

# WHEREVER LIFE TAKES YOU



# ISSUE 2-FALL 2020 | WHEREVER LIFE TAKES YOU

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### PUBLISHED BY KHM TRAVEL GROUP

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Mis Issue



- 4 LETTER FROM THE EDITORS
- 6 7 DESTINATIONS THAT BELONG ON YOUR BUCKET LIST
- 10 CREATING YOUR OWN TRAVEL BUCKET LIST
- 12 THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS: THE MENTAL BENEFITS OF TRAVEL
- 14 NEW ADVENTURES CLOSER TO HOME
- 16 A VACATION FOR YOUR EARS: TOP TRAVEL PODCASTS
- 18 WHY USE A TRAVEL AGENT, ESPECIALLY NOW
- 22 QUIZ: WHAT TYPE OF TRAVELER ARE YOU?
- 24 GET THE SCOOP: WHAT IT'S LIKE TO TRAVEL RIGHT NOW
- 28 THE WORLD IS YOUR CLASSROOM
- **30** FAMILY TIES: TIPS FOR TAKING A HERITAGE-DRIVEN TRIP
- 32 RECIPES FROM AROUND THE WORLD
- 36 READING AROUND THE USA

Letter from the Editors

For many of us, 2020 was the ultimate case of things not going as planned. Much of what we had hoped to see and do this year was put on hold as we prioritized the health and safety of ourselves, our families, and our communities. These changes were not easy for us, especially because of our passion for traveling. It's been one long lesson in making the most of life, whenever it takes you.

Over the past few months, we've fed our wanderlust by virtually strolling the galleries of art museums and trying our hand at recreating recipes from past travels. We've watched travel shows (thanks Netflix!) and filled our ears with stories from around the globe. We are not ashamed to admit that we've played ocean sounds in our backyard, in an attempt to recreate those relaxing beach vibes.

We have tried to make the most of every moment while we stayed close to home, the same way we make the most of every moment when we travel. Though when we travel, it's easier to do.

On vacation, we put down our phones and engage with the world around us. We wake up early to eat the hotel breakfast and sit in awe as we watch the sun rise over the horizon. We play games in line for theme park rides and indulge in our favorite desserts after several courses of dinner.

Traveling has always been about savoring the little moments. Maybe you are planning those moments close to home for a bit longer Or maybe you are ready to hop on a plane tonight. Wherever life takes you, let your travel agent help you make the most of it!

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# 7 DESTINATIONS THAT BELONG ON YOUR BUCKET List

If you find yourself daydreaming about your next vacation often, especially this year, you aren't alone. Most of us could use an escape from our daily lives after these past few months. The more we dream about setting off on our next big adventure, the more places we add to our travel bucket lists. These seven destinations should definitely be on your list.

# CHECK OFF THESE CLOSE TO HOME TREASURES

California Redwoods

Northern California is home to one of the most incredible natural wonders in the United States: the Redwood forests. Walk among these giants in Redwood National and State parks, or at Muir Woods National Monument, just a short drive from San Francisco. Standing in their 300-foot tall shadows is an aweinspiring moment that you'll remember forever.

Mammoth Caves, Kentucky

Found halfway between Louisville, Kentucky and Nashville, Tennessee, Mammoth Cave is the largest cave system in the world, stretching over 400 miles underground. With tours above and below the surface and a rich history of explorers, this natural and historic site is a must-visit destination.

Sequoia National Forest, California, USA

# MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE

Paris, France

Whether you call it the City of Lights or the City of Love, Paris is a bucket list mainstay. From the chic cafes in the Latin Quarter to the dazzling cabarets at the Moulin Rouge, the art, fashion, food, and history continue to capture the hearts of travelers.



One look at the vivid turquoise waters and Fiji rises to the top of the list! Serene beaches, colorful coral reefs, and luxurious overwater bungalows are just a few reasons why Fiji is considered the quintessential tropical paradise.



Sun-kissed shores, iconic whitewashed buildings, and the deep blue waters of the Aegean Sea have come to define this small Greek island. Live in the moment at the top of Santorini Volcano, on a scenic sailing around the island, or at one of its many cliffside dining spots to watch the sunset.







# SAY YES TO SAND AND SURF

Costa Rica

Home to sloths, tropical birds, and some of the most beautiful shorelines in Central America, Costa Rica is a vibrant destination where you can spend days exploring wildlife, lounging at one of its many all-inclusive resorts, or anything in between.



St. Incia

With dramatic views of its steep Pitons, St. Lucia is a must-visit island in the Caribbean. Famous for its mud bath experiences and stunning waterfalls, it's the perfect place to find some peace and relaxation.



Your travel agent is the key to making your dream trips happen. With their expertise, you can feel confident in your travel plans and know that there is someone in your corner every step of the way. Some call them travel agents, but you could also think of them as dream designers.

YOUR Dream Designer is HERE FOR YOU

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There are a million places to go and a million reasons to visit each of them. Some people are foodies, who take joy in experiencing the flavors of the culture and trying all the new and specialty dishes they can find. Others prefer the rush of adrenaline that comes from ziplines and hiking to the summit of a mountain. Or perhaps you are the type of traveler searching for those picture-perfect places and moments that you'll remember for the rest of your life.

Whether you are foodie, adventure seeker, a sightseer, or have another passion that drives you to travel, this bucket list will help to inspire your travel dreams.

Download this PDF and add your own bucket list destinations. Then, reach out to your travel agent about how you can make these dreams a reality!

# WHAT'S ON YOUR Travel Bucket List?

### THE FOODIE aking in the local flavors of story behind cuising Being a ichelin starred re Learn how to make pasta from an Italian N Order ramen from a vending machine Visit a night market and eat like the locals. Participate in a traditional New Zealand Hangi Travel the Bourbon Trail THE ADVENTURER or the Adventure, having something exciting to look invaria to is the number one reason to the rowaling. What she ig activity that would make friends and family want to join you an your next hip? Go rappelling inside of a canyon. Climb Machu Picchu Swim with dolphins Watch the Running of the Bulls in Spain Encounter wildlife on a safari Zipline through a rainforest THE SIGHTSEER world is full of beautiful and unique experiences. e that crave seeing locations are unique and inful have certain experiences in mind to capture and share with their loved ones. See the Northern Lights Go Whale-watching Capture the perfect sunrise on See an iceberg or glacier

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Visit a real costle

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# YOUR MEAN Maker IS HERE FOR YOU





# **6 WAYS TO SPEND 6 DAYS**





Do you have clients that want to take that river cruise, but don't have a lot of time or want to keep it within a set budget? Avalon can help them see more of the world in a shorter span with these river cruises that are 6 days or fewer.

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### FESTIVE TIME CRUISE

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†Price is per person, based on double occupancy, and does not include airfare or promotion. Price is in USD, subject to change, and based on the lowest 2020 brochure rate(s).



To book, reach out to your Preferred Travel Advisor!



# THE MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS OF TRAVEL

Set your out of office reply and crank up Pharrell's "Happy" – it's time for vacation!

Ok, maybe not exactly. But chances are good that even reading that sentence, your brain experienced a tiny, momentary spike in happiness. In fact, recent studies suggest that travel can change our brain's chemistry and improve our mental health.

The mental health benefits of travel indicate that our vacations aren't just something we could do, but something we should do to ward off anxiety, depression, and self-doubt.

# IT BRINGS US JOY.

According to a Cornell University study, even planning and anticipating a trip can be a mood booster. 2020 might have temporarily interfered with our visions of poolside lounging or urban exploration, but having positive things to think about is key to our mental well-being. Once we arrive in our destination, even if it's just a quick drive from home, those fluttery feelings of fulfillment of having reached our goal kick in.

# IT RELIEVES STRESS.

<u>91% of Americans</u> say that they see a vacation as a chance to "hit the reset button" on their stress and anxiety. <u>A separate study of</u> <u>1,500 women</u> found that those who traveled twice a year were less likely to suffer from chronic stress and depression. Why? Travel allows us to focus on ourselves and brings us back to the things we find most meaningful in our lives, which we tend to ignore when we are running on tight schedules and to-do lists.

# IT'S A WORKOUT FOR OUR BRAINS.

Not only are we more physically active when we travel, but our minds are more engaged. Much of what we do during the course of our daily routines we do without thinking, but on vacation, we're constantly exposed to new surroundings and information. Immersing yourself in a new place enhances creativity, which in turn helps us develop new long-term neural connections, <u>according to Psychology</u> <u>Today.</u> In short, traveling lets us flex our brain power!

# IT GIVES US CONFIDENCE.

Facing unfamiliar situations and stepping outside our comfort zones can be thrilling, but they can also test our patience. Learning how to adapt, even if it's just to a new form of transport for a few days, makes us more emotionally flexible and resilient. When we go back to our normal lives and are confronted with a challenging situation, we can draw on the times we've successfully navigated a tricky travel situation and use these skills to quash our insecurities.



For our brain, a vacation is like a room without a roof. It just makes us happy! Even short trips, like weekend getaways, sustain weeks of lowered stress and feel-good vibes. Talk to your travel advisor about the mental health remedy you need for your next vacation.

# New Adventures

# CLOSER TO HOME

Total miles traveled is only a number. Yes, there's a certain excitement for traveling to far-flung destinations, but plenty of adventures await us closer to home too. The U.S. is home to a variety of landscapes, cultures, and experiences that are just waiting for you to explore. Keep reading for a few ideas that will make you feel worlds away in your very own time zone.

# SCOTTSDALE, AZ Pamper yourself

If the spa sounds like a welcome treat after months of stress, a desert holiday in Scottsdale may be for you. Golf courses with beautiful views and options for upscale shopping are abundant. For the architecture enthusiasts, Taliesin West, former home of Frank Lloyd Wright, is a must-see landmark.

# NASHVILLE, TN Dance the day away

Music lovers rejoice in the city known for its rooftop bars and country music flair. Located within driving distance from many Midwest and coastal states, a long weekend in Nashville will please your ears and taste buds. Stop in or grab takeout from Puckett's or test your tastebuds at Prince's Hot Chicken, the originator of this classic Nashville dish.

# BOSTON, MA Travel back in time

Boston has an iconic reputation, but this big-name destination and its landmarks are surprisingly easy for visitors to navigate. The Freedom Trail provides a convenient 2.5-mile route to walk with sixteen historical stops along the way including the Bunker Hill Monument, Old Corner Bookstore, and Paul Revere House.

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO Sulprace the outdoors

Picturesque mountains provide the backdrop for this city that is home to trails, parks, and stunning rock formations. Once ranked as TripAdvisor's top park in the United States, Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center offers great views and active adventures like biking, rock climbing, and tours.

READY TO EMBARK ON A TRIP TO A U.S. DESTINATION? Contact your travel advisor to discover how a little less travel time can allow you to enjoy even more of your precious vacation hours!



# See America the beautiful.

Enjoying the outdoors is more popular than ever, especially in the wide-open spaces of the U.S. National & State Parks. With our flight + hotel getaways and optional car rentals, plus Delta<sup>®</sup> flights to airports within three-hour drives of America's treasures, it's never been easier to get out and explore.

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# A VACATION FOR YOUR EARS:

Top Travel Podcasts

Did you know that you can embark on a European escape while emptying the dishwasher, or learn about the latest from the lido deck as you start your holiday shopping online? How? By plugging into the wonderful and vast world of travel podcasts.

Below are a few podcast favorites that tell stories of people and places from around the world. Let them inspire your next vacation by listening on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Stitcher, or wherever you tune into podcasts.

# <u>LET'S GO</u> <u>TOGETHER</u> <u>FROM TRAVEL</u> + LEISURE



Host Kellee Edwards has never met an adventure she didn't like. Each episode, she introduces a fearless traveler who has refused to let obstacles stand in their way of seeing the world. Her conversations include the first Black woman to visit every country in the world, a gay couple who journeyed across America in an RV, and a mental health advocate who empowers others with depression and anxiety to keep following their travel dreams.

# RICK STEVE'S TRAVEL

Your favorite tv tour guide also brings in authors and experts for a weekly chat on destinations, culture, and travel advice. Since the onset of COVID-19, he's also



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spoken with locals on how the pandemic has impacted them and their tourism industries. Always a host for the people, Rick regularly answers listener questions and ponders the larger questions in travel, like why being near the water is a powerful stress reliever.

# CRUISE RADIO



Florida-based radio personality,

Doug Parker, has been sharing his love for cruising in the form of ship and itinerary reviews, cruise tips, and interviews with industry professionals since 2009. The show's nearly 100,000 listeners get everything from a behind-the-scenes look at post-COVID-19 onboard casinos to a strategy lesson on how to pick the right cabin.

Girl-powered!

These podcasts are made for women, by women who can't get enough of this wide, wonderful world.

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# WHY USE A TRAVEL AGENT Especially Mour

# KNOWLEDGE THAT AFFECTS THE INDUSTRY

Travel advisors are familiar with resources for monitoring changing travel conditions, policies, and requirements that may impact their clients.

Travel advisors regularly monitor evolving travel advisories, policies for entering countries, visa requirements, hurricane updates, and more. They communicate this information to their clients in a timely manner for planning or adjusting arrangements as needed.

In times of COVID-19: Policies are constantly evolving because of the global pandemic, and travel advisors are monitoring information that affects their clients' plans.

# GENUINE CARE FOR CLIENTS

Travel advisors enjoy working with clients and genuinely care about those they serve.

To the internet, you are a reservation number, but travel advisors understand you have instilled your trust in them to plan a memorable vacation. Travel advisors take their roles seriously, genuinely caring about your best interests.

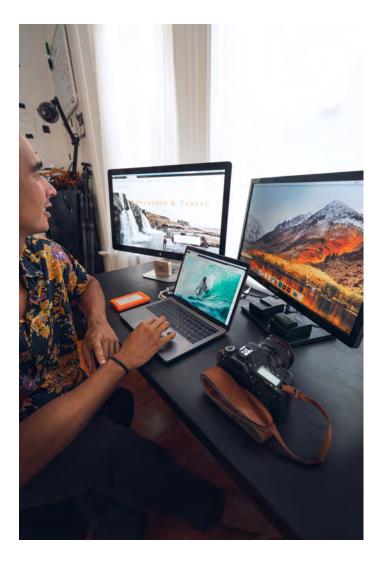
In times of COVID-19: A representative in a call center isn't the same as working with one person, your travel agent, who knows you and is dedicated to your travel plans.

# PROBLEM-SOLVING

Travel advisors address problems on behalf of their clients, acting as advocates to best serve their clients' travel arrangements.

Travel advisors advocate for their clients. When an issue arises, travel professionals work diligently to find a suitable resolution.

In times of COVID-19: Many travelers have had travel plans disrupted in 2020, which means massive call volumes and hold times with suppliers. Change and cancellation policies can be confusing. When working with a travel advisor, you have someone working on your behalf with your best interests in mind.



# PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Travel advisors love to travel, and their experiences benefit those who plan vacations with them.

When travel advisors travel, they take hundreds of photographs, document their experiences, meet with staff, attend on-site training sessions, and write reviews of their vacations. This knowledge helps advisors when working with future clients by using their experiences (both positive and negative) as a guide for recommendations.

In times of COVID-19: The travel landscape has changed, but travel advisors are sharing their experiences as they venture back into the world.

# NETWORK OF COLLEAGUES

# Travel advisors spend a great deal of time together and talk with one another about everything travel-related.

Travel advisors attend workshops together, tour resorts with organized groups, participate in discussions on social media, and constantly assist one another in sharing travel experiences or information. When booking with a travel advisor, clients have a massive support network behind the scenes. This benefits clients, travel advisors, and suppliers, and strengthens the entire industry.

In times of COVID-19: Travel advisors are constantly sharing information about supplier policies, helping one another solve problems, and uncover helpful information to share with clients. Sharing experiences from various destinations, airports around the country, and specific resort properties is helpful for everyone.

# ACCESS TO PERKS AND PROMOS

While it can vary by supplier, dates, and availability, travel advisors often have access to promotions the public does not.

Travel advisors have access to all supplier-advertised national promotions, but additional perks are sometimes available because of relationships and standings with travel suppliers. Travel advisors work diligently to find the best savings and perks for their clients' vacation plans.

In times of COVID-19: Travel advisors conduct research to find the best promotions for their clients who are hoping to travel in 2020-2021.

# **RESOURCES FOR CLIENTS**

Travel advisors provide resources for their clients that help make preparing for their trips easier.

When booking travel with advisors, their assistance doesn't stop once the deposit (or final payment) is processed. Advisors spend time meeting with their clients to prepare them for their vacations and providing them with packing lists, destination information, brochures, dining recommendations, excursion suggestions, and more. Advisors want their clients' vacations to be as enjoyable and stress-free as possible—preparation and planning the details with an expert makes any trip better!

In times of COVID-19: Travel advisors share additional information about health screenings, required tests, mask information, and possible closures or in-destination policies with their clients.



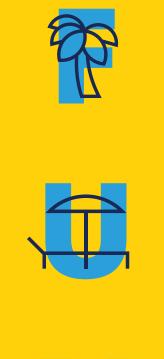
# PASSION FOR TRAVEL

Travel advisors have a passion for travel they want to share with the world.

Fueled by a strong enthusiasm for exploring the world, travel advisors also want you to feel energized and excited about your travel plans. This passion for the industry shines through and drives how advisors interact with and serve their clients. They love traveling and want you to love it too!

In times of COVID-19: The passion for travel hasn't diminished, but the stress of a tumultuous year has weighed heavily on travel advisors who have worked long hours to care for their clients' plans. Travel advisors miss traveling themselves and are disappointed when you can't travel, but in time, we will all enjoy our beautiful, amazing world again! And travel advisors are here to help you get back out there when you're ready!









Through all the challenges this past year, we know one thing that has always proven strong: the desire to travel. To explore, to discover. So for those who refuse to let go of that escape, we're offering our most unbeatable deals ever.

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- Savings over 60% off
- Free nights
- Kids stay free
- Food & Beverage credits
- ...and so much more!

Be sure to hurry though -- deals like this don't last long! Contact your travel advisor to book today!



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Traveling gives us the opportunity to reconnect with the experiences we are passionate about, from trying new foods to hiking new trails. It also gives us the chance to step away from the stresses of home and work, to put our feet up, and indulge in some muchneeded relaxation.

For so many of us, this year's travel plans were interrupted or delayed. Some plans never even made it on the calendar. While we long to travel again, it's important that you are comfortable and confident about taking your next adventure. When will that be? Take our quiz to see!

### WHAT TYPE OF TRIP ARE YOU DREAMING ABOUT LATELY?

- a. I'll go anywhere that isn't my home.
- b. I'm thinking a beach vacation or maybe a road trip!
- c. I want to check off an epic destination from my bucket list.
- 2. WHAT'S HOLDING You back from Taking a Vacation?
  - a. I can't decide where to go next!
  - b. I'm waiting for the right time for my family's school/work schedule.
  - My dream destination isn't open to travelers right now.
- 3. ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY AND HEALTH WHEN TRAVELING?
  - a. No, I have read up on the latest policies, and I plan to follow all the rules.
  - b. A little, I need more information on how to travel safely.
  - c. Yes, I feel it's important to be cautious and prepared before traveling again.

- 4. WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT TRAVELING?
  - a. The rush I get the moment we arrive!
  - b. Making memories together!
  - c. Learning about a new place, then seeing it in person!
- 5. HOW FAR IN ADVANCE DO YOU PLAN YOUR TRAVELS?
  - a. Less than 6 months
  - b. 6 months to a year
  - c. More than 1 year
- 6. WHAT DOES TRAVELING MEAN TO YOU?
  - a. Traveling is my passion.
     It keeps me sane in hard times.
  - b. Traveling is about spending time together and relaxing.
  - c. Traveling is an opportunity for once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

### 7. WHICH ITEM DO YOU ALWAYS PACK?

- a. A portable phone charger
- b. Sunscreen
- c. A guide book

### MOSTLY A: YOU'VE GOTTA GET AWAY ASAP

Looks like you have a serious case of the travel bug! You probably daydream about your next trip or reminisce on your past travels almost every day. Your travel agent can help you plan a trip to satisfy your need for travel ASAP.

### MOSTLY B: You're looking Forward to the future

2021 is going to be your year! As you look forward to the future, travel is on your mind. With research and expert advice, you'll find a destination that will meet your need for a vacation and ensure you feel safe while traveling.

### MOSTLY C: You value patience And planning

Perhaps you are waiting for Europe to welcome back travelers or you are concerned about your or your family's health. While you may not be ready to travel just yet, travel agents are booking trips into 2022, meaning you can start planning your future travels right now.

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# GET THE OCOUNT OF THE OCOUNT OF THE

# WHAT IT'S LIKE TO TRAVEL RIGHT NOW



As travel restrictions are lifted, and people dust off their suitcases, many are eager for an escape, but others are still concerned or confused about what the new travel experience will be like.

Get the inside scoop from travel advisors across the country on what it is like to travel right now.

# WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT?

Most places that I have been adhered to a strict mask policy. Vallarta Nuevo Nayarit has closed their indoor facilities like gyms and kid zones, except by individual appointment.

In Puerto Vallarta Jalisco, beaches are open. Masks are required indoors but are only required outdoors if two meters distance can't be maintained. Most restaurants take your temperature and have you use hand sanitizer upon entering. There are no restrictions on gyms or alcohol. Kid Zones are conducted outside or in the pool.

- Keith Noothaar



[Royalton Cancun is] very strict on protocols, better than the U.S. In one spot [my client] had to walk through a COVID screener. Everything went smoothly, and she thoroughly enjoyed her trip.

- Joann Steele

The biggest difference now in traveling is that guests should expect to adhere to airport, airline, and hotel COVID-19 policies, otherwise it is business as usual!

I, along with my husband, traveled to Riviera Maya and Cancun recently. Our hotel had taken many proactive safety procedures that we were happy to see. Both hotels conducted temperature checks upon check-in. In Riviera Maya, I stayed at TRS Coral, which sanitized and sealed your room. They also conducted temperature checks at every restaurant. In Cancun, I stayed at Iberostar Coral Level. They had staff going around and actively sanitizing high traffic areas.

- Roberta Perez



# HOW CAN I TRAVEL SAFELY?

I believe it is relatively safe to travel by air as long as you adhere to the mask requirements and practice good personal hygiene regularly. Before traveling anywhere, check both the State and Federal restrictions, as well as the restrictions of the location you are traveling to.

[For example], at one point if you flew to Texas through Atlanta, New York, or Chicago, you were required to quarantine for 14 days. That is no longer the case, but you can see how these restrictions might accidently impact your vacation.



There are many open options for various Caribbean countries so [travelers] can make decisions that fit their needs. I tell clients about how safe it is and what I have heard from clients, travel agents, and travel news about clients traveling now. It's never too early to book. Book now, travel later.

– Joann Steele

My advice to people traveling now would be to respect that while you are on vacation, COVID-19 safety measures are still in effect, ranging from mask wearing and temperature checks, to social distancing practices, including blocking off seating in bars and restaurants.

- Roberta Perez

No matter where you choose to visit, social distancing, mask policies, and sanitization protocols will likely be in effect. Aside from being vulnerable to awkward tan lines, your experience can still be memorable and safe as long as you adhere to safety protocols and travel regulations. In fact, it may be more familiar than you think.

Below, travel advisors Amber Pinkley and Ashley Clark shared their recent experiences at Hard Rock Riviera Maya, saying it was much like their past trips to the same resort. Although, it looks like buffets may be a thing of past, at least for now.

WATCH the full interview with Amber & Ashley to learn more their recent travel experiences and travel tips!





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# THE WORLD IS YOUR CLASSROOM

Hey parents, does this sound familiar? Life was plugging along as normal and then, BAM! Schools closed in the spring, and you and your kids had to adjust to working from home! To top off all the changes, you probably missed (or altered) your family's summer vacation plans.

It's not too late to bring a bit of that vacation excitement back into your home in creative and memorable ways this year. Check out these 5 ways to take education on the road.

# DO THE VACATION MATH

Once you've picked your next vacation destination, have your children help you plan and budget for things they want to do on the trip. Encourage them to consider not only what things will cost, but any currency conversions needed. Don't forget the cost of souvenirs, passports, transportation, and even pet boarding! If your child goes over-budget, allow them to earn more money by completing chores around the house, which, no doubt, are piling up these days!

# DISCOVER THE WORLD AROUND YOU

Take a road trip to a nearby city and make it part drive, part scavenger hunt. Prepare a list of the trees, flowers, and animals your student may see along the way and snap a photo of each to put in your vacation scrapbook. Identify the sights and activities that make this city a fun vacation or staycation spot. This works best if you are exploring someplace new, so you can all take part in new discoveries along the way. Bonus: it's a great way to get a little exercise!

# ¿HABLAS ESPAÑOL?

Educating a high schooler? Even at home they can practice writing and speaking in a foreign language. Know a neighbor that speaks another language fluently? Ask if they will take a daily walk with your student to practice conversational speaking and get some fresh air. Or use a website or social media to connect with a pen pal abroad!

Teaching a little one? Have them learn the top 5-10 phrases you would need as a tourist in a foreign-speaking country. Post them up in the house and challenge your youngster to say each phrase in conversation at some point during the week.

# DANCE LIKE NOBODY IS WATCHING

Virtual learning means we are all sitting for longer periods of time, so physical exercise is more important than ever. One way you can give gym class a travel spin is to find music from another country. Pick a song and create a dance that will get you up and moving during homework breaks. Incorporate a bit of your own family's heritage into your musical selections. Or, choose a different cruise port for each day of the week and find the music that would greet you as you step ashore!

# A HEALTH LESSON FOR THE AGES

Prevention is the best cure! Don't miss the opportunity during this pandemic to educate your children young and old on the advantages of a healthy lifestyle. Make self-care and exercise a part of your family's routine, just like you incorporate them into your travel plans. Challenge your kids to make a packing list of 10 items for your next trip that will keep the family safe and healthy. Make an Amazon wish list of these products for when the time comes to travel together again.

We hope these tips help your family find inspiration for your next trip where the learning will continue!







## TIPS FOR TAKING A HERITAGE-DRIVEN TRIP

It's frequently said that traveling is an escape, but with heritage travel, it can also be about coming home. By looking to our family tree for vacation inspiration, we're able to immerse ourselves in the cultures of our ancestors. Where did they live? What did they eat? What were their daily lives like?

We're naturally driven to find the answers to these questions. With these tips, your answers will take you on a journey that is customized to your family's heritage.

# TAKE A DNA TEST

Genealogy travel starts with your genes! The rise of accessible DNA testing kits like <u>23andMe</u>, <u>African</u> <u>Ancestry</u>, and <u>AncestryDNA</u> have made discovering your roots easier than ever. Once you get your results back, share them with your travel advisor so that they can incorporate the information into their trip recommendations and plans.

# CONNECT WITH YOUR RELATIVES

Reach out to living relatives, even if they are distant cousins, to see what they know about your family history. They may be hanging on to photos, documents, or even heirlooms that can lead to a better understanding of your family's origins. To more fully complete your family tree, search for long-lost relatives on sites like FamilySearch.org.

# CONSULT A LOCAL EXPERT

If you already have an idea of your ancestors' general location and want to dive in further, look online for libraries, genealogical societies, or other recordkeeping establishments in that location. Depending on the work involved, they may charge fees, but their expert knowledge may help you pinpoint specific landmarks of importance to your family history.

# SET YOUR SIGHTS ON THE SITES

Maybe you aren't able to visit the exact home where your great-great-great grandparents grew up. That doesn't mean you can't get a taste of their experiences. Ask your travel advisor to help you look for restored homes and buildings, museums, festivals, or other historical sites that showcase your ancestors' way of life.

Heritage travel is meaningful to us because our families are meaningful to us. Travel provides endless opportunities to gain self-awareness and an appreciation for those who helped make our world what it is today. Your travel advisor is ready to plan an enriching heritage trip to reunite with your roots!





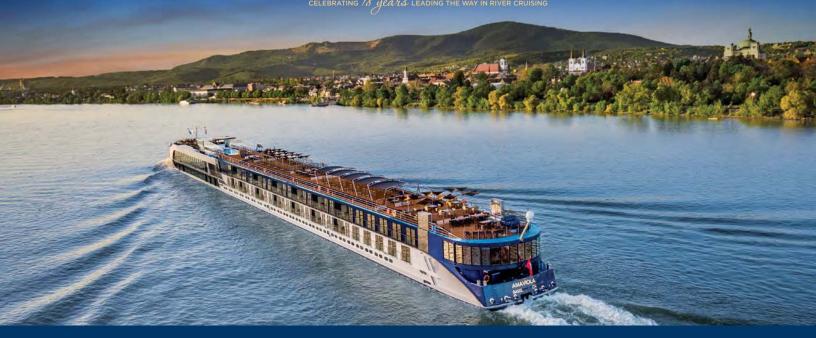
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RECIPES FROM Around the Would

Whether you are eagerly awaiting your next flight to Mexico or dreaming of days spent strolling Italy's cobblestone streets once again, these simple recipes can help you bring the flavors of the world into your home.

Homemade Potato Gnocchi

### INGREDIENTS

2 medium russet potatoes
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
½ cup whole milk ricotta cheese
¼ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
1 large egg
1 tsp salt
½ tsp black pepper

### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Pierce potatoes with a fork or knife.
- Place potatoes on a greased or parchment lined baking sheet. Bake at 400° F for 1 hour or until tender. Remove and let cool completely.
- 3. Cut potatoes in half, scoop out, and mash until completely smooth.
- 4. Combine 1 ½ cups mashed potatoes, flour, ricotta, Parmesan, egg, salt, and pepper in bowl.
- 5. Remove dough and work on a lightly floured surface to form rolls 1 inch wide.
- 6. Cut rolls of dough into bite sized pieces  $(\frac{1}{2} \text{ inch to } \frac{3}{4} \text{ inch})$ .
- 7. Place gnocchi in boiling salted water for 4-6 minutes.
- 8. Toss in pesto, tomato sauce, or oil and herbs, and serve.



To add ridges to gnocchi, roll the bitesized pieces along the tines of a fork before boiling.



Fresh Tomato Salsa

INGREDIENTS 3-4 medium fresh tomatoes 1/2 medium green bell pepper 1 small onion 3-4 cloves garlic 1/4 cup cilantro chopped jalapeño (optional, to taste) 2 tbsp lime juice 1/2 tsp salt 1/2 tsp black pepper 1/2 tsp cumin

### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Chop tomatoes, bell pepper, onion, garlic, cilantro, and jalapeño.
- 2. Combine chopped ingredients in a bowl, and add lime juice, salt, black pepper, and cumin. Stir.
- 3. Serve with chips and enjoy!

ey Lime Pie

### INGREDIENTS

### Crust

1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs
1/3 cup light brown sugar
6 tbsp butter (melted)
Filling

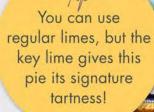
### Filling

3 cups sweetened condensed milk 1/2 cup sour cream (light if desired) 3/4 cup key lime juice Zest of 2-4 keys limes (to taste)

### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Preheat oven to 375° F.
- 2. Combine graham cracker crumbs, sugar, and melted butter in bowl. Then, press into a pie pan.
- Bake crust for 7 minutes. Cool at least 30 minutes before filling.
- 4. Reduce oven heat to 350 degrees F.
- 5. In a large bowl, whisk sweetened condensed milk, sour cream, lime juice, and lime zest.
- 6. Pour filling into cooled crust and bake for 10 minutes.
- 7. Allow pie to cool at room temperature for 40 minutes. Then, chill for 3 hours before serving.

To save time chopping or for a smoother salsa, use food processor to chop and mix ingredients!





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JAMAICA BAHAMAS SAINT LUCIA ANTIGUA GRENADA BARBADOS

# MANIC READS

# READING AROUND THE USA

The cozy fall atmosphere provides the perfect backdrop for snuggling up with a good book. While many of us continue to stay at home, the joy of visiting our favorite destinations can be as simple as escaping through a story from the comfort of our living rooms.

Grab your favorite warm beverage and a cuddly blanket, and let's tour the United States through great reads.



Massachusetts 🛋

# PRACTICAL MAGIC BY ALICE HOFFMAN

For two hundred years the Owens sisters have been blamed for everything that has gone wrong in their small Massachusetts town. As children, Gillian and Sally experienced alienation from their classmates, who taunted and teased them for growing up in a musty old house with their eccentric aunts and an abundance of cats. They couldn't wait to escape, but now, as adults, the sisters' bond (and perhaps a little magic) brings them home.

South Carolina 🔷

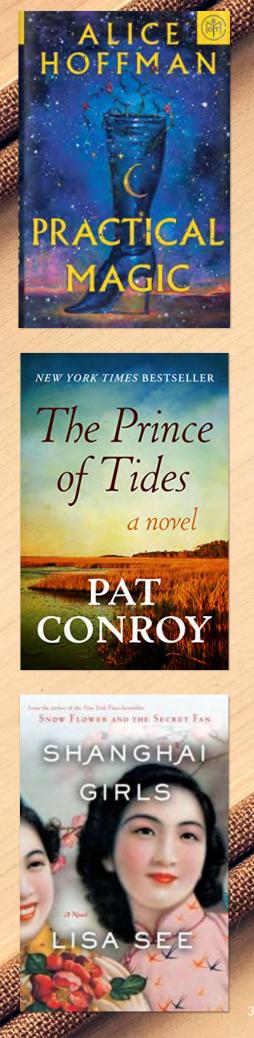
# THE NOVELS OF PAT CONROY

Pat Conroy is known for his sweeping stories about love and family set in South Carolina, particularly *The Prince of Tides. The Prince of Tides*, a saga spanning forty years, tells the story of twins, Tom and Savannah, and their struggle to triumph over the tragic history of their extraordinary family. If you fall in love with Conroy's storytelling, he has several other acclaimed titles to choose from.

California 🕻

# SHANGHAI GIRLS (AND SEQUEL DREAMS OF JOY) BY LISA SEE

Sisters Pearl and May are living carefree lives in 1937 Shanghai, China until their father reveals to them that he has gambled away the family's wealth and must sell them to suitors who have traveled from California to purchase wives. They journey to their new homes in Los Angeles, where they try to embrace their new lives while battling discrimination. Follow *Shanghai Girls* with *Dreams of Joy*, which follows Pearl's daughter as she uncovers her mother's past.



Hawaii 🐂

# MOLOKA'I (& SEQUEL DAUGHTER OF MOLOKA'I) BY ALAN BRENNERT

Rachel Kalama, a young Hawaiian girl, dreams of exploring the world like her merchant father. When the signature rosecolored mark of leprosy appears on her body, she is removed from all she knows to be quarantined in the leper settlement of Kalaupapa, Moloka'i. Weaving historical fact with a gripping story, Brennert tells the tale of remarkable people dealing with a horrific and deadly illness, which is part of Hawaii's history many are not familiar with. The sequel, *Daughter of Moloka'i*, follows Ruth, the daughter Rachel was forced to give up at birth.

Alaska 🔍

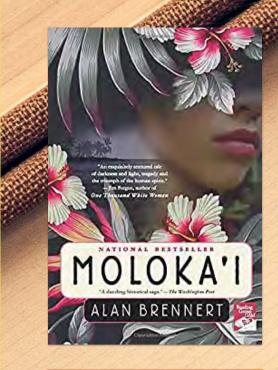
# THE GREAT ALONE BY KRISTIN HANNAH

When Ernt Allbright returns from the Vietnam War a changed man, he impulsively moves his family to the Alaskan frontier to live off the grid. At first, they find strength in the community of their remote homestead, and this drastic change seems to be what the family needs to heal. However, as winter creeps in and the endless darkness and deep snow pervades their lives, Ernt's mental state begins to deteriorate, and the family soon realizes they are truly alone.

Wisconsin 🖜

# THE ART OF FIELDING BY CHAD HARBACH

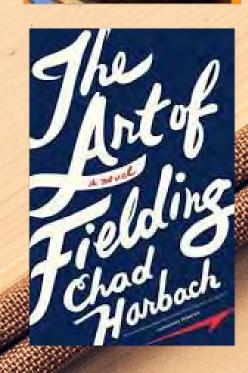
Westish College, a small school near Lake Michigan, provides the backdrop for the story of Henry Skrimshander, a college baseball star. Henry is destined for major league stardom, until a routine throw changes the lives of five characters in the novel. It may be a story about baseball, but the themes of ambition, commitment, and love resonate with any reader.

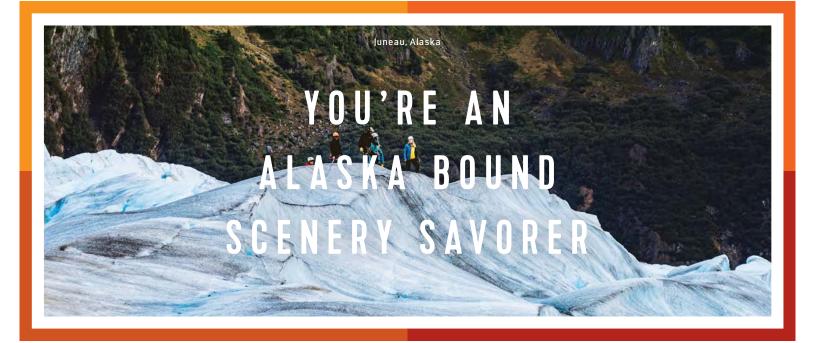


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### **Contact Your Travel Advisor to book**





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