



Club

traveler

FALL 2018

DREAM  
PLAN  
GO

# EXPLORE THE PAST

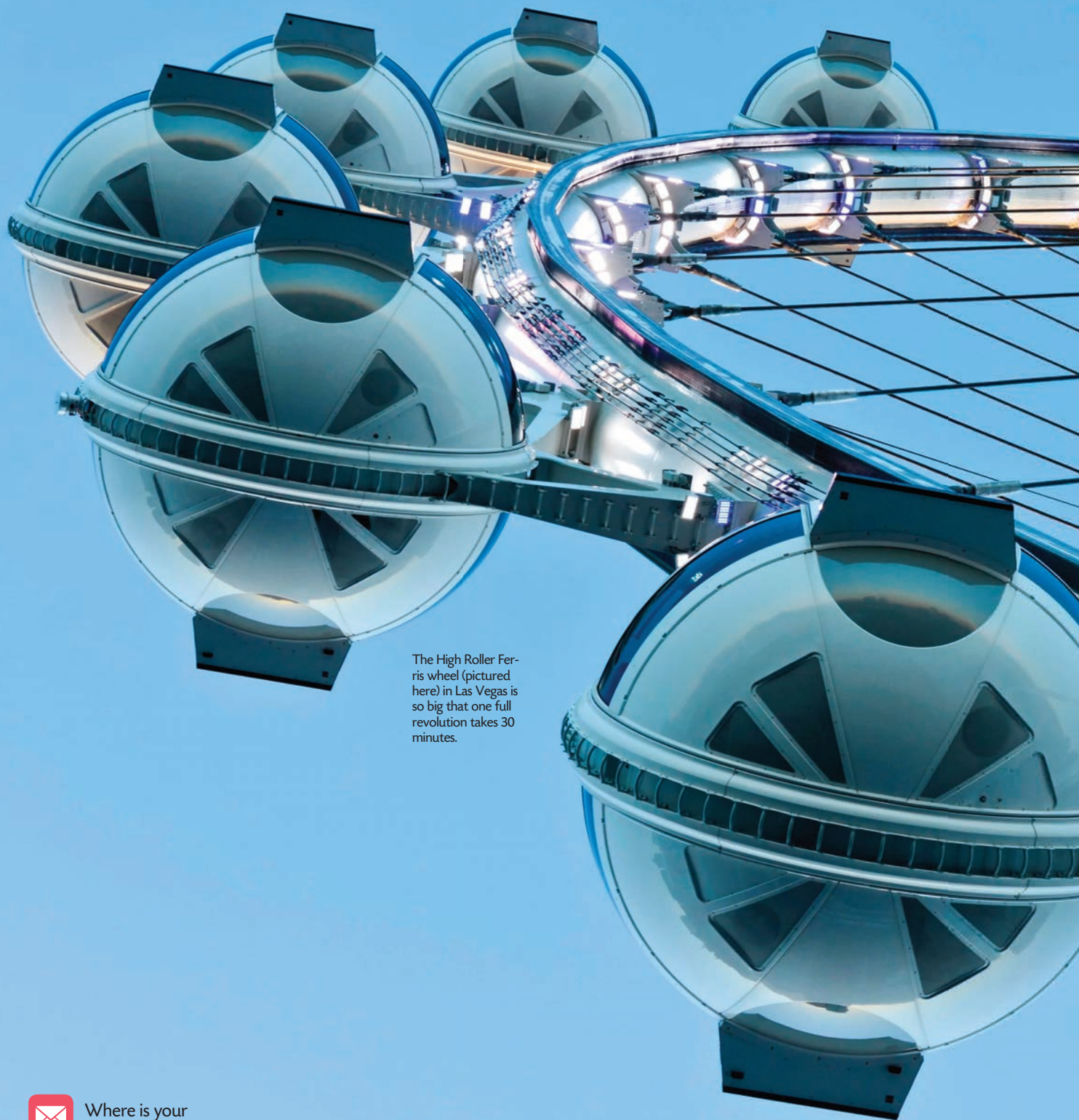
FROM JAPAN TO FLORIDA & WASHINGTON, D.C.

**PLUS:** MIAMI'S ART SCENE,  
BEST HAUNTED SPOTS &  
GLOBAL SWEETS



Hilton  
Grand Vacations

CLUBTRAVELER.COM



The High Roller Ferris wheel (pictured here) in Las Vegas is so big that one full revolution takes 30 minutes.



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

# Club **traveller** DREAM PLAN GO

## COVER STORY



## Stroll Back in Time

Fascinating walking tours of  
St. Augustine, Florida; Washington,  
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## Dream

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Miami



## Travel Tip

Flying with gifts? Use gift bags, not wrapping paper. The Transportation Security Administration allows wrapped gifts, but if your bag is chosen for a deep check, TSA agents may have to unwrap them.

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**CORRECTION:** The Summer 2018 edition of *Club Traveler* featured a picture of a botanical garden on page 8 ("The Rhythm of Rio"). The photograph depicted the Jardim Botânico in Curitiba, Brazil, not the Jardim Botânico in Rio de Janeiro, as indicated on the page. We regret the error.

01

18  
Risotto at Forage  
restaurant in  
Vancouver, B.C.



## Dear Club Member



As a new season begins, I hope you've enjoyed your summer travels, wherever they have taken you. I also want to update you on some exciting new developments from your Club and fill you in on what's still to come in 2018 and beyond.

Throughout the past few months, we've announced several new projects in the highly desirable markets of New York City; Charleston, South Carolina; Los Cabos, Mexico; and Chicago. This summer, we celebrated the opening of The Residences by Hilton Club, our third property in New York City and a truly iconic location.

Ocean Tower by Hilton Grand Vacations Club in Waikoloa, Hawaii, is opening soon, and I hope to share more details on that and other new properties with you in the coming months.

We also recently completed an incredible Member Education Workshop in Chicago. These events continue to be impactful opportunities for us to show our Members how to get the most out of their Hilton Grand Vacations Club experience. We have one remaining workshop in 2018, so be sure to check out those details in the back of this edition.

Lastly, we are thrilled to announce that we have officially reached the 300,000 Club Member mark! To celebrate this significant milestone, we will be automatically entering Members into a drawing to pay for 300 Club Members' 2019 Club Dues. More details on this drawing will be shared in the October eClub Traveler.

Reaching this milestone signifies continued year-over-year growth and allows us opportunities to further expand our footprint to offer our Members an increased number of resorts in world-class urban and vacation destinations.

This year has been full of exceptional accomplishments—and it's not over yet! We are optimistic about the future because of the great work from our resort teams and because of you, our valued Member.

We look forward to continuing our journey together.

Happy travels,

**Stan Soroka**  
Chief Customer Officer



### Hilton Grand Vacations Club

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### ASK A CLUB COUNSELOR

**Q. What can I do with my Saved Points that are set to expire at the end of the year?**

**A.** If you are unable to travel to a Club Resort or confirm an RCI Exchange Reservation in 2018, you may deposit your remaining Saved Points into RCI for use in 2019. You can complete this transaction online from your Member Dashboard on the Club website by clicking through to Points > Manage My Points > Saved Points. If you prefer to complete your transaction by phone, we strongly encourage that you act early, as our call volumes and hold times typically increase the last week of the year. Don't forget—the deadline to save or deposit Points is December 31, 2018.

**—Nori Z., Elite Specialist, 15 years with Hilton Grand Vacations Club**

### Have a question for a Club Counselor?

Email it to [feedback@clubtraveler.com](mailto:feedback@clubtraveler.com), and it may be answered in an upcoming issue.

# Dream

WHERE TO GO

## Dream Vacation

On vacation, what's better than coming together with loved ones to enjoy a delectable dinner, especially when it's topped with irreplaceable stories, sprinkled with hearty laughter and set in the middle of an unforgettable backdrop? Not much, which is one of many reasons **Mary G.**, Club Member since 2013, dreams of vacationing in Tuscany, Italy.

"It's the perfect vacation because it has the combination of breathtaking scenery, Renaissance artisanship and history, unparalleled vineyards and exquisite gourmet foods," says Mary.

While some travelers like to squeeze all possible activities into a trip, Mary prefers to embrace the "rest and recreation" approach. From lazy mornings to sightseeing at their own pace, she says her family could spend days in Florence, examining its treasured churches, museums, shops and galleries.

"The short drive to Pisa would be a must for a picture in front of the famous Leaning Tower," says Mary, who adds that a visit to Siena, home of St. Catherine, patron saint of Italy, is also on her list. "As long as we're dreaming, our trip would include an excursion to Elba, moated exile of Napoleon."

The best part? "Those family dinners—made more delicious by time spent together, appreciation for our many gifts and the love shared among us ... and the accompanying wine!"



### WHERE TO STAY

Nestled in the rolling Tuscan countryside, **Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Borgo alle Vigne** is a great choice for Members.

The Leaning Tower of Pisa (pictured) once leaned in the other direction.



# LOOK AHEAD

Events worth the trip—whatever your time frame



Nights of a Thousand Candles, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (left); Merrie Monarch Festival, Hawaii Island (below)



## 3 MONTHS

### Nights of a Thousand Candles, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, December 6–22, 2018

Grab a cozy drink and witness the magic as the Brookgreen Gardens and its sculptures go aglow with more than 4,500 candles and thousands of other lights. [myrtlebeach.com/myrtle-beach-events/nights-of-a-thousand-candles-2017-12-01/2018-12-06](http://myrtlebeach.com/myrtle-beach-events/nights-of-a-thousand-candles-2017-12-01/2018-12-06)

### Jane Lynch: A Swingin' Little Christmas, Orlando, December 14–16, 2018

Emmy-winning *Glee* star Jane

Lynch breaks into a few songs of her own—performing hits from her new holiday album by the same name—at the Dr. Phillips Center of Performing Arts. [drphillipscenter.org/events/tickets/2018/jane-lynch-singin-christmas](http://drphillipscenter.org/events/tickets/2018/jane-lynch-singin-christmas)

### Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival, Las Vegas, January 2019

Billed as “Cinemanna from Heaven,” this smorgasbord of films shines various lights on Jewish identity, history and culture—just as it has for the past 17 years. [lvjff.org](http://lvjff.org)

## 6 MONTHS

### Spring Fever, Breckenridge, Colorado, late March–late April 2019

While nestled in the Rockies, prove yourself as a ski mogul, “sip” back, hunt for one of the golden eggs nestled in the area or take an icy plunge in the city pond during this springtime extravaganza. [gobreck.com/experience-breckenridge/festivals-and-events/breckenridge-spring-fever](http://gobreck.com/experience-breckenridge/festivals-and-events/breckenridge-spring-fever)

### Merrie Monarch Festival, Hawaii Island, Hawaii, April 21–27, 2019

Swaying for more than 50 years, this weeklong celebration of

all things hula—including an arts fair, performances and a parade—is a tribute to Hawaiian culture. [merriemonarch.com](http://merriemonarch.com)

### Myrtle Beach Bike Week, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, May 10–19, 2019

Calling all bikers: Bring your hog—or rent one from Club Partner EagleRider—for an unforgettable marathon of roaring rides, racing, tours, entertainment and community-building with fellow enthusiasts. [myrtlebeachbikeweek.com/events/spring-rally](http://myrtlebeachbikeweek.com/events/spring-rally)

## 9 MONTHS

### Luma, Queenstown, New Zealand, early June 2019

Treat your senses to this annual light festival twinkling along the lake, illuminating alpine in dramatic fashion while also featuring installations, live music and outdoor flicks. [luma.nz](http://luma.nz)

### Fillmore Jazz Festival, San Francisco, June 29–30, 2019

Twelve blocks of arts and crafts and a kaleidoscope of cuisines add flavor to the largest free jazz festival on the West Coast. [sresproductions.com/events/fillmore-jazz-festival](http://sresproductions.com/events/fillmore-jazz-festival)

### Florida Supercon, Miami, July 4–7, 2019

See where Prada drew some of its latest inspiration with this triumph of comic-book culture, replete with panel discussions, film screenings, Q&As, merchandise, and—POW!—lots of delicious cosplay. [floridasupercon.com](http://floridasupercon.com)

## 12 MONTHS

### Pisa Food & Wine Festival, Pisa, Italy, mid-October 2019

Taste the very best of Mediterranean cuisine against the stunning backdrop of timeless Tuscany. [pisafoodwinefestival.it](http://pisafoodwinefestival.it)

### 19th Annual Black & White Night, Hilo, Hawaii Island, early November 2019

Come in your best black-and-white outfit for this massive block party studded with lively street entertainment, trendy shops, buzzy galleries, restaurants and a selfie contest full of handsome prizes. [downtownhilo.com/blackandwhite](http://downtownhilo.com/blackandwhite)

### Fall Fiesta in the Park, Orlando, early November 2019

Get a leg up on gift-buying with 300-plus artists and crafters while indulging in eats, beats and activities for the whole family—pet fiesta included for four-legged friends looking for fun. [downtownorlando.com/events/47th-annual-fall-fiesta-park](http://downtownorlando.com/events/47th-annual-fall-fiesta-park)



**WHERE TO STAY** Many of these events take place near one of HGV's resorts. Visit the Club website, [club.hiltongrandvacations.com](http://club.hiltongrandvacations.com), for the full list of destinations.



# Haunted Happenings

that's purportedly haunted by a cast of apparitions, like the "Lady in White"—a beauty in a white gown who's been seen dancing on air in the lounge.

builder's young daughters, who tragically died on-site, are said to haunt this 1874 brick tower on Florida's Anastasia Island. Take a "Dark of the Moon" ghost tour, offered Friday through Sunday nights, on which your only guiding light will be the glow stick in your hand.

## 6 Universal Studios "Halloween Horror Nights"

Follow the blood-curdling screams to Universal Studios' theme parks in Hollywood, California; Orlando; Sentosa Island, Singapore; and Osaka, Japan, which get in on the Halloween act each year with special Horror Nights attractions like haunted houses and "scare zones." In 2018, fans of *Stranger Things* can get lost in an eerie maze inspired by the hit series.

## 7 Salem, Massachusetts

Site of the 1692 Salem witch trials, this seaside town trades in on its spooky history with everything from a witch-themed wax museum to genuinely creepy locales like the Joshua Ward House and Howard Street Cemetery. Walk the dark side of "Witch City" on a tour offered by Hocus Pocus Tours.

## 8 St. Augustine Lighthouse, Florida

The spirit of a former lightkeeper and apparitions of the lighthouse

## 9 One If By Land, Two If By Sea restaurant, New York City

Dining at one of Manhattan's most romantic restaurants, don't be alarmed if your filet mignon comes with a side of spectral phenomena. The 1767 building, originally a carriage house, is reportedly spooked by the ghost of Aaron Burr (yes, the Burr who shot Alexander Hamilton) and more than 20 other phantasms.

## 10 Hotel del Coronado, San Diego, California

This iconic Victorian beach resort claims a resident ghost named Kate Morgan, a young woman who died at the hotel in 1892 under mysterious circumstances. A benign spirit, she's been spotted floating down the corridors and is known to spook guests staying in her former room, #3327, where the TV mysteriously turns on and off by itself.

## 1 EDINBURGH CASTLE, SCOTLAND

Supernatural activity soars off the charts in Edinburgh's brooding 12th-century castle (below), a favorite of paranormal researchers. Hundreds of castle visitors and staff have reported seeing spectral figures (including a headless drummer boy), feeling sudden temperature drops and being physically touched by an unseen presence.

## 2 Stanley Hotel, Estes Park, Colorado

Stephen King was so creeped out by a stay at this grand old Rocky Mountains hotel, he made it the setting for his spine-tingling novel *The Shining*, in which it's renamed the Overlook Hotel. Tours evoke the Stanley's spooky past and usually enter one of the haunted rooms, including infamous suite #217, which King and other guests report is occupied by the ghost of a former hotel maid.

## 3 Disney's Haunted Mansion

Hop aboard a "Doom Buggy" for a spin through Disney's classic Haunted Mansion ride in several parks, including its original 1969 California location, Tokyo, Paris (where it's named Phantom Manor) and Florida's Magic Kingdom.

At each park, the resident "999 happy haunts" range from hitchhiking ghosts to the glowing, floating disembodied head of Madame Leota in a crystal ball.

## 4 Tower of London, England

With more than 900 years of gruesome history behind its fortress walls, this former prison alongside the River Thames is said to be haunted by a host of ghosts—most famously the spirit of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII, who was beheaded here in 1536.

## 5 RMS Queen Mary, Long Beach, California

Moored in Long Beach Harbor, this 1936 British ocean liner saw dozens of onboard deaths during her seafaring career. Today, visit this creaking old ship



# French Polynesia

**i**f you make the voyage to French Polynesia, you might *think* its big draw is any of its 118 islands. But chances are you're actually there for its lagoons, peaceful turquoise inlets that fringe the islands and make them the stuff of honeymoon dreams. Lagoons are formed over eons: First, tiny sea creatures—yes, corals—set up camp on ancient lava buildups that have risen above the sea's surface. Their exoskeletons stay in place as the lava underneath erodes, leaving a reef that protects the waters it surrounds from wind and waves. The result: the placid lagoon, as close to paradise as the planet allows.



**WHERE TO STAY** Club Members with Elite status can luxuriate on the French Polynesian island of Motu Teta by booking with Villas of Distinction. The villa comes with a chef, housekeeper and private guide as well as all varieties of equipment for water sports, from snorkeling gear to sailboats. And no worries about keeping it quiet for the neighbors: You and your party are the only guests on the island.

# Miami Magic

South Florida's vibrant oceanside city

## Where to Stroll

For an introduction to the vibrant energy that embodies Miami, make a beeline for Wynwood—near Midtown and the Miami Design District—and the Wynwood Walls ([thewynwoodwalls.com](http://thewynwoodwalls.com)). The giant walls serve as canvases for artists from around the world, each of whom brings vision, creativity and energy to create this thriving art scene. Duck inside any of the 70-plus galleries in the Wynwood District to view even more works (and to cool off!).

## Where to Beach

When you think of Miami beaches, the first to pop into mind may be South Beach, with its wide swaths of sand, art deco architecture and reputation as the scene in which to be seen. While South

Beach certainly is a hot spot for soaking up some rays, Sunny Isles Beach, Miami's northernmost beach, is terrific for anyone looking for a quieter stretch. Farther south, Biscayne National Park is within sight of downtown, and with 95 percent of its 172,000 acres underwater, it's a snorkeler's paradise ([nps.gov/bisc/index.htm](http://nps.gov/bisc/index.htm)).

## What to Eat

Miami is a veritable melting pot of international flavors, and one spot to check out is Little Havana—chock full of Cuban restaurants, bakeries and coffee windows for a *cafe con leche* pick-me-up, it's the place for Cuban food. Versailles ([versaillesrestaurant.com](http://versaillesrestaurant.com)) has been a Little Havana dining destination since 1971. You can also cool off on a sultry Florida day with a tropical scoop at Azucar Ice Cream Company ([azucaricecream.com](http://azucaricecream.com))—choose from flavors

originating in the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. Bon appétit!

## How to Get There

Metrorail takes you from the airport into the city for just \$2.25 ([miamidade.gov/transit/metrorail.asp](http://miamidade.gov/transit/metrorail.asp)). Or hop on the Tri-Rail, a commuter train that links Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach ([tri-rail.com](http://tri-rail.com)); the recently launched Brightline ([gobrightline.com](http://gobrightline.com)) runs the same route. Taxis offer flat rates to various areas of Miami, and Lyft and Uber are popular options. Parking is less expensive than in other American cities and comes with a bonus: Miami has a number of “designer parking garages” from top-name architects, some with rooftop attractions. Check out Zaha Hadid's Collins Park Place at the north end of the South Beach Historic District, and 1111 Lincoln Road, designed by Herzog & de Meuron.



## WHERE TO STAY

### Hilton Grand

#### Vacations Club at McAlpin–Ocean Plaza

is perfectly situated for a land-and-sea combo: a short stroll to the ocean, yet central to the nightlife that makes Miami a thrilling adult destination. Make sure to plan ahead for your vacation here, as this property books up quickly—consider a midweek vacation, which will also help conserve your Points. To get to Hilton Grand Vacations Club at McAlpin–Ocean Plaza using public transit, take the airport light rail from your terminal to the main airport station, then hop on bus 150 Express to Washington Avenue and 13th Street; walk toward the ocean and turn left on Ocean Drive.



The Wynwood Walls (pictured here) transformed warehouse exteriors into canvases—perfect for a stroll. Follow up with a scoop at Azucar Ice Cream Company (bottom left).



# Plan

MAKE IT  
HAPPEN

The 13-mile-long Mendenhall Glacier houses a number of ice caves (pictured here) carved out by the melting glacial ice.

## All Aboard

Club Member **Graham T.** sailed the *Grand Princess* to Alaska with his wife and stepdaughter. One of his cruise highlights:

"For one of the shore excursions, I went on a trek through the wilderness near Juneau. We hiked up to a glacier—you can see probably 200 feet of it, and you know it goes back miles. What really makes it stand out are these pieces of blue in it called blue ice, which is just compressed snow that looks blue because of its enlarged ice crystals.

"The hike itself is spectacular, even apart from the glacier. You're struck by how green it is. It was raining, but that's what makes it so green. And then when you're at the lake, within view of the glacier it's just stunning. I was actually at that glacier a few years earlier, in 2009. When I look back at my pictures from 2009 and compare them with this trip, you can see how just in those few years, the level of ice has actually retreated. You hear a lot about global warming, but actually seeing it is something else entirely."



### LEARN MORE

Inspired by Graham to visit Alaska? Embark on an 11-night ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventure Alaska Land and Sea Journey with Holland America in August 2019. Visit [club.hiltongrandvacations.com](https://club.hiltongrandvacations.com) for more information: Club Membership > ClubPartner Perks > ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventure.



# BON VOYAGE!

Cruise news, tips and facts for smooth sailing



10

## FLORA AND FAUNA

Club Members with Elite status will have first access to one of the natural world's greatest offerings next year with a 10-night land and sea adventure through the Galapagos Islands and Quito, Ecuador, beginning September 20, 2019. Aboard the *Celebrity Flora* from September 22 to 28, 2019, cruisers will delve into the 13 islands that are home to flora and fauna that have evolved for thousands of years mostly untouched by humanity. With capacity for just 100 guests, the all-inclusive cruise offers an intimate, luxurious look at the place that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Guests will enjoy cabins ranging from Sky Suites to Royal Suites, gourmet meals and wine, and excursions (also included), as well as onboard naturalists.

**1901:** Year the first-ever purpose-built cruise ship, the *Prinzessin Victoria Luise*, set sail. (The *Prinzessin* was grounded just five years later, off the coast of Jamaica.)



### LEARN MORE

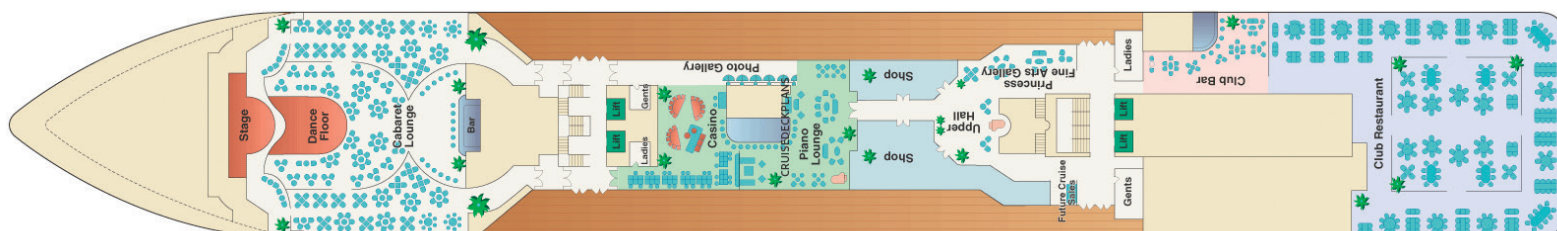
CruisesOnly

agents are available to help you use Points or cash to book cruises. To speak with a cruise agent, call 800-364-3656 (U.S.) or 617-587-6200 (international), or learn more at **club.hiltongrandvacations.com**.

## Cruisetoberfest!

October is National Plan a Cruise Month, which means that's the time to be on the lookout for exceptional cruise deals. Visit [hgvc.cruisesonly.com](http://hgvc.cruisesonly.com) for more.

**DO YOUR HOMEWORK** A bit of advice from veteran voyagers: Download and study a blueprint of the vessel prior to departure. Massive ships can be daunting at first, but if you study ahead, you'll be zooming around like a pro on day one.



PLAN: LEADER OF THE PACK

Staying safe while traveling means keeping your digital wits about you. Nothing is foolproof, but these items will help you stay secure.

# Cybersecurity on the Go

## Samsonite RFID Zip-Close Wallet

“Be aware of pickpockets” is an age-old adage for travelers, but these days it’s important to protect the contents of your wallet from *electronic* theft as well. Credit cards, passports and even boarding passes are all potential targets for radio-frequency identification (RFID) theft—unless you have a handy RFID-blocking wallet, like this zip-close stalwart from Samsonite. It’s big enough to fit multiple cards, your passport and boarding passes, but slender enough not to be cumbersome. It also features a hidden zipper lock and double-locked strap to thwart the old-fashioned kind of theft. [shop.samsonite.com](http://shop.samsonite.com)

## Blur Password Manager

If you’re still keeping vital passwords on a scrap of paper in your wallet—or any other place that isn’t securely encrypted—you’re long overdue for an upgrade. The Blur password manager generates strong, unique passwords for all of your accounts, syncs across multiple devices and fills in the info automatically when you want to log on. And its cybersecurity measures don’t stop there: It can also generate one-

time-use “burner” credit card numbers and mask your email address so you don’t have to reveal your actual info to vendors. And if you’re wary of giving out your real digits while on the road, Blur can even create a virtual phone number for you. [abine.com](http://abine.com)

## ExpressVPN

Gone are the days when virtual private networks (VPNs) were exclusively the domain of data pirates or nefarious users of the “dark web.” They’re actually a great idea for anyone concerned with privacy and security online—especially travelers. Not only do they encrypt your data, making it safer to surf unsecured networks (like public Wi-Fi), but they also allow you to use U.S.-based servers from anywhere in the world. This means you can easily and safely log on to financial websites, stream content and browse sites that may be blocked or restricted in other countries. ExpressVPN is one of the best in the business, featuring a huge network of global VPN servers and IP addresses, unlimited bandwidth and top-of-the-line encryption. [expressvpn.com](http://expressvpn.com) (Note: If this site doesn’t load, check your computer’s firewalls.)

## What to Look for When You Log On

Airports, cafés, museums, parks: The world is increasingly filled with public Wi-Fi spots, and when you travel, you’ll use some of them. Take these precautions when logging on:

>> Check the URL of the website to make sure it’s authentic (not a copycat site set up by a scammer).

>> Verify that the address begins with “https,” not just “http.” The “s” stands for “secure,” and it should be accompanied by a small icon of a padlock in the browser bar. (If you use Chrome, Firefox or Opera, you can install the HTTPS Everywhere plugin, [eff.org/https-everywhere](http://eff.org/https-everywhere).)

>> For added security, use a VPN, like the one featured to the left, which lets you connect to alternative servers and automatically encrypts the data.

>> If you’re on an unsecured network, don’t log on to websites that require a password, and steer clear of financial transactions.



The Samsonite RFID Zip-Close Wallet has internal zipper pockets to keep you organized.

PLAN: ON THE FLY



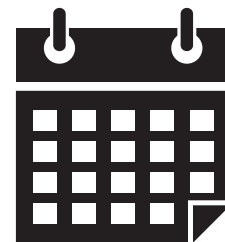
## Named most LGBT-friendly domestic and international destinations?

Orlando  
and Vienna

## IN THE KNOW: TRAVEL TRIVIA

1.2  
million

The estimated number of elementary school teachers who could be funded by the \$72 billion in state and local taxes generated by tourism in 2016, according to the U.S. Travel Economic Impact Calculator (TEIC). Try your own calculation at [travelcalculator.ustravel.org](http://travelcalculator.ustravel.org).

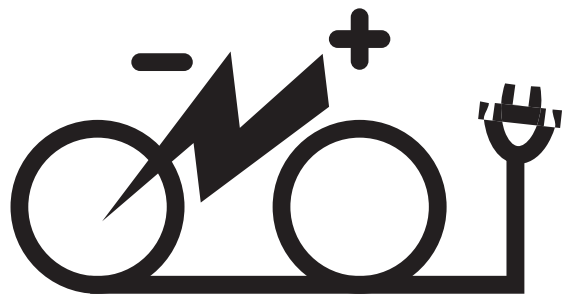


52%

Percentage of Americans who reported having unused vacation days in 2017—an improvement over 54% in 2016, according to a recent Project: Time Off survey.

## What do PAX, UM and F/A all have in common?

They're all airline-speak, or jargon, and translate to the following: passengers, unaccompanied minor and flight attendant, respectively.



\$100 million

How much Uber paid to acquire an electric bike company.

## Elevator Small Talk

Although Elisha Graves Otis is credited with inventing the modern-day elevator in 1852, a Greek mathematician named Archimedes created a primitive version of the ever-so-convenient contraption in 236 B.C.



## Artificial Intelligence

The technology named more than any other as the most likely to change the future of the travel industry, according to findings from a recent State of Travel Startups survey.

## Right or Left?

Studies show most flyers prefer to be seated on the right side of the plane.



PLAN: PICTURE PERFECT

# Capture a Bird's-Eye View

Most airlines have no problem with passengers snapping photos, as long as they're for personal use. Out of courtesy, avoid photographing staff members and fellow passengers.

smartphone to focus on something past the glass—like a cloud, airplane wing or building—and *snap*.

## Use the Wing

If you're seated mid-airplane, add the wing to your shot for dramatic scale in your miles-high photography. Place the wing along one of the edges of your screen to partially frame the view of clouds or land, depending on the position of the airplane. This shot looks especially interesting during takeoffs and landings when surrounding scenery is closer to the airplane.

## Capture Landscapes

Snap everything from storm cloud formations to historical landmarks from the comfort of your airplane seat. Pay attention to how the airplane turns during the flight to get unique views. Some pilots will announce when you're flying near recognizable monuments, like Mount Rushmore, the Grand Canyon, Machu Picchu or the Eiffel Tower, so you don't miss an incredible overhead-view photo opp. Also, a little research can go a long way in ensuring you select a seat on the side of the aircraft that will serve up the best shots on your route.

## Snap Selfies

No airplane ride is complete without a few selfies to post on social media (upon landing, of course). If you're seated by the window and sun is not streaming in, lean in toward the glass and allow the natural daylight to partially illuminate your face, Rembrandt-style. Frame the picture with half you and half window view, tap your face on the camera screen to set it as the focal and exposure point, then click.

## Minimize Glares

Press the camera flush against the glass window to reduce glare and reflections from inside the cabin. Choose an area of the double-pane window without condensation, streaks of debris or direct sunlight streaming in. Then frame the view, tap the screen of your

**H**ello, cruising altitude! As you cozy up in your airplane seat and begin daydreaming about your vacation destination, make sure to keep your smartphone handy. Yes, even in airplane mode, you'll be able to capture incredible aerial-view snaps from the window with these tips.

# Turning Memories into Keepsakes

How to preserve the natural artifacts of your travels

**T**ake a bit of your voyage home by preserving and displaying the leaves, shells and flowers that made your travels so eye-catching. Just make sure you're allowed to take these treasures: When it comes to shells, make sure that the sea creature that once used it as a home has vacated the

premises. (When in doubt, take sand as a keepsake instead.) And don't pick wildflowers; instead, gather fallen flowers or ask a guide for help in finding an appropriate bloom. Going overseas? Best to just take photos of your finds to avoid breaking border rules on plant and animal matter.

## Fall Foliage

**To preserve:** In a shallow pan, mix one part glycerin (available in drugstores) with two parts water. Submerge leaves. Layer cardboard on the surface and place magazines on top to keep leaves submerged. Leave the pan undisturbed for five days, then

remove the leaves. Pat dry.

**To display:** Consider framing as with flowers (see below), either in an arrangement or singly, with the name of the tree or the location and year written decoratively below. Or try this autumnal display: Hang white LED Christmas lights, then use a bit of masking tape

to affix a leaf to each bulb. (LED lights are low-heat, keeping this a safe display.)

## Seashells

**To preserve:** Wash seashells in warm, soapy water. Bring a pot of water to a boil; add shells and boil 10 minutes, then drain. When cool enough to handle, inspect shells for cracks or sediment. Let dry thoroughly and coat with acrylic spray if desired.

**To display:** Take a picture frame or mirror and, starting from the inner edge, arrange seashells around its border. Use smaller shells to fill in gaps, saving large shells for last so they're not covered by smaller shells. Using a hot glue gun, glue shells in place, again starting from inner edge. Use small scissors to trim any stray strands of glue.

## SAVE YOUR POINTS

**October 1–5 is International Customer Service Week, including Global Save Your Points Day! To thank Club Members for giving our team the opportunity to serve, the Club will have a special promotion to help you get more from your membership. Stay tuned for more information!**

## Flowers

**To preserve:** Slice flowers with thick buds (such as roses) in half lengthwise. Arrange flower on a noncorrugated coffee filter. Layer between a newspaper and insert into a magazine. Weigh down magazine with other books or your suitcase. Change the filter and newspaper every few days. The flower will be dry in two to three weeks; if your vacation ends before then, keep the magazine closed in transit, and weigh it down again upon arriving home.

**To display:** Cut a piece of cardstock to fit a picture frame. Use tweezers to arrange the flowers, then use a toothpick dipped in glue to dot on underside of the flowers and place on the cardstock. Let dry, then place the cardstock into frame.



# Go

## WHAT TO DO

Known for its spice factor, Thai cuisine brings the heat with noodle dishes—like this one, topped with Thai chilies.

## Local Perspective

Situated just 25 miles from the Gulf of Thailand and on the Chao Phraya River, the historic, cultural and cosmopolitan capital of Thailand awaits in a tropical savanna known as Bangkok. Explore Thailand like a local with these tips from native Bangkokian **Amolrada T.**

Amolrada says she wishes people knew that there's more to Bangkok than just shopping, visiting temples and partaking in the city's energetic nightlife. "Food is great, but most people may not be aware that you can also participate in cooking classes and day tours of food spot hopping, too," says Amolrada. "It's one thing to enjoy tasting the food, but getting to see and take part in the making of your favorite dishes can be a totally new experience."

Aside from food tours, Amolrada's favorite spot is Sa-nguan Sri, an accessible entry point on Witthayu Road for Thai food newcomers that also serves dishes rarely seen outside the country. "Sa-nguan Sri is a hidden gem of a Thai food adventure in the heart of the city [and one] that is worth the wait."

Amolrada also loves waking up "too early" and visiting her local marketplace to give alms to Buddhist monks during almsgiving on Sunday mornings. "My regular morning marketplace is, funny enough, a place near Kaosan Road called Banglamphu," she says, adding that the "market's [morning] charm lies in its food options and the right degree of chaos. Every visit is different from the next, and it's a good excuse to sleep in a little longer when you get home."

Despite the heat, Amolrada says the best time to visit Bangkok is during Thailand's summer (in April), when the Songkran festival takes place. "People stop everything for five or more days to throw water at each other on the street!" Amolrada says. "It's a very Bangkok experience that travelers should not miss."



**WHERE TO STAY** Members can stay at the **Millennium Hilton Bangkok**, on the Chao Phraya and near attractions like the Temple of Dawn, Grand Palace and Chinatown. The hotel offers breathtaking city views from its more than 500 rooms and free water shuttle boats to sights around the city.

# Candy Culture

**C**andy lovers, it's your time to shine—Halloween is around the corner. But if the thought of another bowl filled with the same old candy terrifies you or your palate, maybe it's time to go international. As you cross borders, discover how different cultures around the globe showcase their affection for sugar in unique and enticing candies. If some of them seem a little strange, just remember that one man's trick is another man's treat.

## GUAYABITA, FROM COSTA RICA

These delicious morsels are made of chocolate and filled with a jelly guava, or *guayaba*, which is not only a key ingredient in this beloved Costa Rican candy but also the root of its namesake. As you take a bite, enjoy a burst of flavor as the chocolate's sweetness and guava's citrus melt in your mouth. Produced for more than a century by Gallito and now Dos Pinos, many Costa Rica natives have fond memories of finding these sweets in their school lunchboxes.

## SALLOS SALMIK PASTILLEN, FROM THE NETHERLANDS

Adventurous eater? You'll have to be more than a daredevil—or even perhaps a bit of a masochist—to enjoy this one. Flavored with ammonium chloride, this salty licorice from the Netherlands is famous for producing pain and pleasure in equal quantities. Its flavor has been described as “tongue-numbing” and “like eating nettles.” For those looking to up their candy game, give these diamond-shaped and delightfully deviant concoctions a try.



## KESHUA COCA CANDY, FROM PERU

Forget energy drinks—this candy is the perfect pick-me-up when you're struggling with jet lag fatigue or altitude sickness. Good luck finding it in the United States, though; Keshua is made with extract of the coca leaf. The effects of eating it are mild, like drinking a cup of coffee—but still, you may want to indulge in coca candy during only daylight hours if you plan on getting a good night's sleep.



## BOTAN RICE CANDY, FROM JAPAN

These chewy citrus-flavored treats taste great, but that's not all the flavor they offer snackers. Two words: edible packaging. No more wasting your time peeling and unwrapping. These Japanese candies come wrapped in edible rice paper, so you can just go ahead and eat the whole thing. But don't get ahead of yourself—each package also comes with a free sticker that you definitely *shouldn't* try to eat.



# Where to Play Along the Way

Make your next family vacation even more fun with these on-the-road play spots for kids



## Park City, Utah

### On the Go: Main Street Trolley

Shopping and dining in downtown Park City can be fun—and exhausting—for little ones. Make it special by hopping on the old-fashioned Main Street Trolley, which rolls along Main Street between 10 a.m. and 11 p.m. each day, making stops on request as well as scheduled stops. Sure to be a hit with fans of Thomas the Tank Engine. Plus, like all Park City public transportation, it's free.

### Play In: Park City Ice Arena

Skate like a pro on an Olympic-size ice sheet. This indoor ice skating facility rents skates and offers a locker room with changing rooms. [parkcity.org/departments/park-city-ice-arena](http://parkcity.org/departments/park-city-ice-arena)

### Get Out: Aqua X Zone

Cool off in this water park located on top of the Jordanelle Reservoir, just 20 minutes east of Park City and inside a beautiful state park of the same name. [aquaxzone.com](http://aquaxzone.com)



## San Francisco, California

### On the Go: San Francisco International Airport (SFO)

Wait for your flight in style and keep your kids occupied with the Plasma Wall and play structure in Terminal 3. Take flight at the Turpen Aviation Museum, where the 11,500-square-foot facility is modeled after an SFO 1937 waiting room. [flysfo.com/museum](http://flysfo.com/museum)

### Play In: Children's Creativity Museum

Imaginations soar at this hands-on space hub. Multimedia is king when kids can create clay motion animations or rock out in front of a green screen and star in a music video. [creativity.org](http://creativity.org)

### Get Out: Koret Children's Quarter Playground

Meandering concrete slides grace an ample hill at this playground in Golden Gate Park. Don't skip a ride on the carousel—built in 1914—with 62 animal figures to ride.

## Las Vegas, Nevada

### On the Go: McCarran International Airport (LAS)

This airport houses an aviation-themed play area located in the D concourse, which boasts a miniature control tower. For older children, check out the Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum, with interactive videos and a vintage Cessna 172 on display. [mccarran.com/museum](http://mccarran.com/museum)

### Play In: Discovery Children's Museum

Celebrate water, power and the Hoover Dam at the Water World exhibit in this hands-on children's center. Exhibits range from science to art and encourage exploration from guests of all ages. Yes, you will get wet! [discoverykidslv.org](http://discoverykidslv.org)

### Get Out: Town Square Children's Park and Playground

Beat the desert heat by cooling off in the playground's Pop-Jet Fountain and splash area. Located at the outdoor Town Square Shopping Mall, this park has shaded activities like a tree house to keep you cool too.



A large steel bridge arches over a city waterfront. In the background, several modern high-rise buildings are visible. A small boat with a rainbow-colored stripe is on the water in the foreground. The sky is overcast.

GO: LONG WEEKEND

False Creek (pictured here), the gateway to Granville Island, is home to the Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival every June, a colorful spectacle not to be missed. Also not to be missed: the grilled kale salad at Forage (pictured at right).

# 3 Days in... Vancouver, B.C.

Nestled in spectacular right-there natural beauty, this glittering port city on Canada's west coast is a cultural crossroads, with a renowned food and art scene that reflects the diversity of its many immigrant communities.

## Day One

Vancouver is a city of neighborhoods, with many distinct districts to visit depending on your mood. Its oldest neighborhood, Gastown, is just off Vancouver Harbour. Stroll shops and First Nations (indigenous Canadian) art galleries and find the iconic 1977-built Steam Clock on Water Street, which whistles and puffs hourly with clouds of steam. Try lunch on the waterfront at Miku, featuring sushi aburi-style (flame-seared) and harbor views, or head east toward Maple Tree Square and Local Public Eatery's burger-and-beer fare and inviting outdoor patio. Nearby, a frosty milkshake made from local organic milk from Soft Peaks is fortifying for further wanderings.

More afield, Queen Elizabeth Park and the tropical Bloedel Floral Conservatory and aviary, which sits at the highest point in Vancouver, is worth a trek, with more than 120 free-flying birds and 500 exotic plants. [gastown.org](http://gastown.org), [mikurestaurant.com](http://mikurestaurant.com), [localpubliceatery.com](http://localpubliceatery.com), [softpeaks.ca](http://softpeaks.ca), [vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/bloedel-conservatory.aspx](http://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/bloedel-conservatory.aspx)

## Day Two

Take a short ferry ride across False Creek to Granville Island—not really an island but formerly an industrial sandbar. Start at the public market, as much a locals' destination as a tourist gem, with a farmers market and 150 artisan vendors and retailers from the area. Try the Oyama Sausage Co. and Lee's Donuts for picnic-

perfect bites. Peruse at your own pace or tap the experts with a walking tour, such as those through Vancouver Foodie Tours. For goods slightly off the beaten path, don't miss Railspur Alley, lined with workshops where creatives of all stripes hone and sell their handmade goods. You'll find glassblowers, leatherworkers, jewelry makers and even Canada's first sake distiller, Artisan SakeMaker. June through September, take in a play at Bard on the Beach, a Shakespeare festival set up in tents in Vanier Park, about a 20-minute walk from Granville Island. [granvilleisland.com](http://granvilleisland.com), [foodietours.ca/granville-island-market-tour](http://foodietours.ca/granville-island-market-tour), [artisansakemaker.com](http://artisansakemaker.com), [bardonthebeach.org](http://bardonthebeach.org)


## Day Three

At just over 988 acres, Stanley Park is Vancouver's largest park, with many

hiking trails and diversions, including the world-famous Vancouver Aquarium. Hop the Stanley Park Train for just over a mile-long ride through the park's forest. There are plenty of trails to stroll and epic photo opportunities around the park's perimeter, with beaches interspersed along the way. After the park, exit toward Robson Street, one of Vancouver's oldest commercial streets, famed for its shopping as well as its something-for-everyone dining vibe. Try the namesake treats at Dinesty Dumpling House, noodles at Marutama Ra-men, or sustainable, locally sourced B.C. cuisine at Forage. [vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/stanley-park.aspx](http://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/stanley-park.aspx), [vanaqua.org](http://vanaqua.org), [dinesty.ca](http://dinesty.ca), [marutama.ca](http://marutama.ca), [foragevancouver.com](http://foragevancouver.com)



**WHERE TO STAY** Situated right on Robson Street (see Day Three), the **Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Vancouver—Downtown** is also within walking distance of Gastown, Chinatown and Granville Island. Explore it all on foot after grabbing a free On the Run Breakfast Bag offered by the hotel.



Castillo de San Marcos' limestone walls (pictured here) had an unexpected benefit: The porousness let cannonballs settle in the walls instead of shattering them. At right, St. George Street typifies quaint St. Augustine architecture.

# STROLL BACK IN TIME



Discover the structures in St. Augustine, Florida; Washington, D.C.; and Kamakura, Japan, that have stood the test of time—and live to speak their storied pasts. A walk around these destinations will uncover a trove of history, delight your inner explorer and awaken your curiosity in the world around you.

## ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA



With its centuries-old buildings, brick-lined streets and 42 miles of beaches, it's easy to see the appeal of St. Augustine, America's oldest city of European origin. Its physical structures reflect more than 350 years of cultural exchange and adventure, two characteristics of the area's distinct history.

Built by Spanish settlers to mark their new city in the late 17th century, Castillo de San Marcos National Monument is a must-see. The sturdy limestone walls serve as a reminder of early America's grim yet remarkable history. The castle was the scene of several significant events, like fierce battles and the imprisonment of Seminole tribe leader Chief Osceola. The walls stand strong, a symbol of both resilience and the culture clashes that paved the way for the United States of America we know today. During your visit, re-enactors in period attire demonstrate weapons and share stories about the colonists who once dwelled within the fort's walls.

Its old Spanish architecture, complex historic streets and varied restaurants make St. Augustine a unique mix of history and delightful fun. For the young and young at heart, experience the city's rich past through lively activities at the St. Augustine Pirate and Treasure Museum and the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park. If you prefer a guided tour, brave the Sheriff's Ghost Walk Tours, where the famed Sheriff Guy White (d. 1911) comes back from the crypt to show you around town. [nps.gov/casa/index.htm](https://nps.gov/casa/index.htm), [thepiratemuseum.com](https://thepiratemuseum.com), [fountainofyouthflorida.com](https://fountainofyouthflorida.com), [sheriffsghostwalktours.com](https://sheriffsghostwalktours.com)

**Where to stay:** *Stay in town and on the beach at the Hilton St. Augustine Historic Bayfront Hotel. Looking for a day trip? Stay at the Hilton Grand Vacations Club at SeaWorld in Orlando, a stone's throw from SeaWorld, Disney World and Universal Studios, and an easy drive to St. Augustine.*

# WASHINGTON, D.C.

While the mall is a must-see, the District offers other walkable neighborhoods bursting with stories of yesteryear.

## Georgetown

The oldest part of the city is Georgetown, a former port along the Potomac River founded in 1751. The area is now home to shopping, eats and art, and it is cementing its place as a vibrant center of commerce.

Strolling around Georgetown is a trip through time. The row homes and their artful iron fixings reflect traces of the nation's earliest days. Brick sidewalks flank cobblestone streets, and grand mansions abut stables-turned-chic-apartments. Walking the stretch of O Street from Wisconsin Avenue to Georgetown University is a terrific way to take in the neighborhood's quaintness and layered history.

Just adjacent is M Street: a feast for the eyes, mind, stomach and shopping bag. M Street is lined by high-end boutiques like Relish and Hu's Wear, as well as international chains like H&M. Stores tend to be large, as many spaces used to be theaters.

When you tire of shopping, walk one block south to the towpath along the C&O Canal. Now quiet and breezy, the canal was busy from 1831 until 1924 as the main cargo path bringing coal down from the Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania.

If your stomach grumbles, grab a sweet treat from the French bakery Olivia Macaron, a



Georgetown (pictured here) was named not after George Washington, but for King George II.



The mural at Ben's Chili Bowl (pictured here) includes Prince and Barack and Michelle Obama. Below, re-enactors perform at a festival at the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine in Kamakura.

pizza with creative ingredients from Pizzeria Paradiso, or a fresh salad with local produce from Sweet Green (which was founded by Georgetown University students in 2007). [relishdc.com](http://relishdc.com), [husonline.com](http://husonline.com), [oliviamacaron.com](http://oliviamacaron.com), [eatyourpizza.com](http://eatyourpizza.com), [sweetgreen.com](http://sweetgreen.com)

## U Street Corridor

Once known as Black Broadway, the U Street Corridor remains a historical celebration of black culture in the District. From the Civil War to the Jazz Age, the 1960s race riots and beyond, discover the many contributions of the city's African-American community through street art, memorials and local businesses while walking down U Street.

The best walks end with good food and live music, and you'll find plenty of both along U Street. Savor the neighborhood's culinary talents showcased in a wide variety of cuisines like soul food at Oohh's & Aahh's, Ethiopian fare at Dukem and Belgian-Southern fusion at Marvin (are you salivating yet?).

You can still catch shows at the Lincoln Theatre, which predates the Harlem Renaissance and once hosted Washington natives Duke Ellington and Pearl Bailey as well as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole, Sarah Vaughan, Cab Calloway and Louis Armstrong, who played there for the President's Birthday Ball in honor of Franklin Roosevelt's 60th. If the Lincoln Theatre's show list doesn't do it for you, try the nearby Howard Theatre, the 9:30 Club or the intimate Twins Jazz. Busboys and Poets, a restaurant, bookstore and community gathering space for activists, regularly hosts poetry and book events, too. [blackbroadwayonu.com](http://blackbroadwayonu.com), [oohhsnaahhs.com](http://oohhsnaahhs.com), [dukemrestaurant.com](http://dukemrestaurant.com), [marvindc.com](http://marvindc.com), [thelincolndc.com](http://thelincolndc.com), [thehowardtheatre.com](http://thehowardtheatre.com), [930.com](http://930.com), [twinsjazz.com](http://twinsjazz.com), [busboysandpoets.com](http://busboysandpoets.com)

**Where to stay:** Both Georgetown and U Street Corridor are a short and lovely walk from The District by Hilton Club.



Kamakura is a coastal Japanese city just south of Tokyo, popular for its seaside appeal. Well before it became a beachside destination, it served as the political center of medieval Japan, and it maintains dozens of Buddhist Zen temples and Shinto shrines.

During the city's heyday (1192 to 1333), the warrior class

The shrine at Tsurugaoka-Hachimangu (including the main shrine, pictured here) is flanked with cherry and ginkgo trees.



was on the rise, along with Zen Buddhism, which emphasized discipline, concentration and duty. We see these ideals reflected in the structures still standing today. Kamakura's most recognizable landmark is the Kotoku-in Temple's Great Buddha, an 11-meter-high bronze statue cast in 1252 and still standing after a 15th-century tsunami. A picture of resilience, the Buddha has been fixed in the open air since 1495.

The city of Kamakura toggles between years past and current times with ease. Check out the exquisite woodwork of the Hasedera Temple before heading to Yuigahama Beach, a popular surfing spot. While the Great Buddha and these sites are only 10 to 20 minutes apart by foot, visitors can also enjoy a longer,

approximately one-hour, leisurely stroll from the shopping center down the cherry blossom-lined Dankazura path to Tsurugaoka Hachimangu. A prominent shrine built in 1063, Tsurugaoka Hachimangu is also home to gardens, two museums, annual festivals and community events. Just an hour by train from Tokyo, Kamakura allows its visitors to take in the rich religious history of the area while enjoying the country's natural splendor and modern innovations. [kotoku-in.jp/en](http://kotoku-in.jp/en), [tsurugaoka-hachimangu.jp](http://tsurugaoka-hachimangu.jp)

**Where to stay:** *Stay at The Bay Forest Odawara by Hilton Club, which sits between the Hakone foothills and Sagami Bay and is only a short day trip away from Kamakura and Tokyo.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

>> The famously steep stairs featured in *The Exorcist* actually exist in Georgetown at M Street, directly across from the Key Bridge. (For more spooky spots around the world, see page 5.)

>> St. Augustine is the oldest continuously occupied city and port established by Europeans in the continental U.S. Four countries have commanded the masonry, but it has never fallen to military force.

>> Nara, another historical Japanese city near Kyoto, has a population of miniature deer that you can feed in its public parks, adding a new level of charm.

# Club

YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP

With more than 50 miles of public pathways and nature trails, Hilton Head makes it easy to go for a walk.

25

## Ask the Resort

**Y**ou've planned ahead and booked a vacation at **Ocean Oak Resort by Hilton Grand Vacations Club**—congratulations! Now what? "Hilton Head is about getting outside," says **Michael Z.**, general manager of Ocean Oak.

Still, when a Member asked about ways to soak up some culture as well as some sun, he had a few suggestions.

"If you want to go back in time and learn about the Lowcountry lifestyle, the Coastal Discovery Museum is nice. Kids can dress up in Colonial costumes and sift through artifacts from the indigenous people who first lived in the area. For adults who are more interested in what the settlers were drinking way back when, check out the Hilton Head Brewery or the Hilton Head Distillery.

"In the evenings, you can head to Sea Pines, where Gregg Russell has been doing a concert for kids and adults most nights from April to November for 30 years—just head to the Liberty Tree at the yacht basin." [coastaldiscovery.org](http://coastaldiscovery.org), [hbbrewingco.com](http://hbbrewingco.com), [hiltonheaddistillery.com](http://hiltonheaddistillery.com), [greggrussell.com](http://greggrussell.com)



Have a question for a resort? Email it to [feedback@clubtraveler.com](mailto:feedback@clubtraveler.com) and we might answer it in a future issue.

# What's New With Club?

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



Grand Teton's Mount Moran, shown here, clocks in at 6,000 feet above Jackson Lake.

on Ocean Boulevard and will feature 330 units made up of one-, two- and three-bedroom suites—all featuring an ocean view, full kitchen, private balcony and roomy dining and living areas. With construction slated for completion by the second quarter of 2019, Members will soon be able to enjoy Ocean Enclave and its amenities, including a fitness center, oceanfront and indoor pools (including a pool bar and terrace) and a deli.

## 8-Day Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks Journey

Due to the overwhelming response to Hilton Grand Vacations Club's first 2019 Tauck event, HGV is excited to announce the second 2019 ClubPartner adventure with Tauck. Beginning May 29, spend eight days traversing two of America's most beloved parks—Yellowstone and Grand Teton. Soak in the Tetons' glaciers and peaks, raft along Snake River, explore Yellowstone's geothermal features and get ready for an authentic ranch experience in Buffalo.

## HGV Goes to Japan

Situated between the Hakone foothills and Sagami Bay, and just a 30-minute bullet train from Tokyo, **The Bay Forest Odawara by Hilton Club** is the first HGV property to open in Japan, with 10 villas currently open. Located near attractions like Fuji-Hakone-

Find additional details at club.hiltongrandvacations.com.

## Meet Ocean Enclave

With its swaying beach grass, iconic Ferris wheel and vivacious boardwalk, Myrtle Beach is already attractive—and it just got even more appealing, thanks to the newly announced **Ocean Enclave by Hilton Grand Vacations Club**, the third Club resort in Myrtle Beach and the fifth in South Carolina. Ocean Enclave will stand 27 stories tall

## Use Bonus Points for Holiday Gifts

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

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



Izu National Park and Odawara Castle, the Bay Forest is adjacent to the Hilton Odawara Resort & Spa and will offer Members ocean views as well as access to the resort's many amenities, like its spa services.

One of the suites at The Bay Forest Odawara by Hilton Club (above).

### Club Is Los Cabos-Bound

In May, Hilton Grand Vacations Club announced that it will purchase 87 of the 375 hotel rooms at the Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort to create its first non-affiliate property in Los Cabos, Mexico. Renovations are expected to begin in the second quarter of 2019 within the units located at this AAA Four-Diamond Resort that sits on 11.3 acres of beachfront and offers six dining options, a 7,000-square-foot spa and salon and one of the only swimmer-friendly beaches in the area.

### Win Bonus Points in Monthly Sweepstakes

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

## Director of Fun

### Get to know Joela C.

During her 25 years as a social worker, **Joela C.** incorporated fun into her jobs, whether she was working with at-risk teenagers or disabled adults. But it wasn't until she left social work that she officially became a Director of Fun—her title at **Hilton Grand Vacations Club at MarBrisa**. "I have the title on my badge and people are like, 'Really?' Yes, really!" *Club Traveler* talked with Joela about life at MarBrisa.

### Can you walk us through a typical day at MarBrisa?

There isn't a typical day! I'll walk you through tomorrow, which begins with reptiles—we're next to the Discovery Center, and on Saturday mornings they bring over reptiles, bearded dragons, snakes—even tarantulas. So I'll set that up, then prep for rock painting by collecting rocks on the beach. Then we'll have floats—root beer floats, orange floats that taste like Creamsicles. All day we have activities, and I like to sit with guests as we do them: piggy-bank painting, Pictionary, all sorts of things. In the evening we finish off with s'mores at the fire pit.

### What do you like about working in recreation?

I love to talk with people. You get families coming here over and over again, so they become friends. It's really cool to come in

on Sunday afternoons when check-ins are heavy and hear people say, "Joela!" When you go to a hotel, you sleep there and go out during the day. You can do that at MarBrisa too, but when people come here for the week, they want to hang out—sit by the pool, have the kids coming in and out with activities. I love creating that environment.

### What are you most proud of in your role as Director of Fun?

The Imagination Station. I wanted a room where families could do activities on their own—just a place to be together with things to do. Families with young children can come in early without disturbing the rest of the family. We've got art supplies, kites on the ceiling, puzzles—when someone completes a puzzle we put it on the wall. We probably have 30 up right now.

### Any Members stand out for you?

There are several families I really enjoy. One girl would be waiting for me when I'd arrive in the mornings. She sort of became my assistant. On her very first day, she saw my display of painted wine glasses, and she pointed to one with an ocean scene on it and said, "I would pay \$40 for that glass." When she left she gave me a picture she had drawn of the glass—and of course I gave her the glass. I think of her often.



# Discover America's Natural Wonders with RCI®

You don't have to travel far to soak in some incredible views. America's national parks deliver incredible landscapes right in your own backyard. From Joshua trees to waterfalls to wildlife, the splendor of these parks is not to be missed.



## CALIFORNIA

### Joshua Tree National Park

Spend the early mornings and evenings traversing Joshua Tree's otherworldly grounds. Frequent pullovers make it easy to admire the park's namesake tree on your way to one of the highest drive-to sites in the desert, Keys View, which overlooks Coachella Valley and Palm Springs.



## COLORADO

### Rocky Mountain National Park

Straddling the Continental Divide, Rocky Mountain National Park protects some of America's highest real estate, including more than 60 peaks that reach more than 12,000 feet. Inside the park, dozens of waterfalls and alpine pools deck the mountains and make for some beautiful sites.

## TENNESSEE & NORTH CAROLINA

### Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Recording more than 10 million annual visitors, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited national park in the United States. With 848 miles of trails, there are plenty of options for experiencing its forests and wetlands.



## VIRGINIA

### Shenandoah National Park

Tens of thousands of animals make their homes among the hollows of this southern stretch of Appalachia. Most travelers cross the park by way of Skyline Drive, which runs 105 miles along the Blue Ridge Mountains.





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- 3 Select **“RCI Account”** to link to  
your RCI® subscribing member  
account and start searching

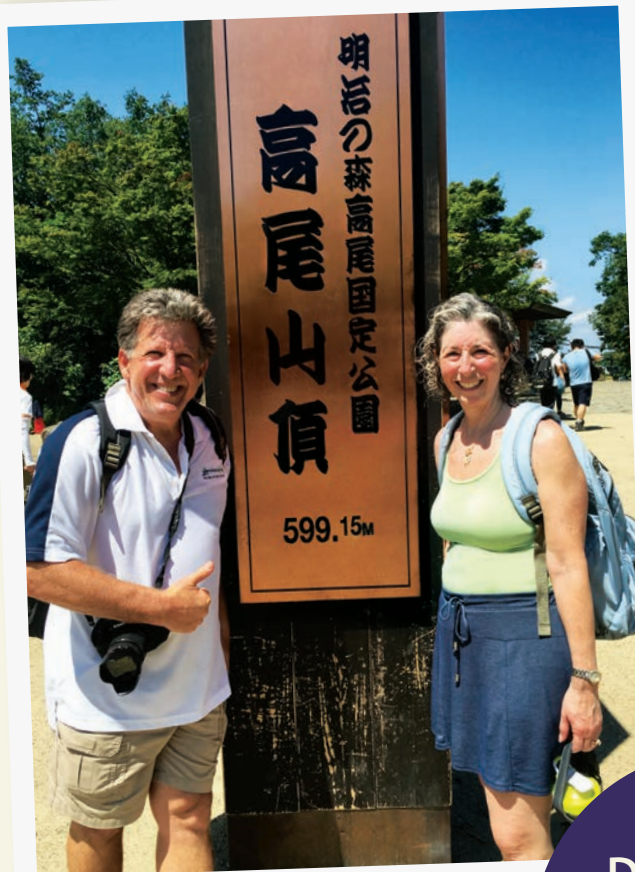
#### **PRO TIP:**

Don't let your ClubPoints expire!

Deposit your expiring Hilton Grand  
Vacations Club ClubPoints with RCI before  
the end of the year to get additional time  
to use them toward travel.

Call **800.932.4482** for more information.

<sup>1</sup>These vacations are limited and subject to availability and your accessible Points balance.  
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# Fancy-Free

Members share their favorite vacation memories over 20 years

“When we first became Members, one of our kids was 1 and the other wasn’t even born yet. So they’ve kind of grown up through the properties—we call our home base, Hilton Grand Vacations Club at SeaWorld, our “Florida home.” Over time we’ve acquired six units so we can vacation with friends and family.

My wife and I both work, so we liked the idea of setting aside time specifically to vacation. Otherwise it’s easy to keep putting it off “until you have the time”—you have to *make* that time happen. We liked the flexibility Hilton Grand Vacations Club offered, since we didn’t have to go to the same place every time. We often did, though—you can go somewhere and have a great vacation and never return to that location, but we were receptive to developing a connection with a place. You start seeing the same people, and we’ve made lifelong friends that way.

Vacations can kind of go two ways—either they’re really good or they’re really stressful. That’s just the nature of travel. We’d drive to Florida—a 20-hour ride—because it was just more convenient with kids and strollers and suitcases, so I can’t say that every vacation we’ve had has been blissful from the start!

That said, once we’d get to the property—not just SeaWorld, but any Hilton Grand Vacations Club property we’d visit—we didn’t have to worry about anything. If there were restaurants, the restaurants were good; you knew the rooms would be in good condition.

So right there you’ve removed a lot of the aggravation that can lead to those stressful trips.

When the kids got to be a certain age—10, 11, every child is different—they could explore the property on their own. They know where the shuffleboard is, where the basketball courts are, so you’re not worried about them getting lost. They get some freedom, which helps everyone unwind. And that’s what you’re there for, right?

The value lies in *using* your membership. It’s like a gym: If you don’t go and don’t use what you bought it for, you’re wasting money. But if you flex what it gives you and become a student of the system—using your Points and converting them to suit your needs—you can make the most of this great investment that you’ve made.

**Steven,  
Debbie, Alec  
and Jason G.**

Club Members since 1998

Featured Property: Hilton Grand  
Vacations Club at  
SeaWorld

Hiking Mount Takao  
near Tokyo (above),  
and the Badlands of  
South Dakota





# Exciting and Upcoming Member Events

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

## OCTOBER

### National Plan a Cruise Month

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

**When:** Throughout October, check out CruisesOnly for deals. Be sure to also check out Member Cruises, like the Incredible Baltic Sea Golf Expedition in June and the Breathtaking Alaskan Adventure in August.

### 1–5—International Customer Service Week & Global Save Your Points Day

**Where:** Everywhere! Members who proactively save their Points will be eligible for a special Member offer.

**How to participate:** Stay tuned for more information!

## DECEMBER

### 15—Atlanta: Member Education Workshop

**Where:** Hilton Atlanta (downtown location)

**How to attend:** To express interest in attending this workshop, email [hgveducationworkshop@hgv.com](mailto:hgveducationworkshop@hgv.com). An official RSVP invitation will be emailed approximately two months prior to the event. Please continue to check the Club website for future Member Education events near you.

## MAY

### 10-17, 2019—8 Days in America's Canyonlands (Sold Out!)

**Where:** Admire the grandeur of three of America's most beloved national parks—Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Zion—on a special Club Members-only journey through this ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventure-Guided land tour with Tauck.

### 29-June 5, 2019—8-Day Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks Journey

**Where:** Discover the brilliance of Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks with this ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventure-Guided land tour with Tauck.

## JUNE

### 22-July 1, 2019—The Incredible Baltic Sea Golf Expedition

**Where:** The ship will depart Stockholm and venture one-way across the Baltic Sea on this nine-day voyage with stops in Tallinn, Estonia; St. Petersburg, Russia; Helsinki; Copenhagen and Aalborg, Denmark; and Oslo, Norway. Members will have the exclusive opportunity to play a round of golf at three of Europe's premier courses.

**When:** 5 p.m. departure

## AUGUST

### 7, 2019—Breathtaking Land and Sea Alaskan Adventure with Holland America

**Where:** This 11-night adventure begins in Anchorage and then ventures to Denali—prior to boarding Holland America's *MS Noordam* on August 11 for a seven-night Alaskan cruise through Glacier Bay, Skagway, Ketchikan and the Inside Passage before ending in Vancouver, B.C.

**How to attend:** Contact a Club Counselor to help you use your Points to book cruises through CruisesOnly.

## SEPTEMBER

### 20-30, 2019—Galapagos Islands Cruise Voyage

**Where:** This exciting adventure begins with a two-night stay in Quito, Ecuador, which includes a guided tour of the city prior to catching your flight to Baltra, where you will board the *Celebrity Flora*. You'll explore the natural wonders of the Galapagos Islands—volcanic islands in Ecuador offering premier wildlife viewing, from lava lizards to sea lions and humpback whales. Learn more about this luxurious 10-night land and sea adventure, and how Members with Elite status have first access to the experience, on page 10.

**How to attend:** CruisesOnly agents are available to help you use Points and/or cash to book cruises. Call 800-364-3656 (U.S.) or 617-587-6200 (international).

# A VACATION STATE OF MIND

