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Tel Aviv

ISRAEL A LAND OF CULTURAL TREASURES



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COLUMN**

Not surprisingly, Israel has become one of our more popular destinations. Wayfarer travelers have commented that Israel is many

offered as you wind your way through the corridors. Restaurants with many different cuisine offerings are plentiful – Russian, Armenian, Asian, Continental, and of course Middle Eastern.

Touring the old city in Jerusalem, on streets that are thousands of years old, wandering from cultural quarter to quarter instills an insight into history that could never be explained by film or conversation. To be on the sites of the ancient Temple Mount, Dome of the Rock, and The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is an opportunity that comes along, for most, only once in a lifetime.

Israel is rich with historical excavations

vacations in one. That's easy to understand with all that this compelling country has to offer.

There are a multitude of aspects to visiting Israel; historical sites and diverse cultures, bustling cosmopolitan cities with deluxe hotels, beautiful beaches and spa resorts, entertaining nightlife, arts, and a world recognized culinary scene.

After several visits to Israel myself, I am convinced that everyone should experience this country. In addition to an increased understanding of what we've been taught and read, visitors get a clearer picture of the world and our place within it.

Most importantly, it's fun! The shuks (markets) are loaded with a great variety of mid-Eastern foods, usually with tastings



Western Wall Jerusalem

of ancient ruins, from the iconic mountain fortress of Massada to the Roman ruins of Caesarea, which can be explored above ground or by snorkeling in the Mediterranean port.

There is too much to this fascinating country to be noted here.

Our experienced planners are ready to assist you when you're ready to plan your trip to Israel. We have great relationships with licensed expert

guides and tour companies.

Happy traveling and all the best in the new year!

*Happy Traveling,
Laura*



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Tzfat, Israel touring



Having a laugh while touring Israel



On the Golan Heights, Israel

*Wayfarer clients' Israel trips within the last year

AMAWATERWAYS TO INTRODUCE ITS NEWEST SHIP IN MAY 2019



In May, AmaWaterways will debut its newest ship, *AmaMagna*, which will cruise the Danube River. At twice the width of traditional river cruise ships, the vessel comes with many new

features, including larger staterooms, more dining options and retractable ceiling and side windows for guests to enjoy expansive views of the picturesque Danube and the towns that dot its shores.

Guests on board *AmaMagna* will be able to personalize their river cruise experience with a complementary daily excursion program that includes escorted hiking and biking tours and group fitness classes led by a trained Wellness Host. Additional features include a large heated Sun Deck swimming pool, Zen Wellness Studio and an innovative Water Sports Platform with a Sundowner boat for evening river excursions at no extra charge.

AmaMagna will begin her inaugural season on May 5, sailing the “Romantic Danube” itinerary from Vilshofen to Budapest. In addition to the “Romantic Danube,” *AmaMagna*’s itineraries include “Melodies of the Danube” and the festive “Christmas Markets on the Danube.”

CANCUN BECOMES HOME TO A NEW NATURAL THEME PARK



Cancun’s Hotel Zone opened its first natural theme park this past spring. Parque Maya Cancun offers a fun-filled introduction to the culture of the Mayan people and challenges visitors to

explore their wild side with land, air and water adventures.

Inside the park, visitors find hanging bridges, zip lines, lagoon rope courses and artificial ruins. A boat ride takes visitors through mangroves in search of exotic wildlife, with close-up looks of replicas of Mayan gods and goddesses, and an authentic Mayan tasting lunch.

THE INNOVATIVE CELEBRITY EDGE MAKES HER DEBUT



Celebrity Cruises unveiled its newest ship, *Celebrity Edge*, in November 2018, which it touts as being a transformational ship that sets

a new standard for modern luxury travel. Designed completely in 3-D and featuring the work of A-list global architects and designers, the 2,918-guest *Celebrity Edge* “aims to make discerning global travelers redefine how they experience the world and how intimate a vacation can be,” says Celebrity.

Revolutionary staterooms with larger square footage, a new private utopia called The Retreat, a Rooftop Garden and the world’s first Magic Carpet design element are among the ship’s many unique features. The size of a tennis court, the Magic Carpet’s engineering feat scales the 16-deck ship through the day and evening, positioning at four of the ship’s decks, transforming into a new and exciting experience at each one.

Celebrity Edge’s inaugural season will be spent sailing alternating seven-night Eastern and Western Caribbean cruise itineraries. In spring of 2019, *Celebrity Edge* crosses the Atlantic to offer guests stunning vistas of the Mediterranean with a range of seven- to 11-night sailings visiting iconic cities, including Barcelona and Rome.

NEW HAPPENINGS AT WALT DISNEY WORLD® RESORT



This year, Walt Disney World unveils a new collection of shows, parties and Disney character interactions.

At the Magic Kingdom Park,

Mickey & Minnie’s Surprise Celebration kicks off Jan. 18. A highlight of the celebration is the new “Move It! Shake It! MousekeDance It! Street Party.” Several times daily this colorful procession parades up Main Street, U.S.A., toward Cinderella Castle, where guests are invited to join the dance party.

At Disney’s Hollywood Studios, Pixar Place transforms into a Municiberg city block from Pixar’s “Incredibles” films. Guests have the opportunity to meet super-suit designer Edna Mode, look for clues to the whereabouts of Jack-Jack and celebrate the heroic deeds of Mr. Incredible, Mrs. Incredible and Frozone at a party featuring live music and dancing.

Spring’s arrival will be celebrated at the 2019 Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival March 6 - June 3. This year, the Garden Rocks Concert Series will expand to seven days a week, with three concerts a day for all 90 days of the festival.

ROYAL CARIBBEAN STEPS UP ITS GAME WITH NEW INNOVATIONS



Royal Caribbean International is amping up your favorite ships by reimagining their fleet with a \$900 million investment.

The Royal Amplified program spans 10 ships over four years and will introduce a wide range of innovative features and never-before-seen thrills. Currently, there are two newly amped cruise ships – *Mariner of the Seas* and *Independence of the Seas*, and a third coming in spring 2019 – *Navigator of the Seas*.

With Royal Amplified, outside decks will be reimagined for both day and night activities. From water parks that are specifically designed for family fun, to lounge areas designed for relaxation, more specialized pool spaces will cater to diverse preferences. Upper decks will be evolved with exciting new attractions such as Sky Pad, a virtual reality, bungee trampoline experience, along with first-of-their-kind waterslides.

Royal Caribbean will also introduce more nightlife venues and more experiential dining. Travelers will enjoy new foodie experiences including Hooked Seafood, Royal Caribbean’s New England-style restaurant; Playmakers Sports Bar & Arcade; and family-friendly El Loco Fresh with popular Mexican fare.

TRAVELING TIMES
MAKING IDEAS TRAVEL FASTER
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Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum



Museum of the City of New York

By John T. Garcia

Ah, New York City's Central Park in the fall. The leaves of the trees are changing colors. The grass is still green and not covered with snow yet. But the air might be a little too crisp to remain outside for too long.

Thankfully the park is home to a wealth of museums where you can escape the cold and see some fantastic exhibits, stunning works of art, and even learn about the city that you are visiting.

The jewel of Central Park is the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which is the only museum within the park boundaries. It is the largest art museum in the United States (it ranks fourth in the world) and is the third-most popular in terms of visitors annually, with 7.35 million visitors in 2017. The main building of the museum is on Museum Mile, a stretch of Fifth Avenue on the eastern edge of Central Park where you can find eight, soon to be nine, museums. The Met (not to be confused with The Metropolitan Opera) also operates the nearby Met Breuer museum, about eight blocks away on Madison Avenue, and The Cloisters in Upper Manhattan. Admission tickets are valid for three consecutive days at all three museums.

'ART FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD'

The main museum, known as The Met Fifth Avenue, advertises that it has "5,000 years of art from every corner of the world" and within its more than 630,000 square feet, who's going to argue. Here you can see a decorated military helmet from around 1500 to 1100 B.C.; a mid-10th century, ivory carving depicting the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; and a 1966 painting by American artist Andrew Wyeth, "Grape Wine."

The Met Fifth Avenue has 17 different collections, with a staff that curates each one as well as researches, helps with exhibits and maintenance. One of the more exciting collections is The Costume Institute, an assemblage of more than 33,000

costumes and accessories. The display presents clothing of men, women and children from five continents since the 15th century. In 2014, the wing of the museum that houses the collection was named the Anna Wintour Costume Center after the editor-in-chief of *Vogue* and chair since 1995 of the museum's annual Met Gala, a fundraiser for the museum that also doubles as the opening of the Institute's annual exhibit.

Across Central Park's Great Lawn (and Central Park West if you are walking) is the American Museum of Natural History, the second most visited museum in New York City at 5 million guests per year. Founded in 1869, it contains 45 exhibit halls and is home to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, the nation's 26th president, and a tribute to his legacy of conservation. It is the only museum in the U.S. authorized to grant a doctorate and a Master of Arts in Teaching degree.

The museum also is home to the Rose Center for Earth and Space and the Hayden Planetarium, led by Neil deGrasse Tyson, the Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium. Besides guests to its New York location, the museum estimates millions more, on six continents, have seen its Space Shows.

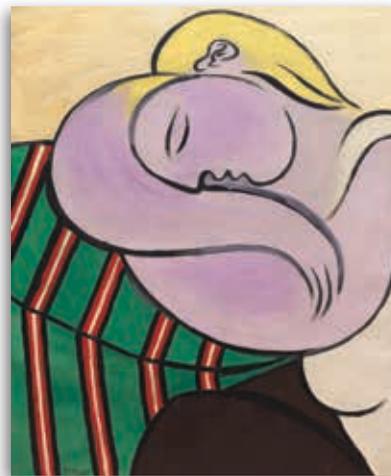
PICASSO, VAN GOGH AND DALI; OH MY!

One of the most recognized buildings in New York City is the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, located on the Museum Mile at 88th Street. The building was designed by legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1959 but opened six months after his death. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2008. The Guggenheim contains works by Salvador Dali, Vincent Van Gogh and Pablo

Picasso, among hundreds of others. It also includes works of sculpture, photography and video.

As part of the Guggenheim's mission to "collect, conserve, and promote understanding of the art of our time," the museum has a long history with performance art, whether it be theater, dance, music or other mediums. It provides plenty of space for installation pieces as well.

For most travelers, you don't learn much about the place you are visiting except for what is happening while you are there. But at the Museum of the City of New York you can learn more than you ever want to know about the history of the city that never sleeps. The museum has more than 750,000 objects in its collection, from photographs and old maps of the city, to costumes and furniture. It has old letters from and to city residents and a large selection of artifacts related



to the city's rich history of theater.

Other museums along the Museum Mile include El Museo del Barrio, focusing on the art and culture of Puerto Ricans and all Latin Americans in the U.S.; The Jewish Museum, reflecting on the Jewish experience for more than 4,000 years; the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, featuring works of design; and the Neue Galerie New York, spotlighting early 20th-century German and Austrian art and design.

Tickets to many of the museums mentioned also are available as part of select combination passes, such as CityPASS, The New York Pass, the New York Explorer Pass and the Sightseeing Pass. More information, and links to their websites, can be found on the Metropolitan Museum of Art's tickets website (<https://rsecure.metmuseum.org/admissions>) since The Met accepts all four passes.



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TRANQUILITY FOUND IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

By Gretchen Zauner

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

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

Twenty-two-mile-long Grand Cayman is actually one of three exposed summits of a submerged mountain range (the other two are Little Cayman and Cayman Brac). Over eons, the mountainsides below the



water have been covered with an unbelievably beautiful coral reef, with water in some spots as shallow as 12 feet, and drop-offs as deep as an estimated 15,000 feet in others. Divided into six dive regions, Grand Cayman boasts more than 70 named boat and beach dive sites.

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

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



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

If you're thinking about taking a cruise to the Western Caribbean, you may find sailing from Galveston, Texas to be fun and convenient. Situated on Galveston Island in the Gulf of Mexico, this historic city charms visitors with its Victorian architecture, amusement parks, shopping, and seafood restaurants dishing up scrumptious Gulf shrimp, Louisiana crawfish, Galveston Bay oysters, and soft-shell crabs.

EXPLORE SCENIC KAUAI: HAWAII'S 'GARDEN ISLE'

By Judie Karhan

Kauai, known as "The Garden Isle" of the Hawaiian Islands, is a postcard-perfect example of a tropical island paradise in the Pacific.

With its lush rainforests, waterfalls, dramatic coastal cliffs and valleys, it seems that few trappings of the modern world have touched this beautiful place.

On the southern shores, expansive white sand beaches and magnificent sunsets set the stage for romance. In sunny Poipu, resort hotels and condominiums line the seashore amid clusters of swaying palm trees. Fine dining and shopping are among the many leisure pursuits visitors find here. For a day of sightseeing, hop in your rental car to admire Spouting Horn and the National Tropical Botanical Garden, and explore Old Koloa

Town, site of the first large-scale sugar mill operation in the state. Today, its historical buildings are reminiscent of an old plantation town.

In the town of Princeville on the north shore, island visitors are again welcomed by high-end hotels with cliffside ocean and mountain views. In the distance lies magnificent Makana Mountain, also known as Bali Hai. At luxurious St. Regis Princeville Resort, celebrate each sunset with an official champagne toast. Princeville also boasts one of the best golf courses on the island at the scenic Makai Golf Club.

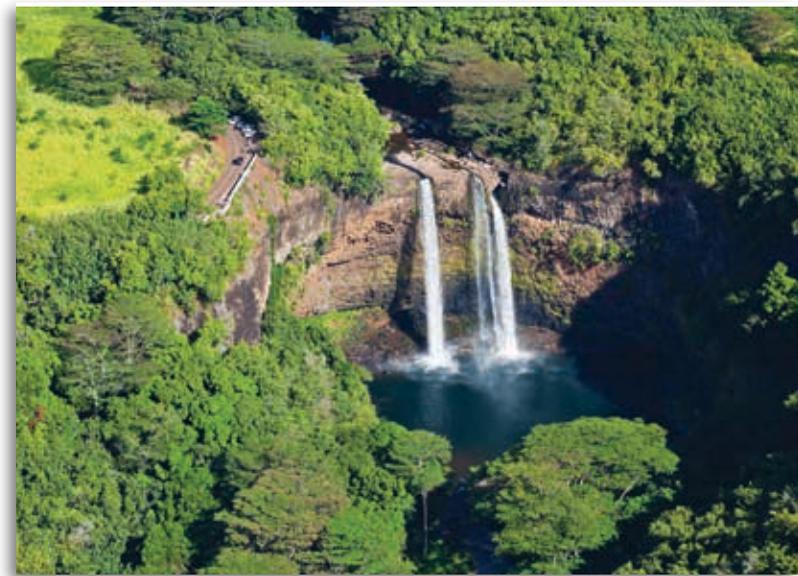
While Kauai is revered for its quiet and easy-going lifestyle, it is also known for having some of the most

adventurous activities, including scuba diving, flightseeing and challenging hiking. At Princeville Ranch, a sprawling 2,500-acre property, enjoy Kauai's lovely scenery by horseback riding, zip lining or ATV and nature adventures.

One of Kauai's greatest treasures is Na Pali Coast State Park, where rugged mountains and lush valleys meet the sea. This area is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful on earth. Tour the rugged coastline by Zodiac or helicopter, or perhaps hike the famous Kalalau Trail.

For further adventure, head to the isolated community of Ha'ena, surrounded by emerald mountain peaks and azure seas. Visitors to this area congregate at lovely Ha'ena Beach Park, Kee Beach and Makua Beach. In the nearby Limahuli Garden and Preserve, stroll among native plants amid verdant mountains.

While Kauai receives a great amount of yearly rainfall, temperatures remain mild year-round, averaging 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit – perfect for exploring this scenic island.



AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS CITY OF CANALS

By John T. Garcia

Considered the world's most cosmopolitan city when it was the wealthiest during the 17th century Golden Age, Amsterdam, the capital and cultural center of Holland, intrigues visitors with its wealth of museums, canals, bridges and unique architecture – and, of course, its deeply rooted Dutch ancestry.

Known as the “Venice of the North,” Amsterdam sits three feet below sea level and has more than 100 canals and 1,100 bridges. Small houseboats and floating flower shops line the canals. Bicycles are

everywhere – an estimated 750,000 of them. There are even special “bicycle parking only” garages.

To truly get the feel of the city, it is best to walk along its major avenues, narrow cobblestone streets and canals. At night the scene is especially romantic, as Amsterdam’s many bridges become aglow with lights and waterways reflect images of the tightly knit buildings lining them. Be sure to duck into one of the many “brown cafes” to sample the ale.

A canal boat tour is one of the most enjoyable ways to see the city’s 17th-century merchants’ houses, bridges,

church spires, houseboats and locks. But with a selection of at least 40 museums and art galleries, one cannot overlook Amsterdam’s cultural side. Of particular interest is the Rijksmuseum, which houses a great variety of art collections, including the Dutch Masters Rembrandt and Vermeer. The Van Gogh Museum, which has dedicated an entire floor to the master, is another must-see. Be sure to also make time for a sightseeing stop at Anne Frank’s House and Museum.

If you’re fortunate enough to be in the Netherlands during its eight weeks of Tulip Time, you will

undoubtedly enjoy an excursion southward to the 70-acre Keukenhof Gardens. This is one of the most impressive public gardens in the world, with more than seven million tulips of every size and color, along with sculptures and other works of art in exotic outdoor displays and within the massive glass pavilion.

In the Netherlands, culture and art flourish and friendliness prevails. And you’re never far from a scenic byway.



FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF SCOTLAND’S MYSTERIOUS CASTLES

By Judie Karhan

Scotland is a country of hauntingly beautiful landscapes, both brooding and welcoming. Dramatic, lush green mountains and rugged coastlines dominate this mystical land punctuated with dark and mysterious castles.

There are so many castles in Scotland – an estimated 3,000 at one time – that a traveler could easily spend days exploring these fortifications, yet still find oneself in a quest for further knowledge and understanding of their deep-rooted history. Built for strength and protection, Scottish castles tell amazing stories of chivalry and derring-do during centuries of invasions and the clash of clans.

In the capital city of Edinburgh, cobbled medieval streets pave the way for exploration of many historic sites. Follow the Royal Mile, which runs through the heart of the city’s Old Town and connects to one of Scotland’s most famous and heavily visited castles, Edinburgh Castle, perched high upon a mountaintop. This magnificent building houses the Crown Jewels, Stone of Destiny and Mons Meg, a medieval bombard built in 1449. The castle now serves as a backdrop for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo during the



Edinburgh International Festival, which takes place every year in August.

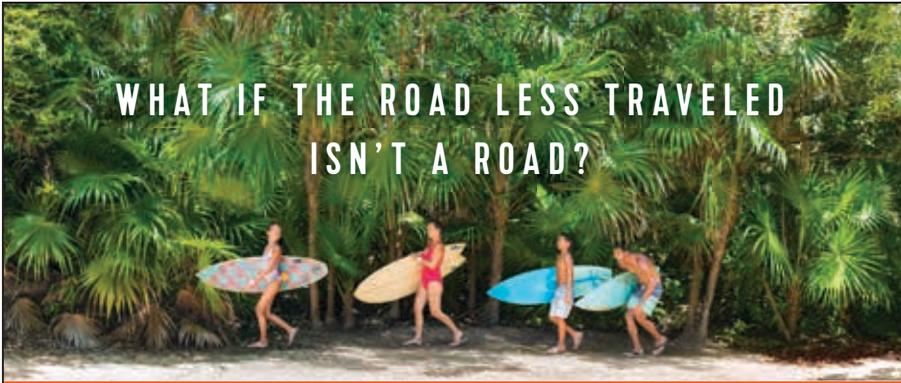
Glasgow, Scotland’s largest city, displays a vibrant art culture, with scores of galleries and museums. It is also home to one of Scotland’s most revered castles. Until the 1800s, Stirling Castle guarded what was the farthest downstream crossing of the River Forth. Many significant events took place there, including the crowning of Mary, Queen of Scots in 1542. Perched atop Castle Hill and surrounded on three sides by steep cliffs, Stirling had a strong defensive advantage, withstanding at least eight sieges. Once an attractive meeting ground for knights, nobles and foreign ambassadors, the castle today recreates 16th-century life with costumed characters in the roles of bodyguards, court officials, maids of honor and dutiful servants.

Beyond the city lights, the region of Aberdeenshire is dotted with numerous castles, one of most famous being Balmoral. This castle has been the Scottish residence of the Royal Family since Prince Albert purchased it for Queen Victoria in 1852. The lovely



formal gardens cover nearly three acres and feature an array of Victorian glasshouses, as well as a conservatory.

While your travels in Scotland may include just a select few of its many castle haunts, the beauty and charm of this country will surely inspire your imagination and capture your heart.



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