



Club **traveler**

SPRING 2019

DREAM
PLAN
GO

EARN YOUR
URBAN TRAVEL
BADGE

"TAKING THE CURE"
IN THE HEART
OF TUSCANY

9 NEW
HILTON GRAND
VACATIONS PROPERTIES

BARBADOS

YOUR NEW CARIBBEAN HOME



Hilton
Grand Vacations

CLUBTRAVELER.COM

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Island—canoeing,
kayaking and
unwinding from it all.



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and send your pictures
to input@hgvc.com.

Club traveller

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COVER STORY



Barbados Bound 20

The rich history and stunning beaches of this Caribbean isle

Dream

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Myrtle Beach



Travel Tip

Got a long flight? Download your favorite shows and movies to your computer or smart device beforehand so you can be entertained without having to rely on the airline's in-flight system.

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Dear Club Member



Welcome to the first *Club Traveler* issue of 2019. I hope you enjoyed the end of the year with your loved ones. Last year marked several incredible milestones at Hilton Grand Vacations, including reaching 300,000 Club Members, announcing several new resorts in key destinations, enhancing our Club mobile app and continuing our Member Education Workshop series.

One resort I'm particularly excited about is Hilton Grand Vacations at The Crane, Barbados. We received feedback from our Members telling us how much they enjoy the Caribbean,

its beaches and the year-round sunny weather.

You spoke, and we listened! Not only is The Crane our first Caribbean resort, it's also located in St. Philip, Barbados—a beach hideaway unlike any other. Founded in 1887, The Crane is the oldest continuously operating resort in the Caribbean. It really is a magical, majestic place, one we are proud to offer our Members.

In addition to The Crane, Ocean Enclave by Hilton Grand Vacations Club is anticipated to open its doors this spring in Myrtle Beach. The 27-story luxury resort represents another incredible beach destination for our Members and our third oceanfront resort along the Grand Strand. The property is also near the most incredible golf courses in the United States. In fact, the area boasts nearly 80 courses, many of which are open to the public.

We are also always looking for better ways to serve you and enhance your Club experience. This is why last year our Club mobile app was enhanced with great features. Through the app you can browse, book and plan your trip, share advice with fellow travelers and request front desk concierge services, all from the palm of your hand.

Finally, if you haven't attended one of our Member Education Workshops, 2019 is the year to do so. Our first workshop in 2019, held in Las Vegas, offered a morning and afternoon session for Members to learn more about their Club membership, discover how to make the most of their ClubPoints and network with fellow travelers. Our next workshop will be in Houston. Visit the Club website to learn more about what's in store for 2019.

This year is just beginning, and I'm excited for what's in store for you, our valued Member. We look forward to continuing our journey together.

Happy travels,

Stan Soroka
Chief Customer Officer



Hilton Grand Vacations Club

6355 MetroWest Boulevard, Suite 180
Orlando, Florida 32835 USA

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TIPS FROM AN EXPLORER

Q. I was recently awarded 18,000 Bonus Points with my ownership purchase. Can you share some ways I might be able to use them?

A. Travel—18,000 Bonus Points can help you cross off that bucket-list vacation! Whether you stay at The Grand Islander by Hilton Grand Vacations Club in Honolulu, book a ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventure tour or discover an unforgettable port of call through CruisesOnly, the options are endless. And if now really isn't the time to travel, your Bonus Points don't expire for two years from your purchase date. Also, as long as you book your reservation before your Bonus Points expire, that travel can take place up to two years beyond the date of expiration, depending on what you choose to do. The new Club Member Exclusives page on the Club website is full of suggestions to help you dream, plan and go!

—Chris G., Explorer and Owner at
Valdoro Mountain Lodge

Have a question?

Email it to input@hgvc.com, and an Explorer may answer it in an upcoming issue.

Dream

WHERE TO GO



WHERE TO STAY Relax in the villas at Hilton Seychelles Northolme Resort & Spa.

Anse Source d'Argent Beach in Seychelles (pictured here) is one of the most photographed beaches in the world.

Dream Vacation

Surrounded by blue topaz water so transparent you can see your toes, the 115-island archipelago known as Seychelles is a tropical paradise. At least that's the case for Club Member **Cathy C.**, who says if she could plan a vacation anywhere, it would be to these breathtaking islands in the Indian Ocean, about 700 miles north of Madagascar and 1,000 miles east of Kenya.

"After seeing pictures of its beauty, I wanted to vacation at this location," says Cathy, whose home resort is Hilton Grand Vacations Club at the Flamingo. "I just want to lie on the sandy beaches and relax my cares away."

These island gems are so remarkable that they even attract royalty: Prince William and his wife, Kate, honeymooned there. In fact, the then-newlyweds' trip was how Cathy first learned of Seychelles. "Knowing that I could possibly see a member of the royal family vacationing there is a plus."

Cathy is also keen for this bucket-list trip to include an African safari—an itinerary item that's easy to make happen en route to or from the islands, since many flights must go through Nairobi, Kenya, where safari options abound.

03



LOOK AHEAD

Events worth the trip—whatever your time frame

3 MONTHS

Deer Valley Music Festival, Park City, Utah, June 28–Aug. 10

At venues throughout the city, the Utah Symphony teams up with musical acts such as the Indigo Girls, Marie Osmond and Kristin Chenoweth for a six-week-long sonic smorgasbord. *Stay at Sunrise Lodge, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club.*

Bite Night, Orlando, late June

The city's best chefs cook up an unforgettable night at the Orchid Garden & Ballroom, featuring free drinks, live entertainment and auctions, all for a good cause—teaching kids life skills through culinary education. *Stay at Las Palmeras, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club.*

9 MONTHS

Chinese Lunar New Year Parade, New York City, late January 2020

Bring in the Year of the Rat with a bang—of fireworks—as dragons, dancers and delicious cuisine explode across Chinatown amid a storm of confetti. *Stay at West 57th Street by Hilton Club.*

Restaurant Week, Washington, D.C., mid-January 2020

Treat your inner gourmand to 250 of the capital region's fanciest restaurants without eating your wallet, as lunches, brunches and three-course meals go on a price diet. *Stay at The District by Hilton Club.*

6 MONTHS

Kona Coffee Cultural Festival, Hawaii Island, Nov. 1–10

Get your fix of the area's volcanic coffee tradition during this 10-day event brimming with activities like a coffee and art stroll, cupping competition, farm tours and international lantern parade. *Stay at Kohala Suites by Hilton Grand Vacations Club.*

Waikiki Hoolaulea, Oahu, Hawaii, Sept. 21

Billed as Hawaii's largest block party, this explosion of local crafts, Hawaiian music performances, hula lessons and island cuisine will draw thousands of annual lei-draped revelers for its 67th year. *Stay at Hokuani Waikiki by Hilton Grand Vacations Club.*

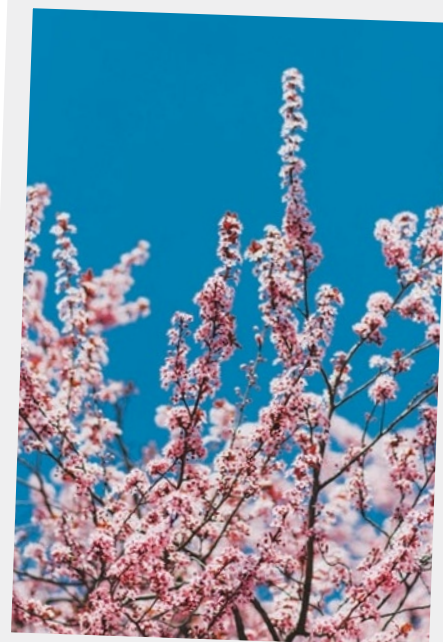
12 MONTHS

NASCAR Weekend, Las Vegas, early March 2020

See the best drivers in the world face off at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway in three major NASCAR races: the Strat 200, the Boyd Gaming 300 and the Pennzoil 400. *Stay at Hilton Grand Vacations Club on the Boulevard.*

Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival, San Francisco, mid-April 2020

Witness this two-week celebration of Japanese culture and history. The festival features a grand parade, art exhibits, live music, traditional dance performances and beautiful flower arrangements.



Stay at the four-star Club Donatello resort in San Francisco.

Winning Soccer Stadiums

Whether you call it soccer or fútbol, it's hands down the planet's most popular sport. Get ready to shout "Gooooaaaalll!" at some of the world's greatest stadiums.

1 ALLIANZ ARENA, MUNICH

More than 300,000 color-changing LED lights illuminate the exterior shell of FC Bayern's spaceship-like stadium, where fan fervor is out of this world. Can you blame them? The team boasts a record 28 German national titles.

2 WEMBLEY STADIUM, LONDON

Before its demolition in 2003, the original Wembley reigned as the world's most famous soccer stadium. Although the new Wembley, which opened in 2007, lacks the old building's rich history, Londoners quickly embraced its modern comforts, primo sight lines and landmark 440-foot-high arch soaring above the partially retractable roof. The stadium is home to England's national team and will host the UEFA Euro 2020 finals. If you prefer football American style, you can catch the annual NFL International Series here.

3 GIUSEPPE MEAZZA STADIUM, MILAN

Better known as San Siro, this 1926 architectural gem is shared by bitter crosstown rivals A.C. Milan and Inter Milan. When they play each other, this rockin' 80,000-seat stadium might be the noisiest on earth. On non-game days, drop by and take a guided tour.

4 AUDI FIELD, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Head to the nation's capital for bicycle kicks on the pitch of this intimate 20,000-seater, opened in 2018 and home to Major League Soccer's

D.C. United. While the main on-field attraction is goal-scoring magician Wayne Rooney, the star wattage in the stands emanates from famed chef José Andrés, who oversees stadium dining with match-day bites ranging from chichi tacos to overstuffed arepas.

5 ANFIELD, LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

Some 54,000 fans singing "You'll Never Walk Alone" in unison traditionally welcomes Liverpool F.C. players as they sprint onto the pitch in their historic home stadium, opened in 1884. What Anfield lacks in size, it makes up for with an incredibly raucous atmosphere.

6 MARACANÃ STADIUM, RIO DE JANEIRO

In Brazil, soccer isn't just a sport, it's a religion. So it came as a shock when this iconic soccer stadium, host to two World Cup Finals, fell into disrepair after the 2016 Olympics. Down but not

out, the old gal is undergoing a major rehab and will again strut her stuff in time to host the Copa América final in 2019.

7 BANC OF CALIFORNIA STADIUM, LOS ANGELES

Opened in downtown L.A. in 2018, this gleaming \$350 million stadium is home to Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Football Club. Fans rave about the facility's high-tech bent and love that no seat is farther than 135 feet from the field. The global spotlight will shine on the stadium during the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

8 CELTIC PARK, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Celtic F.C. are the New York Yankees of Scottish soccer clubs. And their classic 1892 stadium, Scotland's oldest and largest, is so highly regarded, even former F.C. Barcelona midfielder Xavi once called it "a marvel" and its throaty supporters "an example for every team."

9 CAMP NOU, BARCELONA, SPAIN

Behold Europe's biggest stadium, a 99,000-seat behemoth that since its 1957 debut has housed one of the most successful football teams of all time, F.C. Barcelona. It's tough to match the energy in this place, especially when "Barça" takes on archrival Real Madrid in a contest known as *El Clásico*.

10 ESTADIO AZTECA, MEXICO CITY

If legends Pelé and Diego Maradona hoisting World Cup trophies on the field isn't enough to propel a soccer stadium to global icon status, consider that this colossal venue (capacity 87,000) also hosted matches for the 1968 Olympics. Today, it's home to two pro clubs and the Mexico national team, and it serves as a concert venue rocked by the likes of U2, Paul McCartney and Shakira.



Montecatini Terme, Italy

The first bathers in the hot springs that bubble up from the aquifer running under the Tuscan village of Montecatini Terme were ancient Romans. They were “taking the cure,” as the practice was known in the Old World: lounging in and drinking from these waters, seeking the benefits of the mineral mix from each spring. The warmth of Montecatini Terme’s waters makes them most enjoyable in the winter, and devotees champion their ability to aid digestion.

But you don’t need to believe in “the cure” to enjoy its essence: epic relaxation. Reclining in a porcelain tub, limbs floating in therapeutic waters, eyes taking in the Belle Époque frescoes dotting the structures surrounding the springs, it’s hard not to feel the call of Venus, the Roman goddess of beauty. And that night, you’re likely to befriend Somnus—the god of sleep.



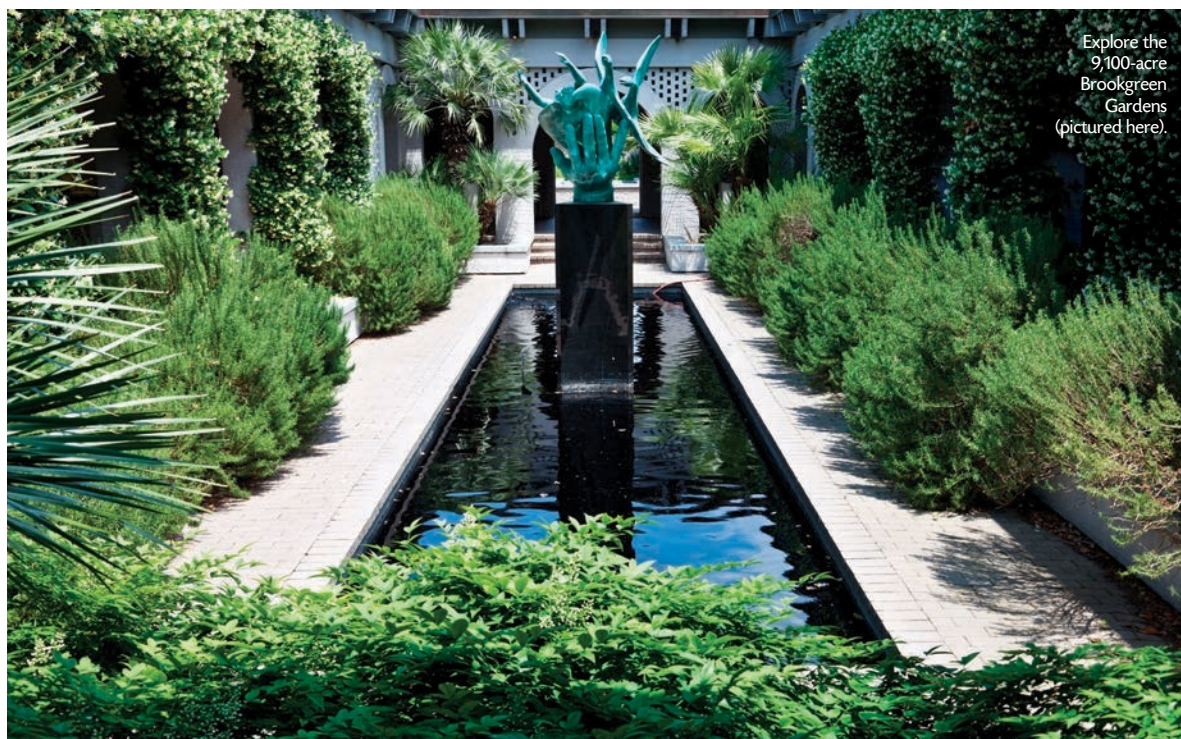
WHERE TO STAY

There are more than a dozen spa towns that would make good day trips from **Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Borgo alle Vigne**. Relax on your private balcony overlooking the Tuscan landscape (a feature of all the one-, two- and three-bedroom suites), or enjoy the company of fellow Members in the Owners' Lounge. Complimentary on-site garage parking sets you up for a day trip to the Montecatini Terme springs, 50 minutes away.

The Terme Tettuccio thermal spa (pictured here) is considered the symbol of the town of Montecatini Terme.

Southern Comfort

Myrtle Beach—named after the sweet myrtle tree—is at one with nature, plus rich in Southern charm and good food



Explore the 9,100-acre Brookgreen Gardens (pictured here).



WHERE TO STAY

Hilton Grand

Vacations Club at Anderson Ocean Club, Ocean 22 by Hilton Grand Vacations Club and Ocean Enclave by Hilton Grand Vacations Club are all ideally situated: right on the water, within walking distance of championship golf courses and a stone's throw from many of the town's delights.

Where to Find Cultural Highlights

The main venue to take in live music on Myrtle Beach is **The Carolina Opry**, located just north of all the action on the Myrtle Beach strip. Shows include everything from bluegrass to Broadway. **The Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum** is a small museum with curated exhibits, a permanent collection of regional artwork, and art classes suited for both children and adults. Plus, its pottery classes are popular.

Don't forget to check out the gift shop with items from local artisans.

Where to Stroll

With 60 miles of sparkling coastline known as the Grand Strand, the Myrtle Beach area is a year-round vacation location. But there is more to this locale than the shoreline. **Brookgreen Gardens** does not disappoint, and since this floral gem is located in the South, something is always in bloom. Founded in 1931, it also boasts the largest collection of American

figurative sculptures and a native-animal zoo.

Myrtle Beach also has 650 acres of parks and recreational property. Explore and travel south of the downtown beach area to a fishing village on the southern tip of the Grand Strand known as the seafood capital of the region: **Murrells Inlet MarshWalk**, which has spectacular views and plenty of activities in and out of the water.

What to Eat

The Southern foodscape is influenced by its rich and

complex history. In South Carolina, fresh seafood—intertwined with low-country ingredients like grits, Carolina rice and crab—rules supreme. **Hook & Barrel** presents just this type of fare with novel twists on the classics—try the oyster stew or crab cakes—and as with most places in Myrtle Beach, dress is casual while the food is anything but. **Mr. Fish** is an ideal family restaurant with an extensive sushi menu and Southern favorites like fried green tomatoes, oysters on the half shell, shrimp and grits, and key lime pie. Myrtle Beach mainstay **Croissants Bistro & Bakery** offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, and has a full working bakery with freshly baked breads, pastries, cookies, brownies and custom cakes.

Plan

MAKE IT
HAPPEN

LEARN MORE

Inspired by Georganne to see more of the world's great art? Consider the **Incredible Baltic Sea Golf Expedition**, where you'll find yourself fully immersed in the art, history and culture of the region from June 22 to July 1. CruisesOnly agents are available to help you use ClubPoints or cash to book this Member cruise and other cruises around the globe. To speak with a cruise agent, call 800-364-3656 (United States) or 617-587-6200 (international). You can also learn more at hgvc.cruisesonly.com.

All Aboard

After a voyage to Amsterdam via New York City and Reykjavik, Iceland, Club Member **Georganne R.** and her husband took a 12-night Royal Caribbean cruise on the Baltic Sea.

Sweden, Estonia and Finland were on the itinerary, but the highlight was an international tour of a different sort: the colossal global art collection of the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. Says Georganne:

"The opulence was just overwhelming. There were malachite vases that were as tall as my husband! You'd think that maybe

during the Soviet period this might have all gone away, but it hasn't—it's still there, and it's beautiful. It's like visiting one of our Smithsonians—there's just not enough time to take it all in. You could spend a whole week there and not see everything.

"It's truly a phenomenon to be that close to the world's finest collections—you're awestruck. Michelangelos are right there in front of you. Fabergé eggs are right there; everybody should have a chance to see one of those in their life. It was so much more than I ever thought it would be."

The Hermitage draws more than 2.5 million visitors a year. Incredibly, its collection hosts even more pieces than that—3 million.



BON VOYAGE!

Cruise news, tips and facts for smooth sailing

Easy Booking

Reserving through CruisesOnly lets you use Points to book on the five cruise lines listed below—and beyond. Members can also earn up to 40,000 Bonus Points when booking cruises aboard specific carriers. A lesser-known benefit: When you book select sailings of three or more nights, CruisesOnly will waive the deposit for your stateroom on the reservation (up to five staterooms). Plus, Members with Elite status will get \$50 per cabin to spend on board however they wish.

Out and About

If you plan on booking excursions—which are part of the fun, after all—your safest bet is to book them through your cruise line. When you have a reservation through an excursion provider that's affiliated with your cruise, the ship will always wait for you to return before departing. Independent operators can't make that guarantee.

SURVEY SAYS

Exciting ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventures to destinations such as Glacier Bay and Denali national parks in Alaska and the Galapagos Islands are a direct result of your feedback.



SAILOR'S CHOICE

Each of the major cruise lines has a different appeal—what's perfect when you're traveling with your kids might not be your cup of tea when you're aiming for a romantic rendezvous. Here's a breakdown of five of the most popular cruise lines: **ROYAL CARIBBEAN** Adrenaline-seekers, sign here—these cruises are known for their vibrant nightlife and sporty onboard attractions, like rock climbing walls and surf simulators. **NORWEGIAN** If freedom

and flexibility are key to a successful vacation for you, try Norwegian. The line has an explicit wear-what-you-want, dine-when-you-want policy for its meal offerings, making it great for groups. **CELEBRITY** This cruise line's luxurious vessels are large enough to be floating metropolises. With more than 500 family-friendly activities, international culinary delights and menus by Michelin-starred chef Cornelius Gallagher, you'll feel like an A-lister on board.

HOLLAND AMERICA Staffed with one crew member for every two or three passengers, Holland is known for its personalized service as well as its onboard enrichment programs, adult-oriented offshore excursions and kid-friendly vessels. **PRINCESS** A line for royalty—maybe not literally, but Princess is known for consummate style and service. The Movies Under the Stars program offers travelers an on-deck cinema experience with theater-quality sound.

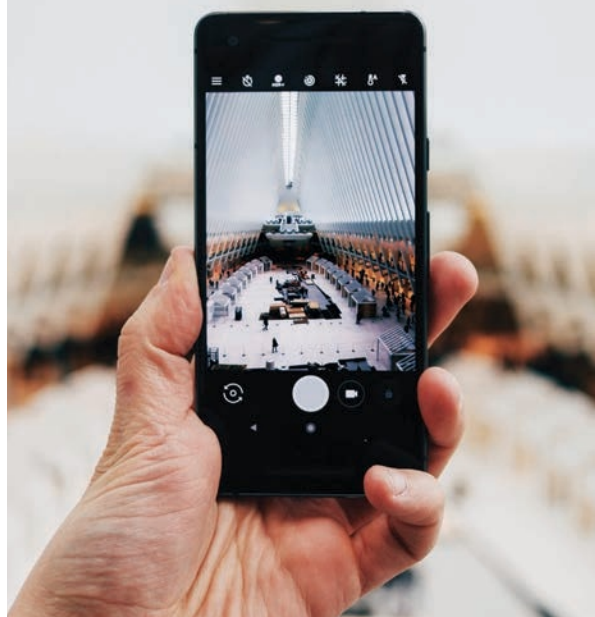
Keep the Beat

Jon Bon Jovi, Kid Rock, Foreigner, Kiss: All four have helmed cruises recently or are on upcoming bills.



Digital Journeys

Your guide to letting social media help you make the most of your vacation



The three dots below can help you create a personalized guidebook.



JUST ASK FACEBOOK

You've probably seen people on Facebook posting about what to do at an upcoming travel destination; maybe you've even shared such a post yourself. With Facebook's "Ask for Recommendations" tool, you can save all recommendations in one spot on your feed, making information easier to find when you need it. If you have geotagging turned on (see below), a map of the area you're seeking information on will be included in your post. All responses will have website links added automatically when available.

To get there, click the "More Options" menu (usually indicated with three dots). A number of posting options, like "Tag Friends," will show up. Once the posting options appear, click "Ask for Recommendations."



DON'T FORGET

Hashtag your images, posts, tweets and other content with **#MyHGV**. You can also follow that hashtag and follow **@hiltongrandvacations** on Instagram to find what other Members are doing on their own grand vacations, or to connect with other Club travelers.



Post Online, Cherish in Print

Don't let vacation memories disappear down your social media's digital feed. Capture the best of what you posted online in print. Companies like My Social Book and Chatbooks make it easy to import travel photos directly from Facebook or Instagram to create memorable keepsake books, which start at as little as \$10.

mysocialbook.com, app.chatbooks.com

One to follow @natgeotravel

Gorgeous photos and expert storytelling from one of the world's leading authorities on what our planet has to offer. Follow on Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest and Facebook.



geotag

(\ 'jē-ō-tag) *noun*:

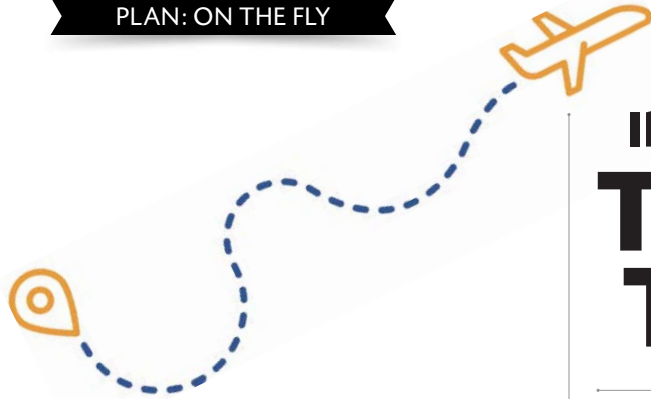
An electronic marker that assigns a physical location to a photograph or video.

Used in a sentence: "Instagram put a *geotag* on my pic for me—I didn't even have to type in where I was on vacation."

Used in your travels: Allowing your smartphone to geotag your photos will associate your images with your location via GPS. This comes in handy when you're snapping so many photos that you could lose track of what you're taking photos of and where. If allowing your device to track exactly where you are puts you off, you can still benefit from geotagging. Searching

by location on your social media feeds will reveal what other people at that location have to say about it, locals and fellow travelers alike.

Bonus: Allowing your photos to be geotagged simplifies searching and organizing your albums. Can't remember what year you went to Japan? Just search the country's name in your photo library—just like you would with Google's photos—and all your images tagged to that location will be revealed, along with the date and time you snapped them.



9,521 miles

Distance of the longest commercial flight

Wabi-sabi

A Japanese term describing the beauty that comes from imperfection and transience



Where's the longest continuous wine route?
South Africa

84%

Passengers who prefer automated flight check-ins, says a recent International Air Transport Association survey

IN THE KNOW: TRAVEL TRIVIA



22 lbs. of chocolate

The average annual amount consumed per person in Switzerland



What's dependent on travel and tourism?
1 out of 9 U.S. jobs

Greatest peeve while en route to vacation?

Noisy travelers, according to a recent survey by Agoda



"Getting off the beaten track"

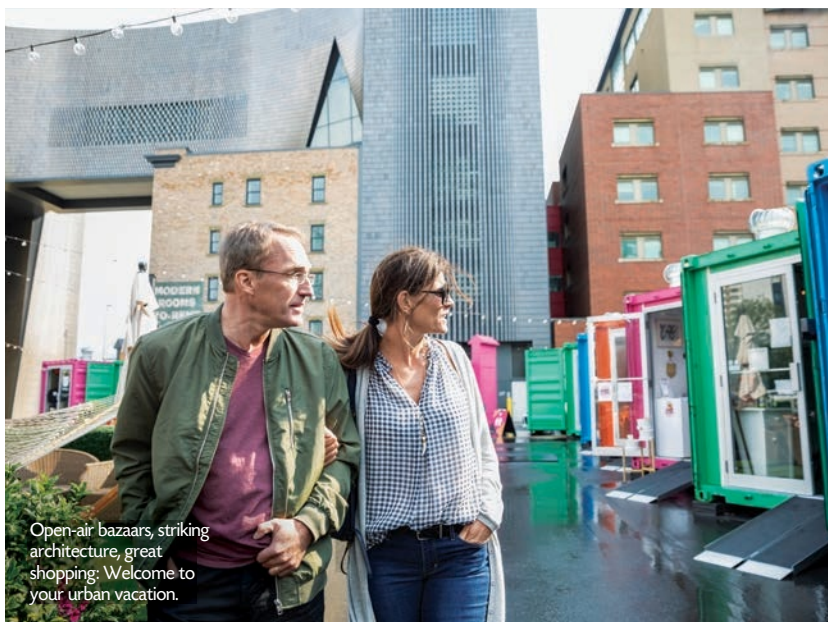
The phrase that best defines "adventure travel," according to Intrepid's Adventure Travel Index study

Siderodromophobia: The fear of trains, railroads or traveling on trains



How to Master Urban Travel

New to city vacations? Here's your 101



Open-air bazaars, striking architecture, great shopping: Welcome to your urban vacation.

What to pack: You'll probably be doing a lot of walking, so pack lightly yet efficiently. Most important, wear comfortable walking shoes with ample support for trekking around the city. Other essentials include an extra phone charger (you might be using GPS more than usual, which can drain your battery); antibacterial wipes or hand sanitizer; a lightweight, water-resistant jacket; a reusable shopping

bag to sling over your shoulder; and a water bottle.

When to go: Generally, fall and late spring are the best times for exploring most cities. You'll enjoy good weather and fewer crowds during nonholiday months.

When to plan: For best rates and options for popular attractions that require reservations or are likely to sell out fast, book six to

nine months in advance. Wait too long and you risk higher prices and sold-out attractions, particularly during peak season. For airfare, begin searching around four months before your departure to ensure you get a good price.

What to read: Pocket guidebooks like *Lonely Planet* and *Frommer's* pack a wallop of insider tips for where to eat and things to do for many destinations. Ditto for a city's home website and social channels containing pertinent local information.

How to budget: Count on spending for in-city transportation, dining, shopping and sightseeing. Check with your credit card companies and any rewards programs to see if they offer deals on admission to museums, galleries and shows. Visitor centers are also a good source for discount passes, as well as maps. Some cities sell handy booklets like CityPASS,

filled with passes to popular attractions. And of course Go City Cards and Explorer Passes are available to Club Members at a special rate as a ClubPartner Perk.

Thumbs-up apps:

Mobile travel apps include Citymapper, a real-time urban transit app, and Sidekix, which features highly rated places to see in cities around the world.

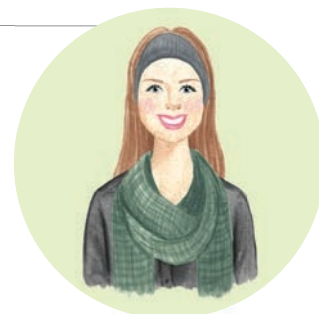
Maximize your time:

Book a half- or full-day sightseeing tour to see the highlights. You can then return to attractions that pique your interest. Also, walking food tours are great for local tastings with a dollop of history from knowledgeable guides.

Best souvenir: Bring home mementos specific to the city you visited, like reusable shopping bags with the city's logo. Savor the flavor of a city with locally sourced spices and sauces (which also make good gifts for those back home) or a cookbook from a top local restaurant.

TIP FROM AN EXPLORER

Don't plan your entire day! Urban travel is so unique in that you don't really have to plan your day. And sometimes it's even better not to. While it's great to visit some of the more popular places that you find on social media, giving yourself time to explore gives you the ability to find those unique places that you just stumble upon. —Explorer Kassi P.



HAWAII

The island state has brought quite a few favorites to the mainland, like poke and shave ice. Get your fix of both in Honolulu at **Aloha Cones**, an unassuming restaurant whose lines are worth the wait. If little ones want more sweets, head to **Nisshodo Candy Store**, where they'll lick their fingers after eating traditional Japanese treats like mochi and manju. On Hawaii Island, **Roy's Waikoloa Bar & Grill** is a local chain serving traditional Pacific Rim classics like fresh fish and sushi.

ORLANDO

Just like nearby Epcot, Orlando's cuisine represents practically the whole world. Slurp up some ramen and Asian small plates at intimate joint **Domu** in East End Market. Pretend you're taking a family vacation to Italy at **Pizza Bruno**, where the wood-fired, Neapolitan-style pies are almost as popular as the garlic knots that sell out nearly every night. The Day of the Dead-themed **Black Rooster Taqueria** features decor as festive as its fare, like Pozole Verde bowls and Black Rooster Asada tacos, with seared beef, Oaxaca cheese and pickled chile poblano.

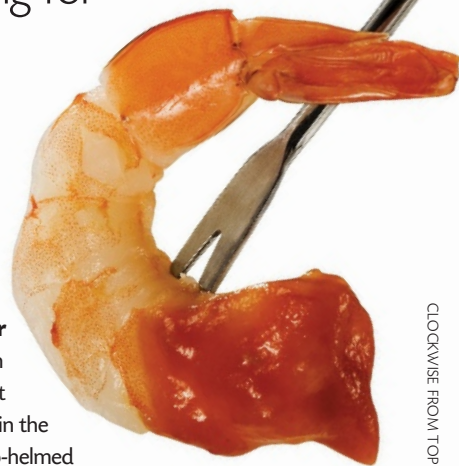


Best Bites

From local specialties to don't-miss dining, these destinations have grub worth traveling for

LAS VEGAS

Consider shrimp cocktail the *it* dish of Sin City, where more than 60,000 pounds of shrimp are eaten daily—more than the rest of the United States combined. **The Oyster Bar** serves a classic version, with shrimp poached in its secret sauce blend. Nowhere else in the world boasts as many celeb-helmed restaurants, and Wolfgang Puck is one of the most recognizable chefs. His steakhouse, **Cut**, at The Palazzo, boasts cuts ranging from American wagyu to filet mignon. Palate pleasers for little ones grace the kids' menu at farm-to-table **Honey Salt**, which features crispy chicken tenders and pizza.



SOUTH CAROLINA

Down-home Southern cooking is a must-munch in South Carolina, and plenty of restaurants hit the spot in Myrtle Beach. Since 1953, family-owned **Mammy's Kitchen** has been cooking up country meals in the heart of downtown, most notably with its breakfast buffet—and yes, there are grits. **Big Mike's** serves soul food, particularly comfort food classics



like collard greens and fried chicken. In Hilton Head, **A Lowcountry Backyard Restaurant** lives up to its name by serving some of the best shrimp and grits in the Palmetto State.

Go

WHAT TO DO

Amy Sherald's portrait of Michelle Obama resides in the National Portrait Gallery. No tickets or reservations are required for entry to the exhibitions.



Local Perspective

bordered by Virginia, Maryland and the Potomac River, Washington, D.C., the U.S. capital, is more than a center of government—it's a diverse hub of cuisine, culture and history. Explore it through the eyes of soon-to-be-wed locals **Kristina J.** and **Ali G.**

"D.C. is a high-functioning, fast-paced city, but there are passionate people here, people who really care about the world and making it a good place," says Kristina.

For an art date, Kristina and Ali suggest The Phillips Collection in Dupont Circle, where nearby visitors can also schedule a visit to Dupont Underground—once a subterranean streetcar station, now an arts venue. Other favorite spots include the National Portrait Gallery in Chinatown and the Tidal Basin.

"I proposed at the Tidal Basin, across from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial," says Ali. It's here that each spring many of the city's 3,000-plus cherry blossom trees transform into a sea of puffy, cotton-pink blooms, inspiring the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival.

"I also like the Lincoln Memorial. You get a view of the Smithsonians and other monuments," Kristina says. Ali advises strolling off the beaten path. "Go to outskirt neighborhoods like Mount Pleasant and Columbia Heights, or walk down Seventh Street from the Capital One Arena down to the Archives—you'll pass around 15 different types of cuisine."

Though the city's beloved cherry blossoms make springtime a favorite, both Kristina and Ali say fall is one of the best times to visit. To really enjoy the season's foliage, Kristina suggests heading to Georgetown, where visitors can also catch an autumn sunset over the shops on M Street for an "awesome view."



WHERE TO STAY

Explore the city with **The District by Hilton Club**, conveniently located between Dupont Circle and Georgetown and a stone's throw from many of the capital's monuments and museums.

SALUD!

It's more than just margaritas: Mexico has a rich heritage of delicious and surprising beverages, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic. Some descend from the country's indigenous cultures while others are more modern, but all are delicious—or at least worth a try. Next time you're in Mexico, challenge yourself to give some of these traditional drinks a taste.

MICHELADA

One of the stranger Mexican innovations is the *cerveza preparada*, or beer cocktail. Made from light beer (like Modelo or Pacífico) and mixed with salt, hot sauce, lime juice, tomato concentrate or Clamato (tomato and clam broth!), the *Michelada* is the classic—but not the only—mixed-beer drink from Mexico. If you're not a fan of tomato, try the *chelada*: lime and beer served with ice and a salted rim. Either one makes a refreshing afternoon treat or a good pick-me-up after a long night.



WHERE TO STAY

Members can vacation across Mexico thanks to Club affiliate Fiesta Americana. Opt for an all-inclusive experience at resorts including **Grand Fiesta Americana Los Cabos Hotel**, **Fiesta Americana Condesa Cancun** and **Grand Fiesta Americana Puerto Vallarta**.

HORCHATA

This popular nonalcoholic cocktail has many variations, but it's usually made with ground rice, almonds and *chufas*, or tiger nuts. Horchata is creamy, sweet and delicious: It is the perfect beverage for cooling down on the beach or fueling up after an outdoor adventure. It's also healthy: Tiger nuts come from a plant called yellow nutsedge, which is high in iron, potassium, and vitamins C and E.

MEZCAL

Mezcal was sacred to Mexico's indigenous peoples and is actually one of the oldest liquors in the world. The name technically refers to any liquor made with the agave plant, which has more than 30 varieties—including blue agave, which is used to make tequila. It's traditional to cook the plant in earthen pits before distilling it in clay pots, giving mezcal its famously smoky flavor.

CAFÉ DE OLLA

Literally meaning "coffee from the pot," *café de olla* is one of Mexico's most famous hot beverages. It consists of black coffee made with cinnamon and *piloncillo*, or unrefined cane sugar. Like *mezcal*, it's typically prepared in a clay pot, which gives the coffee a unique, earthy flavor. But be careful—it's strong!



Plan to Play

Make the most of your theme park vacation by managing crowds and expectations



17

Consult a Calendar

Crowd calendars can quickly become your best friends when planning a family trip to popular theme parks. Undercover Tourist has compiled more than 10 years' worth of visitor data from Orlando, Los Angeles and San Diego to predict how busy the theme parks in those destinations may be on any day of the year. In San Diego, for example, the calendar showcases data for Legoland and SeaWorld and suggests which attractions may be best to visit on any given day. Additionally, calendars that designate seasonal pricing and highlight value days are available at parks like Orlando's Walt Disney World® and Universal Studios™.

Download an App

Another way to maximize your time is by downloading a smartphone app, both to help you plan and to keep you entertained. Many theme parks produce their own apps featuring digital maps to help you chart your course, as well as wait times at popular rides. Then, if you do have to stand for a few, these

apps often include fun activities like trivia and "rewards" for hitting rides.

The Waiting Game

Despite your best planning, sometimes popular destinations may have a bit of a line. And that is OK. Managing your family's expectations ahead of time will help mitigate any frustrations that may arise when you're all in a crowded and potentially stressful situation. If you do find yourself in line, keep minds, eyes and hands busy by planning what to do next, whether that's rerouting via an app to another ride, stopping for a snack or scoping out the best spot to watch a show or parade.

Insider Information


For the real scoop on how to steer clear of crowds in popular family destinations, go to online forums—Inside Universal Forums and DISboards are two good places to start. Destination insiders have a wealth of information to share and are eager to do so with others who are as interested in a place as they are.



GO: LONG WEEKEND

3 Days in Death Valley

Spread across more than 3.3 million acres of California's Mojave Desert, Death Valley is the largest national park in the contiguous United States. The hottest temperature on Earth was recorded here—a staggering 134 degrees Fahrenheit. But don't let its heat or scale intimidate you: Soaring beauty and hardy adventure abound.



The average annual rainfall in Death Valley National Park is 2.36 inches, making it the driest place in the United States.

Day One

From Las Vegas, it's possible to reach Furnace Creek Visitor Center in 2.5 hours, but that's not the most interesting drive. Instead, take Nevada State Route 160 to Pahrump, then hit Nevada SR 372/California SR 178 to Shoshone, a lesser-known gateway to the park. Staying west on SR 178 reveals spectacular terrain, like Salisbury Pass, at 3,315 feet, before the road whisks you into the lowest part of Death Valley, including the must-see Badwater Basin. Other highlights are the serrated salt rocks of the Devil's Golf Course and the colored hills of Artist's Drive.

The scenic route takes four hours from Las Vegas. Fortunately, there are restaurants near the visitor center, including the 19th Hole for burgers and ice-cold beer.

Day Two

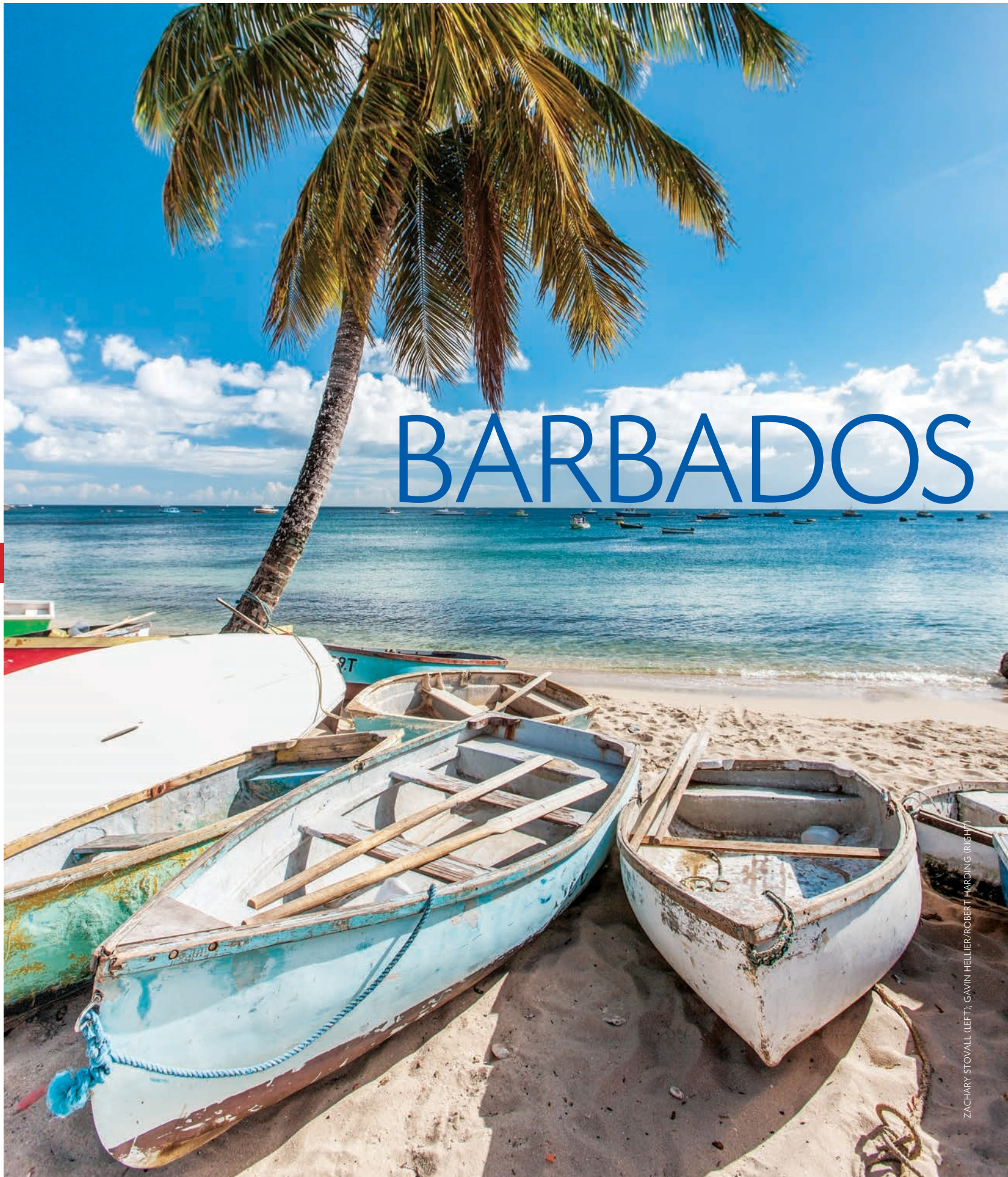
Hiking in Death Valley will deepen your appreciation of its otherworldly terrain. The 2.7-mile Badlands Loop is a perfect introduction. We also recommend adding the Gower Gulch and Golden Canyon trails. The entire circuit is about 8 miles long, wending through the golden heart of the badlands, including Zabriskie Point, a contender for the park's most sensational landscape, which offers panoramic views of the remarkable canyons

and gulches in every direction. It takes at least four hours, so set out early and bring water!

Salt Creek is a low-key afternoon option. The half-mile boardwalk loops around the creek and its various wetlands, pickleweeds and salt grasses. There, keep an eye out for the rare Salt Creek pupfish. At sunset, Dante's View provides the park's most breathtaking visuals, including simultaneous views of the lowest and highest points in the contiguous United States—Badwater Basin and Mount Whitney. After dusk, stargazing is a must. Harmony Borax Works, near the visitor center, is a terrific spot for it.

Day Three

Start off your day early and catch the sunrise from the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes in the northern part of the park. From there, it's easy to connect with Interstate 95 back to Las Vegas. Stop in Rhyolite Ghost Town in Nevada, a 19th-century gold-mining town, with many walls and foundations still intact. Down the road is the Goldwell Open Air Museum, where you'll find strange outdoor sculptures, including a ghostly rendition of *The Last Supper*. It's exactly the kind of kitschy marvel that makes road trips in America so much fun—and reminds you when it's time to get back to civilization.

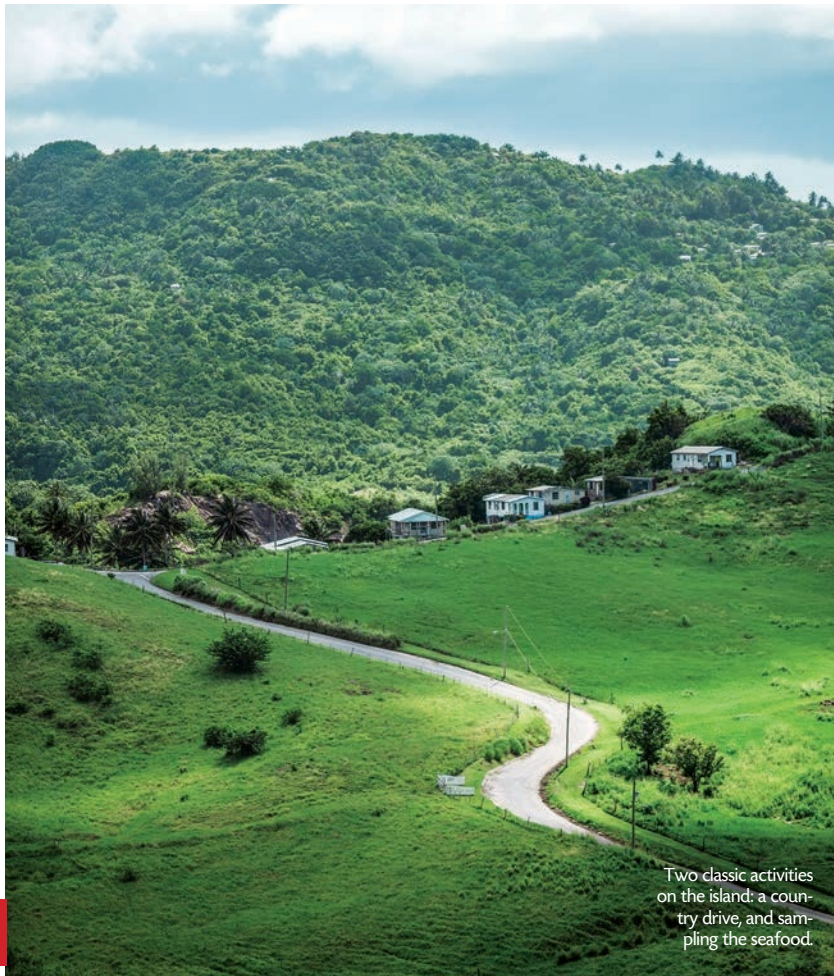




BOUND

Pink and gold sand beaches. Turquoise, warm-as-bathwater seas. Barbados beckons like a siren from the Caribbean and entices travelers to its awe-inspiring shores.

Barbados by sea (far left) and by land—depicted here by a brightly colored chattel house, so named because it was built to be movable.



Two classic activities on the island: a country drive, and sampling the seafood.



The Barbados bullfinch, pictured here, is found only on the island. At left, rum (pictured here in barrels) is a part of the Bajan economy.



Here, between rum cocktails and dips in the ocean, you'll also discover an opportunity to immerse yourself in the history and culture of the island. Take a journey through some of the island's must-see sights and bites—all worthy itinerary items for your first vacation in Barbados.

GET TO KNOW THE ISLAND'S GEOGRAPHY

Despite its small size, Barbados' look and feel is varied. The island's east coast is an action-packed surfer's paradise famous for its towering Atlantic waves. This is where Bajan tourism began; Barbados is the easternmost Caribbean island, so its east coast welcomes the first North American landfall of warm breezes arriving from Africa. As early as the 18th century, people like Lawrence Washington—accompanied by his younger brother, a 19-year-old named George (yes, *that* George Washington)—would flock to Barbados to recover from serious illness, thanks to the island's purportedly healing breezes. Overlooking the Caribbean Sea, Barbados' placid west coast serves as a retreat for more modern-day celebrities, who are drawn to its calm waters and tranquil vibe. The area is known as the "Platinum Coast," but visitors come away—reluctantly—from its shoreline reminiscing about its golden sands, a feature of many of the island's beaches.

WHAT TO SEE AND DO

Spend time in the capital, Bridgetown, where history comes at you from all angles. You'll certainly get a sense of that in the way many islanders introduce themselves, often as a 12th- or 13th-generation Bajan.

Begin with lunch at the Waterfront Cafe. Waitstaff will walk you through the menu, highlighting melts of the flying fish—a local delicacy—as a must-try. Watch as fishermen clean fresh-caught snapper on their boats in front of you, or direct your glance toward the historic Garrison site, the base and headquarters for members of the British West India Regiment in Barbados. Together, the Garrison and Bridgetown, constructed in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, were declared a UNESCO heritage site in 2011.

After lunch, walk through the colorful center of Bridgetown. The area's colonial buildings, pleasant streets and picturesque bridges make for good wandering; the website of the Waterfront Cafe has a detailed self-guided walking tour beginning right at the cafe.

Barbados has a fascinating past. Wherever you go, you'll be pacing through history.

Wherever you go, you'll be pacing through history: Barbados has a complex and fascinating past, beginning with the early arrival of American Indians (known here as *Amerindians*) and the indigenous Carib people, then streaked with the Portuguese and English colonization of the island. Another group of arrivals—slaves—fueled Barbados' most notable export, rum. This painful history, along with a more comprehensive look at Barbados' past, is examined at the Barbados Museum & Historical Society.

Rum is so intertwined with Barbados' past that a rum tour is a history tour—the island's sugar and rum industries earned it the sobriquet "the brightest jewel in the British crown," and rum shops once served as government meeting places before parliament's construction. Historian and author Morris Greenidge leads Barrel to Bottle walking tours of the area on select dates. Email him at mgeventsbb@gmail.com to make arrangements. (Pop culture bonus: Greenidge will point out the bungalow where the island's most visible celebrity, Rihanna, grew up.)

Another must-see historical landmark is the St. Nicholas Abbey Plantation, near the high cliffs of Barbados' northern tip. Built in the mid-1660s, it's one of only three Jacobean houses in North America and was recently restored with traditional Bajan elements. Tour it to get a feel for the Barbados of the late 17th century, when the island was

known as the "wealthiest acre of land in the world." Afterward, stroll the plantation's grounds, filled with mahogany, hibiscus, orchids and roses.

Farther south, in the Savannah area, is the plantation house where George Washington lived when visiting with his ailing brother, Lawrence, for two months in 1751; it was the future president's only trip abroad. Now an impressive museum, the George Washington House gives a wider lens into everyday life on the island in the 18th and 19th centuries—from cooling wine with sea breeze to the cupping glasses used to rid bodies of ailments.

WHERE TO EAT

In town on a Friday? Head straight to the Friday Night Fish Fry in coastal Oistins. This southern stretch of the island is the place to party with tourists and locals dancing after a meal of fresh fish from one of the many open-air food shacks in the area. Not sure what to order? You can't go wrong with flying fish, macaroni pie, coleslaw and Banks Beer.

Any other evening, head to St. Lawrence Gap, a small but buzzing strip on the south coast in the parish of Christ Church. Choose any of the restaurants overlooking the ocean and dine on blackened fish to the sounds of soft waves rippling at your feet. Top off your night with a post-dinner margarita at the lively Cafe Sol.

BEST BEACHES

Look no further than Crane Beach—home of Hilton Grand Vacations' first Caribbean property—located on the southeast coast. This gorgeous stretch of soft sand gets its

famous pink hue thanks to crushed coral from the nearby reef that creates a natural harbor and fosters a safe swimming area. Considered one of the best beaches in the world, Crane Beach is a must-visit for anyone seeking serenity. Spend a day lying atop its gentle sands, while enjoying the ocean's cool breeze and views of impressive limestone cliffs and exotic flowers.

Come lunchtime, you can head to local favorite Cutters deli. *Cutters* is the Bajan term for hoagies, and here they're made with homemade salt bread. It's a fun place to hang out, but if you can't stand to leave the beach's pink sands, don't worry: Cutters delivers right to your beach chair.

GETTING AROUND

Renting a car is the easiest and recommended form of transportation on the island. However, public transportation is also available and user-friendly; buses run on time and efficiently.

DAY TRIPS

Spend a Sunday afternoon at Bathsheba, a charming fishing

village about 12 miles up the coast from Crane Beach. Join Bajan families cooling off in soup-bowl soak holes several feet deep and enjoy a picnic at Barclays Park under wind-bent casuarina trees that fan you like giant palm fronds.

Don't forget to reserve five hours of your holiday time for a catamaran cruise. It's luxury all the way on the Tiami cruises, as you savor a delicious lunch and rum punch at sea on a custom catamaran. The delightful day also includes a swim with sea turtles and a stop for snorkeling over a tropical reef populated by exotic fish.

Bajans have a saying, "there is more in the mortar than the pestle," meaning that there's more to a situation than what appears on the surface. The same could be said of this vibrant Caribbean island. Visitors may come for the enchanting beaches and turquoise waters, but beyond those delights lies a wealth of Barbadian essence: tropical flora, tantalizing food, world-class rum, lively nightlife and fascinating history.



The first resort on Barbados has been transformed into HGV's first property in the Caribbean.



HGV Makes Its Maiden Voyage to the Caribbean

See Barbados firsthand at HGV's first Caribbean resort, Hilton Grand Vacations at The Crane. If the name "The Crane" sounds familiar, it's no wonder: The resort is on a cliffside atop 40 acres of beachfront at Crane Beach—one of the best beaches in the world. Plus, the resort has a long history; it's not only Barbados' first, opened in 1887, but it's also the Caribbean's oldest

continuously operating resort and one that has seen its fair share of stars.

Members can enjoy the property's many amenities, including a cliff-top pool complex, a day spa, shops, a fitness center, kids' club, gardens, rooftop terraces and award-winning dining with seven restaurant and bar options. Many suites have large private swimming pools too.

SURVEY SAYS

Hilton Grand Vacations' first Caribbean property is a result of Member feedback. We asked what locations you'd like to see added to your Club offerings, and this enchanting region was your answer. Welcome to Barbados!



The east side of the island is characterized by a rugged landscape, like that of the beach at Bathsheba, pictured here.

Club

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Hula, which is both dance and storytelling, is a feature of many luaus—including the one at Hilton Waikoloa Village, pictured here.



25

Ask the Resort

a luau is the crown jewel in many a Hawaiian vacation. We asked Hawaii Island-based **Cheryl A.**, resort manager at **Kohala Suites by Hilton Grand Vacations Club** (and lifelong Hawaii resident), what to expect at a luau.

"A luau is all about the food. Pork is the main attraction, especially if you're at one of the better luaus like the one at Hilton Waikoloa Village, which prepares the pig traditionally in an underground oven called an imu. You can actually go see them put the pig in the imu at 8:30 on the morning of the luau.

"While attending a luau, you should try the ali'i seating.

Most luaus are set up buffet-style and you sit at long tables, but with ali'i seating you're at a round table up front; *ali'i* means royal, so you're eating like Hawaiian royals. It's a more intimate experience, and there's table service so you don't have to get up to refill your drink.

"What I look forward to the most during a luau is sharing a meal with the people who come to our properties. You get to see people be daring. I remember a family whose son tried the poi, which is pounded taro, a root vegetable that's a staple of Hawaiian food. But he ate it with sugar, and I just laughed—that's how I ate it when I was a kid."



Have a question for a resort? Email it to input@hgvc.com, and we might answer it in a future issue.

What's New With Club?



Advanced tech and more bookable destinations

- The Club Guide allows Members to share their experience at a property they have visited with other Club Members in an online forum.
- The mobile app has a dedicated Member dashboard with new tabs for Points and Membership.

NEW PROPERTIES

In case you missed it on the cover, HGV has landed in Barbados with its first property in the Caribbean. Hilton Grand Vacations at The Crane welcomed its first Members in January. But that's not the only new property in the works. Check out this roundup of the latest property updates.

- Ocean Tower by Hilton Grand Vacations Club, the first HGV property on Hawaii Island to offer Members direct ocean views, officially opened in the fall.
- Ocean Enclave by Hilton Grand Vacations Club, the third Club resort in Myrtle Beach and the fifth in South Carolina, will be complete and ready to welcome Members later this year.
- HGV announced its first Chicago location, in the top six floors of the DoubleTree–Hilton Grand Vacations Chicago Downtown/Magnificent Mile.
- The Quin Central Park by Hilton Club, a luxury lifestyle accommodation, will soon be Hilton Grand Vacations' fourth New York property.
- HGV purchased 1.05 acres in the heart of Waikiki to develop its sixth

Oahu property and its first Hilton Club location in Hawaii.

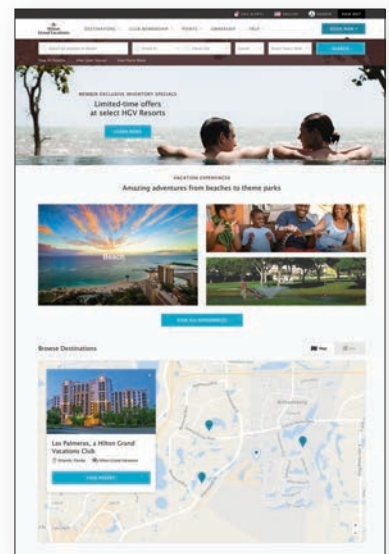
- Hilton Grand Vacations Club announced it will purchase 87 of the 375 hotel rooms at the Hilton Los Cabos Beach and Golf Resort to create its first nonaffiliate property in Los Cabos, Mexico.
- Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club, an HGV-Strand joint venture, will be nestled in the city's historic downtown and is scheduled to open in 2020.
- Maui Bay Villas by Hilton Grand Vacations will be the first Club property on the island of Maui.

Whether you're looking online or on a map, HGV is working hard to make your membership better every day.

EXCITING CLUB WEBSITE ENHANCEMENTS

Thanks to Member feedback, the Club website will sport a new look by summer, with features redesigned to make your planning experience as easy as possible. We have the scoop on the upcoming enhancements.

- Additional properties will be bookable via the website and mobile app. Read the February issue of *eClub Traveler*, available on the Club website, for more information.
- Ability to create a watch list—Members can save a search and be notified when the reservation window they're interested in becomes available.
- "Book now" option available through the search bar.
- Improved and expanded search filter to differentiate properties with specific amenities, such as fitness centers.
- Notification icon and inbox to alert Members about important HGV announcements and information.
- Improved profile access and editing functionality.
- Member Exclusives and ClubPartner Perks rotating banner to help Members easily identify available offers.
- New global map of HGV properties, plus a map card for all properties.
- More resort details, photos and captions.
- New space dedicated to Members' upcoming vacations available on the website:
 - The Destination Guidebook showcases dining, shopping and nightlife recommendations near your upcoming vacation destination.



✓ SURVEY SAYS

Many of these website and mobile enhancements—like the added map view—are a result of Club Members sharing their feedback in Member surveys.



Vacations Begin With Him

Get to know Clark W.

sweep it ourselves instead of immediately calling housekeeping. Or security will help out with handling guests at the bell desk. Not everywhere works like that.

What personality attributes make you a good fit for your position?

I'm very open-minded. I listen to our guests, and that's one of the key things you have to do in this job. I'm here to offer solutions, and you can't do that if you're not listening. It's something I was born with.

What surprised you about working at Hilton Grand Vacations Club on the Boulevard?

I mostly did construction before entering hospitality, so I have an eye for how properties are laid out. The Club really cares about keeping up the properties—they're always making everything better and developing new ideas.

What local events do you most anticipate?

New Year's Eve on the Strip is something I look forward to every year. There's a big celebration with fireworks

and multiple bands playing on the Strip. At the property, it's really special around Christmastime; we have a Santa who sits by the tree, and kids can get their picture taken. And at Easter, we get the Easter Bunny, who hops around the swimming pool every year—it's a lot of fun, and it's also a lot of fun knowing which of my co-workers is inside the suit!

Do you have a cherished memory about a Club Member who has stayed at the resort?

I have quite a few, but this memory happened recently. These Owners I've known for years couldn't get a reservation at the Boulevard, so they were staying at another Hilton Grand Vacations property. They stopped by and ate at our bar and grill because they love our bartenders, and they made a special trip to find me in the driveway. That's the kind of place this is.

Clark W. is the man with the key to your vacation. That's true literally—as the bellman at Hilton Grand Vacations Club on the Boulevard in Las Vegas, he escorts Members to their rooms upon arrival. But it's also true figuratively: Your vacation doesn't *really* begin until you're in the space you'll call home for the week, and Clark is the gateway to that mindset. *Club Traveler* talked with the 19-year

veteran of the property about collaboration, renovations and the Easter Bunny.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Working here is different than being at the local hotels. It's more like working with family. All the departments work well together; we all have each other's backs. If there's debris in the driveway, we'll just pick up a broom and

TRAVEL LIKE A LOCAL

Clark's insider tip: "I always suggest a nighttime helicopter ride around the Strip—I've done that many times myself."

Bright Lights & City Sights

Some vacations are for long days on the beach, and others are for wild nights on the town. This year, go experience the sights, sounds and tastes of some of America's most entertaining destinations. As an RCI® subscribing member, your vacation possibilities are endless.



SITES TO SEE

Take a guided tour of
The Alamo

Stroll along the
River Walk

Explore **San Antonio
Missions National
Historical Park**

Learn something new at
The Witte Museum

San Antonio, Texas

San Antonio may be charged up with new restaurants and museums, revamped hotels and updated cultural institutions, but it's also laid-back and easy to navigate for a city. Traffic is friendly, parking is typically free—even at popular spots like the zoo—and BCycle bike stations encourage visitors to explore the River Walk's trails for walking and biking. All of this and more make San Antonio a crowd-pleasing getaway, with a welcoming Southern spirit and plenty of Mexican flair.



SITES TO SEE

Browse music artifacts
at the **Country Music
Hall of Fame**

Enjoy an open-air show at
Ascend Amphitheater

Experience a concert at
Ryman Auditorium

Visit the beautiful
grounds of **Cheekwood
Estate and Gardens**

Nashville, Tennessee

Nashville earned its first nickname, "Rock City," in the mid-19th century for its abundant limestone. Only much later would it be dubbed "Music City." Today the flash and flair of Nashville's rhinestone-bedecked country-music scene draws about 14 million visitors a year. Artsy boutiques, stylish restaurants and other exciting city attractions are all set to the rumble of downtown's wood-clad honky-tonks.



Park City, Utah

Those who travel to Park City in spring and summer (the winter season officially ends April 7, 2019) usually come to explore the old silver-mining town and its cinematic landscape. Instead of skiing, they stroll the charming stretch of Main Street, enjoying the trendy restaurants, hip bars and boutiques, and nightlife scene that draws the Hollywood glitterati.

SITES TO SEE

Wander through local art galleries

Get a quick history lesson at **Park City Museum**

Shop along **Main Street** and **Park Avenue**

Rejuvenate at one of the many local spas



Branson, Missouri

Dubbed the “Live Entertainment Capital of the World,” Branson offers something for everyone. Vacationgoers can look forward to world-class live entertainment, great food, award-winning golf courses and more outdoor activities than anyone could ever get through on a week’s vacation. And the best part? Waking up in the breathtaking Ozark Mountains.

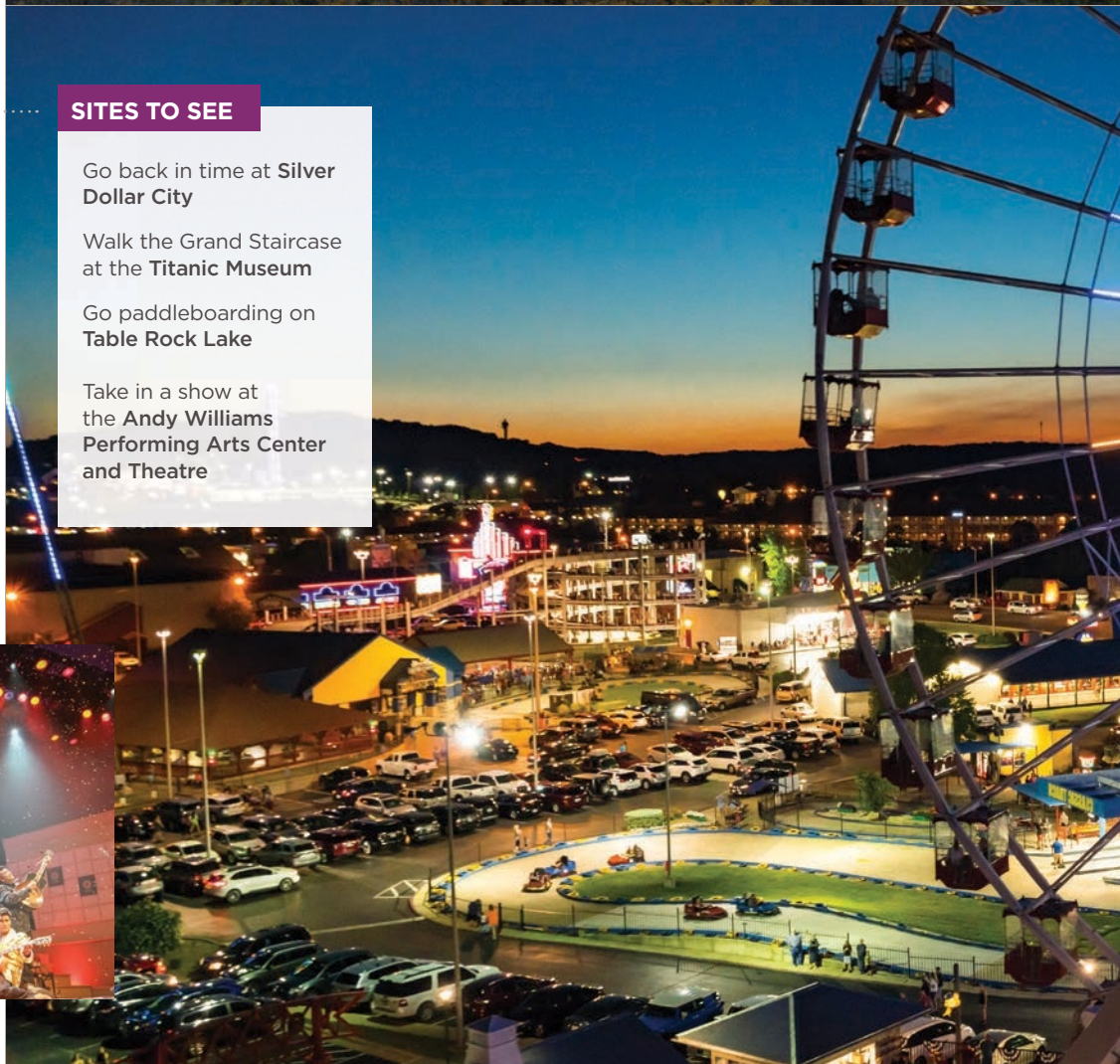
SITES TO SEE

Go back in time at **Silver Dollar City**

Walk the Grand Staircase at the **Titanic Museum**

Go paddleboarding on **Table Rock Lake**

Take in a show at the **Andy Williams Performing Arts Center and Theatre**





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At left: Tyler swimming with dolphins; above: Kevin, Tyler and Hilary; at right: Tyler and Kevin at Nu'uanu Pali Lookout, located just 5 miles from Honolulu.



**Hilary, Kevin
and Tyler L.**

Club Members since 2013

Featured Trip: Grand
Waikikian by Hilton Grand
Vacations Club

Extraordinary Things

Members share their favorite Hawaii vacation memories

Our first trip to Hawaii as a family was for our 15th wedding anniversary. We went to the Big Island, and it was one of the best vacations we've had—we knew we were coming back. Kevin had always wanted to go to Pearl Harbor, so as our 20th anniversary approached, we thought we'd return, this time to Oahu. It was different from our last trip—more urban, for starters—but each time we felt totally depressurized.

Our son got to swim with dolphins. It was really cool to watch him do that—we were thinking of how difficult it was at times to get him to commit to swimming lessons, to get him engaged. We'd told him, "If you learn to swim, you get to do extraordinary things." Here was proof.

We tried to experience everything that was available to us at the property and beyond. Hilton Grand Vacations does a good job of having the kind of service where you can just walk up and say, "This is what I'm interested in," and they'll assist you with everything you need. So we'd have our daily activities planned out, but there was so much to do right there too.

You could see things like the birds of the island—parrots, parakeets. There was shopping, including things that are native to Hawaii. And the food! We loved the Honolulu Cookie Company, which incorporated Hawaiian ingredients like pineapple and coffee, representing the whole food vibe of the islands.

I'll always remember how clear the sky is—you just feel like the air is cleaner on the islands. When we stayed on the Big Island, we'd take night drives and go stargazing, trying to find the various constellations. In Oahu you could see stars, but since you're in the city it's different than it is in rural areas. We took a dinner cruise and wound up being surprised by how the island looks at night—you see stars, but you also see how urban Honolulu is when you take in the city lights. It's a different way of appreciating the scenery.

This trip was in anticipation of our 20th anniversary—but 20 is a big one, so we're taking two trips. We're hoping to go to Borgo alle Vigne in Italy to celebrate the actual anniversary in September. We can't wait!



What's the most memorable vacation you've experienced thanks to your Club membership? Send us an email at input@hgvc.com.

BOOKING BASICS

Booking: that critical moment when your vacation becomes real. To better understand and make the most of this exciting vacation planning step, Club Navigator—Club Members' one-stop shop for vacation planning resources—features an entire module dedicated to booking.

This easy-to-use educational resource houses a wealth of booking information, tips and instructions. Discover a mini course on how to book your Home Week, FAQ videos, a reference guide on resort reservation windows and printable PDFs that detail information such as how to search for available inventory.





A VACATION STATE OF MIND



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