

# range

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storied stilt-walkers







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Great heights: Brothers and Moko Jumbies Adriel Asseveiro and Adrian Young pose for a portrait atop their stilts outside the sports complex where they practice in Trinidad.  
*Photo by Marlon James*

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PHOTOS: LEOPOLD MAITRE/UNSPLASH; DINA ÁVILA (GOING PLACES).

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# range

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Pink flamingo on the beach from Aruba

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## Hope for Hawai'i

I've had to pull a story at the last minute a few times over the course of my career. Sometimes, it happened when news broke about a celebrity behaving badly (so long, celebrity profile). Once it was after discovering that a luxury bag company had been accused of mistreating its employees (goodbye, glowing product review). And, of course, working in travel journalism during the pandemic meant story after story got filed away "for later" as the world closed in and the number of places we could safely travel to — and write about — shrank.

In this issue of *Range*, there should have been a feature about Hawai'i. Back in June, I traveled to the island of Maui, where I spent a magical day in Lahaina. I strolled along the historic town's seaside boardwalk, poked around in shops featuring work by local artists, snacked on shaved ice and sought refuge from the sun behind the heavy wooden walls of the elegant old courthouse, immersing myself in the layered history of the island.

In August, when I woke one morning to news that Lahaina had been levelled by a wildfire, I felt numb. I stared at images of the now blackened 60-foot-tall banyan tree behind the courthouse, planted in 1873 to honor the 50th anniversary of the first Protestant mission in Lahaina — a tree that I had marvelled at only weeks before. The aerial shots of the devastated town broke my heart.

Out of respect to those who lost their friends, families, homes and communities, we immediately pulled the story. Perhaps presciently, it was to be a story about the effects of climate change in Hawai'i, and how tourists may, in fact, be able to help mitigate them. (When I visited, I spent some time on the side of a volcano, hacking away invasive plant species — invasive plants, along with drought conditions caused by climate change, are believed to be among the reasons the fires spread as quickly as they did.)

In September, the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources posted a video of new leaves budding from the trunk of Lahaina's scorched banyan tree. Leaves that have, not surprisingly, become a metaphor for the resilience of the community and a sign of hope for its future. T. Ilihia Gionson, public affairs officer for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, witnessed the day in late September when the first residents were able to return home. "People were understandably emotional, but resolved," he says. "The strength I saw in the Lahaina community was nothing short of amazing."

Maui's economy depends on tourism. The best way to support it in its recovery is for travelers to return, Gionson says. "Respectful, compassionate, responsible travel to the island is what's needed at this time." He recommends buying local, eating at local restaurants, supporting organizations like the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund or giving back during your visit (for more information on volunteer opportunities, visit [mauiinuistrong.info](http://mauiinuistrong.info)). Now, more than ever, tourists have an opportunity to make a positive, and prolonged, difference — and that's a story worth telling. ♦

PHOTO: KATHERINE HOLLAND.



Sydney Loney

Editorial Director

We've made some changes to *Range* recently and would love to know what you think.

Share your feedback with me at [editor@ensembletravel.ca](mailto:editor@ensembletravel.ca).



# Contributors



**Marlon James**  
PHOTOGRAPHER

**Hometown** Kingston, Jamaica

**Home base** San Juan, Trinidad and Tobago

**My favorite travel companion** will always be my camera. Be it my workhorse Canon 5D, my Rolleiflex or the Nikon F, my cameras are an extension of myself; they allow me to capture those fleeting moments that have a way of staying with you. **When I’m not collaborating with Range,** I’m always thinking of ways I can tell stories about people and places, while also building collections, preparing for exhibitions or shooting on assignment.

**Moko Magic — page 32**



**Jade Prévost-Manuel**  
WRITER

**Hometown** Providenciales, Turks and Caicos

**Home base** Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

**My top travel memory** is seeing my first shooting star on a beach in Costa Rica (I was helping a local group with nighttime patrols to keep sea turtles safe). Imagine lying on the sand, surrounded by dozens of turtles, and looking up at the most stars you’ve ever seen. It was pure magic. **When I’m not collaborating with Range,** I write culture, science and gender-justice stories from around the Caribbean and Canada, and cycle through a number of hobbies, including freediving and painting.

**Moko Magic — page 32**



**Sam Vox**  
PHOTOGRAPHER

**Hometown and home base** Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**The place I can return to again and again** is Cape Town. The city’s allure lies in its remarkable beauty and innate ability to cater to every traveler’s desires. For me, Cape Town is an artistic haven where I find inspiration and growth. **When I’m not collaborating with Range,** I’m a visual storyteller specializing in portrait, editorial and documentary photography. Through my passion for exploring environmental, social and cultural issues, I’ve collaborated with *The Guardian*, WaterAid, RED and Amref, and my work has been exhibited across the globe.

**Zambia Up Close — page 56**

PHOTOS: MARLON JAMES (MARLON JAMES); DENISE SPECK (JADE PRÉVOST-MANUEL); NASSOR OTHMAN (SAM VOX).



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GOING PLACES



DESTINATION TO WATCH

Making Olympic Waves in Tahiti

Next year, the world's best surfers and thrill-seeking spectators will descend on Teahupo'o, a quiet fishing village nestled between green peaks and an epic reef break on the southwest coast of the French Polynesian island of Tahiti, for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The mystical, crystal-clear waters of Teahupo'o produce some of the heaviest, most challenging waves on the planet, all because of their perfect bathymetry: The way the seafloor rises rapidly, from about 5,000 to 1,000 feet deep, generates powerful barrel waves up to 22 feet high. For competitors, many of whom both fear and revere Teahupo'o, the surfing venue could not be more swell — even if it is two oceans away from the host city.

TEXT: AIMI MAYNE. PHOTO: JULIEN GIRARDOT/DPP/LIVEMEDIA/ALAMY.





INSIDE SCOOP

“Costa Rica is the destination that always calls me back: Its incredibly diverse ecosystem feels like it has endless offerings for every kind of traveler. One of my recent visits included a wellness tour — it was amazing to witness the transformative effect it had on everyone.”

**Ensemble Travel Advisor**  
JoAnn Gustave  
Sarasota, Florida

DREAM DESTINATIONS

# Discover the World’s Blue Zones

Okinawa, Japan. Sardinia, Italy. Nicoya, Costa Rica. Ikaria, Greece. Loma Linda, California. All are coveted destinations made even more famous once journalist and National Geographic Fellow Dan Buettner identified them as “Blue Zones” — places with the healthiest, longest-living populations on the planet. Now, a new Netflix docuseries, *Live to 100: Secrets of the Blue Zones*, lets you travel to each of them alongside Buettner, picking up a few longevity pointers along the way.

TEXT: DOMINIQUE LAMBERTON (DREAM DESTINATIONS); AIMI MAYNE (MUST-HAVE). PHOTOS: NETFLIX (DREAM DESTINATIONS); COURTESY OF ORDINARY HABIT (MUST-HAVE).

MUST-HAVE

# Forget Beach Reads, Pack a Puzzle

The mother-daughter co-founders of Ordinary Habit cultivate mindfulness through their playful products, including On the Go puzzles featuring work by female artists, like “Warp” by London-based Annu Kilpeläinen. The 100-piece puzzles are made of recycled materials and come in a compact fabric pouch — the perfect size for your beach bag.

“Warp” On the Go Puzzle by Annu Kilpeläinen  
US\$20, [ordinaryhabit.com](https://ordinaryhabit.com)



ON TREND

# Ocean Pools

Arguably made famous in Australia (thanks to jaw-dropping locales like Bondi Icebergs in Bondi Beach), ocean pools are springing up around the world, including Turks and Caicos. A new 3,900-square-foot natural, Atlantic-fed pool at Wymara Resort + Villas is the first of its kind in the Caribbean, combining the safety and comfort of a pool with the thrill of an ocean swim — soft, sandy bottom included. Dreaming of diving into one of these man-made wonders? British author Chris Romer-Lee’s new book, *Sea Pools: 66 Saltwater Sanctuaries from Around the World*, chronicles stunning ocean pools from Ireland to Namibia.

TRAVEL SIZE

# Good-for-the-Planet Skincare

Safeguard your skin and the environment with this travel-ready vegan skincare set by Attitude. The brand’s Oceanly line features marine-sourced ingredients in biodegradable and FSC-certified packaging, with the Radiance Skin Mini Ritual Set containing four 0.3-oz tubes of face cleanser, serum, cream and oil. Each product in the lineup is formulated with the plant-derived ingredient phytoglycogen for peak moisturization wherever you land.

**Oceanly Radiance Skin Mini Ritual Set, US\$59, [attitudeliving.com](https://attitudeliving.com)**



CRUISE NEWS

# The Most Energy-efficient Cruise Ship

Cleaner cruising is on the way: Hurtigruten Norway has announced its first zero-emission ship, which will sail along the Norwegian coast beginning in 2030. The cruise line’s Sea Zero project takes innovative steps toward green marine travel by using electric batteries that charge in port, harnessing wind-generated power, implementing retractable solar-panel sails and tapping into artificial intelligence for ship maneuvering. Eventually, Hurtigruten Norway plans to replace its entire fleet with these eco ships.

TEXT: DOMINIQUE LAMBERTON (ON TREND); AIMI MAYNE (TRAVEL SIZE); CRUISE NEWS). PHOTOS: LEOPOLD MATTHE/UNSPLASH (ON TREND); COURTESY OF ATTITUDE (TRAVEL SIZE); HURTIGRUTEN GROUP (CRUISE NEWS).





LOCAL LINGO

Dolce far niente

On your next holiday, do as the Italians do and master the art of idleness. *Dolce far niente* translates to “the sweetness of doing nothing,” whether it’s lazing on a beach, lingering over an afternoon coffee or luxuriating in a lengthy nap.

GALLERY HOPPING

Explore Europe via its Greatest Masterpieces

THE ECHO OF PICASSO

**Museo Picasso**  
**Málaga, Spain**  
**Until March 30, 2024**  
As part of celebrations marking 50 years since Pablo Picasso’s death, this exhibit showcases pieces by more than 50 artists who were influenced by the Spanish visionary.

MICHELANGELO

**AND BEYOND**  
**Albertina, Vienna**  
**Until January 14, 2024**  
The evolution of the human nude is explored through Michelangelo’s early works, alongside drawings, prints and sculptures from other notable artists.

VAN GOGH

**ALONG THE SEINE**  
**Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam**  
**Until January 14, 2024**  
In the 19th century, an abundance of art was made along the Seine River. This exhibit displays pieces by van Gogh and four of his peers.



TEXT: DOMINIQUE LAMBERTON (LOCAL LINGO); GALLERY HOPPING: AIMI MAYNE (NEW & NOTEWORTHY). PHOTOS: FINEAS ANTON/UNSPLASH (LOCAL LINGO); IAN DAGNAL/ALAMY (GALLERY HOPPING); SEATRAC (NEW & NOTEWORTHY).



NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Barrier-free Beaches

Solar-powered chairs recently transformed more than 200 beaches across Greece, Italy and Cyprus, making them accessible to visitors with mobility issues. Beachgoers “drive” down the sand on an adaptive chair set on a single track using a remote-control device, then use the handrails at the end of the track to enter the water on their own. Soon, more beaches will follow suit: Seatrac, the Greek company behind the chairs, plans to expand within Europe and beyond, bringing its technology to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Spain and Croatia next.



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Family suite

Encore Speedway

The Waterfront

# Tanya Taylor

The New York-based fashion designer chats about her brand's new flagship, finding art on her travels and why she can go back to Barbados again and again.

By Dominique Lambertson



When Tanya Taylor packs for a trip, versatility is top of mind. The Toronto-born designer might bring a two-piece ensemble with floral eyelet detailing from her own label, wearing it as a set one day, styling the crop top with wide-leg pants another, and the skirt with a big shirt later on. “I get three outfits from packing just a few items,” she says. “I think about that when I’m designing as well — how do I solve for someone’s life in the most efficient way?”

Taylor’s eponymous brand, which marked its 10th anniversary in 2022, is known for hand-painted prints that wind up on ruffly dresses, one-piece bathing suits and breezy tops. Color dictates both the brand’s designs and Taylor’s own fashion sense, especially when she travels. “The fun thing on vacation is I sometimes end up wearing what’s still clean, and it becomes this cool combination that’s a little wackier than what I would wear at home.”

**Range** *What inspires your designs?*

**Tanya Taylor** Art is always what inspires me. Painters like Helen Frankenthaler, Lee Krasner and Joan Mitchell are artists I look to for starting color palettes and being inspired by shape.

**R** *Does art play a role in how you travel, too?*

**TT** Yes, when I travel I see such unique art that feels different from what I can find in New York. I went to Japan in the spring and the questions that guided me around Tokyo, Hakone and Kyoto were: What does modern art look like in this country? What are artists really saying? What style is it? And what does the past look like? It’s fun to get to know new places through what people are creating.

**R** *Your first store just opened, on Madison Avenue in the Upper East Side — why there?*

**TT** I think it’s the most iconic neighborhood

in New York. It has an awesome mix of people and hospitality, with the Carlyle and the Mark Hotel as the anchors. When I first came to the city, the Carlyle made me fall in love with New York. The live music, the scene — you can find 85-year-olds there at 11 p.m. sipping martinis, but you’ll also find 18-year-olds eating French fries. The intergenerational and love-of-New York feeling in that little neighborhood is pretty special.

**R** *Where else do you love returning to again and again?*

**TT** Barbados — it’s like a second home. My grandparents lived there when I was eight and my mom moved there when I was 17. I got married there, too. I’m not really a girl who can sit by the pool and read — I like to be productive, so sandcastle-building is one of my talents. And I just love immersing myself in Barbados culture. ♦

PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANYA TAYLOR.



# Fun in the Sun

Be prepared for holidaying in and around the water with these portable pieces that will take you from beach to bar, or pool to patio.



Trendy Trunks

Make a statement poolside in these lined swimming trunks made from recycled quick-dry polyester with a handy back pocket that snaps closed.

**Iron Daisy Trip  
Swim Trunk, US\$100  
bather.com**



Towel for Two

Nothing beats a spacious beach blanket, and this hand-loomed, fast-drying, 100-percent cotton one rolls up snugly for easy carrying by its leather and cotton strap.

**Beach Blanket in  
Riviera Mimosa, US\$119  
businessandpleasureco.com**



Reef-safe SPF

Protect both your delicate skin and delicate marine life with this all-natural, easily absorbed sunscreen formulated without octinoxate and oxybenzone, which are harmful to coral reefs.

**Natural Hydrating Mineral  
Sunscreen SPF30, US\$42  
grownalchemist.com**



Personal Cooler

Keep drinks ice-cold and snacks safe from the sun in this insulated pack that clips around your waist for hands-free toting to and from the seaside.

**FUNDamentals Hip Pack  
Cooler Bag, US\$18  
igloocoolers.com**



Slip-on Sandals

These sturdy and stylish sandals from cult Japanese footwear brand Suicoke come in both men's and women's sizes and are perfect for a day at the beach.

**MOTO-Cab - Yellow x Beige  
US\$225, suicoke.ca**



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# Fish Sandwiches

There are plenty of fish in the sea and even more ways to enjoy them in a sandwich — here are three to try from around the world.

By Jessica Huras



## NEW ORLEANS, USA Po' Boy

With its thin, crusty exterior and pillowy interior, the New Orleans-style French roll sets Louisiana's legendary handheld apart from a standard sub. Po' boys date back to the 1920s, when they were given out for free to feed striking streetcar workers who were nicknamed "poor boys." Po' boys come with a variety of savory fillings, but fried catfish is a classic that offers a taste of the state's famed soul food. **Where to try it:** The "half & half" at no-fuss stalwart Domilise's offers the best of both worlds for indecisive orderers, packed with your pick of two seafood fillings (choose from catfish, shrimp and oyster).



## BERMUDA Fish Sandwich

Slices of raisin bread add a sweet tinge to Bermuda's hearty fish sandwich, which is made with deep-fried white fish, such as wahoo, snapper or grouper. Coleslaw, tartar sauce and hot sauce are typical add-ons, but you'll find creative riffs on it across the island. **Where to try it:** New York-based chef Marcus Samuelsson reportedly swears by the Art Mel's Spicy Dicy rendition, in which snapper is flash-fried in soybean oil for an ultralight texture.



## DENMARK Pickled Herring Smørrebrød

Since the Middle Ages, the open-face smørrebrød has been a lunch staple, featuring dense rye bread (rugbrød), butter and an array of toppings. The pickled-herring iteration, with onions, capers and herbs, makes use of the preserved fish that is a Danish essential. **Where to try it:** Copenhagen's century-old Slotshølen offers smørrebrød with various styles of herring, including curried or fried.

PHOTOS: DINA ÁVILA (PO' BOY); BERMUDA TOURISM AUTHORITY (FISH SANDWICH); UCKYO/ADOBE STOCK (SMØRREBRØD).



# Sun and Sand for Everyone

Writer Lisa Kadane explores how autism-certified resorts and destinations are revolutionizing “all-inclusive” travel.



I knew having kids would change the way my husband and I traveled. In the early years, we figured we’d likely choose theme parks over Thailand treks, and all-inclusive resorts instead of backpacker hostels in Cambodia. But raising a child with autism has kept us firmly on a sun-and-sand travel trajectory and made us even more intentional about where we go and how we get there.

By playing to our teenage son’s preference for swimming, and avoiding his triggers — long airplane rides that necessitate a lavatory visit, because noisy — we have splashed in Ixtapa’s waves, hiked to jungle waterfalls in Belize and kayaked on one of Puerto Rico’s bioluminescent bays. Before each trip, I tempered Bennett’s anxiety over the unknown by preparing him with a visual story that showed pictures of stops on the itinerary.

But it wasn’t until a trip to Mesa, Arizona, that I realized entire destinations could meet us halfway by supporting guests with cognitive disabilities. The city gained autism certification through the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education

Standards (IBCCES) in 2019, with some hotel, attraction and city parks staff trained in how to recognize and respond to travelers with sensory, learning and communication differences. We went horseback riding at a ranch where they tethered Bennett’s horse to the guide’s to support his motor challenges, enabling him to participate. We also visited an aquarium with a quiet room where he could watch sharks and rays in peace rather than in a crush of people.

Until recently, accessible travel has meant accommodations for physical and sensory disabilities: wheelchair access, braille signage, assistive listening devices. But as autism awareness grows in the mainstream (one in 36 children in the U.S. lives with the neurodevelopmental condition), inclusion in the travel sphere is expanding to mean individuals with cognitive differences, too.

Since that trip to Mesa, we’ve sought out other autism-friendly sun destinations and resorts. We walked the famous boardwalk at Myrtle Beach and kayaked past cypress trees in the South Carolina bayou. We clambered up sand dunes in Death Valley National Park,

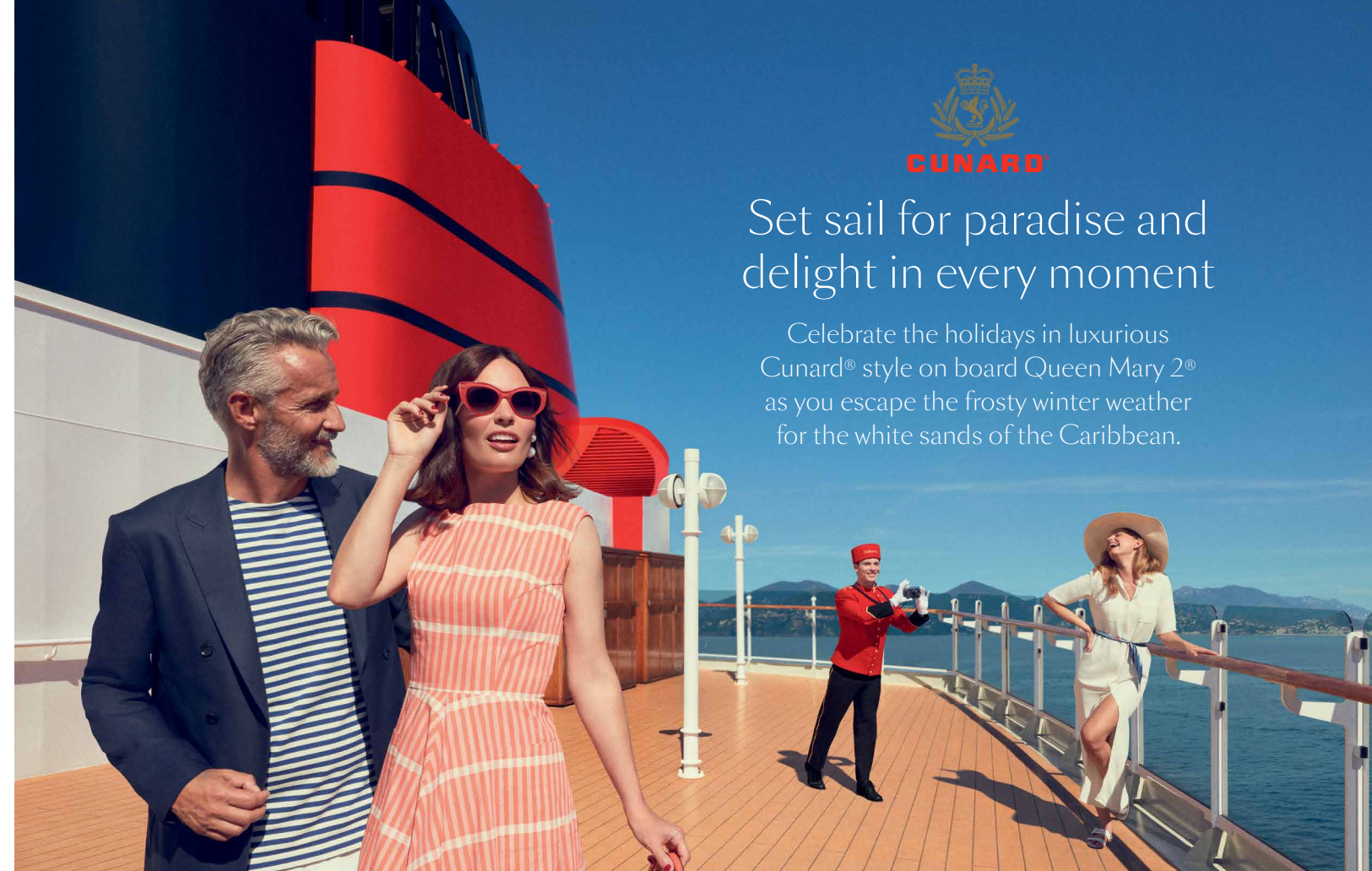
which loans out sensory kits with polarized sunglasses and noise-canceling headphones to visitors who may need help coping with the park’s climate extremes.

Most recently, we spent a week at an autism-certified resort in Jamaica where Bennett, now 16, enjoyed an endless buffet with gluten-free options and snorkeled in waters teeming with tropical fish. A “Beaches Buddy” trained to work with kids on the spectrum took him to shoot hoops and lap the waterslides. Having several hours of respite from parenting was a vacation-first for us.

Neurodiverse travelers aren’t quite spoiled for choice just yet, but they soon will be: In Florida, the Palm Beaches just launched an accessibility program, and in California, Greater Palm Springs became IBCCES autism-certified in 2022. These city-wide initiatives add to the many palm-studded hotels and resorts in the U.S., Caribbean and Mexico that are already supporting all guests.

Who knows? Maybe someday a family backpacking trip to the beaches and bungalows of Southeast Asia won’t be just a dream. ♦

PHOTO: XAVIER MOUTON/UNSPASH.



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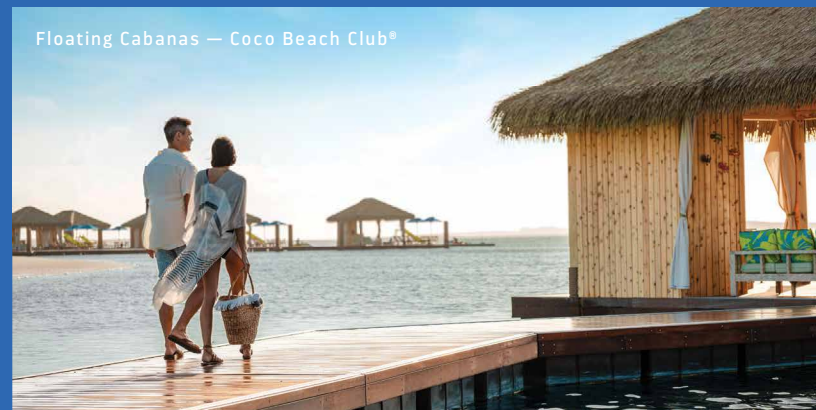


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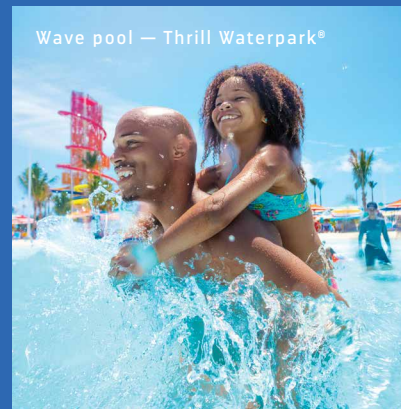


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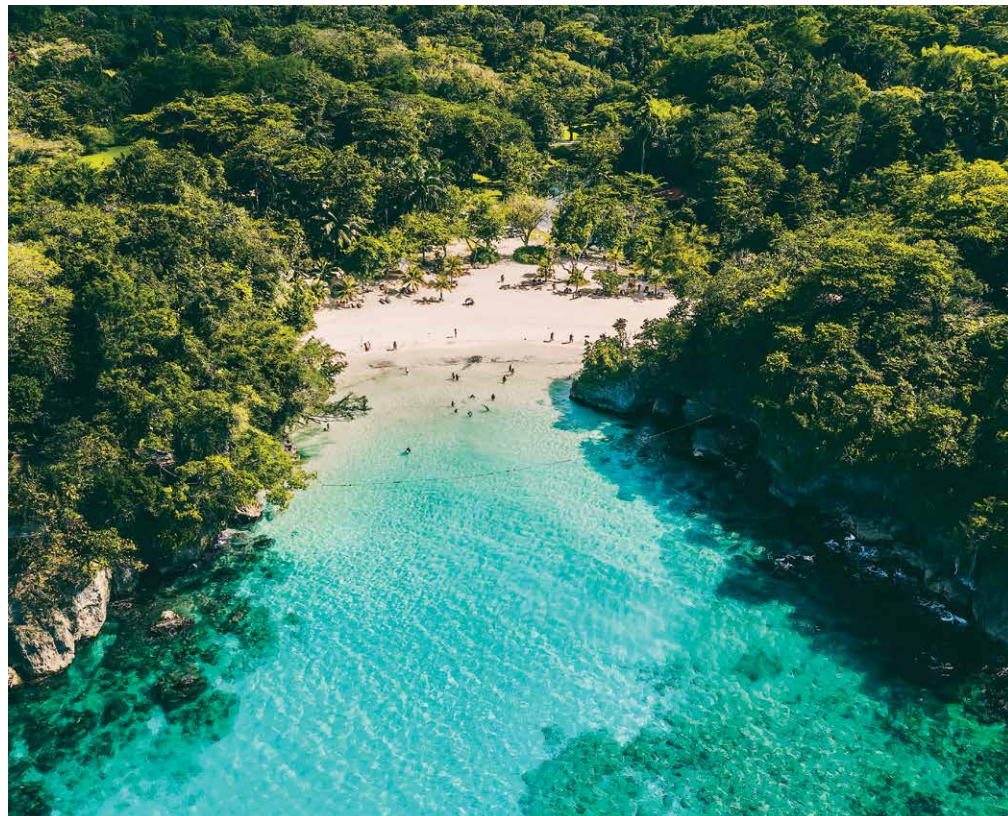
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# Jamaica's Path to Luxury



A trip to Jamaica reveals splendor around every bend. From immersive culinary and adventure experiences to luxurious accommodations, here's how to soak up the spirit of the island.

By Maryam Siddiqi

PHOTO: SHELDON LEVENE.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF VISIT JAMAICA (CHRISTOPHER AND LISA BINNS); LISA BINNS (SALAD).

Wherever Christopher Binns goes, his dogs follow. At least four of them, anyway — he and his wife have eight total. I follow him, too: Christopher is giving me a tour of their 15-acre organic farm, high in the hills of St. Ann. The lush green land has been in his family for generations, and where some might see a tropical rainforest, Christopher sees a “food forest.” “Do you know what a pear is?” he asks me. I think I do, until he explains that pear is the word Jamaicans use for avocado. He’s showing me where they will grow, as well as plots for yams, radish and carrots, when Lisa, his wife, catches up to us. It’s time for our meal.

The Binns’ farm doubles as one of the island’s best culinary experiences: Stush in the Bush. Twice a week, Lisa and the Stush in the Bush team create dynamic plant-based menus that show off the bounty grown on their land — everything from juniper berries to jackfruit — and the diversity that’s possible when cooking meatless dishes. Stush in the Bush’s alfresco meals are so popular, they tend to book up a couple months in advance. Fortunately, your travel advisor can arrange private experiences with the

Stush in the Bush’s food is a (literal) taste of the rich experiences that await you in Jamaica.



Binns through tour operator Island Routes, which is why I have Lisa to myself as she explains the creative processes behind her seasonal dishes, including yam and pine croquettes, soursop soup, and cucumber, carrot and ginger gazpacho made even more divine with a dollop of Scotch bonnet-pepper paste. “A lot of intention goes into how ingredients are paired,” she says. “It’s about innovating with the raw ingredients, connecting with the land and then connecting with others by sharing a meal.”

Lisa’s incredible food is as colorful as Jamaica itself, and a (literal) taste of the rich experiences possible when you take the lesser-traveled paths in the country. These routes reveal parts of Jamaica many visitors don’t know to look for and offer a chance to meet locals as you experience the island through their eyes.

On the eastern end of Jamaica, for instance, while many may be inclined to stay on their resorts, the

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT Christopher and Lisa Binns are ready to welcome you to their organic farm in St. Ann; Stush in the Bush’s menu changes seasonally, but could include the vibrant Ital Niçoise salad.

OPPOSITE PAGE Frenchman’s Cove is famous for its turquoise water, white sand and lush tree canopy.





I follow my guide and cycle through rolling farmland that’s producing oranges, ackee, mango and sugarcane.



reward for navigating the winding road in Portland (currently being resurfaced by the government to create a smooth ride to the region) is Frenchman’s Cove. The next afternoon, I head to this secluded, shaded beach for a break from the extreme sun. As I walk the stretch of white sand, small groups of families and friends linger in the water and lounge under the fickle cover of palm trees, their sky-high fronds swaying in the warm breeze. The cove is located where a freshwater river meets the turquoise Caribbean Sea, creating a scenic spot for a dip.

After a few days of prioritizing eating and beach-hopping, I’m craving adventure. I pull off the main road yet again to spend an afternoon in Ocho Rios, exploring how Chukka Caribbean Adventures has turned former plantation land dating back to the 18th century into a traveler’s playground, far from the crowds. At Chukka’s Eco-Adventure Outpost

at Good Hope in Falmouth, there’s zip-lining, river tubing, bamboo river rafting and, my choice, e-biking.

I follow my guide Jahmiel Gentles and cycle through rolling farmland that’s producing oranges, ackee, mango and sugarcane. “This is the biggest hill you’ll ride,” says Gentles as we start up a considerable incline, though I quickly realize it’s nothing an e-bike can’t handle. Gentles leads our small group on a gentle adventure, wheeling down small roads surrounded by tropical greenery. We make stops at orange groves and plots of land thick with sugarcane, and wave to kids as we pedal past villages. It’s a contrast from the typical postcard image of Jamaica — one with beach chairs and rum punch — which makes the experience even more meaningful. Just like the paths I’ve already traveled, these backroads and country lanes lead me to connect with Jamaica and its people in a way I won’t soon forget. ♦

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT Chukka Caribbean Adventures’ bamboo river rafts are handcrafted; follow your guide through the Jamaican countryside on Chukka’s e-bike experience.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF VISIT JAMAICA.

## Luxury Stays



### Visit Jamaica Villas

With more than 100 properties, from lavish beachfront estates to hilltop hideaways, Visit Jamaica Villas has the largest collection of luxury vacation rentals on the island. Find the one that suits your group (of up to 22) best, with amenities that include private pools, tennis courts and movie theaters. Once you’re settled in, a dedicated concierge service can arrange bespoke add-ons to take your stay to the next level, such as private drivers and spa treatments right in your villa.



### The Tryall Club MONTEGO BAY

A full-service resort experience paired with the exclusivity of a private villa, the Tryall Club is ideal for groups or multigenerational family vacations. Each of the villas has its own personality, with features like gardens and games rooms, and comes with a dedicated staff including host, chef and housekeeper. With every need attended to, you won’t have to leave your villa, but you’ll want to for a round on the golf course or to hang at the beach club.



### Round Hill Hotel & Villas MONTEGO BAY

Choose between private villas or ocean-view hotel rooms at this storied resort, which has been welcoming guests since 1953. Thanks to its surroundings — 110 acres rich in tropical plants hugging the sea — a stay here feels like a nature retreat. Relax on the beach or at the spa, or break a sweat in one of the gym’s fitness classes (including HIIT and sculpting). Guests can also hop on the shuttle to the Tryall Club’s scenic golf course for a round.



### Half Moon MONTEGO BAY

Half Moon is a playground in paradise, with an on-site golf course, tennis and pickleball courts, and bikes for navigating the winding property. Be sure to indulge in the resort’s varied food and drink offerings, from Lester’s Bar, with its selection of Caribbean rums, to Sugar Mill, a fine-dining restaurant that delivers a contemporary take on Jamaican cuisine with dishes like sorrel hibiscus salmon and oxtail ravioli.



### The Trident Hotel PORT ANTONIO

The dramatic views of the Caribbean Sea are difficult to pull yourself away from at this small hotel in Port Antonio. It’s home to just 11 villas, awash in white, each with spacious living rooms, private patios and plunge pools — ideal spots to watch the sun set. And don’t miss the property’s hidden beach cove, infinity pool and Mike’s Supper Club, a speakeasy-esque restaurant that features regular live jazz performances.



### Jamaica Inn OCHO RIOS

There’s a familiar feel to Jamaica Inn, even for first-time guests. The intimate 52-suite boutique resort, which is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year, has a rich history, with notable guests over the years including Marilyn Monroe and Ian Fleming. It’s the place to lounge in luxury in Ocho Rios, with veranda suites perched right on the water for serene sea views and a quiet beach for enjoying water sports.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF VISIT JAMAICA.





# Moko Magic

By Jade Prévost-Manuel — Photos by Marlon James

How the stilt-walking stars of Trinidad and Tobago are propelling their mythical art form into the future.





Folklore tells us that most spirits live in the shadows; that they thrive during the night's darkest hours, when its blackness feels all-encompassing.

But, on some days, you can find them out and about in broad daylight, walking the streets of Trinidad and Tobago. Surrounded by the crowds that have gathered along the Brian Lara Promenade for Port of Spain's Emancipation Day parade on August 1, several men begin the intricate task of binding their legs to wooden stilts — a ritual that transforms them from mortals to spirits, from men to Moko Jumbies.

Trinidad and Tobago's famed costumed stilt-walkers have a long history that originates in West Africa. Moko is an *orisha* (god) of retribution; the word also means “healer” in Central Africa. Jumbie is the West Indian term for “spirit” or “ghost,” and may have also been derived from the word *zumbi* in the Kongolanguage. Most Trinidadians and Tobagonians will tell you

that the Moko Jumbie represents the mythical spirit that walked across the Atlantic Ocean with enslaved Africans to watch over them in the New World — a protector of the people. It became a traditional character of Old Carnival or “Ole Mas,” when the festival was held as a way for enslaved people to mock their European enslavers' own celebrations before Lent.

Moko Jumbies have performed in Trinidad and Tobago Carnival — a vibrant street parade that takes place on the Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent — since the early 1900s. Then, Moko Jumbies were part of an eclectic assemblage of characters, such as Jab Molassies (imitations of the devil), Baby Dolls (grown women dressed as babies) and Dame Lorraines (voluptuous women with exaggerated feminine features), that represented Trinidad and Tobago's rebellion against the colonizers, and its cultural roots on the African continent. Now, as part of its evolution, the boisterous annual procession

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT  
In addition to seeing Moko Jumbies perform, a trip to Trinidad and Tobago isn't complete without a day spent at Maracas Bay, the country's most popular beach and a great place to sample bake and shark, the beloved Trinidadian sandwich; Adrian Young (a.k.a. Daddy Jumbie) wears his signature gold crown surrounded by members of Future Jumbies and NexGen Walkers.

OPENING SPREAD  
Moko Jumbies and brothers Adriel Asseveiro and Adrian Young dance above the crowds in Port of Spain's Emancipation Day parade.



has welcomed a form of costume heavy on beads, bikinis and feathers, known as *pretty mas*.

Yet the tradition of Moko Jumbie endures, and the people who dance and limbo on wooden stilts as high as 20 feet remain the heart of Trinidad and Tobago Carnival. Today, the art form is experiencing a golden age, thanks to Moko Jumbies intent on passing it on to the next generation, some as young as five. After all, the sooner you learn to walk on stilts, the better.

**Wriggling on a pair of impossibly long, gold-**sequined hammer pants, seasoned Moko Jumbie Adrian Young clips together the repurposed seatbelt that secures his cloth bindings and foam padding. As he loosens his pant legs, cascades of fabric ripple down his stilts to camouflage them. Young's Moko Jumbie is both a character to play and an extension of himself. When he dons his stilts and the gold fabric mask that obscures his face, he becomes Daddy Jumbie:

A man on a mission to raise the next generation of Moko Jumbies.

“Daddy Jumbie, watch me nah,” six-year-old Omoluabi Andrews, one of Young's newest apprentices, calls out as he adjusts his red chapeau. He hops across the promenade's paving stones on the miniature stilts Young built for him. This is his first public performance, and the second for his older sister, eight-year-old Adianka. The two train with their mother, Nianka Brown, as well as under the watchful eye of Young and his troop of experienced Moko Jumbies. “I know the joy of being on stilts,” says Young. “Seeing that joy on their faces? That keeps me going.”

The first time Young put on a pair of stilts as a boy, he fell face-first into a sharp piece of concrete behind a community center, cutting his forehead. “As long as you're in Moko Jumbie, falls are gonna happen,” he says — although falling is the last thing you should have on your mind when you raise yourself up on stilts.

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT  
Six-year-old Omoluabi Andrews gears up for his first public Moko Jumbie performance in the Emancipation Day parade, wearing the mini-stilts his trainer Adrian Young made for him; fastening small feet to stilts is a collaborative effort.





“Stilts is life, which means you have your ups and downs,” Young says. “Sometimes, you know you’re gonna fall, and you hadda prepare for it.”

Decades after his first tumble, Young has become one of Trinidad’s most sought-after Moko Jumbies. He performs at lavish weddings and promotional events, as well as in Caribbean carnivals around the world. He and his fellow Moko Jumbies have even carried coffins on their stilts at funerals. Young has also butterflied, stooped and leaned back, and Lara’d — the latter a Moko Jumbie move inspired by Trinidad’s most famous cricketer, Brian Lara — in mini-documentaries produced for global audiences.

For years, Young has run introductory stilt-walking workshops with Future Jumbies, his platform for training kids five and older. Now, he’s cofounded NexGen Walkers with Brown, which focuses on early Moko Jumbie education, to expand the art form’s influence. Young and Brown are bringing stilt-walking to summer

camps and preschools across Trinidad with the goal of equipping kids with the tools they need to carry on the tradition.

Brown isn’t a Moko Jumbie herself, but since her children began training, she’s become passionate about getting people of all ages to fall in love with it — not only during events and Carnival, but as an everyday extracurricular activity. “We don’t just want to teach people to walk on stilts,” Brown says. “We want them to learn how to pass it on; to get to a point where they themselves have their own stories to tell the next generation.”

The opportunity exists for all Trinidadians to write new Moko Jumbie stories. Its roots may be tied to the African diaspora, but Moko Jumbie is an art that people of the many ethnicities and backgrounds in Trinidad can call their own. Since its launch in 2017, #1000mokos, a community dedicated to growing and supporting Moko Jumbies in Trinidad, has taught

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT  
Because their stilts are so tall, Moko Jumbies often prop themselves up against a wall or branch to get ready — here, Adrian Young, Kyle Fiddler and Daniel Bascome sit up in a tree to don their costumes and stilts for the Emancipation Day parade; Daniel Bascome strikes a pose for the parade crowd.

OPPOSITE PAGE  
Moko Jumbie family: Adrian Young (far right) with his mother Charmain Asseveiro, brother Adriel Asseveiro and nephew Kyle Fiddler.







more than 1,000 people to stilt-walk through its Sticks in de Yard sessions. Creating safe, inviting places for people to experience Moko Jumbie is what drives #1000mokos' cofounder, Kriston Chen.

There are generations of people in Trinidad who want to try stilt-walking, he says, and giving them the opportunity is how Trinidadians keep Moko Jumbie alive. "Moko Jumbies are this mash-up of past, present and future," says Chen, who is Trinidadian with Chinese ancestry. "Even someone who looks like me can do this. The history of our people is written in this living ritual."

**On Emancipation Day, the sun is relentless. Yet** Young flies down the street, shielding parade-goers with broad swoops of his gilded fabric wings. Everything about his performance has been designed by his own hand — the choreography, his costume, the glittering crown atop his head. Omoluabi and Adianka

trail behind him, under the close watch of Brown and their grandmother.

Somewhere on Picadilly Street, the band stops to rest under the shade of a gabled roof. Young removes his mask and crown for a moment to cool down, as vibrating music trucks blare a favorite tune of the year's Carnival — "Spirit" by Erphaan Alves.

*Music in we blood, can you hear the spirit calling?  
Music in we blood, can you hear the spirit calling?  
Melody, feel the rhythm beating like it's one heartbeat,  
Everybody follow me.*

At the base of Young's stilts, a crowd is gathering. A mother lifts her curious son, not much younger than Omoluabi, up toward Young. After posing for a photo together, Young passes his gold crown to the boy — perhaps inspiring a future Moko Jumbie who'll carry on the tradition just as he is. ♦

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT  
Adriel Asseveiro makes some final adjustments before the Emancipation Day parade begins; Adriel Asseveiro, Kyle Fiddler and Adrian Young soar down Brian Lara Promenade as they perform Moko Jumbie moves like the butterfly, air split, limbo, stoop and lean back, Lara, one foot back, and guitar.

OPPOSITE PAGE  
Adriel Asseveiro pumps his hand-sewn wings using thin batons hidden within loops of fabric — a testament to the creative illusions and spectacle intrinsic to Moko Jumbie costumes.



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Receive up to <b>\$400<sup>USD</sup> Cruisetour CA\$H</b> per stateroom <sup>2</sup> + up to <b>\$60<sup>USD</sup></b> to spend on board per stateroom <sup>2</sup>		
<sup>1</sup> Taxes, Fees & Port Expenses of <b>\$292<sup>USD</sup></b> are additional.		Direct-to-the-Wilderness® rail service Natural History Tour into Denali National Park Sternwheeler Riverboat Cruise in Fairbanks
Ask about an optional pre-paid meal plan for the land portion of this cruisetour that includes: 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners <sup>3</sup>		

<sup>1</sup>\$2,786 USD fare is based on category BE4 on Royal Princess® 9/7/24 sailing for tour FA4, on a space-available basis at time of booking. Fares for other dates may vary.  
<sup>2</sup>Certain restrictions apply, please refer to your travel advisor for full terms, conditions and definitions that apply to Cruisetour CA\$H, Onboard Spending Money, and Optional Meal Plan. Inclusions are subject to change. Server gratuity (15%) and taxes are included in the package price. Alcoholic beverages are not included in meal packages.  
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# Sicilian Holiday



Photos by Chiara Zonca  
Words by Dominique Lambertson

Armed with her camera and accompanied by her husband, parents and mother-in-law, photographer Chiara Zonca set off to explore the unspoiled nature reserves and sun-dappled coastlines of Sicily.

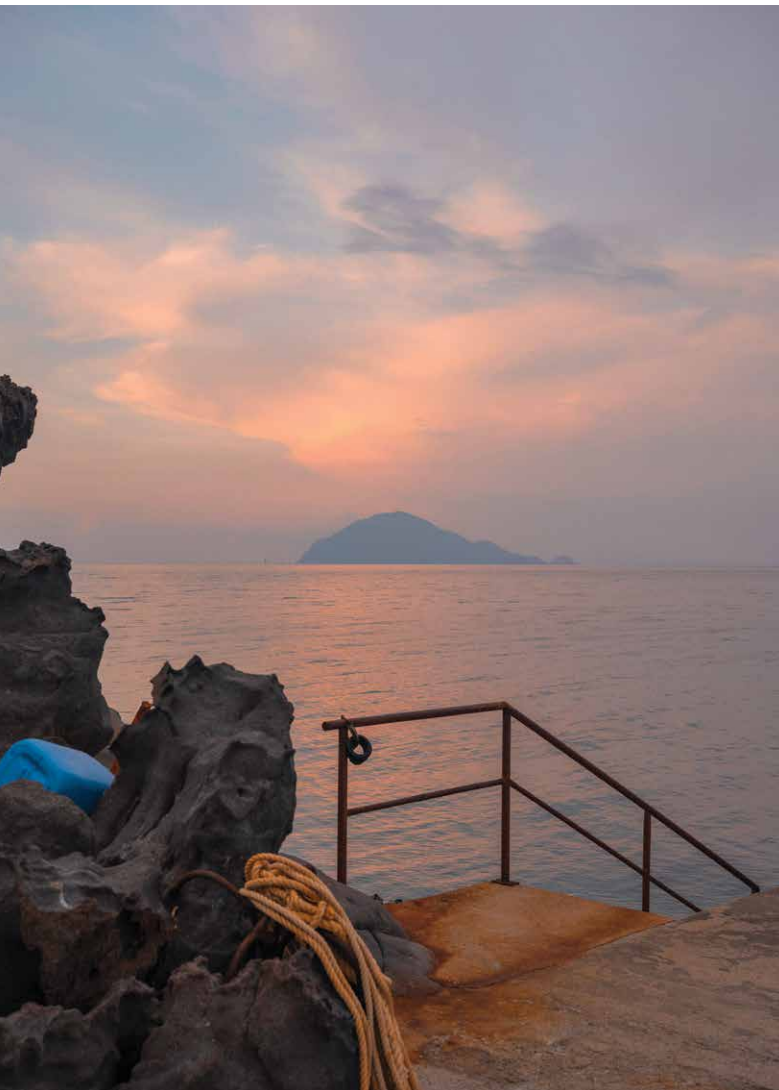


For photographer Chiara Zonca and her husband, Armando, traveling home to Milan from Western Canada — where they’ve lived for the past five years — is time-consuming and, for the two born-and-bred northern Italians, not terribly exciting. So, instead of visiting Chiara’s parents and Armando’s mother in their home city, the whole family decided to start meeting up in different European destinations — ones that were new and appealing for everyone. For their first trip, the group of five began close to home, in Italy’s Valle d’Aosta. Next, it was Iceland. Then, the Canary Islands. And this year, Sicily. It was a place where Chiara’s parents, who are hiking enthusiasts, could find enough trails to satisfy them; Armando’s mom, who likes cooking and visiting villages, wouldn’t be too isolated; and Chiara and her husband could lose themselves in the wild settings they’re drawn to. “Sicily has this unique mixture of ancient architecture and culture, as well as beautiful landscapes, which is what made it all come together,” says Chiara.

ABOVE  
One of the world’s most active volcanoes greets you as you arrive on the Aeolian island of Stromboli.

OPPOSITE PAGE  
Chiara’s father, Roberto, and husband, Armando, cool off in the natural pools in Cavagrande del Cassibile Nature Reserve.





The group spent one week in Sicily’s northwest, and a second week in the southeast. Days filled with sightseeing and trekking were capped by evenings spent cooking, eating and laughing together. When the two weeks were up, Chiara and Armando ventured off on their own, island-hopping through the Aeolian archipelago, on the Tyrrhenian Sea north of Sicily, on a hired sailboat. It’s become a ritual to extend the trip after they’ve said goodbye to the parents: “We use it as a launching pad to go somewhere else that’s close and convenient.”

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT  
A sunset on Alicudi, the westernmost of the Aeolian Islands; Chiara’s mother-in-law, Elisabetta, and mom, Graziella, have become closer since these family trips began.

During their stay, they visited three of Sicily’s 74 regional nature reserves — Zingaro, Mount Cofano and Cavagrande del Cassibile. Mount Cofano, which is a 1,300-acre expanse of hilly trails and craggy cliffs that drop into the sea, was Chiara’s favorite — the verdant landscape, home to more than 300 plant species, was a surprise: “I pictured Sicily with olive trees, sure, but not the type of plants we saw in Mount Cofano,” she says. “There were tons of different palm trees, and it was lush, like New Zealand.” On hikes with her parents, Chiara’s father, Roberto, was often leading the way, with Chiara trailing behind. “When you travel with a photographer, it takes forever.”

ABOVE  
Roberto sets the pace on a trail in Mount Cofano Nature Reserve.





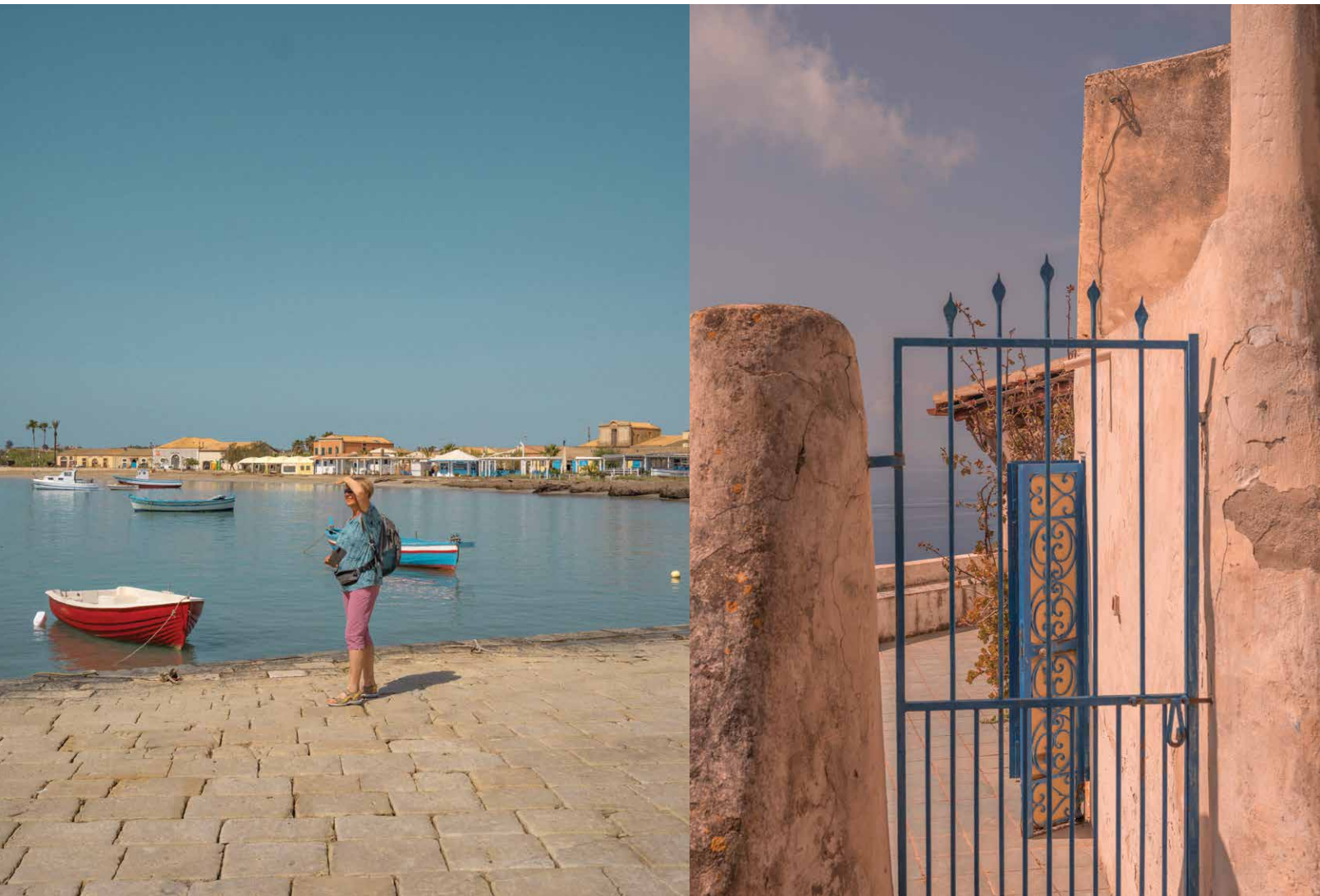




ABOVE  
Boats in Lipari’s Marina Corta.

PREVIOUS SPREAD,  
LEFT TO RIGHT  
Chiara’s parents hike Sentiero  
delle Orchidee (Orchid  
Path) in the Zingaro Nature  
Reserve; the Tyrrhenian Sea  
captured through a home’s  
archway on Filicudi island.

In the Aeolian Islands, Chiara found the Sicily she had envisioned, awash in romantic villages, colorful ports and waterfront seafood restaurants. The archipelago is made up of seven main islands, with Lipari, the largest and most populated, being the starting point for most Aeolian adventures. Each island has its own distinct feeling, from the glitzy nightlife on the smallest island, Panarea, to the active-volcano-crowned Stromboli. “If there’s an island that stole my heart, it’s Stromboli,” says Chiara. “The beaches are all black and the houses are all white — it’s an incredibly beautiful and sophisticated place.”



While Sicily offered something for everyone, traveling as a multigenerational group is not without its challenges, no matter the destination. There were moments of compromise, says Chiara, but in the end, it’s always worth it: “Time is so precious. You especially notice that when you live far away from your parents. To be able to spend meaningful time together is so important.” Next year, the family will meet again in either Istria, Croatia or in Arctic Norway — they’re still deciding. ✦

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT  
Graziella explores the  
hamlet of Marzamemi in  
southeast Sicily; a rural  
home on Filicudi.



# Made in Oaxaca



By Sydney Loney — Photos by Adrian Morris

How a modern studio is weaving history, culture, people and place into each intricately handmade piece.

MEXICO



In 2017, Javier Reyes arrived in Mexico. He came without friends, family or much money, but he did have the rough makings of a plan. The Dominican Republic-born designer dreamed of finding communities of artisans who were producing work rooted in their histories and cultures. Artisans who might be willing to partner with him, incorporating his designs into their art, experimenting with the techniques they'd learned as children — and sharing the results with people who appreciate handcrafted, one-of-a-kind products in their homes. Javier found what he was looking for in Oaxaca.

OPPOSITE PAGE

Estefana is one of the Zapotec artisans behind the success of rres studio.

RANGE BY ENSEMBLE





PHOTOS, THIS PAGE  
Leticia and Leopoldo, from the community of Santa María Atzompa just outside Oaxaca, have crafted their pottery by hand, using natural finishes, for more than 37 years.

Oaxacan history and culture go back thousands of years. The rugged, mountainous state in southern Mexico was inhabited by the Aztecs before being conquered by the Spanish in the 1500s, and it is one of the country's most culturally diverse regions, home to at least 16 Indigenous groups that have painstakingly preserved their dialects, customs and traditions. "I got to this place and it was so beautiful, so special," Javier says. "Everywhere I went, people were making incredible things and every Zapotec community was dedicated to a different traditional technique and material. I was inspired — and overwhelmed."

Not knowing where else to start, Javier resorted to traveling from community to community, knocking on doors, explaining his idea for the project and asking artisans whether they were interested. Many were.

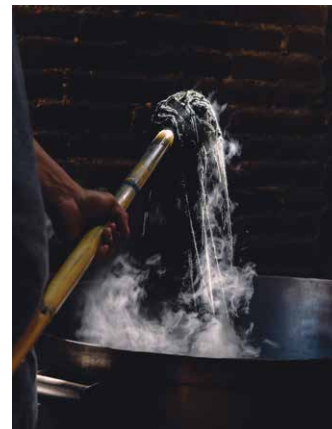
From the outset, Javier was determined to prove his commitment to the partnerships he was forging. He didn't want the project to be about building a brand or about highlighting

#### Where to Shop

Oaxaca is renowned for its market culture, Javier says, and there is a market in every neighborhood. Two of his favorites: Mercado de Abastos ("It's giant and supplies to all the others — it's an experience") and Tlacolula, which is a special Sunday market for local artisans.

#### Step by Step

From purifying and dying 100-percent lambswool yarn to working it on the loom, it can take Oswaldo (right) and Esmirna, from the village of Teotitlán del Valle, up to 40 days to produce one graphically stunning rug.



himself as "the designer," which is why the name of his Oaxaca studio, rrres, is derived from a word that means "nothing." (The word *res* is Catalan for "nothing," and Javier threw a few extra r's in, just for good measure.) "People don't know how to say it, and that's the whole point — forget about the name, it doesn't matter," Javier says.

What does matter, he adds, is that people understand the collaborative nature of the work as well as the history and culture of the people behind it. Every piece handcrafted by Zapotec artisans for rrres — from cotton, wool, clay or palm — comes with a card that reads "made by hand, made by history," along with detailed notes about the cultural tradition behind the technique. "We wanted to create a storytelling link to each product," Javier says. "To present a new idea of Latin American culture that isn't clichéd or romanticized but that is real, and that needs to be preserved."

For the artisans involved, maintaining the techniques that have been passed down through generations is essential not only to provide for their families, but also to ensure





## PHOTOS, THIS PAGE

Estefana and Rodolfo weave artistic geometric patterns on the elegant cotton wall hangings they produce from their home workshop in a small town an hour from Oaxaca — no two are the same.

## PHOTOS, OPPOSITE PAGE

Blanca and Alejandro learned to weave palm leaves out of curiosity, in between playing games as children. “That’s how you start,” Alejandro says. The shape is different every time and the tone of the palm deepens as it ages.



the survival of their communities. Oswaldo López Gonzales and his wife Esmirna Martínez Pedro weave woolen artisanal rugs from a workshop in their home in Teotitlán del Valle, a small village in the foothills of the Sierra Juárez mountains about 20 miles from the city of Oaxaca. “We need to preserve this tradition of weaving rugs because it’s our only source of income,” Oswaldo says. “We depend on it. And Teotitlán itself depends on tapestry, so it is very important for us to continue to maintain the art.”

Children in the village learn to weave as soon as they’re tall enough to reach a loom. “I learned when I was 11 years old — my mother taught me,” Esmirna says. “I started by using ribbons because it’s an easy technique and it’s how most children learn. Then, I was taught how to weave geometric patterns with yarn and started perfecting the technique with more designs and colors.” Her parents and her brothers and sisters are all skilled weavers.

Before joining rres studio, Oswaldo and Esmirna had to leave their family and travel to other states to sell their rugs at exhibitions, often spending a week

### Where to Eat

The best food is found on the streets of Oaxaca, Javier says. “There are stands selling fresh corn tortillas and restaurants in little houses featuring what we call ‘a full menu,’ with dishes dedicated to local ingredients and cooking methods, like all the different types of moles.”



or two away from home. “Now we work at home all day and we don’t have to worry about going out to look for a place to sell our rugs,” Oswaldo says. “It has been good for us, and we get to spend more time with our children.”

Despite the project’s success (Oswaldo and Esmirna started with a single loom, now they have 10), it has required patience from both sides. Javier adapted his designs; the artisans adapted their techniques. “We push boundaries,” Javier says. In Teotitlán, for instance, rugs were always square, or rectangular — now they’re also oval, circular, even hexagonal. “We’ve learned more techniques to perfect our weaving, and now we share this with other generations and other people in the community,” Esmirna says.

One rug can take anywhere from 25 to 40 days to produce, depending on the size and design. Esmirna says it makes her happy to see the finished piece spread out on the floor, the colors strong, the pile thick. “Not everyone has the gift of weaving and making this type of rug,” Oswaldo says. “And to be able to capture a part of our culture in a rug, it is a satisfaction and a joy.” ♦



“We wanted to present a new idea of Latin American culture that isn’t clichéd or romanticized but that is real, and that needs to be preserved.”

### Where to Stay

Selina Oaxaca’s bright pink exterior sets the tone for this chill stay in the heart of the historic city. Take a wellness class, hit the library, enjoy a siesta in a hammock or dance to live music on the rooftop terrace.



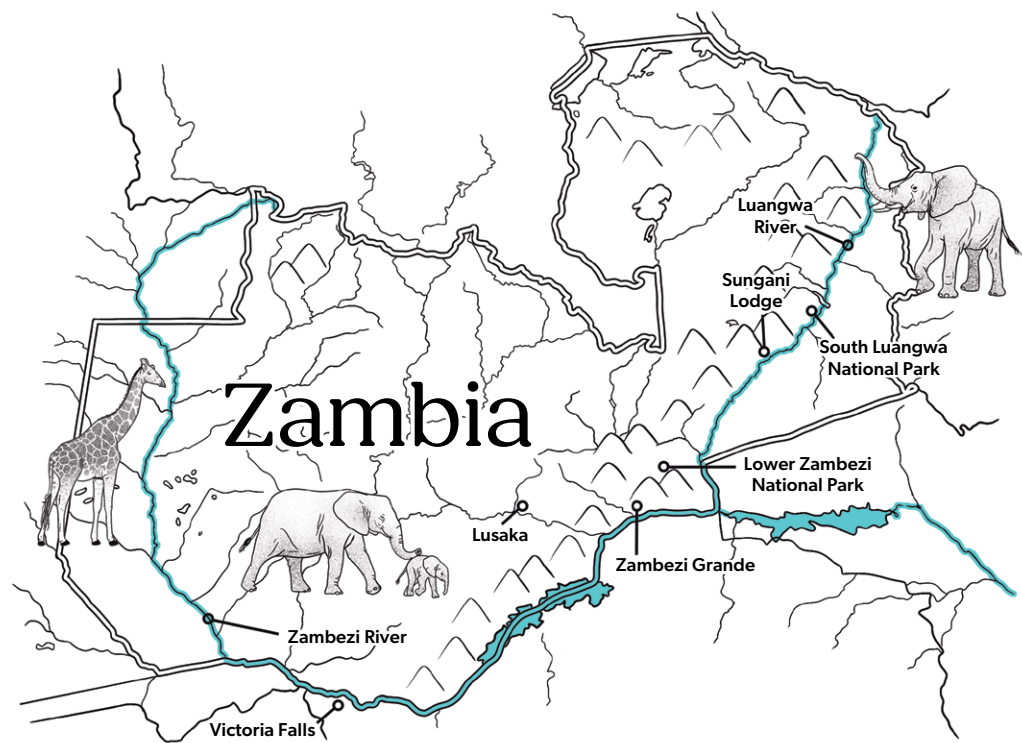
# Zambia Up Close

By J.R. Patterson — Photos by Sam Vox

In the African savanna to see its iconic wildlife for himself, our writer finds that the animals, conservation and tourism are closely intertwined.







It's a question of the senses, of smell and hearing, but chiefly of sight: the ability to see a leopard's dangling tail where others see a branch; to tell a crocodile from a rotten log; to spot the tiny red pinpricks of a bush baby's wide eyes at night. There are no tricks to seeing — only a matter of attuning yourself to the right frequency and adjusting your eyes to the bush.

That's what my guide, Moses Mafinya, calls out to me — "Turn on your bush eyes!" — while he's preparing the boat to take us down the Zambezi River.

The Zambezi is Africa's fourth-longest river and for much of its 1,600-mile length it is quiet and indolent. Few major cities lie along its banks, the tsetse fly and sleeping sickness having kept the historical population low. Arriving in the mid-1800s, Scottish missionary and explorer David Livingstone saw it as a path of commerce and Christianity, but his journey, choked with rapids, was slow and deadly. The construction of dams in the 20th century calmed the current, and that, alongside seasonal droughts, means the dishpan of the Zambezi flood plain is experiencing a historic dryness. The decline in available water since 2011 has drawn throngs of animals from across the Zambezi basin to the riverside. Over the same decade, conservation, anti-poaching and tourism activities have had a stabilizing effect on animal populations and created

#### ABOVE

The Zambezi River flows some 1,600 miles from its source in Angola to the Indian Ocean on the Mozambique coast, spilling over the spectacular Victoria Falls along the way.

#### OPPOSITE PAGE,

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP  
Elephants on the march in Lower Zambezi National Park; Moses Mafinya guides us down the Zambezi River; a female leopard, spotted atop a termite mound.

#### OPENING SPREAD

Sandy Sakala, guide at Sungani Lodge, scouts the savanna from the hood of a Land Rover.

economic opportunities in the Lower Zambezi region. The interconnection is evident to anyone who visits a Zambian wildlife preserve, where new luxury lodges maintain conservation projects as well as sustainable jobs for local people.

As we zip over the still water under a slowly caramelizing sky, Moses hands me a Mosi beer. "From when I was a little boy, I wanted to be here," he says, "to be a part of everything working together." His eyes have always been bush eyes. "You see what you see," he says kindly, but Moses sees more than most. He is 33, with strong arms and a gap-toothed smile, and is a member of the local Goba tribe. As a guide in the 1,580-square-mile Lower Zambezi National Park, it is the subtler things that matter to him: the chameleons melded with the sandy road; the piles of seeds of dwaba berry, a knuckly red fruit that tastes like sweet acetone, which shows baboons have passed through; the battered baobab trees — abused by elephants who love to squeeze the fibrous trunks for water.

Moses also looks for signs of poachers: The park has been the source of countless ivory tusks and many a horn or pangolin scale taken to be ground into pill powder, elephant legs made off with for wastepaper baskets — all useless, except to their natural possessors. The animals are there through concerted effort.

ILLUSTRATION: CLAIRE McCracken.







ABOVE  
Breakfast in the bush, in Lower  
Zambezi National Park.

OPPOSITE PAGE,  
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP  
Observed by an antelope in  
South Luangwa National Park;  
a table is set for supper by the  
lagoon, at Sungani Lodge; big,  
bigger, biggest — elephants of  
Lower Zambezi National Park.

Poaching was rampant when conservationist Ian Stevenson first came to the region from Australia in the early 1980s. “I saw these massive herds of elephants — three, four hundred at a time. It was incredible to see, but it wasn’t a good thing. They were banding together for protection.” Soon thereafter, he became involved with Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ). Through grants and donations, CLZ has expanded to include a legal assistant, aerial and river patrols, a K9 unit for detecting contraband, and anti-poaching scouts, including Kufadza, an all-female unit.

The area, however, continues to be beleaguered by illegal miners and poachers: In 2022, 240 suspected poachers were apprehended. In 2021, 12 of the area’s roughly 1,000 elephants were poached.

On one morning drive, we see some of those elephants — and countless impala, bushbuck and snake-eagles, and warthogs running single file in descending order like nesting dolls. As we round a corner, the air becomes rank and heavy. The carcass of an elephant, the bones calicoed with meat and entrails, lies in the open. But it is not a sad scene, only everything as it should be. “It’s a natural kill,” Moses says. “The lions will eat well.” The remains will also feed many hyenas, vultures, crocodiles and wild dogs.

We spend our days on the river, or in the bush, returning to camp at Zambezi Grande at the onset of evening to blow the dust away with fine hospitality and cold refreshments after a full day of tropical sun. The Grande is set on the river a few miles outside the western entrance to the park, and I have a luxurious cabin on a high, red bank over the river.

**Zambezi Grande**  
The family-owned game lodge features 10 rooms and five stand-alone suites on the river’s edge. Guests enjoy meals of roasted impala and Pekin duck from local farms, and gin that flows straight from the Iconic African Distillery near Chisamba.

On my final evening at camp, we take a drive in the deep black of night, a spotter casting a beam of light into the forest, looking for eyeshine. There is plenty: civet cats, genets, a herd of buffalo and a young bull elephant that, in a show of bravado, rears up on his hind legs, extends his trunk and gives a loud trumpet.

Returning to my cabin, I sit for a long while on the veranda, alone with my thoughts after another peerless day. The fireflies blink around me, and Ursa Major, upside down below the equator, empties its ladle over the dark Zambezi escarpment.

The next morning, I fly 200 miles northeast to South Luangwa National Park, a 3,500-square-mile blotch of wood and marshland. Sungani Lodge is the newest lodge in the park, comprising a short string of sturdy canvas tents lining an oxbow lagoon off the Luangwa River — a tributary of the Zambezi. Under the purview of the Davy family and their staff, Sungani Lodge has the self-sufficient atmosphere of a family farm.

The Davys found the Sungani site, a derelict camp far from resources, in 2018. They were told it was too remote, too dangerous — even the government had largely given over the area to poaching. Black rhino was hunted out in the 1980s, and elephants were on the wane. The Davys persisted — they bettered the roads, which lured anti-poaching units back, and began providing resources and funding for organizations like Conservation South Luangwa and the Zambia Carnivore Project. They have since cleared an airstrip for their Cessna 206. Its flights to and from nearby Mfuwe International Airport, to collect goods and guests, are another poaching inhibitor.











During those first days, the Davy family barely got a glimpse of wildlife. “Everything would bolt at the sight of a vehicle,” Lynne Davy tells me. “Now, the impala hardly bother to move out of the way.” Today, there are pukus, buffalo, giraffe, impala and elephants on the edge of the lagoon that abuts the lodge, and grunting hippos chewing through the duckweed. And they aren’t shy. Animals regularly enter the camp on their way to and from the water, passing under the elevated catwalks connecting the tents.

It wasn’t easy to reduce poaching in the area, says Lynne. “The villages here are very poor, and the animals were worth much more as trophies and food, and locals would poach them,” she says.

I talk to John Chisi, a Kunda man in his fifties with large, calloused hands. Before working as a waiter at Sungani Lodge, John was a subsistence farmer with a small plot of maize. His childhood had revolved around a mud hut, and there was never any money. “Life was very down,” he says. “We hunted for food: hippo, kudu, eland. We did not see the value of the animals. Only when the opportunities came — the better work, the wages, education — did that change.”

“Tourism is one of the biggest forces of good here,” Cherri Briggs, who lives along the Zambezi, tells me one night over supper. Her foundation, Direct Impact Africa, funds various entrepreneurial projects in the Zambezi’s Chiawa area: farms, clinics, schools and sports programs. “Tourism brings jobs, but also the idea that this place matters and that change is possible.”

Along with conservation groups, lodges often form the largest opposition to the mining operations, both by

ABOVE

The elevated main buildings at Sungani Lodge, surrounded by indigenous trees.

OPPOSITE PAGE,

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

A hippopotamus forages near Sungani Lodge; one of South Luangwa National Park’s taller residents; the swimming pool at Zambezi Grande is certified hippo-free.

PREVIOUS SPREAD

Take me to the river: the majestic Zambezi, with its namesake escarpment in the background.

**Sungani Lodge**

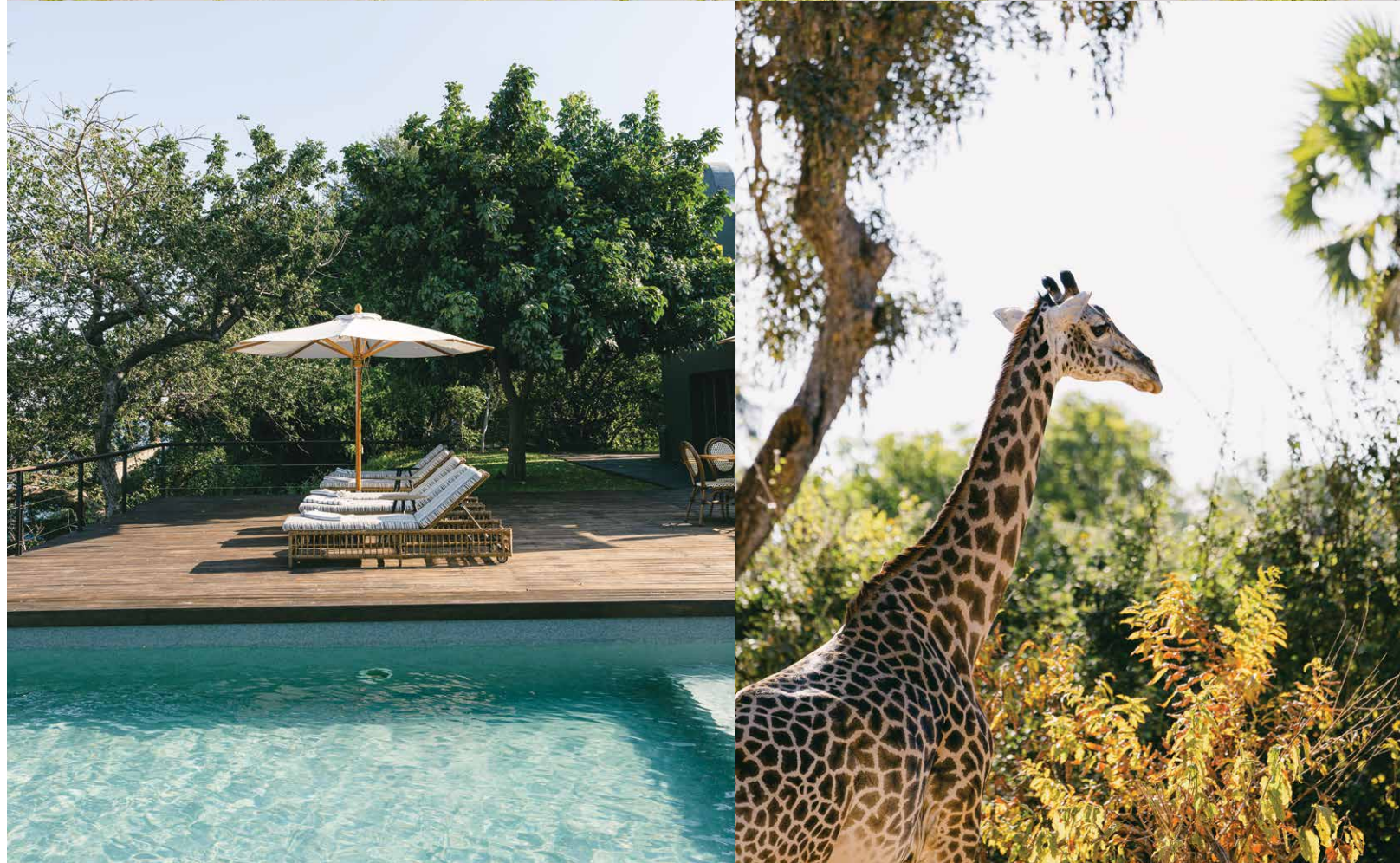
Sungani Lodge, along with its nearby sister encampment, Kulandila Camp, offers guests extreme comfort in the unspoiled savanna. Outings and activities include walking safaris, bush meals, photographic hideouts and game drives.

multinational corporations and unregulated prospectors, that tear into the land and pollute the water. The lodges help bring international attention and funds in quantities that local groups struggle to raise. Zambezi Grande employs 35 people, Sungani Lodge 45, but the economic echo reverberates into the hundreds.

Sound, too, reverberates, carrying the nightly commotion of the bush over the lagoon into my tent. As I lie in bed one night, the hippos bluster and snort nearby while a few growling lions seem just beyond the door.

When I describe that feeling of closeness to Sungani Lodge guide, Sandy Sakala, the next morning, he has already seen the lions’ pawprints on the sandy road outside my tent. We drive out to try to spot them, following their spoor in ever-widening figure eights. “If they’re moving this way, they’re hunting,” Sandy says. We never find them but see plenty of elephants and Masai giraffes — first a mother and calf, then a “journey” of four, which was slow but elegant, like a group of tired dancers, with pursed lips and teary eyes.

The animals I didn’t encounter — leopard, pangolin, aardvark, zebra — were there too, as were those doing their best to ensure they remained. My days were rich with sights, but I remember best a pied kingfisher, a furry mongoose slinking into a thicket, and a flock of carmine bee-eaters whirling overhead in a kaleidoscope of coral and blue, their passing like a great exhalation. And I remember the shudder of a lion’s muscle shaking off the flies; the ripples on the water after a hippo dipped soundlessly into the river; the fine dust that rose and hung in the red air shot through with the gold of sunset. You see what you see. ♦





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## WHERE NEXT



### Mathiveri Finolhu, Maldives

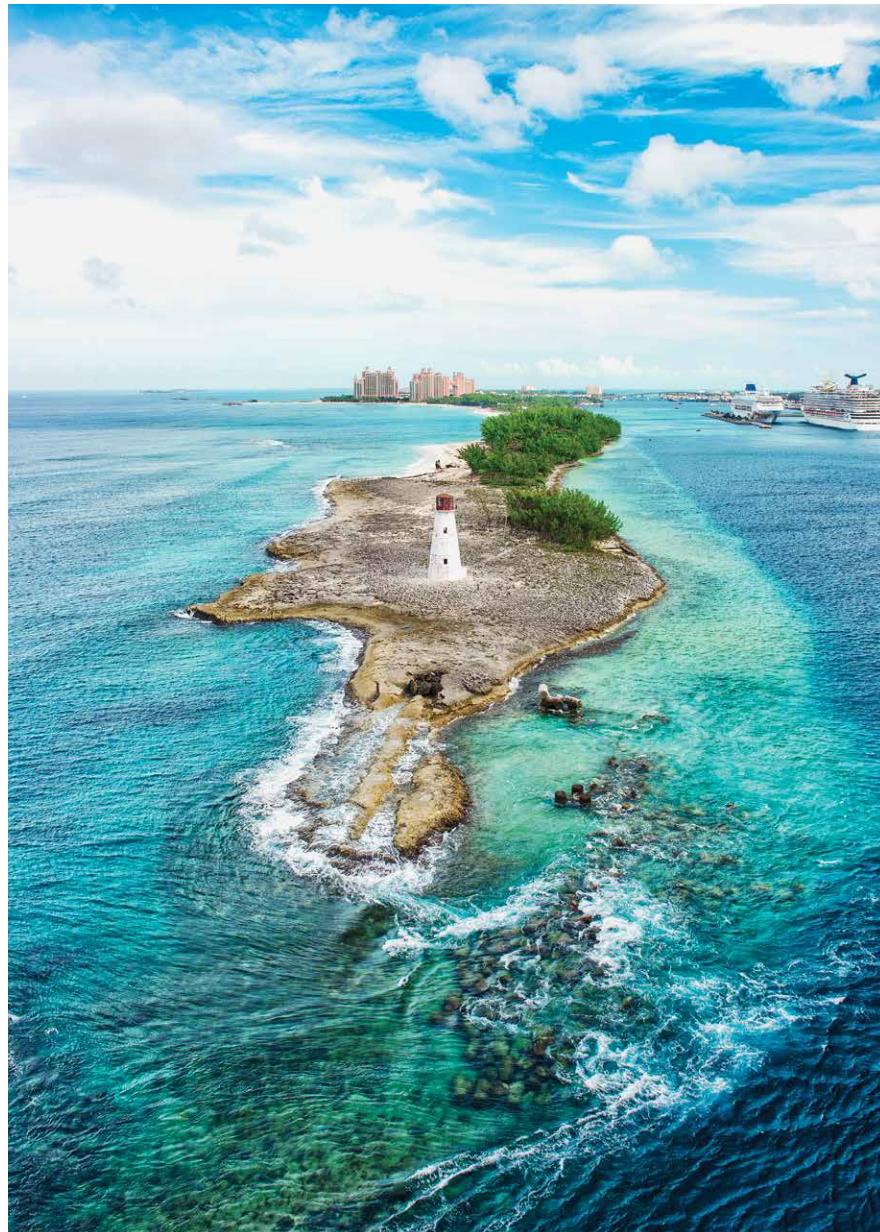
The Maldives is one of the most renowned destinations for underwater tourism on the planet, and the thousands of rays that migrate across the archipelago are a huge draw for snorkelers and divers. You can glide alongside the graceful rays throughout the Maldives, including around the small island of Mathiveri Finolhu north of Ari Atoll. Discover more about the Maldives (such as its must-visit underwater restaurant) from our expert on page 74.

PHOTO: NAAIL HUSSAIN/UNSPLASH.



# New Providence

THE BAHAMAS



Prepare to snorkel, souvenir-hunt and sample conch on the Bahamas' most populous island, home to Nassau, its laid-back capital.

By Caitlin Walsh Miller

“The Bahamas is for beach snobs.” I hear these words a lot while I’m in New Providence, the gateway island to the Bahamian archipelago. And while the phrase may sound like Caribbean swagger, the beaches here have the credentials to back it up.

The powder-white sand is so perfect, Florida wants to import it. The water is such a distinctive shade of turquoise, the islands are easily visible from the International Space Station. And location scouts — professional beach snobs, essentially — have chosen New Providence time and again as the backdrop for movies like *Splash*, *Into the Blue* and a bevy of Bond films.

Travelers choose it, too, by the millions, and New Providence is the first port of call for most — literally, for those who alight in Nassau’s brand-new cruise port. A few things to know before you go: It’s peas and rice in these parts, not rice and peas. Plantain is pronounced with the emphasis on the first syllable (like “mountain”); conch, the ubiquitous mollusk, is “conk.” And always travel with a bottle opener—you never know when someone’s going to offer you an ice-cold Bahamian lager called Kalik.

PHOTO: LILUGRAPHIE/GETTY IMAGES.

01



## Morning

I’m a beach snob in training, and a local told me his favorite swimming spot is somewhere along the western shore of the island. He wouldn’t say where exactly, but I’m on a mission to find it. Which is why I’m kicking off the day with a trip to Clifton Heritage National Park, a former plantation that sits on 208 acres of wetland beyond the gated communities that occupy much of the western half of New Providence. Guided visits take you through the scrub forest to sites used by the Lucayans, the original inhabitants of the Bahamas, ruins of enslaved Africans’ houses and a stirring contemporary art installation of faceless carvings looking out over the ocean, called *Sacred Space*.

They’re likely looking right over the head of *Ocean Atlas*, an 18-foot-tall, 66-ton statue submerged about 450 feet off the coast. It’s the largest single underwater sculpture in the world, depicting a Bahamian girl carrying the weight of the ocean on her shoulders. It’s a load she’s been charged with since 2014.

Flippers on, I follow my snorkeling

guide Stefano into the warm water. We glide silently over conch shells, an eagle ray or two, hundreds of iridescent fish and a (purposefully) wrecked prop plane from a Bond movie. We’re a few hundred feet from shore when *Ocean Atlas* comes into view. I take a deep breath and dip underwater. She’s made of a special pH-neutral cement designed to act as an artificial reef to draw marine life (and snorkelers like me) away from overburdened natural reef areas, and her surface has softened with time. Coral is growing on her face, and she looks so serene. I realize I’m not interested in finding the “best” beach after all — like *Ocean Atlas*, I’m just happy to be here.

01 Clifton Heritage National Park is home to historic ruins, caves, nature trails, sandy beaches and more.

02 The *Sacred Space* installation was a collab between Bahamian artists Antonius Roberts and Tyrone Ferguson.

03 Sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor’s *Ocean Atlas* acts as an artificial reef.

02



03







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PHOTOS: TRU BAHAMIAN FOOD TOURS (04); JEFF GREENBERG/GETTY IMAGES (05).

## Afternoon

In downtown Nassau, I take a seat at Bahamian Cookin’, the first stop on the Bites of Nassau Food Tasting & Cultural Walking Tour from Tru Bahamian Food Tours. The name’s no lie — our guide, the delightful Captain Ron, tells us the family recipes on offer here are 110 years old, courtesy of the restaurant’s original owner Mena Wallace, who passed away in 2021. Our group samples conch all ways — in chowder, as fritters, in a ceviche-style salad, and cracked, which is crispy, deep-fried strips — with sides of peas and rice, fried plantains and mac ’n’ cheese. I wash everything down with a tall glass of Switcha, a local take on limeade that turns the tart up to 10.

The tour continues: There’s gourmet chocolate at historic Graycliff, a round of Bahama Mamas at the Talking Stick Bar and more conch fritters (no complaints here) at Hillside House, a cocktail bar, community space and gallery with a well-curated gift shop featuring scarves and straw fans by local artisans.

Downtown Nassau is a stellar spot for souvenir hunting. Next door to Bahamian Cookin’, Down Home Bahamas offers emerging brands a storefront for their goods, like color-blocked bags made from recycled sailcloth and bright, beautiful clay jewelry. But if you came to haggle, head to the Nassau Straw Market. What it lacks in air conditioning it makes up for in a warehouse of vendors selling straw hats, bags and fans, as well as conch-shell jewelry and wood carvings. I pick up two figurines — a turtle and a cat — for my sons and, after we genially agree on a price, the carver engraves them for me on the spot.

WHERE NEXT — A PERFECT DAY IN

0 4



0 5



04 Deep-fried conch fritters are many first-time visitors’ introduction to the Bahamas’ main mollusk.

05 Pick up Bahamian crafts, like hand-woven straw bags, at the Nassau Straw Market.

## Evening

Taxi driver Romeo Farrington has been ferrying residents and tourists around New Providence since 1965. So, when the octogenarian recommends the Poop Deck for dinner — “they prepare food how we do it in our homes” — who am I to argue?

The West Bay Street outpost of the original Nassau location is on an impeccable stretch of Sandyport Beach. I snag a table on the back patio to enjoy grilled grouper, blackened snapper and conch fritters (my third serving of the day), with the shimmering Atlantic as a backdrop.

Bon Vivants, the Bahamas’ first craft cocktail bar, opened across the street in 2019. The place drips with texture, from the display of 1960s and ’70s vinyl by local artists to vintage newspaper clippings celebrating Bahamian independence lining the bathroom walls to the hefty leatherbound menu in my lap.

“Everybody deserves a bit of the good life,” says director of hospitality



06



06 Junkanoo is a joyous, colorful celebration of Bahamian culture.

07 Bon Vivants’ Big Major Smash features three different rums, banana liqueur and pineapple and orange juices.

Niko Imbert as he delivers it on a silver platter in the form of a mezcal sour called Shoot the Moon. It’s the best smelling drink — smoky, fruity, floral — I’ve ever had. I take a sip, and it tastes even better.

Something I forgot to mention: I’m a “certified official, true true Bahamian Junkanoo.” It’s a designation I received from Arlene Nash Ferguson, the director of Nassau’s Educulture Junkanoo Museum, earlier on my trip. Junkanoo is the Bahamas’ national cultural festival, and it’s held on select dates throughout the year — there’s a festival in August, and many resorts hold mini “rushes” (parades) nightly — though the biggest parties happen on Boxing Day and New Year’s Day. You can also get your fix at Educulture itself, where Nash Ferguson will immerse you in all things Junkanoo — she’s been dancing in the festival since she was four.

I say festival — I mean all-night rager. This party doesn’t get started until 2 a.m. (An espresso martini is perhaps in order.) Junkanoo has been celebrated since the 1800s, when slaves would take to the night in costumes decorated with whatever they had on hand, and dance to the sounds of goatskin drums, cowbells and, of course, conch shells.

That same music washes over me as I watch hundreds of people, Nash Ferguson included, dance their way down Nassau’s Bay Street in elaborate costumes made from imported crepe paper. They weigh up to 70 pounds and work starts in January for next year’s iterations. The “rush” is aptly named: It’s mesmerizing, invigorating and intoxicating. The espresso martini’s long since worn off, but I’m still buzzing as I dance back to my hotel room, conch shells sounding in the distance. ♦

07



WHERE TO STAY

**BAHA MAR**  
As if Nassau’s sprawling Baha Mar resort complex wasn’t over-the-top enough — nine tennis courts, more than 45 restaurants and lounges, 3,000 feet of pristine beach and one daily flamingo parade — it’s now home to a new \$200-million luxury water park that includes the Cyclone Rush, a ride for up to five people that blasts your raft up (and down) a two-story-tall wall.

PHOTOS: BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM & AVIATION (06); COURTESY OF BON VIVANTS (07); COURTESY OF BAHAMAR RESORT (WHERE TO STAY).



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# Dive into the Maldives

We checked in with our local expert to discover must-see marine-life spots and underwater dining in this Indian Ocean paradise.

By Caitlin Stall-Paquet

## 01

**What’s your favorite thing to do in the Maldives?**

This country is made up of about 1,200 coral islands, and around 200 are inhabited. Hotels will take you out to uninhabited islands by boat. You can snorkel through the morning and then have a barbecue on a beach with the world’s softest sand — all you have is time.

## 02

**Where’s the best spot to go snorkeling?**

Everyone comes here thinking they’ll see marine life, and they still get their minds blown. The Maldives has 26 atolls, or island clusters. The biodiversity is huge among them, with thousands of fish and sea turtles. But on South Ari Atoll, you can see whale sharks, and Baa Atoll has the largest manta ray congregation in the world.



## 03

**Are there any standout places to stay?**

On Baa Atoll, there’s the luxury Amilla Maldives resort with all kinds of accommodation options, from treetop villas with private pools to glamping bubbles on a secluded beach where you can see the stars. The resort also offers sunset cruises, if you want to drink champagne as bottle-nose and spinner dolphins jump out of the surrounding waters.

## 04

**Where would you send someone for a one-of-a-kind dining experience?**

5.8 Undersea Restaurant is the world’s largest all-glass underwater dining room. My advice is to go for an evening meal, to see day change to night. First, you’ll spot anemones and clownfish, and then the bigger stuff comes out later. The restaurant is known for upscale seafood, like scallops, toothfish and clams.

ABOVE  
Dinner and a show: At 5.8 Undersea Restaurant, located 5.8 meters below the surface, you’ll see coral, tropical fish and maybe even a passing snorkeler.

PHOTO: JESPER ANHEDE (5.8 UNDERSEA RESTAURANT).



### Craig Barnett CEO OF KOVELI TRAVEL

Barnett founded Koveli Travel — a Maldives-focused platform for travel agents — in 2020. Around that time, he also left his fixed address behind, traveling the world and making the South Asian archipelago a frequent stop.

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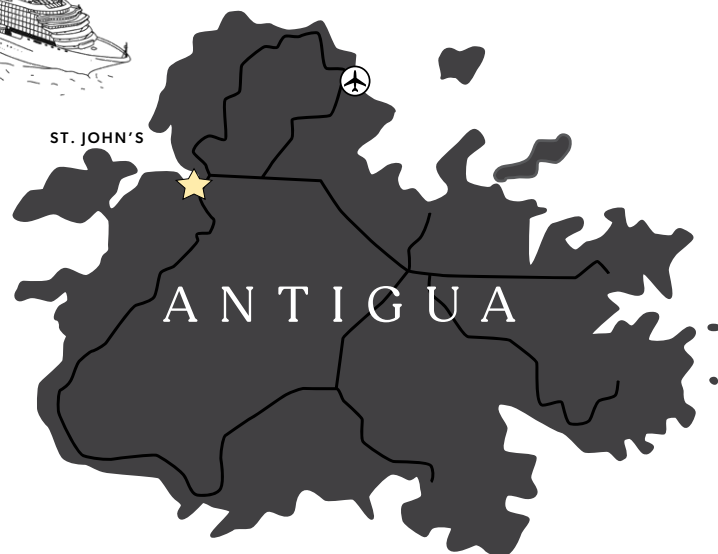
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# St. John's

Step ashore to explore Antigua's historical forts, bustling markets, weekly parties and 365 beaches — one for each day of the year.

By Claire Sibonney



Spend a few days in Antigua and you'll soon discover both its sides, what esteemed local archeologist Reginald Murphy aptly describes as two worlds: breathtaking landscapes and haunting history. Antigua's luxurious resorts, pristine beaches and picturesque harbors, bays and coves draw hundreds of thousands of visitors (and famous part-time residents, including Oprah) every year. But don't miss the other half of the story: A former colonial hub of sugar and slavery, the island has layers of history and rich culture, touched by the Siboney, Arawaks, Caribs, Spanish and British. The perfect place to start is Antigua and Barbuda's lively capital, St. John's.

## FAST FACTS

**Currency**  
East Caribbean dollar

**Languages**  
English, Antiguan Creole

**Tipping**  
10% is often added to your bill, but for good service add another 5% or more.

**Temperature**  
Average daily high of 82°F/28°C



## HISTORY

**2400 BC**

Antigua is first settled by the Siboney ("stone people").

**1100**

The Arawaks, who succeeded the Siboney and lived here from roughly 35 AD, are banished by the Caribs.

**1632**

British colonizers arrive on Antigua, and St. John's is established. (The Brits colonized the nearby island of Barbuda in 1678.)

**1981**

Antigua and Barbuda gains independence from the United Kingdom but remains a constitutional monarchy.

CRUISE SHIP ILLUSTRATION: CLAIRE MCCrackEN. PHOTO: INDUSTRY AND TRAVEL/ADOBE STOCK (HISTORY).

PHOTOS: JANIE CONLEY JOHNSON (THE SOUVENIR); GAMAL GOODWIN/GETTY IMAGES (EAT THIS); THE BIRD'S NEST (IF YOU'RE UP FOR A DAY TRIP); ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TOURISM AUTHORITY (CAN'T MISS); RICHARD CUMMINS/ALAMY (DID YOU KNOW?); PAUL WYETH FOR ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK (MARK YOUR CALENDAR).



## THE SOUVENIR

### A Local Piece from Zemi Art Gallery

For one-of-a-kind gifts in the historic Redcliffe Quay district, pop into Zemi Art Gallery, a shop full of vibrant paintings and cool upcycled crafts owned by Canadian-Antiguan artist Stephen Murphy, known for his colorful portrayals of island culture.



## CAN'T MISS

### Public Market Complex

Whether you hope to snag a freshly caught red snapper for a beach cookout, or handmade crafts like intricate calabash bowls, this market in the heart of St. John's is the place, and a great window into daily Antiguan life.



## EAT THIS

### Black Pineapple

The national fruit of Antigua is touted as the world's sweetest pineapple — and despite its name, it's harvested while green, not black.

### Ducana

These traditional tamale-like dumplings of sweet potato, grated coconut and spices are wrapped in banana leaves and boiled until delicious.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### There's a Ferry to Barbuda

Barbuda is Antigua's smaller sister island and it's well worth the 90-minute ferry ride for a day trip or overnight stay. Don't miss Princess Diana Beach, which was famously frequented by the late royal.



## IF YOU'RE UP FOR A DAY TRIP...

### Head to Great Bird Island

On Island Routes' Great Bird Island Eco & Snorkeling Experience, you'll take a scenic boat ride to the 20-acre islet, where encounters with an array of fauna, from red-billed tropicbirds to (harmless) Antiguan racer snakes, await. After hiking and wildlife spotting, choose between snorkeling in crystal-clear waters or unwinding on an impossibly beautiful beach.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Antigua Sailing Week

If you're visiting Antigua in late April or early May, be sure to catch this week-long nautical festival, one of the most popular regattas in the Caribbean. After a week of international yacht races, buzzy beach parties and reggae concerts, this must-do maritime experience caps off with an awards ceremony honoring the finest sailors. The 2024 event runs April 27–May 3.





### IF YOU WANT TO CHILL OUT...

#### Seize the Bays

Antigua is famously home to 365 beaches, but here are three to check out in and around St. John's.

##### Fort James

Great for history buffs, this beach features an 18th-century fort, golden sand and panoramic views of the capital.

##### Dickenson Bay

Just a short drive from St. John's, this stretch is popular for its pristine white sand, water sports and beachside bars.

##### Deep Bay

The wreck of the *Andes*, a ship that sank in 1905, lies in the middle of the bay, making this beach an ideal destination for snorkelers and divers.



### DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

#### Wadadli

The island may be known for its rum, but if you want to quench your thirst, try Antigua's official brew, a pale and easy-drinking lager practically made for beachside sipping.

### EVERY SUNDAY

#### Shirley Heights

Each week, this 18th-century hilltop fort overlooking the yacht-filled English Harbour — on Antigua's south side, about a 40-minute drive from St. John's — hosts the country's biggest party. Locals and tourists alike gather to watch the sun set, sway to steel bands and savor delicious bites of spicy barbecue.



### WHERE TO STAY

Two of our favorite resorts on Antigua's north side.



#### Galley Bay Resort & Spa

For a romantic vibe, book one of this adults-only resort's Gauguin Suites — secluded lagoon-view cottages featuring private courtyards and plunge pools.



#### Hodges Bay Resort & Spa

There's something for everyone at this modern bohemian resort complete with a kids' club, spa, lively beach bar and a bonus private island for snorkeling with sea turtles.

PHOTOS: TRAVNIKOV STUDIO/ADOBE STOCK (IF YOU WANT TO CHILL OUT); FLAB/ALAMY (DRINK LIKE A LOCAL); MADELINE JETTRE/ALAMY (EVERY SUNDAY); GALLEY BAY RESORT & SPA ANTIGUA (WHERE TO STAY); HODGES BAY RESORT & SPA (WHERE TO STAY).

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# Mount Cofano Nature Reserve, Sicily

This shot from photographer Chiara Zonca’s recent multigenerational trip to Sicily captures her parents taking a minute to rest next to the ruins of an old tuna fishery while hiking one of the reserve’s trails. “I loved this moment,” says Zonca. “The walk was nice, the nature was astounding and we were all together.”



PHOTO: CHIARA ZONCA. TEXT: DOMINIQUE LAMBERTON.

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