

# CLUB TRAVELER

ISSUE 1, 2023

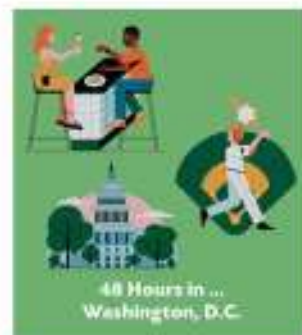


## *Stroll Through the Past*

Plan a vacation to a historic destination to stand on storied ground



# Contents



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# Welcome from Derek De Salvia

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Dear Owners,

Welcome to the first 2023 issue of *Club Traveler* magazine! Starting with this issue, *Club Traveler* magazine is now available to all Owners and Members – another step toward bringing everyone together into the Hilton Grand Vacations family following the acquisition of Diamond Resorts in 2021. With each issue, it is our goal to showcase destinations around the world that will inspire you to dream, plan and go, as well as help you make the most of your vacation ownership.

As HGV's new chief customer officer, I have made a personal commitment to communicate with you directly and transparently, which I plan to do through quarterly video updates. In these videos, I'll answer your questions about HGV and sit down with executives, team leaders, resort general managers and others so you can hear directly from them as well.

These updates will be shared on your Club website<sup>1</sup> and in *Club Traveler* newsletters, which are sent to Members of one of our Club programs – HGVClub, The Club and Extraordinary Escapes. If you missed my first update, you can view the full video on your Club website. It covers everything from HGV Max and service enhancements to our rebranded properties and different resort collections. I hope you take a moment to view my message and stay tuned for future communications from me. I'm truly excited for the year ahead and for the many travel adventures that await our Owners.

#### Discover Bygone Eras

Speaking of travel adventures, this issue's cover story, "Stroll Through the Past," provides ideas for a history-filled adventure with HGV. Our story showcases historic destinations around the world to help you envision what life was like for the people who lived in places such as Williamsburg, Virginia; Sedona, Arizona; Charleston, South Carolina; Cairngorms, Scotland; Bridgetown, Barbados; and Pisa, Italy. Visiting historic destinations is an excellent way to learn about the past and gain a new perspective on history.

#### Florida's Natural Wonders

Our second feature story, "Natural Florida," spotlights the Sunshine State's natural beauty and is sure to leave any nature lover in awe. Discover South Florida's diverse natural wonders that offer a unique and unforgettable experience or travel to Central Florida to explore more natural attractions. Whatever your plan is, Florida is the perfect destination to explore the great outdoors.

#### Travel Inspiration Awaits

Finally, our first issue of the year also features several new departments that I hope you'll love. Read "Travel Like ... a Professional Photographer" for tips on how to take photos like a pro or immerse yourself in a photographic tour of Sin City in "Postcard From Las Vegas." If you're a foodie looking for delicious farm-to-table restaurants around the country, look no further than "A Perfect Bite." And if your suitcase needs an overhaul, look for stylish spring picks in "The Carry On," featuring ideas that fit every budget. Additional articles include "One Island, Five Ways: Sint Maarten" and "48 Hours in ... Washington, D.C."

I hope this issue of *Club Traveler* will inspire you to make vacation memories in the year ahead. I look forward to meeting many of you during my visits to our beautiful properties around the world and I wish you a wonderful year making your travel dreams come true.

Happy journeys ahead,

**Derek De Salvia**  
Executive Vice President & Chief Customer Officer

<sup>1</sup> To access your Club website or Owner account, visit [HiltonGrandVacations.com](https://HiltonGrandVacations.com), click on "Sign In" at the top right of the page and select the appropriate account type from the drop-down menu. Once the login page opens, enter your account credentials (username and password).



TRAVEL LIKE A

# PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Take photos like a pro with these insider tips

To capture stunning moments on your next vacation, relax, have fun and think like a professional photographer. Travel photographer Nancy Lova, whose work has appeared in *National Geographic*, *Condé Nast Traveler* and *Travel + Leisure*, shares her tips for taking unforgettable photos — even on your mobile phone.



## DON'T POSE

"I like to capture photos that are in the moment rather than asking people to smile and pose. I often step back, take out my camera or phone and get a shot of everyone eating or drinking or simply staring at a view. Such photos have a way of transporting people to that very moment as if they were right there again."



## KEEP IT SIMPLE

"When taking photos on a phone, try to take the picture as if it was already cropped. Focus on a specific angle and avoid leaving too much blank, open space like big areas of the sky or grass. For example, when taking pictures of a beach, I would get one palm tree in the photo or one or two beach umbrellas, rather than everything on the beach. This makes the shot cleaner while still displaying the setting."



## HAVE FUN

"Don't worry about getting the perfect shot and don't worry about people watching you — just have fun with the camera. There's no right or wrong way to take photos as everyone has different styles. Take photos of everything. The more you practice, the more it becomes second nature."

“

DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING THE PERFECT SHOT AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT PEOPLE WATCHING YOU — JUST HAVE FUN WITH THE CAMERA



Above: Seville, Spain. Right: Udaipur, India. Follow photographer Nancy Lova on Instagram at [@nancylova](#), to see more of her work.



# More Resorts Await — Only With HGV Max

Enjoy access to more exciting destinations and more great benefits than ever before as a Member with HGV Max



Book up the Florida sun at McAllen Ocean Plaza, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club

HGV Max helps you get the most from every vacation by giving you access to an expanded resort portfolio and other newly available benefits since its launch in April 2022. Here's what you can enjoy when you enroll in this best-in-class membership program:

- Access to an expanded resort portfolio, including many new destinations
- A new reservation window starting six months before check-out (exceptions apply)
- Ability to use your points to book travel experiences like cruises and guided tours
- Complimentary reservation transactions for in-network resorts
- 10% off Hilton hotels with the HGV Max Rate
- And more!

Interested in HGV Max? Email us to learn more  
[HGVC\\_DS\\_Marketing@hgv.com](mailto:HGVC_DS_Marketing@hgv.com)

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# Dates for Your Diary



Plan your next vacation around these exciting events on the Hilton Grand Vacations resort network



Get a taste of the Windy City's music scene at the Chicago Blues Festival

## Chicago Blues Festival

**When:** June 8–11, 2023

**Where:** Chicago, Illinois

**Why go:** Held in Millennium Park and at other venues across the city, this long-running event is a mainstay on the Chicago social calendar, attracting blues fans from far and wide. The lineup is a diverse mix of emerging and established blues artists, with all performances free to attend. For a memorable festival experience, pack a picnic and enjoy a beautiful evening of soulful tunes.

**Where to stay:** Perched on the top floor of the city's DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, [Chicago Magnificent Mile](#), a Hilton Grand Vacations Club features capacious Studios and Suites, a modern fitness center and a large swimming pool. Area favorites like Millennium Park, Navy Pier and the Chicago Theatre are all a stone's throw away.



Enjoy a staging of Hamlet in New York City's Central Park led by The Public Theater

## Free Shakespeare in the Park in New York City

**When:** June 8–August 6, 2023

**Where:** New York

**Why go:** More than 400 years after his passing, the works of the Bard are alive and well in modern-day New York City. And there's nothing like enjoying a full-scale Shakespeare production on a balmy summer evening at the open-air Delacorte Theater in Central Park. This year's season will be a staging of *Hamlet* directed by Tony Award Winner Kenny Leon. Entry is free but tickets are distributed only on the day of the show, either in person at designated box-office locations or via a digital lottery.

**Where to stay:** Live it up in the Big Apple at [The Central at Sips](#), a Hilton Club, a luxurious 34-floor property located a short walk from Central Park and close to other attractions, including Rockefeller Center and Times Square.





Take in this patriotic display with the famous monuments as a stunning background  
Image by Skoroš Rajsekher/Unsplash

## Fourth of July Fireworks Display in Washington, D.C.

**When:** July 4, 2023

**Where:** Washington, D.C.

**Why go:** Even as sparklers and rockets light the night skies across the country on Independence Day, the fireworks show in the nation's capital is still among the most awe-inspiring. With D.C.'s iconic monuments and memorials serving as a dramatic backdrop, the show on the National Mall is a must-see. Get there early to catch the display in all its dazzling glory. Alternatively, you can hop on a sightseeing cruise to view the fireworks while floating on the Potomac River.

**Where to stay:** [The District](#), a [Hilton Club](#) is an elegant property conveniently located between Georgetown and Dupont Circle, putting you within walking distance of the city's famous monuments and museums, as well as top-notch restaurants and stylish bars.



The Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival is one of the largest of its kind  
Image by Orlando Fringe

## Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival

**When:** May 16–29, 2023

**Where:** Orlando, Florida

**Why go:** As the longest-running festival of its kind in the United States, the Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival is a must-attend for lovers of the arts. Featuring hundreds of ticketed theatrical performances and a free outdoor music festival, this entertaining event is a mishmash of genres – from live music and live art to stand-up comedy, poetry competitions and literary readings. There's also a free kids' festival, with special children's theater performances alongside painting workshops, puppet parades and animal encounters.

**Where to stay:** [Las Palmeras](#), a [Hilton Grand Vacations Club](#) is a family-friendly resort conveniently located a 20-minute drive to Downtown Orlando and is less than 5 miles from Universal Orlando® Resort and SeaWorld® Orlando. Within the resort, your little ones can glide down the water slide and play in the splash pad while you relax with a cocktail at the poolside bar.



Expect plenty of live music at San Diego's Cinco de Mayo  
Image by Fiesta Old Town Cinco de Mayo

## Fiesta Old Town Cinco de Mayo in San Diego

**When:** May 3–May 7, 2023

**Where:** San Diego, California

**Why go:** Also known as the Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla, Cinco de Mayo is an annual celebration of Mexico's victory over the Second French Empire in 1862. The holiday is celebrated throughout the United States, especially in San Diego, which is home to Fiesta Old Town Cinco de Mayo. Typically held throughout the weekend closest to the holiday, this year's event marks its 40th year of festivities. The lively fiesta plays host to a slew of Mexican restaurants and street-food stalls, lanes of mini *tindas* (shops) offering a variety of traditional artwork and textiles, as well as an exciting lineup of live music, mariachi bands and street performances.

**Where to stay:** Located about a 30-minute drive from downtown San Diego, [Marlissa](#), a [Hilton Grand Vacations Club](#) is an oceanfront property that exudes a relaxed Mediterranean vibe. Unwind at any of the three outdoor pools or indulge in a pampering treatment at the spa next door.



Find heaping plates of blue crab at this annual Myrtle Beach festival  
Image by Blue Crab festival

## World Famous Blue Crab Festival in Myrtle Beach

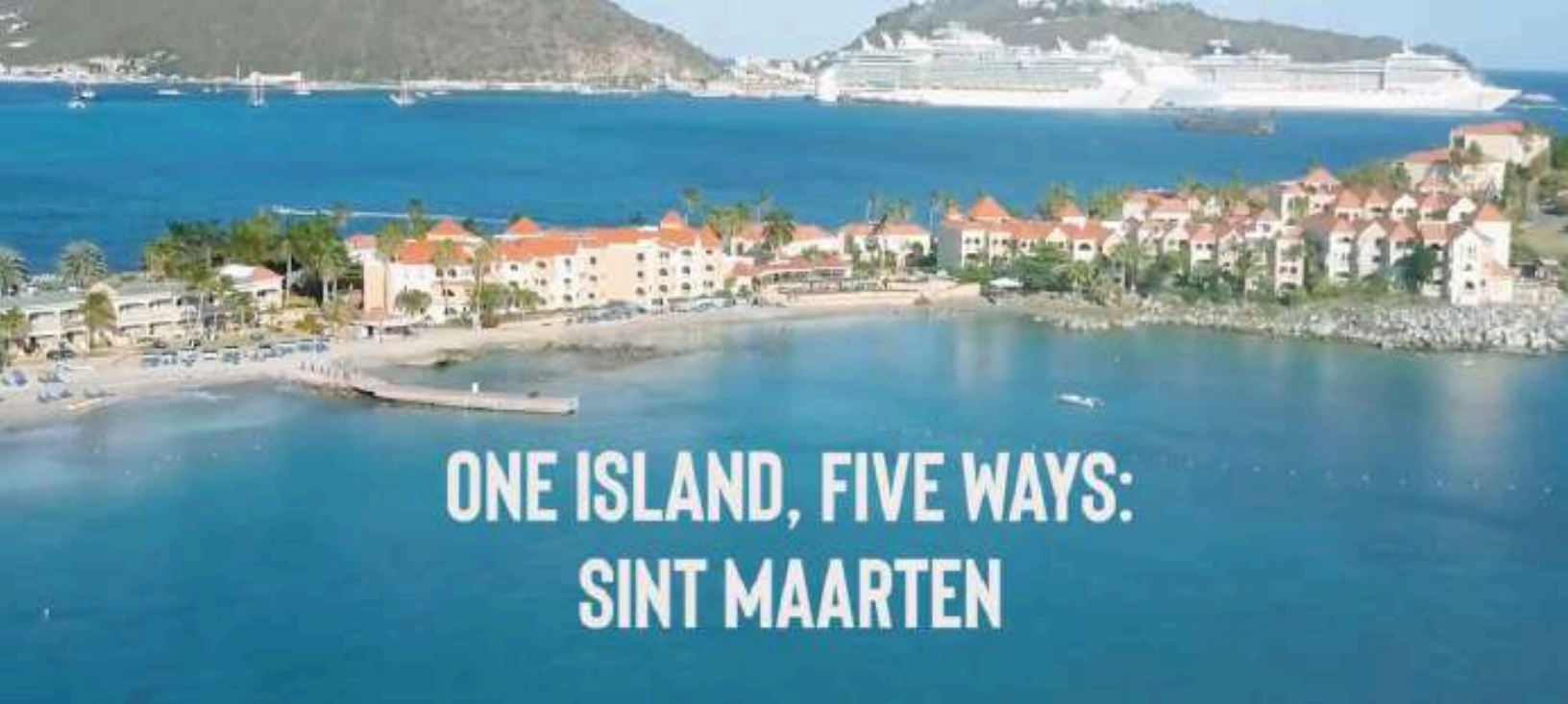
**When:** May 20–21, 2023

**Where:** Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

**Why go:** While it started as a small community event, this annual festival – dedicated to the beloved blue crab – is now a world-famous celebration. Held at the Little River waterfront near North Myrtle Beach, this jamboree is the perfect opportunity to drink in scenic views, jive to live music and, of course, dig into heaps of delicious Southern seafood.

**Where to stay:** With an enviable location overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, [Ocean 22](#), a [Hilton Grand Vacations Club](#) is a favorite for visitors to Myrtle Beach. Choose from 1-, 2- or 3-Bedroom Suites, all fully equipped with your own kitchen and living space.





# ONE ISLAND, FIVE WAYS: SINT MAARTEN

## *Sint Maarten* One Island, Five Ways

Words: Sarah Richards

**This compact island offers classic Caribbean magic with European flair**

Easily accessible from both sides of the Atlantic, this unique island in the northwest Caribbean Sea offers visitors year-round tropical weather and a mix of adventures that stretch almost as long as its pristine, sandy shores. Sint Maarten is the name of the more populated Dutch side of this 34-square-mile (54-square-kilometer) island, which it shares with France (where it's called St. Martin). In a single afternoon you can visit both countries for the quintessential Caribbean experience. Think powdery, white-sand beaches, sparkling azure waters, jungle tours, lively nightlife, funky beach bars and upscale restaurants. Here's our pick of some of the best things to see and do during your stay on "The Friendly Island."

*One*



Explore the azure waters of Tintamarre Island  
Image by Wandering Lesica/Shutterstock



## On the Water

It's hard to describe the spectrum of blue hues of these waters. **Pro Tip:** Make sure you get a window seat on your flight into Princess Juliana International Airport, which is surrounded by bays and lagoons. That way you can admire from above the gradual shifts of azure and turquoise in the water. Once you're on the island, you'll have plenty of opportunities to see the colors up close.

Charter companies offer a variety of sailing, snorkeling and sunset-cruise excursions. One of the best known is Captain Bob's Speedboat, Snorkeling and Beach Tour, operated by [Souaiiga Destination](#). The six-hour tour takes you to Tintamarre Island, Pinel Island and Creole Rock, where you can swim with turtles and see parrotfish, angelfish and porcupine fish.

Sint Maarten also has a world-class reef and wreck scuba-diving, with the chance to encounter moray eels and stingrays. [Dive Adventures](#) and [Dive Safaris](#) are two shops that have garnered a five-star rating from the Professional Association of Diving Instructors.



Marvel at the unique views at Maho Beach  
Image by Renee Kiger/Unplashk

## On the Beach

Whether you're in the mood for a private patch of sand, water sports or a comfy beach chair in easy reach of a creamy blender cocktail, you have your choice of some of the best beaches in the world — and there are 37 of them all around the island.

[Mullet Bay](#) is one of Sint Maarten's most beautiful beaches, with clear, warm turquoise waters and a mix of tourists and locals. Located on the western side of the island near the French border, it offers chair and beach rentals and a couple of places to get food and drinks. Try Rosie's Snack Shack for barbecue ribs and chicken. It's a swimming beach free of jet skis but be prepared for a few waves, depending on the season.

Round the next cove to find [Maho Beach](#), which isn't your typical beach escape. The sandy strip is so close to the island's airport that the planes fly directly over your head, giving many visitors a thrill — not to mention a unique photo op (and a chance to try our tips from a professional [travel photographer](#)). Known as "the most extreme beach in the world," it may not be the most relaxing scene but it's definitely one of the most memorable. Have a cocktail at the Driftwood Bar while you plane-spot.

On the French side, head to [Orient Bay Beach](#). Here you'll find a more typical beach resort scene with plenty of bars and restaurants to keep you in *rosé* mode all day. There's also a lively water-sports site. It's a lovely, long beach with something for everyone, including a *plage naturiste* (nudist beach) at the south end.

# Three



Loterie Farm is a serene nature reserve with hiking, swimming and cabanas for lounging.  
Image by Loterie Farm

## In the Jungle

Sint Maarten isn't all about the water. A visit to the island wouldn't be complete without a trip to the jungle – ideally hurtling through the trees on a zip line. [Rainforest Adventures](#) has several thrilling options at Rockland Estate, including a chairlift ride with stunning views and a new zip line called the Flying Dutchman. Billed as the “steepest zip line in the world,” it sends visitors harnessed in a chair down a 1,050-foot (320-meter) drop. The park also recently opened the Emilio Wilson Museum, which tells the inspiring story of an islander whose ancestors were enslaved and eventually bought the property to promote and protect the history and culture of the island.

If you're looking for more zen, check out Loterie Farms nature reserve and sanctuary on the French side. It features hiking trails and a pool amid lush gardens with day beds and cabanas. [Loterie Farms](#) also offers zip line adventures for those needing more adrenaline.



Part city Philipsburg is full of charming streets and colorful buildings.  
Image by br van der Broek/Shutterstock

# Four



## In the Towns and Cities

Before Christopher Columbus sighted the island in 1493, it was inhabited by descendants of the Arawak Indians, who had arrived around the year 800 and called the island “Soualiga” or “Land of Salt” in reference to the area’s salt ponds. Eventually it was colonized by the Dutch and French, who partitioned the island in 1648. Today the northern French part is an overseas collectivity of the French Republic, while the southern Dutch area is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The Dutch capital, Philipsburg, is a charming port with cobblestone streets and colorful, colonial-style buildings. It’s also a routine stop for cruise ships, and its Front Street area caters to day-trippers with jewelry and duty-free spirits shops. Marigot, the French capital, is quieter, with an open-air market and outdoor cafés.



Enjoy delicious plates at [Jax Steakhouse](#)  
Image by [Jax Steakhouse](#)

## On the Culinary Trail

The island has a well-deserved reputation as a foodie haven, with fresh seafood, Continental classics or Caribbean fusion cuisine. [Zee Best](#) is a favorite bakery and breakfast and lunch spot near the Simpson Bay Marina, offering more than 20 savory and sweet crepes. [Jax Steakhouse](#) in Maho Beach serves up oysters, black-truffle pasta and tomahawk steaks. On the French side, more bakeries abound. Baguettes — the kind you’d find in a classic bakery in Paris — are easily sourced here. A loaf with some cheese and fruit makes for an ideal picnic on the beach. For dinner, visit the Grand Case area to explore the island’s best restaurants. [Hôtel Caraïbes](#) is an elegant, fine-dining establishment with lobster thermidor from its lobster tanks and escargots drenched in garlic butter.

After your meal, head to [The Red Piano](#), a rocking piano bar located in Pelican Key, or [Lotus Nightclub](#), a dance club decorated in the style of a Buddhist temple near Simpson Bay.

## Where to Stay



[Flamingo Beach, a Hilton Vacation Club](#)



[Royal Palm, a Hilton Vacation Club](#)

After a busy day exploring the island, retreat to your oasis at these Hilton Vacation Club resorts: Flamingo Beach, a Hilton Vacation Club, which is located on the beach and has its own restaurant and bar, and Royal Palm, a Hilton Vacation Club, which is steps away from the beach with calm sea and water top views. Both properties offer spacious accommodations with fully equipped kitchens and plenty of amenities for your island Sint Maarten getaway. After relaxing at the beach all day or working up a sweat in one of the resort’s fitness centers, take a swim in the pool to unwind before heading out for dinner and fun. Located near popular Simpson Bay, these properties are close to the heart of Sint Maarten’s best restaurants, nightclubs and casinos — and of course, memorable sunsets.



# Florida

From kayaking in the Everglades to snorkeling along one of the largest coral barrier reefs in the world, there's plenty to do and see on your next vacation to the southern portion of the Sunshine State



Discover Florida's wilderness, from the Everglades to Biscayne Bay

**Words:** Terry Ward

**Images:** Shutterstock & Getty images

In Florida — a state that always feels wild at heart — interacting with nature is something that can happen at any turn and at any time. Whether you're looking for a guided ecotour or prefer to chart your own course to explore South Florida's spectacular natural wonders, we've got a few ideas for where to go.



## Visit Manatee Lagoon

Spotting a threatened West Indian manatee in the wild is a highlight for Florida visitors — but you need to be in the know to find the somewhat reclusive animals. When you visit the free [Manatee Lagoon](#) attraction in West Palm Beach, you can observe the gentle giants from the center's observation deck. The warm-blooded mammals are drawn here by warm-water outflows from the nearby Florida Power & Light Company plant, which spill into Lake Worth Lagoon. It's not uncommon to spot mothers and babies surfacing together in tender moments. And when the weather turns cold, the manatees can arrive by the hundreds. The best time to spot these gentle creatures is during the winter months, when water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean plunge. Inside, you'll find year-round exhibits about manatees, lionfish and other lagoon life that shed light on this critical Florida ecosystem.

## Take a biking tour around Miami Beach

Pedaling a bike is a low-carbon way to experience Miami Beach and take in the fresh ocean breeze. Slap on some sunscreen and head to the [Miami Beach Bicycle Center](#) to take your pick from electric cycles, beach cruisers, hybrids and fat-tire sand bikes. Then, set off on a self-guided tour to explore the sun-kissed surroundings. One of the most pleasant places to cycle is the Miami Beachwalk, a 7-mile-long (11-kilometer), paved path fronting the Atlantic Ocean. Start at South Pointe Park and pedal north toward the town of Surfside. You'll pass by Lummus Park, where you'll see the iconic Art Deco-style ocean-facing hotels of South Beach that are featured in so many postcards and films. Pack a bathing suit and towel so you can stop for an ocean dip along the way.





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### Go on a kayaking tour in Everglades National Park

It's incredible that some of the wildest nature in the United States is within day-tripping distance of South Florida at [Everglades National Park](#) — a 1.5-million-acre (0.5-million-hectare) wetlands preserve spread across three of the state's counties. From the park's main Homestead Entrance, drive deeper into the wilderness to Flamingo Marina, where you can rent single or double kayaks and two- or three-person canoes from [Flamingo Adventures](#) for self-guided paddling trips. Venture along the Nine Mile Pond Canoe Trail — a 5.2-mile (8.3-kilometer) loop that passes through shallow marshes and mangrove islands within the park — to spot alligators and crocodiles. For guided kayak tours of Everglades National Park, cross the state to the park's Everglades City Entrance, where operators like [ShoreAdventures](#) lead full-day trips into the [Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge](#).

### Try snorkeling in Biscayne National Park

You don't need to venture far from downtown Miami to snorkel along the world's third largest coral barrier reef, part of which is located within [Biscayne National Park](#), just east of Homestead. The National Park System's largest marine park is 95% water, with ample options for putting on a mask, fins and snorkel. More than 600 species of fish dwell here, often within eyeshot of downtown Miami's skyscrapers. On snorkeling excursions with the [Biscayne National Park Institute](#), you might see parrotfish, sergeant majors, barracuda or even long-snouted seahorses in the seagrasses and along the reefs. Full- and half-day snorkeling trips into the national park depart from marinas in Homestead and Coconut Grove, with the latter being closer to Downtown Miami. Depending on the weather conditions in the bay and at the outer reef, you might even get to visit shallow shipwrecks.

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### Visit animal rescue centers to see rehabilitated wildlife

With so much diverse wildlife across Florida — everything from panthers and black bears to bobcats, manatees, pelicans, dolphins, deer and more — the state has its share of rescue centers you can visit to learn more about the animals and support their rehabilitation efforts.

During guided tours at [Panther Bridge Conservation Center](#) in Loughatchee, just inland from West Palm Beach, you can get up close and personal with nine different species of big cats, including endangered Florida panthers. Native birds — raptors and wading birds among them — find temporary and permanent homes at [Florida Keys Wild Bird Center](#), where a boardwalk winds through the lush mangroves. The center rescues, cares for and releases nearly 1,000 birds a year, and you can view them in various states of rehabilitation before they're released.

### Explore Blowing Rocks Preserve

Named for the unique limestone shoreline, the largest on the Atlantic coast, [Blowing Rocks Preserve](#) is a 73-acre (29-hectare) native coastal habitat restoration project — a chance to see Florida in its original wild state. The reserve is home to some of Florida's endangered species, both flora and fauna. Three species of sea turtles nest here, including loggerhead, green and leatherback. In the spring, Blowing Rocks runs a Sea Turtle Rescue Program to help the creatures find their way to the sea.

Summer months bring perfect conditions to snorkel and swim in calmer waters while winter months are best to catch the namesake "blowing rocks" in action. The sea water hits the craggy rocks on the beach, creating geysers of up to 50 feet (15 meters). Plan your visit at high tide and visit on a day with rough seas to spot the phenomenon.

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### Create your own beach clean-up during a day at the beach

A day at the beach can be spent sunbathing, splashing and surfing — and giving back. Plan your own beach clean-up event to enjoy some time in the sun and sand, while also working to improve the local environment. It can be as simple as spending 30 minutes checking the shoreline around you for trash and plastics to pick up and dispose of responsibly.

Anne Marie Moquin, the founder of Jacksonville Beach-based nonprofit group [Beaches Go Green](#), suggests packing reusable materials to be as environmentally friendly as possible. As Moquin describes: "Bring reusable buckets, washable gloves and repurposed grain bags from a local brewery for trash bags or collection bags." She adds, "Try not to make more trash while cleaning up."



## Where to Stay



### **McAlpin Ocean Plaza, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**

Just steps from the palm-tree-lined beach, McAlpin Ocean Plaza's 1- and 2-Bedroom Suites are perfect for relaxing after a day exploring the Everglades – and boasts an idyllic rooftop spa. The resort is located in the buzzing Art Deco District and the property itself is a historically registered building that is an excellent example of the area's classic architecture.



### **Crescent on South Beach, a Hilton Vacation Club**

Boutique resort Crescent on South Beach offers the best of the white-sand beaches and vibrant city life, whether you're in search of a chic sidewalk café or trendy cocktail bar. Choose from the property's 1- or 2-Bedroom Suites, both with fully equipped kitchens. The 2-Bedroom Suites also feature a patio or balcony for soaking up the Florida sun.

## Outdoors in Central Florida

Away from the coast, there is plenty more to see in the heart of the state. Just a short drive north of Orlando, you'll find [Wekiva Springs State Park](#). Visitors flock to the naturally clear water to swim or paddleboard or simply enjoy a barbecue on the banks. To the east, [Blue Spring State Park](#) is another favorite swimming spot. But here, you may even get to share the waters with manatees, turtles and even baby alligators, although visitors should be sure not to disturb these fascinating creatures.

For a relaxing nature walk, visit [Orlando Wetlands Park](#), a green area dedicated to treating reclaimed water to make a safe home for the local wildlife. The area is popular with bird lovers as more than 240 species live in the lush wetlands. Or, outside Orlando to the northwest, the Lake Apopka Loop Trail follows the shore of one of Florida's largest lakes. It's perfect for a leisurely stroll or bike ride, with the chance to spot herons or gators. Don't miss the park's observation tower for a breathtaking view of the water.



## Where to Stay



### **SeaWorld® Orlando, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**

This resort is the place for family fun! Located opposite SeaWorld® and minutes from Walt Disney World®, Universal Orlando® and Universal's Volcano Bay™, here you'll have your pick of theme park adventures. The resort's Studios and 1-, 2- and 3-Bedroom Suites all have screened balconies or patios, and the property also offers three swimming pools, a kids' splash pad and onsite movie theater.



### **Mystic Dunes, a Hilton Vacation Club**

At Mystic Dunes, you can play a round of golf while the kids explore the outdoor pool or take a family bike ride around the scenic property. Book one of the comfortable Studios or 1-, 2- or 3-Bedroom Suites, and then enjoy exploring the four heated pools onsite – nab a private cabana for the ultimate experience.



# Stroll Through the Past

*Plan a vacation to a historic destination to stand on storied ground*

**Words:** Fiona Tapp



Pisa,  
Italy



Bridgetown,  
Barbados



Cairngorms,  
Scotland



Charleston,  
South Carolina



Sedona,  
Arizona



Williamsburg,  
Virginia

The best travel memories are often created when you're learning something new — or when you can see a historic site with a new perspective. Whether you walk along cobblestone streets in some of the oldest cities in the United States or explore royal residences in Scotland, your next vacation can allow you to wander through history.



Admire the iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa

## Pisa, Italy

The city of Pisa has been an important metropolis since Roman times. Now, visitors flock here to catch a glimpse of the world-famous [Leaning Tower of Pisa](#). Despite the tilt, which grew to 5.5 degrees in 1990, the tower has survived at least four major earthquakes since 1280.

Extensive work to stabilize the structure closed the site temporarily, but you can now climb the stairs inside the marble tower to hear the ringing of the ancient bells as you gaze out over the picturesque town square.

Four monuments – the tower, the cathedral, the baptistry and the cemetery – make up the Piazza del Duomo, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Inside the beautifully ornate cathedral, you'll find the Campo Santo cemetery. It's home to archaeological treasures and artwork from Roman and medieval times.

Pisa is also the birthplace of scientist Galileo Galilei, and you can follow in his historic, scholarly footsteps at the University of Pisa, founded in 1343. Step back in time even further at San Paolo a Ripa d'Arno, one of Pisa's oldest churches. And for a traditional Italian espresso and pastry to fuel your wanderers, visit Caffè dell'Ussero, which dates to the 1700s.

Ready to immerse yourself in even more Italian splendor? About a 90-minute drive from Pisa is Florence, home to artistic marvels sure to inspire any history buff. Here, you'll find the sculpture "David" by Renaissance artist Michelangelo at the [Accademia Gallery](#) and the Ponte Vecchio, a medieval shop-lined bridge that's perfect for admiring a gorgeous sunset.

### MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

- 📍 Climb the iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa
- 📍 See Michelangelo's "David" at the Accademia Gallery

### OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

- 📍 Visit San Paolo a Ripa d'Arno, one of Pisa's oldest churches
- 📍 Order an espresso at Caffè dell'Ussero

## Where to Stay

### **[Borgo alle Vigne,](#) a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**

Set into the scenic hills of the Italian countryside, picturesque Borgo alle Vigne offers incredible views and luxurious accommodations. Choose from 1-, 2- and 3-Bedroom Suites with terraces to take in the panoramas outside.







Step back in time with colonial-era reenactments in Bridgetown

## Bridgetown, Barbados

Dive beneath Barbados' beautiful Caribbean beaches, bustling cruise ports and delicious rum to discover its rich and fascinating history. Bridgetown, the country's capital, was founded in 1628, and the historic old town and colonial-era British garrison make up a UNESCO World Heritage site. Learn more at the [Gun Hill Signal Station](#), which once protected the island from attack.

Barbados is one of the oldest continuing parliamentary democracies in the world. Visit the historic Parliament Buildings in Bridgetown and view the [National Heroes Gallery](#), featuring sculptures crafted by local Barbadian and Caribbean artists. You can also walk around [George Washington House & Museum](#), the reported vacation home of George Washington, the United States' first president.

The island was home to Arawak and Carib Indigenous peoples before colonization by the English in the 17th century, when Barbados became a leading producer of sugar in the Caribbean.

You can learn about the country's origins and how it gained independence from Britain in 1966 at the [Barbados Museum & Historical Society](#).

For a spectacular panoramic view of the tropical island's ocean scenery, tour [St. John's Parish Church](#). The church was originally built in 1645 and was destroyed several times by fires and hurricanes before undergoing restoration in 1836.

And of course, no trip to Barbados would be complete without sampling some of the local specialty rum. The [St. Nicholas Abbey](#) rum distillery is located in one of the only remaining Jacobean-style mansions in the Western Hemisphere, dating back to the 1600s. You can visit the house and museum before having a tippie — and maybe grab a bottle of personalized blended rum to bring home. Finally, visit the Foursquare Rum Distillery and warehouse to learn how rum is made, stored and blended before being bottled.

### MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

- 📍 See British colonial architecture at the military garrison
- 📍 Sample local rum at St. Nicholas Abbey

### OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

- 📍 Learn about the country's history at the Barbados Museum & Historical Society
- 📍 Take in the ocean view at St. John's Parish Church

## Where to Stay

### **The Crane, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**

Located in St. Philip, The Crane is the oldest continuously operating resort in the Caribbean (since 1887). Your Studio, 1-, 2- or 3-Bedroom Suite will feature a timeless, four-poster bed, as well as modern marble accents. Explore the property's beach, viewing decks and cliff-top pool overlooking the stunning blue sea.







Explore the royal residence of Balmoral Castle in Scotland

## Cairngorms, Scotland

Whether your interest lies in stately homes, medieval castles or traditional whisky distilleries, you'll find it all in Scotland. The rugged hills of the Scottish Highlands' exquisite Cairngorms National Park make a stunning base for exploring the historic sites around the region (read more in our [Summer 2022 issue of Club Traveler](#)). In fact, it's estimated that there were once around 3,000 castles in Scotland.

Within the national park, you can visit the grounds and gardens of [Balmoral Castle](#), the British royal family's Scottish retreat. The impressive estate was a favorite of both Queen Victoria in the 1800s and of the United Kingdom's longest-reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. This fall, floral tributes to the latter adorned the gates, where visitors left tokens to commemorate her 70 years on the throne.

Head south to [Stirling Castle](#) — once the childhood home of Mary Queen of Scots, who was crowned here in 1543. The medieval site is

an immersive lesson about the tumultuous lives of the Stewart kings and queens. Actors dressed in period costumes play the parts of several castle roles including bodyguards, maids of honor and servants to give visitors a glimpse into 16th-century life.

Make your way to Inverness on the northeast coast to learn more about the Jacobite uprising — where Scottish lairds made a final stand against the ruling English military — and visit the site of the climactic 1746 Battle of Culloden. You'll find commemorative standing stones and grave markers at this National Trust for Scotland site.

To toast to your Scottish adventure, visit [The Glentworth Distillery](#), which dates back to 1763. The brand's single malt whiskies include varieties highlighting the region's traditional earthy peat flavors, as well as bottles aged in American and European oak barrels that conjure notes of vanilla and caramel.

### MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

- 📍 See royal residence Balmoral Castle
- 📍 Visit the site of the Battle of Culloden

### OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

- 📍 Step into royal life at Stirling Castle
- 📍 Try single malt whisky at The Glentworth Distillery

## Where to Stay

### **Craigendarroch Suites, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**

Live like royalty in Craigendarroch Suites, itself a Victorian-era country house. You can explore the property's scenic grounds, pool and spa, and sports facilities. Select rooms even feature your own fireplace to truly embrace the rustic coziness of the Scottish Highlands.







Wander the quaint downtown district of Charleston

## Charleston, South Carolina

In Charleston, you'll find American history at every turn. The city is the site of the very first shot fired in the American Civil War, and the neo-classical architecture of the time is reflected throughout the charming streets. Get your bearings by taking a tour with [Old South Carriage Company](#). Your guide will regale you with facts about the downtown district before visiting Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, a Civil War monument marking the start of the four-year conflict that forever shaped the history of the United States.

Historic landmarks dot this Southern gem — including the more than 200-year-old Dock Street Theatre and artisan Charleston City Market. To spend an afternoon enjoying the outdoors, visit the [Charleston Tea Garden](#). Ride the trolley for a scenic tour passing

majestic magnolia trees and acres of tea bushes before stopping at the tea bar to sample the house brews — served hot or iced, depending on your preference.

Charleston is the oldest city in South Carolina, and to explore the origins of this storied city, visit [Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site](#). Just off the Ashley River, this is where European settlers landed in 1670. Walk the self-guided tour to learn about what this land looked like and the animals that inhabited it, before it was colonized. Scheduled to open this year, the [International African American Museum](#) will investigate the legacy of colonization and slavery through interactive digital exhibits and a thought-provoking memorial garden.

### MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

- 🕒 Take in downtown Charleston's picturesque architecture
- 🕒 See where the American Civil War started at Fort Sumter

### OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

- 🕒 Peruse local crafts at Charleston City Market
- 🕒 Explore the Charleston Tea Garden

## Where to Stay

### **Liberty Place Charleston, a Hilton Club**

Steeped in history, this property is located near the Liberty Tree, where the Declaration of Independence was first read to Charleston's citizens. Wander the surrounding cobblestone streets to see the colorful row houses before returning to your Studio, 1- or 2-Bedroom Suite — and select accommodations also feature private balconies. (Planning Note: Make sure to book early to secure your preferred dates.)







Discover the ancient cliffside Montezuma Castle in the Arizona desert

## Sedona, Arizona

Among the red rock buttes and desert landscapes, experience Sedona's ancient history. Spot the petroglyphs on rock walls that tell the stories of the Sinagua people (meaning "without water") who lived here centuries before Spanish settlers arrived. Learn more about their daily lives at the [Tuzigoot National Monument](#), which includes a 1,000-year-old ancient *pueblo* (village), featuring 110 rooms. Walking trails lead you around the pueblo with glorious views of the Tavaschi Marsh and Verde River. Don't miss the displays at the park's visitor center, which houses authentic textiles, tools and ceramics.

Dramatically set into the surrounding cliffside, [Montezuma Castle](#) is one of the best-preserved ancient sites in Sedona. Although the name brings to mind a royal setting, this 20-room structure was

home to multiple families and functioned more like a modern apartment building than a traditional castle. To take in more cliff homes, head north to the [Palatki Heritage Site](#), the largest of its kind in Red Rock Country.

You can also find out more about Sedona's pioneers at the [Sedona Heritage Museum](#). Visit the museum's replica telegraph office, originally a railroad depot but later turned into a filming set for classic western films in the 1940s and 1950s.

Finish your tour of the area onboard the [Verde Canyon Railroad](#). The four-hour journey begins with a champagne toast and includes a soundtrack of classic railroad tunes to enjoy as you view the scenery from the vintage train car's panoramic windows.

### MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

- 📍 Explore Tuzigoot National Monument
- 📍 Discover Montezuma Castle

### OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

- 📍 Visit Sedona Heritage Museum
- 📍 Take a ride on the Verde Canyon Railroad

## Where to Stay

### **Ridge on Sedona, a Hilton Vacation Club**

Take in the beauty of Arizona's red rock formations right from the Ridge on Sedona. You can explore the natural and ancient sites from your home away from home in one of the property's Studios or 1- or 2-Bedroom Suites. To take your vacation to new levels, book a hot air balloon ride to see the resort and surrounding areas from above.







Immerse in the historical reenactments of Colonial Williamsburg

## Williamsburg, Virginia

History enthusiasts will find plenty to peruse in Williamsburg. Home to eight former presidents' estates and colonial sites, this city is a living museum. This is especially true across the 301 acres of [Colonial Williamsburg](#), where you can wander around dozens of original buildings, shops and museums like the [Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum](#), which features one of the world's largest folk art collections.

Next, visit the [Governor's Palace](#), once home to Thomas Jefferson. There you'll encounter people dressed in traditional costumes representing real historical figures who lived centuries ago, known as "Nation Builders." For those looking to experience justice in the 18th century, head to the [Courthouse](#) and learn about the political debates that took place at [Raleigh Tavern](#).

While in the area stop by the American Indian Encampment Site, where you'll find programs dedicated to the history of Indigenous

Americans who lived here before Europeans arrived. The initiative teaches visitors about the contributions of representatives sent by Indian nations to Williamsburg, as well as the continuing legacy of colonialism in modern society.

To trace the origins of early English settlers, visit [Historic Jamestowne](#) where you will see the original Jamestown fort and marvel at archaeological finds. Continue onto the Jamestown Settlement to see the recreated Indigenous American town, followed by a stop at [Tercentennial Monument](#) for a historic walking tour of the colony's evolution.

Finally, picnic on the beach of [First Landing State Park](#) and explore the waterways once traversed by Native American Indian canoes and the spot where British colonists arrived in 1607. And for stories of seafarers from long ago, explore one of the largest maritime collections in the world at [The Mariners' Museum and Park](#).

### MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

- 📍 Step back in time at Colonial Williamsburg
- 📍 Explore Historic Jamestown

### OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

- 📍 Visit Mariners' Museum and Park
- 📍 Wander First Landing State Park

## Where to Stay

### **The Historic Powhatan, a Hilton Vacation Club**

Perfect for launching a historic exploration of Williamsburg, The Historic Powhatan offers 1-, 2- or 4-Bedroom Suites with access to the property's indoor and outdoor pools, hot tubs and sport facilities, including racquetball and tennis courts. Enjoy wanders in the property's gardens or even sneak in a bit of fishing at the catch-and-release pond.



## Get the Most Out of a Historic Destination

*Follow these six simple tips to maximize your history-themed trip.*



### **Book ahead**

Historical sights are popular, especially during the high season. So book ahead to secure your spot and avoid any issues on-site.



### **Get specific**

You can't learn about a country's – or even a city's – entire history during one trip. Instead, focus on one or two areas of interest. The more specific, the better.



### **Keep a travel journal**

Keep a record of everything you learn while traveling. Important dates and events are hard to commit to memory, so your journal will be invaluable for recalling your trip.



### **Do your research**

If you love history, you'll want to do a little pre-reading before you arrive. It'll help you prepare any questions for tour guides.



### **Hire a tour guide**

For a personalized experience, hire your own tour guide. You'll get to see the attractions you're most interested in and ask as many questions as you like.



### **Talk to local people**

No amount of reading can compete with local people's lived experiences. Talk to as many individuals as possible – especially tour guides and library or museum staff – to learn as much as you can.



POSTCARD FROM ...

# Las Vegas



From the neon allure of the Strip to the natural wonders in the Southwest's national parks, imagine yourself on an epic tour through Las Vegas.

**Words:** Alexandra Owens    **Photography:** Victoria Wall Harris

*Hello, Las Vegas! Known as the Neon Capital of the World, be ready to be stunned by the famous Vegas Strip. The Las Vegas skyline is one of the most recognizable in the world, full of neon landmarks, showstopping nightlife, incredible food and the brightest lights you've ever seen. So picture yourself here, on an unforgettable itinerary through this iconic destination. We'll take you through the must-see highlights and hidden gems for the perfect Las Vegas itinerary.*



*Whether you're eager to try your hand at the blackjack table at the casino or take in a blockbuster show — you'll find it all here.*







*With quintessential Vegas views around every corner, it's easy to explore this city by foot. Don't miss the must-see Fountains of Bellagio. Every afternoon and evening, its famed water show erupts, with more than 1,000 streams of water shooting into the air.*



*From your home base on the Las Vegas Strip, you can wander the area's casinos, world-class shopping and entertainment. But don't overlook other neighborhoods like downtown Las Vegas and the Arts District.*





*Cozy neighborhood favorite Esther's Kitchen in downtown Las Vegas serves Italian classics and new spins on old standards. Expect pasta plates like spaghetti with sungold tomatoes and radiatore with black garlic and lemon, as well as homemade bread, fresh salads and creative pizzas.*



*Book a tour at the quirky Neon Museum, which boasts more than 250 of the Strip's iconic signs — many dating from the 1950s.*



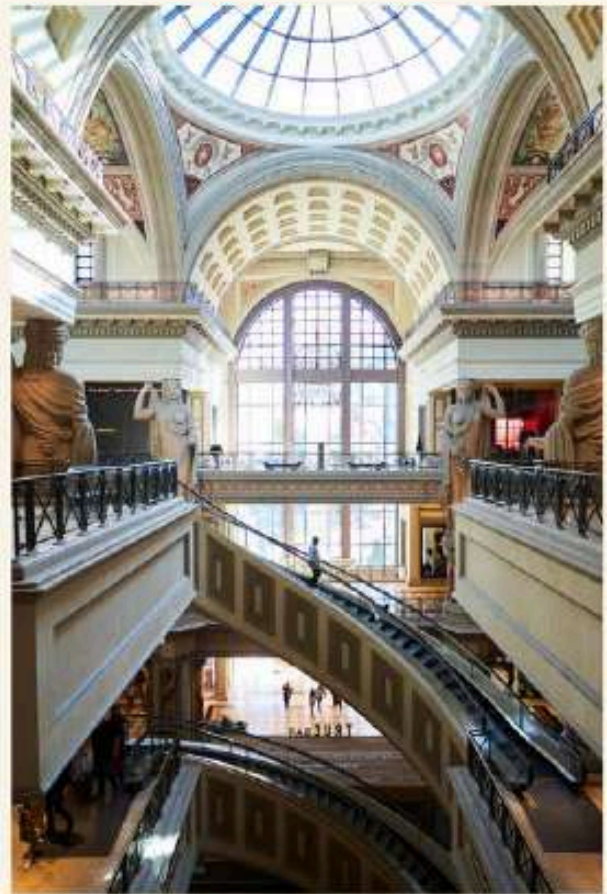
*Explore the 14,000-square-foot Bellagio Conservatory & Botanical Gardens' seasonal displays made from tens of thousands of flowers, trees and plants. The nearby Aria Fine Art Collection features monumental works by celebrated artists such as Frank Stella, Jenny Holzer and Rashid Johnson.*

*Step off the Strip to explore the 18-block Arts District, a vibrant neighborhood with indie art galleries and colorful murals. Some of the city's best street art was commissioned for the annual "Life Is Beautiful Festival;" you can spot works such as "Black Girl Magic" in downtown Las Vegas.*

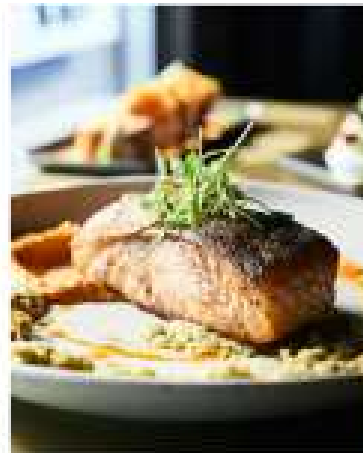


*You can find fascinating art installations at every turn in this eclectic city. Take it all in from the High Roller, the largest observation wheel in North America, with 360-degree views 550 feet (167 meters) above the Strip.*





*At the Forum Shops at Caesars Palace, browse 160 specialty stores and restaurants, including luxury designers such as Louis Vuitton, Versace, Giorgio Armani, Valentino, Gucci and Christian Louboutin.*



*Dig into elevated comfort food at Carson Kitchen, a downtown Las Vegas mainstay. Look for creative spins on traditional eats like deviled eggs with crispy pancetta, beet tartare with mandarin oranges and goat cheese and pork belly with buffalo blue beurre blanc. And pair your plates with a well-mixed cocktail for the full effect.*





*Shop local and find independent bookstores and boutiques in downtown Las Vegas, such as The Writer's Block.*



*For a fun-filled excursion, visit Fremont Street Experience's 5-block pedestrian mall and entertainment district in the heart of downtown Las Vegas. Listen to free live music or dare to ride SlotZilla, an 11-story slot machine-themed zipline.*







*You'll be spoiled for choice for a good drink in Sin City. But for a taste of old Vegas, sip a specialty sour beer or craft cocktail at Atomic Liquors, the city's first freestanding bar, where customers once watched atomic blasts from the roof and the Rat Pack drank after their nightly gigs.*



*Just a 30-minute drive from the Strip, soak up the desert sun and some contemporary art at Seven Magic Mountains, a kaleidoscope art installation from contemporary master Ugo Rondinone that features stacked boulders standing more than 30 feet (9 meters) high.*



*Explore the region's otherworldly landscapes at Valley of Fire State Park. Located about an hour's drive from Las Vegas, you can explore on your own or book a convenient day trip to see the sights.*



*Choose the perfect hike for you at Red Rock Canyon, a 30-minute drive from the Vegas Strip. See triassic fossils, desert plants and rugged cliffs on walks ranging from quick loops to day-long treks.*



*For an epic day trip, visit the Grand Canyon — the closest entry to Las Vegas is the West Rim, managed by the Hualapai Tribe. Experience the natural wonder from the adrenaline-inducing Sky Walk, a glass-bottomed walkway overlooking the colorful chasms, or join a whitewater rafting tour on the Colorado River running through the canyon.*

## Where to stay



### **Elara, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**

The towering Elara resort is located in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip. And you'll recognize the beacon of your home away from home by its signature mirrored facade. Your Studio, 1-, 2-, 3-, or 4-Bedroom Suite comes with floor-to-ceiling views of the glimmering skyline and access to the luxurious pool.



### **Trump International Hotel Las Vegas, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**

Soak in all the glamor of Vegas from the exclusive Trump International, where you can choose from Studios and 1- and 2-Bedroom Suites. Enjoy an air-conditioned cabana with a cocktail after a dip in the rooftop pool or indulge in a treatment at the spa.



### **Polo Towers, a Hilton Vacation Club**

Polo Towers offers the convenient access to all of Vegas' attractions while being removed from the party with no casino on-site. You'll find a rooftop pool and seasonal children's pool, as well as Juliet balconies or patios in the Studios and 1- and 2-Bedroom Suites.



# A Perfect Bite

Three must-eat dishes this season



Enjoy farm-to-table plates at restaurants like Jean-Georges and Lula Cafe

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## Jean-Georges in New York City

1 Central Park West, New York, NY 10023

### Why Go

A gold standard in the farm-to-table fine-dining scene for more than 25 years, Jean-Georges serves stylish seasonal plates in a luxurious midtown Manhattan dining room with floor-to-ceiling windows offering views of Central Park. The two-Michelin-starred restaurant blends French, American and Asian flavors in six- and 10-course tasting menus, making it the perfect pick for a special occasion.

### What to Order

Chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten's flavorful fusion cuisine is inspired by his travels, and the tasting menus at his eponymous restaurant combine this global influence with a focus on local ingredients. The magic of this eatery is the ever-changing selection of plates — showcasing sustainable, organic products from local farms, fisheries, breweries and other makers — curated according to what's in season. Be ready to be surprised and delighted by what might appear from the kitchen.

### Details

Be sure to make a reservation well in advance — tables book quickly for this bucket-list-worthy dining experience.

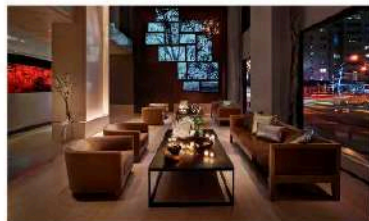
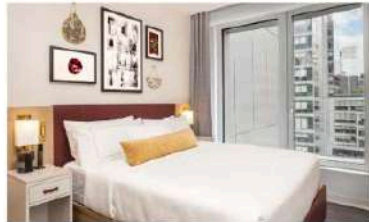


The signature tasting menu at Jean-Georges includes unique dishes showcasing seasonal products



## Where to Stay

Also located in prestigious midtown Manhattan, you'll find [The Central at 5th, a Hilton Club](#) and [The Quin, a Hilton Club](#). The Central at 5th offers Studios, Suites and Penthouses just minutes from Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall, the Museum of Modern Art and Times Square. Boutique-style The Quin boasts both incredible views of Central Park and a bespoke art collection chosen specifically for the property.



Lula Cafe's creative plates include twists on traditional pasta dishes



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## Lula Cafe in Chicago

2537 North Kedzie Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60647

### Why Go

This neighborhood Chicago spot is a favorite among locals and visitors alike. Lula Cafe has evolved from its bohemian roots – it had to make do with a dented collection of thrifted pots and pans when it first opened – into a sophisticated hangout for brunch, dinner or a glass of wine with a delicious spread of seasonally inspired snacks. But it hasn't lost its artsy flavor: You'll find the handwritten list of local craft beers on a chalkboard above the marble-topped bar and cozy wooden tables in the dining room perfect for lingering over dessert.

### What to Order

Lula Cafe's menu offers creative dishes to mirror the season. Begin your meal with beet bruschetta topped with baby kale, smoked pecans, red onion and goat cheese or opt for the rich baked feta with grilled bread. For your main course, revel in the restaurant's untraditional spin on classic dishes like torchietti with squash, miso butter and gouda, or brown butter fluke with roasted cauliflower and pink lemon.

### Details

Don't miss the carrot cake, served with creme anglaise and strawberry preserves.



## Where to Stay

Book [Chicago Magnificent Mile, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club](#) to be immersed in the heart of Chicago, near Navy Pier, Millennium Park, Grant Park and the Chicago Theatre. The property has a seasonal rooftop pool and year-round views of the skyscrapers and nearby historic architecture.







## Kaimana Farm Cafe in Honolulu

845 Kapahulu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816

### Why Go

Embrace the bounty of Hawaii's produce at Kaimana Farm Cafe, where you'll be treated to a sprawling array of all-natural dishes made with ingredients sourced directly from growers around the island. Located about a 10-minute drive from Honolulu's famed Diamond Head viewing point, the cafe is an ideal place to get lunch after the scenic walk.

### What to Order

The menu is packed with fruits and vegetables, which are crafted into delicious power bento bowls featuring sweet potato croquettes, braised pork, kale, yuzu carrots, spicy tofu, Brussels sprouts and more. Or go for a refreshing acai bowl with kale, almond butter, coconut and mint.

### Details

The friendly cafe offers free refills on coffee, so plan to linger a little longer over an extra cup.

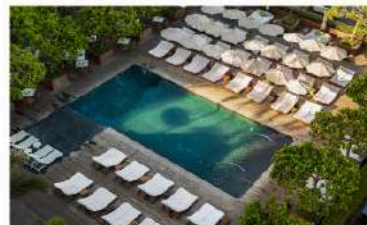
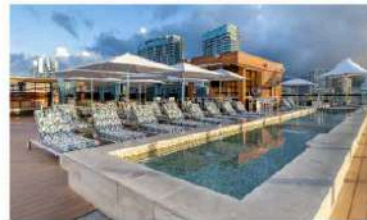
### Where to Stay →



Enjoy the best of Hawaii's produce with fresh dishes at Kaimana Farm Cafe

## Where to Stay

Find your slice of paradise at one of Hilton Grand Vacations' properties located near the beautiful Waikiki Beach. In addition to being close to the beach and next to multiple shops and restaurants, [Hokulani Waikiki, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club](#) offers a rooftop plunge pool, with cabanas for relaxing after a day of sun and sea. For those looking for a sophisticated retreat, relax in [The Modern Honolulu's](#) adults-only pool or sip a glass of wine on your private terrace (select rooms only).



THE CARRY-ON

# THINK SPRING

Embrace the season with these fresh finds



**Sonos Roam Portable Speaker • \$179**

Create your own beach soundtrack with this rechargeable portable speaker. It's waterproof, uses Bluetooth technology and has a 10-hour battery life, making it a great companion for a day out.



**Lost Pattern X Leatherology Silk Square Scarf • \$52**

Elevate any outfit on the go with this timeless scarf, featuring a hand-drawn pattern. This New York-based designer creates patterns based on destinations around the world, from New Zealand to Madagascar.



**Malin+Goetz Best-Sellers Travel Kit • \$38**

These six natural products will keep you refreshed throughout your travels. The kit includes a grapefruit face cleanser, Vitamin E face moisturizer, bergamot hand and body wash, Vitamin B5 body moisturizer, peppermint shampoo and cilantro conditioner.



**Cuyana Wristlet Wallet • \$118**

Safely stash important travel documents in this elegant yet functional wallet. It's designed to fit credit cards, boarding passes and your passport, and even has a discrete pocket for your phone.



**Malie Pikake Perfume Oil • \$32**

This organic Hawaiian scent is a spring must. Created from pikake, also known as Hawaiian jasmine flowers, this dewy roll-on perfume will keep you feeling fresh throughout busy vacation days.



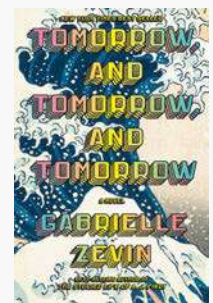
**Quince Mulberry Silk Eyemask • \$19**

Slip on this silk eye mask for luxurious deep sleep. The silk material will keep skin cool and avoid hair frizz or damage – and won't leave lines on the skin from wearing overnight.



**Ouai Hand Crème • \$24**

Pamper your skin with this hydrating balm, made of coconut oil, murumuru seed butter and shea butter. The lightly scented cream has notes of violet, gardenia, ylang ylang and white musk.



**Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin • \$26**

This best-selling novel is a tale about creativity and love, spanning three decades of two friends' lives. It's a moving vacation read that will stay with you even after you finish the last page.





**Yeti Rambler® 18 Oz  
Water Bottle • \$30**

Stay hydrated with this innovative bottle, designed to keep your drinks ice cold (or piping hot) throughout your adventures. The bottle is also rust-proof and dishwasher safe.



**CAMPO Essential Oil  
Travel Diffuser • \$79**

Bring relaxation on the road with this miniature essential oil diffuser. The USB-powered gadget can fit into your car's cup holder, streaming essential oils with a scent blended with lavender, rosemary, frankincense and orange blossom.



**Away Jewelry Box • \$95**

There's ample space for necklaces, earrings and rings in this stylish leather case. The design separates your jewelry into organized sections – no more necklace knots or missing earrings on the go.



**Cariuma OCA Low Canvas • \$79**

Perfect for a spring stroll, these simple sneakers are chic and comfortable. The shoes are made from raw rubber, organic cotton and recycled plastics, making them great for your feet and for the planet.



**Away The Insider  
Packing Cubes • \$45**

Make packing simple with this set of four sleek packing cubes. The cubes are designed to compress and organize your travel wardrobe, and to fit easily inside a carry-on suitcase.

48 HOURS IN

# Washington, D.C.

Marvel at the architecture of the United States' Capitol building

Words: Jennifer Barger

Illustrations: Michael Driver

Explore the nation's capital, from the historic National Mall to rooftop cocktails, with our two-day itinerary

## Day one 10 A.M.



Launch your visit at the recently reopened National Air and Space Museum, where you'll discover eight new and renovated galleries exploring the country's aviation and space-exploration history. Exhibits include a replica of the International Space Station and artifacts like the Wright Brothers' 1903 biplane. It's one of the many free Smithsonian Institution museums located on and around the National Mall, a 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) swath of green space bookended by the United States Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west.

## 12 P.M.

Head next door to have lunch at Mitsitam Native Foods Cafe. Located inside the National Museum of the American Indian, where menu items include Lakota fry bread, cedar-planked salmon, wild rice and watercress salad and other dishes inspired by Indigenous recipes. After your feast, explore the museum or one of the other galleries or monuments on the National Mall. Highlights include the National Gallery of Art (don't miss the Pop Art-filled Sculpture Garden) and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial with its life-size statues of the 34th U.S. president.



## 3 P.M.

Walk or catch the metro to the District's vibrant Wharf neighborhood for a stroll along the cobblestone streets surrounding the Potomac River to check out the waterfront views, the Municipal Fish Market (open since 1805) and stores such as Shop Made in DC, where you'll find locally-made jewelry, art and treats that make for terrific souvenirs.



## 6.30 P.M.

Grab an early dinner at one of the Wharf's restaurants. Standouts include Rappahannock Oyster Bar for delicious bivalves harvested from local waters and Officina – a three-level Italian-inspired concept with a cafe, trattoria and rooftop bar serving amaro-spiked cocktails and heavenly sunset vistas.



## 8 P.M.

End the day with a concert or comedy show at The Anthem, a 57,000-square-foot (17,373-square-meter) performance venue known for its crisp acoustics and mix of standing room and seated spots. The lobby dazzles thanks to an art installation consisting of 150 cymbals suspended from the ceiling at various heights.

## Day two 9 A.M.

Fuel up at the Market Lunch, a long-running diner inside Capitol Hill's Eastern Market, a circa-1873 red-brick market and food hall. If you're here on the weekend, you can sample the blueberry buckwheat pancakes or the crab cake eggs Benedict. Then, explore the charming neighborhood surrounding the U.S. Capitol on a Washington Walks tour, which takes in sites from a 17th-century estate to a cherry tree-filled park devoted to Abraham Lincoln.



## 11.30 A.M.

Book a free tour of the United States Capitol, where red blazer-wearing guides point out highlights like the 287-foot-high dome with its mural of George Washington ascending to the heavens. In the National Statuary Hall, look for statues of notable Americans, some of such 100 statues – two for each of the 50 states – that you can spot across the building. Don't miss the recently installed likenesses of aviator Amelia Earhart and civil rights pioneer Mary McLeod Bethune. Then head around the corner to peek into the Supreme Court Building or the Library of Congress (both are open to visitors).



## 2 P.M.

Grab a cab or use a ride-hailing service to get yourself to Union Market, where a cornucopia of shops and restaurants make their homes in restored warehouses just north of the Capitol. Try the tacos at Taqueria Las Gomas or the salmon burger at The District Fishwife, then grab some dessert or a drink to enjoy at the rooftop picnic area. After lunch, browse the shops in and around the market, including local bookstore Politics and Prose and hip boutique Sak & Sandy.



## 9 P.M.

Toast the end of your visit with a cocktail at Whiskey Charlie, the rooftop bar at Canopy by Hilton Washington D.C. The brown liquor-spiked menu includes tipples like the Southern Peach (bourbon, maple peach syrup, fresh lemon juice and ginger beer), as well as a library of aged ryes and bourbons.



## 6 P.M.

Score seats at a Washington Nationals baseball game at their riverside stadium, where you can reach on lobster rolls, steak sandwiches and nachos. Don't miss the fourth-inning Presidents Race, where mascots comically dressed as Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and other former presidents take to the field. Or head to Georgetown to take boating in DC's guided sunset kayak tour with views of the Washington Monument and the Kennedy Center from the water — before having dinner at one of the many top-notch restaurants in the neighborhood.



## Where to Stay

### The District, a Hilton Club

Just moments away from the iconic monuments on Capitol Hill, you'll find The District, a Hilton Club on the top floors of the Embassy Suites by Hilton Washington D.C. Georgetown. The sophisticated property blends the history of the city with modern touches in the 1- and 2-Bedroom Suites, each equipped with a kitchenette and wet bar.



# Vacations to Help You Make a Connection

Three stunning spots to visit this spring and summer

It's easier than ever to make a connection — with family, friends and even with nature. An amazing vacation in a scenic destination or immersing in outdoor recreation are great ways to make lasting memories and renew connections with the ones you love the most.

From Lake Tahoe to the Berkshires and everywhere in between, a whole world of vacation opportunities awaits to connect with others, yourself and the world. Picture yourself surrounded by majestic mountains, towering trees and lustrous lakes at one of these three scenic destinations. And remember, you'll never regret a great vacation.



*Enjoy the beautiful waters of Lake Tahoe by boat or paddleboard.*

## Lake Tahoe, California

With 72 miles (115 kilometers) of shoreline encircled by the craggy peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, Lake Tahoe is a nature-lover's paradise. It's the largest alpine lake in North America, straddling the California-Nevada border with sightseer footholds in both states.

The mountainous retreat is an all-season destination, but the warm, dry summers make it particularly appealing for spring and summer vacationers seeking a warm-weather getaway. Spend the day on one of the lake's many sandy beaches or explore the lake's glassy waters in a kayak or paddle boat. Discover the area's countless nature trails on a hike to a scenic viewpoint in the Sierra Nevada, where you'll take in amazing panoramas of the peaks.

Finally, jump on the South Lake Tahoe Beer Trail and hop from one local brewery to the next, sampling the best of the area's craft beer scene. And if you're on the Nevada side of the lake, roll the dice, play the slots and maybe even win the jackpot at one of several large casinos. From fishing and scuba diving to parasailing and jet skiing, the list of lake-based activities is endless — just don't forget your sunscreen.



## Branson, Missouri

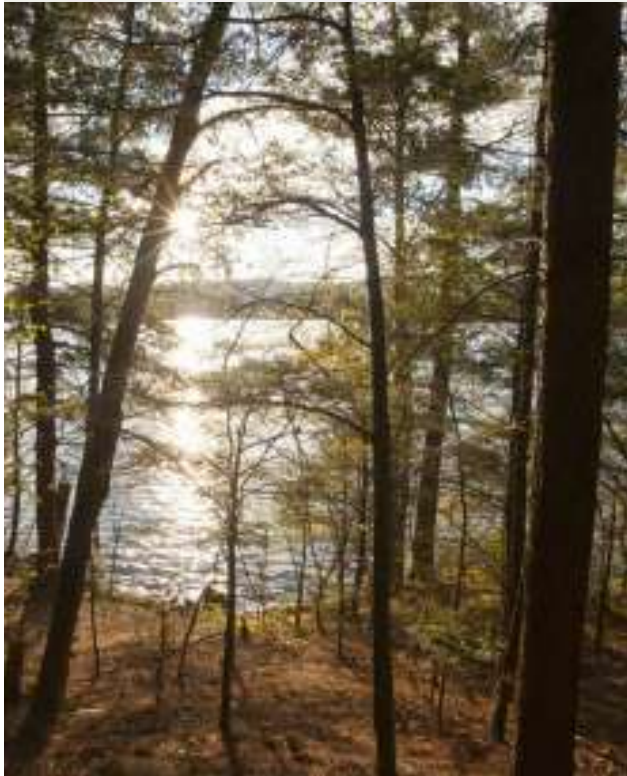
Tucked away in Missouri's Ozark Mountains, the city of Branson is known for its live entertainment, family-friendly fun and outdoor recreation. Nestled between three pristine lakes, Branson offers water activities in abundance — kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and more. Branson's clear waters will keep you cool on the hottest of days.

Hike through the gorgeous Ozarks on more than 200 miles (320 kilometers) of nature trails or spend the day birdwatching in one of more than a dozen conservation areas. Tee up and practice your swing at one of the area's 10 golf courses or go ziplining through the towering trees for a unique view from the canopy. Try your hand at fishing for walleye, bass or trout, or simply dine on fresh local catch at one of many lakefront restaurants.

When you've had your fill of Mother Nature, make sure to take in a live show, hit a theme park and spend some time discovering all of Branson's many unique attractions.



*Explore Branson's nature, filled with opportunities for outdoor fun*



*Explore the Berkshire Mountains and famous Appalachian Trail*

## The Berkshires, Massachusetts

Western Massachusetts' Berkshire Mountains, with an abundance of dense woods, pristine lakes and rolling ridges, are the perfect escape for outdoor adventures. Choose a hike from hundreds of miles of trails, including a portion of the famous Appalachian Trail, and you'll be rewarded with scenic views of a sea of greenery encompassing five states. To cool off, the area's mountain lakes offer swimming, boating, paddling and fishing.

Visit a wildlife sanctuary and quietly observe beavers, birds and other area fauna in their natural habitat. Or swing by a local orchard to sample a variety of different apples, taste local cider or indulge in a delicious apple cider donut. The Berkshires' solid agricultural pedigree produces high-quality local products that you'll find served at a variety of farm-to-table restaurants in the area — just make sure to leave room for dessert.

When you're finished outdoors, check out one of the area's many museums, featuring modern art, works by Norman Rockwell and even living history exhibits. From outdoor adventures to indoor fun, the Berkshires is a top New England vacation destination, and for good reason!

With RCI, your spring or summer getaway is sure to make lasting memories with no regrets. Get started by visiting [RCI.com/myHGV](https://www.rci.com/myHGV) or by calling [800-932-4482](tel:800-932-4482) to speak with an RCI Travel Guide today.

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