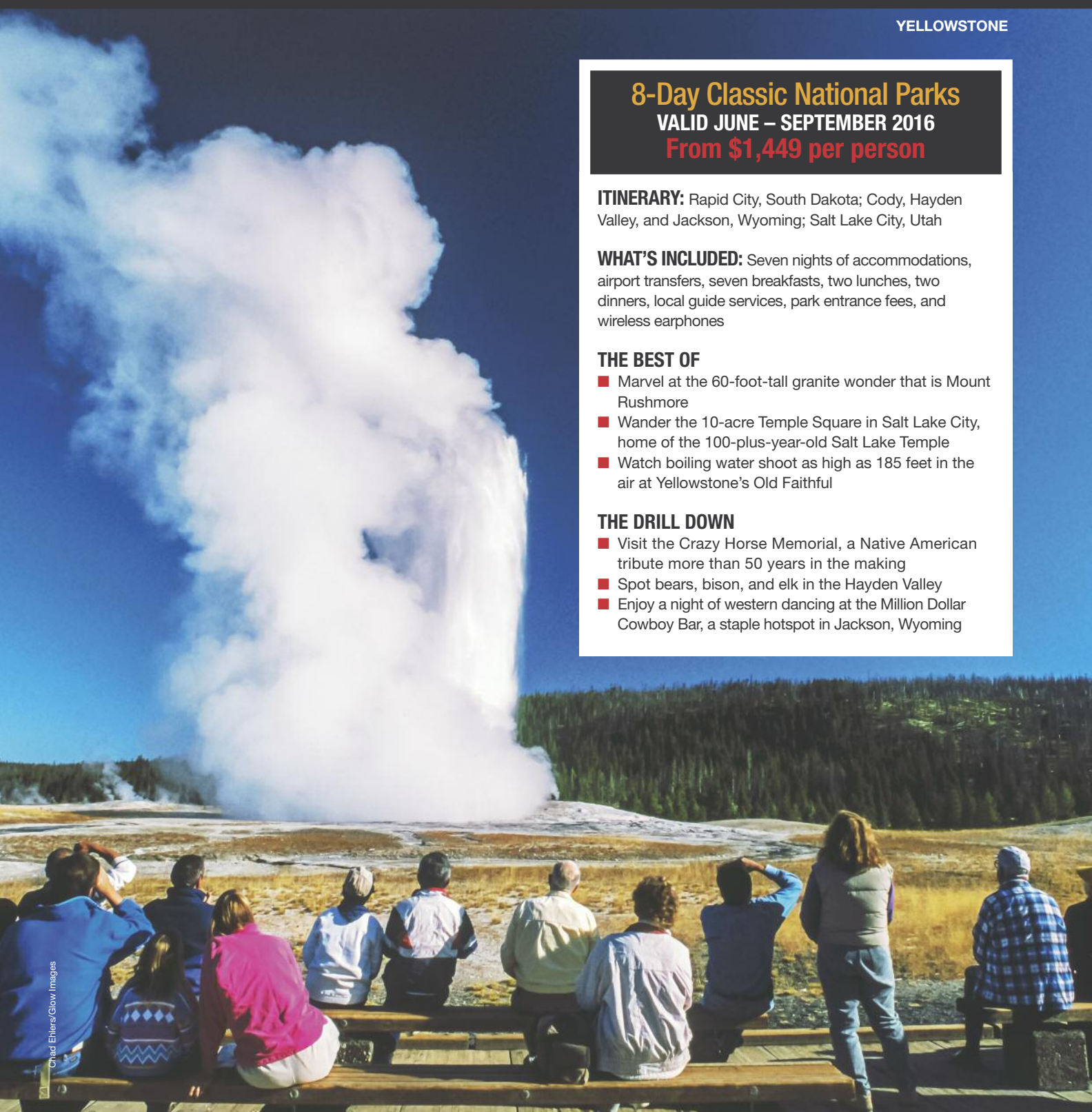
WHAT'S INCLUDED: Seven nights of accommodations, airport transfers, seven breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, local guide services, park entrance fees, and wireless earphones

THE BEST OF

- Marvel at the 60-foot-tall granite wonder that is Mount Rushmore
- Wander the 10-acre Temple Square in Salt Lake City, home of the 100-plus-year-old Salt Lake Temple
- Watch boiling water shoot as high as 185 feet in the air at Yellowstone's Old Faithful

THE DRILL DOWN

- Visit the Crazy Horse Memorial, a Native American tribute more than 50 years in the making
- Spot bears, bison, and elk in the Hayden Valley
- Enjoy a night of western dancing at the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar, a staple hotspot in Jackson, Wyoming



tour PACKAGES

Interval Platinum and Interval Gold members can trade their week or points toward these or any other tours through Interval Options.

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11-Day Best of Morocco VALID JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2016 From \$1,913 per person

ITINERARY: Casablanca, Rabat, Meknès, Fez, Ifrane, Midelt, Errachidia, Erfoud, Todra Gorge, Boumalne du Dades, Ouarzazate, Ait Benhaddou, Marrakech, Essaouira, and Casablanca, Morocco

WHAT'S INCLUDED: 10 nights of accommodations, welcome reception, daily buffet breakfast, two lunches, and four dinners

THE BEST OF

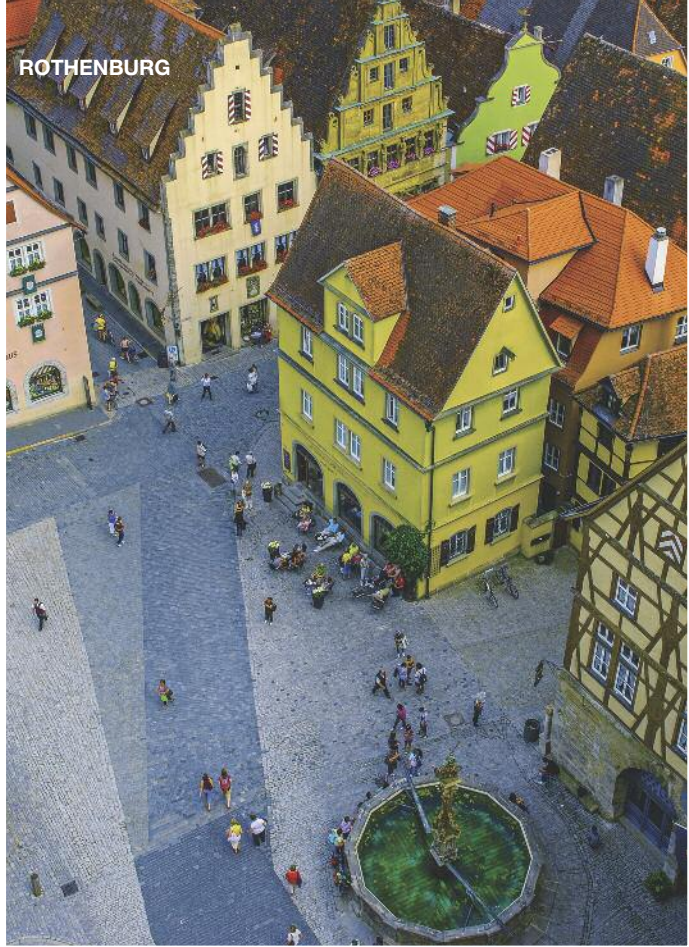
- Wander the Medina of Fez, a walled city chock-full of hidden gems, bazaars, and the oldest university in the world
- Trek through the High Atlas Mountains and the cedar-filled forest of Azrou
- Embrace your inner movie geek in Ouarzazate, the film capital of Morocco

THE DRILL DOWN

- Sip tea at a traditional Berber dwelling
- Learn about the history and artistry of carpet weaving
- Take a horse-and-carriage ride to dinner, complete with a belly dancing performance



MEDINA OF FEZ



ROTHENBURG

12-Day European Jewels VALID DECEMBER 2016 From \$1,809 per person

ITINERARY: London, England; Amsterdam, Netherlands; Rhineland, Rothenburg, and Munich, Germany; Venice, Montecatini Terme, and Florence, Italy; Lugano and Lucerne, Switzerland; Paris, France

WHAT'S INCLUDED: 11 nights of accommodations, 10 breakfast buffets, and four dinners

THE BEST OF

- Take a walking tour in Florence, and see the Palazzo Vecchio, Piazza del Duomo, and Loggia dei Lanzi
- Stroll Paris' Champs-Élysées, home to the famed Arc de Triomphe
- Snap your own version of the iconic "holding up" Italy's Leaning Tower of Pisa photo

THE DRILL DOWN

- Get a taste of the royal life while wandering England's Windsor Castle
- Marvel at centuries-old medieval architecture along Germany's Romantic Road
- See a Venetian glassblower sculpt masterpieces using traditional techniques

8-Day China Highlights

VALID JUNE AND SEPTEMBER 2016
From \$1,649 per person

ITINERARY: Beijing and Shanghai, China

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Seven nights of accommodations, seven breakfasts, five lunches, and four dinners

THE BEST OF

- Explore the Forbidden City, an expansive palace that was China's imperial residence for nearly 500 years
- Take a day-trip to Xi'an, home to the Terracotta Warriors Museum
- Walk along the storied Great Wall of China

THE DRILL DOWN

- Learn the art of dumpling making in the home of a local family
- Ride in a traditional rickshaw, touring the narrow streets and alleys of Old Beijing
- Discover Shanghai's rich architectural history at the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center



GREAT WALL OF CHINA



NEW YORK CITY

3-Day New York City Tree Lighting

VALID DECEMBER 2016
From \$712 per person

ITINERARY: New York City, New York

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Two nights of accommodations at a Manhattan hotel, admission tickets, and a VIP party with hors d'oeuvres and drinks for the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting

THE BEST OF

- Watch the famous Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting up close at an exclusive VIP party
- Shop until you drop on Fifth Avenue, home to many of the best-known designer stores
- Ride a New York Water Taxi for a close-up look at the Statue of Liberty

THE DRILL DOWN

- Take in one of the many acclaimed musical-theater performances on Broadway
- Visit the Macy's flagship store — all 10-plus levels of it! — in Herald Square and enjoy discounts on your purchases
- Get a bird's-eye view from the Top of the Rock, a three-level observation deck in Midtown

WHERE IN THE WORLD CONTEST



WIN A GREAT PRIZE!

We have 10 RFID-blocking wallets (which help prevent credit card skimming) to give away to lucky *Interval World* readers. Correctly identify the place in the photograph by name (using the clues to help you). Then send your answer, membership number, name, and address on a postcard to:

WHERE IN THE WORLD? CONTEST

Interval World

P.O. Box 431920

Miami, FL 33243-1920

Attention: Joshua Pramis

Entries must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2016. If your correct answer is one of the first 10 selected in our random draw, you win! See rules below.

clues

- Not just one, two, or even 10, but 20-plus cascades offer cool sanctuary along a river that twists through a rain forest-shaded mountain route on this sunny Caribbean island. Most visitors stop at just a handful, but plenty of intrepid adventurers make the four- to five-hour round-trip journey to see all of them.
- Until the mid-'90s, this natural treasure seemed to be a best-kept secret, perhaps because vacationers were so preoccupied by the island's abundance of broad beaches. Today, some 50,000 tourists a year discover the falls on guided hikes.
- Outfitted in helmets and life vests, hikers find numerous ways to experience the cascades: swimming, jumping off rock faces, or sliding down natural waterslides into crystalline pools.

RULES: Entrants must be active members of Interval International. Employees of Interval International, its subsidiaries, parent companies, and affiliates, and the families of each are not eligible to participate. More than one entry per member family is prohibited. Entries must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2016. Winners will be the first 10 correct answers selected in a random drawing. No purchase is necessary. There is no cash equivalent to the prizes.

The answer to Where in the World? in the Summer 2015 issue of *Interval World* is Fort Christiansvaern on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The winners of the cell phone-charging caddies are Kenneth Arjune of Kissimmee, Florida; Warren Cooke of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; Robert R. Frable of Rio Vista, California; Harry and Marilyn Fried of West Palm Beach, Florida; Debbie Gopaul of Rocky Hill, Connecticut; Louis and Margaret Grasso of Smithtown, New York; Scott Krieger of Los Angeles, California; Teresa and Ted Lange of South Riding, Virginia; Rachel Mathai of Westlake Village, California; and Joyce Shumate of Green Valley, Arizona.

The answer to Where in the World? in the Fall 2015 issue of *Interval World* is Cenote Dos Ojos in Riviera Maya, Mexico. The winners of the umbrellas with LED lights are Richard Abrams of Quakertown, Pennsylvania; Jesse Briglia of Ocean City, New Jersey; John Canevet of Southgate, Michigan; Luann Dragone of Glen Ridge, New Jersey; Tim Hudson of San Ramon, California; Cynthia Klaila of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Brenda Lawrence of Lambertville, Michigan; Doug Michie of Ventura, California; Mariano Montemayor of Daly City, California; and Thomas Oglin of Rockwall, Texas.



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AN UP-CLOSE LOOK AT THE EXUMAS, BAHAMAS'

Swimming Swine



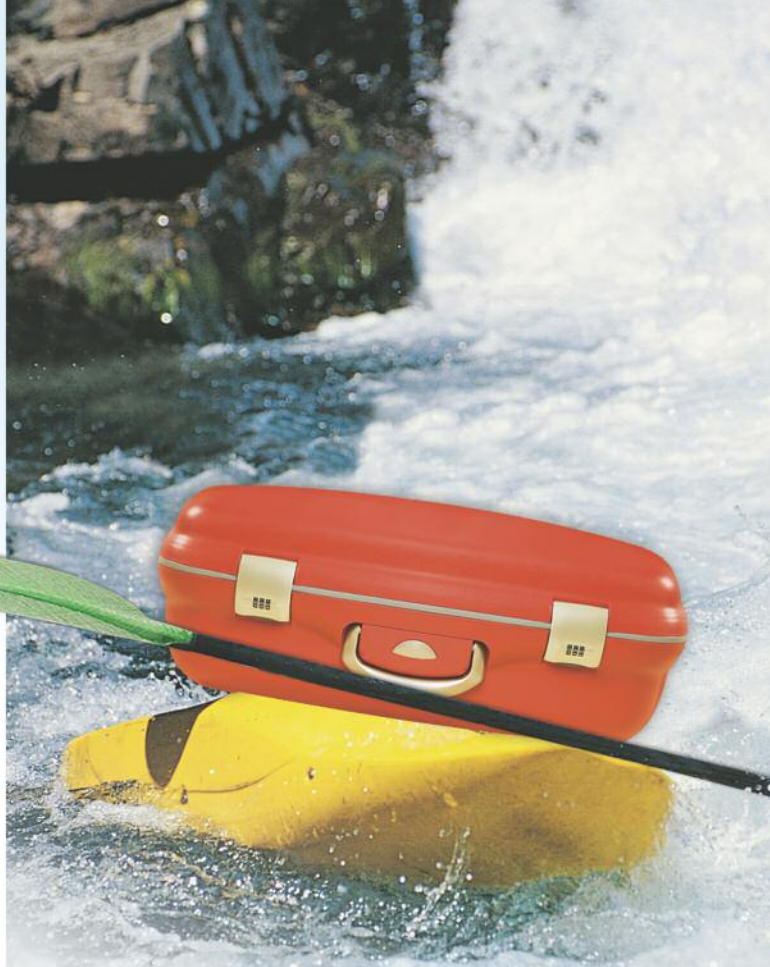
T

hink white, powder-soft sands with calm, turquoise waters stretching as far as the eye can see. What might not come to mind? Pigs. More specifically, adorable, snack-loving, *swimming* pigs. But that's just what you'll find on one uninhabited (by humans) isle of the Exumas, an archipelago of 365 islands in the Bahamas. Big Major Cay is home to Pig Beach, named for the two dozen or so feral, yet friendly, pigs who live there. They swim in the pristine, crystal-clear

waters, eagerly accepting treats from tourists who visit by boat from nearby islands just to see these photogenic creatures.

The aquatic pigs are a big draw, but they're not the only reason to visit the Exumas. When you aren't squealing with joy at the sight of these little oinkers, you'll get all the quintessential tropical paradise that you could possibly want, but with a fraction of the crowds, since the bulk of the Bahamas' 6 million annual visitors head to New Providence, by way of Nassau.

NaturePL/SupaStock



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