

Club

traveller

FALL 2017

DREAM
PLAN
GO

MARKING A MILESTONE

CHERISHING A QUARTER-
CENTURY OF VACATIONS

PLUS

10 MUST-SEE BRIDGES

SKI-FRIENDLY TECH




Hilton
Grand Vacations



Members can enjoy the Scottish Highlands by staying at the Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Craigendaroch Suites, nestled on the banks of the River Dee.



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

Club traveller

DREAM
PLAN
GO

COVER STORY



History in the Making

On our 25th anniversary, we're celebrating Club's finest moments

20

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO CLUB MEMBERS WHO SENT CLUB TRAVELER THEIR VACATION IMAGES, WHICH APPEAR THROUGHOUT THE ISSUE.
COVER: GUILLE FAINGOLD/STOCKSY (POLAROIDS)
THIS PAGE, AT RIGHT: PAVEL KUZMIN/TWENTY20
INSIDE BACK COVER: SLOW IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES
BACK COVER: FRANCESCO VANINETTI/ROBERT HARDING

Dream

3 DREAM VACATION

Cinque Terre, Italy

4 ON THE HORIZON

Events 3, 6, 9 and 12-plus months out

5 THE 10

Bridges worth seeking out

6 THE BIG PICTURE

Manhattanhenge

8 CITY LIFE

Park City, Utah

Plan

9 ASK THE RESORT

Nevada's nature scene

10 LEADER OF THE PACK

Go-to gadgets

11 ON THE FLY

The cycle of flight

12 PICTURE PERFECT

Archive your treasured photos

14 GOOD SAVE

The best times for saving on travel

Go

15 LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

An insider's look at Kyoto and Osaka, Japan

16 FOOD AND DRINK

The best stuffed dough around the world

17 KIDDING AROUND

Ways to keep children engaged at museums

18 LONG WEEKEND

Bay Area delights



Travel Tip

Wearing cotton or moisture-wicking performance fabrics on your next flight will ensure you arrive feeling your freshest. (Synthetics like polyester and nylon trap bacteria.)

Club

25 ASK A CLUB COUNSELOR

Maintenance fees and more

26 CLUB NEWS

A new cruise, a winter wine tour and holiday savings

27 AT YOUR SERVICE

Get to know Jeremy D.

28 RCI EXCHANGE

Discover musical destinations

Grand Finale

32 Members share their favorite Orlando memories



5

Dear Club Member



With the end of the year quickly approaching, I hope 2017 has provided exceptional vacation experiences for you and your loved ones.

I also want to reflect on what a landmark year it has been for your Club. Your resorts have never looked better, and I can't thank our resort teams enough for what they do on a daily basis to ensure your stay is the best it can be. Because of these efforts and thanks to your feedback, your resorts continue to achieve remarkable results. Our teams in Honolulu earned outstanding scores in our annual evaluation, placing them among the top resorts in the Club.

In addition to the great work our teams do every day to keep your resorts in impeccable condition, we also celebrated opening The Grand Islander in Hawaii and the expansion of the Las Palmeras pool area in Orlando. We also have a number of new properties in the pipeline and can't wait to tell you more as plans become final.

Our Member Education Workshops continued to expand this year, and we reached more Members than ever. We held three events—in North Carolina, California and Pennsylvania—and plan to expand these as we move into 2018. We are also looking for ways to share the content from these sessions with more of you, even if you can't make it to an event, so stay tuned for details.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we're also celebrating 24 years of consecutive growth as a company. Hilton Grand Vacations and your Club have never been stronger, and we are committed to creating more value for you through major property enhancements, future development and additional membership benefits. We will continue reaching out to you for feedback on what you want to see for the future, and we can't wait to see where the next 25 years take us together.

Happy travels,



Stan Soroka
Chief Customer Officer



Hilton Grand Vacations Club

6355 MetroWest Boulevard, Suite 180
Orlando, Florida 32835 USA

Club Traveler is published by Hilton Grand Vacations Club and is distributed exclusively to Club Members.

© 2017 Hilton Grand Vacations Inc.

Hilton Grand Vacations® and Hilton Grand Vacations Club® are registered trademarks of Hilton International Holding LLC licensed to Hilton Grand Vacations Inc. Hilton Grand Vacations and its ownership properties and club programs operate under the Hilton name pursuant to a license agreement with Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc.

ON THE WEB

Stay up to date with our monthly eNewsletter. Find top 2017 eNewsletter stories on clubtraveler.com.

- 1 "Your Guide to Myrtle Beach's Many Golf Scenes"
- 2 "Jump In: 5 Incredible Club Pools"
- 3 "Your Club's Digital Enhancements"
- 4 "Get Comfortable: the Best Footwear for Your Vacation Type"
- 5 "See and Taste the Appeal of Puerto Vallarta"
- 6 "Club Member Education Workshop Series Continues U.S. Tour"

Send Us Your Feedback!

What do you think about *Club Traveler*? Send us an email at feedback@clubtraveler.com.

Dream

WHERE TO GO

The cliffside trail called Via dell'Amore connects the Cinque Terre villages of Manarola and Riomaggiore. You can still walk sections of the path.

03

Dream Vacation

Bonnie and Bruce G., Owners since 2013 at Elara, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club in Las Vegas, have several dream vacations on deck, but one that's particularly appealing is a second trip to Italy. Last year, on their first visit, Venice, Florence and Rome were the main stops. In dreaming up their next voyage, the couple say they "would like to go off the beaten path." Specifically, the Tuscan countryside and the northwest coast are their prime picks.

With their passion for Italian food and wine, Bonnie and Bruce's perfect getaway includes staying in a villa where Italian cooking is taught. They say, "Combining this with touring the countryside, visiting local vineyards and sampling

their wines would be an ideal vacation." To top this off, a venture to the seaside region of Cinque Terre is also on the couple's itinerary. And who can blame them? This car-free UNESCO World Heritage Site beckons travelers to its five colorful, ancient villages along the Italian Riviera.



Where to Stay: Situated amid the rolling countryside, Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Borgo alle Vigne is in the heart of Tuscany. Embrace the region's culinary scene by taking cooking classes offered by the Club, and take a 10-minute stroll to La Spinetta for a tour of the family-owned winery on land long dedicated to viticulture.

Coming Up

Events worth the trip—whatever your time frame



3 months

Chamber Restaurant Week, Hilton Head, South Carolina, January 2018

Ever have trouble picking which restaurant to try? Dive into the very best of Lowcountry cuisine at Hilton Head's premier culinary event, where there's no need to decide. For the 10th year in a row, more than 70 area restaurants will whip up well-rounded yet affordable prix fixe menus, so you can put your mouth on autopilot. hiltonheadisland.org/restaurantweek

9 months

Fourth of July Fireworks, Las Vegas, July 4

Double your winnings next summer by celebrating the Fourth in the City of Lights. When you're not busy making it rain, watch colorful fireworks bursting in air from a slew of venues and vantage points, including Cashman Field, the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, the Santa Fe Station Pavilion and Desert Breeze Park. And, as we're all old enough to know, nothing declares one's independence quite like celebrating it on the Las Vegas Strip. vegas.com/july4th

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF CHAMBER RESTAURANT WEEK; DAVID DAVIS/ALAMY; COURTESY OF SUBJECT

6 months

Hawaiian Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Ala Moana Beach Park, Honolulu, April 2018

Have your *Braveheart* moment at this annual celebration of all things Scotland in Hawaii, where ties to the U.K.'s most northern country stretch back more than a century. Drawing Scottish clans from throughout the United States for a weekend of Highland games, dances, traditional fare and, of course, heavy bagpiping, this festival invites attendees to savor some haggis and get a few pointers on swordplay, weaving and fencing, too. Mingle with vendors in Celtic garb selling jewelry, musical instruments and housewares. Who knows? Perhaps somewhere in all the festivity, you'll find your inner William Wallace and sign up for a sporting competition. Between the activities and the gorgeous setting, we'll be surprised if you don't find yourself yelling "Freedom!" at least once. hawaiianscottishassociation.org/festival-information

12 months

Howl-O-Ween! Park City, Utah, October 31

Named one of the top Halloween celebrations in the country by *Travel + Leisure* magazine, this event on Park City's historic Main Street lives up to the hype—with a howl, a woof and a goblin chortle. After trick-or-treating the local businesses, jockey for a choice spot to catch the night's main event: the parade, where pets and their parents sashay down the promenade in a show of pageantry and pride.



10 Incredible Bridges

1. Great Seto Bridge, Okayama, Japan

Six connected bridges spanning five small islands compose the world's longest double-decker bridge, which crosses the Seto Inland Sea and measures 8 miles long. Visit a museum about the bridge's construction and ride to the top of a revolving observation tower, both on the southern end of the bridge in Seto Ohashi Commemorative Park.

2. Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco

Few American landmarks are as famed as this 1930s engineering marvel framing the entrance to sparkling San Francisco Bay. You can drive across in a few minutes, but to truly appreciate the Golden Gate's grandeur, stroll 20 to 30 minutes (one way) to midspan, pause and take in your surroundings.

Traversing the 8-mile-long double-decker Great Seto Bridge by car or train takes about 20 minutes.

3. Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney

Opened in 1932, the arched steel "coathanger," as it's nicknamed, can be crossed on wheels, foot or railway. Feeling brave? Book a guided girder-climbing tour to the summit of the arch, 440 dizzying feet above shimmering Sydney Harbour.

4. Tower Bridge, London

Victorian-era London birthed one of the world's most celebrated bridges, instantly recognizable thanks to its twin Gothic-style towers rising from the River Thames. Access the upper walkways via the Tower Bridge Exhibition museum, housed inside the towers.

5. Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, Nevada and Arizona

Near Las Vegas, this graceful concrete arch soaring 900 feet over the Colorado River boasts eagle-eye, canyon-framed views of hulking Hoover Dam far below. Reach the bridge's pedestrian walkway from the visitor plaza on its Nevada side.

6. Brooklyn Bridge, New York City

Romanticized by generations of writers and artists, this iconic bridge's neo-Gothic beauty still manages to inspire even lifelong residents of New York. A walk across the bridge—built in the 19th century to connect the then-separate cities of New York and Brooklyn over the East River—is an essential Big Apple experience.

7. Millau Viaduct, Aveyron, France

Rising 1,125 feet from the bucolic River Tarn valley in the south of France, the world's tallest bridge structure is a sleek, cable-stayed affair with a regatta of seven sailboatlike tower masts soaring above the countryside. Admire this engineering feat from the visitor center and viewing platform at the bridge's north end.

8. Rainbow Bridge, Niagara Falls, New York, and Ontario, Canada

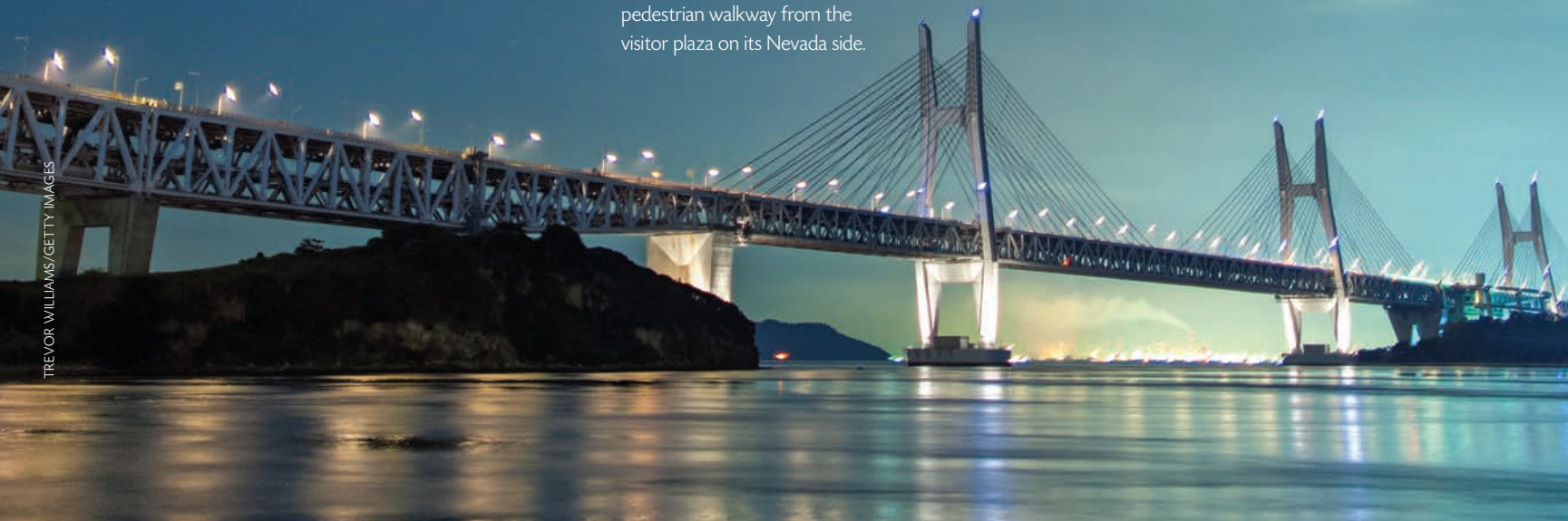
With one foot in the U.S. and the other in Canada, this arch bridge spanning the Niagara River gorge treats border-crossing motorists and pedestrians to marvelous views of Niagara Falls.

9. Royal Gorge Bridge & Park, Colorado

Suspended 955 feet over a rugged, incredibly steep-walled canyon near Cañon City, the United States' highest bridge never fails to impress. Adjacent, aerial gondolas and zip lines add adrenaline-pumping thrills to the mix.

10. Erasmus Bridge, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Dubbed "The Swan," this Dutch beauty in the heart of Rotterdam features a graceful, 456-foot-high, cable-strung tower resembling an orchestral harp. For water-level views and photos, hop aboard a boat cruise on the Nieuwe Maas river.





LEARN MORE

The second date of Manhattanhenge 2018, July 12, falls on a Thursday, allowing you to take advantage of ClubPoints' weekday value. Stays at some locations on weekdays can cost less than half as many Points as weekend stays. (The first 2018 date, May 28, falls on Memorial Day; holidays are exempt from the weekday value program.)

Manhattan



henge

Leave Stonehenge to the Druids—New Yorkers will take Manhattanhenge instead. Twice a year, on two dates equidistant from the summer solstice, the sun sets 30 degrees north of due west. In a city with a street grid rotated 30 degrees clockwise from true east-west, this translates to a spectacular sunset. Manhattanhenge accomplishes the rare feat of making the Big Apple hit pause: Tourists, cab drivers and city slickers alike gather along the streets of east midtown around 8:10 p.m., watching the sun sink between skyscraper canyons, an otherwise ordinary summer night transformed into magic.

Beyond the Slopes in Park City

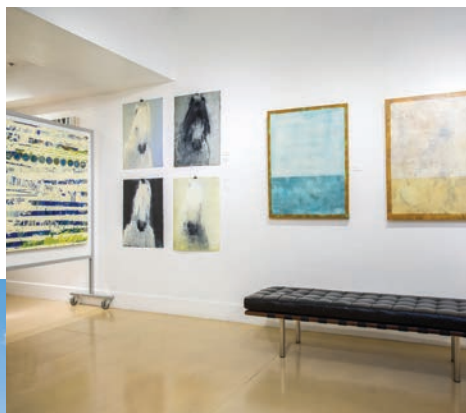
Your guide to visiting this famous Utah town—even if you don't ski

High West has preserved the century-old signage (below) of its home. Gallery MAR (right) showcases artists from around the globe.



Where to Eat

When High West Distillery & Saloon opened in 2006, it became Utah's first legal distillery since 1870—and a go-to spot for its whiskey selection and pub fare (highwest.com). Regional ingredients fill the menu at Handle; don't miss the buffalo cauliflower or the smoked trout sausage over corn pudding (handleparkcity.com).



contemporary art, start at Gallery MAR and Prothro Gallery (gallerymar.com, prothrogallery.com); Trove Gallery showcases Utah artists (troveparkcity.com). If you want to bring home the state's scenery, stop at Bret Webster Images for some prints (www.bretwebsterimages.com). Keep your eyes peeled for the framed Banksy on Main Street—the graffiti artist made it in 2010 while attending Sundance for his movie *Exit Through the Gift Shop*. Just a five-minute drive away is the Kimball Art Center (kimballartcenter.org), a nonprofit with three galleries dedicated to local artists.

Where to Adventure

The host of the 2002 Olympics has maintained its legacy. The Olympic bobsled track and alpine slide anchor Utah Olympic Park, a year-round adrenaline boost with zip lining, climbing and a drop tower, all a short drive from Park City (utaholympiclegacy.org/park).

Located on historic Main Street, the elegant Riverhorse on Main boasts all-American eats like cowboy rib-eye and pan-seared quail (riverhorseparkcity.com).

Where to Stroll

Wander through the historic Old Town district on Main Street, where antique mingles with new. Park City has 64 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. More than 100 boutiques, galleries and restaurants line the street. Learn about the town's mining past at the Park City Museum (parkcityhistory.org). For spooktacular fun, Park City Ghost Tours guide you around haunted buildings (parkcityghosttours.com).

What to View

Take in the area's burgeoning art presence at galleries on Main Street. For

Where to Stay

Members can opt for anything from a studio to a four-bedroom suite at **Sunrise Lodge, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**. The property is primed for a wellness vacation, with a fitness center, hot tub and outdoor pool. Bonus: It's at the base of the Sunrise lift, which stays open in summer. (Unless you own a specific Home Week at Sunrise Lodge during high-demand travel times, consider alternative options for your stay.) With shuttle service into the heart of Park City, Sunrise Lodge masters the invigoration and relaxation of a resort vacation.

Plan

HOW TO
GET THERE

The cliffs of Red Rock Canyon are the result of lithified sand dunes that formed in the desert here around 180 million years ago.

Ask the Resort

You might have planned your Las Vegas getaway for, well, its Vegasness. But the beauty of the Nevada desert has the power to awe even the most poker-faced among us. We asked **Lisa A.**, resort director of the first-ever Club property—Hilton Grand Vacations Club at the Flamingo—about Red Rock Canyon, a conservation area just 15 miles outside Sin City.

“People don’t expect to see something so natural and untouched so close to the bright lights of Vegas. Red Rock Canyon offers all sorts of experiences—biking, hiking, horseback riding. Even just a scenic drive is worth the trip to see its towering red cliffs. A lot of our Owners love to go out there for bird-watching. You can see ruby-crowned

kinglets, spotted towhees and Cooper’s hawks, which are spectacular flyers. You’ve also got a variety of lizards and frogs, and if larger animals are more of a draw, wild horses can often be seen at the extreme northern and southern ends of Red Rock.

“There’s a hike for everyone there. The Lost Creek Grotto interpretive trail is great for children, with petroglyphs and a nice little waterfall; Calico Tanks is good for people who are up for a hike that’s a little more vigorous, and it’s the perfect introduction to Red Rock. Our marketplace at the resort has everything people would need before a hike, including beverages, nutrition bars and sunscreen. We’ve even been known to make light lunches for guests to enjoy on the trails.”



LEADER OF THE PACK

Be slick on the slopes with (clockwise from far right) Smith IOX Elite Turbo Fan goggles, the Garmin Tactix Bravo watch, the GoPro Hero5 Session and Skullcandy Sport Bluetooth XT ear buds.



Slope-Worthy Tech

Discover the latest ski wearables and snow-friendly fabrics

Suave Eyewear

If anti-fogging is your goal, the Smith IOX Elite Turbo Fan goggles with photo-chromatic lenses are a swanky start. The quick-release lens can rapidly adjust to light fluctuations and houses a two-speed exhaust fan. Other functional eyewear includes the Uvex Snowstrike Variotronic goggles and the Oakley Flight Deck Prizm goggles. smithoptics.com, uvex-sports.com, oakley.com

Snow Songs on Demand

If you like pumping the tunes while flying down your favorite course, Skullcandy Sport Bluetooth XT ear gel buds will do the job. These ear pieces allow quality sound to come through without blocking all ambient noise, ensuring every run is safe. Speaking of safety, Outdoor Technology Chips 2.0 slide into snow helmet earflaps. These buds have a walkie-talkie feature and respond to voice

commands to begin a playlist. skullcandy.com, outdoortechology.com

For the Record

If you're from the school of "pics or it didn't happen," record your videos on the lightweight, compact GoPro Hero4 Session or the new Hero5. Both connect to the GoPro app on smartphones via Wi-Fi and Bluetooth and allow you to track your runs with top-quality photos and videos. Affix to your helmet with a GoPro mount and record the day's journeys. shop.gopro.com



All-Encompassing Apparatus

Get your gadget fix with the Garmin Tactix Bravo watch. Complete with a barometer, an altimeter, a compass, a weather-pattern prediction tool and GPS, it records all your slope activity. This waterproof tech can also incorporate

emails, texts, burned calories and sleeping patterns. It's a go-to smartwatch for the slopes. garmin.com

High-Tech Textiles

Malleable, easy-to-stow fabrics are a seasonal must. Snow Angel's warm, lightweight base layer wicks moisture from the body. Another respected brand for comfy, lightweight base layers is Hot Chillys—its flexible fabrics are where fundamentals meet comfort. snowangelpac.myshopify.com, hotchillys.com

Add the Seirus heat touch inferno gloves to your travel bags. With heat lock, windproof, waterproof fabric, hours of warmth can be generated on three levels. The low setting lasts six hours straight while keeping your hands dry and warm. Medium and high settings last about four and two hours, respectively. seirus.com

Handy Apps for Slope Exploration

Slopes. Whether beginner, expert or instructor, snow enthusiasts can use this skiing and snowboarding GPS tracker app with ease. It monitors speed, elevation, distance, routes and more. It will even replay your run in 3-D, analyz-

ing the course and personal performance. iTunes

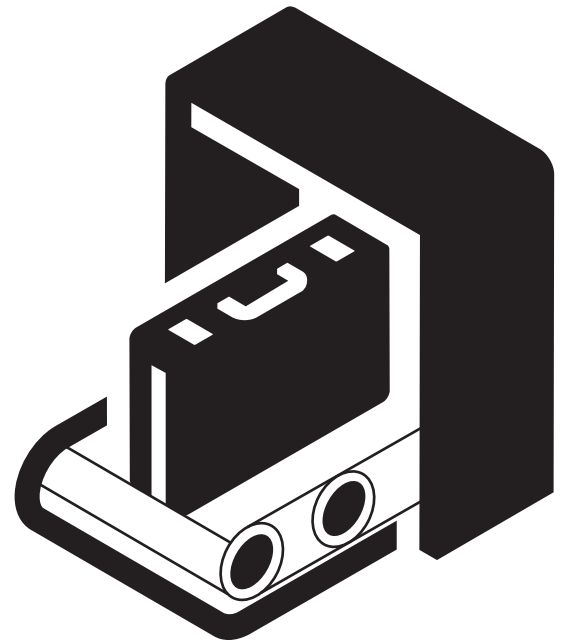
Peak.AR. This is for the explorers and curious cats wanting to absorb unfamiliar surroundings. Wondering what mountaintop is peering over

the horizon? Just consult this gem. Point a camera in the direction of the unknown figure and open the app to identify the peak. iTunes, Google Play

Liftopia. This app offers updates on the local powder

before a full day of action. While checking the latest snow scoop, you'll also discover an aggregated selection of deals from the mountain's ticket desk. It's a valuable resource for saving while conquering each peak. iTunes

Your Flight, From Planning to Landing



52%: Vacation planners who actually take off all the days they're entitled to

Only 40% of nonplanners take all their vacation days

65%: People who would hop on a long-weekend flight to Europe if the price were right

68%

People satisfied with airport security in 2017, up from 62% in 2013

5

Minutes to Manhattan from JFK by helicopter, courtesy of Delta's new partnership with aviation company Blade



8,384

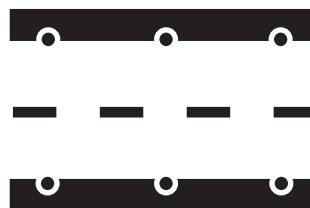
Number of public comments on the Department of Transportation's website about a proposal to keep the ban on in-flight phone calls. Nearly all supported the ban.

86

How many pieces Italian design group Alessi created for Delta's serviceware

43

Number of international airports using automated customs kiosks to speed up entry for American, Canadian and select international travelers



88%

Hawaiian Airlines' on-time performance rate, the highest of any North American carrier



Preserving the Past: Archiving Images

Boxes of dusty photo prints, curling negatives and brittle slides fill your closet's top shelf. Your cellphone is near capacity from daily snaps, and your digital camera's media card is full. Can you relate? This season, vow to digitally archive your precious images in all their glorious forms.



Clean old film.

Use a photographic blower brush followed by a microfiber cloth moistened with anti-static cleaning solution—available online and at brick-and-mortar retailers that primarily sell cameras or hobby photographic supplies—to whisk away dust and fingerprints on negatives and slides. A dry microfiber cloth can be used to freshen up dust-covered printed images, too.

Buy a scanner.

Invest in an image scanner that accommodates color negatives, black-and-white negatives, paper prints and mounted slides. Pay attention to the features; some hardware scans one frame at a time, while others offer bulk processing to expedite large projects.

Use editing software.

Revive faded colors and low-contrast images after scanning. Download free versions of Adobe Photoshop, GIMP or PhotoScape and use the saturation and contrast adjustments to get started. Already into digital editing? Experiment with the cloning, rubber stamp and healing tools to fix visible scratches and spots on your digital files.

Choose your storage.

Save scanned, digital camera or smartphone images to an external hard drive, a USB drive, a built-in computer hard drive or a cloud-based internet storage service, such as Dropbox, iCloud Photo Library, Amazon Prime Photos or Google Photos. The first two offline options are portable, making them ideal for storing large quantities of photos.

Create a filing system.

Categorize the photos in a way that makes sense for your shooting style and frequency. Popular options include week/month/year, per trip/location, per event or by individuals/families (if working on a genealogy project). Don't forget to create useful file names that indicate topic and date; this will help you stay organized. For example: Paris_2013_family1 or Ron_birthday_1968.

Add a text file.

Some photo scanning and editing programs offer a caption or description text box for each photo. Write a few sentences detailing the location, event, date and names of the people in the photo to make the image files searchable. Doing this enables you to enter keywords when you want to retrieve specific images later.



Plane tickets: **Sundays.**

Planning on a not-so-lazy Sunday can save you up to 30 percent on flights to Europe and 17 percent on domestic flights, according to a study from Expedia and the Airlines Reporting Corporation. Slash that bill even more by booking more than 21 days in advance—54 days is the optimal number. The worst time to book? Fridays, when business travelers whip out the corporate card. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are the cheapest days to depart, and Mondays to return.



Amusement parks: **Off-peak hours and days.**

While it's hard to find steals at the major theme parks, smaller local ones often reduce admission on certain days of the week and during quieter hours. To get the trimmest price, buy in advance—even major theme parks offer discounts when you purchase online ahead of time.



Entertainment: **Day of.**

Procrastinators, rejoice! Day-of tickets usually feature the steepest discounts, as venues are trying to fill seats. Purchase directly from the box office, and check out apps like TodayTix and TKTS to help you strategize.



Cruises: **January through March and in October.**

Booking during those times will give you the best value for setting sail because of Wave Season and Plan a Cruise Month, respectively. You can sometimes nab even lower fares when lines first announce an itinerary and are eager to fill up the ship.



Train tickets: **As far in advance as possible.**

Unlike flights, the price of train tickets doesn't fluctuate, so book as soon as you're able. Amtrak lists the best prices on its site and app and often shares promos on Twitter and Facebook. Plus, kids ages 2 to 12 travel for half price.



Uber rides: **Between noon and early evening.**

Spend less getting around town by avoiding peak times, which is when those pesky surge fares pop up. That tends to be from 9 a.m. to noon and later at night when bars and restaurants close for the evening. If you have a few minutes to spare, sign up for a notification and Uber will let you know when prices drop.



Hotels: **Sundays.**

Book on this day for the best deals, and try to include a Sunday-night stay during your trip—that's typically the cheapest night. Making a reservation as far in advance as possible also helps lower the bill.

Perfect Timing

Book your next vacation at just the right time and your wallet will thank you. Here are the best times to book ...

DID YOU KNOW?

Cruises booked through ClubPartner CruisesOnly have a 110% Best Price Guarantee. If you find a lower price elsewhere within 48 hours of booking with CruisesOnly, it will refund 110 percent of the price difference.

Go

WHAT TO DO

Local Perspective

The former imperial capital of Japan, Kyoto houses thousands of years of history amid its charming streets, with more than 1,600 temples and 17 UNESCO sites. A stone's throw away is the second-largest city in Japan: the friendly (and food-centric) Osaka. Stay at the brand-new **Conrad Osaka** and experience both cities—about 30 miles apart from each other—like a local with these insider tips from **Eisaku Kojiyama**.

Kojiyama, who has lived in the area for more than two decades, recommends visiting during spring when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom, or in early summer. In those warmer months, restaurants and cafes near Kyoto's rivers feature *kawadoko*, a style of dining

(pictured here) where patrons are seated above the river (*kawa*) floor (*doko*). His favorite sights in each city? Kenninji Temple in Kyoto and Kuromon Ichiba Market in Osaka.

"Kenninji is located in the district of Gion, in the center of Kyoto city, and is famous for the big dragon painting on its ceiling. The reason why I love Kenninji is I can take a nap beside its beautiful garden, lying on *tatami* [straw mat]."

A picnic on the Kamo River gives visitors another laid-back local experience. For a bite of something sweet, head to Demachi Futaba for its *mame-mochi*: "It tastes delicately sweet and slightly salty."

As for Osaka, "Kuromon Market is the biggest market

You can find everything from local food to fresh raw fish.

Takoyaki—a round-shaped pan cake with octopus inside—is a soul food of Osaka. You cannot miss it if you travel to Osaka, and you will never be entitled to criticize Osaka without eating *takoyaki*."

BOOKING TIP Book your vacation as far in advance as possible, especially during cherry blossom season, which typically falls in late March or early April. Availability becomes scarce during high-demand travel times, so you'll also want to avoid booking your stay during Japan's Golden Week, when many Japanese residents are on holiday for a week beginning April 29.

DID YOU KNOW?

A UNESCO World Heritage Site is recognized by the United Nations and protected by international treaties. These sites are typically selected based on scientific, historic or cultural significance, and they are unique because they belong to the people of the world, regardless of the country or territory where they physically exist.



On the Rise

Discover delicious dough



Dough delicacies, clockwise from left: calzone, empanadas, manapua.



16

Dough has accompanied entrées at tables around the world since the Middle Ages. But in nearly every corner of the globe, the simple slice of bread has been elevated through the food chain to take on a number of shapes. When wrapped around the proper ingredients, the simple comfort of dough goes beyond mere accompaniment. It becomes a meal in its own right.

San Juan, Puerto Rico

You'll want to eat on the go in San Juan. The empanada—a warm, handheld meal in the shape of a taco, filled with savory meats, cheeses, rice, beans or vegetables and sealed off with a soft, flaky crust—will allow you to walk, shop and explore this small island's many historical sites while munching. Order this regional specialty for takeout or enjoy patio dining at La Cueva Del Mar. cueva.r-leon.info/index-english.html

Florence, Italy

You'll encounter a line of locals and tourists alike, but the wait is worth it at Gusta Pizza in Florence. The pizzeria serves up another classic

Italian doughy dish: the calzone, pizza dough folded over and filled, rather than topped, with ingredients. Gusta Pizza's calzone is cooked in a wood-fire stone oven, giving it a thick, fluffy crust. The Calzone Napolitano's ingredients are shipped from Naples—the Italian city credited with the invention of both calzone and pizza—and the tomato sauce is baked right into this folded dough dish, making it a sweet and savory experience. [facebook.com/gustapizzafirenze](https://www.facebook.com/gustapizzafirenze)

Honolulu, Hawaii

In Hawaii, local comfort foods are created with simple and inexpensive ingredients. If you taste one thing, make sure it's a manapua—a tender, fluffy steamed bread filled with Chinese barbecue, roasted pork or vegetables. Chun Wah Kam Noodle Factory, a family-owned business on the island since 1942, is known for its sprawling selection of manapuas. Today, the menu includes more than 16 types of manapuas, including baked and steamed variations and vegan options as well. chunwahkam.com

Chicago, Illinois

Just when you thought the good old-fashioned fried and glazed dough known as the doughnut couldn't get any sweeter, executive chef Jonathan Fox added a scoop of ice cream to the mix. You can try the Ice Cream Donut Sandwich at Fox's Firecakes in Chicago. You'll also find interesting flavored doughnuts revived from old family recipes, like maple-glazed pineapple and bacon and butterscotch praline. firecakesdonuts.com

KIDDING AROUND

The Frost Museum aquarium spans three levels. Below, a set of natural-materials sculptures greets visitors to the National Museum of the American Indian.

Museum Fun

Keep the kids entertained at every museum

Some of the country's top museums for grown-ups also dish up wonder for those developing brains in your bunch. Bring the kids to these museums and watch their love for learning explode.

Miami

Choosing museums aligned with the more overtly kid-friendly parts of a vacation will help keep up their interest, making the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science, open since May in Miami's Museum Park, a natural companion to the ultimate beach town. Highlights include an aquarium with a stingray touch tank and interactive stations where kids can peer through an oculus

lens to see a Gulf Stream habitat. frostsience.org

Washington, D.C.

With so many institutions offering free admission, the nation's capital is a paradise for museum-going families. Natural history museums are good bets for mixed-age groups—and Henry, the stuffed elephant in the rotunda of the National Museum of Natural History, impresses from the start. Come for the Last American Dinosaurs exhibit, watch tarantulas' mealtime and be surrounded by winged beauties in the butterfly pavilion. At the National Air and Space Museum, space simulators and real rocket ships always wow, as do planetarium shows.

At the National Museum of the American Indian, the chance to sit inside a tipi, get a passport stamped with tribal symbols and try basket weaving are just a few of the kid-friendly offerings. At the other end of the Mall, the National Museum of African American History and Culture has an interactive musical exhibit with digital touch tables. si.edu/museums

New York City

For interactive exhibits—always a favorite with the under-12 set—is it any surprise the city that never sleeps can't be beat? At the American Museum of Natural History, the Mummies exhibit (through January 7) gives kids the chance to



digitally unwrap mummies and examine their insides at interactive touch tables. And there's no time to call math boring at the National Museum of Mathematics, with more than 30 interactive exhibits for kids in fourth through eighth grades. They can pedal a square-wheeled tricycle and program robots

to move under a transparent floor beneath their feet while playing "Robot Swarm." If art is more your kids' speed, visit the Museum of Modern Art, which has family art workshops. Members who own at The Hilton Club can use their Elevated Rewards for a 15 percent discount. amnh.org, momath.org, moma.org



LEARN MORE

Members can use ClubPoints and Bonus Points for Go City Cards and Explorer Passes, which offer discounted admission to many museums and other cultural sites—including nearly 100 attractions in the three cities mentioned here. For a full list of cities where this benefit can be used, go to club.hiltongrandvacations.com and click the "Club Membership" tab, then "ClubPartner Perks." The list is under Urban Attractions.



Where to Stay

Stay at the **Hilton Financial District**, just a 15-minute walk to the Ferry Building (pictured here), or Parc 55, a luxury hotel with a boutique feel in the center of the city.



JOE DANIEL PRICE/GETTY IMAGES

3 Days in... San Francisco & Wine Country

Even as the epicenter of the tech boom, San Francisco remains uncomplicated—good food, a sunny day in the park and a meandering walk are all it takes to fall in love. With stunning natural surroundings, distinct neighborhoods and a laid-back vibe, this dynamic city is a feast for all five senses.

Day One

Embrace the city's soul with great food and outdoor activities. Begin your day by overlooking sea lions at Fisherman's Wharf. Up the road, grab a cappuccino at Blue Bottle Coffee and explore the Ferry Building (pictured here), where booths of iconic California eateries, like Cowgirl Creamery, and a robust farmers market offer produce and prepared foods. Next, head west to Golden Gate Park, a 1-by-3-mile oasis with snaking trails. Should it rain, visit the Conservatory of Flowers, a Victorian-era glass greenhouse with more than 2,000 species, or the fine-arts de Young Museum, both inside the park. Continue the celebration of California with dinner at the veggie-centric Zuni Cafe or Lord Stanley, where chefs place local ingredients at the center of their dishes. bluebottlecoffee.com, ferrybuildingmarketplace.com, goldengatepark.com, zunicafe.com, lordstanleysf.com

Day Two

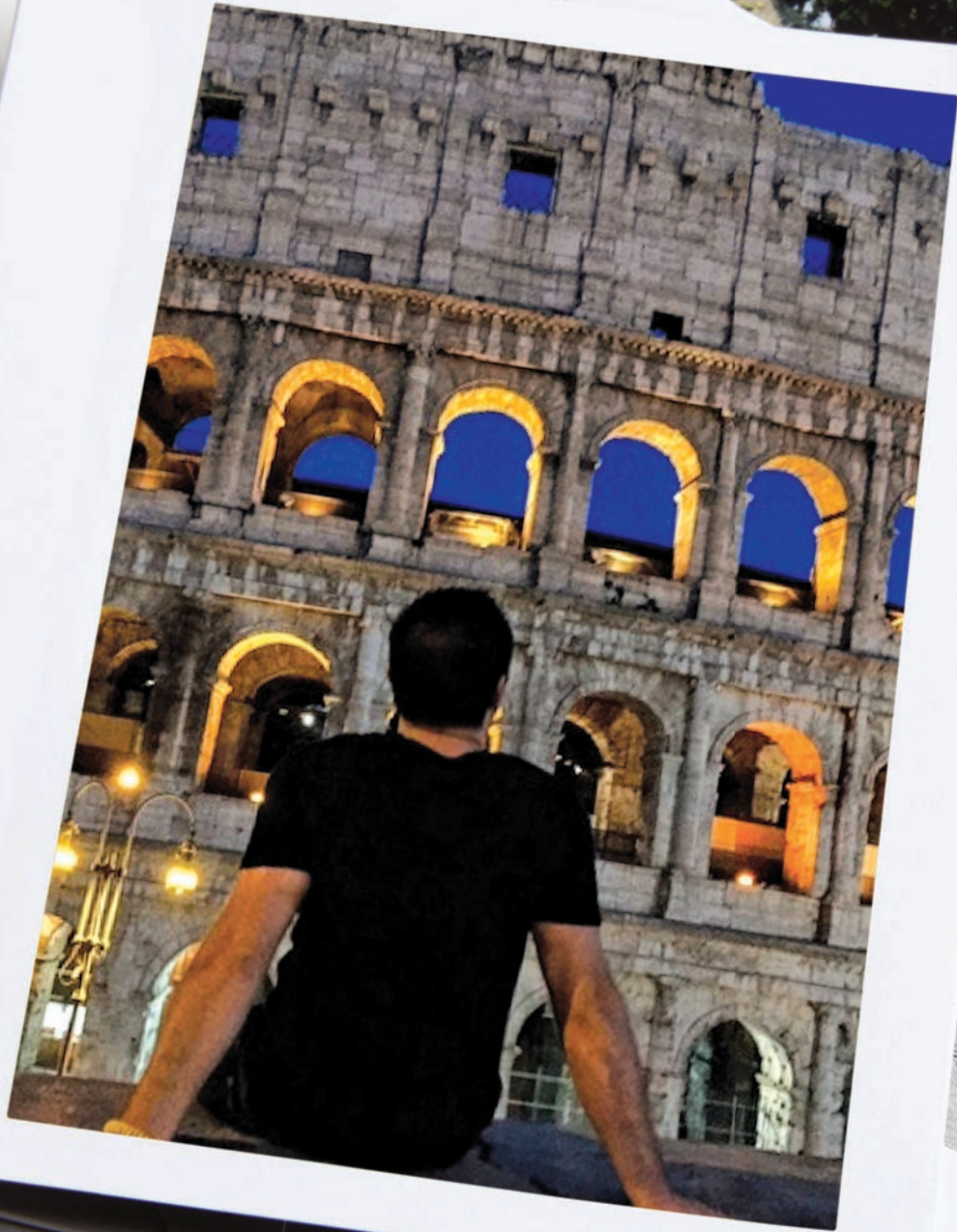
Gain an appreciation for San Francisco's diverse history and culture by discovering its neighborhoods. Take in a view of the city's famous Painted Ladies, colorful Victorian homes, in Alamo Square. Then, spend a morning on a guided tour of the street art in the Mission, a center of Mexican-American culture, with Precita Eyes Muralists, or create your own "taco crawl" along Valencia Street. Japantown, a fixture in San Francisco for more than 100 years, offers authentic groceries, foods and architecture. Find Japanese dollar stores selling household and beauty items, high-end stationery stores and more at the Japan Center shopping mall. Enjoy carousel sushi at Isobune Sushi, where choices whiz by on boats, then catch a show at The Fillmore, a majestic and storied music venue near the mall. precitaeyes.org, japancentersf.com, thefillmore.com

Day Three

Over the Golden Gate Bridge and about 45 miles northwest, breathtaking vineyard views and some of America's best wines beckon in Sonoma County. Closer to the coast than Napa, Sonoma is known for its chardonnay, pinot noir and cabernet sauvignon. Cline Cellars and Jacuzzi Family Vineyards, tucked a few miles off of Route 101 and run by members of the Italian-American family of spa fame, offer tastings and tours. Antique hunters will love the quaint towns and independent stores that pepper the valley, like Healdsburg Shed, a shared home of strong coffee and local crafts in Healdsburg, or Church Mouse Thrift Shop in Sonoma. clinecellars.com, jacuzziwines.com, healdsburgshed.com, stfchurchmouse.com

The Ferry Building first opened in 1898. At its peak, as many as 50,000 people a day commuted by ferry.







History in the Making

Big things have happened over the last 25 years. Cellphones, reality TV and “Googling” aside, Hilton Grand Vacations has gone from one location on the Las Vegas Strip to nearly 50 around the world. On our 25th anniversary, we’re celebrating Club’s—and its Members’—finest moments.

25 Years of Hilton Grand Vacations

A TIMELINE

1992

» Hilton Grand Vacations is formed through an agreement between Hilton and Grand Vacations Ltd.

1994

» HGV's first purpose-built resort, Hilton Grand Vacations Club at the Flamingo, opens in Las Vegas.

1995

» Hilton Grand Vacations Club at SeaWorld opens and becomes the first of four properties in Orlando.

1996

» HGV becomes a fully owned subsidiary of Hilton.

2000

» Hilton Grand Vacations Club expands to Europe, opening three resorts in Scotland.



Over the past quarter century, while the world got smaller, more digitized, interconnected and altogether faster, Hilton Grand Vacations Club helped vacationgoers slow down, take a break, explore new destinations and create millions of memories. From getting married on-site at the Flamingo—the very first Hilton Grand Vacations Club property—to celebrating anniversaries in Hawaii, Club Members have used the Club to keep up family connections year after year, go on unforgettable adventures and enjoy the exclusive benefits of this community.

Today, there are more than 275,000 Club Members and 48 Hilton Grand Vacations properties. A top perk and priority for all? Making memories.

It all began in 1992, when Richard N. became the first Club Member in the company's history. He signed for a two-bedroom unit for the 52nd week of the year ("New Year's Eve Week," he calls it) at the Club's first property—Hilton Grand Vacations Club at the Flamingo. Richard surely did not know how many meaningful moments were in store for him—including celebrating his wedding reception at his home Club—or how much the vacation community he joined would grow.

Mike B. joined Hilton Grand Vacations Club with his wife, Nancy, in 2002 as a way to keep the family close. "One

of the things we do as a family is make memories and continue to do so over time," says Mike. He and Nancy own three weeks in January at Hilton Grand Vacations Club at SeaWorld. "My wife sometimes gets emotional because the grandkids are getting older, but along the way we've made some fabulous memories," Mike says. "Sure, they're not going to be 2- and 3-year-olds anymore, but we're going to continue to take (special vacations) with these kids at Hilton Grand Vacations Club properties."

It's been a quarter of a century since your Club opened up a world of grand vacations to Members like Mike, Nancy and Richard. And Richard wasn't the only Member around that day when it all began in 1992. Other future Members who showed up ready to plan a future filled with vacations included some of the original Snowbirds, a group of couples and singles who meet at Hilton Grand Vacations Club at the Flamingo each winter. "Most of the Snowbirds recall signing up in 1993 in a trailer on the site of the present building behind the Flamingo Hotel and Casino," say John and Barbara D., who in 2004 joined the social group of more than 20 Club Members.

Each year, many of the Snowbirds spend a good chunk of the winter in the Southwest, meeting up at the Flamingo in January and February. "Most of the others

On the banks of River Dee, renowned for its salmon, Craigendarroch Suites is convenient for Members seeking a good catch.



The first Club Member, Richard, celebrated marrying Laura during a reception at the first HGV property, Hilton Grand Vacations Club at the Flamingo.

are from parts of the U.S. experiencing blustery winters,” John and Barbara say. “In our case we are escaping Wisconsin blizzards and freezing temperatures. What better way to escape?” While Las Vegas has its lowest temperatures of the year at that time, for the Snowbirds, 60-degree days are a balmy and welcome break when mixed with clear blue skies.

Over the years, the Snowbirds have grilled at the pool, explored the Strip and renewed their friendships time and



Each year, many of the Snowbirds spend a good chunk of the winter in the Southwest, meeting up at the Flamingo in January and February.

time again. Other Club Members, like Richard, have held monumental life events at their home away from home. In 2000, Richard married his wife, Laura, in the Flamingo’s chapel. Afterward, they celebrated with a reception at Hilton Grand Vacations Club at the Flamingo, of course. The couple arranged lodging for their out-of-town guests at the Club, too.

Though Richard’s Home Resort is in Las Vegas, he uses his membership to travel all over. His favorite destination? Hawaii. A popular destination among Club Travelers, the Aloha State has racked up a lot of memories for Members since welcoming its first resort in 2001. Marriages have been

celebrated here—30 years in the case of Carol and Sam A., who marked their pearl anniversary with three weeks at Kings’ Land by Hilton Grand Vacations Club, and 35 years for Mike and Nancy. “We rented a convertible and spent 10 glorious days on the Big Island,” says Mike. “Anytime I can be on the water with my wife, it makes my heart beat.” Lifelong decisions have been made there, as when Rupert and Amelita M. visited as guests in 2001 and decided to become Members. And personal triumphs have been mounted: Mike B. from Cincinnati snagged a 9-foot-3-inch blue marlin while staying at a Hilton Grand Vacations Club property in Waikoloa.

While some Members visit a new destination each year, others make a tradition of returning to the same retreat. Across the pond in Scotland, Margaret C., lodge and estate manager, Hilton Grand Vacations EMEA, tells *Club Traveler* that many of her guests’ grown children now travel to Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Dunkeld with their own families. Vacationing at Dunkeld was a part of their lives, she says. A tradition. Now she sees these second-generation guests nurture their families’ heritage by returning to Dunkeld.

As Members have collected memories and photos over the past quarter century, Hilton Grand Vacations has continued

Fun fact: West 57th Street by Hilton Club (shown at right) is located on the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade route.



2001

» The Aloha State gets its first HGV property—Lagoon Tower by Hilton Grand Vacations Club, inside Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort.

2002

» In New York City, The Hilton Club New York opens as HGV’s first urban property.

2008

» HGV grows in Hawaii, opening Kings’ Land by Hilton Grand Vacations Club on Hawaii Island and Grand Waikikian by Hilton Grand Vacations Club in Honolulu.

2009

» West 57th Street by Hilton Club opens as the first purpose-built vacation ownership property in Manhattan.

2012

» Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Anderson Ocean Club opens as the first Club resort in Myrtle Beach.



“One of the things we do as a family is make memories.” —CLUB MEMBER MIKE B.



Members Mike and Nancy on vacation (far left); Royal Caribbean's *Rhapsody of the Seas*, one of many vessels available through ClubPartner CruisesOnly.

to evolve, welcoming new properties—including the two latest, The Grand Islander by Hilton Grand Vacations Club in Honolulu, which is Club's eighth Hawaii property, and Ocean Oak Resort by Hilton Grand Vacations Club in South Carolina—destinations and ClubPartners. Since 2004, the Club has offered 26 special ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventures, with more than 2,000 Members participating in trips of their lifetimes to incredible destinations including Australia and New Zealand, the Hawaiian Islands, Alaska land and sea tours, the Southern Caribbean and Panama Canal as well as Mediterranean cruises and a Rhine River European cruise. Club has also continuously improved Members' vacation-planning experiences through such upgrades as 2016's launch of a new Club website, the Hilton Grand Vacations app and the Club Member Education Workshop series, aimed to help Members make the most of their memberships.

Through partnerships with exchange companies like RCI, Members have access to more than 4,000 affiliated resorts in more than 100 countries and territories. Club Members can also convert ClubPoints to stay at more than 5,000 hotels in the Hilton portfolio or use their Points to take advantage of ClubPartner Perks, from well-appointed houseboat rentals,

yacht charters, RV rentals, cruises, premium motorcycle excursions and more—exactly the kind of vacation activities that land in treasured photo albums for generations.

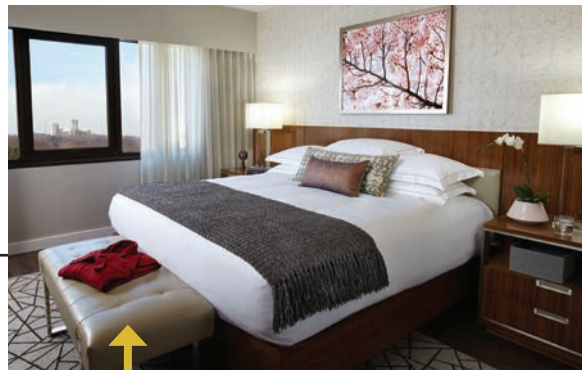
“Hilton Grand Vacations offers the best in terms of flexibility,” says Mike. His favorite part about being a Club Member is just that—having the flexibility to travel and using ClubPoints that are easily convertible. Mike and Nancy have used their Points to book vacation stays for themselves and their loved ones at Hilton Grand Vacations Club properties, Hilton Hotels and with RCI.

What now? A grand celebration, followed by another grand 25 years! Stay tuned!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Princess Diana—also known as the Princess of Wales—frequented the resort now known as Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Craigendarroch Suites.
- In 1994, the same year Hilton Grand Vacations at the Flamingo opened, 99,310 wedding licenses were issued in the Las Vegas area.
- Hilton Grand Vacations Club at MarBrisa in California has a special path to Legoland. Find the private entrance at the west end of the main parking lot.

JAN GREUNE/GETTY IMAGES (CRUISE SHIP)



2014

- » *Club Traveler* magazine publishes its first edition in spring.
- » HGV expands in Europe with the opening of Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Borgo alle Vigne in Tuscany, Italy.

2015

- » HGV grows to approximately 250,000 Club Members overall and 50,000 in Japan.



2016

- » The District by Hilton Club opens to become the Club's first property, as well as the largest vacation ownership

- property overall, in Washington, D.C.
- » Ocean Oak Resort by Hilton Grand Vacations Club opens as the first HGV property on Hilton Head Island.

2017

- » HGV becomes an independent, publicly traded company.
- » The eighth HGV property opens in Honolulu as The Grand Islander by Hilton Grand Vacations Club.
- » HGV celebrates 25 years of vacation ownership.

Club

YOUR
MEMBERSHIP

Kings' Land by Hilton Grand Vacations Club features plunge pools and whirlpools set amid waterfalls and lava rocks.

Ask a Club Counselor

Q. Do I still need to pay the maintenance fees if I don't occupy my unit this year?

A. Yes. As the Owner of a vacation interval, you are responsible for paying the annual maintenance fees and taxes at your resort, regardless of whether you occupy your unit. These fees go toward maintaining your property at the high level of quality you've come to expect from Hilton Grand Vacations resorts, covering projects including room refurbishments and renovations, landscaping and more. All maintenance fees are approved by your association's Board of Directors.

Q. How do I receive information about my association's budget?

A. Details about your association's budget are included in the letter from your resort's general manager, which accompanies your annual billing statement. For example, if you are an Owner at Kings' Land by Hilton Grand Vacations Club, you'll receive a letter along with an invoice for your maintenance fees, which are due January 1. For your convenience, all of these documents are available online when you log in to your account at club.hiltongrandvacations.com.

– *Ernis H., Elite Specialist, 3-plus years with Hilton Grand Vacations Club*

What's New With Club?

News, tips and updates from Club

With a new cruise, wine tours and Bonus Points waiting to be used for holiday joys, there's a lot going on this fall at Hilton Grand Vacations Club.

New Cruise Announcement

Celebrate your freedom to vacation on Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Summit* next summer. The 11-night Independence Day Cruise will depart June 27 from Cape Liberty, New Jersey. Gaze upon the Statue of Liberty and downtown Manhattan as you say "bon voyage" and take to the sea.

First stop? Portland, Maine. Savor a lobster roll, then enjoy Reversing Rapids in Saint John, New Brunswick. Two nights in Halifax, Nova Scotia, offer walking trails and waterfront views. Go on an exclusive Member excursion into the wine country of Annapolis Valley, where you'll visit Domaine de Grand Pré, an award-winning winery with beautiful landscapes and wine tastings. Then, head to Lockett Vineyards for a lunch overlooking panoramic views of the Bay of Fundy and Annapolis Valley.

You'll leave Canada and depart for the U.S.—just in time for the Fourth of July! After a visit to Bar Harbor, Maine, adjacent to Acadia National Park, you'll dock in Boston, a central city of America's revolution. Celebrate Independence Day in the historic Massachusetts capital at the 37th annual Harborfest and catch a fireworks spectacular. Then, head toward the last stop of your cruise, picturesque Newport, Rhode Island, before the return to Cape Liberty. Contact CruisesOnly at 800-364-3656 or online at hgvc.cruisesonly.com to book. Members with Elite status who book this cruise, or any cruise through CruisesOnly, will earn a \$50 credit.

Enjoy a Cozy Winter Wine Tour

Members who own at Hilton Club properties have a winter gourmand circuit in Long Island, New

York—the area's Elevated Rewards Partners offer unique benefits for these Club Members. Whet your palate by oystering at Peconic Gold Oysters (ketchamsseafarm.com), then swing by the Village Cheese Shop in Mattituck for some DIY pairings before venturing on a self-guided winter wine tour.

First up: Macari Vineyards in Mattituck (macarivines.com) and Raphael Vineyard and Winery in Peconic (raphaelwine.com), both known for biodynamic offerings. Then head to Sparkling Pointe in Southold (sparklingpointe.com), which has a number of wintry programs, including the Eat, Drink, and Be Sparkling chef events every Saturday in November and December, a January comfort-food brunch, and a

cupcake and bubbly pairing around Valentine's Day. To get around the island, your Club concierge can arrange for a car service or for a trip on the Hampton Jitney (hamptonjitney.com).



The private barrel cellar at Macari Vineyards, shown here, hosts wine education events. Above, the *Celebrity Summit* sets sail.

Use Bonus Points for Holiday Gifts

Still shopping for the holidays? Have unused Bonus Points? Members can use Bonus Points to purchase gift certificates and other items at a variety of vendors in popular Club Member destinations, including Orlando, Las Vegas and Hawaii.

This holiday season, redeem your Bonus Points for gift certificates for any of the following:

- Hawaiian Airlines HawaiianMiles
- One-day, three-day or weekly rental car certificates with Avis and Budget
- Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino Las Vegas
- eforea: spa Hilton at Hilton Grand Vacations Club on the Boulevard in Las Vegas
- The Mall at Millenia in Orlando
- Mandara Spa at Hilton Hawaiian Village
- Kohala Spa at Hilton Waikoloa Village
- Golf specials at Waikoloa Beach Resort Golf Course

Find additional details at club.hiltongrandvacations.com.

Fun & Games

Get to know Jeremy D.

“People who work at other parts of the resort think the recreation team is just walking around having fun all day,” says Jeremy D., activities director at Hilton Grand Vacations Club at SeaWorld. “And we are! But it runs deeper than that.” *Club Traveler* talked with Jeremy about what Members can expect from the resort’s rec team ... including zombie pirates.

How did you land what some might call a dream job?

I’ve always wanted to entertain people. For my first job, when I was 15, I was a magician. Recreation started off as just a fun job, and it became a career at Hilton Grand Vacations. I’ve been here seven years.

Would you walk us through a typical day?

There really isn’t a typical day, but there is a rhythm. We have a fitness class every day at 9, then a craft at 10; at 12 there’s trivia, at 3 we have ice cream, and there’s always a nighttime activity. Within that, the offerings vary, and we include plenty of other activities, so there’s an element of routine but we keep it comfortable and fun.



What sets Hilton Grand Vacations at SeaWorld apart?

I wish everyone could stay here on Halloween—we really go all out. Last year we did a pirate theme. We made a maze, and our engineering team made props like sails and a cannon. Our resort director lets us be creative. He was out there dressed like a zombie pirate. Where else do you see that kind of synergy?

What does Orlando offer beyond the beaten path?

People don’t think of Orlando as a theater town, because Orlando means theme parks. But the performers from all those attractions live here, so we’ve got high-quality theater. Orlando Repertory Theatre, Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Garden Theatre—there are great shows to be seen.

What’s the best part of the job?

I always tell my team that we’re the eyes and ears of the resort. We’re not at one fixed location, we’re everywhere—the basketball court, the tennis court, around the stage. Between the day’s activities we’re at the pool deck offering cold hand towels and frozen grapes. It’s something to help people with the heat of the sun, but it’s also a conversation starter. We get to meet and interact with the entire family, not just the person who’s checking in, which gives you a different relationship with the families who stay here. I’ve seen kids grow up here, and it’s so cool to have kids come back and remember you. You really have the opportunity to make a special bond with people in this role. Our job is literally fun and games, but we don’t take what we do for granted.

Fascinating Rhythms

Immerse yourself in local music near RCI® affiliated resorts

Rooted in history but utterly of the moment, music is one of the most whole-hearted ways to experience a culture. From the flamenco halls of southern Spain to line dancing in Tennessee, we've got must-hear info on five of the world's most iconic music scenes. Since music is meant to be not just heard but felt, we've included several places where you can do a little dancing too.

SEVILLE, SPAIN

The Spanish word *duende* means “full of passion and intensity,” which is exactly how we would describe the famed music and dance of southern Spain, flamenco. Cradled between the Moorish and Gothic cathedrals of Seville—one of the genre’s birthplaces—are numerous flamenco halls with nightly shows. Los Gallos Tablao Flamenco promises a dazzling intimate evening of flamenco singing, dancing and strumming (tablaolosgallos.com/en). If you’re interested in sampling the local nightlife beyond flamenco, head to the Triana neighborhood, where dimly lit copa bars and impromptu music shows along the Calle Betis waterfront find locals flaunting their skills late into the night.



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Promising country acts practically litter the streets of Nashville, including the Honky Tonk Highway, a stretch of Lower Broadway packed with music clubs and buskers. But for a surefire evening full of authentic honky-tonk twirls and 10-gallon cowboy hats, head to Robert’s Western World. Nightly acts perform covers of some of Nashville’s most famous performers, including Johnny Cash and Hank Williams. The hall, which doubles as a western clothing shop, serves up the famous “recession special,” a fried bologna sandwich and a Pabst Blue Ribbon. Find yourself a place along the wall to watch the regulars stomp out country-western dances to familiar classics—it’s no wonder they call this town Music City, USA. robertswesternworld.com

CANARY ISLANDS

Leave the main clubbing drags of Tenerife and you'll discover the world-class music of the Canary Islands. Like many island groups, the archipelago has seen a number of cultures move through, bringing a rich diversity of musical styles. That's most evident in its folk music, which features strains of indigenous Guanche music coupled with Spanish influences that can be heard at the dozens of festivals throughout the islands each year. The islands' musical m lange is also reflected in the range of top-quality music imported to the area. The Canary Islands Music Festival each winter brings groups like the London Philharmonic, while the International Jazz Festival sees sensations such as Herbie Hancock.





LAPLAND, FINLAND

Enter most churches in Scandinavia and you'll find what you'd expect—altar, pulpit, pews. In Finland, you might find another element: heavy metal music. "Metal masses" started in 2006, when a 50-year-old pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland thought to combine Finland's most famous musical export with the land's dominant religion. The first service saw 1,300 people packed inside, with hundreds turned away for lack of space. Since then, metal masses have spread throughout the country; local tourist offices in Lapland and southern Finland can provide current schedules. (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially considers heavy metal music a significant Finnish export.) No word on whether you'll hear Finland's winning Eurovision song from 2006, "Hard Rock Hallelujah."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: KAROLJINA PAATOS/GETTY IMAGES; TIME WHITE/ALAMY; DOUG HOUGHTON/EUR/ALAMY



BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

During Hungary's years under Soviet control, government bans were placed on all forms of nationalistic culture. As the country began to regain its independence in the 1970s, young Hungarians adopted traditional synchronized folk dances as a form of protest. Today the gathering and performance of these dances, still tinged with an air of rebellion, is called *táncház*. The tradition is maintained nightly at pop-up locations throughout Budapest, from pulsing nightclubs to genteel community centers. Ask your concierge for a schedule of events, and get down with locals of all ages who come together to celebrate this inspiring national pastime.

Club Members can use Points to stay at RCI® affiliated resorts in spectacular music-filled destinations across the globe.* To find resorts in destinations with a beat, log in to your Club account at club.hiltongrandvacations.com and navigate to the RCI® Exchange site. Then, click "Vacation Ideas" at the top of the page, select "Featured Interests," and click "Arts and Museums" for a list of resorts near artsy cities.

* These vacations are limited and subject to availability.

RCI AND RELATED MARKS ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS AND/OR SERVICE MARKS IN THE UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONALLY. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

RCI

‘Everybody Knows You Here’

Members share their favorite Orlando vacation memories



“

We loved going to Disney in the 1970s, and my wife, Julie, has loved Minnie Mouse ever since. In fact, she loves Minnie so much that when we went to Disney World for her 60th birthday, she dressed up as her. When she walked into the lobby at Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Tuscany Village, the staff went crazy—in a good way. One of the staffers had actually been Minnie Mouse at Disney and showed Julie some of the “moves.”

Our next visit, for my 65th birthday, Julie brought Mickey Mouse with her: me! When we went to celebrate my wife’s 65th, our grandchildren came with us. The staff has started looking forward to our visits. The grandkids were amazed, saying, “Wow, everybody knows you here.” And they do.

Paul and Julie M.

Club Members since 2004
 Featured Trips: Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Tuscany Village, Orlando, Florida, August 2009, May 2012, August 2014, March 2017

At least half our time is spent at the parks. We do our thing there—maybe a little slower than we did in the ‘70s!—then come back and head for the grill and outdoor bar. If we’re with our grandkids, we stay by the pool, taking in the kids’ activities or the poolside movies the Club has at night.

We became Members to help with our daughter’s honeymoon—it was one way we could take care of her.

Now we’re using our membership to take care of ourselves. The warmth of the staff makes that feeling of being cared for easy to come by. They make us feel special, doing those little extra things that they don’t have to do. The pool bar gave us free ice cream to celebrate our birthdays, and when we went for my 70th there was a welcome package.

The staff makes our trip feel first class all the way. Everyone from the servers at the Toscana Pool Bar & Grill to the staff at Fresco Market & Deli, the concierge staff who book our shuttle van every day, the drivers who shuttle us back and forth, the front office and bell staff who greet us every day: They treat us like family. They’re working day in and day out, and through it all they make it joyful. We’ll have a chance to thank them again, when we go back later this year for our 50th anniversary!

”



Club Member Education Workshop

YOU ASKED, CLUB ANSWERED

LAS OLAS

FUTURE EDUCATION EVENTS

Next up? 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, November 11, Embassy Suites by Hilton Fort Lauderdale.

COMING IN 2018: Even more events!

Members in the geographical area of each workshop will be sent an email invitation. Keep an eye on your inbox, or email hgveducationworkshop@hgvc.com for more information. Also look for future education workshop dates in your monthly Club Traveler eNewsletter.

Helping Members make the most of their memberships is a top priority of Club, which is why, when Club Members expressed interest in additional coaching, Club launched Member Education workshops in 2016.

This year, the workshops have continued to grow and improve. In March, the Member Education Workshop team met with Members in Charlotte, North Carolina, and then in La Jolla, California, in June. "I am so glad that I took the time to attend. Finally, I am understanding the way [my membership] works," one La Jolla workshop participant said. "Thank you for putting this together, and I'm eager for more."

At the workshops, Members get tips on how to plan dream

vacations, have their questions answered by Club Counselors and have the opportunity to connect with one another and share experiences.

"The most important takeaway from the workshop was meeting the people we talked to about Club business," said Club Member Sue A., who attended the first Member workshop in San Antonio in fall 2016. "They were all great! Their responses to our questions were very helpful to us in understanding how the Club operates."

During the events, Members learned how to use their Points as well as their membership to keep a vacation state of mind year-round. Additional information included self-service features of the new Club website.

A VACATION STATE OF MIND

