

# DRIFT



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EGYPT'S WESTERN DESERT**

**CANADA'S CULINARY COAST**

A DELICIOUS DISCOVERY IN TOFINO, BC

**THE FACES OF INDIA**

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

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## SUMMER 2017

Summer! It calls for road trips, family holidays and outdoor adventures to exciting unseen parts of our great planet. This seasonal issue of DRIFT travel magazine will bring new perspective, inspiration and a few locations to add to your travel bucket list. Come along on the journey!

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*a travel note from the*  
**EDITOR**

**Traveling - it leaves you  
speechless, then turns  
you into a storyteller.**

- Ibn Battuta

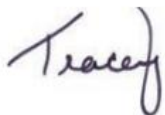
I love this quote, and although I cannot say truthfully that I have ever been accused of being speechless, I wholeheartedly agree that travel stirs emotions and feelings like nothing else. The awe of arriving in a new land, the exhilaration of a new adventure and the joy of meeting new friends in faraway places. That is the essence of travel for me.

July 1, 2017, Canada, my homeland, celebrates 150 years as a great country. In this issue, I am sharing two of my favorite Canadian trips with you - Tofino, BC and Peggy's Cove, PEI.

Also in this issue of DRIFT, our team of adventurous travel writers and exceptional photographers are sharing stories and images from India, Malibu, Africa, Calgary, Belfast, Egypt, France, and Peru!

**What are your summer travel plans?** I would love to hear about the countries, events or cultures you have experienced. Email me or tag me on Instagram (below). I cannot wait to hear from you. In the meantime, turn the page and come along on the journey!

Travel often and live well,



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*Oh, the places I've been!*

**12**  
THE FINER SIDE OF CANADA'S  
WILD WEST COAST

Come along on an epic culinary adventure to the untamed coast of British Columbia's Vancouver Island; an off the beaten path travel destination and the tasty secrets that await in Tofino.

**54**  
GREY OWL & THE  
OCEANSTONE SEASIDE  
Solitude is found in unexpected locations - where a few days rest seems like three weeks away. I found it on a trip to a tucked away oceanside resort in PEI, just a stone's throw from Peggy's Cove.





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get on an airplane & travel



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# AT A GLANCE: MALIBU, CA





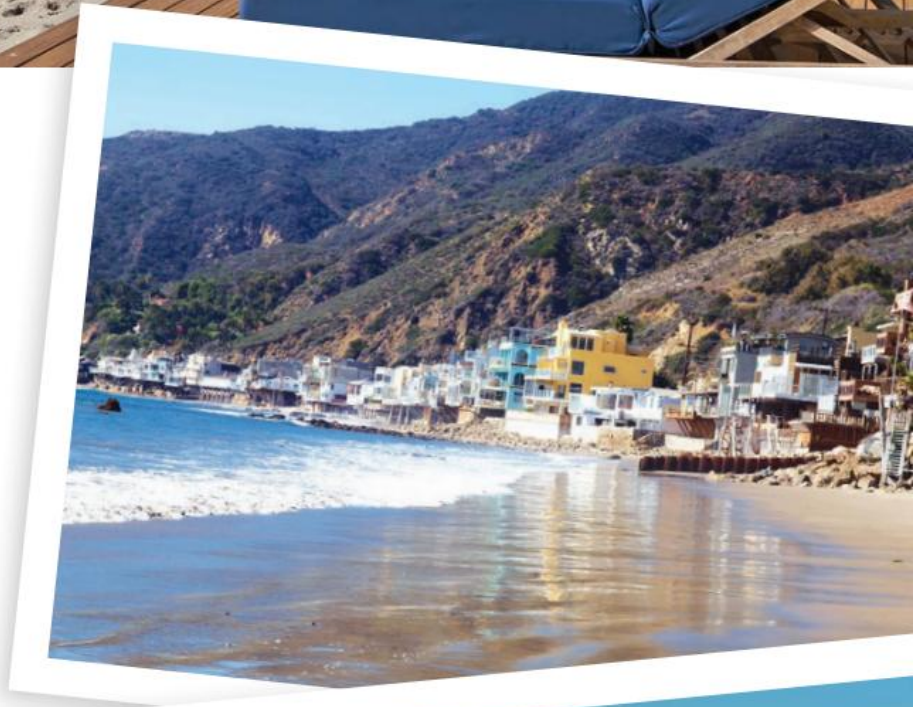


## THE SURF SOUNDS LOUDLY

BY: ELIZABETH DEAN

A coastal community defined by cool waves, burnt sand and sunning superstars. Malibu is the most glamorous beach city in North America. The land was once home to the Chumash tribe of Native Americans who called it Humaliwo, which means “the surf sounds loudly”. As the “hu” syllable was not emphasized in pronunciation, the name quickly became Malibu – and more fondly, The Bu by locals.

The water offers an elated high to surfers and boaters alike, and the beaches are prestigious grounds for barefoot combing, picnics and sandcastles. Wander in the wet tide and sink in the sand as tedious waves tease your feet. Warm breezes carry nostalgic scents of sunscreen and salty air. Impressive beach bungalows hug the coast and stir dreams of easier lives, filled with designer flip flops and chocolate gelato, on the coast of the magnificent Bu.





# TOFINO

THE FINER SIDE OF CANADA'S  
WILD WEST COAST







BY: TRACEY DRAKE

Yes, Tofino is still known for its small town friendly vibe, awesome cold water surfing and laid back way of life. But over the last few years, something else has been simmering in this small tourist town on British Columbia's wild west island coast. I had been hearing that the culinary scene is exploding in Tofino; that it's different now. And so, armed with skeptical curiosity and a healthy appreciation for regional cuisine - after all, Vancouver Island is my home - I headed off to Tofino to see if I could taste the difference.









I've been to Tofino many times, and have usually stayed at Pacific Sands or right in Tofino at a lovely condo rental right over the town bakery. This time, and keeping the regional flavors of the trip in mind, I wanted to stay somewhere that locals congregate for a good meal, a great wave, and an amazing sunset. So we checked into Long Beach Lodge Resort.

Just seven miles from downtown Tofino, right off the Pacific Rim Highway, Long Beach Lodge Resort is casual luxe at its finest; an oceanfront property designed to take full advantage of the awe inspiring and ever-changing vistas. With forty one lodge rooms and twenty cottages, it really feels like home.

The Great Room envelopes you with West Coast charm, with its massive granite fireplace and Douglas Fir post and beam construction. Linger over breakfast, curl up in an overstuffed chair with a craft cocktail or lose yourself in the crashing surf outside the window.

Of course, the hotel sits directly on Cox Bay, which offers some of the best surfing in Tofino. It is impossible not to pull up a driftwood log and just sit. The beach is wide and majestic and there is a special awe that comes over you as you witness Mother Nature at its rarest.

If you want the true Tofino experience, I recommend staying with the friendly folks at Long Beach Lodge Resort, and make sure to ask Chef Ian Riddick to whip you up a batch of his freshly harvested baked Kelp chips.







Luckily, we were in town for Feast Tofino. In its sixth year, Feast Tofino is a collaboration between acclaimed local and regional guest chefs, restaurants, fishermen, foragers and farmers, all of whom celebrate the boat-to-table philosophy of West Coast cuisine.

The first night, we headed over to the beautiful Tofino Botanical Gardens, which in itself was a feast for all the senses. Chef Joël Watanabe of Kissa Tanto and Bao Bei joined resident culinary

superstar Chef Nick Nutting of Wolf in the Fog for an evening of Asian/Italian street food and raw bar. The imagination in each dish, the respect with which each was prepared and the passion in each bite was obvious. The seafood was indescribably great, and the face of Tofino Mayer Josie Osborne (above) says more than I ever could with words.

I wandered back to the hotel knowing that I had been part of something very special. It may just

be food, but this was good food. It was food that meant a lot to those who were creating it, and it had significance to the locals who were enjoying it. It echos the age old tradition of the strong community bonding that comes with sharing a great meal.

In its inception, Feast Tofino was born so that local business owners could share and celebrate local culinary boat-to-table culture with its community. By inviting world renowned chefs to partner



# LOOK

DEEP INTO NATURE

YOU WILL  
UNDERSTAND  
EVERYTHING BETTER

- ALBERT EINSTEIN -

with local chefs, it has created a successful platform to showcase Tofino, BC as a world class foodie destination.

The second night was an outside/inside revelation in regional cuisine. One part outdoor fun and one part indoor awesomeness.

Mayor Josie Osborne was our host for the evening that began dockside in the parking lot at Trilogy Fish Store. A few hundred people lined up for the 4th annual Boat to Tailgate Party that saw locals, tourists and visiting foodie fans lining up for the freshest seafood you have ever eaten! Live music, friends laughing, and face painted toddlers dancing made for a perfect fresh air experience. It was a local fundraising event to raise money for local salmon research with Central West Coast Forest Society.

From there, we walked with Mayor Osborne to our indoor culinary destination, Wolf In the Fog.





Chances are good if you are interested in the culinary world, you know of Chef Nick Nutting and his Tofino restaurant, Wolf in the Fog.

I instantly sit up and pay attention when a world class acclaimed chef like Nick Nutting chooses to invest in a small, off the beaten path town like Tofino, and then stays. It isn't every career chef that thinks this way, especially after Wolf in the Fog was named Best New Restaurant in 2014 by Air Canada *enRoute* magazine.

Chef Nutting approaches food honestly - he honors the ingredients, and allows the flavors to speak for themselves, with help from his very deft culinary hand.

Wolf in the Fog captures the true essence of Tofino with incredible seasonal menus. I highly recommend the Smoked Tofino Salmon and Potato Crusted Oysters (both shown right), if they are on the menu when you visit. Chef Nutting doesn't just curate menus and cook exceptional food. He forages for ingredients and

works with local island producers to ensure his team is serving up the freshest ingredients and doing their part to support the local Vancouver Island economy.

Family style plating is one of my favorite ways to eat at a restaurant, and Wolf in the Fog does it so well. All the plates and cutlery are vintage and mismatched, making for charming table decor that is set against the sultry West Coast interior design.

When you combine stunning oceanfront hotels with warm local hospitality and exceptional food, it is no wonder the culinary scene in Tofino is exploding. Now that I have experienced it, I am truly surprised it hasn't happened sooner. **Get here.**

## PLANNING YOUR TOFINO TRIP:

FEAST TOFINO [feasttofino.com](http://feasttofino.com)

LONG BEACH LODGE RESORT [longbeachlodgeresort.com](http://longbeachlodgeresort.com)

WOLF IN THE FOG [wolfinthefog.com](http://wolfinthefog.com)

TOFINO BOTANICAL GARDENS [tbgf.org](http://tbgf.org)

TOURISM TOFINO [tourismtofino.com](http://tourismtofino.com)





*Cedar Sour with cedar infused  
rye, lemon, thyme, egg white*



*Smoked Tofino Salmon with  
red cedar jus, mushrooms, farro,  
garlic, shallots*



*Potato Crusted Oyster  
with apple and truffle*





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BY: RUSS WALSH



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*Photographer Notes:*

*Looking in the deepness of the eyes of this ageless Sadhu, I can perceive everything which has bewitched me of India - wisdom, sadness, life, death, richness, poverty, story, courage, tradition and the people. India is an ancient and strange place, difficult to understand and to know, but easy to love.*





# INDIA

a photographic journey

Featured Photographer: Riccardo Mantero

A traveler by vocation, and a photographer by passion, Riccardo is based in Italy but is truly a citizen of the world. Although the majority of his work focuses on landscapes and travel photography, he loves shooting people and street photography. Riccardo never leaves home without at least one of his beloved Nikon DSLR cameras.

#### EQUIPMENT

Nikon D800	Nikon D810
Nikon 16-35mm	Nikon 24-70mm
Nikon 70-200mm	Nikon 50mm
Sigma 15mm Fisheye	

Website : [riccardomantero.com](http://riccardomantero.com)

Instagram : [@riccardo\\_mantero](https://www.instagram.com/riccardo_mantero)











*Photographer Notes:*

*(ABOVE) During the Dalai Lama Speech at Thiksay Monastery in Ladakh, the sun at 3500mt above sea level was really hot and strong. The people started to open their umbrellas, and the scene enriched itself by incredible colors.*

*(LEFT) All old monks are listening to the Dalai Lama speech, but a young one, probably distracted by something, is watching in the opposite direction. How could I resist?*







*Photographer Notes :*

*(BELOW) I've been literally hexed by the dresses of these women from Ladakh. They seemed handcrafted with precious silks and weaved in the most complex shapes. Here are three perfect examples, and when the sun rays hit their garments, the effect was literally stunning.*

*(LEFT) Even children were elegantly dressed for this special occasion, perhaps not quite as enthusiastic but really elegant!*









*Photographer Notes:*

*This is the magnificent Harmandir Sahib of Amritsar, in the sacred City of the Sikhs - the most famous gurudwara in the world. I heard a lot about it, I've seen photos, but until you get there and see with your own eyes, you can't understand how magnificent it is. Just wait for the night and its reflection in the water will transform everything into pure gold magic.*











*Photographer Notes:*

*(ABOVE) Women in the Jama Masjid, the biggest mosque in Delhi, India. The colors of the dresses and the decorations are wonderful. Impossible to resist to steal just one moment of their lives.*

*(LEFT) Sometime you find someone so interesting and fascinating that it is impossible not to dedicate them a burst of photos. This green-eyed girl is one of the refugees in Leh, Ladakh, Northern India.*









*Photographer Notes:*

*If you are in old Delhi in India, and you need an haircut or a shave, no problem. Check the side of the road and you will find an excellent barbershop. Just sit down and let the barber do his work, if you are unsure, just look at the fully satisfied expression of the client on the right.*



*Photographer Notes:*

*Watching the television in Delhi is like everywhere else in the world, but the colors of the house are not.*



**INDIA** is a diverse country that is home to more than 1 Billion people. The capital city of Delhi offers a unique mix of traditional and modern. A country with diverse terrain and history that goes back five millenia. To learn more about travel to India, visit [india-tourism.net](http://india-tourism.net).



*Photographer Notes:*

*While wandering the roads of Delhi, it is easy to meet small groups of Sadhu and their followers and get a blessing from them. It is also and a good habit to leave a little offering for that.*



“*India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great-grandmother of tradition.*

**MARK TWAIN**





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# THIS SUMMER, SEE IF YOU CAN CUT THE TECH CORD WHEN YOU TRAVEL

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BY: SOPHIA DEMBLING

*Want to make yourself a little bit crazy? Leave your phone at home on one day of your travels. Just one day.*

Put it down, leave the house or hotel, and lock the door behind you. How far do you think you'll get before you have the urge to dash back inside and reconnect with your technological lifeline?

Want to hear something even crazier? Even though technology is forbidden during Outward Bound wilderness programs, for the first two or three days after they are separated from their phones, some participants still experience phantom vibrations in their legs, where their phones would be tucked into their pockets.

'Just the anticipation of it [the phone vibrating] may occupy some of your resources. That would suggest that we are connected to it in deeper ways than we completely understand,' says psychologist David Strayer, whose research at the University of Utah includes the effect nature has on our brains. 'I think the empirical science is lagging behind what we need to know because technology is moving so fast.'

Yep--our increasing dependence on technology is a big science project, with our brains as guinea pigs. And if you're as connected when you

travel as you are when you're home, then are you really on vacation? Your body might be getting a break from routine, but is your brain? 'If you're still texting and talking on the phone and doing business as usual while you're out in nature, then you're really not in nature,' says Strayer.

Keeping your phone stowed when you're traveling can be particularly challenging because of Instagram and Facebook. And phones are also our cameras. Vacation snapshots are a time-honored tradition, and for some of us, the creative challenge of taking artful photographs is among the joys of travel.

But digital photography has made us greedy. We photograph willy-nilly, allowing screens to mediate our experience of the world, flooding social media with proof of our adventures--which are rendered somehow less adventurous when they join the flow of memes and cat videos.

To some extent, we are starting to figure all this out. It's why Camp Grounded ([www.campgrounded.org](http://www.campgrounded.org)), offers 'digital detox' summer camps--four day tech-free getaways for adults in various locales. (They'll be offering one in the Texas Hill Country Oct. 7 to 10. Others will be held in Northern California, New

York, and North Carolina this year.)

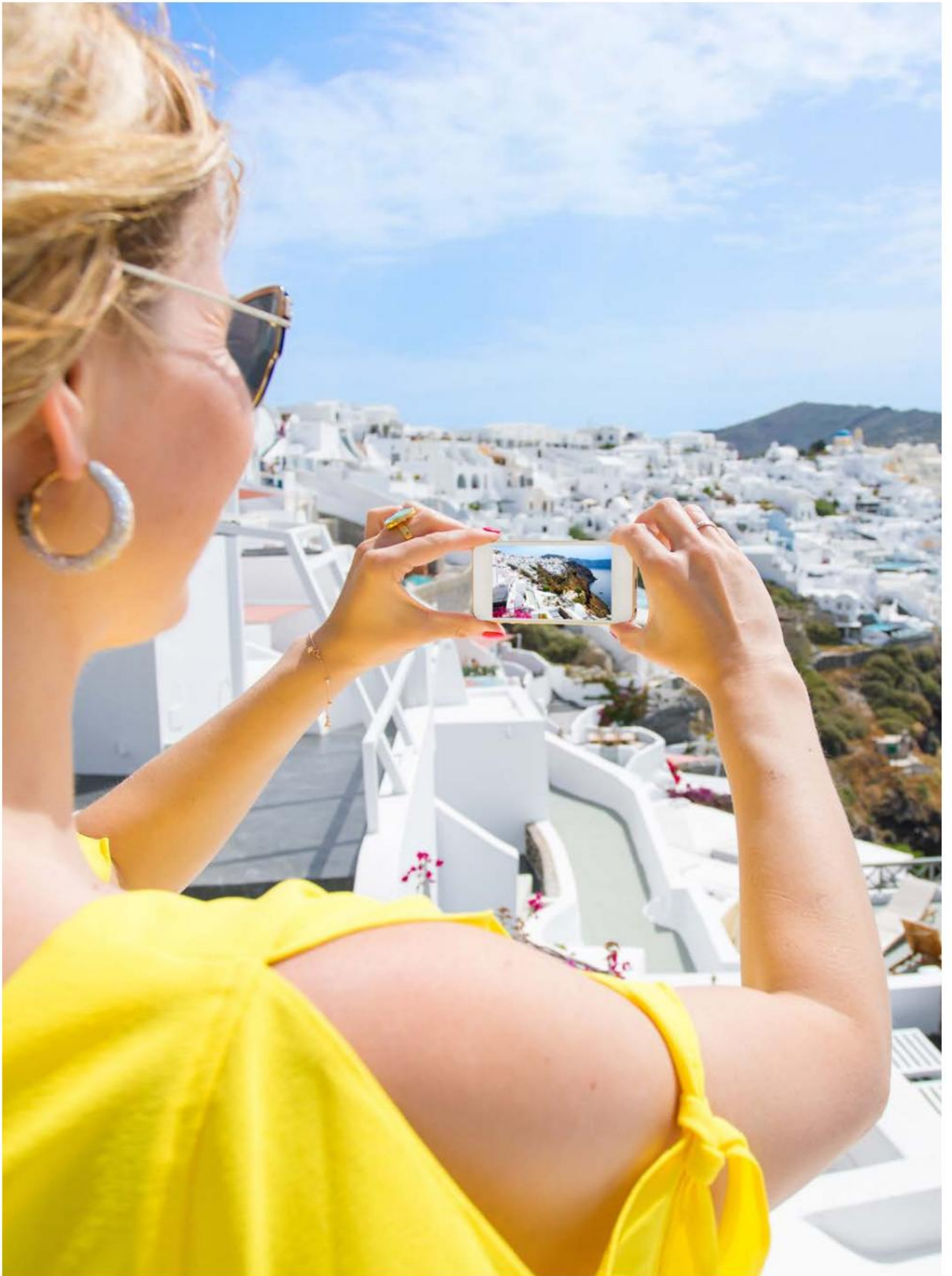
Breaking the tech habit when you travel isn't easy. And perhaps leaving the phone at home is a little drastic. After all, Yelp, Trip Advisor, and Google Maps. But cutting back on tech engagement when you travel is not a bad idea, and here are a few reasons and tools to help you do that. Or at least try.

## Four good reasons to break the tech habit when you travel

1. Getting away from your routine and into a new environment can give you a fresh perspective on your life, but staying tethered to your phone is like keeping one foot at home. You're not going to get that long view of your life that travel can afford if you're checking in multiple times a day.

2. Too many vacation pix might annoy your social network. You might think of it as sharing, but to some people it will come across as gloating. A lot of people looking at your gorgeous fresh-fish-and-tropical-cocktail lunch by the beach are eating microwaved frozen meals at their desks. And large photo dumps--anything more than a half-dozen pix at a time--beg to be ignored.







**3.** Any change of routine is great for stimulating creativity, but staying connected prevents your brain from reaping the stimulating benefits of new experiences. 'Constant distraction and multitasking keeps us on a very surface level of thought,' says Carolyn Gregoire, who co-authored, with psychologist Scott Barry Kaufman, *Wired to Create: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Creative Mind* (TarcherPerigee, \$26.95). 'We're not able to make those creative connections and mine the ideas that come from really getting into our landscape.'



**4.** If you're traveling with friends or family, connecting over the experience should bring you together, but this can't happen if everyone is peering at their phone. Burrowing into virtual fun is particularly tempting during long car trips (provided, of course, you're not driving), but letting your mind wander as scenery spools past, having random conversations and, of course, arguing about music (and singing along), should be as much a part of road tripping as the destination.



## Six tips for cutting the tech cord when you travel

**1.** Plan ahead for minimal contact from your job. Put an auto-responder on your email, let colleagues know that you will respond only to the most dire situations. Anticipate problems and outline to your supervisor or colleagues how those should be handled. If you have a team you trust implicitly, you can go even further: Brian Scudamore, CEO of 1-800-GOT-JUNK has his assistant change his email password and not tell him what it is before he leaves on vacation. 'I call going dark,' he says. Also, respect other people's vacation time when you're back at the office and they will be more likely to respect yours.

**2.** If your personality is Type A and being disconnected feels like slacking, try reframing it as

proactively building your creative brainpower. Don't worry about feeling lazy; it's going to be harder than you think.

**3.** When you are traveling internationally and can do without an international phone plan, save the money and take yourself out for a nice meal instead. You can still connect to Wifi when it's available, but you won't be able to check in every idle moment.

**4.** Turn off all your phone's chimes, buzzes, bells, and visual notifications. Cutting the tech cord will be far

less difficult if it doesn't require the willpower of ignoring notifications. (This is a good idea when you're at home, too.)

**5.** Before taking a photo, ask yourself if your photo will do the scene justice or if you're better off giving yourself over to the full sensory experience of whatever you're seeing. Fight the urge to let your phone screen come between you and every experience.

**6.** If you must, designate times when you will allow yourself to indulge in social media; perhaps in the quiet time between sightseeing and dinner. Then, if you want to post photos, be discerning. And remember that posting that photo isn't the only moment you're disconnected--every time you check to see who has liked or commented on it, you drag your brain away from the here and now, to the there and then. So post it and forget it.



# RADEN



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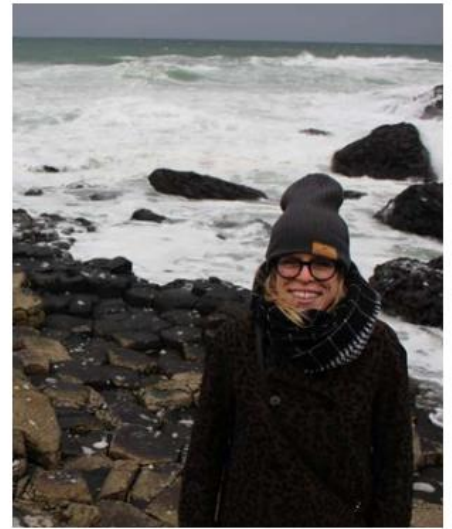




# BELFAST

## NORTHERN IRELAND

BY: JENNIFER COSTANZO



Belfast, a city once divided is thriving on tourism through its fascinating past. A city of under half a million people with a history of unrest, may not seem like the first place on your list of places to visit. You would be wrong. Next time you're craving something new and exciting, book a trip to Belfast, located in Northern Ireland, United Kingdom. On my recent trip to Ireland and London, I was able to visit Belfast for a few days and experienced a truly diverse travel experience.

Belfast is the capital and largest city in Northern Ireland. Driving to Belfast is a must. As you leave the bustling city of Dublin you embark on a beautiful ride through authentic Irish countryside.







After a two-hour drive (longer if you make the many scenic stops along the way) you arrive in a city that is on a smaller scale in comparison to Dublin, but don't discount its size. Belfast is a fascinating and historic place with a big personality and welcoming to travelers.

I was lucky to have stayed in a quaint little house in central Belfast with friends; however, there are lots of different hotels available to tourists. The famous Europa Hotel is a four-star hotel in Great Victoria Street, Belfast that has hosted numerous Presidents, Prime Ministers and celebrities. Its historic significance is what makes the hotel known across the world as the most bombed hotel in Europe after suffering

thirty-six bomb attacks during the Troubles. It has since been renovated and is a wonderful and notable hotel to stay when visiting the city of Belfast.

Our first day in Belfast was a truly eye opening experience. I never quite fully grasped the history between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. After taking a Black Cab Tour, I began to understand it a little more. The tour, which lasts roughly an hour and a half, is an escorted tour of Greater Belfast's historical sites. An experienced driver takes you on a journey back in time to explore many places of interest. Our driver brought us on a 'Political Murals and The Peace Line' tour, where we learned about



the political murals that tell their own graphic story of what has been called "The Troubles" in Ireland's recent history. We were taken to see the peace wall that was built to keep Republicans and Loyalists apart and to this day still divides the two communities, the Republicans and the Loyalists. It was hard for me to quite grasp the idea that these two communities were still divided, especially staying in the city center where there were no peace walls. However, when I asked our driver, he said there is still conflict happening today. Although locals will always remember The Troubles, having affected their families, some residents would say the division is not felt anymore. This Black Cab Tour is a must for anyone visiting the city.









Our second day, we left the city to visit the famous Giant's Causeway. We all hopped into our friend's minivan after stopping at a local coffee shop, The Thinking Cup for a quick coffee and pastry to go.

The drive was a spectacular, coastal drive that took about an hour and a half from Belfast. The Giant's Causeway is an area of about 40,000 interlocking hexagonal basalt columns, which were the result of an ancient volcanic eruption. It is located in County Antrim on the northeast coast of Northern Ireland, just outside of the town of Bushmills. The tops of the columns form stepping stones that lead from the cliff base and disappear under the sea. Most of the columns are hexagonal in shape. While we were walking along the causeway, one

of our friends told me the legend of how it was created. According to the legend, the columns are the remains of a causeway built by an Irish giant. A Scottish giant named Benandonner challenged an Irish giant named Fionn mac Cumhaill to a fight. Fionn accepted the challenge and builds the causeway across the North Channel so that the two giants could meet. Once Fionn realizes how much bigger Benandonner is, he decides to hide from him. So Fionn's wife disguises Fionn as a baby and tucks him in a cradle and once Benandonner sees the size of this 'baby' he decides that his father, Finn must be a giant among giants. Benandonner flees back to Scotland and destroys the causeway so that Finn could not follow. Across the sea there are identical basalt columns at Fingal's

cave on the Scottish isle of Staffa, and perhaps is how the legend was born. On our drive back to Belfast, we had to make a mandatory stop at Ramore in Port Rush, which is famous for their desserts. We got four desserts to share and I was delighted by how delicious they were. A definite stop when you're visiting the Giant's Causeway.

Belfast is a great place to visit for a short trip, but I felt like there was a lot more I could have explored if I had more time. It is a city with history, beautiful architecture and a difficult past. The city suffered greatly during the Troubles, but has since undergone considerable expansion and continues to grow as a major city in Western Europe.







Editor's Picks

# Touch + go

Travel is always an adventure, and that surely applies when it comes to packing for a long trip. What to take, what to leave at home, and what you will ultimately use the most when you are traveling. I've rounded up some of my favorite travel friendly products that will take care of your travel needs.

## travel must haves



### APPLE WORLD TRAVEL ADAPTER KIT

You must have these! Set of seven AC plugs for different world power plugs, each laser-etched with the regions they are compatible with. Works with iPod, iPhone and iPad, and compatible with MacBook adapters.

[apple.com](http://apple.com), \$35



### 321 FILTERED WATER BOTTLE FOR TRAVEL

In some countries, filtered water is just the safest way to go. This reusable 500ml water bottle is BPA and BPS free, has a unique patented filter tree plunger mechanism that filters out water impurities. Comes apart for easy cleaning. The 321 filter tablet lasts for 125 refills, which is approximately 63 liters of great tasting water per filter!  
[321water.com](http://321water.com), \$25



### AIR SELFIE FLYING PORTABLE CAMERA

The first portable drone camera with integrated phone case. So this is SUPER cool and a must have for all you serial travelers! A revolutionary pocket-size flying camera that connects with your smartphone to let you take HD photos from the sky - up to 20 meters away on a 5 MP anti-vibration camera. Capture wide, original photos, awesome selfies and travel videos.  
[airselfiecamera.com](http://airselfiecamera.com), \$279



### OSTRICH ORIGINAL IMMERSIVE SLEEP PILLOW

Filled with microbeads for maximum comfort and lightness and covered in viscose for softness, this wacky looking but amazing travel pillow is ergonomically designed to provide maximum quality sleep in an immersive cocoon. The quality of sleep is so good, it actually reduces jet lag for me. Also, if you are a non-socializer on an airplane, this is a great way to keep the chatters away!  
[ostrichpillow.com](http://ostrichpillow.com), \$89



### JERGENS +PROTECT SPF MOISTURIZER

Known for their amazing moisturizers, this summer product also offers SPF 20 and Natural Glow which gradually adds naturally looking color to your skin. And it comes in a convenient travel size.  
[walmart.com](http://walmart.com), \$6



### RYU QUICK PACK LUX 1.1

Award winning 18L backpack from Rule Your Universe that is perfect as a travelers day pack, or ideal as your second small carry-on. Holds a 15" laptop or tablet, personal stuff and a quick zip pocket at the top for smartphone or passport. Hang it anywhere and the unique drop front design opens for easy packing, organizing and accessing your gear. Lightweight and easy to carry. Unisex color and design.  
[ryu.ca](http://ryu.ca), \$199





# 48 HOURS IN...

# CALGARY

BY: JOSIE SALDAT



Upon arrival I was asked what one word I thought summarized my initial impression of Calgary: I chose *welcoming*. As the second day came to an end, a new word came to mind: *change*. These two words combined best describe



the dramatic revitalization of the city's 55 neighborhoods. Passionate business owners are ready to prove that there are more reasons to visit Calgary besides the Stampede, and a percentage of the city's construction budget is allocated to local art in the city. Notoriously known as a meat-centric city, I was thrilled to experience the

sprouting movement of wellness and wilderness through innovative boutique hotels, restaurants, niche bars and captivating city tours. From staying, eating, shopping and playing – Calgary, which also happens to be Canada's sunniest city with 2,405 hours of sunshine per year, has everything to offer with a spectacular backdrop of the Rocky Mountains. Only 90 minutes from Calgary is Banff National Park, offering some of the world's best skiing, hiking and outdoor adventuring in the world. The close proximity means you can stay in the city and play in the mountains. It truly is the best of all worlds.

Although I recommend staying much longer and getting the full Calgary experience, if you only have a few days, here are my top picks for 48 hours in (and around) Calgary.

**STAY** Focusing on aesthetic, timeless design and catering to the needs of each unique guest: Canada's

first boutique hotel, Le Germain continues to strive amongst its competition.

Creating an authentic and stylish alternative to larger chain hotels, Le Germain Hotel Calgary is situated in a prime location, right beside the iconic Calgary tower. Rich in color and personality, the family owned hotel incorporates natural stone, glass and modern details reflecting the city it resides in. Following the sustainability movement, I was excited to learn that Le Germain's cutting-edge structure was engineered and constructed with energy efficient technologies and their spa offers entirely eco-friendly products.

It was easy to set my intention for the day with Le Germain's NamaStay yoga program. Unwind after a day of adventuring at the RnR Wellness Spa – I recommend nourishing your skin and senses with their Apricot Body Treatment.





Downtown Calgary & The Peace Bridge

## AT A GLANCE

LE GERMAIN HOTEL CALGARY

### FACTS:

- Pioneers in boutique hotels, siblings Christiane and Jean-Yves Le Germain opened their first location in Quebec City in 1988, and today have 13 properties across Canada.
- Conveniently located next to the iconic Calgary Tower, close to the Glenbow Museum, Western Canada's largest museum and just one hour's drive from the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

### PERKS:

- No check out time! Guests are welcome to stay until the evening of their flight.
- 143 boldly designed guest rooms embellished with local Canadian art that was handpicked by the owners.
- Complimentary Lexus car service for guests to get behind the wheel or be driven around in style.
- Lounge 899 in the hotel lobby features a bar the length of the room, perfect for creative cocktails and decadent bites.
- RnR Wellness Spa located on the penthouse level with views of the downtown skyline.
- Nama-Stay program featuring online yoga video series to enjoy from your room or classes in the hotel's yoga studio with resident Lululemon instructor.



View of Hong Kong from the 116th floor



CHEF CONNIE DESOUSA - CHARCUT ROAST HOUSE



**EAT** The movement of farm to table eating, family style share plates and accompaniment forward dishes has taken over Calgary's foodie scene. Conveniently located at Le Germain Hotel Calgary is Top Chef All Star, Chef Connie DeSousa's renowned restaurant, Charcut. It is a must-try for locals as well as travelers: putting sustainable farming at the forefront with head-to-toe butchery techniques. DeSousa states that the presentation and menu is more rooted on ingredients and flavors rather than the display, but believe me - everything is as visually stunning as the urban rustic décor.

Recent recipient of the 2017 Gold Medal Plates Canadian Culinary Championships, Chef Jinhee Lee mixes traditional Asian cuisine with dynamic flair at Foreign Concept, which has been recognized as a new "hot-spot".

After an extensive renovation, Calgary's century old heritage house, The Deane House has recently reopened and offers a central bar, dining room sitting and a 2000 sq. ft. outdoor patio near the meeting of the Bow and Elbow River. Utilizing their flourishing garden, the menu consists of seasonal plant-based dishes incorporating fresh vegetables and herbs picked only meters away from your dish. Try their natural cream soda garnished with edible flowers.

**SIP** The cocktail culture in Calgary is spirited. Bar Manager of Proof, Jeff Savage proves that cocktails come from an origin of holistic wellness and creates an extensive, carefully curated menu of creations all mixed



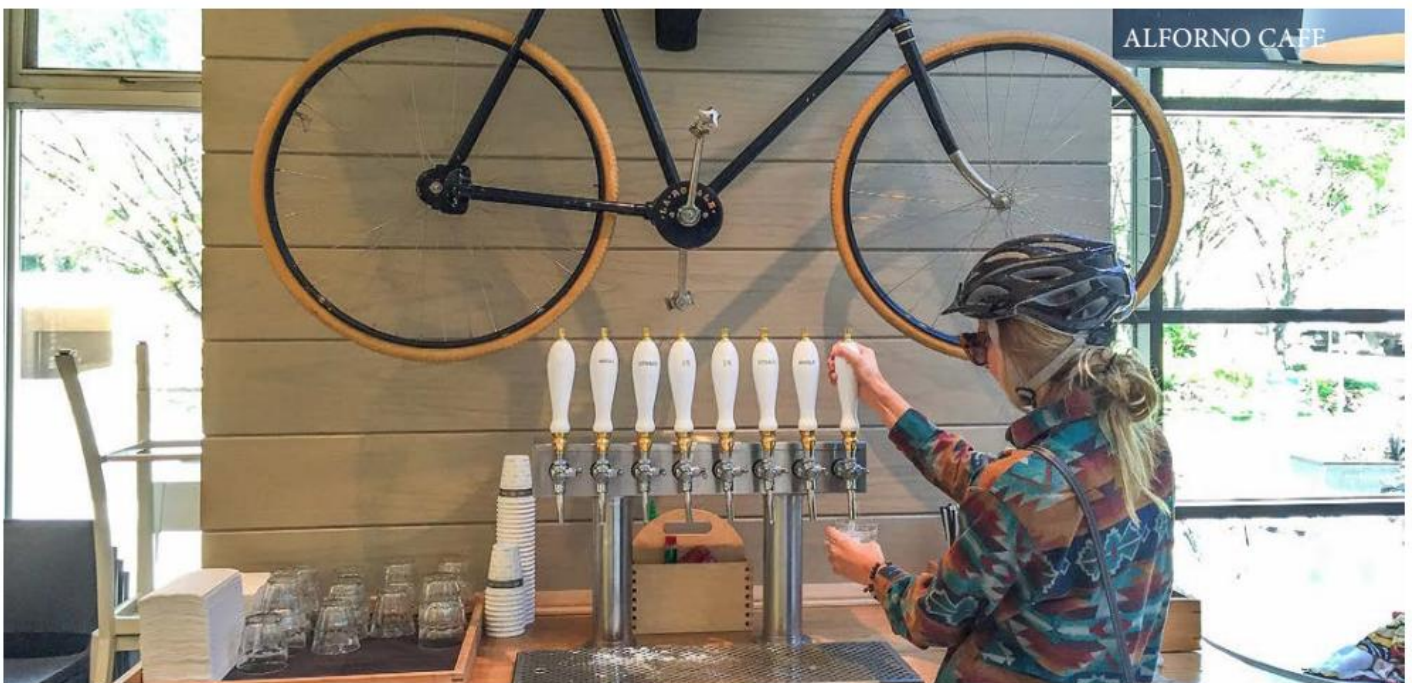
CHEF JINHEE LEE - FOREIGN CONCEPT





**JEFF SAVAGE, PROOF:**  
"I want you to enjoy the entire  
experience of the cocktail, not  
just the taste."

to perfection and taking one to the state of wellbeing. Infusing his concoctions with herbs, botanicals, flavors and scents that trigger the overall experience of the drink, not just taste – Savage researches every ingredient from the history to the health benefits.





**SEE** If you want to explore the city, I recommend getting on a bike. Did you know that Calgary has the most extensive urban pathway system in all of North America? Soon adding 130 km to connect all 55 communities in Calgary, it will be the largest in the world - not to mention on flat terrain. Convenient for locals and travelers, NOMAD: a mobile gear rental company can deliver activity gear to your door. While taking your bike for a spin, make sure you stop at Alforno, a bright and minimalistic bike-friendly bakery and café serving treats and coffee to keep you pedaling.



**PLAY** If hiking interests you, escape to the wilderness of Canmore's surroundings in the heart of Kananaskis Country - just one hour from downtown Calgary. Explore the outdoors with AV Wakefield of Hike365, who brings outdoor loving females together to explore the great outdoors. I recommend starting with Grassi Lakes Trail: a two-kilometer hike with easy-to-moderate incline and superb views.



**SHOP** If shopping is your cardio, take a walk down Stephen Avenue, the main pedestrian and bike friendly street where The CORE Shopping Center is located and indulge in some retail therapy at Holt Renfrew or Simons. Visit the East Village: Calgary's first neighborhood - home to outdoor markets, yoga classes and river front dining. The East Village Junction is a recently opened plot of land with shipping containers converted into local shops as well as grassy patches with hammocks and picnic tables.

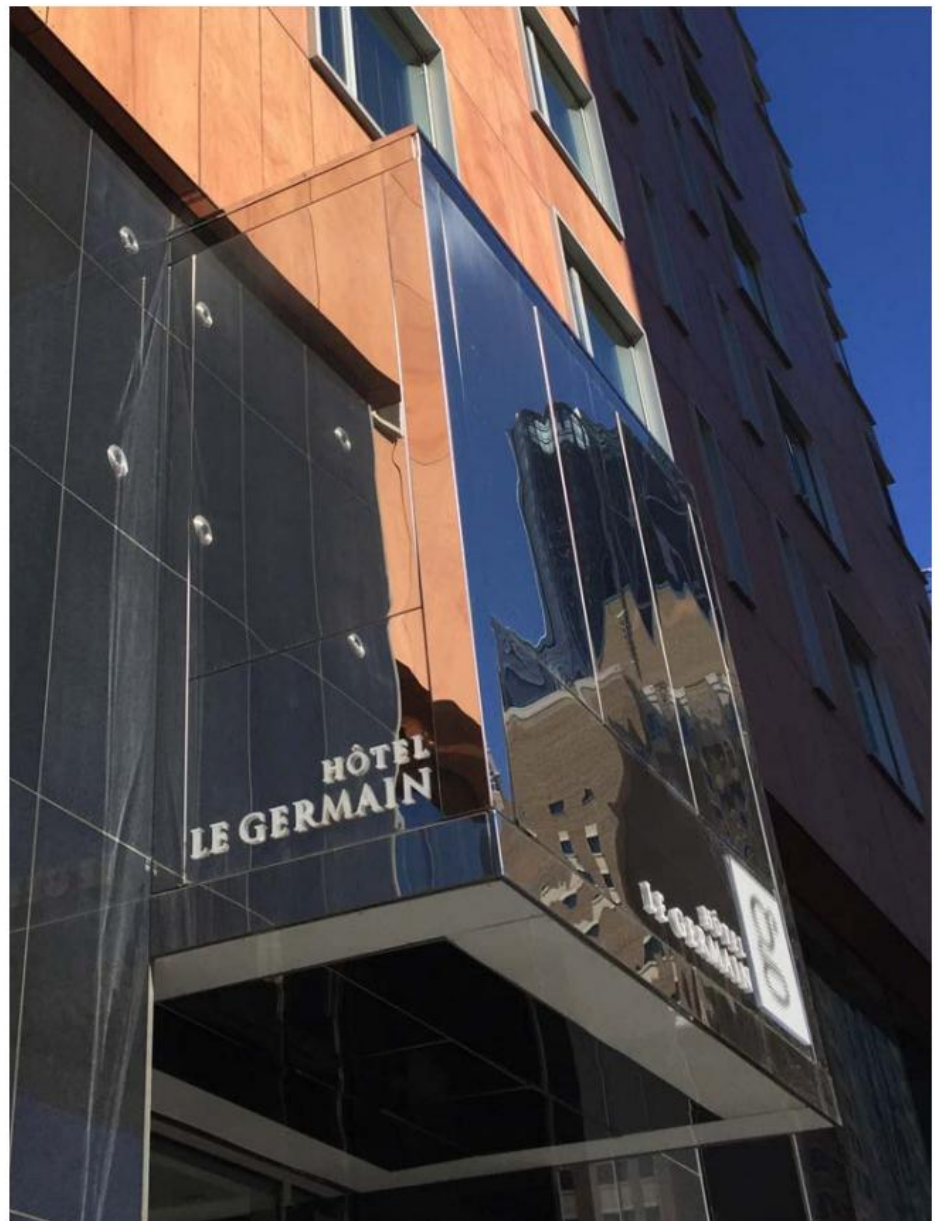






**MUST** Named after one of the surrounding mountains, Yamnuska Wolfdog Sanctuary is worth the visit. This is your chance to get close to wolf dogs in a controlled wildlife situation. With knowledgeable staff, this interactive tour is based on the organization's non-profit mission to educate visitors on the differences between wolves and dogs.

**48 HRS** Le Germain Hotel Calgary, and so many other passionate and forward thinking businesses are showcasing a new side of Calgary. Through wellness and the wilderness, the city is quickly becoming the Canadian destination to explore nature in the mountains, find nourishment in their culinary culture and nurture ones self. Yes, their stadium is called the Saddledome and the Calgary Stampede is still the busiest time of the year, but things are changing and Calgary is ready.





“We (Canadians)...  
are very lucky, in that we have all kinds of places to go within  
*OUR OWN BOUNDARIES.*”

-Writer Grey Owl





# Oceanstone Seaside Resort

A stone's throw from Peggy's Cove

I have always dreamed of finding a special little cottage, tucked away in an idyllic setting on sandy shores in the middle of nowhere, and holing up there for an honest-to-goodness writer's retreat. Too bad the pace of my life doesn't allow for such a luxury – at least not yet. So, for now, I take the quiet moments as they come my way, finding tranquil places to recharge my mind and creative spirit. One such spot, Oceanstone Seaside Resort, which came to me quite by surprise during a visit to Nova Scotia, has left me longing for East coast sunsets, seafood and sincerely nice folks.

Oceanstone Seaside Resort is located just forty minutes from Halifax and down the road from iconic Peggy's Cove. Since it is considered one of the most romantic and picturesque places to get married in Canada, I was expecting pretty and maybe a little contrived. What I found instead was a genuine tranquility and warm hospitality that is whatever you choose to make of it. Whether you want to hide away in a cozy cottage (as I did) or relax in a luxury suite; enjoy a candlelit restaurant dinner or experience a true East coast beach front sunset picnic - having it your way, and still having it all, is what you can expect at this hidden gem on Nova Scotia's south shore.

Named after the Canadian writer, I stayed in Grey Owl Cottage, which was beach front and well hidden amongst an angle of tall trees (right photo - fourth cottage from the left - the one you can barely see). With an ocean view that soothes the soul, and a wood stove that warms the toes, this cottage should be on the front of a postcard!

When the time comes and my life takes a pause, I would very much like to return to Oceanstone for a week or three, settle once again into Grey Owl Cottage, and catch up... with myself.

# The Travelling editor

when was the last time you saw  
something for the first time?

BY: TRACEY DRAKE



FOLLOW  
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A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground is dominated by golden sand dunes with distinct, parallel ridges and troughs, suggesting wind patterns. In the middle ground, several large, light-colored rock formations of various shapes and sizes stand prominently against the sky. The sky is a deep, clear blue, filled with a dense layer of small, white, fluffy clouds that create a textured, mottled appearance. The overall scene is bright and clear, capturing the natural beauty and isolation of the desert environment.

# EXPLORING BOTH SIDES OF EGYPT'S MAJESTIC WESTERN DESERT





# BEAUTY IN BLACK + WHITE

BY: KERI HARVEY

“Love is very simple” says specialist desert guide, Khaled Hafez, as he lies back on a tightly woven Bedouin carpet and sips sweet black tea, surrounded by the White Desert. He rubs his chin slowly and says: “A Bedouin man draws the outline of his foot on a rock and shows it to the woman he desires. If she places her foot inside his, her answer is yes and there’s marriage. Deserts, on the other hand, are far more complicated. You can hate them one day and fall in love with them the next. Then they get under your skin, and then you have to keep coming back, like I do.”

Those with no interest in museums claim they are boring, and the uninspired say the same of deserts, along with ‘there’s nothing but sand to see’. This, only because they haven’t taken time to feel the desert, and most definitely have never seen the unspeakable beauty that is Egypt’s Black and White deserts.

Standing on the roof of our desert loving vehicle, Bedouin driver Ali Ganawi ties down a crimson carpet and a short-legged table alongside jerry cans of fuel and water. “Yalla (let’s go),” he says, with a wide white smile to match his pure white robes and turban. Ali and Khaled are up front and I slip into the back seat for a magic carpet



ride through Egypt's great Western Desert; it incorporates the Black and White deserts, about half a dozen settled oases and thousands more square kilometers of Sahara.

The low slung oasis town of Bahariyya is in the rear view mirror, along with Bedouin children in layered clothing playing joyfully along the roadside. Within minutes we are surrounded by silky sand rolling out in a creamy carpet in all directions. About 80 million years ago we would be driving on the sea floor, now we are in a sand sea with inky blue skies overhead. The Sahara known as The Great Sand Sea - is an impressive nine million square kilometers, roughly the size of the USA, and stretches right across North Africa, coast to coast. It is also a place of extreme beauty and harshness, somewhere you never travel alone.

Ali was born in the oases of Bahariyya and has been driving these unmarked deserts for over 20 years. He laughs when I ask him if he's ever been lost. "Lost?" he says, raising his eyebrows in dismay, "you can't get lost if you can see the sun or the stars." He points to his head and says: "In here is a Bedouin compass."

This desert has no landmarks, no apparent permanent features whatsoever. Even the sand dunes shift six kilometers a year, so the sky is the only map there is and a good 'Bedouin compass'. With one hand on the wheel and the other animatedly explaining a story to Khaled in Arabic, Ali says desert driving relaxes him and the stillness brings him closer to himself. Life at home

**THE DESERT HAS  
NO LANDMARKS  
NO APPARENT PERMANENT FEATURES  
WHATSOEVER. EVEN THE SAND DUNES  
SHIFT SIX KILOMETERS A YEAR.**





with six children can be hectic. As we drive, the landscape takes on a scorched, sunburned look. The sand creamy sand is now black. When we stop and look closer, it's not the sand that's black but rather a covering of tiny smooth black pebbles that now camouflage the desert sand as far as you can see. "It looks like a big hand in the sky scattered the pebbles across the desert," says Khaled, "it's really amazing". The black is dolomite, and in between lie creamy boulders, which reveal flintstone when cracked open. The landscape is quite other worldly, a little like landing on the moon without leaving earth.

A little further along, Ali pulls off the track and Khaled beckons me to follow him.

**"Come and look," he says, motioning with his hand to follow him. "It's the entrance to heaven."**

And there, in the sandscape stands a perfect arch of natural crystal, dazzling like a daytime disco in the midday sun. Crystal Mountain is not a mountain but an outcrop, and can easily be missed if you don't know where to look. That's the thing about deserts. Their treasures are not always obvious, but revealed only to those who take time to discover them.

"Are you hungry?" asks Ali, as he hoists himself back onto the roof of the vehicle. He passes Khaled the table and carpet and a cooler box. An instant Bedouin picnic materializes, with a soft carpet to sit on and table too. A spread of flat bread, boiled eggs, fresh

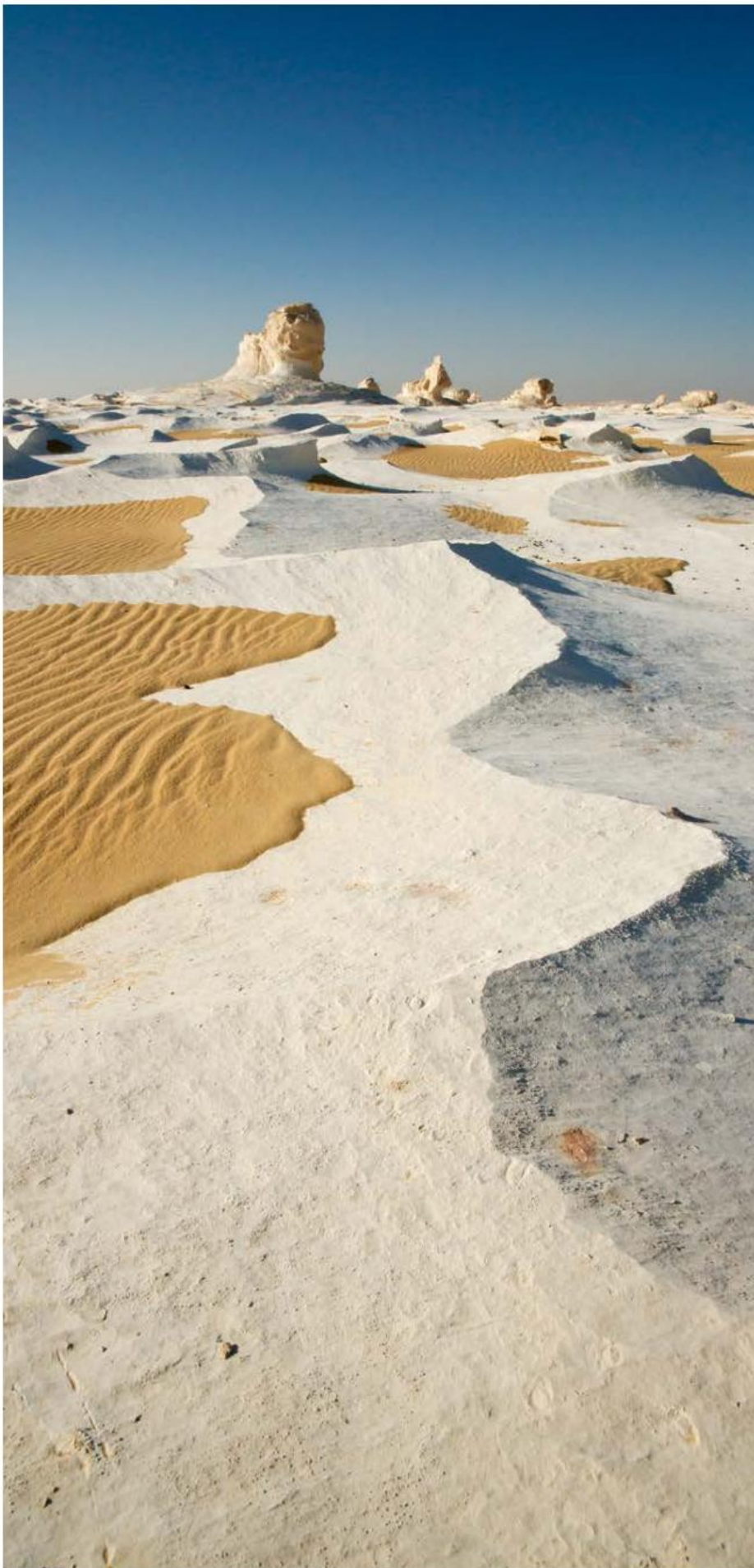


tomatoes and tahini is cool and delicious. In a heartbeat a small fire is burning too, for no meal is complete without at least three little glasses of sweet black tea. "It's Bedouin whisky," jokes Ali, while sipping glass after glass.

"Now prepare to be amazed," says Khaled as we continue on our way, swathed by sand in all directions.

The desertscape slowly begins to transform again. Sand turns honey hued and white limestone formations like icy termite mounds start to emerge. We turn off the main desert track and drive deeper into this field of strange white sculptures, all carefully chiseled by wind and time. They rise as towers from the desert floor, and then a skull appears





before us huge and ghostly - and then a sphinx and an eagle in static flight. Your imagination runs wild as this enchanted garden of sand and limestone, with giant mushrooms and fantastical stone creatures, slowly reveals itself for over 3,000 square kilometers. This is the White Desert, a playground for the mind. Khaled and Ali have been here countless times, but say every time is like the first.

Ali stops the vehicle and we get out and walk slowly amongst the astounding natural creations that resemble plants and animals, but have stood there for all time. It's perfectly silent as the afternoon light dusts the desert in pastel pinks and blues. We set up camp for the night on the soft sand floor, with little need to speak. It seems intrusive in such quiet. The landscape is so surreal, so breathtakingly beautiful, you want to focus on soaking it into your soul so you don't forget such places still exist on earth.

**Then the moon rises,  
washing the White Desert  
in pure enchantment.**

We lie on our backs in the cushioning sand alongside the dancing fire, and stare heavenwards as a million bright stars pierce the night sky with light. "Every time I come here, I fall in love," says Khaled softly, "and just wait for the purple sunrise in the morning. It looks like you are on another planet. That's why I keep coming back, the light here is natural magic" And then there is quiet as we fall asleep in the desert's million-star hotel, without need for a bed.

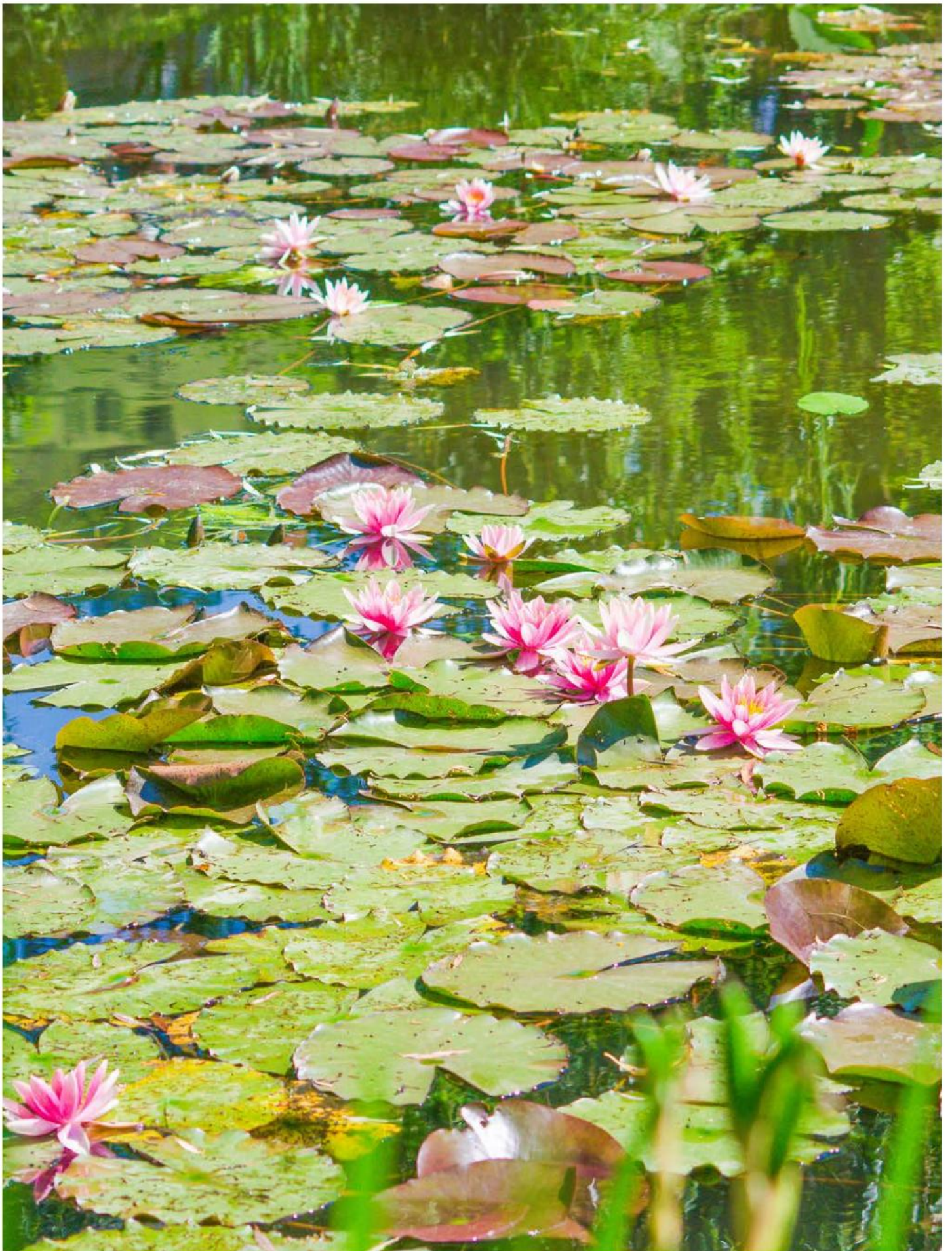


## **THE WHITE DESERT**

is the most well known desert in Egypt.  
The number of unearthly wind-carved  
formations is unequalled to any desert  
on the planet.











## VISITING FRANCE

# THE GARDEN THAT MONET BUILT

BY: GAIL KAVANAGH

**W**hen the revered French artist Claude Monet began painting en plein air in 1858 under the guidance of landscape painter Eugene Boudin, it was the beginning of a journey to a new kind of art. *En plein air* means in the open air, and this proved the perfect setting for Monet's impressionist style. His life was not a happy one in many respects, having experienced poverty, rejection as an artist, and the death of his beloved wife; yet his paintings were (are) full of light and joy.

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## I PERHAPS OWE HAVING BECOME A PAINTER TO FLOWERS

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In 1890, his growing fame as a landscape artist allowed him to buy a house in Giverny, where he lived with his second wife and their children until his death in 1926. Once he was able to own the house he had previously rented, Monet began working on a garden which became his greatest inspiration. Today this garden still flourishes and is a Mecca for art lovers and garden lovers alike.

The garden consists of two parts, the *clos normand* and the Japanese-inspired water garden. The former is where visitors find the flower beds which Monet planted to provide not only artistic inspiration, but also pleasure and beauty through the summer months. The main walk in the garden

is covered by iron arches which are bedecked by roses in the summer and paved with nasturtiums.

There is no formal order to the flower beds. Monet preferred the flowers grow in profusion as they pleased, and the result is a feast for the eyes. Monet confessed to spending far too much money on his garden, but never grudged a centime for the sheer pleasure that it brought him and his family.

Three years after moving into the house at Giverny, Monet bought a piece of land on the other side of the road and created the water garden. He had amassed a large collection of





Japanese prints, and wanted to recreate the serenity of a Japanese garden around a small rivulet called the Rui, which traversed his newly acquired land. He had a bridge built across the river and surrounded it with weeping willows, wisteria, and bamboo. The result

was so inspiring he created his “Japanese Bridge” series of paintings, showing the scene’s many moods.

Since 1980, Monet’s restored house has also been open to the public, and here you can see Monet’s collection of Japanese

prints, and the beautiful yellow dining room which looks as if the sun never stops shining in Giverny, France.

Just 75 km (46 miles) from Paris, the garden is open to visitors from April 1 to November 1 every year and you must call

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**THE RICHNESS I ACHIEVE  
COMES FROM NATURE,  
THE SOURCE OF MY INSPIRATION.**

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ahead to book a guided tour, which lasts 75 minutes. The best month to see Monet's flower garden in all its glory is in June, when everything is in bloom. For any visitor to France, not just art or garden lovers, a visit to Monet's Garden provides refreshment to the spirit, and beautiful vacation memories.

**More info at [giverny.org/monet](http://giverny.org/monet)**







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# CUSCO, PERU

## AND THE SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS







**"YOU MAY THINK OF ME AS A SNARKY BASTARD,  
but here I don't have a lot to say.  
The word *beautiful* really does not describe, does it?  
IT'S INADEQUATE."**

*Anthony Bourdain on Machu Picchu*









**T**ucked in the lush jungle near the Urubamba Valley, surrounded by the sacred heights of the Andes Mountains is the archaeological treasure-trove of Cusco. There are numerous romantic tales of the cities beginnings. Wondrous stories of magic, love, Children of the Sun and godly humans. While they make the city a little more whimsical the only known fact about Cusco's great legacy is that the founding Inca's (royals) and their great empire was one of the most highly advanced civilizations in human history. Many of the Inca's structures are still in use and tremendous condition after thousands of years, making Cusco not only a World Heritage Site, but also a land of endless inspiration for historians, archaeologists, architects and dreamers.

Cusco was merely the capital city of the massive Inca Empire, which at its height had eight million people under its control and stretched along the Andes from southern Colombia all the way to northern Argentina. Cusco was the sacred and ceremonial capital city where the direct blood descendants of the royal Incas resided along with all of the great treasure and wealth of the area at the time. Spanning approximately a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide the ancient city lines were built to resemble the sacred animal representation of earth, the puma, from an aerial perspective. The city was an ancient day nirvana, where all of nature's finest glories intertwined in a beautiful harmony under a land ruled by a brilliant and respected royal family - until the 16th century when they were overthrown by the Spanish who carried foreign disease and unfamiliar weapons.

Flying into Cusco will be an experience within itself. As you look down over the valley with the city and its beautiful burnt orange roofs you will understand why it was named Cusco (deriving from the word Quosqo) meaning The Naval of the World. It really is the center of its own realm at 11,000 feet above sea level making it one of the highest in the world. You will need to plan a few hours good rest upon arrival at your hotel; you can guarantee that your body will feel the severe elevation. The locals will often encourage you to sip on an ancient remedy called Mate de Coca to ward off the altitude sickness. Mate de Coca is a strong and very bitter tea made from the same lofty green leaves that cocaine is produced from.

## VISIT APRIL TO AUGUST

This will be right after the rainy season so flowers will be in bloom and the weather will be nice and warm during the day and cool at night because it's the Peruvian winter season.

## HOTELS IN CUSCO

The city offers an abundance of history themselves with many being former monasteries, dwellings of sacred women or palaces.



When you finally venture out into the cobble stone streets you will be struck by the beauty of its people with their long black hair, beaten feet padding in sandals, and colorful woven clothes. The sense of their community and the simplicity of their lives and their happiness is remarkable. The city is a unique combination of old and new. The Inca walls hold up ornate colonial buildings in which you'll find shops, cafes and fine restaurants offering cuy (guinea pig) and alpaca steaks. The combination of the Inca's imperial tastes and Spanish colonial pieces are very apparent and quite a striking and unique combination in the city.

There is no shortage of impressive sights and historical wonders to admire. The Plaza de Armas ('Square of the Warrior') is the heart of the city, also the best place to start your visit and get familiar with your surroundings. Enjoy a picnic on the lawn with splendid views of the grand Catedral and Iglesia de la Compañía de Jesús and watch the bustle of the area. The Plaza was at the precise center of the Inca Empire, which was called Tawantinsuyo, meaning The Four Corners of the Earth. It has been the most lively part of the city since it was built thousands of years ago.

Downhill from the plaza is the more modern part of the city, including the business district at Avenida El Sol, here you will also find the striking Qorikancha temple (considered THE attraction of Cusco). Tales say that the barren stone walls of Qorikancha, meaning 'Court of Gold', were once plated with gold and in the center was an enormous golden disc to reflect the sun and bask the temple in its holy rays. The gardens were filled with beautiful waterfalls and flowers all made from the rarest jewels.

Uphill from the Plaza de Armas are the older neighborhoods and their intricate pedestrian only walkways in the notable San Blas district. The streets are steep but an afternoon in San Blas is a must. It's the artisan, trendy neighborhood of the city with some of the best restaurants and finest galleries. To the left of the plaza towering above the city in the distance is Sacsayhuaman. While the ruins of Sacsayhuaman (locals pronounce this as "sexy human") are visible from the streets of Cusco you will need a half day trip to get there and properly enjoy. The ruins make up the head of the great puma of Cusco. Sacsayhuaman is the most obvious Inca structure standing, it was







constructed with some 20,000 men in the 1400's as a protective fortress for the city.

Spend at least two days in Cusco before venturing to the surrounding areas. The moment you depart the city you will feel the change from a cultural experience to a more spiritual and relaxing journey of self.

There are numerous small villages with spectacular historical sites throughout the Sacred Valley of the Incas on your way to Machu Picchu. Remember: the Sacred Valley was where the Inca emperors went to unwind, this should be a time of complete relaxation and total awe for you. Your first stop, about 33km out of Cusco, is the colorful town of Pisac with a market that can't be missed. Pisac is one of Peru's most charming towns. From Pisac catch a bus to Ollantaytambo (fondly called Olly by locals and lovers of the town) and explore the ancient ruins. Ollantaytambo is where those brave souls will head off on the Inca Trail, a four day trek to the base of Machu Picchu. For those more interested in enjoying the sights in a comfortable seat over a beverage, the train may be the best bet. But – those are your only two options, there are no roads. Either way you will end up in the boisterous cloud forest town of, Aguas Calientes at the base of the great Machu Picchu. Bus or walk to the top (takes about an hour). You have never seen a view until you have gazed off of Macchu Piccu.



Machu Picchu, The Lost City of the Incas, was discovered by explorers in 1911 – although the Peruvian residents kept its existence a very well hidden secret for several hundred years. Never found by the Spanish, it was untouched for thousands of years. What exactly the ruins on Macchu Picchu are is still debatable. The most common belief is that the city in the sky was an Inca emperor's country estate. Regardless, sitting atop Macchu Picchu with its godly views will be a deeply profound and spiritual experience.



Open yourself to the sights, tastes and sounds of Cusco and invite the growth and change into your life that winding through the Sacred Valley of Urubamba exploring its many wonders will offer. Cusco changes everyone, in one way or another, its color, vitality, simplicity, people and history will leave a wonderful mark on you forever and inspire your days to come with a new perspective.



## SUMMER TRAVEL FASHION

Wherever your beach destination takes you this summer, leave your cargo shorts and muumuus at home. Comfortable and fashionable are not mutually exclusive. Here is my his and her guide to doing it right this season - cocktails not included.

### **HAMPTON CHIC**

Hamptons are one part Americana, one part nautical and all summer sophistication. Remember, this is where New Yorkers go to play, so you've got to keep up with the Jones. Opt for classic white dresses for her and linen suits for him.

### **MIAMI MAMBO**

Miami is known for color, color, color so why not do the unexpected and go for anti-color instead. Just remember, with those hot late Latin nights, keep it sporty and cool with dressed-up shorts for him and feminine, sexy athleisure wear for her.

### **SEXY ST. BARTH'S**

Swimming in Champagne on one of the most exclusive islands in the world is where the sexy rich go to play - why don't you dress the part? For him and her, look for easy body con smart casuals.

### **ALOHA HAWAII**

Goodbye ubiquitous Hawaiian shirts, hello modern sexy florals! Flowers aren't the problem with this trend, how they are worn are, so choose wisely. Modern floral shirts for him and summery, flowy, floral summer dresses for her.

### **MAGICAL MUSTIQUE**

Opt for outfits that reflect the colors and culture of this intoxicating Caribbean getaway. Think color-block tops for him and diaphanous (thin and airy) dresses or skirts for her.



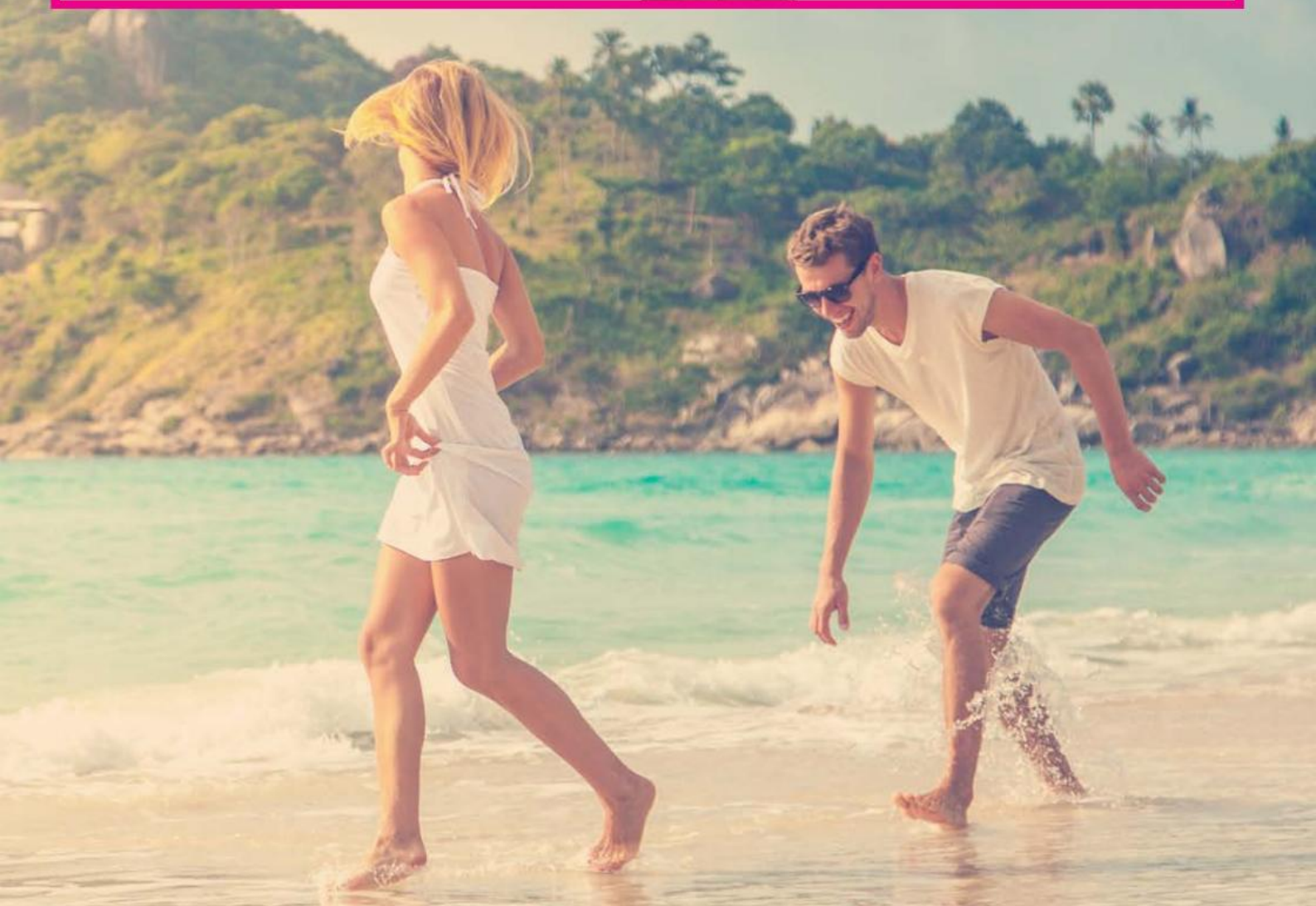


# *Eric Himel's* **LIFE + STYLE**



## **ERIC HIMEL ([erichimel.com](http://erichimel.com))**

is a widely known celebrity stylist, fashion expert and media personality. Himel attended Parson's School of Design and trained under Project Runway's Tim Gunn. Now based in Los Angeles, Himel's roster of celebrity clientele has included Jenny McCarthy, Giuliana Rancic, Pete Wentz, Gabby Douglas and more. Eric is best known for his signature Closet Purge™ and now offers Virtual Styling Sessions.



***LIFE'S A BEACH... BUT WHICH ONE?***




# Giraffe

Mano

BY: SHEILA M







Nairobi, Kenya - warmly nicknamed Green City in the Sun by locals - has a tremendous number of attractions that draw tourists from around the world yearly. This cosmopolitan hub offers a contemporary twist on Africa, with many of the modern comforts new age travelers are accustomed to.

If you're like me, dreams of Africa take place on rustic terrain with overgrown trees, wildlife and African culture. Set me outside the bustle of Kenyan city life and let me taste the more traditional side of Nairobi - of course, with a plush bed at the end of the day to sleep off the sore feet of adventure.

r  
MAY





Yes, in Nairobi you can have traditional and luxury, all it takes is a quick 20 kilometer jaunt out of the city, where, nestled in the more authentic African country side, is a wondrous vacation destination called Giraffe Manor.

Set on a pristine 12 acres of land, which is tucked away in a much larger 140 acres of giraffe sanctuary, is the manor, which was built in 1932 and has been declared one of Nairobi's most historical buildings. While Giraffe Manor has been updated with the finest amenities you could expect from any 5 star accommodation, the decor remains very reminiscent of the Europeans in East Africa during the 1930's. It has a lovely air of hominess, and the impeccably trained and dedicated staff will make your stay a truly unique African indulgence.

In 1974 the manor became home to Jock and Betty Leslie-Melville, whose adoration and passion for protecting the

Rothschild giraffe, inspired them to turn their property into a sanctuary for a herd of the magnificent creatures. Their work preserving this threatened species has been acknowledged worldwide, and their legacy has been appropriately named, Giraffe Manor.

While Jock and Betty are no longer at the manor it remains today, home to a herd of 8 Rothschild giraffes. They are first to arrive for breakfast and dinner time – and there is no denying these beautiful animals a bite of your scrumptious meals, they'll poke their heads right in the windows and eat out of your hand.

**The manor boasts 10 luxury suites, and the property has a maximum accommodation of 25 guests, creating a truly intimate and memorable experience. More info: [thesafaricollection.com](http://thesafaricollection.com)**





## WHAT TO DO:

1. Interact with one of the resident giraffes.
2. Spend an afternoon learning about the endangered Rothschild Giraffe at the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW) Giraffe Center. The AFEW (set up by the Leslie-Melvilles) continues to protect and nurture the Rothschild Giraffe.
3. Visit the David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage and adopt a Baby Elephant.
4. Visit the Karen Blixen museum, author of her own autobiographical book *Out of Africa*, now a famed film starring Meryl Streep as Blixen.
5. Enjoy a lavish spa experience at Giraffe Manor followed by afternoon tea on the terrace. Unwind over sprawling views of the Ngong Hills.
6. Take a day shopping trip into the city of Nairobi.
7. Have dinner in the manor's divine restaurant. It has been described as one of Nairobi's finest eateries.





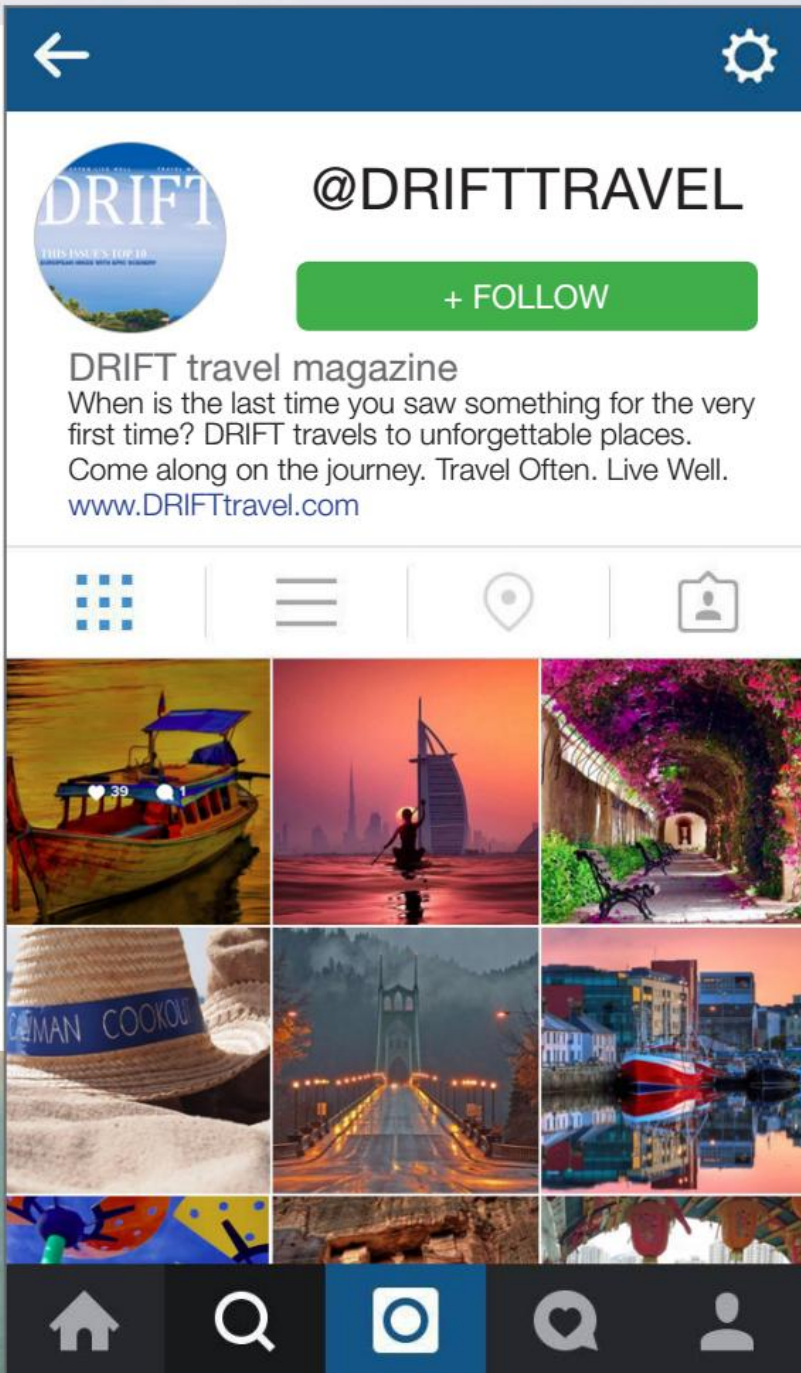


# #WHERE TONEXT

## 2018 WORLDWIDE POWDER GUIDE

It may look like summer but true powder freaks are already counting the days until the snow falls. Our first ever world guide to the best ski mountains - including the other important aspects of a great ski holiday - food, hotels, family activities and location. You will not want to miss this 30-page feature! Watch for our exclusive 2018 Powder Guide - coming soon to the Fall 2017 issue of DRIFT magazine.





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