

SUMMER 2016

Club

traveler

DREAM  
PLAN  
GO

## DISTRICT OF EXCITEMENT

DISCOVER THE NEW SIDE  
OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

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PLUS

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DENALI  
SEOUL  
OLYMPIC  
CITIES



Hilton  
Grand Vacations

CLUBTRAVELER.COM





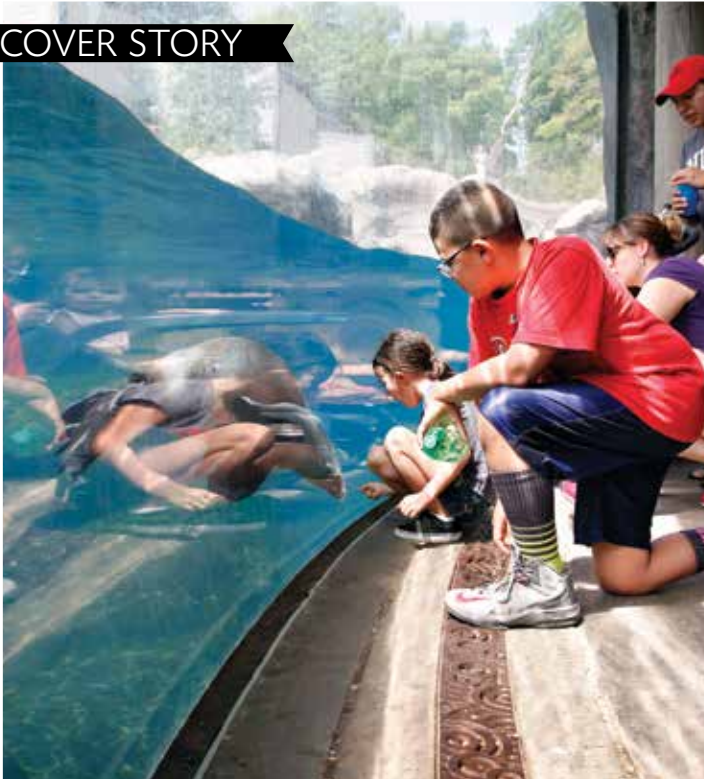
Fireworks explode  
over Hilton Hawaiian  
Village Waikiki Beach  
Resort on Oahu.



What's your favorite vacation activity?  
Send us your story to [feedback@clubtraveler.com](mailto:feedback@clubtraveler.com).



## COVER STORY



## District of Excitement

The nation's capital offers thrilling travel opportunities

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## Dream

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Seoul, South Korea



## Travel Tip

Memories may fade, but notes last forever. Keep a journal when you travel to remind yourself of things you saw and feelings you experienced. Moleskine notebooks come in easy-to-pack sizes, or use the excellent note-taking app Evernote.

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COVER: SAM KITTNER

THIS PAGE: FROM LEFT: JONATHAN TIMMES; ZONAR GMBH/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

BACK COVER: LACEY ANN JOHNSON/GETTY IMAGES



## Dear Club Member



There are many enhancements coming to your Club membership, and I'm thrilled to tell you all about them! The list of Club destinations is growing quickly. This year we're excited to open a sophisticated new property in Washington, D.C. In our cover story, starting on page 20, you'll discover local secrets and some of the best things to do in this urban vacation destination.

I'm so pleased we have launched the new Club website! Many of you have already provided feedback and love the new look and feel. But, we're not stopping there—get all the details about our new mobile app on page 26.

This is your Club, so we're always seeking your input. I hope you take every opportunity to participate in the surveys we send you and encourage you to share any feedback you may have. Based on your responses to our recent survey, we've launched a new initiative—our "Drive to Outstanding." This resort-based program is part of our effort to exceed your expectations and continue to elevate your Club membership experience.

Thank you for being a loyal Club Member, and I wish you a memorable travel season ahead!  
Happy travels,



**Stan Soroka**  
Senior Vice President  
Club, Resort and Brand Services

### Meet the New Club Member Website

Your brand-new Club Member website puts exciting new features and easier payment options at your fingertips with a sleek design. We gave Club Members a sneak peek, and here's what they have to say:

- 1 "I had a chance to experience the new website, and I must say: it is vastly better than the old one. It is great that you can finally add an additional payment to your account without having to call in." —Andrew N.
- 2 "Love the new website. The format is so much better and user friendly!" —Alveno C.
- 3 "I am impressed by the new site—it is a big improvement!" —David B.
- 4 "New site looks very nice and navigation is smooth." —Nancy L.
- 5 "It's a beautiful website and although I still use my laptop, I'm sure it will look great on my tablet and phone as well." —Amy H.

### Send Us Your Feedback!

What do you think about the new cover and latest issue? Send us an email at [feedback@clubtraveler.com](mailto:feedback@clubtraveler.com).



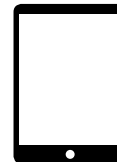
## Hilton Grand Vacations Club

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# Dream

WHERE TO GO

Nearly 3 million people visit Mount Rushmore and the surrounding Black Hills of South Dakota every year.

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## Dream Vacation

Club Member **Sara Pellegrini**, Owner at SeaWorld and Ocean 22 and Member since 2009, tells us her dream vacation is exploring the American West. "I dream of showing our four children the beauty, grandeur and history of an area that is too often ignored and under-appreciated. I want to go to Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone National Park and all over the Northwest."

How to Get There: ClubPartner **Tauck** offers a nine-day, small-group tour called "Legends of the American West" that includes visits to Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park. Along the way, you'll hear insider stories on films created exclusively for Tauck by documentarian Ken Burns. Visit **tauck.com** to explore all vacation options, then contact a Club Counselor to request a travel certificate using ClubPoints and/or Bonus Points.



# Away You Go

Schedule your next vacation around these exciting events

## Galoshans Festival

Scotland, October 28–30

Halloween gets an artistic touch in Scotland at this three-day supernatural cultural festival in Glasgow. Costumes are encouraged at this performing arts event, paying homage to the tradition of “galoshans,” the Scottish word for “guising,” or trick-or-treating by hosting plays from house to house. Folkloric and experimental artists take center stage at this celebration, from street bands and theater to installation arts and film. Don’t miss the vibrant children’s Galoshans Halloween parade, filled with quirky costumes, bright lights and live music.



## 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor

Honolulu, December 7

People from around the world will gather in Hawaii to commemorate the fateful day that led to America’s entry into World War II. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the events at Pearl Harbor, the USS Battleship *Missouri* will host a mass band performance featuring student musicians from the U.S. and Japan. Other highlights include a Pearl Harbor Day Parade, a tribute to veterans and an evening concert. Travelers can also tour the USS Arizona Memorial.



## Ocean Oak by Hilton Grand Vacations Club Grand Opening

Hilton Head Island, Fall

Get ready for the newest Club resort. Ocean Oak by Hilton Grand Vacations Club is coming to the South Carolina coastline. The resort will be located on beautiful Hilton Head Island along a seven-acre stretch of sought-after South Forest Beach. It will feature a total of 125 two-bedroom units built in two phases and offer a variety of amenities, including an oceanfront pool and pool bar. Reservations are now available for Home Week, and Club reservations for check-in starting January 7, 2017.

## Setouchi Art Festival

Japan, October 8–November 6

Imagine a contemporary art exhibit spanning 12 islands. That’s what travelers to Japan can experience this autumn at the tranquil Seto Inland Sea that separates Japan’s two main islands, Honshu and Shikoku. About 100 new artworks by Japanese and global artists can be viewed along the coasts, in buildings and in other locations across the islands. A network of ferries connects the islands, some of which are small enough to explore by foot or bicycle.





# Get in the Game

10 Olympic cities worth visiting

## 1. Athens, Greece

The first modern Olympic Games in 1896 could only have occurred in Athens, where the original games were held to honor Zeus. Visitors to Athens can tour the venue where the Olympics took place, Panathenaic Stadium, the world's only stadium built entirely of marble.

### 2. Atlanta, Georgia

The 1996 Summer Olympics transformed Atlanta into a global tourist destination, and its lasting memorial, Centennial Olympic Park, is surrounded by top-class attractions like World of Coca-Cola and the Georgia Aquarium.

### 3. Park City, Utah

Salt Lake City hosted the 2002 Winter Olympics, but several events took place in nearby Park City at its two ski resorts and at Utah Olympic Park, which still serves as a training center for Olympic athletes and an exciting recreational facility for visitors.

### 4. Barcelona, Spain

After hosting the 1992 Summer Olympics, Barcelona became one of the most visited cities in Europe, and today its Olympic Village is a happening neighborhood with bars and restaurants, beach access and artist Frank Gehry's famous fish sculpture.

### 5. Beijing, China

The 2008 Summer Olympics featured some of the most impressive venues ever built for the games, including the National Stadium (better known as the Bird's Nest) and the National Aquatics Center (commonly called the Water Cube), which is now a water park.

### 6. London, England

The location of the 2012 Summer Olympics has no shortage of tourist attractions, from Big Ben to Westminster Abbey. The striking ArcelorMittal Orbit, a sculpture and observation tower, overlooks Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, built to host the games.

### 7. Lake Placid, New York

This village in the Adirondack Mountains hosted the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics. The Lake Placid Winter Olympic Museum features artifacts from both games, including equipment used by the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" hockey team.

### 8. Sapporo, Japan

The 1972 Winter Olympics were held in Sapporo in northern Japan. Mount Teine hosted alpine skiing, bobsleigh and luge, and the mountain is popular today with skiers and snowboarders and still houses the Olympic flame cauldron.

### 9. Vancouver, Canada

Vancouver hosted the 2010 Winter Olympics, though some of the snow events were held in neighboring ski town Whistler. The five-headed cauldron famously lit by Wayne Gretzky is a Vancouver landmark that's occasionally relit for special events.

### 10. Sydney, Australia

The 2000 Summer Olympics were held in September due to Australia's seasonal differences, and the games' most enduring image is that of the Olympic Rings hanging on Sydney's Harbour Bridge, a popular landmark that visitors can climb.

# DENALI

For centuries, native Alaskans referred to the majestic peak that towered above their land as Denali. In 1896, a gold prospector dubbed it Mount McKinley in honor of presidential nominee William McKinley. McKinley won the presidency, though he never visited Alaska, and the mountain was restored to its original name in 2015. Rising to 20,310 feet above sea level, Denali is the tallest mountain peak in North America and the centerpiece of Denali National Park, a vast, unspoiled wilderness and Alaska's most popular attraction.





The name Denali means “the high one” or “the great one” in Koyukon, the language spoken by the native Athabaskan people of Alaska.



### How to Get There

Explore Alaska with Hilton Grand Vacations’ CruisePartner. Club Members can use Points to book trips that explore the state’s stunning scenery. For more information on all Alaska cruise and land tour sailings, visit the CruisePartner website at [hgvcp.cruisepartner.com](https://hgvcp.cruisepartner.com).

# Soul to Seoul

Your guide to visiting Seoul, South Korea

## How to Get There

Most visitors will travel to Seoul via **Incheon International Airport**, frequently named one of the best airports in the world due to its impeccable cleanliness and superb amenities—the airport contains a skating rink and a movie theater. Several U.S. airlines offer flights to Seoul, and you can fly direct on Korean Air from many U.S. cities. It's a 14-hour flight from New York.

## How to Talk

English is not widely spoken in Seoul, though you can get by with a few basic Korean phrases and a translations app on your smartphone (Wi-Fi is readily available there). Its subway signs include English translations, and many shopkeepers and hotel employees, especially in touristy areas, speak some English. Korean students are required to study English in school, so ask a young person if you need help.

## What to Do

Visit **Gyeongbokgung Palace**, the largest and most famous of the city's Five Grand Palaces. It was built six centuries ago by the Joseon Dynasty, though much of it was destroyed during wars and has since been restored. Guided tours are offered in English and Japanese, and be sure to catch the Royal Guard-Changing Ceremony, which features guardsmen in splendid traditional costumes.

## What to Eat

When in Seoul, you must try galbi, marinated barbecue ribs that are beloved by locals and travelers alike. It won't be hard to find—there are galbi restaurants on every block. If you're interested in fine dining, **Byeokje Galbi**, named one of Asia's five best restaurants by *The Wall Street Journal*, uses only high-quality Korean beef in its dishes. Its prices are steep, but the restaurant comes highly recommended.

## Where to Stay

**Millennium Seoul Hilton** is located in the center of Seoul, making it easy to access major shopping centers and cultural hot spots. This luxury hotel offers stylish rooms, six restaurants, an indoor pool, an exercise facility and, of course, Wi-Fi access throughout. In 2016, Club Members can enjoy exclusive rates on guest rooms, starting at 2,220 Points per night. Contact a Club Counselor to request reservations.

Take a tour of the city's Five Grand Palaces for 10,000 won.



# Plan

## HOW TO GET THERE

Love water sports?  
Head to Hilton  
Head Island's South  
Beach Marina.



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## Ask the Resort

A new Club resort is coming to Hilton Head Island, which, along with Ocean 22 by Hilton Grand Vacations Club and Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Anderson Ocean Club in Myrtle Beach, will provide Club Members with two exceptional and distinct South Carolina experiences. We asked Erik Johnson, general manager of HGV's resorts in Myrtle Beach: What are the differences between Hilton Head and Myrtle Beach?

"Hilton Head is quiet and laid-back with a focus on nature, while Myrtle Beach is known for its activities, shopping and entertainment. Both locations appeal to families. Myrtle Beach has more than 100 golf courses and 1,600 restaurants, whereas Hilton Head has about 20 world-class golf courses and more than 250 restaurants, farmers markets and gourmet shops. If you'd like to make a trip visiting both, it is about a 4.5-hour drive between the two, and the most scenic route is Highway 17 through Charleston."



# Pack It In

Nifty tricks from Club Members for packing your luggage

Packing your bags is an art form. You want to maximize the space in your luggage to fit as much stuff as you can while staying under the airlines' 50-pound limit—or, to avoid pricey checked-baggage fees, getting everything you need into a carry-on. Every traveler has his or her own method of packing, so we asked Club Members to share their packing tricks.

## Zip It Up

Pack all of your clothing in 2.5-gallon Ziploc bags. I compress the bag and zip it shut so that the bulk of the clothing is greatly reduced and takes up less space in the bag. It also keeps my clothing dry in the event my bag sits on a luggage cart in a rainstorm at the airport—voice of experience.

Submitted by Walter Bailey

## Carry It On

If you're going to the beach or on a cruise, buy 3-ounce travel bottles and fill one with sunscreen. Pack your bathing suit, book and flip-flops in a carry-on bag, and change at the spa or in a restroom when you arrive. If you have kids, they can carry a small backpack with their items and a couple of beach toys. Fun begins on arrival, not several hours later!

Submitted by Cindy Barnes

## Throw It Out

Instead of throwing out your worn clothing and shoes, save them for trips. Pack those clothes in your bags, and then discard them after wearing. You'll have room in your bags for souvenirs and other purchases.

Submitted by Tamara Bobb

## Hang It Up

Leave your clothes on the hangers as you pack them in your luggage. Then when you arrive, it takes no time to unpack—just lift the clothes out of your luggage and hang them up!

Submitted by Shirley Winkler

## Add It to the List

Keep a running list of all the things you might need. I have constructed my own list over the years with all the items I have once forgotten to pack. You know, things like pajamas! So mine is a looooooong list ... and it keeps growing!

Submitted by Eduardo Botero



## Join the Fold

Collapsible luggage that folds up for easy storage is the latest trend shaking up the luggage industry.

**Néit** makes hard-sided suitcases with collapsible frames that fold flat in seconds.

**Barracuda** bags fold into a box and include smart features like GPS and USB plug.

**Road Warrior** places a ripcord in its M Series line that collapses the bag when pulled.

**Delsey** offers a Solution line of checked and carry-on cases containing sides that fold in.



# Easy Rider

News and resources to make travel easier

## Hot Seat

Do you believe airline seats have gotten too cramped? This may give you some comfort. Congress is considering regulating airline seats. In February, members of the House of Representatives and the Senate proposed legislation that would set a minimum seat size for commercial airlines. Today, many airline seats are about 17 inches wide, with a seat pitch of 31 inches (seat pitch is the distance between rows and offers an idea of how much legroom you have). Those numbers have declined as airlines add more seats to planes. Seat size regulations have yet to pass through Congress (the Senate voted against the amendment), but advocates like Sen. Charles Schumer promise to continue pursuing them.



## Give It a Rest

On your next flight to Hawaii, you may be able to lie down and take a nap. Hawaiian Airlines announced last year that it is redesigning its premium cabins and adding 180-degree lie-flat seats. The seats will be arranged in a 2-2-2 configuration and are designed to suit passengers traveling together rather than business travelers flying solo. Hawaiian hasn't announced which routes will receive the new seats, but they'll likely be installed on its international and long-haul flights. The airline flies nonstop from New York City's JFK International Airport to Honolulu, which takes about 11 hours. The new seats are expected to begin appearing in mid-2016, and installation will continue through 2017.

## Appy Days

Before your next trip, look online to see if the airline you're flying provides an app and download it to your smartphone. The airlines have invested heavily in mobile apps that let travelers do everything from check in to change seats. Most of the major airlines' apps show travel advisories, such as canceled or delayed flights, but some offer other clever features. On Delta's app, you can track your bags to see when they've made it onto the baggage carousel. American Airlines' app offers turn-by-turn directions inside select airport terminals. United provides a similar feature, but also offers Sudoku. JetBlue's app displays the DirecTV schedule and lets you set reminders for programs you want to watch onboard.

## Airport Oasis

Club Members can use Bonus Points to purchase an annual Priority Pass Membership, which offers admission to more than 850 airport lounges worldwide. Contact a Club Counselor to get started.

## Good Ports

These airports take the stress out of travel with exciting and unusual features.

- **Chicago O'Hare International Airport** provides the perfect place to relax in a yoga room in Terminal 3.
- **Singapore Changi Airport** screens free blockbuster movies all day in theaters in Terminals 2 and 3.
- **Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport** lets travelers play at free PlayStation gaming terminals in numerous locations.
- **Seoul Incheon International Airport** has an indoor ice skating rink on B1 that rents skates and gloves.

# Camera Talk

Photographer Angela Tague explains how to speak shutterbug

If photography lingo sounds like a foreign language to you, take a few minutes to learn these basic terms and get to know your camera beyond auto mode.

## DSLR.

For more creative control than a compact point-and-shoot camera (or your smartphone) provides, use a digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) camera. DSLR cameras, which have largely replaced film SLR cameras, accept interchangeable lenses and record images on light-sensitive sensors.

## ISO.

In digital photography, ISO is the camera's level of sensitivity to light. Higher ISO numbers are generally used in darker settings, but the images will appear grainy. Use a lower ISO number such as 100 in well-lit, daytime settings, and your pictures will appear sharp. When in doubt, try an all-purpose ISO such as 400, or use the automatic ISO selection.



## Aperture.

The aperture setting (Av or A on your camera) determines the size of the opening in the camera's lens. This opening is measured in f-stops, or focal stops. As the f-stop increases, the opening of the lens becomes smaller, which decreases depth of field. That means only a portion of your image will be in focus.

## Shutter Speed.

Shutter speed is the amount of time that the shutter is open, allowing the camera to capture the scene. It's measured in fractions of seconds, with higher denominators (such as 1/1,000) indicating faster speeds. A basic photographer's rule is to use a shutter speed at least as fast as the inverse of your lens length. If you're using a 200mm lens, your shutter speed should be 1/200 or greater to take a sharp image of a stationary object. Increase the shutter speed for moving subjects.

## Manual Mode.

If you want to adjust the shutter speed and aperture at the same time, put your camera in manual mode (M) to have 100 percent control over the exposure.

## Focus Points.

When you look through the viewfinder or at the LCD screen on the back of your camera, several dots or squares illuminate as you compose the image. These are called focus points. Choose where you want to focus your camera by using the focus point selector, typically a wheel or dial on the back of the camera. This is helpful when framing your main subject off-center.

## Phone It In

Take great pictures on your smartphone with these tips:

**Turn on the grid.** Most smartphones offer an optional grid that divides the frame into thirds. Place your subjects on the lines.

**Crop, don't zoom.** Images start to degrade when you zoom. Take normal pictures and use the crop feature to define your subject.

**Light it right.** Smartphone flashes don't perform well, so it's best to use natural light. Sunlight should come from behind the camera.

**Clean the lens.** Your smartphone is likely picking up grime in your pocket or purse. Periodically wipe off the lens with a soft cloth.

# Save at Sea

Ways to save money on your next cruise vacation

A big part of the appeal of cruises is that most are all-inclusive, meaning travelers pay one cost up front. But on board, charges can quickly add up. Here's how to save by cruising smart.

## Wait for discounts.

Most cruises publish a daily newsletter showcasing schedules, activities and deals. If you need to indulge in a spa treatment, watch the newsletter for daily specials. In general, spa treatments are discounted on embarkation and port days.

## Eat smart.

Specialty restaurants on the ship are typically not included in the basic food package. Splurge midday when identical fare often shows up on the lunch menu at a steep discount. Check the daily newsletter for dinner deals. And book discount packages online—some offer reduced rates for some of these restaurants.

## Bring your own Internet.

Wi-Fi fees on the ship can be pricey. Purchase an unlimited international data plan from your cellular provider, and you can download email and text messages while close to shore and use your phone as a Wi-Fi hot spot for family computers. For phone calls, use Wi-Fi calling or an Internet-based service like Skype on your smartphone to avoid international call charges. If you must have Internet at sea, more cruise lines are offering data packages that, while pricey, are cheaper than pay as you go. Expect to pay at least \$15 per day for full service, but remember that satellite service connections can be spotty. Reminder: Turn off your phone when out to sea. Incoming phone calls sent to voicemail will run up roaming charges if your phone is left on.

## Drink up.

Most travelers drink more alcohol on cruises than at home, and many ships even charge for bottled water and soda. But some cruise lines (including Carnival, Celebrity, Norwegian, Royal Caribbean and Princess) offer add-on unlimited booze packages, usually from around \$50 per day (European lines are typically cheaper). If you plan to drink at least five to six adult beverages daily, it's usually worth it. Some lines have soft drink packages or multiple tiers that include more premium drinks like champagne. Alternatively, many ships have happy hour or daily drink specials.

## Take selfies.

One easy way to save money is to skip the professional photos that cruise lines hawk aggressively. A single 8x10 photo can cost \$20 or more. Be your own photographer, or ask a fellow guest to snap photos of you on the deck.

## Skip the trainer.

Many cruise lines charge for fitness classes led by trainers, but their state-of-the-art gyms and running tracks are free. Plus, nothing beats a morning run in a tropical port.





# Go

## WHAT TO DO

Lake Wakatipu is known for its mysterious seiche, which causes the water level to rise and fall up to 5 inches every few minutes.

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### Local Perspective

Club Members seeking an adventure should look no further than the Anantara Vacation Club at Oaks Shores in the resort town of Queenstown, New Zealand, offering excellent outdoor activities year-round. To make the most of your next trip, we asked Craig Erasmus, CEO of local winery Amisfield, for the favorite sights. He recommends hitting the trails that wind around Lake Wakatipu, Lake Tewa and Lake Hayes.

"Take in Queenstown's stunning lake and alpine setting by exploring the walking and cycling trails that follow the lakeshore, rolling tussock lands and rugged bluffs. These well-maintained and signposted tracks allow one to experience the incredible bird life alongside the lakeshore. You'll also find magnificent views of surrounding mountain ranges."



# Grape Escape

Get the most out of your trip to a wine region

Tuscany. Burgundy. Napa.

Little inspires the imagination like a looming trip to wine country. You can already smell the soil, taste the grapes and see the sun shining down on the hillsides.

But without some planning, the daydream can shatter as quickly as a poorly packed bottle in your luggage. Here's how to make your trip live up to the fantasy.

First, start each day with an activity that doesn't involve imbibing—there will be plenty of time for that later. Choose something that gives you a chance to explore the region, such as hiking, cycling, horseback riding or antiquing. Take your photos now, before you're flushed, and drink lots of water.

Let your exploring carry you to a prepicked restaurant for a late lunch, where you'll fill your belly in preparation for the adventures ahead. Then, begin your tasting a ways from your lodging and gradually make your way back, so you get closer to your room as your eyelids get droopier. If you plan to indulge in more than a couple of full glasses, be sure to hire a driver.

Seek out small wineries, where the person pouring your taste may very well be the owner. Follow basic tasting room etiquette (don't overindulge, don't try to haggle), but don't sweat it if you're a dilettante. Most people are. This is your vacation, not a test. Ask lots of questions, and discover new favorites.

Find out before your trip whether your home state allows vineyards to ship wine to you (not all do), and plan accordingly. If not, buy a 12-bottle shipping container (or two or three) and check the bottles with your luggage.

Then, for months or years to come, you can relive your trip through the wine. No matter how much you bought, once it runs out, you'll wish you had one more bottle.

FROM TOP: THINKSTOCK, GETTY IMAGES

## Wine Time

Club Members can now use their Bonus Points to purchase select wine offerings from our Wine Partner. A new selection of high-quality wines will appear each quarter. Customers must be 21 or older to purchase, and wine can only be shipped to certain states. For detailed information and to view the current selection, visit [winepartner.info](http://winepartner.info).





# Joy Ride

Take the boredom out of road trips with these five simple games

The journey is half the fun, right? Not if you're a restless kid. Road trips can be tedious for children, and if you don't supply them with some entertainment, they'll create their own, trotting out classic games like "Are we there yet?" and "Stop hitting me!" Try these games instead.



## Buzz

Going around the car in a circle, everyone counts off numbers. But whenever you come to a number that contains a seven, a multiple of seven or any number with repeated digits, you say "buzz" instead of the number. Here's how it sounds: "... 16, buzz, 18, 19, 20, buzz, buzz, 23 ..." Start over when someone messes up.

## Road Trip Bingo

Create bingo cards with various items you might see on your drive. Think: license plates from certain states, farm animals, rare types of vehicles, etc. The kids will stare out the windows, eagle-eyed, eager to stamp off squares.

## 20 Questions

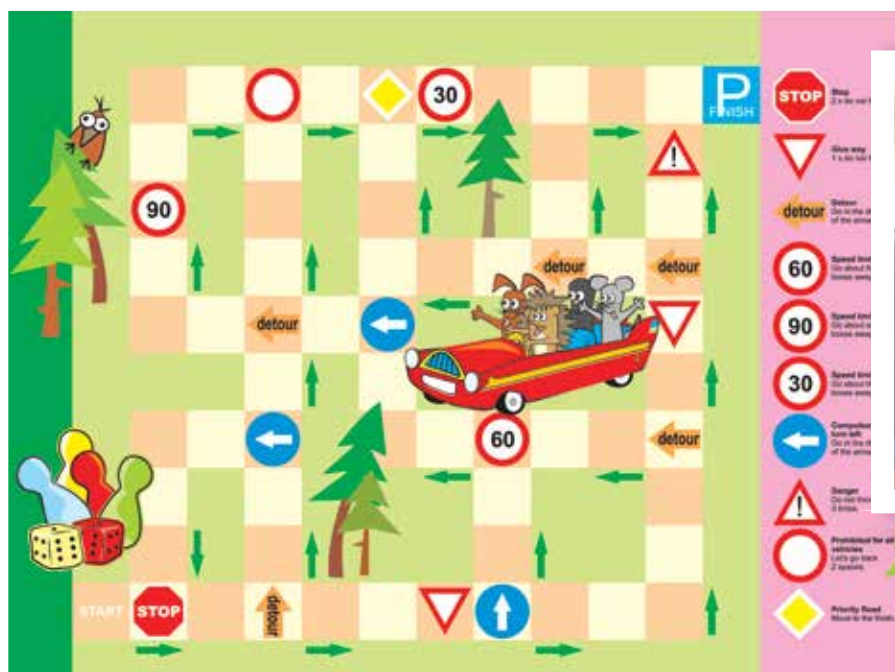
Think of something—anything—and the kids have to guess what it is by asking no more than 20 yes-or-no questions. For example: Is it a person? Is the person a man? Is the man famous?

## The License Plate Game

Working as a team, or competing against one another, see how many states' license plates you can spot during your trip. There are even smartphone apps to help you keep track.

## The Alphabet Game

Starting with A, each player has to find road signs and billboards with words that start with each letter of the alphabet. (For example, a sign that says "New York" can be used by a player who needs an N or a Y.) To add difficulty, don't allow words written on vehicles. First to Z wins!

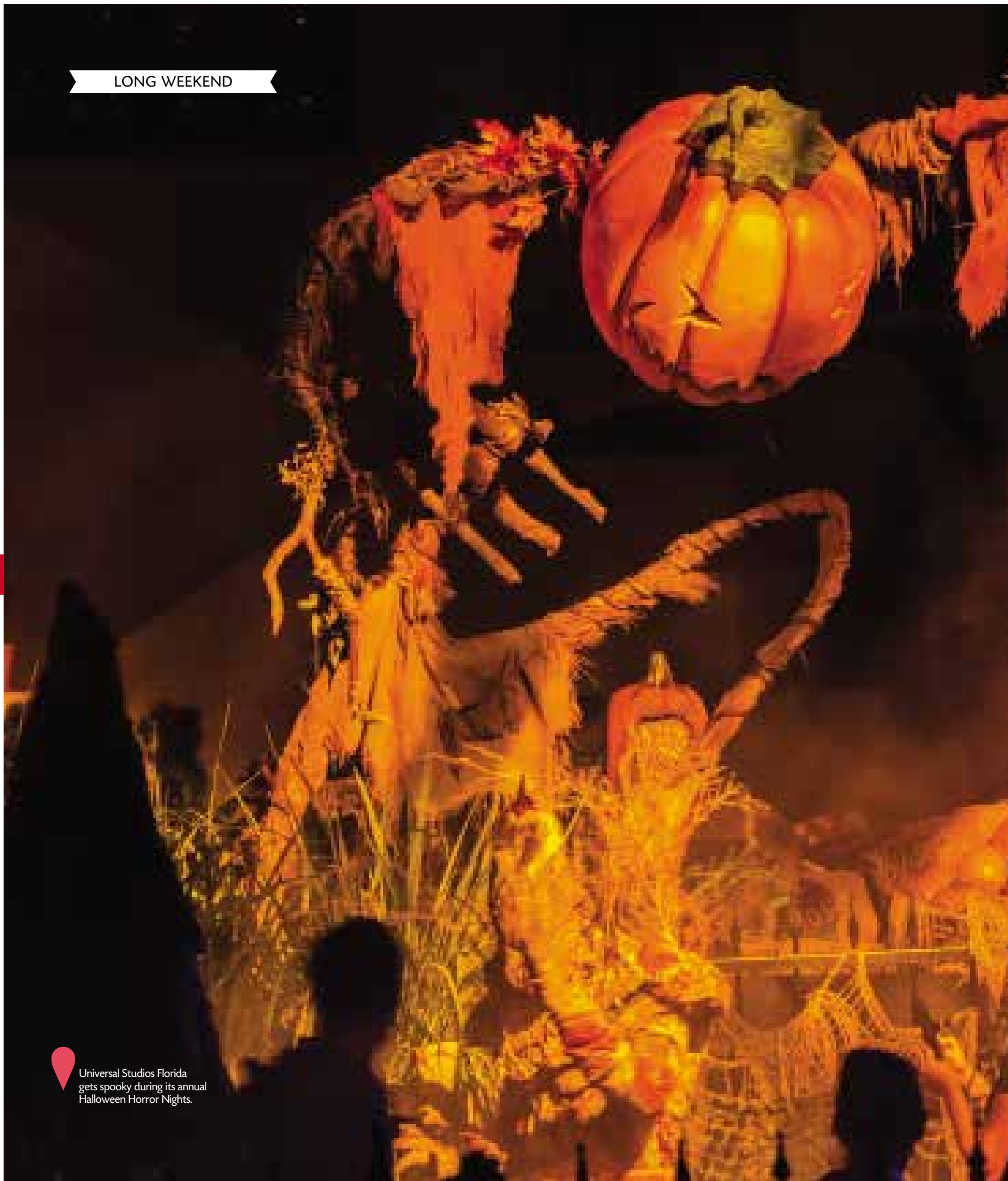


LONG WEEKEND

18



Universal Studios Florida  
gets spooky during its annual  
Halloween Horror Nights.







# Fall Into Place

3 autumn days in Orlando

Orlando's family-friendly attractions and sunny skies make it an ideal spring break or summer vacation destination. But it's also a great place to visit in the fall.

ED HALL / UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

## Day 1

Start your trip at the **Epcot International Food & Wine Festival**, a worldly delight for the senses. Taste the cuisine of locations around the world—Australia, Hawaii, Canada, Italy and more—and wash it all down with beverages from an impressive list of vineyards and breweries. The accompanying “Eat to the Beat” concert series brings music from popular acts ranging from rock and soul to funk and blues, and cooking demonstrations from a lineup of both celebrity and Disney chefs. The festival runs from mid-September through mid-November, and admission is included with park entry.

## Day 2

You might want to leave the kids at home for this one. The team at Universal Studios does not take **Halloween Horror Nights** lightly. The theme park hosts a roster of impressive haunted houses, live shows and “scare zones” that feature street artists and actors. The theme changes yearly—recent lineups include AMC’s zombie series *The Walking Dead* and icons of horror featuring *Friday the 13th*’s Jason Voorhees and *Nightmare on Elm Street*’s Freddy Krueger. Sound scary? It is. The event takes place on select nights from mid-September through October, and admission is an add-on to park entry.

## Day 3

Just in case you haven’t worn in those walking shoes yet, wind down your long weekend with a relaxing stroll or energizing hike at **Black Hammock Wilderness Area**, located roughly 30 minutes northeast of Orlando. Activities here range from a casual stroll along a boardwalk to a 4-mile trail hike. You can also sit and watch wildlife, including barred owls, butterflies, white-tailed deer and bobcats.



## Where to Stay

Club Members can stay at spectacular Club resorts in Orlando, including **Hilton Grand Vacations Club at SeaWorld**, **Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Tuscany Village** and **Parc Soleil by Hilton Grand Vacations Club**. Beginning in early January 2017, Club Members can stay at Orlando’s new Club resort, **Las Palmeras, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**.

# DIST

## OF EXCITEMENT

20





# TRICHT



The nation's capital, a new Club destination, offers thrilling travel opportunities for Club Members. Washington, D.C., resident Christopher Brandon reveals the city's top treasures.

Few cities in the United States blend old and new like Washington, D.C. Conceived in 1790, the District displays the country's heritage with authority and pride. From the majestic Lincoln Memorial to the shimmering ruby slippers Dorothy wore in *The Wizard of Oz*, history is the backdrop to life in D.C.

But the District isn't stuck in the past. During the last decade, the metro area has seen extraordinary growth, infusing D.C. with new creative energy. Neighborhoods reinvented themselves. The arts are thriving. The food scene, once regarded as bland and stale, exploded with outside influences and uncommon flavors, now ranking among the most vibrant in the U.S.

These expanded attractions, coupled with the world-famous icons, have made Washington, D.C., a great place to visit for travelers of all types, not just history buffs and politicians.

### Transportation Options

The city is split into four quadrants that radiate from the Capitol building: Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast. Northwest is the largest quadrant, and you'll likely spend much of your time there, though the Library of Congress and many worthy restaurants can be found in Southeast.

The capital's compact size means you don't need a car when you visit. Taxis are readily available, and the Uber ride-hailing service is widely used throughout the city. When giving an address to a

driver, always include the quadrant, or you may end up at an intersection on the opposite side of town.

D.C.'s Metrorail system is also an excellent way to get around the city. To ride the Metro, you'll need a SmarTrip card, which can be purchased and refilled at machines in every station. The six color-coded lines may be confusing to newbies, so save a picture of the map to your smartphone and check the electronic displays for the train's color and final destination before boarding. Also, when entering and exiting stations,

be sure to stand to the right on escalators, or locals rushing up on the left may grumble at you.

### Capital Attractions

No trip to Washington, D.C., would be complete without traversing the length of the National Mall and marveling at the historic monuments and buildings along its route. They're all within a 2-mile radius, and it's easy to make a day of exploring on

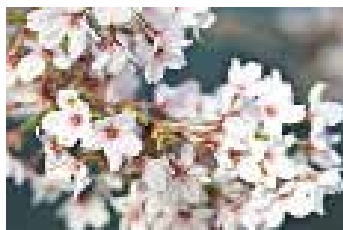


## SEASONS CHANGE

EXPERIENCE SPECTACULAR EVENTS  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

### Spring

Tourists flock to the National Cherry Blossom Festival to photograph D.C.'s monuments framed by beautiful pink flowers.



### Summer

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival spotlights different countries each year with cultural events on the National Mall.



### Fall

Lace up your shoes for WalkingTown DC, which offers more than 50 guided tours throughout the District.



### Winter

From Thanksgiving to New Year's, more than 500,000 LED lights transform the National Zoo into a winter wonderland.





Corcoran  
Gallery



foot—or hop on the city's excellent bike-share system and cover all the major monuments in just a few hours.

Start your day at the Lincoln Memorial, when crowds there are light, and head east across the Mall toward the Capitol building. Along the way, you'll pass a spectacular array of attractions that includes the World War II Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial and the White House.

You should plan for two to three days to visit the museums along the Mall—inspect dinosaur fossils at the National Museum of Natural History and spacecraft at the National Air and Space Museum. All are free to enter.

The Smithsonian Institution's first new museum in more than a decade, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, opens in September. The majestic, bronze-paneled building is a five-story inverted pyramid located on

the National Mall just a few hundred feet from the Washington Monument. The museum's opening exhibits will feature more than 34,000 artifacts, including a shawl worn by Harriet Tubman, medals awarded to the Tuskegee Airmen, a trumpet owned by Louis Armstrong, and hundreds of works of art.

D.C.'s best attraction beyond the Mall is the National Zoo, an outstanding zoological park housing nearly 2,000 animals. Its most famous residents are the giant pandas, Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, and their delightful cubs, Bao Bao and Bei Bei. Look up as you travel through the zoo—one unique attraction is the Orangutan Transit System, or O Line, a system of towers and cables that allow orangutans to move between two areas. To see them in action, head for the Great Ape House around lunchtime. The zoo is part of the Smithsonian Institution, so it's free to enter.

Local favorite: One of D.C.'s best-kept

secrets is Roosevelt Island, an 88.5-acre island in the Potomac River just west of the National Mall. Miles of trail zigzag through the island's forest and wetlands, while a 17-foot statue of President Theodore Roosevelt stands at its center. Roosevelt Island is accessible by a footbridge from a parking lot located across the river just off George Washington Memorial Parkway, though you can also rent a kayak in Georgetown and paddle around it.

### District Dining

D.C. hasn't always been known as a foodie destination, but a slew of new restaurants and national honors has sent its culinary reputation skyrocketing. Two trends currently dominating the D.C. food scene are farm-to-table and small plates, both of which can be found at excellent eateries across the city.

Founding Farmers is the city's leading restaurant in the farm-to-table



# WELCOME HOME

BE ONE OF THE FIRST  
CLUB MEMBERS TO  
EXPLORE THE DISTRICT  
BY HILTON CLUB.

The District is located in a vibrant neighborhood between Dupont Circle and Georgetown, making it the ideal home base for sightseeing. It's one mile directly north of the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall, and just a few blocks from Georgetown's shopping and dining options.

The resort occupies the top three floors of the Embassy Suites by Hilton Washington D.C. Georgetown, which was completely remodeled over the winter. A magnificently redone courtyard and lounge greets guests as they enter, and all of the timeshare units were given a condominium-style makeover with brown hardwood floors, modern appliances and furnishings, and large internal windows. Lobby construction will be complete in August.

The District is part of Hilton Club, an exciting collection of sophisticated properties in urban destinations. Hilton Grand Vacations Club Members can use Points to request reservations at The District, though availability is limited and Owners at The District have a priority booking window.



A new lounge greets you at The District, located between Dupont Circle and Georgetown in Washington, D.C.

movement. It sources fresh veggies and other ingredients from hundreds of family farms, many of them regional. The menu includes American classics like chicken potpie, pork chops and rotisserie chicken, but the one item you must order is the Bacon Lollis, thick cuts of bacon glazed in brown sugar and served on sticks. At Founding Farmers, you're almost guaranteed to spot someone famous—it's popular with former presidential candidates and media personalities.

For small plates, you can't go wrong with Zaytinya. The downtown restaurant serves innovative and flavorful small plates inspired by chef José Andrés' love of Greek, Lebanese and Turkish cuisine. The menu features shareable plates, known as mezze in the Eastern Mediterranean, including staples like

hummus, falafel and baba ghanoush. You'll also find spicy lamb kebabs and grilled octopus, as well as many excellent dishes for vegetarians, such as crispy Brussels in garlic yogurt.

Sometimes you're in the mood for a juicy burger, and you'll find one of the best at Good Stuff Eatery just a few blocks beyond the Capitol—the perfect place to end a day of sightseeing. Celebrity chef Spike Mendelsohn prepares a variety of outstanding burgers, like the Prez Obama Burger topped with applewood bacon and Roquefort cheese. There's a healthier turkey burger named for The First Lady, as well as a veggie burger made with Portobello tops and Muenster cheese. Good Stuff's handspun shakes, with flavors like Toasted Marshmallow and Red Velvet, are legendary.

Despite the city's booming food scene,

its most famous restaurant remains a hot dog shop on U Street NW called Ben's Chili Bowl, known for D.C.'s local delicacy, the half-smoke. Numerous celebrities and politicians have enjoyed this half-pork and half-beef sausage topped with homemade chili sauce.

Local favorite: Take a taxi to the city's booming Navy Yard district, where Osteria Morini serves some of the best house-made pasta in town. The glass-cased restaurant is perched upon the Anacostia River in a quiet neighborhood (unless the Washington Nationals are playing next door at Nationals Park). The menu offers a number of traditional pastas, like the Cappelletti, truffled ricotta ravioli in melted butter. For dessert, Ice Cream Jubilee next door serves bold, imaginative flavors like Blueberry Pie and Honey Lemon Lavender.

# Club

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Hilton Hotel and Independence Park offers stunning views of the Mediterranean Sea in Tel Aviv, Israel.

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## Ask a Club Counselor

In each issue of *Club Traveler*, a Club Counselor will answer questions about how the Club works. If you have a question you'd like to submit to a Club Counselor, email [feedback@clubtraveler.com](mailto:feedback@clubtraveler.com), and it may be answered in the next issue.

### What do I do if I run out of Points?

It's always great to hear from Club Members who want to know what to do when they need more Points, because it means they are enjoying their membership to its fullest potential. If you find you need more Points than you have, you may borrow from the following year when confirming your reservation online or via a Club Counselor. If you do not have any Points to borrow, you may want to consider upgrading your ownership interest by contacting us at 800-932-4482 or worldwide at 407-722-3141.

— **Jacqueline, Club Counselor, 2+ years with Hilton Grand Vacations Club**



# Going Mobile

Inside the new mobile app for Club Members



access to information that will help you make the most of your trip. The “My Trip” screen displays details about your reservation, activities available during your stay, dining options and any special on-property promotions.

The app also provides a new way to communicate with the resort. Need more towels or have a special housekeeping request? Use the app to submit requests like this to the front desk. It encourages you to provide feedback about your stay, so resort management can help if something needs attention.

You can even communicate with other Club Members using the app’s “Club Guide” feature. Want to tell everyone about the fantastic lobster dinner you had last night? Looking for fun activities to do with kids? Join the community on the app to share vacation advice and tips with Club Members just like you.

The app is available for Club Members to download on their Apple or Android devices.

If you thought the new Club Member website was an exciting step into the modern era, wait until you see what’s next. Hilton Grand Vacations has a new mobile app that will transform the way you vacation.

The app, available for Apple and Android smartphones, mirrors the experience found at the new Club Member website. It provides direct access to all the site’s content and features, including vacation booking, the Points dashboard and more. But it also includes several useful mobile features.

Before and during your vacation, be sure to access the app. On the home screen, you’ll find a “My Trip” snapshot featuring convenient and efficient



## Take a Points Check

You’re probably busy enjoying your summer vacation, but the middle of the year is a good time to review your Points balance. How many Points did you use in the first half of the year? How many Points do you have left to use in the second half? To review your Points balance, visit the Club Member website at [club.hiltongrandvacations.com](http://club.hiltongrandvacations.com) and explore your dashboard. If you think you’ll have ClubPoints remaining when the year ends, avoid the last-minute rush and consider enrolling in the Points Protection Program now so you won’t have to worry about it in December.



# Warm Welcome

Get to know Alex Zdravkovic

Aleksandar Zdravkovic is the first person Club Members see when they arrive at Hilton Grand Vacations Club at McAlpin-Ocean Plaza in Miami's South Beach. For the past eight years, he's been the resort's bellman, welcoming guests with his signature greeting, "Welcome home, friends." *Club Traveler* interviewed Alex about his job and his favorite things to do in the Miami area.

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

The thing I like best about my job is the diversity of guests and team members who come from all around the world.

## Can you tell us a little bit about what you do and what your day is like?

I am the first face that guests see when they pull up to our property. I give guests a warm welcome and help them to their room. I am also the last person they see before they head back home. In addition to my duties as a bellman, I also water the plants, make coffee for the guests, bring champagne to their room for special occasions, and recommend places for guests to see and things to do.

## What is something about the resort that many Club Members may not know?

The property was built in 1938 and is a historical Art Deco building; even the coral front desk and terrazzo floors were built that year. This is part of why everyone feels that this boutique-style place has its own heart and soul. The other part is, of course, the amazing staff from all around the globe!

## What do you think sets it apart from other resorts in South Beach?

The fact that we are such a small property allows our staff to provide unique and personal experiences for all of our guests. You're never just a number here!

## What is your favorite activity to recommend?

My favorite activity to suggest to Club Members is the Shark Valley adventure in Everglades National Park. There the guests have the unique opportunity to see amazing wildlife such as white-tailed deer while exploring the mangrove swamps, either on foot, bike or a tram.

## Where is your favorite local place to eat?

My favorite place to eat is Puerto Sagua, a unique Cuban restaurant with a heart and soul just like our hotel. It has been there for more than 30 years, and it's where all the locals go!

## Where was the last place you traveled, and what is your dream vacation?

The last place I visited was Mexico City. I fell in love with this beautiful city's architecture and amazing people. My dream vacation would be Thailand.

# Take a Dive

Stay at RCI affiliated resorts in scuba diving destinations\*

Imagine yourself slipping beneath the waves and descending 100 feet below the surface of the water to explore a sunken frigate sitting on the seafloor. Or diving into turquoise blue waters to swim among a colorful reef teeming with tropical fish, sea turtles and other marine wildlife.

Moments like these are treasured opportunities for travelers who like to scuba dive when they go on vacation. You'll need to be professionally trained and certified before you can scuba dive, though some dive resorts and cruise lines offer beginner courses with supervised dives.

Australia's Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's best-known dive destinations, but others abound, including the world's second-largest coral reef system off the coast of Belize. Other great places to dive include Mexico's Riviera Maya, where you can swim into stunning caverns at Gran Cenote. For wreck diving, nothing beats Bermuda, which boasts more than 300 shipwrecks, including the *Hermes*, a 165-foot steel vessel still fully intact at 80 feet deep.

Club Members can use Points to stay at RCI affiliated resorts in spectacular scuba diving destinations across the globe. Exchange resorts can be found in Aruba, Cancun, the Dominican Republic and Cairns, Australia, the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef.

To find resorts in scuba diving destinations, log in to your Club account at [club.hiltongrandvacations.com](http://club.hiltongrandvacations.com) and navigate to the RCI Exchange site. Then, click "Vacation Ideas" at the top of the page, select "Featured Interests" and click "Scuba Diving" for a list of resorts near diving sites.

Remember that weekly reservations can be made up to two years prior to check-in. And if the dates you're looking for aren't available, you can set up an Ongoing Search and RCI will notify you when your ideal vacation becomes available.

The current RCI Exchange Fee is required to set up an Ongoing Search. The Exchange Fee may be refundable if no match is found, provided the Member is otherwise in full compliance with all applicable exchange program requirements.

\*RCI DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY OF THE ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED OR MENTIONED. IT IS THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE THE SAFETY AND SUITABILITY OF ANY ACTIVITY. RCI EXPRESSLY DENIES ANY LIABILITY FOR ENGAGING ANY ACTIVITY AND FOR USING ANY GUIDE, VENDOR OR SERVICE PROVIDER THAT MAY BE MENTIONED OR DESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE.







THE REGISTRY COLLECTION

# Explore the World of Luxury

Exchange with **The Registry Collection®** program  
to experience sought-after destinations

## EXCLUSIVELY ELITE

If you're a Club Member with Elite Premier status, get ready for a vacation of a lifetime. **The Registry Collection** program, an exclusive benefit just for you, offers exchange access to a collection of luxury properties around the world. There are approximately 200 properties accessible for exchange or under development, featuring elegantly appointed accommodations in impeccably maintained surroundings.

Relax in a four-poster mahogany bed in a residence surrounded by tropical landscaping in Barbados. Tour the Canary Islands aboard a lavish yacht. Or stay in a luxurious villa set on a spectacular cliff top overlooking the celebrated beaches of Bali. Whatever you choose, a world of luxury without limits awaits.

For more information about the resorts and benefits offered by **The Registry Collection** program, visit [TheRegistryCollection.com](http://TheRegistryCollection.com).



## KENTISBURY GRANGE – NORTH DEVON, ENGLAND

Imagine yourself exploring medieval castles by day, and then returning to your private lodge to slip into a soothing hot tub. Kentisbury Grange is a luxury boutique resort located in southwest England. Guests stay in two-bedroom, two-bath lodges that feature exquisite accommodations, including kitchens equipped with upscale Smeg appliances. Situated on the edge of Exmoor National Park and just 3 miles from the dramatic coastline of North Devon, the resort offers superb countryside walks and other inspirational activities.



## IFA COLLECTION ZIMBALI VACATION CLUB – KWAZULU NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA

If you've ever wanted to experience Africa's stunning wildlife, now's your chance. Zimbali Vacation Club is a coastal resort on the southeast edge of South Africa, just 25 minutes from Durban. Free-roaming antelope and an abundance of birds can be found on the property, but one of the most exciting attractions nearby is Hluhluwe Imfolozi Reserve, offering half-day and full-day safaris, where you'll spot rhinos, elephants, lions, zebras, cheetahs and many other animal species. The five-star resort provides beautifully appointed studio, one- and two-bedroom accommodations.



## THE RANGERS RESERVE – CORBETT, INDIA

Calling all nature lovers. The Rangers Reserve is a dream destination for travelers looking for luxury services in a deep, dense jungle. Its two guest lodges, Mabula and Masai, offer spacious studios, duplex suites and one-bedroom accommodations finished with natural timber and featuring private balconies overlooking the forest reserve. Here you can explore the wilds of the jungle while accompanied by a trained naturalist, picnic on a beautiful span of a river beach, or invigorate your body and soul with a pampering massage at the resort's spa.

**Ready to explore exchange vacation destinations or book an exchange vacation with The Registry Collection? Log in to the new Member website at [club.hiltongrandvacations.com](https://club.hiltongrandvacations.com). Club Members with Elite Premier status can find The Registry Collection by selecting Club Membership, Elite, and Elite Exchange Benefits.**

# FAMILY AFFAIR

Longtime Club Members share memories of their extensive travels

“My wife, Nancy, and I have taken full advantage of our membership. We’ve stayed in so many different HGV resorts and Hilton hotels over the years. It’s kind of sentimental, but we just like to go out and make memories.

Our favorite trip was the 10 days we spent on the Big Island of Hawaii. It was one of the most relaxing and romantic trips we’ve taken. Beautiful sunsets every night. Fine dining. Beautiful scenery. And just the two of us. Our trip to Paris was spectacular and ranks a close second. It was an anniversary trip, and there was a bottle of champagne waiting for us in our room.

**Mike and  
Nancy  
Bobinski**

**Club Members since 2002**

Recent trip: Myrtle Beach,  
South Carolina, April 2016,  
Hilton Grand Vacations Club at  
Anderson Ocean Club

One of our most recent trips was to New York City, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Nancy’s 40th birthday and my daughter’s 40th birthday. Nancy traveled to West 57th Street by Hilton Club with our daughter, daughter-in-law and her sister. Thanks to the help of Club Counselor Shaun, all was right in the Bobinski family world. After that trip, I was talking to my son on the phone and I could hear my sister-in-law in the background saying, ‘Thank you, Mike. This has been fabulous!’ This just warms your heart.

Nancy and I love doing things with and for our family. We sent our daughter-in-law and three friends to celebrate their 40th birthdays in Las Vegas. My sister and her husband spent three days at West 57th Street by Hilton Club, too, which was a morale booster for her after her second knee replacement. We gave our goddaughter and her new husband a honeymoon week in Oahu. Our latest adventure was a week at the South Seas Island Resort on Captiva, followed by a week in Myrtle Beach with our daughter and grandkids.

Really, that’s what it’s all about for Nancy and me. It’s about loving our family and making memories.”







## Hilton Grand Vacations Club

HAVE YOU SEEN IT? THE NEW CLUB MEMBER WEBSITE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL CLUB MEMBERS AT [CLUB.HILTONGRANDVACATIONS.COM](http://CLUB.HILTONGRANDVACATIONS.COM).

The new mobile-friendly website utilizes a modern design and useful new features to improve the user experience. To get started, create an account using your Club Member number and email address.

# A VACATION STATE OF MIND



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# A VACATION STATE OF MIND

Our Global Owner Services Team is pleased to provide you with the summer edition of Club Traveler! We hope you enjoy the magazine and engage online at [clubtraveler.com](http://clubtraveler.com) to stay connected to Hilton Grand Vacations Club. With more than 250,000 Member families worldwide, the Club continues to grow and thrive!

