



club **traveler**

SUMMER 2018

DREAM • PLAN • GO

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

■ WHERE CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY COLLIDE ■



Hilton
Grand Vacations

CLUBTRAVELER.COM

Playa del Carmen, pictured here, may have started as a fishing village but is now one of the fastest-growing cities in Mexico.



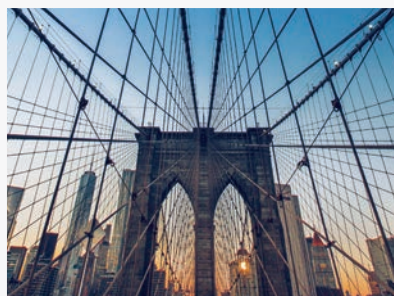
Where is your favorite summer getaway? Tell us and send your pictures to **feedback@clubtraveler.com**.



traveller

DREAM
PLAN
GO

COVER STORY



New York, New & Old

Fall in love with the city's enduring classics—and with its more contemporary offerings, too

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Travel Tip

If your summer travels involve sandy beaches, pack some baby powder in your beach bag. A sprinkle on hands and feet will rid them of sand in a flash—no grains of surprise back at your room!

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Caipirinha, anyone?

COVER: DENYS NEVOZHAI/UNSPASH
THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT: JAY LAZARIN/GETTY IMAGES;
GARTH PRATT/UNSPASH; ANITA BACK/LAIF/REDUX
INSIDE BACK COVER: FOTOGRAF CHRISTIAN B/STOCKSY
BACK COVER: KRBLOKHIN/GETTY IMAGES

01

Dear Club Member



With half of 2018 already behind us, it's never been a better time to be a Club Member! So far this year, we opened our first property in Japan and our third in New York City, and announced our first planned resort in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. We hope to share news about even more new properties soon in *Club Traveler*.

I have truly enjoyed personally congratulating each winner of our Club Member sweepstakes. Throughout the remainder of 2018, two Members will continue to be randomly selected each month to win 2,500 Bonus Points, with one lucky Member selected for the grand prize of 25,000 ClubPoints at the end of the year. Who

knows—I could be calling you next!

Our Member Education Workshops have continued at an incredible pace, and we are working to reach more Members than ever. Take a look at the schedule at the end of this edition to see if we're coming to a city near you. We're also excited to see the expansion of this content to the Club website through Club Navigator, a new resource we launched earlier this year to help answer some of your most frequent membership questions.

Your feedback has set our focus on enhancing technology, and we're working to add new enhancements both online and through the Club mobile app. I hope you've had the opportunity to use the new in-app messaging while on-property. If you haven't yet, you can now send requests to the front desk and receive push notifications directly through our app, rather than by text. We're also working to improve availability across our resorts and hope to soon announce special travel deals to some of our most popular destinations, including Orlando and Las Vegas, during non-peak times.

More than ever, we want to help you make the most of your Club membership. As we continue celebrating more than 25 years of vacation memories, we look forward to being part of your next journey.

Happy travels,



Stan Soroka
Chief Customer Officer



Hilton Grand Vacations Club

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ASK A CLUB COUNSELOR

Q. I've read you're expanding with resorts in Japan. Will these properties be available to all Club Members in the future?

A. Yes, Members can use their Hilton Grand Vacations ClubPoints to stay at the new resorts in Japan. Just keep in mind that the Points cost will vary by season, day of week and unit type, and that booking windows will vary as well. Additional information will be provided in the near future—look for more in upcoming *Club Traveler* e-newsletters.

—Cynthia H., *Elite Specialist, 10 years with Hilton Grand Vacations Club*

Have a question for a Club Counselor?

Email it to feedback@clubtraveler.com, and it may be answered in an upcoming issue.

Dream

WHERE TO GO

Paris' Palais de Chaillot (pictured here) is where the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Dream Vacation

Imagine standing in a place filled with centuries of history, culture and conflict and envisioning the moments that have occurred right where your feet are planted. **Vic S.**, Club Member since 2001, dreams of standing in spots like these.


"My ultimate vacation would be a trip to Europe, seeing the great cities—London, Paris, Berlin—and World War II battlefields, especially the beaches at Normandy," says Vic, who owns at both Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Tuscany Village in Orlando, and Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Craighdarroch Suites in Scotland but has not actually made it to Europe yet.

"I've always been fascinated with history, especially World War II," says Vic, adding that this is partially thanks to his father, who was trained as a paratrooper. His instructors? Men from the 101st Airborne, the famed Screaming Eagles.

"My dad was right there with those people, out on the back porch every night, hearing all those things from the people that were actually there at D-Day."

Now, after hearing a lifetime's worth of stories, Vic and his wife, Marcia, want to plan their tour. "I know my pops would have loved to have gone, too, and seen those things he'd heard about."

Beyond the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, Vic says they'll stop at the big sites like the Eiffel Tower, but they won't focus their whole trip around tourist hot spots. "Finding the hole-in-the-wall place to eat and getting off the beaten path has always been fun to us—finding those places where you can just soak in the whole thing."

 **WHERE TO STAY** Stay in the heart of it all in the City of Love at the **Hilton Paris Opera**.

@ Want to be featured in *Club Traveler*? Tell us your dream destination by emailing us at feedback@clubtraveler.com.

DREAM: ON THE HORIZON



LOOK AHEAD

Events worth the trip—whatever your time frame



3 MONTHS

Epcot International Food & Wine Festival, Orlando, August 31–November 13

Get animated over international cuisines (above), attend a cheese seminar or bop to a show with the kids for a vacation happily ever after. disneyfoodblog.com/2018-epcot-food-and-wine-festival

Grovetoberfest, Miami, Florida, October 14

Conquer the state's largest craft beer festival at this

outdoor extravaganza in Coconut Grove's Regatta Park, along Biscayne Bay. grovetoberfest.com

South Carolina State Bluegrass Festival, Myrtle Beach, November 22–24

Strum up your Americana to a new level this Thanksgiving at this one-of-a-kind, family-friendly festival of folk. myrtlebeach.com/myrtle-beach-events/south-carolina-state-bluegrass-festival/all

6 MONTHS

58th Annual Waimea Christmas Twilight Parade, Waimea, Hawaii, December 1

Marvel at this unique celebration featuring semitrucks ablaze with lights and floats galore—plus a visit from The Sleigh Man himself. waimeatown.org/?page_id=4539

13th Annual International Chocolate Festival, Miami, late January 2019

At Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, enjoy fine chocolates, make your own or see where

chocolate comes from with a walk through the cocoa plant's life cycle. fairchildgarden.org/Events-Community-Outreach/International-Chocolate-Festival

Ullr Fest, Breckenridge, Colorado, January 9–12, 2019

Dust off your Viking hat (above) and join the cheering hordes on Main Street for a float parade, giant bonfire and views of zany ski jumpers during this jubilee for Thor's icy stepson. gobreck.com/events/ullr-fest

9 MONTHS

Sounkyo Ice Fall Festival, Hokkaido, Japan, January–March 2019

It's a bit ironic to head to hot springs to cool off, but that's what you'll do as you take in the glowing rainbow of ice sculptures at Sounkyo hot springs that would make Edward Scissorhands blush. kyuhoshi.com/japan-winter-festivals-calendar

Spring Concert Series, Park City, Utah, February–April 2019

Greet the season après-ski style with (free) mountaintop concerts

from local and national acts, which have previously included Garrett Lebeau, The Breakfast Klub and Tony Holiday and the Velvetones. parkcitymountain.com/explore-the-resort/during-your-stay/park-city-events.aspx

22nd Annual Big Island International Marathon, Hawaii, March 17, 2019

Darting along black lava beaches, through lush forests and past waterfalls, runners and walkers alike will find themselves breathless. hilomarathon.org

12 MONTHS

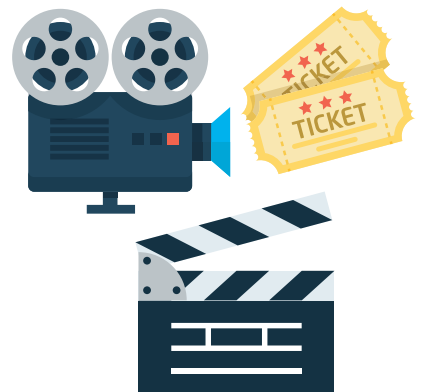
Park City Food & Wine Classic, Utah, July 2019

Master winemakers and culinary heavyweights whip up more than 20 events—with live music, mountain views and a huge variety of reds, whites and sparklings along the way—so you can create your own personal festival experience. Cheers! parkcityfoodandwineclassic.com

Frozen Film Festival, San Francisco, July 2019

Escape the heat—and the box-office bores—with this annual

smorgasbord of independent avant-garde pop culture films. frozenfilmfestival.com



10 Wildly Cool Safaris

1 BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO

San Ignacio Lagoon (520 miles north of Cabo San Lucas) welcomes migrating Pacific gray whales from December to April. Here, some of the planet's largest mammals birth and nurse calves until their summertime swim back to Alaska. Boat tours bring you so close, you'll be able to pet and even kiss the whales.

2 BORNEO

Orangutan translates to "person of the forest." Outside of a zoo, these intelligent primates are found only in the rainforests of Sumatra and Borneo. The latter offers orangutan safaris in the Danum Valley and hosts the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center for orphaned apes.

3 KENYA AND TANZANIA

The major league of African ecosystems, the Serengeti straddles Tanzania and Kenya and harbors some 70 large mammal species. Outfitted tours treat you to all the lions, zebras, gazelles and wildebeests your Instagram can handle.

4 PANTANAL, BRAZIL

Long to see jaguars in the wild? Book a multiday, combination land safari and boat tour of Brazil's Pantanal wetlands, a tropical playground for often-elusive big cats. While cruising the Cuiaba River, watch for

tapir, giant river otters, anaconda snakes and exotic birds.

5 HUDSON BAY, CANADA

Bundle up for an Arctic safari in the "polar bear capital of the world." The shores of Hudson Bay teem with these majestic white bears, plus caribou, moose, wolves and foxes. Prime bear-viewing time is October and November, when daytime temps hover around freezing.

6 MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

Hop aboard a guided jeep safari to spot Bengal tigers in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh—home to several protected tiger reserves. Free-roaming felines also abound at Bandhavgarh National Park.

7 AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK

Channel your inner Crocodile Dundee in Australia's rugged outback, where you'll say g'day to kangaroos, wallabies and toothy crocs smiling from safe distances. Opt for a jeep safari to Uluru (aka Ayers Rock) and Kings Canyon, or explore more remote areas like the Tirari Desert on a camelback trek.

8 BOTSWANA, SOUTH AFRICA AND ZAMBIA

The Big Five game animals (lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and Cape buffalo) are plentiful in Africa's southern savannas. Typically, safaris

also include a boat trip around the Cape of Good Hope, home to baboons, ostriches and fur seals.

9 CUSTER STATE PARK, SOUTH DAKOTA

If you're singing "Oh, give me a safari close to home, where the buffalo roam," head for this South Dakota state park and climb aboard a jeep for a two-hour safari to scout bison, elk, bighorn sheep and wild burros among the state's iconic Black Hills.

10 SHETLAND, SCOTLAND

You may associate these isles with their famed miniature ponies. But bird-watchers know it's also a top U.K. spot for seabirds—from common puffins to rare black-browed albatrosses. Island outfitters offer one-day to one-week safaris.



HOW TO GET THERE

ClubPartner Tauck teams with BBC Earth to offer five African safari journeys ranging from 10 to 13 days as well as a six-day Polar Bear Adventure to Canada's Hudson Bay. Contact a Club Counselor or visit the ClubPartner Perks Guided Journeys page at clubtraveler.com to request your travel certificate using current or borrowed ClubPoints and Bonus Points.

Waipio Valley

Surrounded by the lush hills that stir the Waipio Valley of Hawaii Island to life, visitors are plunged directly into the majesty of nature. But this lush region was once home to other sorts of majesty as well: It was the residence of many of the early Hawaiian kings, including Kamehameha the Great, who called the area home as a child. Hiking is the best way to explore the valley, giving travelers a chance to view the 1,400-foot cascade of Hi'ilawe Falls, Hawaii's tallest waterfall, as well as a black sand beach. The treks here are steep but worth it, allowing hikers to immerse themselves in the verdant greens of the valley: downy maiden ferns, candlenut trees, monkeypods, taro plants, coconut trees and elephant's ears. In other words, it's flora fit for a king.

For as long as any residents of Hawaii Island can remember, wild horses have roamed the Waipio Valley.



WHERE TO STAY

Club Members can stay at Ocean Tower by Hilton Grand Vacations Club, expected to open for Club occupancy early next year. The first Hawaii Island property to offer Members direct ocean views, Ocean Tower features one-, two- and three-bedroom suites—each with a balcony—plus access to the amenities of Hilton Waikoloa Village, including swimming pools, tennis courts and trams to the village's shops, restaurants and spa.

The Rhythm of Rio

Your guide to Brazil's vivacious seaside city



BotaFogo's view of Sugarloaf Mountain is truly jaw-dropping; Jardim Botânico (pictured at right) first opened in 1808.



Where to Eat

Cariocas (Rio natives) love their barbecued meats—especially *carne seca*, a dried, salted beef—and are known to share long family meals at their favorite steakhouses. Fogo de Chao in the BotaFogo neighborhood will not only delight your palate with churrasco (picanha is a crowd favorite), but it also offers stunning Guanabara Bay views of Sugarloaf Mountain (fogodechao.com). For a unique

experience, head to Marius Degustare in Copacabana—the kitschy, nautical-themed restaurant features some of the city's finest seafood (marius.com.br).

Where to Drink

If you're craving a refreshing local drink, Brazil's national cocktail, the caipirinha, answers the call. Made with cachaça—a distilled spirit derived from sugarcane—and topped off with ice, sugar and lime, the caipirinha can be

ordered from vendors at Copacabana Beach without getting out of your beach chair. Alternatively, in the Leblon or Barra neighborhoods, head to Academia da Cachaça, which takes caipirinha-making very seriously (academiadacachaca.com.br).

Where to Samba

No trip to Rio would be complete without the sultry sounds of bossa nova. Two of the city's most popular live music clubs are Carioca da Gema and Rio Scenarium; the former features samba and choro, and the latter showcases samba, pagode, funk, sertanejo, pop and Música popular brasileira (barcariocadagema.com.br/en, rioscenarium.art.br).

Where to Stroll

Head to Jardim Botânico, a 340-acre garden boasting more than 9,000 plant species, including rare collections of bromeliads and orchids. Download any of three self-tour itineraries on the garden's website to guide you on a leisurely walk through the majestic paths that make for a peaceful refuge in a sometimes-chaotic city. Afterward, meander to Espaço Tom Jobim, a cultural center and art space dedicated to the memory of bossa nova artist Tom Jobim, who frequently wrote about the gardens in his music (en.jbrj.gov.br/visiting/thematic-tour).

How to Get Around

Uber, taxi and subway are the easiest ways to make your way around Rio. All are fast and efficient and will have you cruising around the city in no time.



WHERE TO STAY When you've had your fill of caipirinhas, churrasco and samba, you can lay your head down by the seaside at the **Hilton Rio de Janeiro Copacabana**. Just steps from Rio's most famous beach, it also offers stunning views of the city and ocean.

Plan

MAKE IT
HAPPEN

All Aboard

andrew and Joann H. used their Hilton Grand Vacations Club membership to cruise around the islands of Hawaii with Norwegian in May 2017. Their cruise highlight:

“We’ve been to Hawaii eight times—we got married in Maui, on our first trip there together—but this was our first cruise there. We cruised by the Napali Coast, on Kauai, and it was gorgeous. That side of the island is pretty much untouched by humans, so you see raw nature. There are greens—all sorts of greens—and oranges and reds. Some of the waterfalls nearly dropped down to the ocean from the cliffs, which were anywhere from 24 feet to a couple hundred feet high.

“You never get to see something so genuinely unspoiled. You know how people will say something is breathtaking? This truly is. You look at the wonder of how things in the world are, how they got to be that way, and how beautiful that can be. It’s like a dessert for your eyes.”

The 11-mile Kalalau Trail is the only way to have land access to the majestic Napali Coast.



BON VOYAGE!

Cruise news, tips and facts for smooth sailing



2019 MEMBER CRUISE ANNOUNCED!

The *Azamara Journey* will set sail from Stockholm on June 22, 2019, with Club Members aboard. The nine-night voyage has stops in Estonia, Finland and Denmark—plus three days in St. Petersburg, Russia—before docking in Oslo, Norway. All staterooms and suites include concierge and shuttle services; suites also feature butler service. Golfers can take advantage of a package that will let them hit the links in three countries, though space is limited.

FAST FACT What do Sen. John McCain and Major League Baseball great Rod Carew have in common? Both were born near Colon, Panama—one of the ports of call on the upcoming Member cruise. The *Caribbean Princess* sets sail October 8, and it's not too late to join in on the 10 nights of stunning travel.

90 percent of the Caribbean is open for business, even after 2017's hurricane season, according to the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association.



PACK THIS

STRAWS Handy for germophobes—and useful for keeping necklaces and other strand jewelry untangled
THERMOS Makes coffee-to-go way easier first thing in the morning
HANGERS Insiders say you'll always need more

JACKET Yes, you may have booked a tropical cruise, but the wind chill on the open ocean is seldom predictable
SUCTION CUP HOOK Your hat, cruise card or inexpensive snorkel gear will always be easy to find

LEARN MORE

Cruise specialists are available to help you use your Points to book cruises through CruisesOnly. Visit **hgvc.cruisesonly.com** to find your best cruise match, then call CruisesOnly at 800-364-3656 to arrange applying your ClubPoints, Bonus Points or cash supplement.

SCOTTeVEST Jacket for Men or Women

Does it feel like air travel is becoming increasingly punitive with baggage restrictions and associated fees? Dodge the hassle with this “carry-on” that’s actually a jacket with pockets for everything you’ll need at the airport, on the plane and at your destination. An incredible 25 pockets (23 in the slightly smaller women’s version, pictured below) provide convenient access to a smartphone, tablet, passport, sunglasses, notebooks, pens, a light change of clothing (like the UNIQLO AIRism and HeatTech items featured at right) and anything else you might need. The sleeves zip off, converting the jacket to a vest in warmer weather. scottevest.com

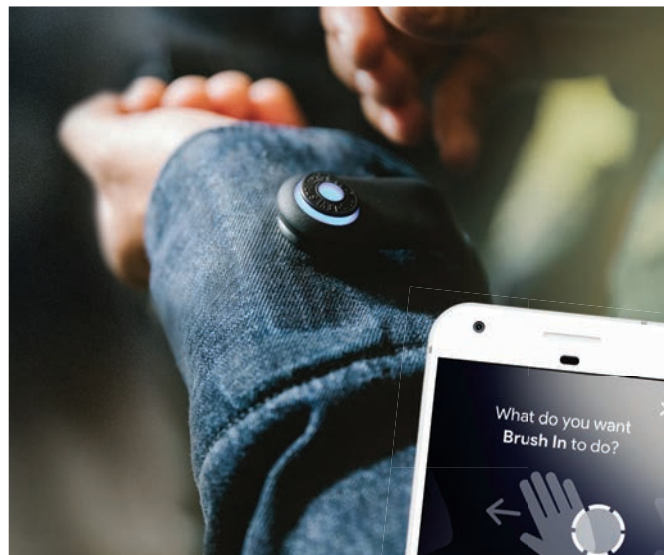


Total Coverage

Advances in everything from digital gadgetry to synthetic fabrics mean today’s best travel wear is both well-formed and eminently functional

Levi’s Commuter Trucker Jacket With Jacquard by Google

What do you get when you combine one of the most legendary clothing brands of the last 150 years with one of the most revolutionary tech companies of the 21st century? A “smart jacket” that will change your travels forever. To the naked eye, this looks like the kind of handsome jean jacket Levi’s is famous for. Look a little closer, and you’ll find Project Jacquard technology from Google woven inside. A snap tag on the sleeve contains tiny electronics that connect the jacket to your smartphone so you can monitor texts and calls, get directions in real time via Wi-Fi and play music—while remaining effortlessly on the move. levi.com



UNIQLO AIRism and HeatTech Clothing

Japanese clothing brand Uniqlo has long been ahead of the curve on innovative fabric technology that will keep you cool or warm, making it a favorite of travelers across the world. The AIRism line is made with ultra-thin cooling fibers that wick sweat and control odors, so it’s ideal for warm weather (or hiking, exercising or sprinting to catch your plane). And the HeatTech collection features similarly thin, lightweight fabric that retains body heat, keeping you comfortable—but not too hot—when temperatures drop. Both are available in a variety of styles for men and women, including tops, underwear and leggings. And they’re lightweight enough that you could easily pack a couple of each, if your destination has variable temperatures. uniqlo.com



UNIQLO’s HeatTech Extra Warm (shown here) is up to 1.5 times warmer than regular HeatTech.

With Levi’s Commuter Trucker Jacket, you’ll never get lost again.



12

27
million

People expected to cruise in 2018

4.5

Percentage international tourism is expected to grow in 2018

United Arab Emirates

Most popular international destination for New Yorkers

IN THE KNOW: TRAVEL TRIVIA

7.8

billion

Airplane passengers expected in 2036



8

The ideal # of days for vacation, according to *Journal of Happiness Studies*



Cutest United Nations World Tourism Organization special ambassador?

Hello Kitty.



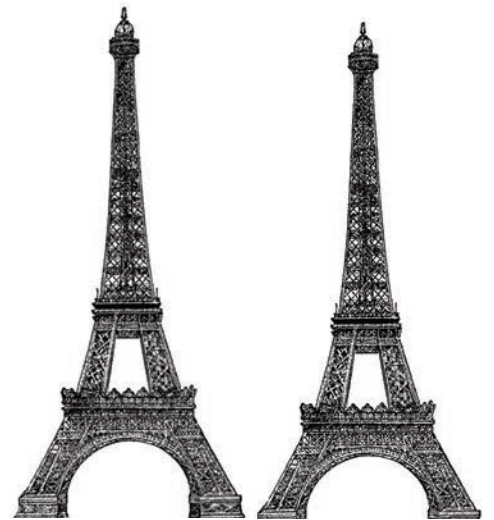
July 27

Date of next lunar eclipse

23

building stories

Height of Elon Musk's Falcon Heavy rocket



~6

Number of inches taller the Eiffel Tower is in summer vs. winter

Rain or Shine: Seasonal Snaps



When your summer travels lead you to a humid rainforest hike or drizzly sunrise boat ride, keep your camera handy despite the weather. Don't let inclement weather dampen your creativity.

Protecting Your Camera

If your go-to smartphone camera is always at your side, invest in a waterproof phone case and use a lens caps on all lens attachments. Then, tuck a soft microfiber cloth in your pocket to quickly wipe away any smudges or moisture.

Packing a single-lens reflex (SLR) or point-and-shoot camera? Time for a little shopping at a well-appointed photography store (or Amazon). A waterproof case is advised for beach adventures like snorkeling and scuba diving. For land-based excursions, a nylon camera rain jacket wrapped around the camera body (with lens

exposed) allows for rainy snapshots. Keep a water-repellent neoprene or rubber-covered nylon camera bag handy to shield equipment from unexpected downpours.

Working With Lens Moisture

It happens. Before wiping away drops of sea spray from a whale-watching tour or warm jungle rains, try an abstract photography approach. If there are several drops on the lens, use the focus feature (a ring on the barrel of an SLR lens, or a tap on the phone screen) to make the drops sharp. The background will softly blur, creating an artsy image. Take the picture.

Now, focus past the raindrops on the surrounding landscape and let the water spots become soft-focus patches in the frame, creating an unexpected filter effect.

Have macro mode? Flip it on and take a detailed close-up of a single raindrop. You might even see a reflection of the surrounding scene in the tiny subject!

Removing Unwanted Moisture

After capturing a cool abstract shot or two, wipe away the drops. Don't let condensation or rain linger on your lens for more than a few moments. Scattered drops are fine, but driving rainstorms and streams of moisture trickling down your lens are not. If moisture seeps into the internal components of your smartphone or camera, it can cause corrosion and electrical failures.

Use the cloth in an eyeglasses cleaning kit or a photography-approved microfiber cloth to clear a wet lens. If you're in a pinch, wipe down the body of the device with a soft shirt or jacket.

Spring Into Savings

Plan a spring break without breaking the bank

Going on vacation is loads of fun. Paying for it—not so much. Here are a few ideas on how to save ahead of and on your spring getaway.

Start Planning Now

Once you have figured out where spring break will take you, it's a good idea to start planning straightaway. Getting ahead of the game—and the crowds—will give you time to research and sign up for email alerts notifying you as soon as deals become available. And if your trip centers around a festival or special event, take advantage of early bird pricing to keep more of your hard-earned cash in your bank account.

Stay Ahead

If your vacation calls for big-ticket items like airfare or rental cars, stay ahead of mounting costs by paying for these before you leave for your getaway. By taking this step, you will be free and clear from the heavy-duty financial burdens on your credit card statement when you get back home to enjoy the memories you made, rather than having to pay the piper for all the fun afterward.



Doing the 52-week savings plan also gives a visual incentive: cash!

Stash by the Week

Setting cash aside can be challenging, but a spring-break variation on the classic 52-week savings plan is an easy way to do just that without feeling the pinch in your wallet. Starting now, stash a dollar a week into a Mason jar or an envelope, increasing the amount by one dollar each week until spring. For example, \$1 for week one, \$10 for week 10, and so on. In the nine months between now and your spring trip, you could have nearly \$800 in spending money saved. Parents can even make it a family

challenge, with kids substituting dollars for quarters. After 36 weeks, they'll each have more than \$150 to spend however they wish on vacation. Bonus: They'll learn a fun way to save cash.

Split the Costs

Whether traveling with a group of friends, extended family, or another couple or two, it can be easy to lump costs together, yet challenging at the end of the trip to figure out who owes what to whom. Fortunately, smartphone apps like Splitwise and Divvy make

managing group costs simple. Then travelers can transfer money to one another via PayPal, Venmo or some banks' apps, even if the people in your party use different banks.

Pick Your Dates Wisely

Spring travel centers around two events—school spring breaks, which usually take place in mid-March, and Easter. So depending on when Easter falls in any given year, travelers not bound by particular dates can save big by scheduling vacations between those times. For 2019, look at early April for the best deals.

Go

WHAT TO DO

How much water is in Sydney Harbour? Precisely 1 sydharb—a unit of measure used in Australia for large bodies of water. (1 sydharb = roughly 560 gigitaliters.)

Local Perspective

With its irresistible golden sands and iconic opera house, Sydney, Australia's sights—and its residents' easygoing attitudes—make the Harbour City a must-see Down Under. Explore like a local with these tips from area native **Jeff K.**, who lives next to world-famous Bondi Beach.

There's one thing you should know about Sydneysiders: "People love being outdoors," says Jeff. With temperatures rarely rising above 80 degrees Fahrenheit or falling below 50, who can blame them? "You'll even find people at the beach in the middle of winter." But Jeff's favorite time of year is March—early autumn in the Southern Hemisphere—when "it's warm but not too hot, the surf's good, there are [fewer] tourists and the sun's always shining."

For an outdoor experience off the beaten path, Jeff recommends Wattamolla in the Royal

National Park, an hour and a half south of Sydney. "It's spectacular—it boasts a beach, a lagoon and several hiking trails along Sydney's endless coastlines," says Jeff. "There's also a rock jump for those brave enough."

In town, take the ferry. "It's cheap, you get the best views, and they run all day," Jeff says. It's a particularly good deal on Sundays, when you can hop on and off as many ferries as you like for just AU\$2.60 with an Opal card. For a bite? "You can't go past a lightly battered barramundi," Jeff says. Native to the waters of Northern Australia, the fish is often called Asian sea bass, and Jeff says you can order it at any good fish and chip shop—but the Sydney Fish Market is the best.

nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/picnic-areas/wattamolla-picnic-area; opal.com.au

WHERE TO STAY

Explore the city with **Hilton Sydney** as your hub. Its on-site dining options, pool and fitness center, and easy access to iconic attractions like the Sydney Opera House as well as Bondi Beach (pictured) make it the perfect home base.

Beyond Teatime

Capture the hottest culinary trend from across the pond: tradition



Haggis

It doesn't get any more rustic—or adventurous—than haggis. The steamed pudding is a minced amalgam of sheep's liver, lung and heart with suet and—boosting its savory profile—a spicy, oniony oatmeal that's boiled in sheep's stomach. While it might not sound appealing, the national dish of Scotland is a savory delight and tastes like spicy, crumbled sausage. It's been immortalized in the poetry of Robert Burns, which has helped imbue it with pomp and circumstance. With the traditional flankings of neeps (turnips), tatties (mashed potatoes) and Scotch whisky, no dish sings more with the bagpipes.

Irn-Bru

Known as Scotland's *other* national drink, Irn-Bru (originally Iron Brew, but changed for legal reasons) bills itself as a "citrus fruit flavor soft drink." And while many compare it with cream soda, you'll have to decide for yourself: Only three people know its top-secret recipe. A legacy of contentious advertising and maniac sugar levels have whipped up a cult following for the rust-colored drink—and keep it the best-selling soda in the country.

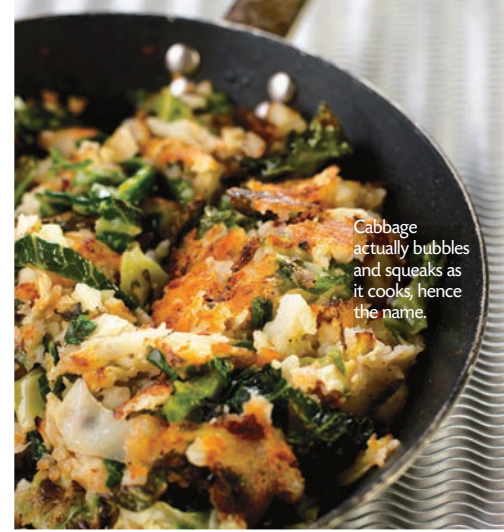


Bubble and Squeak

Liken this to a U.S. Depression-era dish: Bubble and squeak was born out of necessity. It is a traditional English meal made with leftover vegetables from the Sunday roast dinner—another traditional meal, where the star is beef. The main ingredient is potato, but any vegetable, like cabbage, Brussels sprouts or carrots, can be combined and fried into the pancake-like dish. Variations include adding bacon or a fried egg on top. Its Irish counterpart is called colcannon and is made with mashed potatoes and cabbage. They're both traditionally eaten for lunch on Monday to use up Sunday's leftovers, but they make for a popular dinner anytime.

Spotted Dick

Usually draped in a rich vanilla custard, this spongy-yet-dense steamed suet pudding, which borders on cake, is a classic British dessert that will draw any meal to a sumptuous close. Devised in the Victorian era, the pudding bears a name—often tittered about by English-speaking foreigners—that's actually, well, spot-on: "Spotted" refers to the "spots" of its suspended currants, and "dick" comes from the Old English word for pudding, *puddick*, or in Scotland, *puddog* (where the dish is known as spotted dog). Whatever the term, chances are you'll call it tasty. (You can give it a go yourself with our simplified recipe, below.)



Cabbage actually bubbles and squeaks as it cooks, hence the name.

QUICK AND EASY SPOTTED DICK



Using the shortcuts in this recipe, you can make this British dessert in your Hilton Grand Vacations Club suite. The melted ice cream stands in for custard sauce.

Butter, for mold
 1½ cups flour
 ⅓ cup sugar
 1 tablespoon baking powder
 ¾ teaspoon salt
 1 cup cold, finely chopped beef suet (or ¾ cup vegetable shortening and ¼ cup butter)
 8 tablespoons whole milk
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 ½ cup mixed currants or other dried fruit
 ½ teaspoon finely grated fresh lemon zest
 1 cup premium vanilla ice cream, melted

1. Butter a deep, narrow metal or ceramic bowl.
2. Pulse together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in food processor. Add suet or shortening-butter mixture and pulse until mixture resembles coarse meal. Transfer to a large bowl; drizzle with milk and vanilla,

stirring with fork to fully incorporate. Knead in currants and lemon zest. Place dough in buttered bowl. Butter a piece of waxed paper and place over the bowl. Cover bowl with aluminum foil and fold over rim to create a seal.

3. Fill large pot with tight-fitting lid with 1½ inches water. Place a small dish facedown at bottom of pot and bring water to a boil.

4. Place covered bowl in pot of boiling water. Place lid on pot. Steam pudding, covered, over simmering water until golden and puffed, 1½ to 2 hours, adding water to pot if necessary.

5. In small saucepan over low heat, gently warm ice cream.

6. Remove pudding and let stand 5 minutes. Run thin knife around edge of pudding and invert onto plate. Serve with warmed ice cream. **Serves 6.**

GOLF WITH THE WHOLE GANG

Ditch the 36-hole day and follow our lead for abbreviated ways to make the most of family time on the greens

PUTT-PUTT

Who doesn't love a round of mini golf? All courses aren't created equal, however. To keep the game interesting, pick one with surprises—like navigating your way through the haunted house at **Hollywood Drive-In Golf** in Orlando. In Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the tiki-themed course at **Mount Atlanticus Mini Golf** ascends a centerpiece "mountain" to thatched-roof huts that house holes. Keep young kids from using their golf clubs as weapons (or leaving them behind at a hole) by insisting you "caddy" for them. smugglersgolf.com, myrtlebeachminigolf.com

TRADITIONAL GOLF COURSES

Everyone ready to test their skills on a true course? Start small by opting for a nine-hole, walkable one. Have the kids keep an eye out for deer and elk while golfing one of the three nine-hole Jack Nicklaus Signature courses at **Breckenridge Golf Club** in Colorado. Central Florida is full of fabulous nine-holers, too, including **Crane's Bend** in Kissimmee. If they're ready for a full 18 holes, try **Waldorf Astoria's** splendid terrain in Orlando. www.breckenridgegolfclub.com, orangelakegolf.com, waldorfastoriaorlando.com/golf

FAMILY GOLF ACTIVITIES

Guests staying at **Elara**, a **Hilton Grand Vacations Club** or **Hilton Grand Vacations Club at The Flamingo** in Las Vegas, or at **Las Palmeras by Hilton Grand Vacations Club** in Orlando are within a few minutes' walk of **Topgolf**. Book a private bay at the restaurant/driving range/sports bar and earn points by hitting your ball into various targets while a computer keeps score. When hunger strikes, you can order kid-pleasers like cheese fries, s'mores and injectable doughnut holes—as well as adult beverages—straight to your bay. topgolf.com/us

JUNIOR GOLF CAMPS

Sneak off for a stroll on the beautiful nearby beach—or for a game of your own—while your kids have fun at the PGA Junior Golf Camp at **Rancho Carlsbad Golf Club** in Carlsbad, California. Half-day sessions for ages 6 to 13 will have them learning the ropes from certified PGA pros. Near Park City, Utah, the **Nike Advanced Junior Golf Camp** offers a more intense, overnight camp geared toward kids ages 12 to 18. ranhocarlsbadgolf.com, ussportscamps.com/golf/nike/utah/park-city



Where to Stay

Make your home base the Hampton Inn & Suites Tahoe-Truckee. This Western lodge-style hotel is minutes from the adorable mountain town of Truckee and conveniently close to historic Donner Lake. From the inn, you can easily zip around Lake Tahoe, party on the South Shore and soak up the luxury on the North Shore.

3 Days in... Lake Tahoe

With one of the most beautiful, emerald green lakes in the world as its shining centerpiece, Lake Tahoe is home to some of the most out-of-this-world adventures. Just 45 minutes from Reno, Nevada, and about three hours from San Francisco, the area is ripe for exploration via skis, golf carts, boats and bikes.

Day One

Lake Tahoe is a premier mountain getaway for a long weekend. Start your journey at lake level by renting a few paddleboards from Tahoe Paddle & Oar and gliding across the calm, clear water. (Don't forget your waterproof camera.) Later, grab a pint and nachos at Alibi Ale Works' Truckee Public House, the newest taproom in nearby Truckee, California, before gearing up for a snowshoe hike to chart the Milky Way. A Tahoe Star Tours guide will lead you on a 2½-hour guided snowshoe hike through the Sierra Nevada, charting constellations and shooting stars with state-of-the-art telescopes. tahoepaddle.com, alibialeworks.com/truckee-public-house.html, tahoestartours.com

Day Two

With 4,630 skiable acres—more than anywhere else in Tahoe—Heavenly Mountain is perfect for beginner or advanced skiers and snowboarders. Set an early wake-up, and you'll not only slice up the slopes before anyone else but also score a front-row seat to watch the sunrise over the lake. Treat yourself to a life-changing bacon breakfast burrito, made with all organic ingredients, at The Dam Café before hitting town. Outdoors, try for a hole-in-one at Old Greenwood, a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course. Indoors, test your luck on the craps table at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in South Tahoe. At sunset, venture to Lone Eagle Grille—its lakefront view makes for a one-of-a-kind backdrop for dinner and dessert. skiheavenly.com/the-mountain/about-the-mountain/mountain-info.aspx, nicklaus.com/design/oldgreenwood, hardrockcasinolaketahoe.com, loneeaglegrille.com

Day Three

After a busy day on the slopes, take this morning a little slow with a massage at Tahoe City's Lighthouse Spa. Afterward, stretch your legs and explore the area by foot as you follow the historic hike around Donner Lake. Sierra Discovery Trail is an easy one for kids, while the picturesque hike of nearby Emerald Bay is perfect for photographers and bicyclists. Just down the way, you can tour Vikingsholm Castle, or if there's a lot of snow, opt for a snowmobile tour in South Tahoe. For dinner, reserve your après-ski seat at Northstar's ski-up champagne bar or Zephyr Lodge's mountaintop winemakers dinner, accessible via chairlift (no skis required). lighthousepa.com, vikingsholm.com

Lake Tahoe's dry air, low atmospheric turbulence, and 300-plus clear nights a year make the area ideal for stargazing.

Central Park's Bethesda Fountain has been a gathering spot for New Yorkers since its unveiling in 1873, the same year the park was officially completed.



PART OF THE CITY'S
BEAUTY LIES IN ITS
STORIED PAST—AND PART
OF ITS ENERGY GROWS
FROM ITS ABILITY TO
CONSISTENTLY REDEFINE
MODERNITY

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NEW YORK, OLD & NEW

“Classic New York” means different things to different people. Some think of the towers of midtown, surrounded by churning crowds that channel the energy of George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue.” Some think of the city’s rich immigrant past—and the delicious foods that come with it—while others think of the nightlife described in *The Great Gatsby* or the elegant restraint of *The Age of Innocence*.

There’s one thing the numerous epochs of “classic New York” can tell us, though: The city is ever-

changing, and each “new” way to experience New York brings with it the possibility of becoming its own classic. This city, known for both its traditions and its avant-garde, forward-looking attitude, provides something for everyone. Art, dining, you name it—this bustling metropolis has what visitors come here to find, and the reasons why locals proclaim they’ll never leave. Here’s a sampling of how to mix up the classic and contemporary facets of the city during your visit and enjoy your New York City adventure like a true insider.

The Highline, a greenway finished in 2014, repurposed an unused elevated train track and added to the city’s legacy of green spaces. thehighline.org



Cocktails

CLASSIC Bemelmans Bar at the Carlyle

Fans of sophisticated whimsy will enjoy a visit to Bemelmans Bar. The charming murals were created by artist and author Ludwig Bemelmans, creator of the Madeline children's book series, in exchange for 18 months' residence at the hotel. Its Art Deco panache hasn't dimmed a bit since its 1947 opening, and neither has its ability to entertain, with skilled musicians regularly holding court at the piano. Cocktails will run you around \$25 (try the Gin-Gin Mule), but it evens out for the lounging space you and your group will have. rosewoodhotels.com/en/the-carlyle-new-york/dining/Bemelmans-bar



CONTEMPORARY Dear Irving

This impressively stylish cocktail lounge in the Gramercy Park area makes a guest feel both hip and in touch with history. Though decidedly modern in its trendy feel, the space features gorgeous and inviting period rooms (including one with a Marie Antoinette style and another that is oh-so-*Mad Men*). The \$16 cocktails are creative (the Butler Service offers armagnac and amaro averna; the Sundowner Flip features coffee salt and mole bitters) and delicious. dearirving.com

CLASSIC The Frick Collection

Visiting this art collection assembled by and housed in the former home of industrialist Henry Clay Frick feels like you're visiting your well-to-do uncle (as in, it's straight-up vintage and a true feast for the eyes, but don't touch the furniture). The works include old masters portraits as well as European sculpture and decorative arts. Paintings by Rembrandt, Goya and Fragonard decorate the elegant space. The museum is also across the street from Central Park, in case you'd like to add a little nature stroll or outdoor activity to your visit. frick.org

CONTEMPORARY The BogArt

This creative hub in Bushwick hosts a bevy of galleries (Honey Ramka, Robert Henry Contemporary, Studio 10 and more) and artist lofts. This is where you'll find those edgy, on-the-rise artists to watch. You can bounce around the space taking in the variety of artwork, or aim to catch one of the hip and happening receptions. 56bogartstreet.com



PIZZA

CLASSIC Sal & Carmine Pizza

Established in 1959 as a stand-up eat-and-go joint, this family-run neighborhood favorite serves up an insanely perfect New York slice with old-school options (think mushroom slices for a burst of salty pleasure). There's a small, no-frills dining area in the back if you want to camp out a bit. Locals embrace this little nook as the childhood favorite that keeps bringing the goods. salandcarminepizzanyc.com

CONTEMPORARY Roberta's

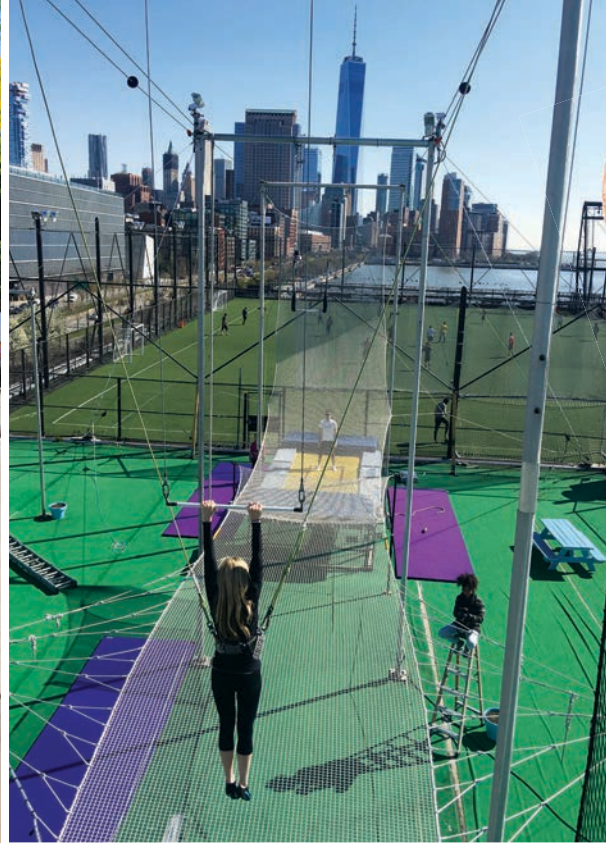
Roberta's is the "you need to check out that pizza place!" location that comes up if you tell a friend you're doing something in Bushwick, Brooklyn (see The BogArt, at right). Featuring wood-fired pizzas, a garden and a full non-pizza menu, it serves pies such as Four Emperors (which involves asiago and sesame seeds) as well as fancier fare (think duck prosciutto). If you just need a quick slice without trekking to Brooklyn, Roberta's has a counter in the Urban Space food hall at 45th Street and Park Avenue. robertaspizza.com



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ZUMA PRESS; INC./ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; EIGHTY FIVE STORIES; STELLA LEVI/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF HONEY RAMKA GALLERY; BRENDAN BURDEN; COURTESY OF ROBERTA'S PIZZA; EYAL YASSKY; COURTESY OF SAL & CARMINE PIZZA; BE LOW/GETTY IMAGES



Art



Recreation

CLASSIC Skating in Central Park's Wollman Rink, the Central Park Zoo and more

Central Park is at the heart of New York City and runs from 59th Street to 110th Street between the Upper West and Upper East sides. It's the place for a relaxing stroll as well as popular sports and recreational activities. Options include winter skating at the park's Wollman Rink, visiting the Central Park Zoo (pictured above)—and don't miss the delightful Delacorte Clock near the zoo's entrance), riding on the carousel, busting out your yoga moves in outdoor fitness classes and kicking back with a leisurely rowboat ride. If you're here during the summer, you'll also have a host of concerts to choose from, and it can't be beat year-round for that classic New York activity: people-watching. nycgovparks.org/parks/central-park

CONTEMPORARY Flying Trapeze Lessons at Pier 40

Trapeze School New York boasts that its classes let students experience this exhilarating thrill in a safe environment regardless of fitness level. So if you've admired the grace and seemingly effortless antics of those flying trapeze artists, now's the time to try out the magic of flight with one of the world's most famous cityscapes as your backdrop. Students are advised to wear socks that protect the toes (no separated-toe or slippery socks) and pants or leggings that cover the backs of your knees as you swing from the bar. See the website for weight and health restrictions. The Pier 40 outdoor location is open April to October; there's also an indoor location across the river in Brooklyn. newyork.trapezeschool.com

"I Did It My Way"

Club Members shared their favorite NYC experiences with *Club Traveler*. Check out some of their suggestions.

"What makes New York the best? Museums, museums, museums; food, food, food; and shopping, shopping, shopping. The Broadway shows and window-shopping are world-class." —**Barbara H.**

"Walk the Brooklyn Bridge from Manhattan to the Brooklyn side right before sunset. Then walk back to Manhattan as the lights slowly come on and the sun sets. Very cool. Take your kids." —**Mary U.**

"On our annual visits, we try to do at least one Broadway show. We try new restaurants and return to our favorites. Dinner and a show is a not-to-miss for us!" —**Brenda D.**

"My favorite thing is stepping outside in the morning and striking off in any direction, to see where it takes me. There's so much to explore! Walking is a great way to see so many things." —**Robyn W.**



WHERE TO STAY

Members can stay at **The Residences by Hilton Club** and **West 57th Street by Hilton Club**.

NEW NYC PROPERTY

The Residences by Hilton Club, the newest Hilton Grand Vacations property in the Big Apple, is unmistakably New York. Situated just steps from iconic Manhattan attractions like the Museum of Modern Art, Central Park and Rockefeller Center, The Residences occupies the top three floors of

the New York Hilton Midtown, giving Members an immersion course in urban living. The Residences features:

- Premier and penthouse one-bedrooms, as well as premier, premier plus and penthouse studios
- Access to the fitness center, business center and private Owners' Lounge

- Full boutique experience, including high-end room finishes like in-room spas, Toto Washlet toilets and wet bars, as well as heated floors in penthouse rooms
- On-site restaurants and bars, including Herb N'Kitchen, the relaxed Lobby Lounge and the Minus 5° Ice Bar



Club

YOUR
MEMBERSHIP

New York's grid system makes navigating most parts of Manhattan a cinch—but when things get confusing, GPS to the rescue!

Ask the Resort

Getting around New York City can be a rewarding adventure. **Laurie D.**, managing senior director of The Hilton Club—New York, West 57th Street by Hilton Club and The Residences by Hilton Club, helps you navigate the boroughs like a native.

"New York is a pedestrian's city. Walking is often the most efficient way to get from point A to point B, and when you're on foot you're simultaneously sightseeing. For longer trips, the subway is the New Yorker's transport of choice. It's fast, and it can be fun, with subway musicians giving that 'only in New York' experience. Check the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's website [mta.info] to make sure the trains you need are running smoothly, or download the MTA app from iTunes for live service updates.

"The bus also lets you take in the sights—the M1 line, for example, takes you right down Fifth Avenue. Buy an unlimited seven-day MetroCard at a subway stop ahead of time—it's good for both the subway and the bus—and you'll be able to hop on and off. And of course there are also taxis and ride-share apps like Uber for door-to-door service."



What's New With Club?

News, tips and updates from Club: There's a lot going on this summer

FRONT DESK REQUESTS HAVE GONE MOBILE

Beginning in April, Members may have seen a new and improved way to contact the front desk in Hilton Grand Vacation Club's mobile app. Using notifications and in-app messaging, you can now message the front desk while on property with specific requests—from information about special events around town to extra towels and pillows—and provide HGV with feedback about your stay. Since Members can send messages via the app through HGV's on-property Wi-Fi, the message won't use data or count as an SMS message, which is especially nice for Members traveling internationally and out of network.

With Hilton Grand Vacation Club's new app, you can spend your day hiking, then come back to your suite with your requests already addressed.



CONNECT WITH HGV'S NEW TRAVEL BLOG

Hilton Grand Vacations recently launched Where To?—an official Hilton Grand Vacations travel blog that's filled with stories and insights provided

by real HGV experts (blog.hiltongrandvacations.com). Discover helpful planning tips, must-see destinations and inspiring ideas for your next vacation.



Win Bonus Points in Monthly Sweepstakes

To celebrate HGV's 25th anniversary, all eligible Members in good standing will continue to automatically be entered into a monthly sweepstakes for a chance to win one of two prizes of 2,500 HGV Bonus Points each month through December and a drawing for the grand prize of 25,000 HGV Bonus Points at the end of the year. See who's won so far this year by visiting the Club website, club.hiltongrandvacations.com.

HGV Lands in Charleston

With its cobblestone streets and antebellum houses, Charleston is a charming destination that Club Members can soon call home thanks to the newly announced **Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club**. This new property will be located in the historic downtown of South Carolina's oldest and largest city and within walking distance of The Battery and South Carolina Aquarium. Featuring 100 units—including studios and one- and two-bedroom suites—a fitness center, lobby bar and Owners' Lounge, Liberty Place is slated to open during the second quarter of 2020.

Property images proposed and subject to change. ©2018 Hilton Grand Vacations Inc.



Happy to Be Helpful

Get to know Louise C.



Scotland is known internationally for its hearty welcome, and **Louise C.**, front office receptionist at Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Craighendarroch Suites, gives Members exactly that. *Club Traveler* talked with Louise about life at Craighendarroch and the village of Ballater.

experiences with guests in the hopes they enjoy touring our lovely area that's filled with generations of history. I also wanted to work as part of a team, and at Craighendarroch, we work together as one big family.

Can you walk us through a typical day at Craighendarroch?

My typical day starts at 6:30 a.m. I hand over with the night team, taking note of any tasks I need to be aware of or complete during my shift. I prepare all the paperwork for guest departures and check through the final bills to make sure they are all correct. I then check the arrivals for that day, make sure that all welcome packs are prepared and allocate any new reservations. During my shift, I respond to guest queries at the desk, pass on various messages and tasks to other departments where necessary, answer telephone calls and handle all the guest departures. After lunch, we often have early arrivals, so we'll complete the pre-check paperwork and direct Members to our facilities until their suites are ready for check-in.

What is one of your favorite activities to recommend in the area?

Walking around Loch Muick—it's such a beautiful area, and I think it's the best spot to see red deer and various other local wildlife. The Glen Muick area provides beautiful scenery all year round, and the visitor center at the Spittal of Glen Muick [balmoralcastle.com/ranger.html] has a monthly wildlife board with details of animals that can be observed during your visit.

Where are you likeliest to direct a hungry family looking for dinner?

Clachan Grill in Ballater [clachangrill.com]*—*traditional, local Scottish cuisine in a cozy environment. I recommend the slow-cooked featherblade of Aberdeenshire beef. It's very tasty.

What drew you to work in hospitality?

I'm a local, and I'm friendly—I enjoy meeting lots of different people and providing friendly service with a smile. I'm proud to live and work in such a beautiful part of Royal Deeside, Scotland, and I enjoy sharing my

What local event do you most look forward to?

Ballater Games, our traditional local highlands games held in August each year. I also look forward to Christmastime at Craighendarroch—we have our very own Christmas tree light switch-on, and we also receive a visit from Santa and his reindeer on Christmas Eve.

MANUEL SULZER/GETTY IMAGES (MAN ON LAPTOP); MIKAEL VAISANEN/GETTY IMAGES (WOMAN ON TABLET)

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As an RCI® subscribing member, you have so many exciting vacation destinations that you can choose from.¹ Exchange vacations give you the freedom you want to go somewhere different every time you travel. So hit the open road, hop on a train, or catch a flight and go experience a new vacation.

28



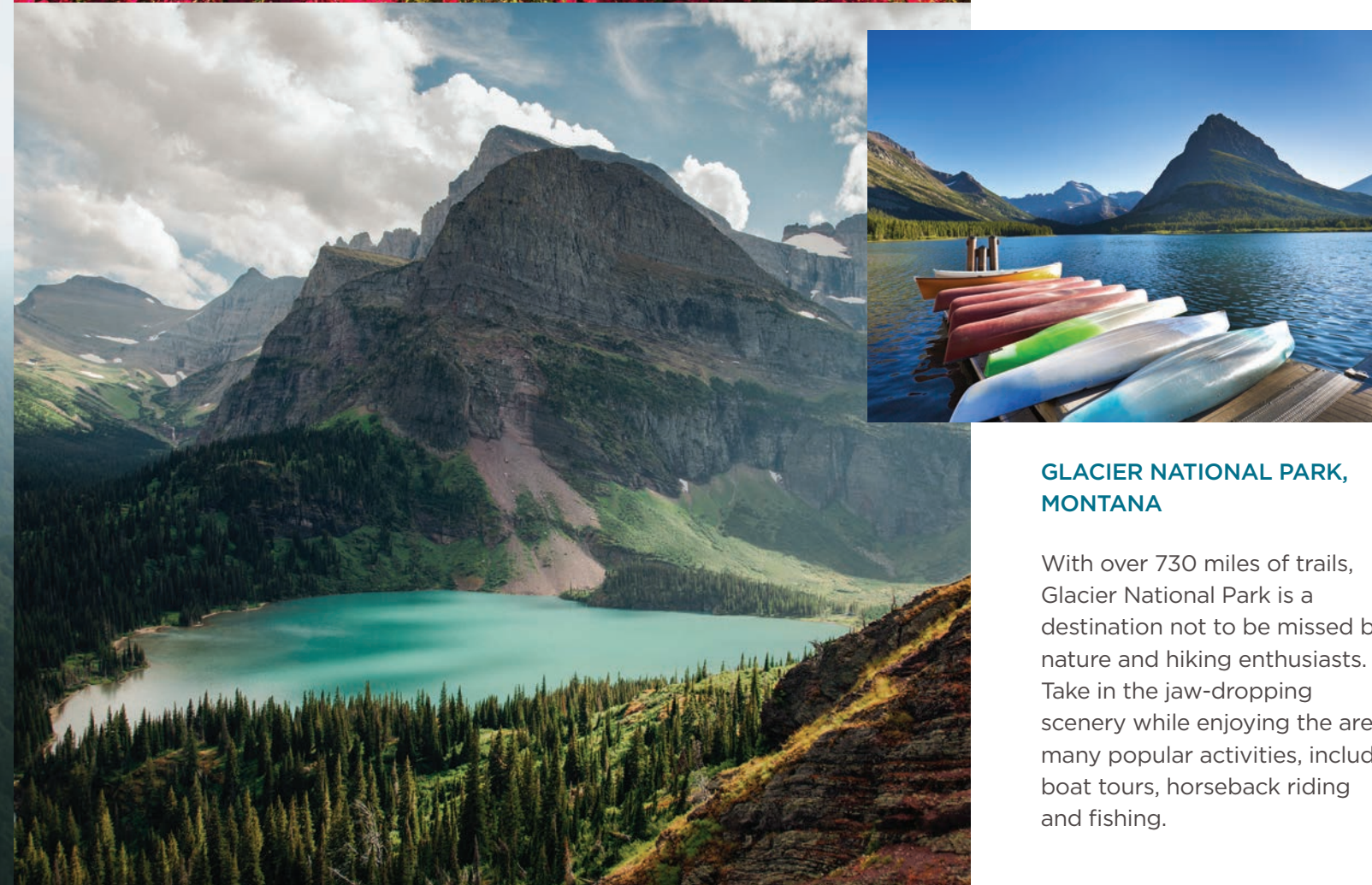
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In celebration of Hilton Grand Vacations Club's 25th Anniversary, we are offering Hilton Grand Vacations Club owners 25% off of the RCI Exchange Fee when you **book by October 1, 2018**. Don't miss this exciting savings opportunity. Start searching today for your RCI Exchange Vacation.



PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

A little more than 100 miles from L.A. and a gateway to Joshua Tree National Park, the Palm Springs area has carved a niche for itself as a restful desert getaway replete with scenic hikes, high-end shopping and architectural wonders.



GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, MONTANA

With over 730 miles of trails, Glacier National Park is a destination not to be missed by nature and hiking enthusiasts. Take in the jaw-dropping scenery while enjoying the area's many popular activities, including boat tours, horseback riding and fishing.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

A visit to San Antonio isn't complete without seeing the Alamo and strolling along the River Walk. But that's not all there is to do. Explore the city's up-and-coming cosmopolitan cultural scene, which includes museums, galleries and world-class restaurants.



SHENANDOAH VALLEY, VIRGINIA

Cradled by the **Blue Ridge Mountains**, Virginia's stunning Shenandoah Valley is a vacation destination that urges you to keep exploring. Visitors come to tour the local wine country, savor the farm-to-fork cuisine and take in the scenic views.



Choose your next vacation destination with RCI

1. Log in to club.hiltongrandvacations.com
2. Go to the “Club Membership” section
3. Select “RCI Account” to link to your RCI® subscribing member account and start searching

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Total Eclipse of the Heart

Members share their favorite Las Vegas vacation memories

“Neither of us are big gamblers—Jeff might spend an afternoon at a casino when we’re in Vegas, but that’s pretty much it—so the idea behind this trip was to relax. And we did! We’ve recently gotten into hiking, so we went to Red Rock Canyon, our first time. We had no idea how beautiful it was—when you see it from a distance it just looks like rocks, but when you’re in it you see all this vegetation, even a creek. Being able to be in nature, then to go back again and have that city energy is a great experience. We’ll absolutely go hiking in the area again.

We loved the Club—the pool was beautiful, the Jacuzzi was relaxing, the concierge was wonderful. And the bar by the pool makes amazing fruit smoothies. Plus, it’s right on the Strip. We were walking along the Strip on the way back from the Stratosphere, and we looked up and saw that the sun was at the perfect spot to create this kind of eclipse effect against the Hilton Boulevard building, so we took a photo of it (see left). If we’d been there five minutes later the sun would have been in a different position. Vegas luck!

This was really a trip about getting to know each other again. Our son left for college in September, and this was our first real getaway since he was little. We’ve had wonderful vacations with him—earlier that summer we took a trip to Tennessee to see the eclipse, then wound our way up to New York, trading our Honors Points to stay at Hilton Hotels and Hampton Inns. We’ve seen so much of the country through Hilton Grand Vacations, and this trip in particular was one of those wonderful vacations, with no fighting, just taking in that last family getaway before our son went to college. But for this Vegas trip, it was funny: We just passed the 25th anniversary of the day we met, and it’s like we picked up where we were before our son was born. Immediate talking, lots of laughing. This was the first trip in a while with just the two of us—and we know it’s the first of many.”

Jeff and Siobhan C.

Club Members since 2006

Featured Trip: Hilton Grand Vacations Club on the Boulevard, Las Vegas, October 2017





Hilton
Grand Vacations

Exciting and Upcoming Member Events

Make the most of your membership with these Hilton Grand Vacations events. From Education Workshops that help you use your Points and keep a vacation state of mind year-round to ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventure Cruises, check out one of the events below.

SEPTEMBER

15–Dallas: Member Education Workshop, Morning Session

Where: Embassy Suites Dallas Market Center

When: Registration opens at 9 a.m.; Workshop begins at 9:30 a.m., with the knowledge center and a reception to follow

Dallas: Member Education Workshop, Afternoon Session

Where: Embassy Suites Dallas Market Center

When: Registration opens at 3 p.m.; Workshop begins at 3:30 p.m., with the knowledge center and a reception to follow

OCTOBER

National Plan a Cruise Month

Where: Everywhere. Club Members can take advantage of a full month of Member savings and pick up deals from our trusted provider, CruisesOnly.

When: Throughout October, with different destination themes featured each week.

8–18: Extraordinary Panama Canal Experience ClubPartner Grand Adventure Cruise

Where: The ship will depart Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and venture to Panama, the Grand Cayman, Colombia, Costa Rica and Jamaica during its 10-night, round-trip journey.

When: 4 p.m. departure

DECEMBER

15–Atlanta: Member Education Workshop, Morning Session

Where: Hilton Atlanta (downtown location)

When: Registration opens at 9 a.m.; Workshop begins at 9:30 a.m., with the knowledge center and a reception to follow

Atlanta: Member Education Workshop, Afternoon Session

Where: Hilton Atlanta (downtown location)

When: Registration opens at 3 p.m.; Workshop begins at 3:30 p.m., with the knowledge center and a reception to follow

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