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WHAT IS A TRAVEL ADVISOR?



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Ed Stahl

I've been in the business of travel since my college and Army days, and have been involved in the travel industry for 56 years.

My experiences have formed my mission:

Make travel easy, save money and come home with the memories.

The agents at Travel Advisors of Los Gatos are indeed Travel Advisors. Each is well-traveled and well-connected within the industry. A do-it-yourself traveler may be the former well-traveled. However, it is the travel agent's connections within the industry that saves a traveler both time and money.

Let's compare "apples to apples." You book a cruise on one of the internet sites or through the cruise line and probably feel that you got an amazing fare. While on your cruise, you meet a fellow passenger who has a veranda stateroom for the same price you paid for your ocean view stateroom. How did that happen? you asked. Her travel

agent was able to get her a free upgrade from an ocean view to a veranda stateroom.

Travel agents know the tricks of the trade and have personal connections with the suppliers, who can provide the extras not available on the internet. Extras like a complimentary bottle of wine, a spa treatment or other complimentary extras.

A traveler's nightmare is being stranded at the airport because your flight was either delayed or canceled. If you made the reservation yourself, you will have to stand in line or wait on hold for the next available airline representative. However, if your Travel Advisors agent made the reservation, we are available 24/7 to come to your rescue. We are a phone call away.

We also have access to unpublished pricing that can only be obtained by a travel agent. These prices won't be seen in print, either in a magazine or on the internet. You have to call your travel agent.

Let Travel Advisors of Los Gatos be your personal Travel Designers. Call us today. Ask about those unpublished cruise prices or if we can get that stateroom upgrade.



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ALWAYS CHECK OUR PRICING & COMPLIMENTARY EXTRAS.



NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE'S NEWEST SHIP SET TO DEBUT IN JUNE 2018

Norwegian Cruise Line's newest ship and the 16th in its fleet, *Norwegian Bliss*, has been designed for the ultimate cruising experience. The vessel, which will carry 4,000 passengers, will boast many firsts at sea, including the largest competitive racetrack at sea and open-air laser tag course.

Other outstanding features will be Ocean Loops, a double waterslide that whooshes guests 11 feet over the side of the ship and 16 stories above the ocean, as well as a custom-built 180-degree Observation Lounge. The Horizon Lounge will be a new feature exclusively for guests of The Haven, which features a variety of accommodations including luxurious suites.

Norwegian Bliss will sail to Alaska and the Caribbean with select voyages to the Mexican Riviera. Norwegian Cruise Line is known for its signature elements of freedom and flexibility – dine when you like and with whom you like.



WALT DISNEY WORLD TO OPEN TOY STORY LAND IN SUMMER 2018

There will be all-new adventures everywhere you look this summer at *Walt Disney World*® Resort when the theme park opens a highly anticipated new land – *Toy Story Land*.

At the larger-than-life setting of Andy's backyard, your family is invited to shrink down and become a toy alongside Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Jessie and the rest of the *Toy Story* gang. Take part in adventure together – among giant building blocks and board games that Andy's rigged up to become a playground straight out of his vivid imagination.

Attractions include Slinky Dog Dash, a coaster ride; Alien Swirling Saucers – aliens have powered up their flying saucers to take you on a spin through space; and *Toy Story Mania!* in which your toy story pals help you blast your way through a 4D arcade.



HOLLAND AMERICA EXPANDS ACCOMMODATIONS AT ALASKA'S DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Holland America Line is expanding the guest experience on its Alaska Land+Sea Journeys with the addition of new guest accommodations at its Denali operation. The 99-room addition will feature the first-ever junior suites at the resort and is expected to be open for the 2019 summer Alaska cruise season. The 55 new junior suites will showcase balconies, larger living areas and greater amenities for guests.

The new rooms are an extension of Holland America Line's overland Alaska experience to Denali, which includes the McKinley Chalet Resort, a 68-acre hotel property on the Nenana River, and Denali Square, a gathering area to relax, shop, dine and enjoy music and entertainment. The hotel – featuring a reception hall, dining facilities and guest rooms – serves as base camp for all adventures at Denali National Park, such as flightseeing, ATV journeys, hiking trails, river rafting and more.



VIKING CRUISES ADDS THE NEW VIKING SUN TO ITS FLEET

Viking Cruises has just introduced its fourth ocean liner, the *Viking Sun*, which is currently sailing across the globe until May 5, 2018. In 2019, *Viking Sun* will make another world cruise, which will span 128 days, five continents, 21 countries and 44 ports with 10 port overnights.

Viking's fleet has been designed for discerning travelers with interests in history, art, music and cuisine. Viking experiences from ship to shore feature unparalleled access and cultural enrichment. Resident historians deliver high-level historical and cultural education specific to the journey, offering invaluable insight into the rich history of the destination.

The 900-passenger *Viking Sun* features modern Scandinavian design with elegant touches and intimate staterooms.

CRYSTAL RIVER CRUISES OFFERS NEW MOSELLE RIVER ITINERARIES FOR 2019

Taking to the river less traveled, Crystal is introducing brand new 10-day "Enchanting Moselle" itineraries aboard *Crystal Bach*, round-trip from Amsterdam through Germany and the Netherlands, beginning May 28, 2019 through December 24, 2019. The voyages feature five entirely new ports of call through the vineyard-flanked Moselle River, considered to be one of the most breathtaking stretches of river in Europe.

Guests can experience world-class Rieslings and the famous vintages of the Mosel Wine Region in Bernkastel, the medieval charm and Roman ruins of Trier, and the stunning architecture of Reichsburg Castle in Cochem.

The all-suite, all-butler, all-balcony *Crystal Bach* features Crystal's signature service with the highest crew-to-guest ratio in the industry – 68 crew members serving 106 guests. Crystal river ships boast the largest accommodations in the river cruise industry.

BACKROADS INTRODUCES NEW ADVENTUROUS TRIPS FOR FAMILIES

Family travel has been steadily increasing for Backroads, which proclaims to be the world's #1 active travel company. New this year are trips designed specifically for families with older teens and travelers in their 20s. Now, young adventurers can hike and bike their way through Iceland's fjords, Spain's Pyrenees, Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and from Germany's Bavaria to Austria's Alps, or Slovenia to Croatia.

"For almost 40 years now we've been taking guests on active travel adventures across the globe," says Tom Hale, Founder and President of Backroads. "Every year, our trip designers research the best locations, find the nicest hotels, plan immersive biking and hiking routes so that our guests can enjoy phenomenal trips in the more than 50 countries where Backroads travels."

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NATIONAL TREASURES OF THE AMERICAN WEST

By Judie Karhan



Yosemite



Monument Valley

America's greatest collection of scenic wonders huddle snugly in the Western states. Here, spectacular views of canyon lands, rushing rivers and waterfalls, towering mountains and peaks are a dream come true for nature lovers and photographers.

Standing before the spectacular orange and red rock formations of **Utah's Monument Valley**, you will certainly feel the heartbeat of Native American culture. While SUV touring is recommended for its ease and accessibility, it's not the only way to see the park. You can also explore it by horseback on a guided tour. Or, take a boat tour on the Green and Colorado rivers. You'll soon see why this has been a favorite setting for many of Hollywood's classic Westerns.

A pictorial favorite of photographer Ansel Adams, hikers and tourists, **Yosemite National Park** is indeed one of the most beautiful places on earth. For outdoor enthusiasts, the region offers a vast selection of trails, from easy to challenging. East of the Yosemite Falls, the valley divides up into spectacular glacier-carved valleys and granite basins, providing intriguing trails in all directions. Dominating this area is Half Dome, its rounded summit looking 5,000 feet down to the valley ground. The Half Dome vertical north face is a titanic-size wall above the Tenaya River as well as the sheerest cliff on the continent.

Of course, a tour of the Southwest must include a visit to **Arizona's Grand Canyon**, perhaps the most staggering geological formation in the world.

The Grand Canyon offers mesmerizing scenery in a kaleidoscope of hues with its serene North Rim and breathtaking South Rim. It's easy to be hypnotized by the canyon's grandeur, in its towering rock formations, lush pine forests, isolated shallow lakes and expansive flowering meadows.

Beautiful **Sedona, Arizona** is a magnet for writers, artists and holistic healers. For nature lovers of all varieties, this popular resort destination is a practical "camp" point for branching out to nearby natural attractions.

Within the town of Sedona itself, visitors find a culturally rich environment. There are scores of art galleries exhibiting works ranging from Western and Southwestern to contemporary and modern art. Sedona is also developing a reputation as a center for Southwest cuisine. Several of Sedona's finest resorts feature innovative menus and award-winning chefs.

Guided tours of all kinds are available in the Sedona area. Jeep tours are one of the most popular ways to explore the back-country and learn about the region's history, geology, plants, animals and Native American culture. Other tours include stagecoach, horseback, hiking or van tours of Sedona's serene red rock country. For a bird's-eye view of the red rocks, you'll find scenic airplane and helicopter rides, as well as hot-air ballooning.

One of the many attractions in the Sedona area is **Montezuma Castle National Monument**, one of the oldest, best preserved cliff dwellings found in the Southwest. The 286-acre **Red Rock State Park**, established as a center for environmental education, is another Sedona highlight.

Just two hours' drive north of Sedona's magical monoliths lies the spectacular **Grand Canyon**, which offers mesmerizing scenery in a kaleidoscope of hues with its serene North Rim and breathtaking South Rim. It's easy to be hypnotized by the canyon's grandeur, in its towering rock formations, lush pine forests, and isolated shallow lakes.

On adventurous helicopter tours of the Grand Canyon, visitors can peek into ancient dwellings poised on cliffs, sidle up to boulders perched on slender buttes and soar over slopes that suddenly drop away. Jeep tours that traverse the high desert and mountains are also popular, as is whitewater rafting on the Colorado River.

Within Grand Canyon National Park there are more than 900 guest rooms available, from the historic El Tovar to frontier cabin replicas in Bright Angel Lodge.

Farther north, **Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks** are a cherished part of Wyoming's rich tapestry. With thousands of acres of sprawling wilderness to explore, Yellowstone stands as one of North America's greatest assets – home to an astonishing array of wildlife including bears, wolves, buffalo, elk, antelope and more. The iconic Old Faithful, Lower Falls and Yellowstone Lake are familiar in paintings and photographs, but seeing them in person is a humbling experience. In Grand Teton National Park, enjoy spectacular views of the Grand Teton mountains, which rise as high as 13,770 feet above sea level.

The list of national parks in the West is lengthy, so no matter where your wanderings may take you, you'll never be far from amazing scenery.



Yellowstone

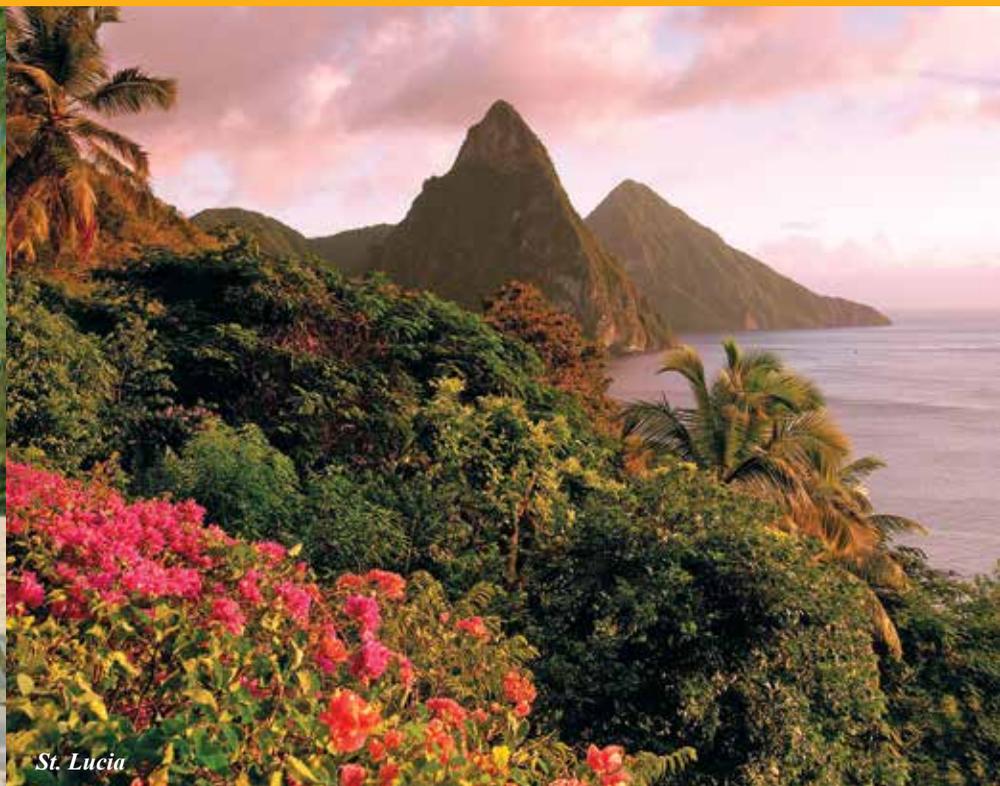


Grand Canyon

THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS: FI



Cayman Islands



St. Lucia

Every Caribbean isle has its special charms, tropical attributes and cultural interests. Some are best known for their expansive resorts, exceptional shopping and popular beaches. Other islands are better known for their unique topographical features and quiet havens. And this is what makes them so inviting. Whatever type of vacation you seek – active and adventurous or simply laid-back – you’re sure to find an island in the Caribbean that’s just right for you. Featured here are some of our favorites.

TRANQUILITY FOUND IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Grand Cayman’s colorful history, shaped by pirates, buccaneers, adventurers and shipwrecked mariners, tells tales of buried treasure. Even today, visitors occasionally find gold coins and other long-forgotten treasures washed upon the island’s white-sand shores. But the true treasure of Grand Cayman won’t be found on its beaches, but beneath the glassy surface of the turquoise Caribbean Sea.

For decades, divers the world over have flocked to the warm Caribbean waters to delve into the ocean’s crystal-clear depths, spectacular coral reefs and interesting marine life. What they have discovered surrounding Grand Cayman are miles of breathtaking sheer coral walls, brilliantly colored tropical fish, canyons, coral tunnels, caves, wrecks, and seemingly endless visibility.

Twenty-two-mile-long Grand Cayman is actually one of three exposed summits of a submerged mountain range (the other two are Little Cayman and Cayman Brac). Over eons, the mountainsides below the water have been covered with an unbelievably beautiful coral reef, with water in some spots as

shallow a 12 feet, and drop-offs as deep as an estimated 15,000 feet in others. Divided into six dive regions, Grand Cayman boasts more than 70 named boat and beach dive sites.

Besides the natural wonders of the underwater world, Grand Cayman’s shallower waters are the final resting place of many wrecked ships. Numerous coral-covered relics on the ocean floor now play host to moray eels, scores of reef fish, stingrays and other sea life.

But there’s more to Grand Cayman than water. Seven Mile Beach is defined by its long stretches of soft, very white sand. This pristine expanse of land is lined with resorts, restaurants and shops. In northern Grand Cayman, the National Trust’s Salina Reserve is a combination of woodlands and wetlands that offer visitors glimpses of rare blue iguana habitats, caves and unusual herbs. The Cayman Turtle Farm is home to thousands of sea turtles, and the 65-acre Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park is an endless sea of vibrant color blooms.

In George Town, Grand Cayman’s main city, visit the Cayman Islands National Museum to learn a bit about the history and culture of the island. Savor delicious Caribbean-style meals at excellent restaurants, browse through duty-free shops and

enjoy the nightlife – dance to a disco beat or simply soak up the moonlight on the beach.

ST. LUCIA: WHERE ROMANCE BLOSSOMS

Tropical St. Lucia lures travelers with its spectacular unspoiled beauty. The antithesis of glitz, this island is ruggedly beautiful, with miles of forestland and magnificent beaches.

Here, romance blossoms as surely as the orchids for wistful couples in search of respite from the strains of everyday life. A variety of accommodations are available, from large resorts to small, quiet inns and hilltop villas offering spectacular panoramic vistas of forested mountains and the sparkling sea below. European-style health spas are big. There are five spas to choose from on this small island, all featuring tranquil surroundings and the latest techniques for pampering discriminating guests.

St. Lucia is situated to the south of Martinique in the Lesser Antilles. There is one main road, which winds sinuously along most of St. Lucia’s perimeter. So a visitor’s initial introduction to this island – just 27 miles long and 14 miles at its widest – is certain to be punctuated by stunning ocean views.

IND YOUR PLACE IN THE SUN

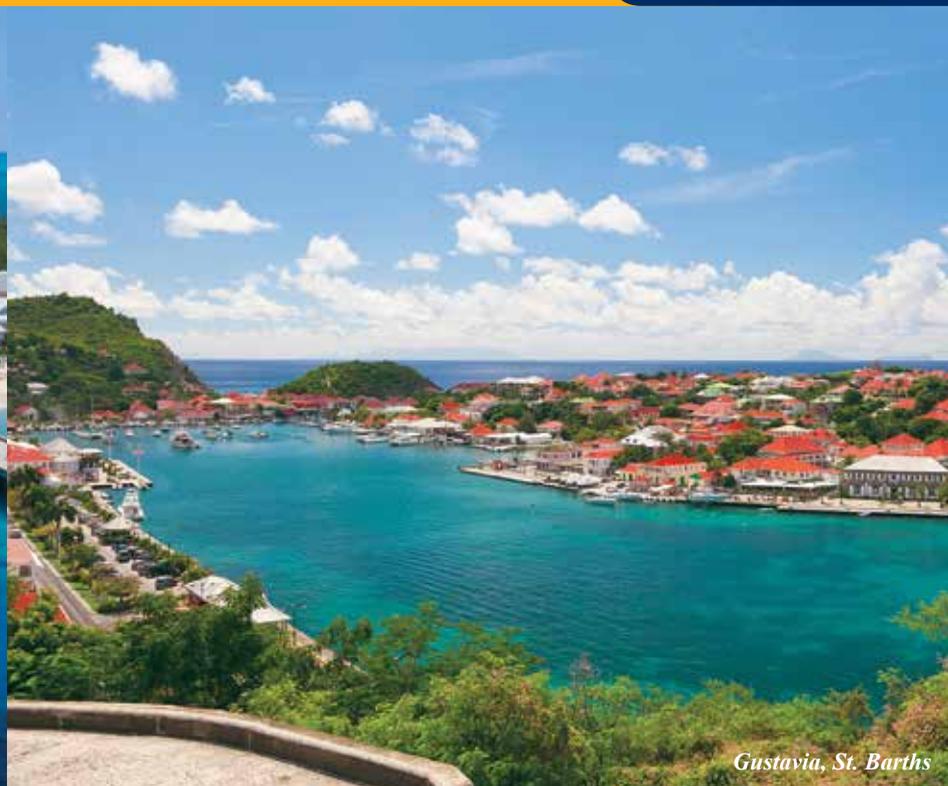
By
Judie Karhan



TRAVEL ADVISORS
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Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos



Gustavia, St. Barths

In the region of Castries, the capital city, enjoy some of the island's best beaches. Pigeon Island, an important historical site, is situated at the island's northwestern tip. This 40-acre islet, connected by a causeway to St. Lucia's west coast, is a beautiful nature park that reflects a thousand years of history. There are marked trails here with a number of historical sites, including the remains of an 18th-century British fort and Fort Rodney, where the admiral for whom it is named spied on French ships from this strategic viewpoint.

Standing guard over the picturesque 18th century French town and popular port, Soufriere, are St. Lucia's majestic twin peaks, The Pitons. Rising straight out of the emerald sea to more than 2,400 feet, The Pitons form an unmistakable landmark from any vantage point.

The surrounding lowlands and valleys have, over time, been developed into rich plantations where sugarcane, bananas, plantain, breadfruit, coconuts, mangos and papayas flourish. Nearly 19,000 acres of land in St. Lucia are protected by the St. Lucia National Rain Forest. Here exotic wildlife, giant ferns, wild orchids and St. Lucia's rare and indigenous parrot can be seen.

RETREAT TO THE TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

The 40 islands that make up the Turks and Caicos islands, situated just 575 miles southeast of Miami, remain relatively undiscovered. Only eight of these lesser-visited Caribbean islands are actually

inhabited, and visitors can still find miles of pristine white sand beaches without footprints. So a visit to these isles is truly a relaxing, enjoyable experience.

Among their many natural assets, the Turks and Caicos islands have the third largest coral reef system in the world. Scuba diving and snorkeling are, of course, activities shared by many. In fact, scuba diving in the crystalline waters surrounding the islands ranks among the best in the Caribbean. The waters are warm all year, averaging 76 to 78 degrees. Local operators offer dive charters as well as sailing and fishing charters.

Windsurfing and parasailing are other popular water activities. On land, enjoy golfing, horseback riding and bicycling.

Soft, sandy beaches and breathtaking turquoise waters are assets of all the islands, while the landscapes are a series of contrasts; from the dry, arid bush and scrub on the flat, coral islands of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, South Caicos, and Providenciales to the greener, foliage-rich landscapes of Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Parrot Cay and Pine Cay.

Providenciales is the hub of tourist development and activity, with hotels and condo resorts, restaurants and water sports. In Grand Turk, one of the main attractions is the Turks & Caicos National Museum. The museum tells the history of these islands that have all, at one time or another, been claimed by the French, Spanish and British – as well as pirates – before North Americans discovered them.

ST. BARTHS – CASUAL, YET CHIC

Little St. Barthelemy, nicknamed St. Barths, has a big reputation for glamorous visitors – Mick Jagger, Queen Beatrix and Jackie Onassis being among them. But despite its popularity with celebrities, the island has remained relatively quiet and has retained a strong sense of self, with a laid-back attitude, casual ambiance, and more than a glimmer of French chic.

St. Barths' tiny population of just 3,000 residents – plus or minus a few – represents an interesting blend of French and Swedish cultures. Though the island is now under France's domain, it once belonged to Sweden (1784-1878).

In Gustavia, St. Barths' largest town, street signs are in both French and Swedish. Wrapped around a picturesque harbor where sailboats, fishing boats and luxury yachts glisten in the sun, Gustavia is a favorite spot for soaking up the scenic beauty of the island. Its quaint streets are filled with small shops, cafes and markets.

Merely eight square miles, St. Barths does not take long to explore, but the terrain of the island is hilly and rugged – best seen by open-air Jeep-style vehicles. Roads are narrow and steep, but well marked. And the views are spectacular.

While nightlife is virtually nonexistent in St. Barths, the island is known for its sumptuous cuisine. Evenings are most often spent lazily sipping champagne and dining on local seafood or French specialties, or simply strolling along one of the many disparate beaches and gazing at the stars.

DRIVING ALONG LEGENDARY ROUTE 66

By Judie Karhan

It was the most renowned two-lane highway in America ... the nation's first tarred transcontinental road. It had a mystique no highway before or since has achieved.



During World War II it was the Army's transport route for troops and arms. After the war, it became the road to a new life for a whole legion of Midwestern homebodies who had never wandered a hundred miles from home, now tempted by the lure of the open road, the wonders of the West.

Today, if it's your philosophy that the journey is more important than the destination, you're ready for Route 66. Just let up on the gas pedal as you cruise the road, ease down an off-ramp marked with a Historic Route 66 marker, and take a look at what America was like before it became generic.

Rambling down the old highway, you get the strange sensation of being suspended between 1940 and 2018, stopping at the same attractions that fascinated travelers so many years ago.

A large part of Route 66's nostalgic charm comes from its roadside oddities. And none is stranger than Cadillac Ranch near Amarillo, Texas where 10 Cadillacs are angled nose-down in the earth in a straight line. It's the novel idea of Stanley Marsh III, a Dust Bowl child who grew up to be very wealthy. He called it a monument to the American dream.

Still, despite cozy towns and friendly people, it's tough to ignore that a melancholy number of hamlets suffer from decay. In the panhandle town of McLean, Texas, the Route 66 Museum, though small, captures the spirit of the road. It's crammed with authentic artifacts, photos, scrapbooks, old Burma Shave signs, and a partial replica of a greasy spoon cafe, built from actual parts of a local café of the 1940s.

One thing Route 66 roadies insist on, whether your travel a section or go the full route, it's that route that puts you in touch with the land, the roads, the people, the way life was before the world shrank. On the Interstate, you watch a scene speeding by. On Route 66, you are there in the scene.



Cadillac Ranch



Roadside Cafe



BEYOND THE SHAMROCK

By Dorothy Crouch

Upon arriving in Ireland, many travelers expect to immediately recognize stereotypical emerald hued hills and Guinness flowing plentifully.

While these notions are somewhat true, visitors who limit their itinerary to exploring the pubs in Dublin and taking day trips to Glendalough or Powerscourt are not experiencing a complete Irish journey. Driving out of Dublin can be tough for

inexperienced drivers, therefore be cautious or hire a tour company for safe guidance through Ireland.

Every visitor to Ireland should visit Dublin, though they should not spend their entire holiday in the capital city. Exploring Dublin is necessary to appreciate and understand Irish culture. Stepping onto Trinity College's campus for the first time is an unforgettable experience and bibliophiles will marvel at

The Book of Kells. It is within this great literary city where geniuses such as James Joyce, Oscar Wilde and Roddy Doyle drew inspiration. This city was the stage on which the battle for Irish independence took place. Still today, visible bullet holes appear on the exterior columns of the post office; a product of the 1916 Easter Uprising and 1922 civil war.

South of Dublin, lies Kinsale, which is an intimate, coastal town known for its friendly locals and delicious seafood. Stays at a local B&B are worth looking into, as Kinsale's charm

shines through its people. Enjoy historical accounts and tales of Kinsale shared by a B&B owner as they serve homemade breakfast. Prior to embarking on a tour of the town, be certain to wear comfortable shoes, as



Kinsale's streets are set on narrow, winding inclines.

If a journey west of Dublin is feasible, traveling to the Aran Islands is a must. Inis Mór is the largest of the islands, yet with a community of only 850 residents, visiting is comparable to stepping back

in time. Tourists are encouraged to explore the island on bicycle, which proves to be a challenge when riding over the bumpy terrain that consists of solid rock and steep hills. It is here where walls that were built by inhabitants hundreds of years ago still stand and outline parcels of land. Though difficult to navigate, the journey is absolutely worth the effort. This is the place where speaking Gaelic, basket weaving, sheep shearing and knitting are part of daily life. Visitors who are touched by the luck o' the Irish will be fortunate to stumble upon a local pub filled with patrons enjoying a night filled with live traditional Irish music and dancing.



BERMUDA – PRETTY IN PINK

The island territory of Bermuda sits all by itself in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, six hundred miles off the coast of North Carolina.

This isolation somehow adds to Bermuda's charm. An overseas territory of the U.K., Bermuda actually comprises some 140 islands, most of which are small and uninhabited. Some of the friendliest people to be found anywhere live in Bermuda, primarily on eight main islands, which are connected by bridges and a causeway.

Bermuda is Britain's oldest colony, and the British influence is prominent, from the governor's annual tea party to the powdered wigs the judges in Hamilton might wear. Its proper, civilized culture

includes rules banning billboards and neon signs and speed limits over 20 mph.

Few trees exist on this temperate island, but the vegetation is lush. The temperature averages 70 degrees in the winter and anywhere from 75 to 85 in the summer, making it an attractive year-round destination.

Though the Bermudan archipelago covers just 20 square miles, it features 64 gorgeous miles of coastline, including its famed pink-sand beaches. Visit South Shore Park, which

stretches from Warwick Long Bay to Horseshoe Bay, for the greatest concentration of pink-sand beaches.

There's never a lack of outdoor activities to enjoy in Bermuda. The vibrant sea life and abandoned shipwrecks make it a perfect place to snorkel or scuba dive, while its lush greenery is home to more golf courses

per square mile than anywhere else in the world.

At the eastern edge of the island group lies historic St. George, a World Heritage Site. First settled in 1609, it is the oldest English-speaking colonial town still in existence. The town served as Bermuda's capital until 1815 and features charming street names like Old Maid's Lane and Petticoat Alley. Its historic town square, replica stocks and colonial houses are not to be missed.

The current capital of Hamilton bustles with culture, cuisine and commerce. Visit its quaint boutiques for top-notch shopping, and head to Front Street after 6:00 p.m. when the nightlife begins.

The fortifications of the Royal Naval Dockyard, known as the "Gibraltar of the West," date back to the 19th century. The Dockyard

now features the Bermuda Maritime Museum, the Commissioner's House and Dolphin Quest, a perfect place to swim with dolphins.

Cruise ship passengers can find plenty to love about a cruise to Bermuda, including several peaceful days at sea and stops in picturesque towns.



EXPLORING WASHINGTON, D.C.

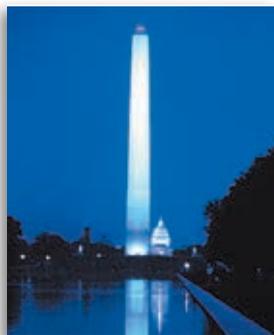
By Gretchen Zauner

Washington, D.C. is a complex city with a vast number of important historical sites, some somber, others celebratory.

The National Mall is where the past, present and future come together. The monuments and memorials in this park honor American forefathers and heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to this country. Honoring the lives lost in war are the World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Korean War Veterans Memorial.

On the westernmost side of the Washington Mall complex, an impressive Greek Doric temple grandly commemorates the 16th president of the United States. Inside, a commanding marble statue of a seated Abraham Lincoln accompanies inscriptions of two of his famous speeches, The Gettysburg Address and his Second Inaugural Address. On the other side of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool lies the Washington Monument.

Sharing an axis with Lincoln, Washington's obelisk is one of the most recognizable structures in the entire city. Upon completion in 1888, it became the world's tallest structure.



East of the Washington Monument you will find world-class museums, including the newest addition, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. The Smithsonian Institution, as it is known collectively, is a world-renowned museum and research

complex that consists of 19 museums and galleries in Washington, D.C., as well as the National Zoo. The museums collectively contain 154 million objects, works of art and specimens. One of the most popular museums is the National Air and Space Museum, where visitors can learn about the future of space travel. At the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, pause for remembrance and learn about the fragility of freedom.

A trip to the nation's capital might also include Ford's Theatre, the site of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Take a step back in time at this popular tourist destination, where visitors learn



about the events of April 14, 1865, and the lasting impact of Lincoln's assassination on our nation.

Just steps from D.C., and across the Potomac River, Arlington National Cemetery sits upon 624 acres of land. The cemetery serves as the final resting place for more than 400,000 military veterans and their immediate family from the fronts of Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as World Wars I and II, the Korean conflict, Vietnam, the Cold War and America's Civil War.

Tours of the White House are also available to visitors who plan ahead for tickets.

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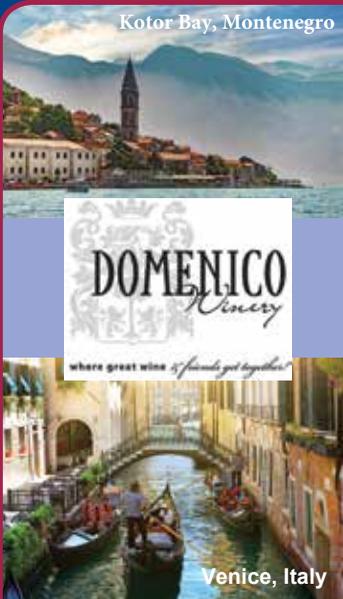
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