

CONTENTS











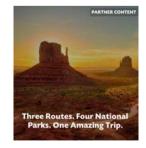














TRAVELER



Welcome from Stan Soroka

FOR HILTON GRAND VACATIONS

President & CEO Mark Wang

Executive Vice President, Chief Customer Officer & Publisher Stan Soroka

Senior Vice President, Corporate Strategy & Communications Hannah Vazzana

Editor-in-Chief Raquel Filipek

Assistant Editor Julie Capps

Production Coordinator

FOR THE ECONOMIST GROUP

Editor Delle Chan

Senior Art Director

Antonella Bordone Senior Designer

George Hilton

Account Director Alexandra Arroliga

Account Coordinator

Cover Photographer Jake Naughton

The Economist Group is an independent contract

Dear Club Members,

Welcome to the first 2021 issue of Club Traveler! How refreshing it is to embrace a new year and the many possibilities that come with it. With the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine and the accelerating demand at our Hilton Grand Vacations properties, I am excited about the year that lies ahead.

If you have not already, I hope you are making plans to return to an HGV property soon. The majority of our resorts are open (including Hawaii!) and we continue to follow our Enhanced Care Guidelines with Hilton CleanStay to ensure you have peace of mind when staying with us. HGV's decision to save all unused 2020 ClubPoints for free (which now appear as 2021 Saved Points in your account) promises a year of travel unlike any other. When you combine the balance of ClubPoints with HGV's current inventory opportunities, you are uniquely positioned to make this a year filled with great adventures.

Many of you have asked how to use these extra Points. Club Members can use Saved Points for reservations at Club resorts during the Home Resort and Club Season reservation windows, as well as for By Hilton Club Priority, RCI Exchange and ClubPartner Perks reservations. For Owners at Hilton Club New York, Saved Points can be used for Club reservations through the Hilton Club and Hilton Grand Vacations Club exchange programs, as well as for RCI Exchange and ClubPartner Perks reservations. Any Saved Points not used by the end of this year can be deposited into RCI for use within the next two calendar years. As some of you may have a higher than normal allotment of Points, we've packed this issue with inspiration to help you dream big for your next vacation.

First, we present an itinerary for spending the perfect week in Los Cabos, Mexico — home to our newest property, La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club. This spectacular destination provides an outstanding combination of incredible wildlife, outdoor adventures and breathtaking scenery. Use our article as a tool for planning your next visit to this idyllic location. The property is open and accepting Club Member reservations, but book your stay soon — inventory is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. We also shine a spotlight on the diverse neighborhoods of Miami, Florida. While Miami is renowned for its beautiful beaches, it offers a unique cultural experience for visitors willing to explore its lesser-known sides. Hilton Grand Vacations at McAlpin — Ocean Plaza is the perfect base for your explorations.

Also in this issue, we introduce a new section titled "Destination Spotlight," which offers a visually stunning look at some of our most scenic vacation spots — starting with Park City, Utah, home to Sunrise Lodge, by Hilton Grand Vacations. In "One City, Five Boroughs," we explore the distinct character of the Big Apple's five boroughs. And in "The View From Here," we photograph the vistas that can be enjoyed at Elara, by Hilton Grand Vacations in Las Vegas.

We continue to focus on providing you with exciting travel options, and this year is no exception. Club Reservations are now available at Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club, which will open this June, and looking ahead to early 2022, we have the much-anticipated opening of Maui Bay Villas by Hilton Grand Vacations in Hawaii.

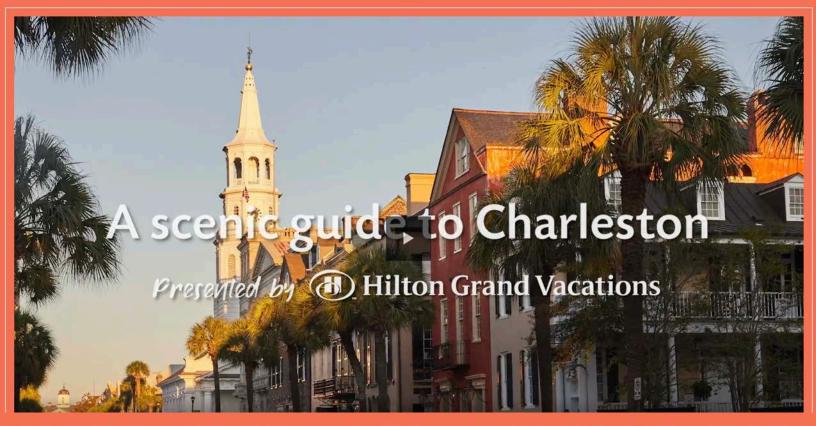
For many of us, the pause has been long, but we've endured. A change in scenery has certainly been earned by all. I hope you join me in my optimism and start planning where you'll go next with HGV.

Stan Soroka

Chief Customer Officer

Welcome to Charleston

Hilton Grand Vacations' new South Carolina destination



Celebrate the best of classic and contemporary life at Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club, our first timeshare property in Charleston, South Carolina — home to legendary landmarks, antebellum architecture, upscale restaurants and retailers, waterfront parks and world-class festivals. If you're looking to immerse yourself in the charm of days past and partake in all that today brings, this resort is the picture-perfect base from which to begin your Charleston journey.

Let the beauty and charm of the south inspire your future getaways.

To explore ownership options, visit the <u>Club website</u> or call **877-297-3914**

LIBERTY PLACE

CHARLESTON





properties, right now

Ski slopes to paddle boats

A picturesque villa in Italy, a Bermuda-style property in Florida and an oceanfront resort in Hilton Head – these HGV properties are more than just your home away from home



Valdoro Mountain Lodge

500 Village Rd, Breckenridge, CO

Amid the dramatic mountains and expansive plains of Colorado lies Valdoro Mountain Lodge, near the base of Breckenridge Ski Resort. The lodge's award-winning architecture reflects Breckenridge's rich mining history. For your stay, choose from cozy studios or spacious one-, two- and three-bedroom suites featuring working gas fireplaces and private balconies (availability may vary). Whether you're there to hit the slopes or visiting during the warmer months, the property offers easy access to myriad outdoor activities. Enjoy world-class skiing, snowmobiling and snowboarding in the winter, or try your hand at fly fishing, horseback riding and whitewater rafting in the summer. For a more leisurely pace, take a stroll along Main Street, which exudes Victorian charm and is lined with an array of restaurants, shops and entertainment options. Stop by the Breckenridge Brewery for local beer, or book a walking tour with Breckenridge Creative Arts to experience the town's public art. There's no wrong time to enjoy the natural beauty and thriving culture of Breckenridge. However, inventory is limited - visit the Club website often to check availability. Owners at the property are encouraged to book as early as the Home Week reservation window allows.



Hilton Grand Vacations at the Flamingo

3575 Las Vegas Blvd S., Las Vegas, NV

Those with a sense of adventure and a taste for luxury will feel at home at Hilton Grand Vacations at The Flamingo. Surrounded by Las Vegas' premier shopping spots, Michelin-starred restaurants and world-famous casinos and shows, it's no wonder this property is in such high demand. Here, the staff pay attention to every detail - don't forget to pick up your welcome gift at the Experience Desk upon arrival. The one- and twobedroom suites offer full kitchens, master bathrooms with oversized corner tubs, and a washer and dryer so that you are never missing the comforts of home. Outside, the resort's sprawling swimming pools and peaceful tropical vibe provide a relaxing environment for some me-time. Just minutes away, you'll find the two-Michelin-starred Guy Savoy restaurant, which is an outpost of the famous French restaurant of the same name in Paris. Fun fact: Head Chef Guy Savoy doesn't permit flowers in the restaurant or allow any of his employees to wear perfume so as not to distract from the aroma of his French cuisine. The restaurant even caters to gluten-free and vegan diets, so a meal here is open to all.



Ocean Enclave by Hilton Grand Vacations

1600 N. Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC

Dreaming of a vacation in a tranquil beach town with sandy-footed strolls along the shore? A stay at Ocean Enclave by Hilton Grand Vacations might be just what you need. This luxurious 27-story tower features both resort- and ocean-view suites with all the comforts of home. If you feel like lounging poolside, you have a choice of oceanfront or covered pools with private cabana rentals. Or stop by the on-site deli to grab a snack before heading out to explore the beauty of Myrtle Beach. HGV Club Member Leroy S. puts it best: "The resort is located in the beautiful Myrtle Beach area with a commanding view of the ocean. The staff throughout the operation were spectacular with careful attention to our needs." Ocean Enclave is conveniently situated near the best of Myrtle Beach's golfing, shopping, nightlife and dining venues. At Market Common Myrtle Beach, you can browse stores like Sunglass Hut for the perfect pair of beach shades and Bath and Body Works for products to soothe sun-kissed skin. If you need to refuel after a day of retail therapy, dining options abound. Consider making a reservation at sustainable seafood restaurant Hook & Barrel, where you can tuck into dishes such as bouillabaisse and pan-seared scallops with celery root puree.

ClubPoints planning tip

Valdoro Mountain Lodge

Platinum Season: From 1,050 Points for a three-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a Studio Plus to 8,400 Points for a seven-night stay in a three-bedroom suite

Gold Season: From 750 Points for a three-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a Studio Plus to 5,800 Points for a seven-night stay in a three-bedroom suite

Silver Season: From 510 Points for a three-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a Studio Plus to 4,100 Points for a seven-night stay in a three-bedroom

Hilton Grand Vacations at The Flamingo

Platinum Season: From 660 Points for a three-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a cozy studio to 7,000 Points for a seven-night stay in a two-bedroom

Gold Season: From 480 Points for a three-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a cozy studio to 5,000 Points for a seven-night stay in a two-bedroom suite Silver Season: From 330 Points for a three-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a cozy studio to 3,500 Points for a seven-night stay in a two-bedroom suite

Ocean Enclave by Hilton Grand Vacations

Platinum Season: From 1,440 Points for a three-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a one-bedroom suite to 18,000 Points for a seven-night stay in a three-bedroom Premier suite

Gold Season: From 1,020 Points for a three-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a

Gold Season: From 1,020 Points for a three-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a one-bedroom suite to 12,800 Points for a seven-night stay in a threebedroom Premier suite

Silver Season: From 720 Points for a three-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a onebedroom suite to 8,900 Points for a seven-night stay in a three-bedroom Premier suite

The View From Here

Enjoy incredible high-rise views of Las Vegas as you bask in the neon glow of The Strip





The glass-mirrored facade of Elara, by Hilton Grand Vacations

Elara, by Hilton Grand Vacations

A trip to Las Vegas is all about action – from the nonstop shopping, incomparable dining options and thrilling casinos to the thumping nightlife and celebrity-studded shows. At the heart of it all is Elara, by Hilton Grand Vacations, a 52-story, glass-mirrored resort connected to the 170+ shops and eateries that make up the Miracle Mile.

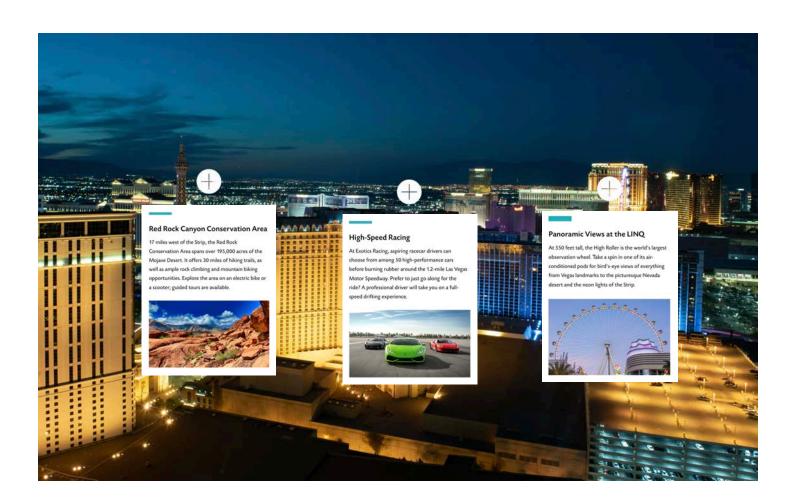
In the sleek and spacious rooms, floor-to-ceiling windows frame the Las Vegas skyline against a backdrop of mountain and desert views. Return from a busy day to lounge in luxurious seclusion at one of the resort's 32 private cabanas available on two levels – poolside or the Owners' deck. Yes, this resort may be just steps from the frenzied excitement that is Las Vegas, but it's also a haven of peace and quiet.



The lobby is adorned with colorful sculptures



The spacious rooms offer expansive views of the city





New York City One City, Five Boroughs

Words: Raquel Laneri

From classic Italian butchers in the Bronx to a waterfront carousel in Brooklyn, these are the best unsung local gems in each of the Big Apple's boroughs

New York City hardly needs an introduction: Countless movies, songs, books and poems have celebrated its urban grit and uptown glamour. Yet the Big Apple is so much more than Fifth Avenue, the Empire State Building and Times Square. In fact, the city's treasures extend far beyond metropolitan Manhattan. Each of its other four boroughs — The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island — has its own distinct character and charm, from pizzerias to vintage shops and, yes, even nature.



A meal at Grand Banks comes with glorious views of Downtown Manhattan

Manhattan

Skip the tourist shops at Times Square and head for <u>The High Line</u>, an abandoned train track that is now a bustling urban park. Among its flowers, trees and art installations, you're sure to find a prime spot for people-watching. Exit at its southernmost entrance to explore the <u>Whitney Museum</u>, which has one of the best American art collections in the city.

The West Village has all the well-heeled charm of trendy Soho — but without the crowds of shopping-bag-toting tourists.

Check out Maison Margiela for designer threads, Madame Matovu Vintage for eclectic robes and timeless fashion illustrations, Marc Jacobs' Bookmarc for fancy coffee-table books and, of course, the cult-favorite pharmacy C.O. Bigelow Chemists for all your makeup and beauty needs.

While you're on the West Side, head over to <u>Grand Banks</u>, where you can slurp oysters and sip rosé aboard a historic wooden schooner while watching the sunset. Then, take the A Train to Harlem for a dinner of shrimp and grits, greens and cornbread at soul-food spot <u>Red Rooster</u>. The <u>Apollo Theater's</u> gleaming marquee is just next door, and you might even catch a jazz combo playing on the street.



The Enid A. Haupt Conservatory at the New York Botanical Garden is an architectural masterpiece

The Bronx

There's far more to "Boogie Down Bronx" than Yankee Stadium. At <u>Arthur Avenue</u>, also known as the borough's own Little Italy, you can get a cannoli and espresso at the charming <u>Egidio Pastry Shop</u>, marvel at the famed "sausage chandelier" at <u>Calabria Pork Store</u> and pick up some house-made cheese at <u>Casa Della Mozzarella</u>. Then, nosh on your to-go goodies while watching a bocce game at <u>Vincent Ciccarone Park</u>.

Nature lovers can spend days exploring <u>Pelham Bay Park</u>, which includes a historic mansion, walking trails and a man-made beach. Art aficionados can check out a Yayoi Kusama exhibit at the 250-acre <u>New York Botanical Garden</u>, featuring the Japanese artist's nature-inspired sculptures and an "obliteration greenhouse."



Historic Richmond Town is home to more than 30 historic buildings, some of which date all the way back to the 17th century

Staten Island

One of the best things about Staten Island? It doesn't cost a penny to get there. From Lower Manhattan, you can hop on the orange-hued <u>Staten Island Ferry</u> for free. Once you arrive, check out <u>Historic Richmond Town</u>, the city's only living history museum where visitors can experience how New Yorkers lived from colonial times through the 19th century.

Decompress at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center's <u>Chinese Scholar's Garden</u>, a calming oasis inspired by authentic Ming Dynasty gardens. Don't forget to stop by <u>Denino's</u> for its signature clam pie – some say it's the best thin-crust pizza in all of New York City.



Hot dog restaurant Nathan's Famous is a Coney Island stalwart

Brooklyn

The Brooklyn Bridge is as impressive as any of New York City's majestic skyscrapers. Walk across it and you'll end up in DUMBO, a riverfront neighborhood at the bridge's base where you can shop vintage jeans and dishware at Front General-Store, enjoy seafood rolls at Luke's Lobster and take a whirl on Jane's Carousel.

Coney Island has that old Brooklyn ragtag charm. Its colorful boardwalk is lined with attractions like renowned hot dog restaurant Nathan's Famous, the landmarked Wonder Wheel and the Coney Island Circus Sideshow — stop by to see a contortionist, fire-eater, sword-swallower and more. For a true escape, go to Red Hook, a working-class waterfront area with a maritime vibe. Order a single-serving tart from Steve's Authentic Key Lime Pies and savor it as you watch the boats on the river headed to Manhattan.



Queens is filled with colorful street art

Queens

Don't forget to add Queens to your itinerary. Jackson Heights, which is often considered the most ethnically diverse neighborhood in the world, is home to a dizzying number of international food trucks. Savor Tijuana-style beef tacos (Birrialandia), Peruvian tamales (Antojitos Doña Fela), Tibetan dumplings (Mom's Momo) and Bangladeshi fuchka (Tong), among other delicious dishes.

Finally, check out the eye-popping street art at the <u>Welling Court Mural Project</u> — which is like an outdoor graffiti museum — or stroll among the avant-garde structures at <u>Socrates Sculpture Park</u> overlooking the East River.

Spotlight On: Midtown Manhattan

Midtown Manhattan, home to West 57th Street by Hilton Club, may be most often associated with headline attractions like the Chrysler Building, Billionaires' Row and Hudson Yards, but fun awaits at some of its lesser-known spots. Here's where to escape the crowds without venturing too far from your HGV property.

The Morgan Library and Museum

Once the personal library of multimillionaire financier J.P. Morgan, this enchanting space is a treasure trove of rare books and manuscripts, handwritten scores and even Old Master drawings. You'll find works by Dickens, Hemingway, Rembrandt and Picasso, to name a few. Be sure to keep an eye out for the only surviving manuscript of Milton's Paradise Lost.

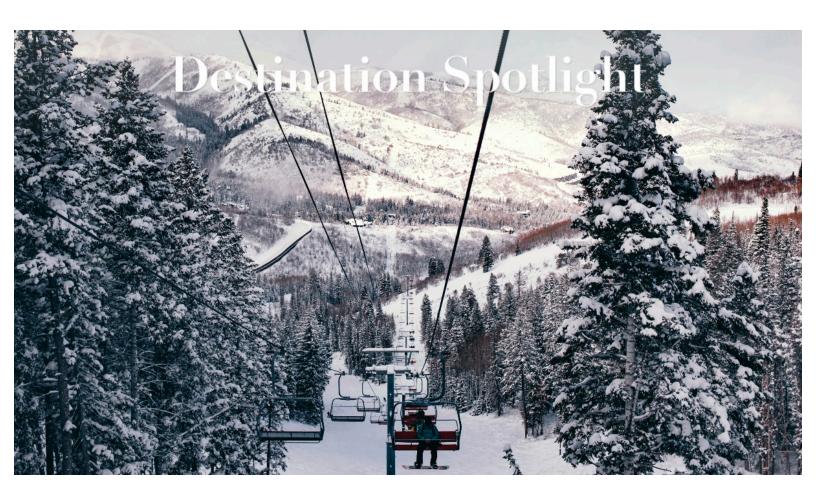
The Whispering Gallery

Grand Central Terminal may appear on many travelers' itineraries, but few know about its Whispering Gallery — an unmarked archway in front of the Oyster Bar and Restaurant. Here, whispers are amplified thanks to the archway's distinctive acoustic qualities, so even the softest murmurings are heard above the station's cacophony.

Hallett Nature Sanctuary

For some peace and quiet, explore this tranquil four-acre woodland preserve tucked away in the southeastern corner of Central Park. Stroll along the walking trail toward the highest part of the sanctuary (marked by a rustic bench), where you'll discover impressive views of the city skyline rising above the treetops.

To discover more Midtown Manhattan favorites, check out this 2020 Club Traveler feature story.



Park City, Utah

Winter might be over, but it's not too late to enjoy a ski vacation. Park City is a skiing hotspot in the colder months, thanks to its acres of pristine slopes. However, it also offers plenty of springtime skiing opportunities, especially in places like Little Cottonwood Canyon. Discover Park City when you book a stay at Sunrise Lodge, by Hilton Grand Vacations. Do note that inventory is limited, so check the Club website often for availability. Owners at the property are encouraged to book as early as the Home Week reservation window allows.

A Week in Paradise

Our seven-day guide to the best of Los Cabos







Flora Farms in San José del Cabo is home to verdant sunflower fields

Perched at the tip of Mexico's Baja Peninsula, where the cacti-flecked desert meets a spectacular coastline flanked by powdery beaches and secret coves, Los Cabos is an endless summer defined by its two towns — Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo. But between the outstanding beaches, abundance of outdoor activities, incredible wildlife, breathtaking scenery, epic sunsets and impressive culinary offerings, coming up with an all-encompassing itinerary isn't easy. That's why we've crafted a cheat sheet of what to do and when.

From whale-watching and horseback riding to independent art galleries, our daily itinerary will help you discover the best of Los Cabos, which is often dubbed "nature's playground." With La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club open for Club Member occupancy, now is the time to start planning your Los Cabos vacation. Read on for our top recommendations.

"In Los Cabos, the cacti-flecked desert meets a spectacular coastline flanked by powdery beaches and secret coves"



Children frolic in the shallow waters off Santa Maria Beach

Monday Hit the beach

With 22 Blue Flag Awards – more than anywhere else in Mexico – Los Cabos is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the country.

For a quintessentially flashy Cabo San Lucas experience, beat the weekend crowds and head to Medano, a bustling resort-lined beach. Spend the day trying your hand at watersports, such as snorkeling, before experiencing one of Los Cabos' epic sunsets with a cold cerveza in hand.

Further up the coast along the Tourist Corridor, both Santa Maria Beach and Chileno Beach offer a more laid-back atmosphere, with the latter providing palapa huts (grass or tiki huts) to shelter from the sun. Surfers should head to Acapulquito Beach or Monuments Beach to take on their challenging breakers.

For some peace and quiet, venture about four miles out of San José del Cabo to the hard-to-find <u>Playa Anónima</u> (or Unnamed Beach), where you can enjoy a relaxing picnic amid the sand dunes.

In Los Cabos, you can go horseback riding along the beach at sunset

Tuesday Go on an adventure

With its sprawling desert landscape, soaring rock formations and yawning canyons, Los Cabos is an adventure junkie's delight. Outdoor activities range from the benign, such as https://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org/ to pure heart-pumping pursuits like bungee.jumping.gov/

For the more active, the <u>Sierra de la Laguna mountain range</u> is highly underrated. This UNESCO-protected biosphere reserve is great for a range of activities, such as hiking and bouldering — both of which offer the added delight of elevated Baja California views.

If an all-in-one, family-friendly location is what you're looking for, head to <u>Wild Canyon Adventure Park</u>, where anything from zip lining above the region's gaping canyons to swinging from a gondola 300 feet above the forest canopy is an option.

Then, end your afternoon with a mezcal or tequila tasting, where alcohol is served alongside a selection of paired appetizers.







Spot wildlife, such as turtles and exotic fish, in Los Cabos

Wednesday Walk (or swim) on the wild side

Los Cabos is teeming with wildlife. With over 900 species of exotic fish and mammals, the Sea of Cortés is a marine paradise. Between April and December, expect some serious whale-watching action as gray whales and humpbacks migrate to Alaska. For something extra special, hop aboard one of the Pez Gato catamarans for a sunset dinner, jazz and wine cruise — you might just glimpse a pod of whales swimming alongside your boat.

Around September, visitors can watch hundreds of turtles hatch right on the beach. Bird lovers should head to the San José del Cabo estuary, which is home to some 200 species of birds, including pelicans, ibises and wood storks.



The San José del Cabo Church (Parroquia San José) was restored in 1940



Art pieces abound in San José del Cabo's vibrant Gallery District

Thursday Explore the arts and culture scene

Alongside its eclectic wildlife and breathtaking beaches, Los Cabos is home to a thriving arts and culture scene. Every March, the international Gala de Danza event showcases a variety of dancers, musicians and singers from across the globe. October is comedy month with the annual Los Cabos Comedy Festival, while in November, the Los Cabos International Film Festival takes over the town.

Tucked behind San José del Cabo's church (Parroquia San José) and main square lies a cobblestone art district packed with galleries. Here, an Art Walk takes place every Thursday evening between the months of November and June. And if you're looking for a cultural day out, head to Todos Santos, which is popular with artists and art lovers alike.

To learn more about Los Cabos' food culture, sign up for a cooking class at <u>Flora Farms</u>, a 25-acre working farm, culinary hub and spa all rolled into one. Here, you can learn how to prepare local specialties such as vegetable tacos and chicken tamales.



Learn how to prepare local specialties during a cooking class at Flora Farms



Shop a colorful array of local produce at the farmers' markets in Los Cabos

Friday Shop the local markets

One of the great pleasures of traveling — particularly in Mexico — is visiting traditional markets. For local wares like rugs, pottery, clothing and jewelry, Plaza Artesanos in San José del Cabo is open daily. Every Friday evening, the public square in Cabo San Lucas holds an event called <u>Viva La Plaza</u>, which features vintage crafts and regional products by Mexican artisans.

If food is what you're after, local farmers' markets in both San José del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas sell gastronomic specialties like honey, seafood, vegetables and delicious baked goods.



A sun-dappled courtyard in San José del Cabo's Gallery District



Spend a day exploring the cacti-flecked desert

Saturday Discover the desert

On the western fringe of the peninsula, the untamed and mostly protected Baja California Desert sprawls over 30,000 square miles and is home to a diverse collection of flora and fauna, including more than 120 species of cacti.

Against a backdrop of clear blue skies, red-rock canyons and cactispeckled plains, you can learn about local plants and wildlife while riding a docile camel. For an adrenaline-inducing escapade, hop on an ATV or hike through Fox Canyon, where you'll discover a spectacular 50-foot waterfall — just remember to bring your bathing suit.

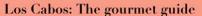


Sunset in the village of Migriño

Sunday Take a day trip

A short drive from the bright lights of the peninsula's southern tip sits a clutch of tiny desert villages that are well worth a visit. In the small town of Miraflores, about 40 minutes from San José del Cabo, pick up some leather goods before heading further north to El Triunfo, a former silver-mining town anchored by a bright yellow church. Brush up on your botanical knowledge at the nearby Cactus Sanctuary, which exhibits species found only in this part of the world.

About 56 miles north of Cabo San Lucas, in the village of Migriño, you can go horseback riding through cactus-lined arroyo pits. Then, head to the beach at sunset, where you can watch the sky light up in soft pastel hues as the sun slips below the horizon. It's the perfect ending to your week in paradise.



With an emerging farm-to-table movement and a host of fine-dining restaurants helmed by celebrity chefs, Los Cabos is a gourmand's dream. From exceptional sushi to casual beachfront joints, this is our pick of the region's best restaurants. us.



In the foothills of the Sierra de la Laguna Mountains, Flora Farms is a 25-acre working farm, culinary hub and spa. Make a day of it and spend your morning getting pampered before heading to Flora's Field Kitchen, where Chef Guillermo Tellez creates dishes using fresh ingredients straight from the farm.



Mexican cuisines to great effect, using only the freshest of fish collected daily from owner Angel Carbajal's boats. Try signature dishes like the salmon yuzu stuffed with crab, avocado and spicy mayonnaise, or the famous sashimi cilantro



The innovative menu at this design-led restaurant features seasonal ingredients that mostly come straight from the surrounding 25 acres of organic farmland. Delve into dishes like fish tacos with red cabbage and Thai sauce, or grilled octopus served with fried potatoes.



Set in a 19th-century stone farmhouse, Los table dining scene. On offer are inventive dishes such as local grouper marinated in avocado and coconut milk, and served with serrano peppers, jicama and a dash of lime juice.



This beachside joint is a firm favorite thanks to its great food, seaside views and live music. It serves all sorts of Mexican dishes, from Baja burritos to fajitas served with pinto beans. Book a table for a Thursday into a Mexican mood in no time.



with modern iterations (such as miso and fish with cucumber, jicama and lemon zest) alongside classic flavors (think marinated pork with cilantro, onion, pineapple and corn). Pair your dish with a local craft beer or an artisanal mezcal cocktail.



Edith Jiménez fuses local Baja flavors with the rustic mountain cuisine of her hometown in Guerrero. Try the hand-patted corn or wheat flour tortillas, which mushrooms, bell peppers and bacon



Mi Casa has been serving Mexican classics to visitors outpost in San José del Cabo, but we suggest sticking to the original, where you can sample dishes such as chicken mole against a backdrop of brightly painted furnishings and a mariachi soundtrack



Miami is known for its beautiful beaches and vibrant nightlife, but venture beyond and you'll discover a world of colorful culture, authentic cuisine and top-notch art

Lounging on South Beach's famous white sands, designer shopping in Bal Harbour, hitting up Downtown's see-and-be-seen clubs — these are just a few of the activities on most Miami tourists' to-do lists. But go beneath the surface and you'll discover that the Magic City, which is home to Hilton Grand Vacations at McAlpin — Ocean Plaza, has so much more to offer.

At the heart of Miami lie several eclectic neighborhoods brimming with vibrant culture. Here are four highlights to include on your next trip, from a thriving local community that helped Miami earn its title as "the Capital of Latin America" to one of the trendiest art destinations in the South.



Little Havana -

In Little Havana, check out Ball & Chain for live music and salsa dancing

For an authentic taste of Cuba – no passport required – visit Little Havana. Originally founded by thousands of Cuban exiles back in the 1960s, this bustling neighborhood has gradually evolved into a hub of Hispanic culture, with influences from Central and South America and a number of Caribbean countries.

All the action centers on the colorful main strip, known by locals as Calle Ocho. Here, syncopated salsa music fills the streets practically 24/7. Start your morning with a strong Cuban coffee or café Cubano, alongside a guava and cream cheese *pastelito* (pastry) from one of the neighborhood's many *ventanitas* (coffee windows) or bakeries like the famous <u>Versailles</u>.

Get your treats to-go and head to <u>Máximo Gómez Domino Park</u>, where domino lovers have been meeting for friendly but competitive games for more than 40 years. Most players are retirees — anyone over the age of 50 with a Máximo Gómez Domino Club card has free, lifetime membership to play here — but this tight-knit community welcomes an audience.

If you're looking for souvenirs, stop by the family-owned <u>El Titan de Bronze</u>. Here you can get a closer look at how to roll traditional Cuban cigars. Meanwhile, at nearby Los Pinareños Fruteria, the oldest open-air market in Miami, you can sample treats like sugar cane juice or a *batido de mamey*, a milkshake made from the Latin American mamey fruit. <u>Ball & Chain</u>, a restored jazz-era nightclub with strong mojitos, live music and salsa dancing almost every night, is the ideal spot to wind down your day.

Even after all this, there's still so much more to see in Miami's most complex and exciting neighborhood. To better understand the Cuban diaspora, consider booking a walking tour with <u>Little Havana Tours</u> to take a deep dive into the neighborhood's rich history and traditions.



Wynwood Garden, which is part of the Wynwood Walls outdoor museum, attracts many art lovers

While Art Basel may grab the headlines, Wynwood is the real soul of Miami's art scene. A former warehouse district, Wynwood began transforming into a South Florida creative hub in 2009 with the opening of <u>Wynwood Walls</u>, an outdoor museum dedicated to street art. Today, the neighborhood has officially swapped grit for glamour, offering visitors more than 70 galleries and museums, dozens of new restaurants and bars, and an ever-evolving tapestry of graffiti by renowned artists.

Begin your visit at Wynwood Walls – the place where it all started – and admire murals by the likes of Shepard Fairey, Aiko and Kenny Scharf. You'll find museum-worthy art on Wynwood's other paint-splattered streets, too. Wynwood Art Walk, held on the second Saturday of every month, is a great opportunity to discover the district amid a block-party atmosphere.

Wynwood is also an up-and-coming dining destination. <u>1-800-LUCKY</u>, a 10,000-square-foot indoor-outdoor Asian food hall, offers everything from dim sum and sushi to craft cocktails and matcha ice cream. It's the perfect place to grab lunch before you head to the <u>Museum of Graffiti</u>, which opened in 2019 as the world's first museum focused on the history of global graffiti art. Make sure you stop by the <u>gift shop</u> on the way out — the limited-edition artist collaborations are a must for any art lover.

Finish the day with an indulgent dinner and drinks at Alter, which is the brainchild of James Beard-nominated Chef Bradley Kilgore. The tasting menu, filled with bold dishes including snapper sashimi with feta, labneh, cucumber and kaffir lime, are as artful as food can aspire to be.



Kids and adults alike will have a splashing good time at the Venetian Pool

Just outside Miami, you'll find Coral Gables: an idyllic neighborhood with tree-lined boulevards, stately mansions and 1920s landmarks like the Venetian Pool, a whimsical oasis with waterfalls and caves. Golf lovers will appreciate Coral Gables Country Club, which was built in 1924 as part of the city founder's original "Mediterranean Riviera" vision. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, a must-see cultural institution, houses a prized collection of exotic plants and flowers, as well as installations by famous artists such as Dale Chihuly.

While Coral Gables has plenty of activities to offer, one of the best things you can do is to slow down and simply explore the many shops and restaurants – from the dining paradise of Miracle Mile to Merrick Park, an upscale outdoor mall. Bulla, a Spanish tapas bar, and Eating House, which dishes up contemporary takes on classics like braised short ribs and loaded tater tots, are perennial favorites.



Visit Brickell City Centre for some retail therapy

Just a few years ago, Brickell – located next to Miami's downtown center – wasn't necessarily a tourist destination. Now, thanks to an explosion of new museums, restaurants and even a mall, it's one of the fastest growing hotspots in Florida. Start off with a visit to the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science, an interactive museum, three-level aquarium and planetarium with exhibits sure to please guests of all ages.

Next, head to <u>Brickell City Centre</u>, a brand-new mall with a wide range of upscale shops, including Saks Fifth Avenue and Rolex. Don't miss <u>Casa Tua Cucina</u>, a massive Italian market with stores selling imported ingredients and home goods. It also features a wine bar and 10 food stations serving everything from pizza and pasta to fresh juices and gelato.

The fun doesn't have to end at sundown. Brickell hosts some of Miami's trendiest restaurants, including <u>Pubbelly Sushi</u> and <u>Komodo</u>. <u>Il Gabbiano</u> is known for dishing up some of the best Italian food in the city, complemented by stunning views of Biscayne Bay.

When you're done exploring the neighborhoods that make Miami so unique, take comfort in knowing you'll have a cozy one- or two-bedroom suite waiting for you back at <u>Hilton Grand Vacations at McAlpin – Ocean Plaza</u>. And don't forget to visit the property's rooftop, where you can soak your tired muscles in the whirlpool spa.



Travel safely in the United States

The United States is welcoming tourism while keeping its residents and visitors safe. As a result, travel guidelines are constantly changing as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Here are the latest updates for Club Members.

Your safety is our priority

The safety and wellbeing of our Club Members is paramount. This is why we continue to review and update operations and services at our resorts, sales galleries and corporate offices around the world. Read the latest on Hilton Grand Vacations' ongoing COVID-19 response here.

A clean getaway

To boost your travel confidence, HGV has implemented our Enhanced Care Guidelines with Hilton CleanStay™ at all properties to ensure Owners and guests enjoy peace of mind when staying with HGV. For more details, visit the program's <u>dedicated webpage</u>.

Hawaii is open

As Members, you have plenty of exciting travel options. First, why not plan a dream vacation to Hawaii? All HGV resorts have reopened in Oahu and The Big Island. Here are some points to note before making travel plans.

To avoid the mandatory 10-day self-quarantine, Club Members visiting HGV properties in Hawaii must show proof of a valid, negative COVID-19 test from an approved testing partner taken within 72 hours from the final leg of departure to the state of Hawaii (also known as the "pre-test").

If you're visiting The Big Island, travelers aged five and older must show proof of a valid pre-test and take a second rapid test (also known as the "arrival test") at a county-designated facility near the airport.

HGV has created a dedicated webpage outlining everything you need to know about Hawaii travel. Visit it here.

Safety tip: To help slow the spread of COVID-19 when traveling, remember to wear a face covering in public places, stay at least six feet apart from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol). And remember to check individual airline policies and local travel guidelines for inflight protocols.

Cancellation policy reminder

To allow for maximum travel flexibility and peace of mind, HGV is now waiving its reservation cancellation policy for a limited period. Members will receive a full refund of Points and Open Season fees for any reservation cancellations through June 30, 2021.

Happy to meet you



Kassi P. from Florida has been a Member since March 2018. "I love the 'home away from home' feeling I get when traveling with HGV, and I cannot wait to continue exploring the vast range of locations that HGV offers," she shares. Click on the icon on the left to listen to why she decided to sign up for HGV's Explorer program.

Your HGV by the numbers

HGV remains focused on expanding your travel options by delivering outstanding properties in exciting locations, all while reducing our carbon footprint. Take a look at these numbers to learn more:



74

Number of new rooms added to the HGV portfolio at La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club



3,000+

Cherry trees expected to be in bloom during this year's National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C.



50

The number of acres covered in flowers during the Flower Fields Festival at Carlsbad Ranch in California



1.226 million lbs

The amount of CO2 emissions reduced annually by converting *Club Traveler* magazine from print to digital



Discover a subtropical beach paradise with a stay at <u>The Beach Resort Sesoko by Hilton Club</u>, opening in 2022 (artist's rendering)

What's new with your Club membership in 2021

The future of travel is looking bright. The majority of HGV properties are now open and experiencing increased demand for bookings. But what can you expect from your membership as the year continues?

Points alert!

All unused 2020 ClubPoints have been saved at no extra cost to Members, which means you can expect a year of travel and adventure unlike any other. All unused ClubPoints now appear as 2021 Saved Points on your Member Dashboard and were credited to your account in mid-December 2020. Saved Points can be used for reservations at Club resorts during the Home Resort and Club Season Windows, as well as for By Hilton Club and RCI Exchange reservations, ClubPartner Perks adventures and RCI deposits.

If you paid to save your Points earlier in 2020, a refund of your transaction fee has been credited to your Club account. In addition, we have reinstated the full ratio for Hilton Honors Points conversions. All you have to do to embrace this unique opportunity is start booking your next trip with HGV. To read all the latest Club Program changes, visit the <u>Club website</u>.

A big-screen experience

This year, we have expanded the <u>list of properties</u> that feature our In-Room TV Experience. Be it a YouTube yoga class or the latest Netflix show, you now have even more opportunities to cast content from your mobile device to your room's TV while on vacation.

New Club guidelines

The Club Reference 2021: Rules and Fees booklet is available online in an easily accessible PDF format. Take a moment to familiarize yourself with this year's Club Rules. You can also review the four distinct pillars that make up your Club membership: Travel, Extend, Protect and Share. For full details, visit the <u>Club website</u>.

Properties to look out for

Several new HGV properties will give Members even more exciting travel options when they open for Owner and Club Member occupancy in 2021 and beyond.

Club Members are now able to experience the luxurious suites, exquisite dining experiences and top-notch amenities of the stunning La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club in Los Cabos, Mexico, which opened for Club occupancy in April.

Members can also book a future stay at the beautiful <u>Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club</u>, which will offer the perfect balance of luxury and leisure. Alongside its stylish studios and suites, you'll find superb on-site amenities including a lobby bar and fitness center. Our first property in the timeless city of Charleston, the resort is within walking distance of historic landmarks, upscale restaurants and retailers, the South Carolina Aquarium and gorgeous waterfront parks. Liberty Place will be a picture-perfect base from which to explore this southern belle when it opens in June 2021.

Over in Hawaii, <u>Maui Bay Villas by Hilton Grand Vacations</u> will offer beachfront suites, alongside extensive amenities and recreational activities, when it opens in early 2022. And on the Japanese island of Sesoko, <u>The Beach Resort Sesoko by Hilton Club</u> will give Members the chance to stay in a tropical paradise starting in early 2022.

Renovation news

The latest property to experience a renovation is <u>Parc Soleil by Hilton Grand Vacations</u>. Set on 52 acres of sprawling grounds just minutes from Orlando's main tourism district, it features a water slide, poolside cabanas, suites with full kitchens and a new, socially distanced gym.

Renovation news

The latest property to experience a renovation is <u>Parc Soleil by Hilton Grand Vacations</u>. Set on 52 acres of sprawling grounds just minutes from Orlando's main tourism district, it features a water slide, poolside cabanas, suites with full kitchens and a new, socially distanced gym.

HGV signs agreement to purchase Diamond Resorts

In early March, HGV announced plans to purchase Diamond Resorts, creating one of the world's largest vacation ownership networks.

The acquisition will widen HGV's product offerings and more than double resort locations in over 20 new markets.

"Diamond's extensive regional, drive-to network of resorts and expanded demographics uniquely complement HGV's best-in-class lead generation, world-class hospitality, and premier destinations backed by the strength of the Hilton brand," says Mark Wang, President and CEO of HGV. "For our valued Owners, this combination creates new opportunities to provide exciting destinations and memorable vacation experiences, while continuing to provide exceptional levels of service."

For more details of the acquisition, visit my.hgv.com/announcement.





Discover what Jessica M. has to say about the newly renovated Parc Soleil by Hilton Grand Vacations in Orlando

Our Explorers — a volunteer group of well-traveled Hilton Grand Vacations Club Members — share insider tips on their latest adventures. Here, HGV Explorer Jessica M. lets us in on where to eat, drink and lounge at Parc Soleil by Hilton Grand Vacations in Orlando, Florida.

What do you enjoy most about being an HGV Explorer?

I've always loved traveling but being an Explorer made me want to inspire others to travel. This is my second year as an HGV Owner, and I've already been to Tuscany, Washington, D.C., Mexico, New York and, most recently, Orlando. What I've discovered is that while I love traveling with family and friends, I also really enjoy going solo. So, I'm hoping to encourage others to try solo travel — to have the courage to book it and just go.

What do you enjoy most about being an HGV Explorer?

I've always loved traveling but being an Explorer made me want to inspire others to travel. This is my second year as an HGV Owner, and I've already been to Tuscany, Washington, D.C., Mexico, New York and, most recently, Orlando. What I've discovered is that while I love traveling with family and friends, I also really enjoy going solo. So, I'm hoping to encourage others to try solo travel — to have the courage to book it and just go.

I'm also hoping that the videos and blogs I post help people realize how important it is to get away. We are all so busy and it is too easy to say, "Oh there's no way I can leave; there's too much to do." But I want to remind them that there is this vast, beautiful world of experiences and opportunities that's too good to miss. I am here to say, "Don't wait." There should be lots of places on your bucket list, and you need to just go because there will always be a reason not to.



The parks in Orlando are great, but there are also so many fun neighborhoods to discover by driving around



Guests at Parc Soleil have access to two pool areas



Rooms at Parc Soleil offer spacious accommodations and modern amenities



Parc Soleil's smaller pool offers a quiet, relaxing atmosphere

Tell us about your latest excursion. What should everyone know about Parc Soleil?

The first thing to love about this resort is the two pools: One has a water slide and is great for families, but the other is tucked away and quiet. I was on a girls' getaway with my sister and we jokingly called that "the adult pool" because it was so peaceful.

I've been working remotely, like lots of people lately, and it's been insanely busy, so relaxing by the pool doing nothing was just what I needed. The rooms have just been renovated and they are beautiful. We stayed in a one-bedroom suite and it was twice the size of my apartment.

Were there any nice surprises during your stay?

One of the staffers at the resort had read my blogs and, knowing that I love discovering local foods, made a list of places for my sister and me to visit. We had the best tacos at one of the spots she recommended, and also enjoyed amazing specialty drinks at a local bar on her list. My advice to others is to ask your server for their favorite dish or local drink. I've discovered countless unexpected foods and flavors by letting a local's palate be my guide.

Can you offer an insider tip for those who are planning to stay at Parc Soleil?

Rent a car. The parks in Orlando are great, but there are also so many fun neighborhoods that you will discover by driving around and being open to local, little-known bars and cafes. Skip those chain restaurants that you can visit anytime at home and try something new.



Parc Soleil is composed of two grand towers

48 hours in ... Orlando

Orlando is famous for its nonstop theme-park fun, but ask a local and they'll tell you that, with a little planning, you'll discover attractions that go beyond rollercoasters



cinnamon and sugar.

10 A.M.

7 P.M.

1 P.M.

No doubt all that touring will work up an appetite, so take a 10-minute drive to Icon Park, a local favorite.

Here, you'll find dining options that showcase Orlando's myriad cultural influences, such as Tapa Toro, a Spanishthemed restaurant and bar serving delicious charcuterie boards and traditional paella in a family-friendly atmosphere. For even more variety, Mexican restaurant Unice Julio's and Sugar Factory, are both nearby.

Once you've fueled up, it's time to take to the skies and see Orlando from a bird's-eye view. A few minutes from the restaurant on International Drive (I-Drive) is Orlando Heli-Tours, which offers various helicopter tour packages. Go for the popular Disney Spectacular Tour and soar over all of the theme parks in the Walt Disney World Resort. Or feel like a VIP on the Celebrity Grand Tour, which takes you over theme parks, nature preserves and even the homes of famous Orlando residents, such as Hall of Fame baseball player Ken Griffey Jr. — all in a private, air-conditioned helicopter.

3 P.M.

Not only does Icon Park boast some of I-Drive's best eats, but it is also home to a plethora of family-friendly activities. Choose from The Wheel at ICON Park, Madame Tussauds Orlando and SEA LIFE Orlando Aquarium, among others. For the thrill-seekers in your group, there's the Orlando StarFlyer, the world's tallest swing ride at 450 feet.



End your first day at Disney Springs, where you can sip on Prohibition-era cocktails (try the Hazelnut Old Fashioned or the Kraken Stormy) at Enzo's Hideaway, a tunnel bar with a 1920s speakeasy vibe. If you'd prefer dinner with a view, check out The Boathouse, which offers waterfront dining and fresh local seafood. After dinner, enjoy a 20-minute Amphicar Tour (think restored old-timey cars turned into water taxis) around Lake Buena Vista. Then, end the night on a sweet note at Amorette's Patisserie, where you'll find artfully made French pastries and other treats. Also, don't forget to enjoy Disney Springs' many shops - from small carts and stores filled with Disney memorabilia to luxury retailers offering high-end merchandise.

Day two 9 A.M.

Enjoy a hot breakfast at your <u>HGV Orlando resort</u>, then drive about 30 minutes to <u>Leu Gardens</u>, where you can take a relaxing stroll through a 50-acre botanical oasis bursting with beautiful blooms and numerous local plant species. For an educational experience, try the adult self-guided tour.

12 P.M.

After your morning stroll, drive just five minutes up Corrine Drive and explore all of the culinary options at

East End Market. Standout eateries include Domu,
which serves up comforting dishes such as yuzu chicken
ramen and crispy wings; Winter Park Biscuit Company,
which is known for its freshly baked buttermilk biscuits;
and La Femme Fromage, voted the best grilled cheese
spot in Orlando. Don't leave without stopping by
Gideon's Bakehouse for one of its famous cookies!



After a morning spent exploring the final frontier, it's time for the Winter Park
Scenic Boat Tour, where you'll get to cruise along lakes and canals on a pontoon boat. On this one-hour narrated cruise, you're sure to spot cranes, alligators and other wildlife even as you marvel at the many mansions lining the water.



4 P.M.

For those traveling with young explorers, don't miss the Orlando Science Center, which features hands-on exhibits for inquisitive minds. Adults and children alike can spend an afternoon learning about Florida's ecosystems or exploring a "STEAM" exhibit, which highlights how art and design complement science.

7 P.M.

For dinner, head to The Ravenous Pig. With two James Beard award winners at the helm (husbandand-wife duo James and Julie Petrakis), it's no wonder this eatery is loved by locals and visitors alike. The gastropub serves up innovative New American cuisine, including year-round favorites such as gruyere biscuits, steak frites, and shrimp and grits. Leave room for sinfully delicious desserts like "pig tails" with chocolate espresso sauce or pineapple upside-down cake with coconut sorbet. There is even an on-site brewery for those who want to enjoy a pint of local beer. Reservations are highly recommended.



10 P.M.

For a nightcap, head to The Wine Room on Park Avenue, which has over 156 hand-selected wines available. These are dispensed via Enomatic machines, which are equipped with a special preservation system that ensures you get a fresh sample with every pour. Check out the Critic's Choice machine for highly rated wines. Tasting notes accompany each station, making it easier to choose the perfect wine for your palate. There is also a food pairing menu, featuring dishes like blue cheese potato chips and roasted beet dip, for those craving a late-night snack.



Immerse yourself in the world's natural wonders and enjoy first-class adventures courtesy of Hilton Grand Vacations' ClubPartner Perks. Here are four of our most popular outdoor adventures for 2021.

EagleRider

Lean into your adventurous side and feel the wind in your hair by hitting the open road on a high-end motorcycle. Take your pick from the world's largest rental fleet of expertly maintained motorcycle models, featuring premier manufacturers such as Harley-Davidson, Honda and BMW. All you need is a valid motorcycle license and a thrill-seeking buddy! Alternatively, opt for one of EagleRider's self-drive tours if you're looking for a high-speed ride that includes stops at top attractions along the way.

HGV Club Members can exchange current-year, Saved or borrowed ClubPoints and/or Bonus Points for EagleRider vouchers, which can be used for reservations or merchandise. To explore all rental options and locations, visit the <u>EagleRider website</u>. Information on how to request an EagleRider voucher is available on the <u>Club website</u>.

The Moorings

Exploring the great outdoors doesn't have to involve getting dirty. Instead, why not embark on the ultimate private yacht experience with The Moorings?

Established in 1969, The Moorings offers an award-winning fleet of custom-built yachts docking at over 20 destinations throughout the Caribbean, Mediterranean and beyond. From sail-it-yourself monohulls and state-of-the-art catamarans to high-performance powerboats, there is something for everyone. Or perhaps you'd prefer an all-inclusive chartered yacht complete with crew, professional captain and gourmet chef? Browse all available experiences on <u>The Moorings website</u>.

What's more, current-year, Saved or borrowed ClubPoints and/or Bonus Points may be exchanged for The Moorings travel certificates. Plus, Club Members receive a 5% discount on published rates for all charter vacation options. To request a travel certificate from The Moorings, visit the <u>Club website</u>.



Embark on a road trip adventure with El Monte RV Travel LeStudio/Shutterstock

El Monte RV Travel

Nothing says freedom like taking to the open road in an El Monte RV. Make 2021 the year of limitless adventure by planning a round-trip itinerary, or pair your motorhome journey with air travel for an unforgettable vacation of your own design.

To explore offers, locations and rental opportunities, visit the <u>El Monte website</u>. And remember: Everything you need to know to make this ClubPartner Perks adventure a reality is available on the <u>Club website</u>.

O.A.R.S.

A surefire way to make your vacation truly unforgettable is by putting your dream trip in the hands of O.A.R.S. Trusted worldwide for its expertise in guiding visitors through extraordinary natural wonders, the brand's pledge is simple: "We believe in the sanctity of the natural world and our responsibility to protect it."

Choose from activities including rafting, sea kayaking, hiking, snorkeling, wine tasting and horseback riding in a vast array of destinations, from the Arctic to the Amazon. To explore these exciting options and more, visit the O.A.R.S. website. Current-year, Saved or borrowed ClubPoints and/or Bonus Points may be exchanged for O.A.R.S. travel certificates. For more on how to request certificates, visit the Club website.

Ready to explore? Follow our step-by-step guide and see how easy it is to book your next ClubPartner Perk experience:





1. Visit the Club website and click "Club" on the top navigation bar.



2. Then, select "Club Member Exclusives" from the drop-down menu.



3. Scroll down or use the left-hand menu to select "ClubPartner Perks" and choose your preferred partner or category.



4. Read the instructions for each specific partner carefully as some may require gift cards or vouchers for purchase.



5. Click through to the selected partner's website to see its current offers and areas of operation, and confirm which perk you would like to book.



6. Reach out to your Club Counselor to obtain the appropriate voucher or gift certificate before contacting the partner to book directly.



From the awe-inspiring mountain ranges of the east to the brilliant red rock canyons of the west, America's national parks offer refuge and retreat for travelers seeking a respite from the ordinary. Read on and map out your wilderness escape — then book it with RCI.

Mid-Atlantic must-sees

Your Appalachian Mountain getaway begins at Shenandoah National Park. Located 75 miles outside Washington, D.C., this Mid-Atlantic park features sloping ridges, lush valleys and dense woods. While there, experience the Skyline Drive, a 105-mile stretch through the ancient Appalachian sierra. Stay in Massanutten for easy access.

Continue for 5 hours and 30 minutes southwest to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Enjoy picnicking, fishing, hiking and more in the nation's most visited park. Be sure to go through the Newfound Gap, a 31-mile route that includes the lowest drivable pass in the area. Try staying in nearby Gatlinburg or Sevierville for scenic views.

Follow the Rocky Mountains

Montana is the backdrop for your first stop at Glacier National Park. Nicknamed the "Crown of the Continent," this expansive park is both a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Here, you can drive the fabled Going-to-the-Sun Road over the Continental Divide. This magnificent stretch offers jaw-dropping views of glacier-capped mountains, fields of wildflowers and majestic lakes. Consider staying in nearby Columbia Falls or Whitefish.

Southwest geologic wonders

For the final leg of your road trip, say hello to 277 miles of spectacular sights at Arizona's Grand Canyon National Park. From sprawling canyon walls to star-studded night skies, this is the great outdoors taken to new heights. Hiking, wildlife spotting, whitewater rafting — it's all yours to discover at this natural wonder. Stay in nearby Sedona for an easy drive to the park.

Road trip tip: Consider getting a U.S. Park Pass, which gives you access to numerous national monuments and historic sites all for one price.

