

THE WAYFARER TRAVELER

A Publication of

Bringing You Informed, Personalized and Objective Travel Knowledge

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FROM HERE?



OWNER'S COLUMN

As your travel professionals, our best feelings come from helping you discover places you have only dreamed about. We look forward to helping you find travel experiences that allow you to explore other cultures and people, tasting new and different cuisines, and having exciting and challenging adventures that make you feel alive. Whether well traveled or just beginning to travel, you may be ready for something beyond the ordinary. Here are a few ideas that may inspire your planning.

Sicily is growing in popularity as a destination. As a cruise port of call it is a favorite, but for a longer stay the island of Sicily has much to offer with its

Italian and Greek influences. Palermo and Taormina are the most noted ports of call, but a longer visit is an enjoyable variation. We recommend sampling other regions of the island with day trips and time for a relaxing beach holiday. Villa stays are an especially enjoyable way to experience Sicily, traveling with friends and family, with accommodations for just a couple or up to 24 people. Hillside villas offer views that movies are made from. Being close to small village towns



Bay of Cefalu, Sicily

brings a chance to sample the Sicilian character, with its sights, culture, scenery, and of course its exceptional food traditions.

Private tours with English speaking guides can be pre-arranged. We help with restaurant reservations in Sicilian restaurants with delicious dishes, hotel stays with comfortable rooms overlooking sweeping coastlines or views of

springs host visitors for warm water swimming year round, highlighted by the famous Blue Lagoon swim on New Year's and year round.

Reykjavik offers a variety of hotels, from luxury class to more moderate categories. Our Ensemble affiliation offers travelers top-rated hotels with special amenities in Reykjavik and other cities. Warm welcomes are numerous, as Iceland is noted for its friendly people, vibrant nightlife, and culinary adventures from fine dining to cafes and bistros.

Combining a cruise with something out of the ordinary appeals to frequent cruisers who are looking for something different. Perhaps you haven't taken a river cruise – the fastest growing segment in cruising. These all-inclusive vacations can be designed to add a pre- or post-departure stay in any number of interesting and relaxing locations. Say, for example, you are joining a river cruise in France. You may choose to add an extension to your cruise with a stay in a preferred hotel in Paris. We'll arrange private tours with your interests in mind, for touring that is out of the ordinary: cultural, religious, fashion, or even cooking classes. Private and unique experiences can also be designed for extended city stays worldwide. In Rome, for example, we can arrange a private tour of the Sistine Chapel after hours.

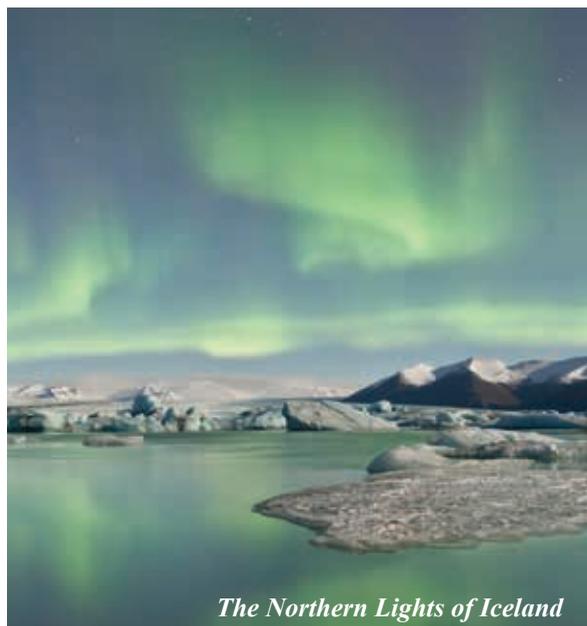
There are numerous ways to make your trip extra special or simply relaxing. Our specialty offices throughout the world offer expert help in working with Wayfarer to plan the trip you've dreamed of, or even one you never thought possible. Give us a call when you're ready and we will make it happen.

*Happy Traveling,
Laura*



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The Northern Lights of Iceland

famous Mount Etna.

In recent years, tourism in Iceland has greatly increased. A trip to this Land of the Midnight Sun has much to add to a Northern European itinerary. Our specialty office in Iceland is great at helping with unique experiences. Northern cruise routes are including Reykjavik, the capital, as a port of call in combination with fjord cruising itineraries. By land or sea, Iceland may not be what you expect. The climate is temperate year round, with four distinct seasons.

The Northern Lights, Mother Nature's light show bringing brilliant colorful skies, begins in the fall, along with art and music festivals. Nature provides its own attractions for all. Outdoor activities are numerous: hiking, fishing, river rafting, horse trekking, whale-watching, skiing, and snowmobiling. Iceland is noted for its rugged scenery, unique lava field formations, glaciers, waterfalls, flowers, and hot springs. Be sure to bring a camera! Geothermal

TRAVEL TRENDS



AMAWATERWAYS RECEIVES TOP TRAVEL GUIDE RATING, FEATURES SPECIAL PRESIDENT'S CRUISE

AmaWaterways has been recognized as the only river cruise company based in the United States to receive an overall 4-Star Plus rating, as shown in the first edition of the "Berlitz: River Cruising in Europe" travel guide – the highest level found in the book.

"AmaWaterways is honored to continually be recognized as the innovator we aim to be – a true leader – in river cruising," says Kristin Karst, executive vice president and co-owner of AmaWaterways.

This year, travelers will have a special opportunity to cruise with AmaWaterways President Rudi Schreiner, who will be hosting an exclusive seven-night voyage on the luxurious *AmaLyra* from Luxembourg to Amsterdam November 7-14, "Vineyards of the Rhine & Mosel."

Schreiner is a pioneer of river cruising whose vision can be traced as far back as the first ships that were built in Europe for this type of travel. He will be on board to share a delightful cruise as well as stories with guests.



Rudi Schreiner
AmaWaterways President



The Biomuseo

PANAMA CELEBRATES THE CANAL CENTENNIAL

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Panama Canal opening, and Panama City is gearing up for the milestone with several major developments.

In February, the Frank Gehry-designed Biomuseo opened. This \$100 million museum contains eight galleries, including two aquariums, dedicated to

displaying the country's biodiversity. Some new hotels have also sprouted up in the city – the Waldorf Astoria Panama, Trump Ocean Club, and Tantaló Hotel among them. But the talk of the town is the American Trade Hotel, a 50-room property in Casco Viejo, a UNESCO World Heritage neighborhood where dozens of centuries-old buildings are being turned into art galleries, cafés and microbreweries.

Additionally, several cruise lines are this year offering enrichment classes and other programs to highlight Panama's important centennial.

THE BIRTHPLACE OF COUNTRY MUSEUM OPENS IN BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

In August, the Birthplace of Country Museum opened its doors and finally let the word out that long before Nashville became established as a recording center for country music, there were historic sessions that took place some 300 miles to the east in Bristol, Tennessee.

The new museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, explores the history of the 1927 Bristol Sessions and their lasting impact on our music heritage. These sessions marked the first recordings of some of the genre's earliest stars, including the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers.

In addition to its many exhibits, including some that pay tribute to local broadcasting entities of the day, the museum hosts a variety of live performances and programming that focus on early commercial country music and its impact on a variety of American music styles. The museum is located at 520 Birthplace of Country Music Way in Historic Downtown Bristol.



UNIQUE VOYAGES WITH RENOWNED EXPERTS, SCHOLARS, WRITERS & MUSICIANS

Alexander + Roberts has announced five luxury *Europe by Sea* voyages for 2015, each hosted by renowned experts such as Paul Volcker, former Chairman of the Federal Reserve, and Holly Shimizu, 10-year host of the PBS "Victory Garden" television series.

These distinguished guests will be onboard the luxurious all-suite *Corinthian* as it explores some of the most historic ports of Northern Europe and the Mediterranean, as well as many ports that are rarely

visited by other ships. With only 100 guests, travelers will enjoy intimate engagement with these experts and informative talks designed to illuminate the culture and history of these regions.



NEW OFF-THE-BEATEN-PATH TOURS HIGHLIGHT SILVERSEA'S 2015 VOYAGES

Eleven new overland adventures in some of the world's most exotic locales are among more than 60 extended mid-voyage excursions ultra-luxury Silversea Cruises will be offering in 2015. Unlike a partial-day shore tour, single- or multiple-day inland adventures offer a more intimate, in-depth and personal encounter with the local people, history, wildlife, and natural attractions that lie just beyond the ports of call.

From the soaring Andes to the glistening lakes of Patagonia, from the beaches of Polynesia to the glaciers of New Zealand, from the grasslands of Kenya to the monuments of India, Silversea's new overland adventures offer rare access to transformational places and experiences. On these exciting overland tours, participants may come face-to-face with a giant tortoise in the Galapagos, track mountain gorillas in Africa, or marvel at unique marine life from the balcony of an overwater bungalow in Polynesia.

TRAVELING TIMES
MAKING IDEAS TRAVEL FASTER
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SEEING THE NEW SALT LAKE CITY

By Dorothy Crouch



Salt Lake City



Mormon Temple Square

Situated in the middle of the central Rocky Mountains, Salt Lake City, Utah might be known as a small, sleepy city. This misconception could not be further from the truth, as the city is a growing metropolis, forming its own urban culture. The defining characteristics of Salt Lake City are shifting, leading it to become an exciting destination for business and pleasure.

Once known solely as the center of Brigham Young's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, more commonly known as LDS, Salt Lake City has been enjoying a progressive move toward embracing an array of arts, culture, dining and nightlife. Also known as a college town, which includes The University of Utah and Westminster College, Salt Lake City boasts plenty of bars for the undergraduate set. Visitors who require a more sophisticated after-dark experience will also find plenty of options.

Located at 57 West 200 South Street, The Red Door is a lounge filled with dim lighting, dark corners and impressive sounds. This self-described "church of the emotionally tired and morally bankrupt" provides a full drink menu of classic cocktails, wine, spirits and beer. While the staff, who are known as "Brothers & Sisters," can shake up tasty libations, the lounge is known for its specialty martinis such as the Dirty Girl

Scout, a crème de menthe homage to Thin Mint cookies. Friday and Saturday evenings include a DJ or musical performances.

Following the fine legacy of English high tea, The Grand America Hotel offers a Grand Traditions service with all the pomp and grandeur that is expected of such an event. As a harpist strums soothing melodies at the entrance of the Lobby Lounge, guests are seated within the ornately decorated room, furnished in a style reminiscent of 18th-century Europe. A standard \$24 service includes strawberries and cream Chantilly, finger sandwiches, English scones with clotted cream, an assortment of jams and cream and pastries. A superb selection of teas include White Orchard, green tea passion, Jasmine Downy Pearls, Himalayan Peak Darjeeling, organic Earl Grey, organic mint mélange and the deliciously soothing organic high mountain oolong.

While other, less costly options are available, the \$42 Grand Traditions service must be experienced. In addition to the standard service, Grand Traditions includes a glass of sparkling wine and large selection of cheeses.

Salt Lake City is much more than

a town with a burgeoning nightlife and social scene. Surrounded by the Rocky Mountains, Salt Lake City boasts a number of trails that wind through striking scenery and terrain to challenge hikers of all experience levels. Sitting at an elevation of 8,760 feet, Big Cottonwood Canyon provides an array of scenic and challenging routes to explore. Upon arriving in the Brighton Ski Resort parking area, located within the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, visitors can see Silver Lake, the centerpiece of a picturesque, untouched setting enhanced by blooming geraniums, columbines, white bog orchids, willows and pink fireweed, and surrounded by a one-mile looping trail. This stocked lake also serves as a popular fishing area, though a license is required for visitors 12 and older.

Additional hiking is available through several other trailheads. Hikers can choose to embark upon an adventure to Twin Lakes, a 2.5-mile round-trip journey, or Lake Solitude, which measures 3 miles round trip. Though both trails are considered easy, they feature challenging areas, which include steep inclines, rocky terrain and high elevation at different points throughout the journey. Wild-animal lovers should remain on the lookout for chipmunks, rabbits, ducks and moose.

Salt Lake City is growing beyond its former reputation to become a destination for art enthusiasts, nature lovers and business travelers. Exploring the city is easy and can be affordable, as public transportation is complimentary within Salt Lake City's central business district. While many local tour operators are available to lead visitors around the region, companies such as Tauck, Trafalgar and Globus include Salt Lake City on their Northwest itineraries.



The Grand America Hotel



The Great Salt Lake



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RIVER TRAVELER

RIVER CRUISING IN EUROPE



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HIKING AND BIKING JOURNEYS IN EUROPE

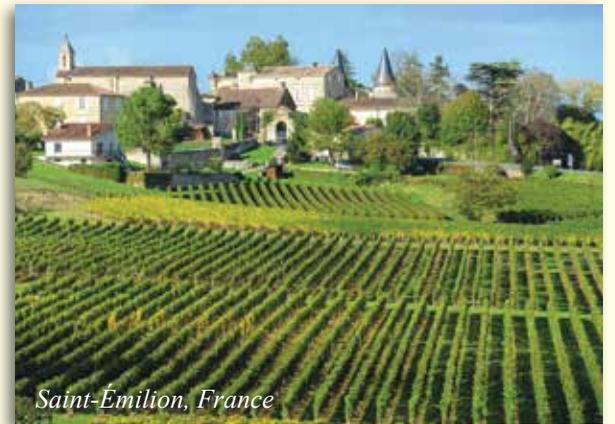
By Judie Karhan



Hiking in the Alps



Tuscany, Italy



Saint-Émilion, France

BRING YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE!

“I see my path, but I don’t know where it leads. Not knowing where I’m going is what inspires me to travel it.”

– Rosalia de Castro
19th-century Spanish writer

Imagine walking along rolling hills, surrounded by olive groves and poppy fields on your way to the medieval hill towns of Tuscany. Or, perhaps, zigzagging through forests, fields and quaint villages on a bicycle headed for châteaux Chambord and Cheverny in France’s Loire Valley. Almost any magnificent European scene you can envision can become reality on a hiking or biking adventure designed just for you and a select group of companions.

With packaged trips and experienced guides provided by travel companies devoted to getting their clientele outdoors and immersed in the natural beauty and culture of a destination, the journey becomes practically as easy as lacing up your sneakers and revving up your energy. Most important, tours are designed to appeal to a wide variety of fitness levels, with a range of mileage options available.

You won’t have to rough it, either. Comfort is top priority for these trip planners. Leader-driven vans follow travelers en route to provide drinks, snacks and transport back to the hotel or inn, when requested. Accommodations are comfortable, reserved in ideal places to experience the best of each region. Sampling local cuisine is a memorable part of any tour, encompassing a variety of casually elegant restaurants with ample choices that include regional specialties.

Sampling local cuisine is a memorable part of any tour, encompassing a variety of casually elegant restaurants with ample choices that include regional specialties.

Andiamo Adventours, which specializes in active travel in California as well as Europe, notes that meeting the locals and experiencing the culture is an important part of any journey. Days may be altered to suit the group’s curiosities, which often leads to new discoveries. And every biking or walking tour is complimented by a variety of guided tours, tastings, demonstrations, and more. Adiamo’s island-hopping bicycling adventure on Croatia’s Dalmatian Coast devotes leisure time in Korcula

to sample Croatian wines, followed by oyster tasting in Ston on the way to Dubrovnik.

Backroads, an American-based company specializing in active trips worldwide, some of which combine cultural and active gourmet elements, also offers adventurers a taste of local culture. Sample wines at the source, where the grapes are grown. Visit with farmers, vintners, bakers and olive oil producers who are happy to share their

expertise. Savor the ultimate epicurean experience alongside knowledgeable local chefs. Backroads also features scores of tours designed just for families, and you can choose the best option based on the age of your kids.

Ask your travel professional about the many great active trip options that are available – in Europe, and closer to home – and start planning your trip today!

SAILING YOU SAY? You can still find your land legs!

Even if you’re on a cruise, there are opportunities to explore the hills and dales of a destination on a bicycle excursion. Luxury cruise line Crystal Cruises offers immersive experiences ashore with 16 bicycle adventures throughout Northern and Western Europe, and the Mediterranean this year.

“Many guests have become increasingly interested in more athletic pursuits that allow them to enjoy a destination in a more up close and personal way,” says John Stoll, vice president of Crystal Cruises’ land programs. “The bicycle excursions not only foster personal connections with the scenery and surrounding cultures, but also with each other. Each cycling group builds a special camaraderie as they share these experiences.”

Offered with May-September voyages aboard *Crystal Symphony* and *Crystal Serenity*, the half- and full-day excursions combine fitness with new, intimate perspectives on favorite destinations, such as:

- **Copenhagen** – In one of the world’s most bike friendly cities, guests can truly experience the sites as the locals do, including a winding, five-mile ride through a forest en route to a 500-year-old amusement park, Bakken, where there’s time to play and explore.
- **Bordeaux/Bassens** – Along a nine-mile combination of flat and hilly roads in the quaint village of Saint-Émilion – whose entire wine “jurisdiction” is a UNESCO World Heritage Site – guests will enjoy views of beautiful chateaus and expansive vineyards of such premier estates as Château Angéus, Figeac and Cheval Blanc.

Taking the slow boat? Luxury hotel barges such as those of French Country Waterways, Ltd., which cruise the rivers and canals of provincial France, are voyages of discovery. Step directly ashore for a leisurely stroll or take one of the barge’s bicycles to explore the quiet lanes and quaint villages nearby!

TASMANIA: AUSTRALIA'S BEST-KEPT SOUTHERN SECRET

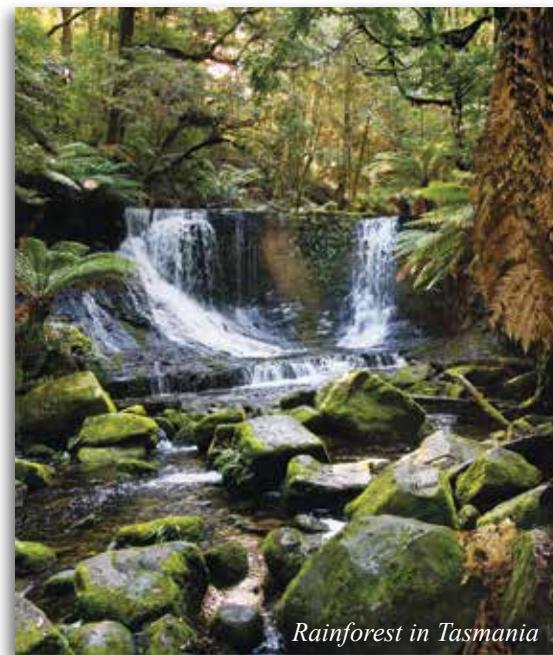
By Frances O'Keefe



Hobart, Tasmania



Tasmanian Devil



Rainforest in Tasmania

Across the Bass Strait, more than 300 miles from Melbourne, Tasmania waits, the oft forgotten destination for visitors to Australia. Overshadowed by Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns and Perth, Tasmania is a land of unspoiled beauty, sophisticated cities and the perfect remedy to satiate a tough case of travel ennui.

Reaching Tasmania is easy, as the island is accessible from Melbourne via air, aboard Virgin Australia, Jetstar or Qantas, flying to Launceston. Ferry service is also available aboard the *Spirit of Tasmania I* or *Spirit of Tasmania II* from Melbourne, which allow passengers to bring vehicles on board. Sailing the 10.5-hour trip is made more comfortable with different accommodation options, from deluxe- to four-berth cabins, thereby suiting many budgets. Passengers who are extremely value conscientious can book ocean recliners, which are reclining seats located in a private lounge.

An array of dining options are also available accommodate all passengers. The Leatherwood, a gourmet restaurant named after a native tree of the Tasmanian rainforest, serves dishes made from locally sourced ingredients. The Captain's Table provides more moderately priced food from buffet-style stations. Passengers who prefer a social bar setting can opt for cocktails at the Deck 9 Bar Kiosk, Deck 10 Bar, the main bar or lounge, where smaller plates and snacks are served. A children's playroom, arcade and movie theatre are located on board, to entertain the youngest passengers.

Hobart, the state capital, is located in the south of Tasmania on the Derwent River, which has yielded a vibrant riverfront beach atmosphere nestled along the foothills of Mount Wellington. While Hobart isn't a large city, it offers many distinctly Tasmanian experiences to visitors, despite its small area. Walking through the town, exploring Hobart's streets and riverfront is the ideal way to see the city and become completely immersed in local culture.

Tasmania's history is still alive, noticeable in Hobart's Georgian buildings and vast landscape. Famous for its sandstone structures that have stood since "Hobart Town's" founding in 1804, Battery Point is a must-visit site on any historian or architecture maven's itinerary. Popular points of interest are Arthur's Circus, which features the homes of officers of the original settlement, and Kelly Street, which features Kelly's Steps, built in 1840, leading from Battery Point to Salamanca.

Take the 20-minute drive from Hobart through the rainforest and glacial rock formations to the top of kunanyi/Mount Wellington. At more than 4,000 feet above sea level, visitors who reach the summit will be rewarded with incomparable views of Hobart, Bruny Island, South Arm and the Tasman Peninsula. Outdoor enthusiasts can embark upon a hike along one of many trails or enjoy biking, horseback riding, rock climbing and four-wheel driving adventures.

Hobart's eclectic social scene is best exhibited through its cafes and music venues. Lark Distillery blends the art of making whisky with an engaging music scene. Bill Lark started his business in 1992, upon receiving a license for Lark Distillery, the first to be licensed in Tasmania since 1839. For his family venture, Lark enlisted the help of wife, Lyn, and daughter Kristy to produce a fine single-malt,

single-cask whisky, which Bill reveals is the result of perfectly blending "...malted barley, yeast and water, and peat from the highlands."

Though tours are available, this distillery offers much more than simple walk-throughs and tastings. Standard half- and full-day tours start at \$75 per person, yet whisky connoisseurs can embark upon a two-day whisky tour, which includes a visit to the Derwent Valley's Redlands to explore the peat bog in Tasmania's central highlands. Personalized, custom-planned tours are offered through Lark

Distillery's Ultimate Whisky Experience, which is priced upon request. Good times can be found in the distillery's Whisky Bar, where a sign invites visitors to "Tempt Your Senses." Musical guests, such as house band, Coyote Serenade, play into the late hours of the evening. Though Coyote Serenade plays country music, other genres such as jazz, rock, and rhythm and blues can be heard by different artists throughout the week.

Popular with Australians, yet still overlooked by tourists from other parts of the world, Tasmania still yields the feeling of being undiscovered. Tasmania is featured on the itineraries of many mainstream tour companies such as Qantas Vacations and Intrepid. One common problem travelers cite when describing a journey to Tasmania is their reluctance to return home.

Walking through the town, exploring Hobart's streets and riverfront is the ideal way to see the city and become completely immersed in local culture.



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