

Club traveler

DREAM • PLAN • GO

MOUNTAIN HIGH

How Park City Became the
Biggest Ski Resort in the U.S.



&

AMSTERDAM

OCEAN 22 GRAND OPENING

FALL PHOTO TIPS

 Hilton Grand Vacations Club



Snorkeling with tropical fish is a popular activity at Xel-Ha, an aquatic theme park in Mexico's Riviera Maya.



What's your favorite activity on vacation? Tell us and send us your pictures to feedback@clubtraveler.com.

club traveler

FALL 2015

DREAM • PLAN • GO

COVER STORY



Sweet Peak

Park City is now the largest ski resort in the U.S.

20

COVER: DJAMILA GROSSMAN
THIS PAGE: MARK MAZIARZ
BACK COVER: HERO IMAGES/GLOW IMAGES

Dream

3 DREAM VACATION

Ireland

4 ON THE HORIZON

Events around the globe

5 THE 10

National park landmarks

6 THE BIG PICTURE

Amsterdam

8 CITY LIFE

Chicago



Travel Tip

Planning your next trip? To determine when the Club Reservation Window opens, use the Date Calculator at timeanddate.com. Just input your desired check-out date and subtract 276 days.

Plan

9 ASK THE RESORT

Big Island luau tickets

10 LEADER OF THE PACK

Alternative ways to pack

11 ON THE FLY

Get to know the Dreamliner and more

12 PICTURE PERFECT

Taking fall photos

14 GOOD SAVE

Save money in Las Vegas

Club

25 ASK THE CLUB

How does Cancellation Protection work?

26 CLUB NEWS

Ocean 22 opens in Myrtle Beach

27 AT YOUR SERVICE

Resort Team Members who go the extra mile

28 RCI EXCHANGE

Vacation in the Caribbean

Go

15 LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

Best route to the Grand Canyon

16 FOOD AND DRINK

Dining on a cruise ship

17 KIDDING AROUND

Disney parks around the world

18 LONG WEEKEND

Three days in the Outer Banks

Grand Finale

32 Memories of the Alaska cruise



Dear Club Member



As we near the latter part of 2015, it's been a great year of travel for me so far, and I hope it has been for you as well.

My most recent trip took me to Amsterdam, an amazing city that happens to be the launch location for our 2016 ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventure. Club Members traveling on this extraordinary vacation will appreciate the unique history and people of this incredibly interesting city.

During my travels, I also had the opportunity to play one of my dream golf courses, St. Andrews in Scotland. I can tell you, it more than lived up to expectations. Golf enthusiasts may find it interesting to know that here, you not only play against the course, but you also battle the effects of unpredictable wind, rain and temperature changes, as evidenced in this year's Open Championship! It made for a truly memorable vacation experience.

In this issue of *Club Traveler*, we feature Amsterdam as a fantastic locale and take a look at another exciting destination—Park City, Utah. We're thrilled that our Sunrise Lodge is a thriving part of the biggest ski resort in the U.S. You can learn more about this resort and four-season destination in our cover story on page 20.

We'll be launching several key Club initiatives in the next few months, beginning with the rollout of a new Club Member website. I'm very proud of the hard work our team has put into this project and look forward to keeping you informed of the exciting programs we have in store for Club Members.

Happy travels,



Stan Soroka
Senior Vice President
Club, Resort and Brand Services

From My Travels

Amsterdam is a fascinating city. Over the summer, my wife and I had the opportunity to visit this historic city. We especially enjoyed tours of the area's quintessential windmills and its celebrated waterways that meander throughout the city. Amsterdam is also renowned as the most bicycle-friendly capital city in the world—and we witnessed that firsthand!



Send Us Your Feedback!

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



Hilton Grand Vacations Club

6355 MetroWest Boulevard, Suite 180
Orlando, Florida 32835 USA

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

© 2015 Hilton Worldwide

Hilton Grand Vacations® and Hilton Grand Vacations Club® are registered trademarks of HLT Domestic IP, LLC and are licensed to Hilton Grand Vacations Company, LLC.

Download this issue to your tablet device! It's available on iPad, Android and Kindle devices. Go to the iTunes Store, Google Play or Amazon Appstore and search for **Club Traveler**.



TALK TO US!

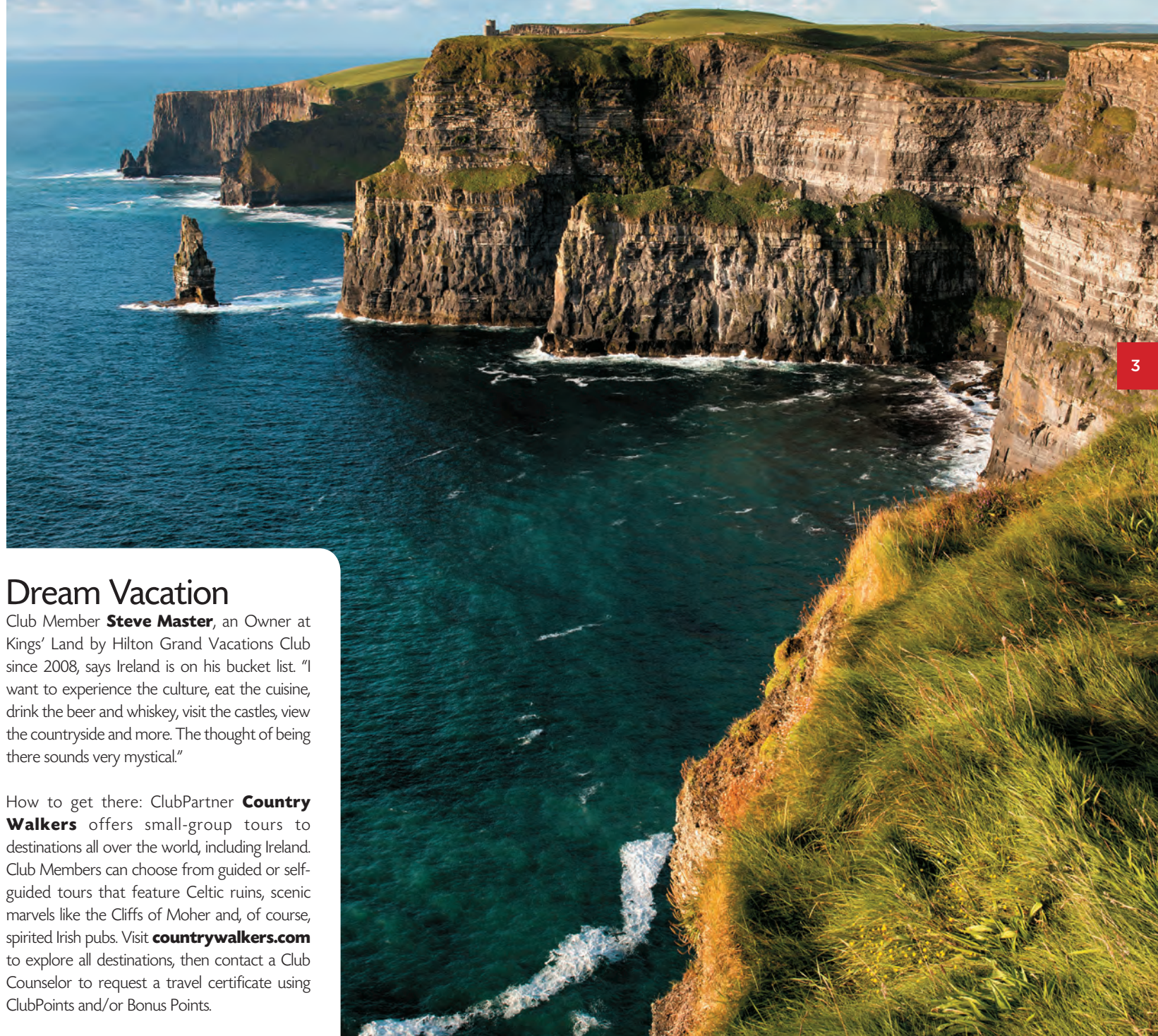


Facebook: facebook.com/clubtraveler
Twitter: twitter.com/club_traveler
Instagram: instagram.com/club_traveler
Pinterest: pinterest.com/clubtraveler

Dream

WHERE TO GO

The Cliffs of Moher, which reach 700 feet from the Atlantic at their highest point, are located on the west coast of Ireland in County Clare.



Dream Vacation

Club Member **Steve Master**, an Owner at Kings' Land by Hilton Grand Vacations Club since 2008, says Ireland is on his bucket list. "I want to experience the culture, eat the cuisine, drink the beer and whiskey, visit the castles, view the countryside and more. The thought of being there sounds very mystical."

How to get there: ClubPartner **Country Walkers** offers small-group tours to destinations all over the world, including Ireland. Club Members can choose from guided or self-guided tours that feature Celtic ruins, scenic marvels like the Cliffs of Moher and, of course, spirited Irish pubs. Visit **countrywalkers.com** to explore all destinations, then contact a Club Counselor to request a travel certificate using ClubPoints and/or Bonus Points.

CHRIS HILL/GETTY IMAGES



Want to be featured in *Club Traveler*? Tell us your dream destination at facebook.com/clubtraveler. We might choose you!

Great Escapes

Schedule your next vacation around these exciting events

Quebec Winter Carnival

Quebec City, January 29–February 14

Don't let Quebec's frigid temperatures and abundant snowfall deter you. In winter, Canada's largest province turns into a snow-covered dreamland that sets the stage for the biggest winter carnival in the world. Traced back to 1894, the carnival features more than 200 winter activities, including snow sculptures, an ice palace and nighttime and daytime parades led by the festival's mascot, Bonhomme Carnaval.



Songkran Water Festival

Thailand, April 13

Get ready to get soaked. This three-day festival held on the Thai New Year may be the biggest water fight in the world. Originally created by the Thai people to wash away bad thoughts and deeds, today it attracts droves of tourists and locals who drench each other during a street party.

2016 Summer Olympics

Rio de Janeiro, August 5–21

Just two years after the World Cup, all eyes will once again turn toward Brazil. Rio 2016 will feature 28 sports, including two that had been discontinued: rugby, last played at the 1924 games in Paris, and golf, which hasn't been played at the Olympics since 1904. Find ongoing updates at olympic.org.



'Frozen Ever After' Opens at Epcot

Orlando, Summer 2016

Your kids are gonna love this. The Imagineers at Walt Disney World have been hard at work building a *Frozen*-themed ride in Epcot's Norway pavilion that promises to transport guests to the icy kingdom of Arendelle, where they'll see Anna, Elsa, Kristof and the adorable snowman Olaf. The new attraction is set to open in summer 2016.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

New York City, March 17

Wear your green. Many American cities celebrate St. Paddy's Day, but New York outshines them all. It hosts the world's largest St. Patrick's Day parade, a 1.5-mile procession along 5th Avenue that typically features 150,000 marchers led by the Army's 69th Infantry Regiment, the Fighting Irish. The parade lasts five hours, but revelers continue partying in pubs citywide until the green beer runs out.



Walk in the Park

10 unforgettable landmarks at U.S. national parks

1. Delicate Arch

Plan to hike early morning or late evening to see this ecological marvel, as there's no shade along the 1.5-mile trail to the iconic 65-foot-tall natural arch found in Utah's Arches National Park.

2. General Sherman

The five largest trees in the world are located in California's Sequoia National Park, but General Sherman, a giant sequoia more than 2,000 years old, is the granddaddy of them all, standing 275 feet tall with a circumference at its base of 102.6 feet.

3. Crater Lake

At 1,943 feet, Oregon's Crater Lake, which formed when a volcano erupted and collapsed 7,700 years ago, is the deepest lake in the U.S. and famous for its clear blue water, which is not fed by any rivers or streams.

4. Mount McKinley

Alaska's Mount McKinley, the centerpiece of Denali National Park, peaks at 20,237 feet above sea level, about 9,000 feet below Everest, though its base-to-summit height is actually taller than Everest.

5. Mauna Loa

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island is home to the world's largest active volcano, Mauna Loa, which last erupted in 1984 and provides scientists and visitors insight about how Hawaii formed.

6. Old Faithful

The best-known geyser in the world erupts every 50 to 90 minutes for up to five minutes in

Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park, making it a popular tourist attraction, though it was once used to launder clothes.

7. Half Dome

It's tough to choose a highlight among Yosemite National Park's famous features, but Half Dome, a granite monolith that soars 5,000 feet above the valley floor, is among the park's most photographed and the subject of Ansel Adams' most famous photo.

8. Old Rag Mountain

One of the most popular hikes in the mid-Atlantic region leads to the summit of Virginia's Old Rag Mountain at 3,921 feet above sea level, offering visitors stunning views of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Shenandoah National Park.

9. Cades Cove

An 11-mile, one-way road allows visitors to explore scenic Cades Cove, a broad, isolated valley that is the most popular destination in the country's most visited national park, Great Smoky Mountains.

10. Great Sand Dunes

Reaching up to 750 feet tall, the dunes of Colorado's Great Sand Dunes National Park are the tallest in North America and are continually being reshaped by winds of up to 40 miles per hour.



The U.S. National Park Service celebrates its centennial in 2016. Plan your visit to a national park with ClubPartner **El Monte RV**. Club Members can use points to rent a motor home from El Monte RV locations across the U.S. View all El Monte RV locations at elmonterv.com, then contact a Club Counselor to request your reservation.

Amsterdam

Amsterdam is a city of canals. The Dutch capital's 165 canals cover a quarter of its surface, making it the most watery city in the world. Its three main canals were developed in the 17th century, forming rings around the famous Red Light district in the center. The canals are about 10 feet deep and crossed by nearly 1,500 bridges. Canal cruises are the most popular tourist attraction in Amsterdam, carrying more than three million passengers each year.

The tilted houses along Amsterdam's canals are known as dancing houses because they were built on stilts that cause them to sway.



How to Get There

Club Members traveling on the 2016 ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventure will spend three days exploring Amsterdam before setting sail on the Rhine River. This extraordinary vacation begins October 14, 2016. For more information about ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventures, visit the CruisePartner website at hgvcp.cruisepartner.com.



My Kind of Town

Your guide to visiting Chicago

Chicago's Millennium Park contains numerous pieces of art, including Crown Fountain, two glass towers that project the faces of Chicago citizens.

Where to Take a Selfie

No trip to Chicago would be complete without taking your picture in the Bean. Officially known as Cloud Gate, this stainless steel sculpture reflects and distorts the image of visitors who stare into it. The Bean is just one of many attractions in Chicago's art-filled **Millennium Park**.

What to Explore

Float through the city's architecture aboard the **Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise**. Certified guides instruct passengers about the architecture and design of more than 50 buildings. These 90-minute tours sell out during peak travel seasons, so advance reservations are recommended.

Where to Eat

Get ready for the best pizza of your life. Chicago is known for its deep dish, and you can find gratuitous heapings of it at **Giordano's Pizza**, where thick pies are stuffed with toppings and cheese and served on a flaky crust. Giordano's operates 17 restaurants in Chicago, including its flagship location on Rush Street.

How to Get Around

Take the "L." Chicago's above-ground train (the L stands for elevated) is one of the oldest and best in the country. Trains serve more than 140 stations, and many of its eight lines operate 24 hours a day, meaning you won't need a car. Buy a three-day or seven-day CTA pass so you won't have to keep refilling your card.

Where to Stay

The Drake Hotel is a Chicago institution. Centrally located downtown at the top of the Magnificent Mile, this 95-year-old luxury resort transports guests into Chicago history while providing a gateway to modern Chicago. Afternoon Tea in The Drake's Palm Court is a quintessential Chicago experience.

Plan

HOW TO GET THERE



The Legends of Hawaii Luau takes place at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays at Hilton Waikoloa Village's Kamehameha Court.

9

Ask the Resort

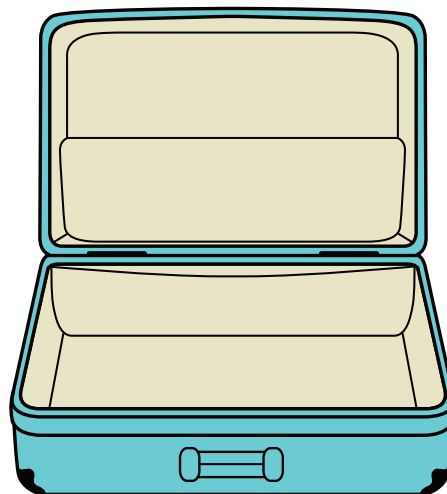
If you're planning a trip to the Big Island, you may be interested in attending an authentic Hawaiian luau. We asked Julie Subiono, the senior marketing manager for the Big Island resorts, what she recommends.

"Club Members staying at one of the three Hilton Grand Vacations Club resorts on the Big Island can enjoy the 'Legends of Hawaii Luau' at the nearby Hilton Waikoloa Village. To get tickets, just ask your concierge. The concierges at Kings' Land by Hilton Grand Vacations Club, Kohala Suites by Hilton Grand Vacations Club and The Bay Club at Waikoloa Beach Resort can issue tickets to Club Members."



Survival of the Fittest

Alternative ways to pack your bags

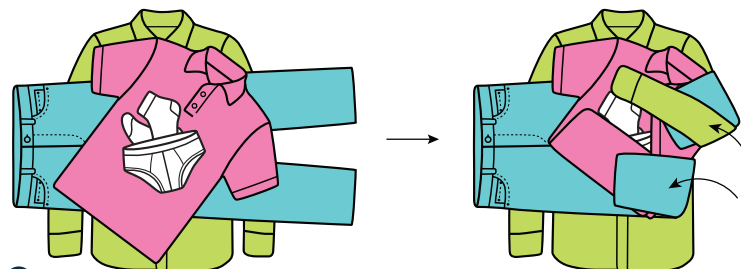
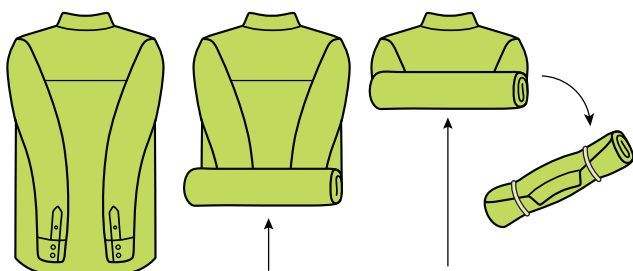


It's more important than ever to pack your bags efficiently. Every U.S. airline except Southwest charges a fee to check your bags, so you may want to get everything you're packing into a carry-on or limit the number of pieces your family checks. But what's the best way to pack everything you need for a trip?



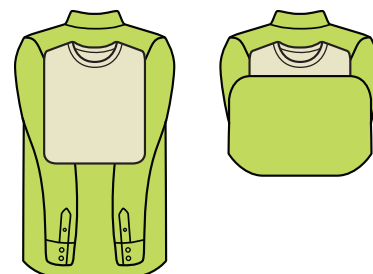
Stacking: The traditional method of packing involves folding your clothes into squares like you would for the drawers at home and stacking them into neat piles. That may not be the most effective method, as it creates creases in your clothing.

Rolling: One way to eliminate creases is to roll your clothes, which also makes effective use of space in your bag. To roll your clothes, lay each garment on a flat surface—for shirts, fold the sleeves in toward the middle—and begin rolling the item from the bottom up. You can even wrap each item in rubber bands to keep them compressed.



Bundle Wrapping: This technique aims to eliminate wrinkles by wrapping your clothes around a central core object. Lay your unfolded clothes on a flat surface, stacking each item on top of the previous one, with sleeves and pants legs going in the opposite direction. Create a small bundle out of your socks and underwear, and place it in the center of the stack. Begin wrapping your clothes around the bundle in the center until you've reached the bottom of the stack.

Alternate Folding: You can prevent creases from forming in clothes by placing one garment between the folds of another garment. To try this method, lay a dress shirt or pants face down on a flat surface—for shirts, fold the sleeves into the middle. Then place another item, such as a folded t-shirt, in the middle and fold the ends of the dress shirt or pants over the t-shirt.



TODD DETWILER



Pack to the Future

These crowdfunding projects may revolutionize the luggage industry.

Trunkster eliminates zippers, thanks to a sliding rooftop opening.

Fugu transforms from carry-on to checked bag by inflating.

Barracuda collapses to a nearly flat shape you can store easily.

Bluesmart connects to your smartphone for tracking and locking.

Joy Ride

News and resources to make travel easier



Dream On

The advanced Dreamliner aircraft is taking off. Video of a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner making a dramatic near-vertical takeoff went viral over the summer. Meanwhile, American Airlines began flying its new Dreamliner planes to Beijing and Buenos Aires. United is the only other U.S. airline that operates the Dreamliner. What's so special about it? The Dreamliner has a streamlined aerodynamic design and is made of lightweight composite materials, making it more fuel-efficient. Its interior features include massive windows with adjustable tint, expansive overhead storage bins, increased cabin pressure said to improve passenger comfort and a unique engine design that makes for a quieter flight.



Royal Treatment

Club Members may use Bonus Points to purchase an annual Priority Pass Membership, which offers admission to more than 700 airport lounges worldwide. Contact a Club Counselor to get started.

Hot Seats

Is the era of shrinking airline seats finally coming to an end? Southwest Airlines revealed its new seat design, surprising travel experts with a wider seat. The new seats will measure 17.8 inches across, about 0.7 inches wider than its current seats. In addition to more elbow room, Southwest says the new seats will include an adjustable headrest, increased legroom and more room to stow your personal bag. The seats are set to debut on new Southwest planes in mid-2016.

Fast Lane

Many U.S. airlines are doing all they can to make the check-in and boarding processes faster. Frontier Airlines, for instance, has eliminated departure time from boarding passes, which now display "Boarding begins" and "Doors close" to create a greater sense of urgency. Passengers flying on Alaska Airlines can now print their checked luggage tags at home, similar to printing a boarding pass. But Delta Air Lines may have the most radical initiative: it launched a new service on some flights called Early Valet, in which airline employees tag passengers' carry-on bags at the gate and pre-load them onto the plane before boarding begins. They are placed in the overhead bins above passengers' assigned seats.

Code Breaker

The website airportcodes.es explains the origin of mysterious airport codes.

EWR – Newark's code starts with E because the Navy reserves codes starting with N.

IAD – Dulles International Airport was reversed to avoid confusion with nearby DCA.

LAX – Los Angeles received an X during the transition from two- to three-letter codes.

MCO – Orlando's airport was originally a military airfield named McCoy Air Force Base.

ORD – Chicago's airport was known as Orchard Field before it was renamed in 1949.

Shutterbug Angela Tague shares tips and tricks for taking photos of fall foliage

In Living Color

12

Amp up color.

Capture the assorted colors of the season by experimenting with high-dynamic range (HDR) settings on compact cameras or attaching filters to your SLR camera lens. Lens accessory manufacturer Tiffen recommends its Enhancing Filter to saturate brown, orange and red tones, making fall foliage pop.

Find the right spot.

Hike or drive to lookout points to obtain scenic overviews of autumn displays. Tree-lined lakes provide stunning reflections with an artistic flair. Or wander through a forest and capture rustic nature trails winding through the sea of bright colors.



Set your camera.

Achieve sharp detail and definition in leaves, branches and trunks of trees by using a small aperture setting so you don't sacrifice depth of field. Turn your SLR to the aperture priority (Av) setting and choose f8, f16 or f22.

Time it right.

Colorful fall foliage can be found from September through November, but it peaks in mid-October. Consult an online foliage tracker, such as The Foliage Network, to pinpoint the best time to travel to your desired destination.

Go where the leaves are.

Not sure where to go? Consider venturing to the New England states, the Colorado Rockies and the Heartland region of Iowa, Minnesota and Michigan. Check with local tourism bureaus for best places to shoot or search the Internet for a quick "fall foliage tour."

Focus on details.

While wide-angle, frame-filling vistas are breathtaking, don't pass up the opportunity to go macro. Look down. Try isolating a fallen leaf off-center against rocks or mud for a bold contrast and uncommon composition.

Special Memories

On some trips, your smartphone's camera just won't do. You may want to capture professional photographs for invitations, holiday cards or other important mementos. Use the website flytographer.com to easily book a local photographer in more than 150 cities. It's like Uber for photographers.

Play Your Cards Right

Clever ways to save money on trips to Las Vegas

With the price of shows, fancy dinners and taxi fares, a trip to Las Vegas can add up quickly. But you don't have to break the bank to have a good time. Here are tips for saving money in Las Vegas—without sacrificing any of the fun.



Go during the week. At Club resorts, Monday-through-Thursday stays cost half the points of weekend visits. For instance, if you reserve a stay at Hilton Grand Vacations Club at The Flamingo, a one-bedroom suite starts at 240 points on Monday through Thursday. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, rates begin at 480 points.

Stick to a plan. Budget exactly how much money you are able to gamble each day, and stick to it. If you win, great. If you lose, don't withdraw more money from an ATM to try and win back what you lost. The odds are against you.

Get a player's card. Nearly every casino offers a free player's card that tracks how much you gamble at the casino. Simply insert the card into the slot machine or hand it to the dealer at table games. As you play, you earn points that can be redeemed for free meals, show tickets, gifts and more.

Take the bus. The Deuce is Las Vegas' double-decker bus service that runs up and down the Strip 24 hours a day, every day. It stops at nearly every casino, and at \$8 for a 24-hour pass, it's way cheaper than taking taxis.

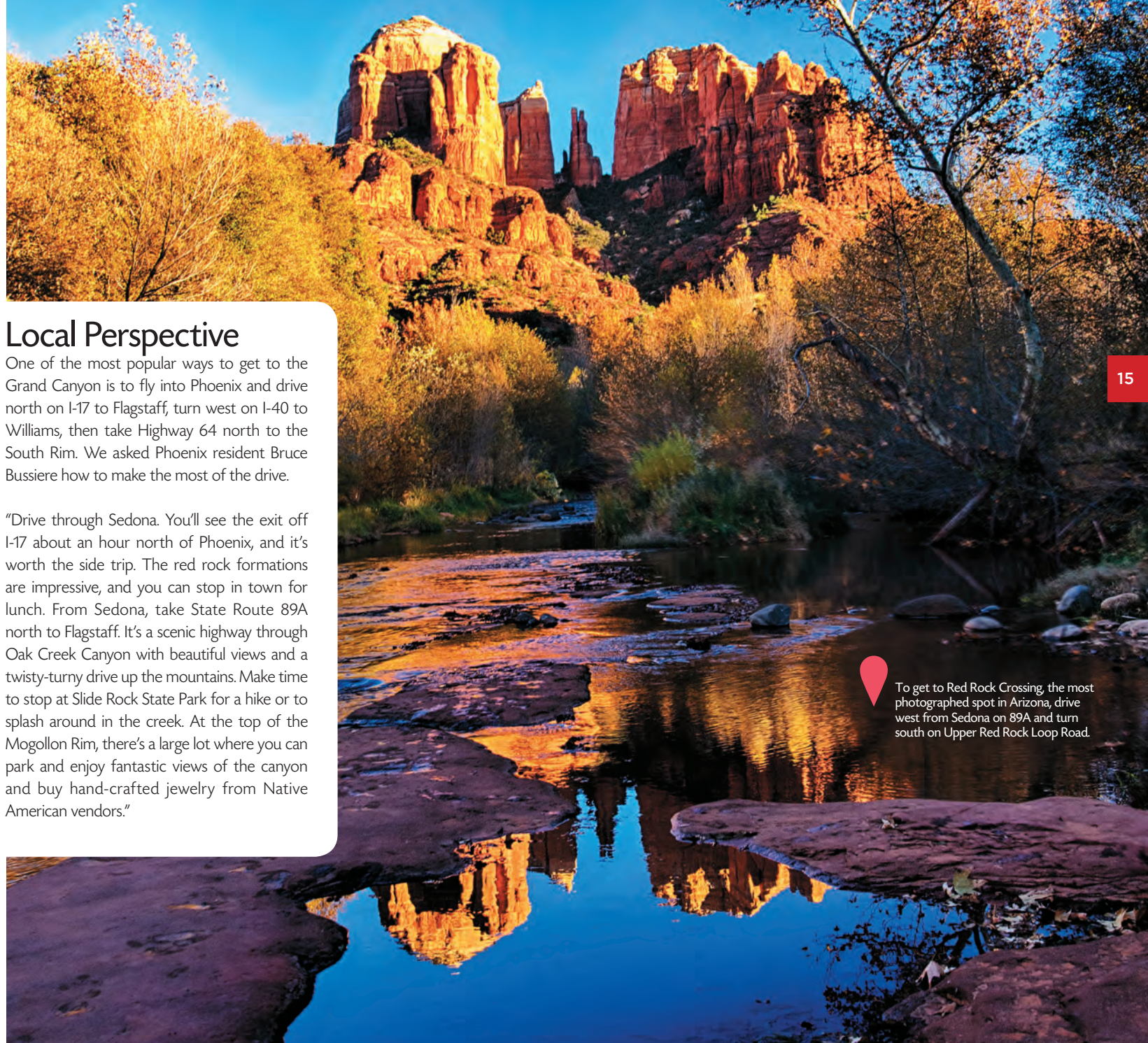
Bundle your night out. If you're planning to see a show, you can buy a package that includes dinner for less than the cost of paying for each separately. Ticketing packages are available for *Jersey Boys*, *Cirque du Soleil* and many other Vegas shows.

Enjoy free attractions. Not everything in Las Vegas costs money. Attend free events between big-ticket items like shows, or plan an off day that includes nothing but free activities. The Flamingo's wildlife habitat features plenty of exciting animals. A spectacular water and music show is performed every evening in front of the Bellagio. Jugglers, acrobats and trapeze artists perform every half hour at Circus Circus.

Use your Bonus Points. If you have Bonus Points in your account, use them for shopping and spa treatments in Las Vegas. Club Members can convert Bonus Points into gift cards for use at eforea: spa at Hilton Grand Vacations Club on the Boulevard and at The Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino. Contact a Club Counselor to convert Bonus Points into gift cards.

Go

WHAT TO DO



Local Perspective

One of the most popular ways to get to the Grand Canyon is to fly into Phoenix and drive north on I-17 to Flagstaff, turn west on I-40 to Williams, then take Highway 64 north to the South Rim. We asked Phoenix resident Bruce Bussiere how to make the most of the drive.

"Drive through Sedona. You'll see the exit off I-17 about an hour north of Phoenix, and it's worth the side trip. The red rock formations are impressive, and you can stop in town for lunch. From Sedona, take State Route 89A north to Flagstaff. It's a scenic highway through Oak Creek Canyon with beautiful views and a twisty-turny drive up the mountains. Make time to stop at Slide Rock State Park for a hike or to splash around in the creek. At the top of the Mogollon Rim, there's a large lot where you can park and enjoy fantastic views of the canyon and buy hand-crafted jewelry from Native American vendors."



To get to Red Rock Crossing, the most photographed spot in Arizona, drive west from Sedona on 89A and turn south on Upper Red Rock Loop Road.



Sea Food

Everything you need to know about dining on a cruise ship



If you're going on a cruise, you may be wondering what you'll eat. In the past, cruise ships typically offered an onboard buffet at every meal, forcing passengers to jostle for their share of iceberg lettuce salads and spaghetti Bolognese. Today, cruise ships have amped up the culinary offerings, from the humble buffet to the hottest of haute cuisine.

Nearly all cruises include breakfast, lunch and dinner. Breakfast is usually buffet-style, or you can order off the menu in the main dining room or from room service.

The main dining room is where you'll have the majority of your meals. For dinner, you typically choose one of two ways to dine: traditional, which means

you eat at a set time, or flexible, in which you choose a window to eat, usually from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Traditional diners will be seated immediately upon arrival and eat with the same people every night; flexible diners can sit where they choose, although they may wait for a table at peak times.

You can also choose to eat at one of your ship's specialty restaurants (which often charge extra). Many ships have upped the ante here. Royal Caribbean, for instance, offers a vast selection of dining options aboard its ships, from Ben & Jerry's ice cream shops to its signature steakhouse, Chops Grille.

If you're planning to have dinner at one of the specialty restaurants on board your ship, you'll need to make

reservations. Most venues charge between \$25 and \$50 extra per guest, although the first reservation is often free on some ships, such as the Crystal Serenity or Crystal Symphony, which features the highly recommended Silk Road & The Sushi Bar, helmed by celebrity chef Nobu Matsuhisa. The Nobu-style black cod with miso is just as good as the original.

And finally, you may be wondering if you should tip. Most cruise lines include in your fare an auto-gratuity that gets split among the staff, but it's a generous gesture to slip your main dining room server some cash at the beginning of the cruise—he or she may be waiting on you the entire trip. Extra gratuity is not required in the specialty restaurants.

More the Merrier

Disney parks around the world

Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom is known as the most magical place on earth. But the Orlando theme park is not the only place you can find Mickey Mouse and all his friends.



Disneyland

The original Disney park! Southern California's Disneyland opened in 1955, 16 years before the Magic Kingdom, under the supervision of Walt Disney himself. Though both share many of the same thrilling rides, including Space Mountain, Disneyland boasts the Matterhorn Bobsleds and the special-effects tour de force, The Indiana Jones Adventure. At its center, Sleeping Beauty's Castle dazzles just as much as Cinderella's home in Orlando.

Tokyo Disneyland

The first Disney park built outside the U.S., Tokyo Disneyland mirrors the best bits of its American siblings, including Cinderella's castle and the delightfully spooky Haunted Mansion. It does possess its own unique



features, such as the World Bazaar shopping area, Japan's answer to Magic Kingdom's Main Street U.S.A.; and Pooh's Hunny Hunt, a popular "trackless" ride through the world of Winnie the Pooh.

Disneyland Paris

Bonjour, Mickey. Disneyland Paris combines elements of the U.S. parks with a European flair and offers several unique attractions such as Crush's Coaster, a spinning roller coaster that simulates the turtle's journey from *Finding Nemo*. Fans of Space Mountain may be excited to know that the park offers a sequel, Space Mountain: Mission 2, that transports riders on a new adventure.


Hong Kong Disneyland

The Chinese invented fireworks, so it's no surprise that Hong Kong Disneyland's

nightly fireworks display, featuring spinners on the face of Sleeping Beauty's Castle and massive bursts of pyrotechnics, is one of the best in the world. The park's haunted house ride, Mystic Manor, is a totally distinct experience from Disney's Haunted Mansion rides and provides an incredible sensory experience.

Shanghai Disneyland

Opening in spring 2016, Shanghai Disneyland might just be the most magical Disney of them all. This modern, interactive park will feature a majestic Storybook Castle, Disney's tallest, that's home to all the Disney princesses, multimedia attractions based on *Star Wars* and Marvel comics, and a revitalized Tomorrowland celebrating optimism about the future and giving guests the opportunity to ride a TRON lightcycle.



LONG WEEKEND

A Trip to Remember

3 days in the Outer Banks, North Carolina

18



Romance looms on the Outer Banks, a long, narrow stretch of barrier islands in eastern North Carolina. The idyllic setting, OBX to those in the know, features miles of remote, sandy beaches—on the east side, waves roll in from the Atlantic Ocean, while on the west, sounds provide moments of peaceful reflection. The area is also home to abundant wildlife that includes wild mustangs galloping on the beach. You'll feel like you've stepped into a Nicholas Sparks novel.

Day 1

Start your trip where the Wright Brothers started modern aviation. Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, is located on Bodie Island (it's really a peninsula) in the northernmost portion of the Outer Banks. Visitors can climb to the stunning granite monument at the top of Kill Devil Hill and walk the actual flight lines of the four flights Orville and Wilbur made on December 17, 1903. Then head four miles south to Jockey's Ridge State Park, where you can scramble up the tallest sand dunes in the eastern U.S.

Day 2

Road trip! Drive the 100-mile journey along Highway 12 to Ocracoke Village at the southern tip of the Outer Banks. You'll need to take a 40-minute ferry from Hatteras Island to reach Ocracoke Island, an area so remote you'll feel like you've gone back in time. Along the way, you'll pass through Cape Hatteras National Seashore, spot towering historic lighthouses, and frolic in the surf at the many beach stops on either side of the highway.

Day 3

Get up close with the area's wildlife at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, a 68,000-square-foot complex featuring numerous exhibit galleries that each focus on aspects of the Outer Banks. Guests will encounter river otters, stingrays, endangered sea turtles and much more before ending at the spectacular 285,000-gallon Graveyard of the Atlantic exhibit, filled with sharks and large game fish.



Where to Stay

Hilton Garden Inn Outer Banks/Kitty Hawk is located on Highway 12 just a few miles north of the Wright Brothers National Memorial, making it the perfect home base for exploring the Outer Banks. Guests will enjoy stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean and easy access to Kitty Hawk Fishing Pier in front of the hotel.

STEVE WINTER/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN HARDING PHOTOGRAPHY; DANITA DELIMONT/LIGHTROCKET/GETTY IMAGES;
STEVE DUNWELL/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN GREIM/GETTY IMAGES





King of the MOUNTAINS

Park City is now home to the largest ski resort in the United States. Travel writer **Larry Olmsted** reveals what makes this one of the most exciting destinations of 2016.

The vast riches of Park City have been drawing visitors for more than 150 years. They first came for gold and silver found in such abundance that Silver King Mine is believed to have been the most productive silver find in the world.

Following World War II, Park City shifted its focus from precious metals to “white gold,” Utah’s dry and deep powder, ethereal snow of such high quality for skiing and snowboarding that it has been trademarked “The Greatest Snow on Earth.” Long home to three world-class mountains just minutes apart, Park City quickly became world-renowned for its smorgasbord of downhill courses and was selected to host the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.



atmospheric saloons, along with art galleries, recreational stores and a vast, eclectic collection of great restaurants.

Each year the arts-centric town hosts the nation’s largest independent film festival, Sundance, drawing Hollywood players in search of cinematic treasures. From this famed festival to the unique Olympic Park, Park City boasts many features unrivaled by other ski destinations. But now it has the ultimate feather in its cap: Beginning this winter, the town is home to the single largest ski resort in the U.S.

Jurassic Park

Park City is already home to the largest ski resort in Utah, Canyons, an impressive feat considering its world-famous siblings Snowbird, Alta and Snowbasin. In 2014, Canyons’ owner, Vail Resorts, acquired the neighboring Park City Mountain Resort and immediately embarked on a bold plan to combine the two.

Throughout the summer, Vail spent more than \$50 million on the project, which includes a new eight-passenger, high-speed gondola named Quicksilver that connects the resorts over their shared ridgeline. The result is staggering, an expansion unmatched in the history of American skiing. Now simply called

The Olympics put Park City on the global radar as a top ski destination with unequaled snow and plenty of great terrain. It has since blossomed into a true year-round vacation choice, all built on the charming Old West backbone of its 19th-century mining roots. Main Street is still lined with colorful Victorian buildings and

Park City, the new ski area features 7,300 acres of skiable terrain, 17 peaks and more than 300 trails, linked by a 22-mile network of 38 lifts. These numbers are about 50 percent larger than those of Colorado's Vail Ski Resort, which was previously the nation's largest.

But there is more to the new resort than sheer size. Unlike most American ski towns, lifts and trails run right down to Main Street. The new resort may have 17 on-mountain restaurants, but one of its greatest charms is that guests can ski into town, have a nice lunch and ride the chair back onto the slopes. As a result, Park City claims yet another unique accolade, home to the world's only ski-in/ski-out distillery, High West Distillery & Saloon, which sits at the base of the town ski lift and serves excellent cuisine along with award-winning local whiskies.

The other side of the new mega-resort offers a modern self-contained pedestrian village full of more restaurants, bars, stores, spas and activities. There is also a third base area at the old entrance to Park City Mountain Resort, just a few blocks above Main Street, with its own pedestrian mall of shops and eateries. Choices here are endless.

The Quicksilver gondola connecting the two ski areas runs from Snow Hut Lodge on the Park City Mountain Resort side to the Iron Mountain section of the former Canyons section, which is now known as Canyons Village at Park City. Snow Hut was completely rebuilt as a bigger, modern eatery with 500 indoor



seats. The high-speed lift takes just 8 1/2 minutes from end to end, but also features a mid-station atop the ridge, a four-minute ride from either terminal. There are several expert-only trails from the mid-station on the Park City side in an area known as Thaynes Canyon that were previously accessible only by hiking. Three new trails have been added on the Canyons side to allow skiers downhill access in either direction from the mid-station, so the interconnection has many more options than a single new lift would typically offer.

To facilitate traffic flow to the gondola, the existing King Con high-speed quad chair was upgraded to a six-passenger lift, and the fixed-grip triple MotherLode chair was upgraded to a detachable quad. The resulting integration is seamless and makes it entirely possible

to ski all the way from Main Street to the Canyons base area in a couple of hours.

Top Tables and Shops

The new mega-resort is certainly the biggest buzz in town, but Park City still has plenty of non-skiing charms, especially when it comes to food and drink. The après ski and dining scene is incredibly varied and multi-cultural. At one end of the spectrum are throwback miner taverns like the No Name Saloon, which has been "Helping People Forget Their Names Since 1903" and High West, built by combining two historic century-old buildings: a former livery stable and one of the town's few surviving Victorian "pyramid" homes. At the opposite end are countless fine-dining options, including Zoom, a Main Street restaurant owned by famous local

DANIELA GROSSMAN

Where to Stay

Sunrise Lodge, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club, is your mountain getaway. This ski-in resort is located at the base of the Sunrise Lift in the Canyons Village section of the new Park City resort. The primo location, just 30 minutes from Salt Lake City Airport, offers easy access to Main Street restaurants and shops, while the rustic architecture and modern amenities redefine mountain life.





Robert Redford, and Talisker on Main, named Park City's best restaurant three years running by *Salt Lake City* magazine. The common threads at all price points are an abundance of "mountain cuisine," with plenty of buffalo, elk, grass-fed beef and local trout.

Many area restaurants emphasize a sustainable farm-to-table aesthetic, best showcased at the flagship eatery in the Canyons base village, The Farm. Chefs make all their own charcuterie and cheese in-house, while sourcing almost exclusively from local purveyors. The town's other ski resort, the independent and upscale Deer Valley, has a pronounced European alpine flair, with restaurants such as Goldener Hirsch and Glitretind serving up Swiss and Austrian specialties like fondue and wienerschnitzel.

Retail enthusiasts will find plenty to love about Park City, which offers a large factory outlet mall right at its highway entrance. In town, historic Main Street is lined with everything from souvenir shops to art galleries,

including the museum-quality Meyer Gallery, Montgomery-Lee Fine Art and the Mountain Trails Gallery. This was originally a cowboy mining town and is still a great place to shop for fine cowboy boots, belts and leather goods, especially at bespoke Burns Cowboy Shop and the more affordable Park City Clothing Company. Outdoor gear is found in abundance, and the Canyons base village recently added two new flagship concept stores from North Face and Smartwool. Park City is headquarters to the nation's leading custom ski boot retailer, Surefoot, which operates three shops here.

Year-Round Destination

Park City is not just for winter. Summer activities abound, from hiking and mountain biking to fly fishing and whitewater rafting in the nearby Weber River.

The merging of the two resorts will only boost their extensive summer offerings. Park City Mountain Resort was among the first in the nation to install a "mountain coaster," in which guests ride individual sleds on a suspended aerial track snaking down the slopes. There is also a traditional alpine slide, kids' zone, zip lines and lift-served mountain biking. The Canyons side features an advanced mountain bike park with a dozen downhill trails featuring elevated boardwalks and bridges. The latest warm-weather addition is an 18-hole golf course at the entrance to Canyons Village.



Club

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Club Intrawest – Zihuatanejo is carved out of the sloping mountainside overlooking Playa La Ropa on the Pacific Coast of Mexico.

25

Ask the Club

How does Cancellation Protection work?

Cancellation Protection gives you peace of mind in case of unforeseen events. Should you need to cancel your vacation plans anytime prior to check-in at the resort, your points will be returned to their respective account with their normal expiration date. Unlike travel insurance, you are not required to provide documentation should you need to cancel your reservation. Cancellation Protection is offered for Home Week, Home Resort, Club and RCI Exchange reservations using ClubPoints, Deposited Points and Rescued Points at the time the reservation is confirmed (up to one day prior to arrival). Bonus Points reservations are not eligible. A fee of \$39 is applicable per reservation and is not refundable or transferable.



Have a question for the Club? Email us your question to feedback@clubtraveler.com, and we may answer it in the next issue.

Be Our Guest

The newest Club resort opens in Myrtle Beach



suites, each equipped with full kitchens containing stainless steel appliances, washer and dryer, spacious living rooms, high-definition televisions and many other contemporary touches. The property features a lobby bar, fitness center, kids' club, pool bar, hot tub and two pools, including one that will be enclosed and heated during winter.

Ocean 22 provides direct access to the beach front, just steps from the pool. The resort's prime location gives guests flexibility to head south toward the jubilant crowds surrounding the boardwalk or north for a more peaceful experience, where the public beaches become less crowded.

Owners of Ocean 22 can request reservations up to 12 months (365 days) prior to their desired check-in date. General Club Members can request reservations up to nine months (276 days) prior to their desired check-out date. Contact a Club Counselor to request reservations.

Ocean 22 by Hilton Grand Vacations Club, the newest Club resort, is now open. In June, executives from Hilton Grand Vacations and Strand Capital Group celebrated the resort's grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the pool area and welcomed guests inside for the first time.

Located in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in the heart of the Grand Strand, Ocean 22 is just a few hundred feet north of where the boardwalk shifts from planked trail to sandy walkway. It is the first oceanfront resort built in Myrtle Beach since 2008, and topping out at 240 feet, it's now the city's tallest.

The resort comprises 220 condominium-style units, including one-, two- and three-bedroom



Cruise News

Hilton Grand Vacations Club is pleased to announce our second ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventure for 2016. We're setting sail for Hawaii. Our voyage departs from Honolulu on July 23, 2016, for a 7-night, round-trip tour of the Hawaiian Islands. We'll sail aboard the luxurious *Pride of America*, Norwegian Cruise Line's only U.S.-flagged ship. For more information, including the complete itinerary and rates, visit hgvcp.cruisepartner.com.

All Stars

Hilton Grand Vacations Club Team Members who have gone the extra mile

Carla Cousins at Sunrise Lodge, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club

Connie Christensen, Club Member since 2011, says:

“We have had the pleasure of working with Carla for two years in a row. She was so kind to us when we traveled our first time to Utah while my husband was deployed. She was so helpful with what to do with the kids, as well as activities that my 78-year-old father could enjoy. Our second trip, husband included, she again welcomed my family warmly and made our stay so enjoyable that we bought a winter at Sunrise Lodge to guarantee our return every year! We look forward to returning to Utah next year to ski and especially to see Carla again!”



Karina Mendez at The Hilton Club – New York

Pauline Weaver, Club Member since 2004, says:

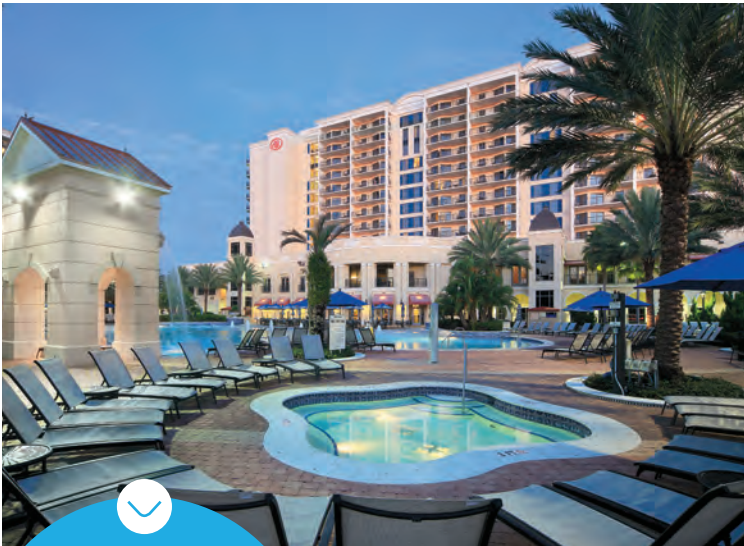
“My favorite staff member is Karina Mendez in New York City. She is terrific! She is welcoming, efficient, friendly and knowledgeable. I love dealing with her. In May, we gave a five-day stay to our housekeeper and her family. Karina took great care of them. They had a wonderful experience and will always remember her kindness.”



Stephanie Reyes at Parc Soleil by Hilton Grand Vacations Club

Don and Ayn Effinger, Club Members since 2013, say:

“We have gotten to know Stephanie a little more each time we have visited Orlando. She must have a superb memory. She actually remembered our other visits and asked how we were doing. It was a year ago when we last visited! This visit we didn't bring our two kids and she remembered that they were attending college and asked how things were going with them. What?! Who can remember that sort of thing? It is nice to feel at home when you visit, and Stephanie surely makes us feel comfortable and welcomed.”



Want to give a shout-out to your favorite Hilton Grand Vacations Club resort? Send us an email at feedback@clubtraveler.com. We may feature your comments.





Island Time

Club Members can stay at RCI exchange resorts in the Caribbean

Club Members can use points to stay in the Caribbean at RCI exchange resorts. Hundreds of exchange resorts can be found in Aruba, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Jamaica, the Bahamas and more.

To find resorts in the Caribbean, go to the RCI exchange site and select “Caribbean & Bermuda” under Quick Search or click the Caribbean region on the Search by Map tab.

You’ll see a list of resorts available to request reservations. You can narrow your search to individual islands, or sort results by price, check-in date or review. Weekly reservations can be made up to two years prior to check-in.

When deciding which island to visit, keep in mind that the islands vary greatly, not just in geography and tourist activities, but in politics

and culture. Some islands, such as Jamaica and the Bahamas, are sovereign nations that have specific entry requirements and their own currency. Others may be territories, such as Aruba, a territory of the Netherlands. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are territories of the United States that use U.S. dollars and do not require American citizens to display a passport.

Escape Club

4 exchange destinations to book for your next vacation



ST. THOMAS

One of the easiest places in the Caribbean for Americans to visit is also one of the best. The U.S. Virgin Islands are an American territory, meaning you don't need a passport to visit and you can continue to use U.S. dollars. There are also plenty of daily, nonstop flights from mainland cities, including New York, Atlanta, Miami, Chicago and more. St. Thomas is the most populated and the liveliest of the U.S. Virgin Islands—beachside bars like Iggy's pour fantastic rum drinks until well after dark, and tax-free shopping opportunities abound in the capital city, Charlotte Amalie. Visitors will find spectacular island activities, including scuba diving, snorkeling, sunbathing and sailing. St. Thomas is also a great gateway to explore nearby islands, including laid-back St. John—ferries leave from Charlotte Amalie and Red Hook every couple of hours.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Experience some of the best beaches in the world. The Dominican Republic, a small nation on the island of Hispaniola, offers the Atlantic Ocean on its northern side and the Caribbean Sea on the south, providing visitors a wide variety of beach activities. The island's most popular destination, Punta Cana on the eastern tip, is known for legendary stretches of white sand and calm, warm waters perfect for swimming and snorkeling. The waters are a bit more turbulent in up-and-coming Puerto Plata on the northern coast, where visitors can find countless water activities, from windsurfing to deep-sea fishing.



ARUBA

For those who want to sunbathe on a beautiful beach by day and drink and dance the night away, Aruba is the place to go. This island nation north of Venezuela is part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and attracts many Dutch and American travelers, who go seeking its powdery white sand and turquoise waters. Eagle Beach, often cited as the island's most relaxing, offers serene escapes and spectacular sunsets, while Palm Beach is where the action is. Aruba's capital, Oranjestad, is a charming island town full of shops and restaurants.



JAMAICA

Imagine the rustle of swaying palms, the rich essence of rum and coconut, and the gentle rhythms of reggae music. Those are the tropical delights that await you in Jamaica, where you can sunbathe on gorgeous white-sand beaches, swim with dolphins, or practice your swing on courses created by some of the world's top golf pros. Explore historical sites, including working plantations, and natural wonders like wild orchid gardens, secluded caverns and lush rainforests. In the evening, the sizzling island nightlife, especially in Negril and Montego Bay, blends beautifully with shimmering sunset views.

Ready to explore exchange vacation destinations or book an exchange vacation with RCI? Log in to your member website at hgvclub.com or myhiltonclub.com. Then click the "My Club" tab and select the "RCI Affiliated Resorts" link.

INTO THE WILD

Club Members share memories of their voyage to Alaska



“I asked my husband what he wanted to do for our 50th anniversary, and he answered that he wanted to take an Alaskan cruise. We love the beauty of nature, and what better place than in Alaska? Everyone who has been there raves about their experience.

This was our first cruise and it will definitely not be our last. We loved the fact that we booked through Hilton Grand Vacations, as it enhanced our trip with the additional incentives such as housekeeping fees, a welcome and final reception, an on-board credit, and not to mention, the beverage package—a must while on vacation!

The most stunning things we saw were the Alaskan mountains and Mount McKinley. We were fortunate enough to have clear skies and fly over the five highest peaks of the range, including Mount McKinley, affectionately called Denali, which means “the Great One.” Our favorite port was Haines because of its authenticity and quaintness. There were a few shops and a great distillery, and the town overall was less touristy. We took the “Off the Beaten Track #3” tour, which was very informative and down to earth. Our guide was excellent!

The McKinley Summit flight was the highlight of the trip for me. It was just out of this world, and there are no words to express the beauty and astonishing views. Nature at its best. Our experienced pilot was able to get us nice and close for great pictures and videos. We actually saw an avalanche and base camp #2. I had a colleague who hiked Mount McKinley in June 2009, and a special video was sent specifically to him to remind him of his accomplishment. As for Richard, his highlight was walking on the Mendenhall Glacier. It is not every day you get to walk on a glacier and

drink fresh, cold glacier water. Who knows how long they will be here for?

Our advice to other Club Members going on an Alaskan cruise would be to take full advantage of Alaska! It is such a beautiful and unique state. If you can, take extra days to add a land portion to your experience. Or, better yet, arrive a few days before or stay after to explore beautiful Alaska on your own. We rented a car for a day and discovered unique places that were not on our itinerary. We encountered wonderful people and places.”

**Richard
Bélanger and
Lynn Chiasson**

Club Members since 2013

Recent trip: 2015 ClubPartner
Perk Grand Adventure
to Alaska

Turn Over a New Leaf

A brand-new online experience is coming!

We're updating our Club Member website to enable more seamless and intuitive online interactions. The site will continue to provide important mainstay features, such as confirming reservations, managing points, viewing ownership documents and more—with added features to soon include:

- A modern design with a vibrant new look and feel
- Mobile and tablet capabilities
- A single booking engine (not requiring Flash)
- A more streamlined and efficient user experience

Stay tuned for further details as we prepare for the official introduction of our new and improved site!



A VACATION STATE OF MIND

