

Jaunting

The Magazine of Recreational Travel

Lake Superior's National Park

Isle Royale

Summer in Mexico
Pike Place Market
Walking Tour of Minneapolis
India's Independence Day
Adventure in Zambia
Understanding Airport Pods

6



Lake Superior's National Park Isle Royale

By Debbie Stone

*Cabo and Punta
Mata*

Summer in Mexico

By Tad Negrete

28



88



Independence Day In India

Zambia Brings You Adventure

96



44



Finding Fish In Pike Place Market

By Paul Pence

A Walking Tour of *Minneapolis*

By Debbie Stone

66



112

Gear for Your Jaunt



Layover Resting in Airport Pods

114



Jaunting

The Magazine of Recreational Travel

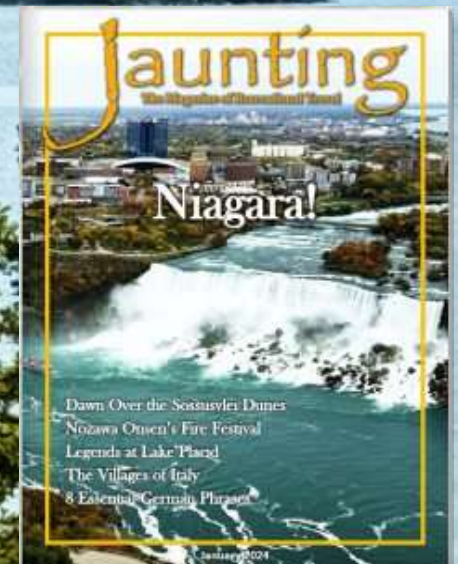
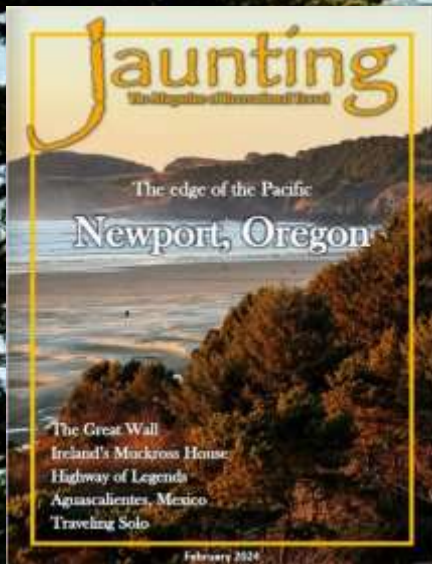
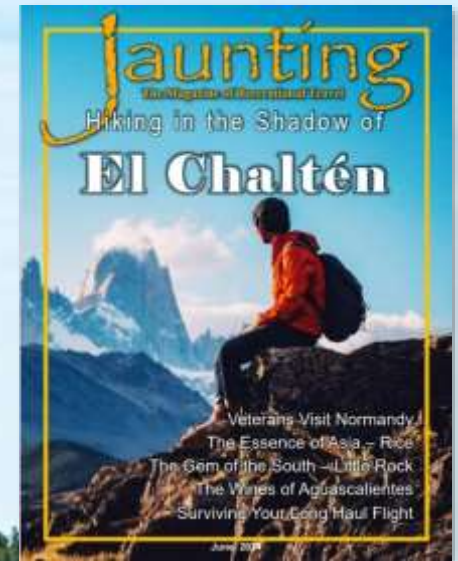
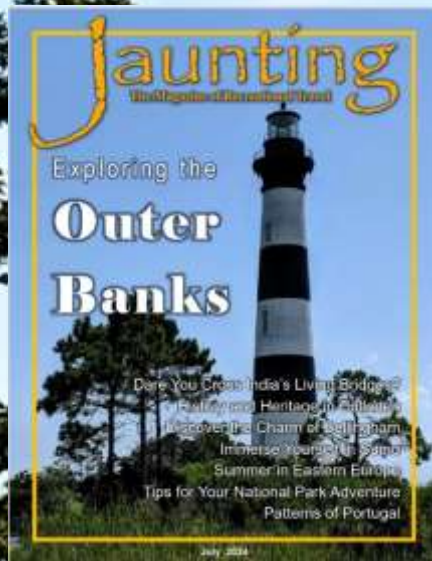
Jaunting Magazine
2 Barber Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886
jaunting.com
401.480.9355

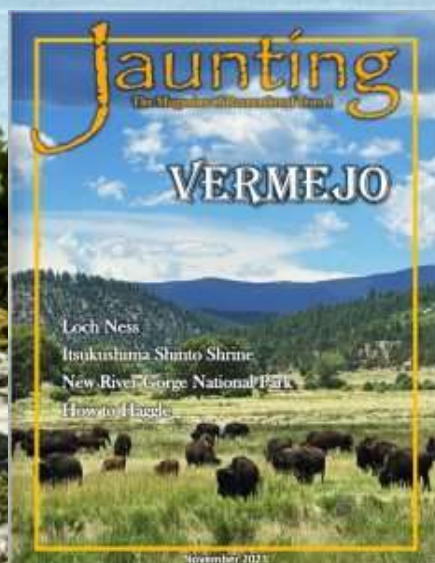
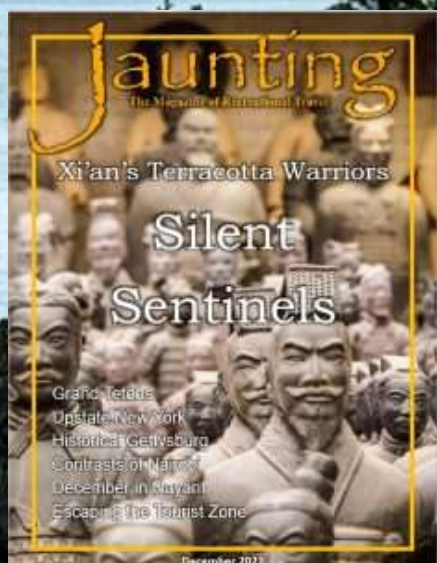
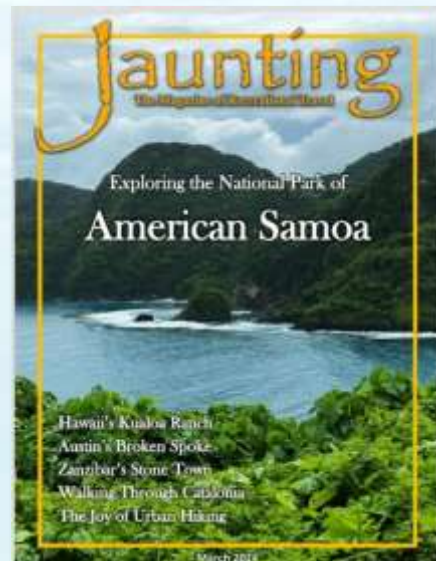
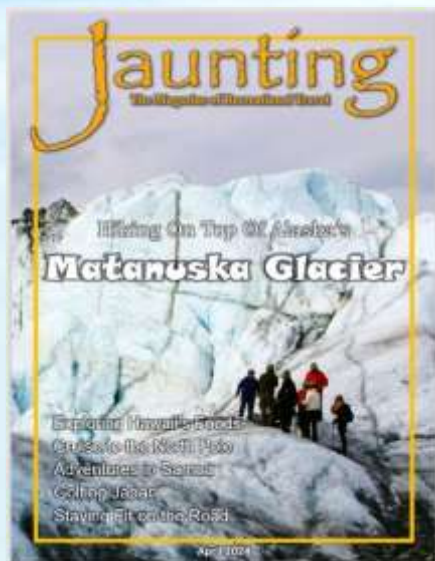
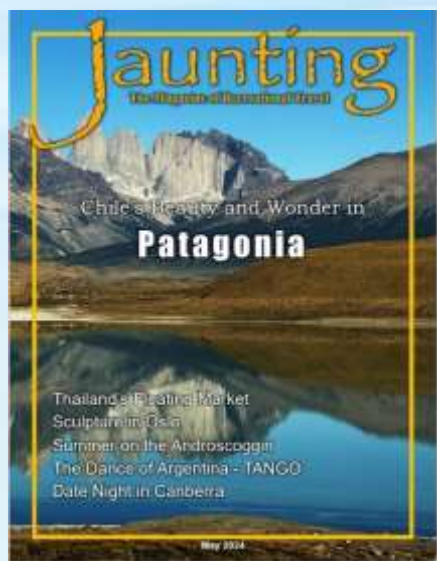
Managing Editor
Paul Pence

Stock Photography under Creative Commons, courtesy of Pixabay www.pixabay.com and Unsplash www.unsplash.com. The authors of some articles may have been hosted by hospitality industry providers.

All travel involves risk. Confirm directions and critical information before traveling. Be aware of health and other concerns.

Copyright © 2024 by
Amygis Publishing and
Jaunting





Discover the remote beauty and unique wilderness adventures awaiting at Isle Royale National Park, a hidden gem in Lake Superior.





Lake Superior's National Park

Isle Royale



Feature by
Debbie Stone

I

t's almost unheard of to be on a popular trail in a national park and only see a handful of people in the span of several hours. Most of the time, you have to share



Float Planes provide thrilling access and amazing views of Lake Superior and Isle Royale.

Previous - Grand Marais

nature's riches with the masses and it's often hard to find a quiet spot to contemplate your surroundings. At Michigan's Isle Royale National Park, however, you'll have plenty of space. In fact, you might wonder where all the people are.

Isle Royale is one of the least-visited national parks in the country, averaging twenty to thirty thousand visitors annually. By comparison, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most-visited national park in the system, receives over twelve million visitors. In Isle Royale's case, it's not due to a lack of beauty, but rather its remote location and limited visitation window (April 16-October 31).

Established as the nation's 25th national park in 1940 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Isle Royale sits in the northwestern portion of Lake Superior and preserves more than 130,000 acres of land designated as wilderness. The park consist of one large island surrounded by over 450 smaller islands and encompasses an area of 850 square miles. This includes submerged land, which extends four plus miles out into the largest freshwater lake in the world.

This destination is known for its rugged, picturesque landscape and has a strong American Indian, fishing, mining, maritime and logging history. It boasts a unique ecosystem that has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve.



The cold waters of Lake Superior basically act as a “barrier”, preventing wild-life from reaching the island, making it a naturally controlled environment. And it’s kept pristine by the limited number of visitors and its lengthy closure period.

Getting to Isle Royale takes effort. It’s eighteen miles off the coast of Minnesota and 56 miles from mainland Michigan, with no roads, no bridges, no permanent residences and not much contact with the rest of civilization. To reach the island, you can take a ferry or seaplane. Both operate out of northeast Minnesota, from Grand Portage or Grand Marais, or the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, from Houghton or Copper Harbor, during the months of May through September. You

can book a ticket to either of the park’s visitor center locations: Windigo on the west side or Rock Harbor, on the east.

The ferry is the most affordable way to visit the park, but depending on where you’re starting from and going to, the ride can take anywhere from two to six hours. The seaplane, on the other hand, takes a mere 45 minutes, but it’s costly, as you can expect.



Left – Ferry at the Boat Dock

Above – Boarding the seaplane in Grand Marais



My husband and I wanted to have as much time at the park as possible so we opted to take the seaplane from Grand Marais to Rock Harbor for our 3-night stay in June. From Minneapolis, where we first flew into, it's about a 4.5 hour drive to Grand Marais. The last half of the drive takes you along a very scenic road, Highway 61, known as Voyagers Highway.

You'll get lovely coastal views of Lake Superior and pass many state parks, public beaches and nature centers, where you can stretch your legs, gaze at waterfalls and visit iconic Split Rock Lighthouse.

Grand Marais is a charming harbor village with a notable art scene. And there's some delicious local restaurants, too, like the Angry Trout

and Fisherman's Daughter, where fresh seafood is the highlight. Dine al fresco on the patio and enjoy the coastal vibe.

The Grand Marais Airport must be the easiest airport I've ever flown out of – no waiting in line at security (the one employee there never checked our IDs), no checking a bag (the limit is 45 pounds per person for the seaplane, but no one bothered to weigh our bags) and parking is free.

I'm enamored with flying on seaplanes and like others I've taken in the past, this flight offered stunning views. You can see the coasts of Minnesota and Canada and you'll get a perspective of Lake Superior that gives you an idea of just how immense this body of water is! It's like a mini ocean, albeit a freshwater

one.

Wind coming over the mountains north of Grand Marais created initial turbulence, but once we leveled off, the flight was smooth. All too soon, the plane kissed the water for our landing in Tobin Harbor.

From there, it's a bit of a walk up a hill trail to the Rock Harbor Visitor Center, where you can get maps and info about the park, as well as pay the park admission fee. We just showed our America the Beautiful Annual Pass, which provides access to all national parks and federal recreation lands in the U.S. for \$80 a year (\$20 for those 62 and older). If you plan to visit several parks, the pass is the way to go. And the pass holder can take several people along at no extra charge.



After the visitor center, we headed to the Rock Harbor Lodge office to check in for our



stay. This is the only full-service lodging on the island, though there are also 36 established campgrounds throughout the park. The lodge is comprised of several wood frame buildings with a total of sixty rooms that can each accommodate four people.

They're basic and dated, but comfortable, with most necessities, though no hairdryers. The big plus is they all look out on the lake. The downside is that the walls are thin and it can get noisy. If you view the place more like a Motel 6 (expect for the price) than a lodge, your expectations will be about right.



There are also twenty Housekeeping Cabins available for rent that include kitchenettes and can each house up to six people.

With regards to food, there are two restaurants on site: Greenstone Grill and the Lighthouse. The Grill serves pizza, burgers, sandwiches, salads, snacks, coffee drinks and regional beer and wine via counter service. There's also several grab and go options if you're on the move. The food is what you might expect - edible, but not memorable. People tend to gather on the deck in the late afternoon to relax after hiking and sip a cold one.

The Lighthouse Restaurant next door offers a breakfast buffet in the morning and a regular sit-down style meal in the evening tended by wait-staff. Here the menu is a tad more sophisticated with options like Cast Iron Seared Great Lakes Walleye, Ale Battered Whitefish & Chips,

Chicken Picata and Grilled NY Steak. There's even fried cheese curds, a warm smoked whitefish dip and something called a Miner's



Above, Left - Rock Harbor Lodge

Previous - View from the seaplane.



Pasty. The latter is historically a British dish that looks like a calzone and tastes like a pot pie, filled with meat, veggies and potatoes or veggies only, and wrapped in a puff pastry-style baked dough. From what I hear, pasties are a beloved culinary tradition in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Though the offerings are a step up from the Grill, the food at the Lighthouse is just ok. The

issue for us when we ate there was that they were out of several items, including all salads, because they hadn't ordered enough lettuce, etc. and weren't getting more supplies (via the boat) for another few days.

Understanding the remoteness of this location, though, makes it easy to go with the flow when it comes to most things. I was just content knowing I could have



food to eat that I didn't have to prepare!

You can also find a small selection of groceries, freeze dried camping meals and bagged ice at the Dockside Store near the Visitor Center, along with a variety of sundries, some clothing items and souvenirs.

Hiking is naturally a big draw at the park and you'll be happy to hear there are 165 miles of trails.

A few lead right off from the lodge and visitor center at Rock Harbor. The others require a boat ride to transport you to different islands.

We did two hikes from the property: Suzy's Cave and the Stoll Memorial Trail to Scoville Point. Suzy's Cave is an inland sea arch, formed by wave action thousands of years ago when the lake water levels were higher. You'll meander through a

Welcome to the
Royale National Park.

Suzy's Cave.

The start of Stoll
Memorial Trail.

canopy of spruce, fir and birch, as you skirt the shoreline.

The Stoll Memorial Trail to Scoville Point is a figure eight-shaped path, where you'll experience a

wooded setting on the Tobin Harbor side and a rocky, exposed scene on the Rock Harbor side. At the end of the trail, both routes converge for the last half mile to climb the rocky face of Scoville Point. The views at the Point are sublime and you'll probably have the place to yourself. Along the way, look for wildlife. We spotted a ginormous sandhill crane sitting in a meadow and an eagle's nest with two eaglets being fed by one of their parents.





While on the subject of wildlife, the park is home to eighteen mammal species, with the moose being the largest of them. Odds are in your favor to see one or several of these animals on your hikes or in the woods surrounding the lodge property. We even spied one swimming in the lake.

Along with moose, there are wolves – the apex predator here – fox, beaver, mink, marten, bats and more. There's also a diversity of birds, amphibians and reptiles.



If you want to visit the other islands in the park, you'll need to book a boat to take you over there, or you can rent one and motor or paddle to your destination. The lodge offers boat tours, too, on the MV Sandy,

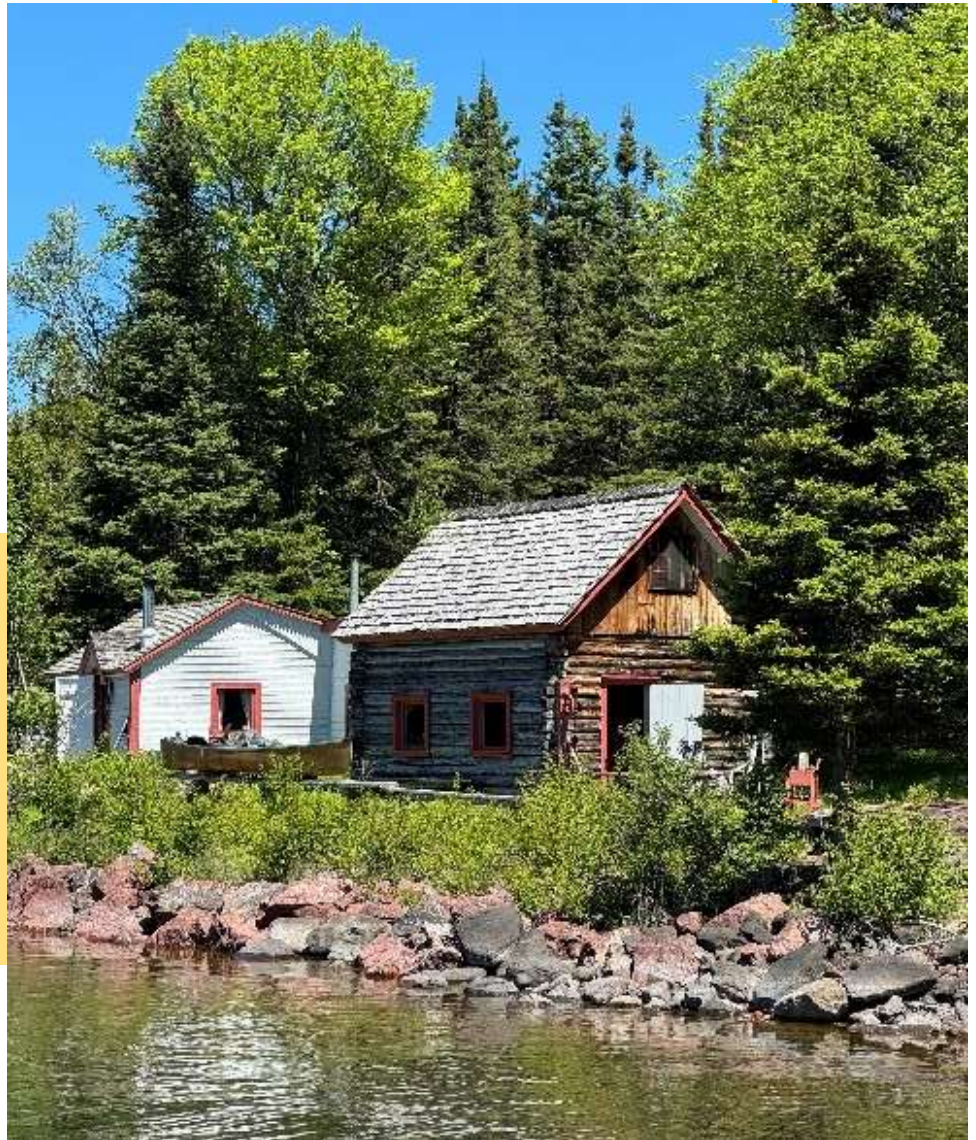
Sights along our hike include a huge sandhill crane, a bald eagle, and plenty of flora and mushrooms.



provided it's in service. You can choose from several trips that explore four different areas of the park, while hiking with an NPS guide. Unfortunately, the MV Sandy was delayed reaching Rock Harbor for the start of the

season, which was during our visit, so we decided to book a semi-private boat, which we shared with a few other visitors.

We chose to go to an island with some interesting attractions, including an historic



commercial fishery, a lighthouse and a moose and wolf research station. The ride over gave us a chance to get a glimpse of other islands and a taste of the vastness of this watery wonderland.

Edisen Fishery is

the most intact, surviving example of a small, family-operated commercial fishery in continuous use in the park. Named for its last fisherman, Pete Edisen, it was in operation from 1910-1975 and represents a once common lifestyle on Lake

Rock Harbor
Lighthouse, and the
Edisen Fishery site.



Superior. The camp structures include the main house, fish house and dock, some outbuildings and the Rock Harbor Lighthouse, just a short walk away.

Although no longer illuminated, the lighthouse dates back to 1855 and was the first of four lighthouses built at Isle Royale. It features a white, round, brick tower with a black lantern. The tower is attached to a keeper's house that now serves as a small, but excellent museum. The exhibit on shipwrecks was most interesting to me.

Another trail takes you to the Bangsund Cabin. The Bangsund family operated a fishery at this cabin in the 1940s and 50s until the arrival of the lampreys, which killed off the lake trout population. Jack Bangsund died

in the cabin in 1959 and the NPS subsequently granted permission to researchers to use the cabin for summer field operations of the wolf-moose study, which continues today.

Isle Royale's wolf and moose populations are known worldwide, as the longest predator and prey study conducted in the U.S. Moose first arrived on the island over a century ago after swimming from the mainland. They had decades of existence without predators, but wolves eventually came over a winter ice bridge to join them. The lives and deaths of these two species are isolated and intertwined on the island, making this location the ideal place for a study of predator and prey interaction.

One name has been

Dr. Rolf Peterson and his wife Candy welcome visitors to historic Bangsund Cabin.

linked to this project since the early 1970s - Dr. Rolf Peterson. Peterson is considered a world authority on wolves and moose. And he and his wife Candy have spent the past fifty plus summers at the cabin conducting the study and coordinating

teams of volunteers who hike the island in search of moose skulls. Since the study began, over 5,000 moose skulls have been recovered on Isle Royale.

Visitors are welcome to Bangsund Cabin and its famed boneyard. The bones are



everywhere outside, on tables and benches, with various signs indicating interesting facts. One reads, “When they get old, moose exhibit arthritis, periodontal disease, osteoporosis. Sound familiar?” Another one speaks to a moose’s antlers and says, “Yes, they grow new ones every year!”

The massive bull moose skulls are towards the back of the area, where Candy requested us to go and pay our respects to them. One of them has a notation next to it that’s written, “World Oldest Recorded Bull Moose (17 years old).”

Candy invited my husband and I into the cabin and we spoke about the study and how the collection of bones helps with research on understanding moose death on



Isle Royale. Candy also shared with us some of the many memories her family shared in this small cabin. She and Rolf raised their two sons here during the warmer months.

Wandering moose
and moose skulls on
the island.



All photos by Debbie
Stone

Jaunting
The Magazine of Recreational Travel

Meeting Candy and later Rolf was one of the highlights of our trip.

The rewards are well worth the effort

involved in reaching Isle Royale. It's a special place, where you can immerse yourself in a pristine wilderness and appreciate Mother Nature's work at her finest. You'll go home with many memories and photos... and definitely a few mosquito bites, too! The mosquito has actually been coined the unofficial state bird of Michigan. Locals like to tell you these pesky creatures can get to be the size of a seagull! Just be prepared to wear long pants, long-sleeve shirts and long socks, use repellent or bug spray, and have mosquito netting to protect your head and neck. It's the Isle Royale fashion statement!

For more information

- www.nps.gov/isro

August Festivals

Elvis Week: Memphis, USA

La Tomatina: Buñol, Spain

Notting Hill Carnival: London, UK

Hungry Ghost Festival: China

Burning Man: Nevada, USA

Edinburgh Fringe Festival: Scotland

Lollapalooza: Chicago, USA

Rock en Seine: Paris, France

Sziget Festival: Budapest, Hungary

Venice International Film Festival:

Venice, Italy

Explore the luxurious tranquility of Punta Mita and the vibrant nightlife of Cabo San Lucas in this ultimate guide to Mexican summer getaways.







Punta Mita and Cabo San Lucas, Summer in Mexico

Feature by
Tad Negrete

M

exico will always have a special place in my heart. It's where my family is from, so part of me will always call it home.

Mexico has so many beautiful places that it's

hard to narrow down. Everybody has their



Previous - Views from the deck at Cabo San Lucas. Photo by Tad Negrete.

Cabo is one of the best places in the world for

opinions on the best places to visit for an unforgettable summer getaway, but in all the times I've been lucky enough to travel throughout this country, two destinations

really stand out as must-visits for any traveler: Punta Mita and Cabo San Lucas.

The people, the vibes, and the whole

experience of these two places just keep calling back to me. In Punta Mita, you get this

exclusive yet laid-back luxury vibe that makes you feel like you've escaped to your own secluded paradise. Then you've got Cabo on the other end of the spectrum — a high-energy, party-all-night kind of scene perfect for those looking to dive into the heart of Mexican nightlife.

However, what really draws me in every single time are the extraordinary beaches, mouth-watering cuisine, and just overall infectious energy pulsing through both Punta Mita and Cabo.

These two summer hotspots have their own unique personalities, yet they share this irresistible spirit that'll have you dreaming about your return before you even leave.



Punta Mita

If you're seeking a luxurious yet blissfully laid-back summer retreat, look no further than the unique experience of Punta Mita. This under-the-radar gem located on an ultra-posh 1,500-acre private peninsula has gained a loyal following among celebrities as well as those searching for an off-the-beaten-path Mexican paradise and is home to some of Mexico's ritziest resorts and villas.

Don't let all the glitz and glamor fool you. Despite hosting these uber-fancy sub-communities, Punta Mita has managed to retain its laid-back spirit and rustic Mexican charm. Nestled on the north end of that picture-perfect Banderas Bay in Nayarit, just a quick 10-mile hike from Puerto Vallarta, it feels like your



own secluded paradise away from the hustle and bustle of more populated areas.

What I love about Punta Mita is the laid-back vibe. I come here to chill, reset, and check myself spiritually and emotionally. I'm able to recharge and just forget about life for a minute, making it the place to truly take a vacation from everything. The swaying palms, sandy streets, and friendly smiles set the tone for a blissfully

Left - Soft sand beaches at Cabo are calling.

Above - Punta Mita has become a destination for the young and beautiful.

relaxing escape.

Punta Mita's true crown jewel lies in its stunning beaches with sugary white sands and brilliant turquoise waters. The best spots, like El Anclote and La Lancha, offer a tranquil oasis to swim, sunbathe, and watch epic sunsets. Adventurous types can explore hidden coves and hiking trails winding through lush jungles.

From posh beachfront resorts like the Four Seasons to intimate boutique hotels and luxury rental villas, Punta Mita caters to every taste. Many offer residential-style accommodations perfect for groups or extended stays, but you can also opt for a villa with a private pool and full kitchen to embrace the laid-back local lifestyle.



Punta Mita may be small, but its culinary offerings are mighty. Casual beachside taquerías and palapa-thatched restaurants specialize in freshly caught seafood and other Mexican staples, but you'll also find innovative eateries helmed by celebrity chefs dishing up world-class global cuisine.



Punta Mita is famous for its stunning scenery.

Don't miss sipping cocktails at stylish beach clubs as the sun dips below the horizon.

With its stunning natural scenery, chic accommodations, mouth-watering cuisine, and palpable carefree energy, Punta Mita offers the ultimate summer escape for any traveler. Once you

experience this special place's mesmerizing beauty and vibrant culture, you'll find yourself dreaming about your return.

What's amazing about Punta Mita is that it's entirely gated. While the four luxury resorts dominate the area, smaller condos and villas

The beaches of Cabo San Lucas are great, but don't forget to experience the town, the people, and the foods!

Beow - Take a boat ride to Los Arches

accommodate any traveler's budget. What I love the most about Punta Mita are the people — they keep bringing me back every time!

Cabo San Lucas

For those seeking a summer getaway filled with constant energy and nonstop excitement, Cabo San Lucas's electric party hub delivers in full force. This high-spirited

destination at the tip of the Baja Peninsula is where the thrills don't stop when the sun goes down.

By day, Cabo excites with its dramatic El Arco rock formation, beautiful Lover's Beach, and many water sports like snorkeling, diving, sportfishing, and surfing. Embark on a marine safari to swim with dolphins or cruise the waters on a sunset sailing excursion.

Even though I'm mostly a homebody who likes to travel, I deeply enjoy Cabo's nightlife. The little beach town wakes up when the sun goes down. From sleek beach clubs





to lively open-air lounges, you'll find every type of venue for sipping craft cocktails, dancing to live music, and reveling with fun-loving crowds.

Since Cabo has many tourists throughout the year, its food is top-notch. And they try to bring all the flavors from Mexico to accommodate everyone's tastes. For an authentic experience, hit local taco stands and lively cantinas, or indulge at upscale eateries and trendy rooftop bars with jaw-dropping ocean views.

Luxurious beachfront resorts, charming



boutique hotels, or lavish villas — Cabo offers exceptional accommodations for every taste and budget. Many properties provide direct beach access and lively pool

Put Cabo San Lucas and Punta Mata on your vacation wish list.

scenes to embrace the full Cabo spirit.

With its beautiful shores, thrilling outdoor pursuits, electric nightlife, delicious culinary scene, and lively atmosphere, Cabo San Lucas creates the ultimate summer playground for adventure-seekers. This vibrant destination promises an unforgettable getaway filled with endless fun in the sun.

More importantly, it's the place for whale watching. If you've never experienced whale watching before, Cabo is the place to be between December and April. Unlike some other places I've visited, you're guaranteed to see them.

Just thinking about the warm, azure waters, powdery white sands, mouthwatering cuisine, and infectious energy pulsing through both





these spots makes me want to book a flight immediately. From soaking up the boho-chic atmosphere and celeb-favored haunts of Punta Mita to diving head-first into the thrilling adventures and wild nightlife of Cabo, summer in Mexico doesn't get any better.

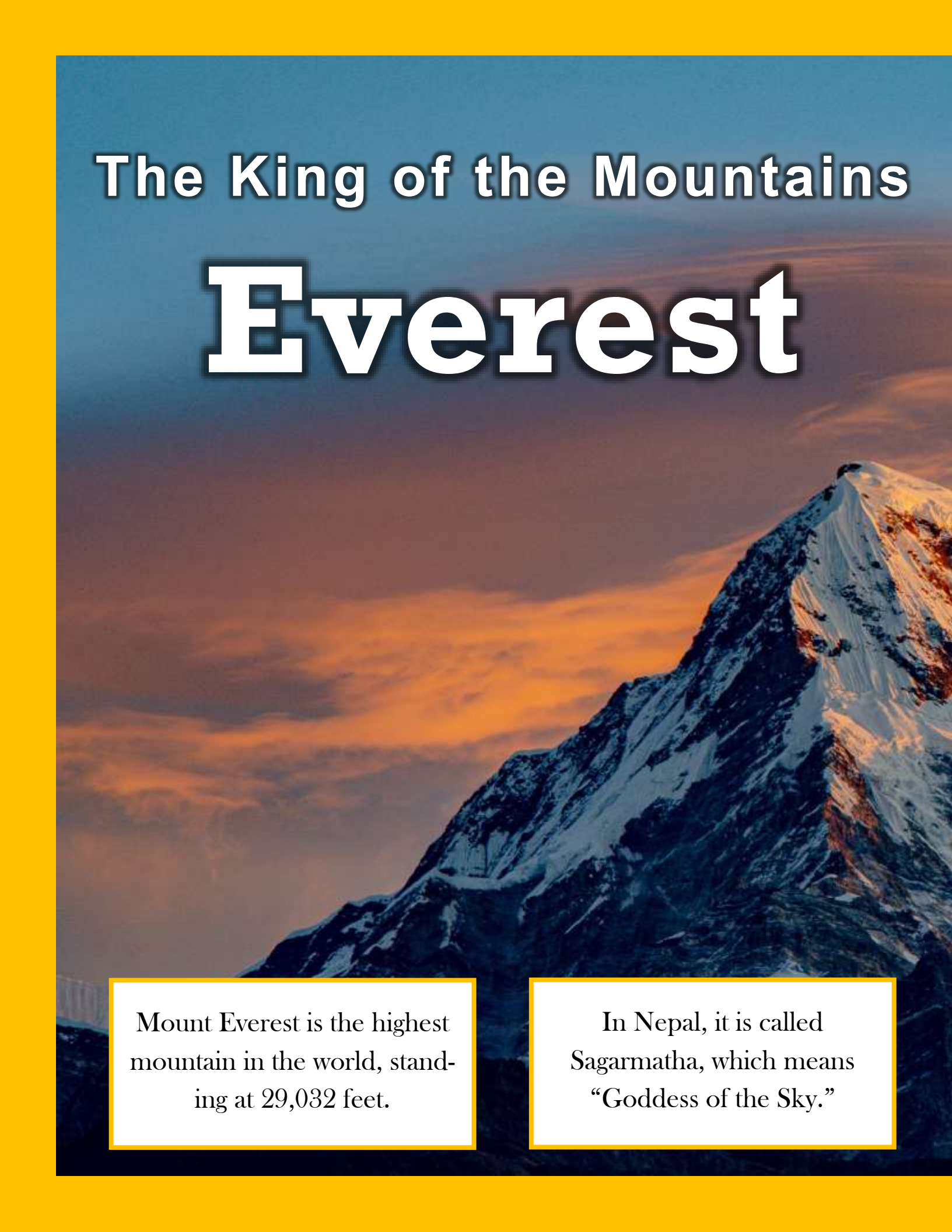
So what are you waiting for? Get your bathing suits, book a trip, and practice your Spanish! These two

destinations have carved out a permanent spot on my yearly travel list — and after you experience their magic for yourself, they'll forever be at the top of yours, too.

Lánzate a la aven

For more information

- puntamita.com
- visitloscabos.travel
- fourseasons.com/puntamita/

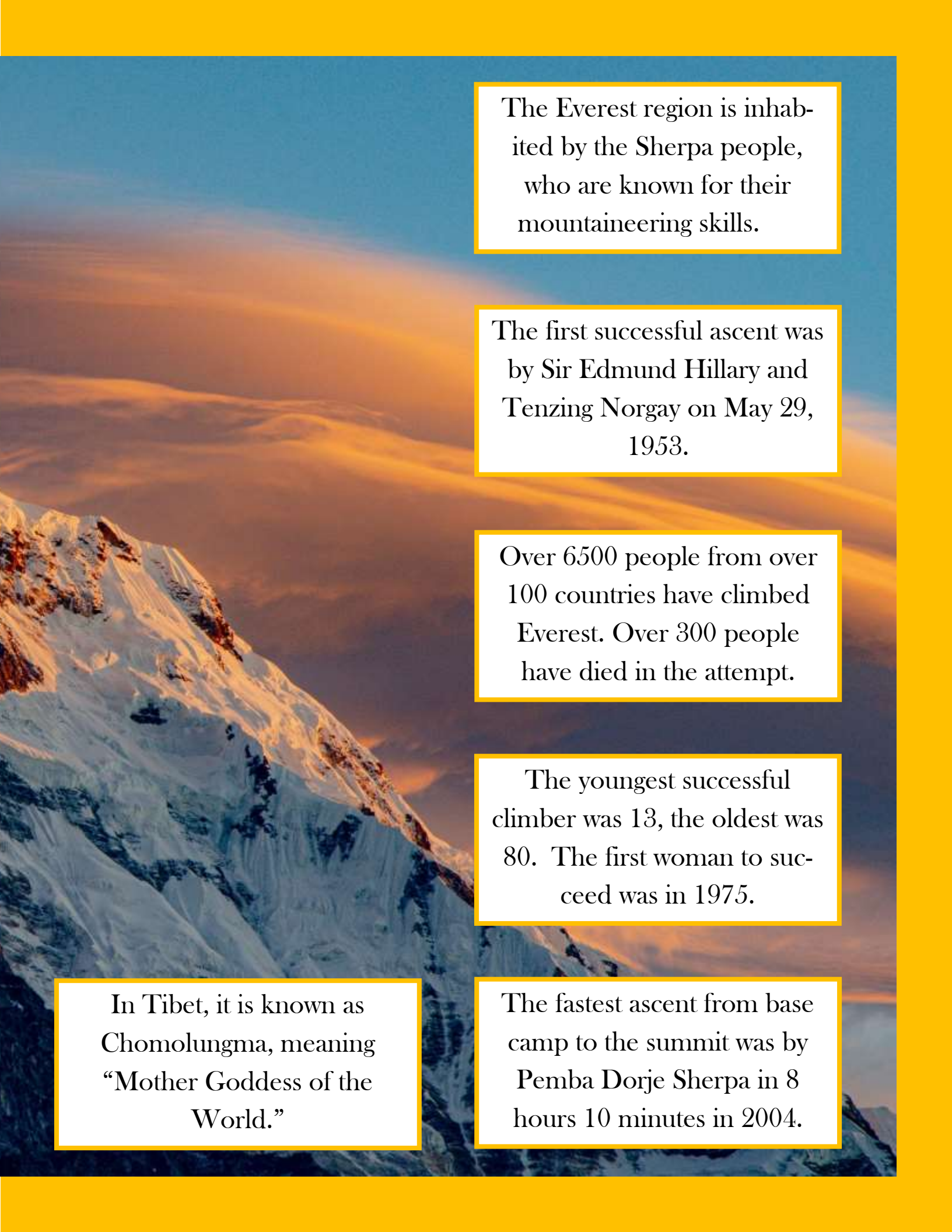


The King of the Mountains

Everest

Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world, standing at 29,032 feet.

In Nepal, it is called Sagarmatha, which means “Goddess of the Sky.”



The Everest region is inhabited by the Sherpa people, who are known for their mountaineering skills.

The first successful ascent was by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay on May 29, 1953.

Over 6500 people from over 100 countries have climbed Everest. Over 300 people have died in the attempt.

The youngest successful climber was 13, the oldest was 80. The first woman to succeed was in 1975.

In Tibet, it is known as Chomolungma, meaning “Mother Goddess of the World.”

The fastest ascent from base camp to the summit was by Pemba Dorje Sherpa in 8 hours 10 minutes in 2004.







Dive into the bustling energy and seafood delights of Seattle's iconic Pike Place Market, where history and flavor meet.

PUBLIC
MARKET
CENTER



MEET THE PROD

FARMERS





**Searching for the Famous
Flying Fish in**

Seattle's Pike Place Market

Feature by
Paul Pence

S

Seattle's Pike Place Market is more than just a shopping destination; it's a historic landmark teeming with vibrant life and



diverse experiences. Recently, my wife and I had the opportunity to explore this iconic market, and while our visit didn't include any high-octane adventures – it's not like hiking on an Alaskan glacier or horseback riding in the

Texas Hill Country – exploring the market was still an adventure of its own.

We set out in search of the famous flying fish. Or, more specifically, I set out in search of the flying fish, my wife hadn't heard of them and I wanted it to be a surprise for her.

If you've ever heard of Pike Place Market, then you've almost certainly heard about the flying fish. I guess you could call it "flinging fish", but that's not as exciting.

The Pike Place Market tradition of

flinging fish began as a practical solution for the fishmongers, who started tossing fish to each other to expedite filling orders. It quickly evolved into a lively show that attracts crowds of tourists and locals alike.

Within the Pike Place Fish Market, you'll hear energetic shouts and see fish being tossed with impressive skill. The fishmongers, dressed in orange aprons and rubber boots, catch and throw large fish, typically salmon or halibut, which can weigh over 20 pounds. Visitors can often join in, creating fun photo ops!

But while I could find Pike Place Market without problem -- it's perched on the edge of Seattle's downtown overlooking the Elliot Bay waterfront -- I didn't know



how to find the fish market. And since I couldn't ask for directions to the fish market without ruining the surprise, the only thing to do is to wander and explore.

So we wandered and explored, discovering Pike Place Market along the way.

We parked a few blocks away of 5th Avenue, largely because we didn't know that Pike Place Market had its own parking garage. But even if we had known, we are willing to walk a few blocks to save a couple of dollars. That was okay, because we also had the chance to pop into a couple of stores between parking and the market (as though 500 shops in the Market wasn't enough).

Perhaps the best



example of Pike Place being a farmers' market is the flower stalls. Summer-time is dahlia season and dahlias flourish in Seattle's climate, making them dominant in the flower stalls. Dahlias come in a



huge variety of colors and shapes, freely crossbreeding to create even more variety, creating a visual feast that could rival any botanical garden.

But flowers seem to love Seattle summer, since the dahlias were just part o the amazing array of flowers on display.

Each vendor proudly displayed meticulously arranged blossoms, showcasing the incredible artistry and care that goes into their work.

Having a flight ahead of us, we had to pass on the blooms, so continued shopping, while I secretly kept an eye out for the fish market. Baked goods. Pasta. Handicrafts. Vegetables. Food trucks.

Rachel's Ginger Beer, a vibrant fixture within Pike Place Market,



offered us an array of artisanal ginger beers. The shop boasts a lineup of handcrafted sodas made from fresh ingredients and natural flavors. They whip up all their ginger beers right there, using fresh, local ingredients. The result? A crisp, refreshing drink that keeps people coming back.

The shop itself is bright and cheerful, matching the lively vibe of Pike Place. Customers can choose from a variety of ginger beer flavors, ranging from classic ginger to seasonal specialties like blood orange and pineapple. Beyond their flagship beverages, Rachel's Ginger Beer also offers innovative cocktails crafted with their signature sodas, providing a unique twist on traditional drinks.

We found Market



Spice, renowned for its aromatic blends of teas and spices, drawing us in with its rich history and enticing scents. Uli's Famous Sausage tempted us with its delicious array of gourmet sausages, all made with local ingredients and perfect seasoning. A must for meat lovers!. Le Panier French Bakery wowed us with fresh-



baked French pastries and breads, showing off traditional French baking right in the heart of the market.

We discovered the very first Starbucks coffee shop, in the building across the street from the market. Well, technically

the market is more than just the one building. It's actually a complex of buildings, at times connecting in unexpected ways, at times separated. Contrary to my expectations of a simple marketplace, Pike Place revealed multiple levels and





winding paths that seemed to lead to hidden treasures around every corner. This complexity added a sense of adventure, encouraging exploration and discovery at every turn.

Finding that fish market without asking for

directions was going to be harder than I expected.

We found two brass piggy bank sculptures, "Billie" and "Rachel" -- the size of real pigs. Rachel, named after a real pig who won a blue ribbon at the Island County Fair, weighs 550 pounds and



has been under the big red letter Public Market sign since the 1980's. Billie was installed in 2011. They help raise funds for

the Market Foundation.

By the way, the Market Foundation is a nonprofit that's been around since 1982, helping the community with a food bank, senior center, preschool, and medical clinic. They make sure Pike Place Market is a place for everyone, not just shoppers and tourists.

We also found the infamous Gum Wall in Post Alley -- a quirky and unexpected find. This peculiar attraction, where visitors contribute their chewed gum to a continuously evolving, technicolor mosaic, adds a unique, if somewhat sticky and perhaps downright gross charm to the market's eclectic atmosphere.

We wandered out onto the deck





overlooking Elliott Bay. The stunning views of Elliott Bay offered a serene counterpoint to the bustling stalls. The sight of ferries gliding across the water, framed by the distant Olympic Mountains, provided a picturesque backdrop that captured

the essence of Seattle's maritime heritage.

We found crafts and t-shirts, and a vendor selling piggy banks. Plenty of restaurants.

Among the restaurants we found Pike Place Chowder, renowned



among seafood lovers, especially those seeking the perfect bowl of chowder. The star of the menu is undoubtedly the New England Clam Chowder, a classic and award-winning dish made with tender clams, bacon, and a perfectly balanced creamy broth.

However, the menu's variety, including the luxurious Seafood Bisque, the smoky and flavorful Smoked Salmon Chowder, and the lighter Manhattan Style Chowder, ensures every visit offers something new and delicious. Beyond chowders, seafood rolls and other specialties provide a comprehensive seafood dining experience.

The atmosphere is cozy, filled with the aroma of simmering chowders, with limited seating, so expect to sit on a stool when



you savor your meal.

The Pink Door offers a unique dining experience with its Italian-American cuisine, live entertainment, and stunning rooftop views of Elliott Bay. At Matt's in the Market, diners enjoy a seasonal menu of fresh, local ingredients, all while taking in intimate views of Pike Place Market from the upstairs dining room. Beecher's Handmade Cheese not only offers delicious mac and cheese and grilled cheese



sandwiches but also allows visitors to watch the cheesemaking process right on site. The Crumpet Shop delights patrons with its variety of sweet and savory crumpets, paired with a selection of fine teas in a charming and cozy atmosphere.

Throughout the outdoor stretches of the market, street performers have designated "busker" locations, so on weekends and other busy days you can expect to see musicians and jugglers and other entertainers at work as you shop.

But still, no fish market with flying fish.

Finally, I had to tell my wife I wanted to find the fish market, to which she asked why I'd want a fish. After a little stammering and still trying to hide the real reason, we

worked out that there was, indeed, a fish market right near Rachel the Pig and the Public Market sign with the clock. (There was more than one Public Market sign.)

We had passed by Pike Place Fish Company multiple times there, and City Fish just at the beginning of the farmers' market too, and I had been so distracted by all of the shops and amazing things to see.

It was also different than I had expected. I expected an industrial-scale operations with fishing boats pulling up to the wharfs, longshoremen and heavy equipment unloading the catch, giant crates of salmon and halibut and oysters and spotted prawns and geoduck clams and rockfish being shipped off to seafood lovers everywhere. I had



imagined such an operation had to be on the market's unseen lower levels that somehow reached out to the shoreline.

Instead, I found City Fish Company to be compact and efficiently organized to maximize space. The front of the stall features large, slanted ice beds showcasing an array of fresh seafood. They displayed glistening salmon fillets, whole fish, crabs, clams, and other

seafood delights neatly arranged, making it easy for customers to browse and select their purchases. Above the ice beds, there are signs indicating the types of seafood available, often

with handwritten notes about the catch of the day or special offers.

Behind the ice beds, the staff work diligently, filleting fish, preparing orders, and interacting with customers. The back wall of the stall is lined with shelves and hooks holding various tools, packaging materials, and additional seafood products. The overall setup is designed to be both functional and visually appealing, ensuring that the seafood remains the star of the show.

The Pike Place Fish



Market was similar in scale and arrangement, but it was here that the fishmongers have turned transferring fish into a performance art.

Ordering a whole salmon at Pike Place Fish Market is not just a transaction; it's an experience. As you place your order, the fishmongers spring into action. One of them will call out your order loudly, announcing the type of fish and any specific instructions, such as "whole salmon for filleting!"

The real fun starts when the fishmongers prepare to toss the salmon. With a practiced hand, one of the staff members grabs the fish and, with a loud shout of "Fish in the air!" or "One salmon, flying!", hurls it across the stall to another fishmonger. The crowd



around the stall often gasps and cheers, adding to the lively atmosphere.

With a satisfying slap of the fish landing perfectly in the hands of the receiving fishmonger, he catches it with skill and flair, sometimes adding a bit of showmanship with a dramatic catch or a playful spin, feeding off the applause and cheers of the onlookers.

The fish is then quickly and expertly prepared according to your



specifications, whether that means filleting, cleaning, or packaging it for travel.

Throughout the process, the fishmongers

engage with the crowd, cracking jokes, sharing stories, and sometimes even inviting customers to participate in the fish toss. You might hear them shout “Heads up!” to alert everyone before a fish is thrown or “On the line!” to indicate an order is ready for pickup. This interaction makes the experience memorable and fun for everyone involved.

Once the fish is prepared, it’s handed over to you, often with a friendly smile and a few cooking



tips. The entire process, from order to completion, is a blend of efficiency and entertainment, showcasing the fishmongers' expertise and their commitment to making each visit special.

The atmosphere at Pike Place Fish Market is electric, with the sounds of laughter, cheers, and the occasional splash of water as fish are tossed and caught. It's a unique blend of commerce and performance, making it a must-see attraction in Seattle.

But we had spent the day gawking at arts and crafts and flowers and books and pig sculptures and the bay outside. It was past 5pm and Pike Place Fish Market was closed for the day.

Alas, no fish flinging... er... flying fish...

So I settled for a nice dinner of fish and chips at Jack's Fish Spot and promised myself to make it back to see the flying fish in person on our next visit to the area.

So if you find yourself in Seattle, plan on spending a good part of a day exploring Pike Place Market's shops, taking selfies with the brass piggy banks, being entertained by the buskers, and, if your timing is right, laughing at the fish mongers and the flying fish.

For more information

- pikeplacemarket.org
- pikeplacefish.com
- thepinkdoor.com
- marketspice.com
- lepanier.com
- www.cityfish.com

Photos courtesy of the Pike Place Market Foundation, whose work extends beyond the market and into the community.

The World's Biggest Ferris Wheels





- **Ain Dubai**, Dubai, United Arab Emirates: 250 meters (820 feet)
- **High Roller**, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA: 167.6 meters (550 feet)
- **Singapore Flyer**, Singapore: 165 meters (541 feet)
- **Star of Nanchang**, Nanchang, China: 160 meters (525 feet)
- **Bailang River Bridge Ferris Wheel**, Weifang, China: 145 meters (476 feet)
- **Moscow Sun Ferris Wheel**, Moscow, Russia: 140 meters (460 feet)
- **London Eye**, London, England: 135 meters (443 feet)
- **Bay Glory**, Shenzhen, China: 128 meters (420 feet)
- **Sky Dream**, Taichung, Taiwan: 126 meters (413 feet)
- **Redhorse Osaka Wheel**, Osaka, Japan: 123 meters

Image by Copilot

Embark on a captivating walking tour of Minneapolis, uncovering its rich history, cultural landmarks, and scenic urban landscapes.







**Amazing Art and
Architecture**

Walking in Minneapolis

Feature by

Debbie Stone

W

alking has always been my go-to mode of exploration when I visit a new city. Not only do I get a feel of a destination's vibe



City Hall and courthouse

Previous – The mighty
Mississippi as it flows
through Minneapolis.

and see its attractions, but I also get the additional bonus of exercise. And when I opt for a guided tour, it's the trifecta!

Below – Downtown.

Right – Minneapolis City & Skyway Tours owner and guide Jessica Schugel.

Recently, I was in Minneapolis and wanted to learn more about the town, as my once and only previous visit here was eons ago. And I had little recollection of the

place other than attending a show at the famed Guthrie Theater.

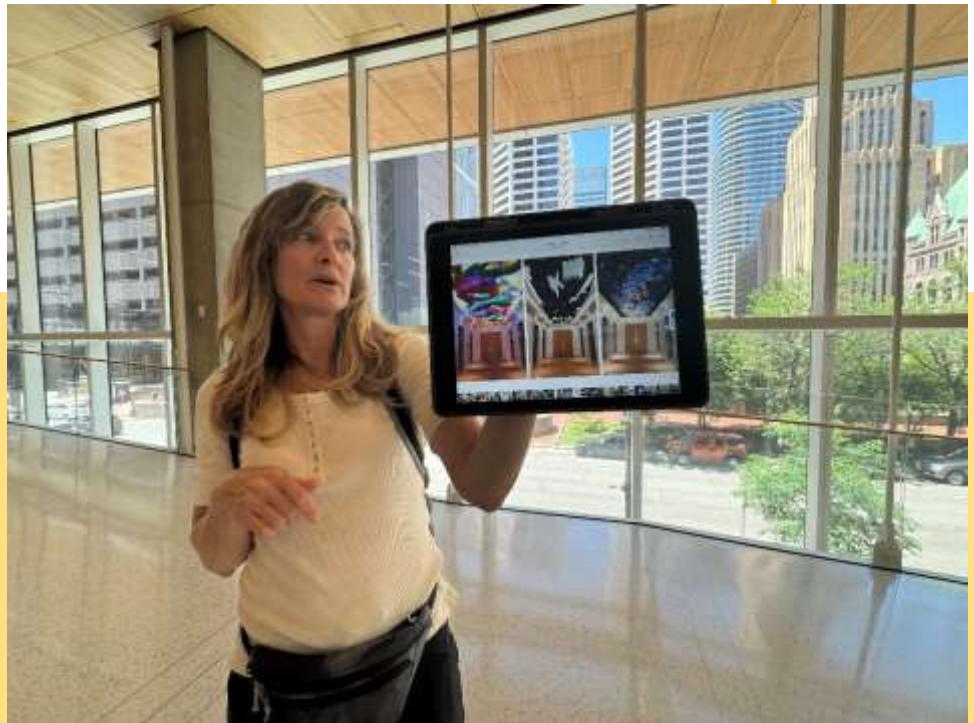
I booked an excursion with Minneapolis City & Skyway Tours, which offers two different tours: Minneapolis City Walking Tour and Minneapolis Skyway Tour. The former operates May through September, while the latter goes year round, which is ideal in the winter months when it's brutally cold, or when it's rainy, or even when it's too humid and hot.

Minneapolis actually has the largest, contiguous skyway system in the world. It was originally created to help revitalize the city's retail core after the 1950s suburban boom. Today, the second story walkways connect eighty city blocks and span more than nine miles.



Minneapolis City & Skyway Tours owner/guide Jessica Schugel offered to do a combo of the tours so I could enjoy both experiences, which I appreciated. She also noted that the skyway contains many art and architectural gems that people can't see from street level.

The city is home for Schugel and she has been leading tours for over a decade, both here as well as in far-flung places, including Nicaragua, which she considers her home away from home. She believes in making personal connections through travel, noting, "It's a big part of what makes life interesting." In regards to Minneapolis, she says, "There are so many people and places that make this city special, which is why I spend so much of



my free time roaming the streets enjoying the familiar, and in search of

what's new.”

Our tour began at the Foshay Tower. Completed in 1929 and modeled after the Washington Monument, the building is a great example of Art Deco architecture. It's

one of the most recognizable structures in the Twin Cities and at 447 feet high with 32 stories, it had the distinction of being the tallest building in the Midwest for 48 years. It has been on the National Register of Historic Landmarks since 1978.

Designed by architect Leon Eugene Arnal for utility business magnate Wilbur Foshay, the building boasts African mahogany, Italian marble, terrazzo tile and silver-and-gold-plated ceilings, elaborately embellished doorways, cathedral style light fixtures and Foshay's name carved in ten-foot-high letters on all four sides of the limestone pyramid.

The storied history behind the Foshay Tower is “part Greek fable, part Citizen Kane,” as it tells the tale of the rise and fall

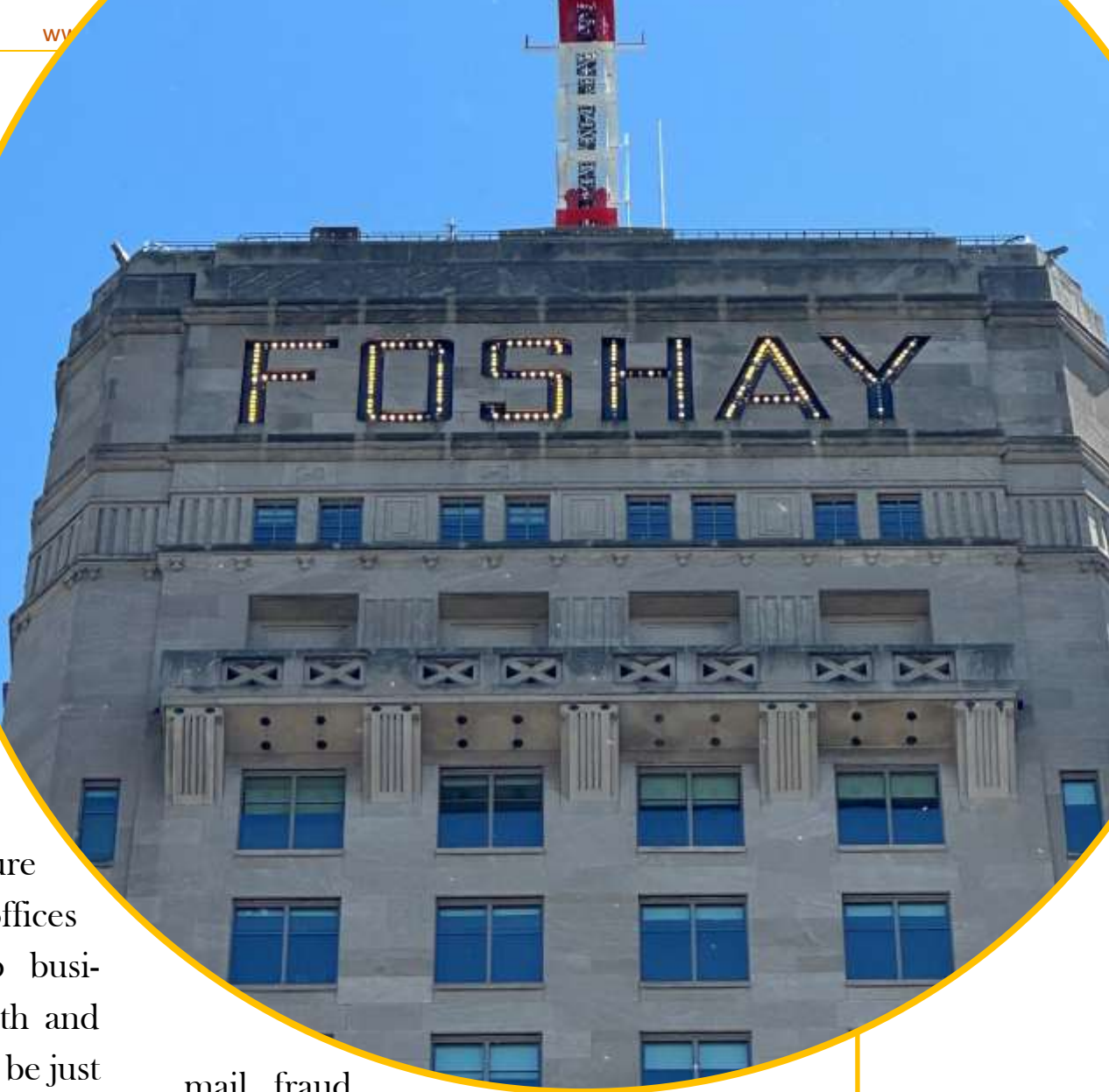


of a powerful tycoon. Wilbur Foshay was fascinated by the design of the Washington Monument and proposed building a tribute in Minneapolis to himself and his success (no ego there!). The structure was slated to be offices for the city's top businesses, but the 27th and 28th floors were to be just for the millionaire himself.

It took two years to build, but just after the opening celebration, the stock market crashed and Foshay couldn't pay the builders. And the Ponzi scheme he enacted backfired. He was subsequently tried on criminal

mail fraud charges, having advertised and sold overvalued stock using the federal postal service. His company folded, he went to prison and the Tower went up for sale. Foshay never did get a chance to stay in his lavish suite, which was never completed.

Today, the Foshay



The Fushay tower has a pointed top like the Washington Momument that you can only see from a distance.

Tower houses the W Hotel. There's a museum devoted to the building's unique construction and its eccentric creator, along with an observation deck on the 31st floor, where

you can get 360 degree views of the city.

Along the same street is the currently tallest building in Minnesota, the IDS Center. It stands 792 feet above the city and is at the core of the downtown skyway system. Completed in 1972, it remains one of the most prominent properties west of the Mississippi River. It includes nearly two million square feet of mixed-use space, a retail center, nineteen-story luxury hotel and an award-winning, enclosed, indoor, eight-story urban park.

The latter, Crystal Court, is a lovely tree-lined atrium surrounded by shops and restaurants. There's a reflection pool and plenty of benches to sit and people watch.



oNearby is the RBC building, another stalwart, vertically-stacked skyscraper in the city's core sector. This contemporary, forty-story, mixed-use structure with office space, condos, the Four Seasons Hotel, restaurants and more, is the new kid on the block, having opened just two and a half years ago.

Schugel led us downstairs, where Viola Frey's sculpture, "Fallen Man II," sits alone.

Frey was an American sculptor known for her larger-than-life monumental ceramic figures of men in power suits and women clothed in fashions of the 50s or dressed in pink in their birthday suits. We commented on how unfortunate it is to have a work of art by a celebrated sculptor in a place where not too many



people see it.

Another Art Deco masterpiece is the old Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank, now the Westin Hotel. Built in 1942, this handsome

Above – Fallen Man II

Left – The Crystal Court

Repurposing the old
Farmers and
Mechanics Savings
Bank.

structure, like many others downtown, is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

I was delighted to see that a number of aspects from the original building were kept intact and have new uses, such as the teller counter, which is now a bar, and the safety deposit vault, serving as a wine cellar.

The er is an additional example of the ornate Deco style of the Jazz

Age. Designed by WWI aviator and daring adventurer Rufus R. Rand Jr., the building, which is now a boutique hotel, has a prominent aviation theme inside and out. Aviation-inspired artwork line the walls and stars and silver moons dot some of the floors.

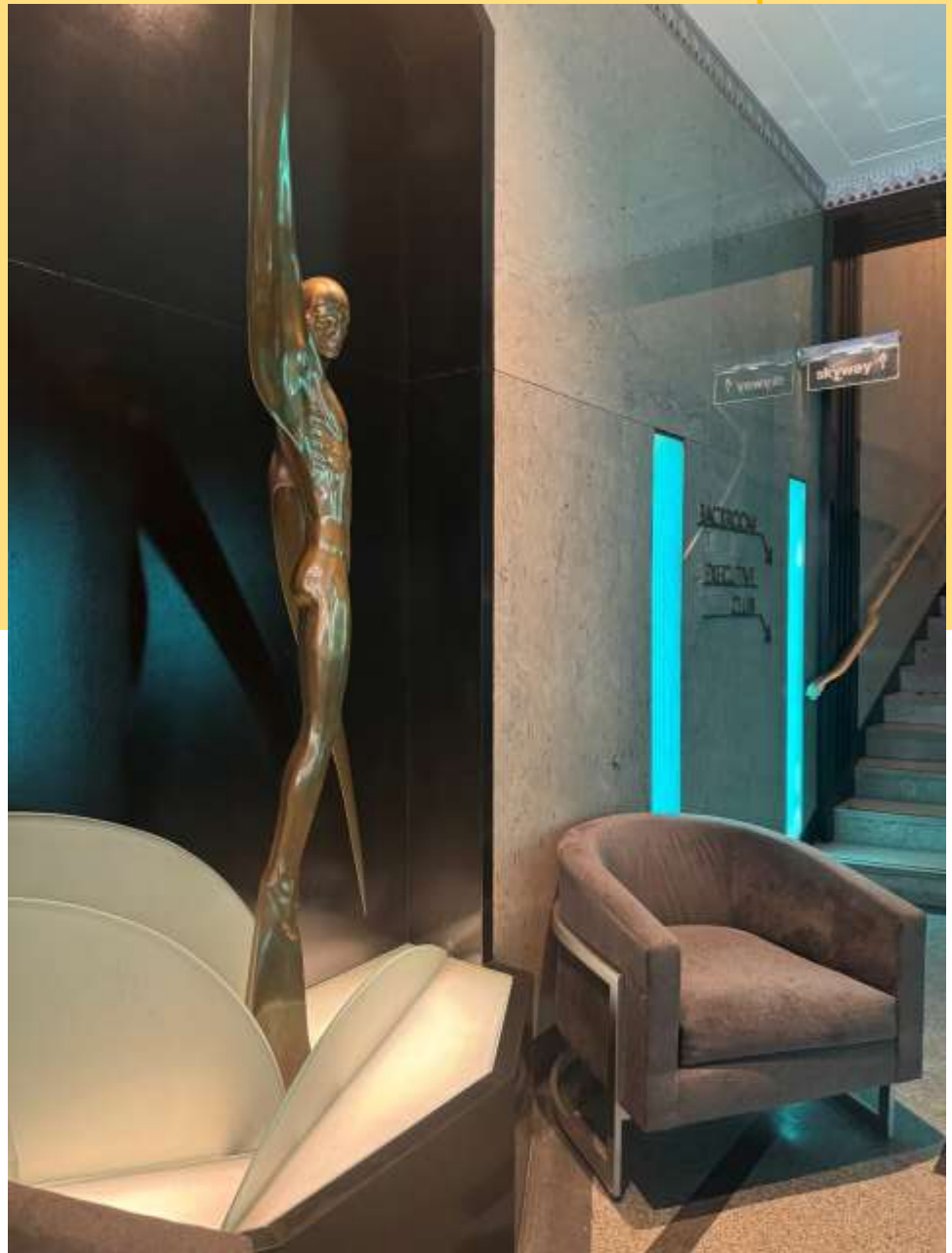
U.S. Bank Plaza, originally called Pillsbury Center, is notable for its pair of marble towers with bronze-tinted reflective windows. One is 21 stories tall and the other, 40. They're connected by a large atrium lit naturally by a dramatic glass ceiling. Hanging down into this open area is Loren Madsen's giant V-shaped sculpture titled, "Hanging Stones." It's very eye-catching and at first glance it appears carved from a single piece of black





granite. As we got closer, however, we realized it's actually 276 separate pieces, individually suspended by cables from above.

One of my favorite buildings is the Capella Tower due to the treasure trove of artwork inside. "Capella Basket," is the attention-getting centerpiece for the building. Artist Jason Krugman blended craft with technology in creating this amazing work, which is comprised of over 10,000 circuit boards that



distribute and deliver power to nearly 2,000 LED light sources. Measuring 22 feet by 22 feet by 16 feet and hanging seventy feet in the air, it appears to float within the large glass-walled atrium.

Loren Madesen's
Hanging Stones at the
US Bank Plaza.

Sculpture in the Rand
Tower.

“Fresnel Wing” by James Carpenter is another impressive structure in the Tower. It hangs from the ceiling on the skyway level and is constructed out of aluminum,

stainless steel and glass panels. Each of the 56 panels ranges in hues of pastel yellow to pink. The color comes from the lights aimed at the panels, but the color is diffused by a special coating on the panels. I was enchanted with the hue alterations.



Also within the Capella Tower is an array of glasswork by Dale Chihuly. The series of bowls, entitled “Macchia Forms,” are set within their own lit cases. In typical Chihuly style, the pieces shimmer with vibrant colors -green, pink, purple and blue. And they have the look of something organic from the sea.

Minneapolis City Hall and Courthouse is an historic beauty. Built between 1887 and 1906, and designed by Long and Keys Architects, it's

an elegant and grand building, noted for its Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. It boasts stained glass windows, carved Italian marble, an impressive vestibule and majestic, five-story rotunda.

At the center of the rotunda is “Father of Waters,” a massive sculpture by Larkin G. Mead, made from what was then the world’s largest block of marble. The marble came from the same quarry that Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo used for their materials. Good luck is said to come to whoever rubs the sculpture’s big toe. And yes, you bet I rubbed it!

Turns out the statue was originally made for New Orleans, but when that town failed to come up with the money, some good folks from



Minneapolis bought it and moved it here in 1904. All the elements of the sculpture fit with the city’s Mississippi River connection, but one – the alligators!

Above - Larkin Mead’s Father of Waters.

Left - Capella Basket by Jason Kingman.

The clock tower at City Hall is also notable, as when it was installed, it was the largest in the world. The bells were

originally played by pressing gigantic wooden levers located in the tower. Now they're played from a keyboard situated in the Rotunda.

Then there's the Hennepin County Government Center. Its central piece of art is a sizeable reflecting pool and fountain. Water arches out of mill machinery pieces that look like cannons. The mill theme is apt, as Minneapolis was built on the milling industry.

One of the most unique art installations is in the Minneapolis Public Service Center. "Lines of Flight, Human," by Futures North looks a bit like Morse Code with its dots and dashes. Learning that the work was inspired by the history of human migration to the region fascinated me.



Information about the installation says that it “visualizes U.S. Census demographic data as woven bands creating an interconnected network and each band corresponds to the migration of a different population and grows denser during periods of increased migration.” You can follow the work as it continues along the windows of the skyway bridge from the Service Center to the Hennepin County Courthouse.

The Grain Exchange is another highlight. Intricate stonework outlines the exteriors of the trio of structures and a marble staircase is featured in the Main Building Lobby. Built in 1903, it was one of the first steel structures in the city and features the historic trading floor that was home to the much-prized Hard

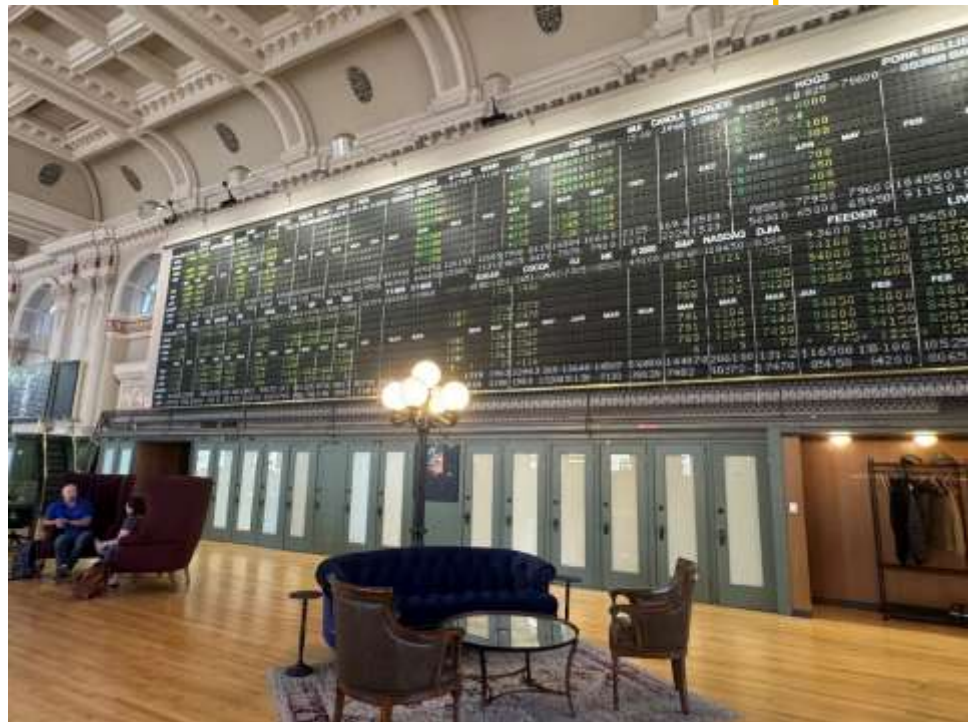
Red Spring Wheat market. Throughout the years, buyers and sellers worked to expedite grain from the farm to the consumer’s table.

This trading floor is now a cooperative workspace, but still retains the original trading board, along with its handsome Palladian windows, 42-foot ceiling and other wonderful, classical architecture components.

Sculptures dot the

Left - The Hennepin Government Building.

Below - The Grain Exchange



downtown sector and as we walked, Schugel pointed out several pieces, including the Mary Tyler Moore bronze, “Rockman” and “Dancers.”

The Mary Tyler Moore statue, created by sculptor Gwendolyn Gilen, is a popular attraction with fans, tourists and locals. It captures the immortal moment when



Mary throws her hat in the air during the opening credits of the 1970s hit TV show. This sitcom put Minneapolis on the map.

The “Rockman” statues by Tom Otterness

add a whimsical vibe to the front of the U.S. Courthouse. The tall piece looks like a pile of rocks, but look closely and you’ll see there are little minions hiding among

Art in Minneapolis extends outdoors too.



the stones. And more can be found scattered throughout the courthouse plaza. Even the groundskeepers are minions!

“Dancers” is the work of Columbian artist Fernando Botero, known for his style of depicting people in large, exaggerated volume. Though exaggerated, there is a sensuality about the figures. Fun fact about Botero: He discovered art when

he gave up the idea of becoming a bullfighter. He found he preferred painting and drawing the bulls rather than fighting them.

Towards the end of the tour, we headed down to the riverfront where Mill City is located. This architectural showpiece rises eight stories within the limestone ruins of the Washburn A Mill. Minneapolis was once the “Flour Milling Capital of the World,” powered by the mighty Mississippi and supplied by trains full of boxcars carrying grains from the plains.

Inside Mill City is a museum where you can explore antique milling equipment, vintage advertising and tales from the wheat farms. Schugel told us the ruins area is an open air courtyard that’s often used for special events and concerts.



Nearby is the Guthrie Theater, an internationally-recognized performance hall with three state-of-the-art stages, production facilities, classrooms, restaurants and public lobbies. Designed by prize-winning architect Jean Nouvel, the Guthrie was founded in 1963 by Sir Tyrone Guthrie. It's a beloved landmark in the city with an audience attendance of over 300,000 annually.

The Guthrie sits on land overlooking the Mississippi on one side and the Minneapolis skyline on the other. Within the theater are many amazing spaces, with the "Endless Bridge" being one of the building's most stunning architectural features. A 178-foot cantilever protrudes from the side of the structure, carrying guests out to picturesque



views of the landscape. Equally as beautiful of views can be seen from the Dowling Studio Lounge. This captivating space shows off the scenery through yellow-tinted, floor-to-ceiling windows, infusing the area with warm color.

Many famous actors have worked at the Guthrie, including Hume Cronyn, Jessica Tandy, Ian McKellen, Mahershala Ali, Morgan

Left - Mill City, on the waterfront

Above - Guthrie Theater



Freeman, Elizabeth Banks and more. A number of these individuals got their start at the Guthrie before heading to the bright lights of Broadway.

Seeing a performance at the Guthrie is a real treat and a must for visitors who want to get the full experience of the theater.

We finished the tour by strolling along the Boardwalk, a popular place for locals and visitors to get their steps, along with great views of St. Anthony Falls. This is the only natural, major waterfall on the Mississippi River. It was named by Father Louis Hennepin, the first white person to encounter the waterfall in 1680. He named it for his patron saint, Anthony of Padua.

Throughout this



excursion, Schugel engaged us with pertinent information and entertaining stories. Her enthusiasm for her hometown is infectious and it's clear she takes pleasure in sharing her knowledge with others. And though we covered much ground (and skyways!), she emphasized there was so much more to be seen in this fascinating destination. I'll be back!

For more information

www.minneapoliscitytours.com

All photos by Debbie Stone

Jaunting
The Magazine of Recreational Travel

National Pride:

Independence

Day in India





India's Independence Day, August 15th, is a nationwide celebration of historical significance, cultural pride, and communal festivity. As India commemorates its liberation from British colonial rule in 1947, the day is marked by a multitude of events that span the country's diverse landscapes.

To fully appreciate and participate in these celebrations, a visit to India during this period offers a unique blend of historical reverence, visual splendor, and community spirit.

The struggle for India's independence was a protracted and arduous journey, marked by

The Red Fort, Delhi, where India's Prime Minister hoists the national flag every Independence day since 1947.

significant milestones and the leadership of iconic figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhas Chandra Bose. The day of August 15th is etched in the

national consciousness as a culmination of years of non-violent resistance, mass movements, and sacrifices by countless individuals.

This historical backdrop forms the foundation of the modern-day celebrations, where the nation not only honors its past but also looks forward to its future with hope and determination.

The most iconic event of Independence



Day is the flag-hoisting ceremony at the Red Fort in Delhi. The Prime Minister of India addresses the nation, followed by a grand parade featuring India's military prowess, cultural tableaux from various states, and performances by school children. As the flag unfurls against the backdrop of the historic fort, the air is filled with the strains of the national anthem and the cheers of the crowd, creating an atmosphere



charged with patriotic fervor. This ceremony is broadcast live and watched by millions across the country and the world, making it a unifying moment for the nation.

Left - Independence day features military parades.

Above - Parades happen rain or shine.



Across the country, schools, colleges, and local communities organize cultural programs that include traditional dances, patriotic songs, and dramatizations of historical events. In every city and town, stages come alive with the vibrant colors of

traditional attire and the rhythmic beats of regional music.

These programs not only entertain but also educate the younger generation about the country's rich heritage and the significance of the day. The streets are adorned with flags and banners, and the air buzzes with excitement and pride.

Kite flying is a beloved tradition on Independence Day. The skies, particularly in northern

India, are dotted with kites of all colors and sizes, symbolizing the country's freedom and the spirit of competition. From the rooftops of Delhi and Jaipur to the fields of Punjab, families and friends gather to fly kites, their laughter and shouts of triumph echoing in the air.

The sight of countless kites soaring against the backdrop of a clear blue sky is both mesmerizing and symbolic of the nation's aspirations.

Delhi, the capital city, is undoubtedly the epicenter of Independence Day celebrations. The Red Fort's historic ambiance, the grand parade, and the presence of national leaders make it a must-visit. Walking through the bustling streets of Old Delhi, you



can almost hear the echoes of history. Amritsar, home to the Jallianwala Bagh and the Golden Temple, is steeped in history. The Wagah Border ceremony, held daily but with special fervor on Independence Day, showcases the patriotic zeal and camaraderie between India and Pakistan, with border guards engaging in an elaborate display of marching and flag-lowering.

In Mumbai, the financial capital, the celebrations have a unique blend of pageantry and patriotism. Marine Drive and the Gateway of India are popular spots where large gatherings take place, with the city's iconic landmarks beautifully illuminated. As the sun sets, the cityscape sparkles with lights, and fireworks light up the night sky.



Kolkata, the cultural capital, offers a different flavor with its intellectual and artistic celebrations. The city hosts numerous exhibitions, lectures, and performances, highlighting the contributions of Bengal to the independence movement. The streets of Kolkata, with their colonial architecture and vibrant street art, provide a picturesque setting for the festivities.

Traveling to India during Independence Day requires some planning. Independence Day

Left - Kite flying is a popular Independence Day activity.

Above - The domes on the Red Fort are part of Mughal architecture..



The saffron on the Indian flag symbolizes courage and sacrifice, white represents peace and truth, green stands for faith and chivalry, and the Ashoka Chakra signifies the eternal wheel of law.

is a national holiday, and popular spots can be crowded, so booking accommodations and travel arrangements in advance is advisable. Given the high-profile nature of the celebrations, security is tight, especially in major cities. Carry identification, follow local guidelines, and be prepared for checks.

Participating in local events, whether it's a neighborhood cultural program or a kite-flying competition, can provide

a more intimate and authentic experience. It's also important to respect the sentiment of the day; Independence Day is a solemn occasion as much as it is a celebration. Understanding the historical context and respecting local customs enhances the experience.

Experiencing India's Independence Day celebrations firsthand is an unparalleled opportunity to witness a nation in its full patriotic glory.

So pack your bags, immerse yourself in the celebrations, and be a part of India's extraordinary journey of independence and pride.



DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF, JUST NAIL THE BIG STUFF.

What's another teeny, tiny stain? You've got more important things to think about — like making sure your kids are buckled correctly in the right seat for their age and size.

Check at [NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat](https://www.nhtsa.gov/TheRightSeat)



Seeking Adrenaline with Adventure in Zambia





Sitting in Devil's Pool atop the edge of Victoria Falls is an experience that defies ordinary adventure. As you lower yourself into the cool Zambezi River, the strong current is expertly managed by the natural rock barrier, giving a surprising sense of security amidst the rush of adrenaline.

Your heart pounds with excitement as you inch closer to the precipice, guided by experienced hands who know the pool's every nuance.

The thunderous roar of the falls creates a symphony of raw nature. The mist rises in delicate plumes, occasionally sprinkling your face with refreshing droplets. The sun catches the mist,

Devil's Pool, Victoria Falls: A natural rock pool at the edge of the falls, offering a thrilling swim with breathtaking views

Below - Plahing the
the Devil at Devil's
Pool.

Rightt - A stunning
display of nature's
power and beauty,
where water cascades
over a vertical drop,

producing vibrant rainbows that arch across the scene, adding a surreal touch to the breathtaking panorama. The sheer drop of over 300 feet down to the gorge below is both exhilarating and humbling, as the Zambezi River narrows dramatically to create a spectacle of white foam and roaring water.

Lying back in the pool, you gaze up at the clear blue sky, feeling the warmth of the sun on

your skin contrasting with the cool, rushing water. The noise of the falls is a constant, powerful presence, drowning out all other sounds.

This moment is one of perfect balance—a blend of fear and tranquility, awe and peace—leaving you breathless from the sheer magnificence of nature in its most powerful and beautiful form.

Perched at the very edge of Victoria Falls, Devil's Pool offers an unparalleled adventure for those daring enough to take the plunge. This natural infinity pool is situated on Livingstone Island, where the Zambezi River plummets over the precipice, creating one of the most breathtaking waterfalls in the world.

The journey begins with a short boat ride

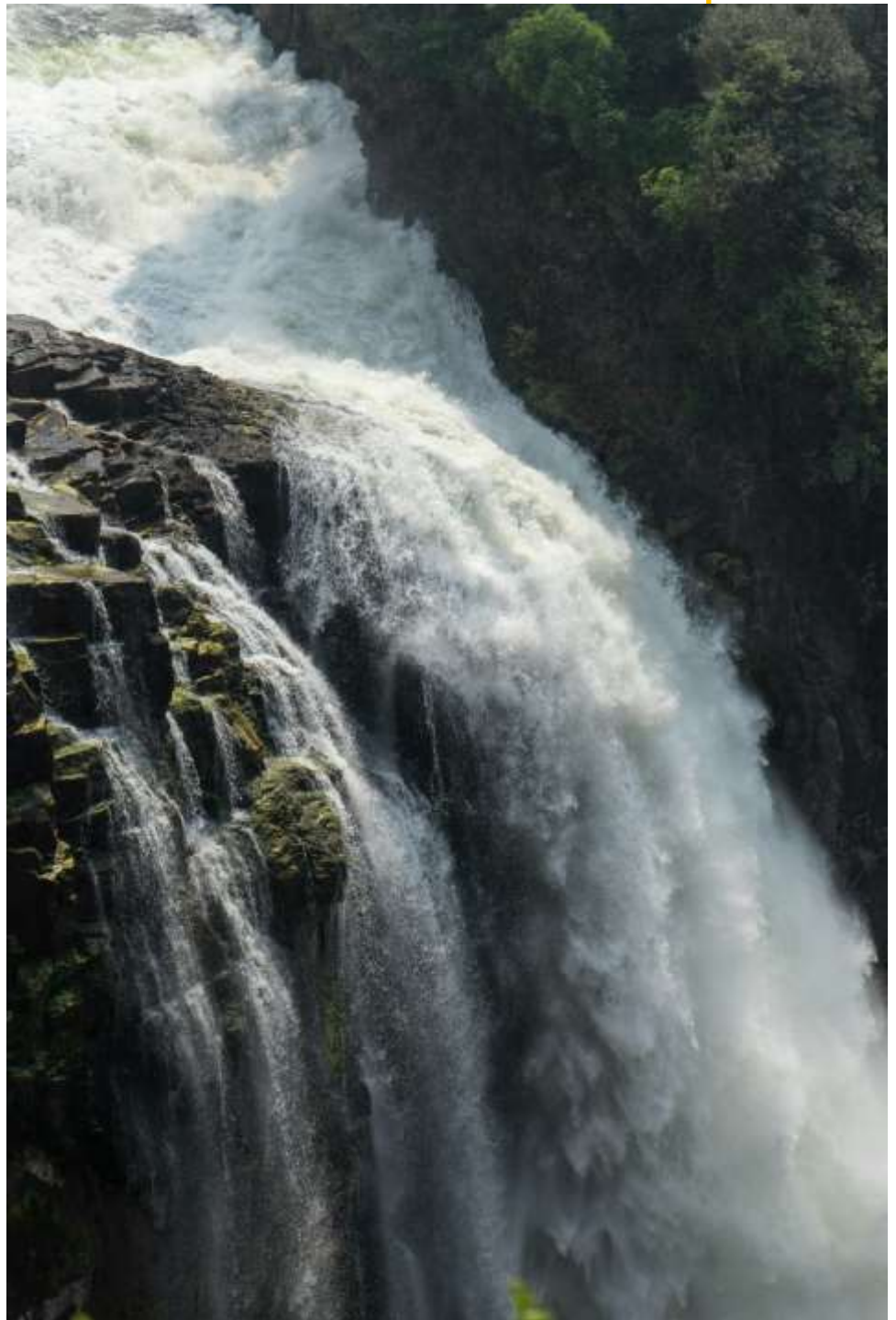


from the riverbank to the island, where anticipation builds as the roar of the falls grows louder with each passing moment. Upon arrival, visitors are greeted by experienced guides who offer reassurance to even the most apprehensive adventurers.

The swim to Devil's Pool is, by itself, an adrenaline-fueled escapade.

Guided carefully through the shallow waters, swimmers make their way to the edge, feeling the powerful current tugging gently as they approach the pool. The natural rock barrier at the pool's edge provides a surprising sense of security, allowing visitors to lie back and gaze over the precipice at the thunderous cascade of water below.

The sensation of



being mere inches from a sheer drop is both exhilarating and surreal, a sensory overload of sight and sound. The mist rising



from the falls often creates vibrant rainbows, adding a touch of ethereal beauty to the already stunning view.

Devil's Pool is just one example of the exhilarating adventures awaiting visitors to Zambia. Beyond this daring experience at the edge of Victoria Falls, the country offers a variety of thrilling activities that cater to different levels of adventure seekers.



Another such adventure is microlighting, where travelers can soar above the majestic landscapes and capture breathtaking views from a unique vantage point.



Microlighting over Victoria Falls provides a perspective unlike any other, offering travelers a thrilling aerial adventure known as the "Flight of

Angels." This experience allows participants to glide gracefully above the roaring Zambezi River and the misty veil of Victoria Falls.

Whether opting for a 15-minute or 30-minute flight, each journey promises unparalleled views of the cascading water, the rugged Batoka Gorge, and the sprawling Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park.

Paired with experienced pilots, microlight passengers embark on a journey that begins with a gentle ascent, soon revealing panoramic vistas that

stretch as far as the eye can see. The shorter flight option takes adventurers directly over Victoria Falls, where the spray rises like an ethereal



Microlight Planes are lightweight and versatile aircraft, perfect for recreational flying and offering stunning aerial views.



journey that showcases Zambia's natural beauty from a truly unique perspective.

curtain, catching the sunlight in dazzling rainbows. For those choosing the longer flight, the adventure extends over the pristine wilderness of Mosi-oa-Tunya, offering glimpses of wildlife below, such as hippos basking in the river or elephants lumbering along the banks.

Whether capturing stunning photographs or simply soaking in the awe-inspiring scenery, micro-lighting over Victoria Falls is an unforgettable

For travelers seeking a blend of tranquility and wildlife encounters, canoeing safaris along the Zambezi River offer a serene yet exhilarating adventure. Paddling through calm waters, adventurers are surrounded by the lush landscapes and the gentle sounds of the African wilderness. The journey begins with a peaceful glide downstream, where the river's surface mirrors the towering cliffs and verdant banks.

As canoes gently

Canoing provides a peaceful pace and tranquil spotting of wildlife who come to the water.

navigate the Zambezi, wildlife sightings abound. Hippos submerge beneath the water's surface with a splash, while crocodiles bask lazily on sun-drenched rocks along the shore. Bird enthusiasts will marvel at the array of species that call this ecosystem home, from vibrant kingfishers darting above the water to majestic African fish eagles perched in the branches

overhead.

Canoeing safaris range from half-day excursions to multi-day adventures that island-hop along the Zambezi's meandering channels. Each trip is led by experienced guides who not only ensure safety but also provide insights into the river's ecosystem and its inhabitants. Whether it's the thrill of encountering wildlife up close or the





tranquility of paddling through untouched wilderness, canoeing safaris offer a captivating glimpse into Zambia's natural diversity.

For adrenaline enthusiasts seeking an exhilarating challenge, white-water rafting on the Zambezi River is an unforgettable experience that combines thrilling rapids with breathtaking scenery. Widely regarded as one of the best one-day rafting trips in the world, the Zambezi offers an

adrenaline-pumping ride through Class IV and V rapids that carve through the rugged Batoka Gorge.

The adventure begins with participants boarding sturdy rafts and embarking on a journey that navigates the tumultuous waters, where each rapid presents a new test of skill and courage. The Zambezi's rapids are known for their size and power, creating adrenaline-charged moments as rafts plunge through towering waves and swirling



eddies.

While physically demanding, whitewater rafting on the Zambezi rewards adventurers with unparalleled thrills and stunning scenery. Between rapids, moments of calm allow rafters to appreciate the sheer beauty of the gorge, where towering cliffs frame the river and verdant vegetation clings to the rocky outcrops. Wildlife sightings, including monitor lizards sunning on the banks and exotic bird species in

flight, add to the immersive experience of rafting through Zambia's pristine wilderness.

Each rapid conquered is a triumph, celebrated with shouts of exhilaration and camaraderie among rafters. As the journey concludes, participants emerge exhilarated and enriched by the raw power of the Zambezi River and the indomitable spirit it embodies—a testament to the thrill-seeker's paradise that is adventure travel in Zambia.

Whitwater rafting on the Zambezi provide an unforgettable thrill.

Tour the falls, river,
and gorge from the air
in a helicopter.

For those craving an extra dose of adrenaline, Zambia's Batoka Gorge offers a playground of extreme activities including abseiling.

This thrilling adventure takes participants down sheer cliffs and rock faces, providing a heart-pounding descent amidst stunning natural surroundings. Forward and backward abseiling, gorge swinging, and ziplining across the gorge are all part of the exhilarating repertoire, ensuring an adrenaline rush like no other. Expert guides oversee each descent, encouraging participants to push their limits, making abseiling in Batoka Gorge an essential experience for the most adventurous spirits.



Of course you can experience Zambia's natural wonders from up high without dangling on a rope. You can take a bird's-eye perspective with exhilarating helicopter rides over the Zambezi River. These scenic

flights offer unparalleled views of Victoria Falls, Batoka Gorge, and the surrounding wilderness.

As the helicopter glides effortlessly above the landscape, passengers are treated to panoramic vistas that reveal the Zambezi's meandering path and the diverse wildlife that thrives along its shores. Whether capturing stunning photographs or simply marveling at the sheer scale of the terrain below, helicopter rides over the Zambezi provide an unforgettable aerial adventure in the heart of Zambia's untamed wilderness.

In addition to the thrilling experiences already mentioned, Zambia offers a diverse array of adventures to cater to every taste and level of adventure seeker. Quad biking adventures allow



travelers to explore rugged terrain and scenic landscapes with an adrenaline-fueled ride. Caving expeditions delve into

Zambia's underground wonders, revealing ancient rock formations and hidden chambers waiting to be explored. Walking safaris offer a more intimate encounter with wildlife, allowing participants to track animals on foot and learn about the ecosystem from expert guides.

If you seek a rush, gorge swinging and ziplining provide heart-pounding moments as participants soar through the air above spectacular gorges.

Hot air ballooning offers a tranquil yet awe-inspiring way to take in Zambia's vast landscapes from a different perspective, while fishing expeditions on the Zambezi River promise relaxation and the thrill of reeling in trophy fish. Whether chasing adrenaline highs or seeking serene moments in nature, Zambia promises an adventure-filled experience like no other.

To arrange these thrilling adventures in Zambia, including those mentioned earlier, visitors can book directly with specialized service providers. For example, Livingstone's Adventure offers activities like micro-lighting and bungee jumping from the Victoria Falls Bridge, while the Victoria Falls Canoeing Company provides serene canoe



safaris along the Zambezi River. For the ultimate whitewater rafting experience, Safpar offers day trips down the Zambezi's challenging rapids. Adventurers can also arrange abseiling and other extreme activities at Batoka Gorge through Abseil Zambia. Helicopter rides over the Zambezi can be organized with operators like Batoka Sky, providing breathtaking aerial views of Victoria Falls and the surrounding landscape. Whether booking a hot air balloon ride, quad biking excursion, caving expedition, walking safari, or fishing trip, these reputable companies ensure safe and memorable adventures tailored to every adventurer's thrill-seeking desires in Zambia.

Guide services ensure that these adventure



activities are conducted with a high emphasis on safety. Organized adventure outfitters in Zambia prioritize the well-being of their clients. For example, Safpar, a renowned company for whitewater rafting, provides comprehensive safety briefings, expert guides, and all necessary safety equipment to ensure a secure and enjoyable experience for every participant.

So if you seek to create lasting memories and embrace the spirit of

Photos by

Baines River Camp
pages 102, 103

Batoka / Livingstone's
River Camp pages
100, 101, 106, 109,
110

Tongabizi / Green
Safaris pages 96-98,
109



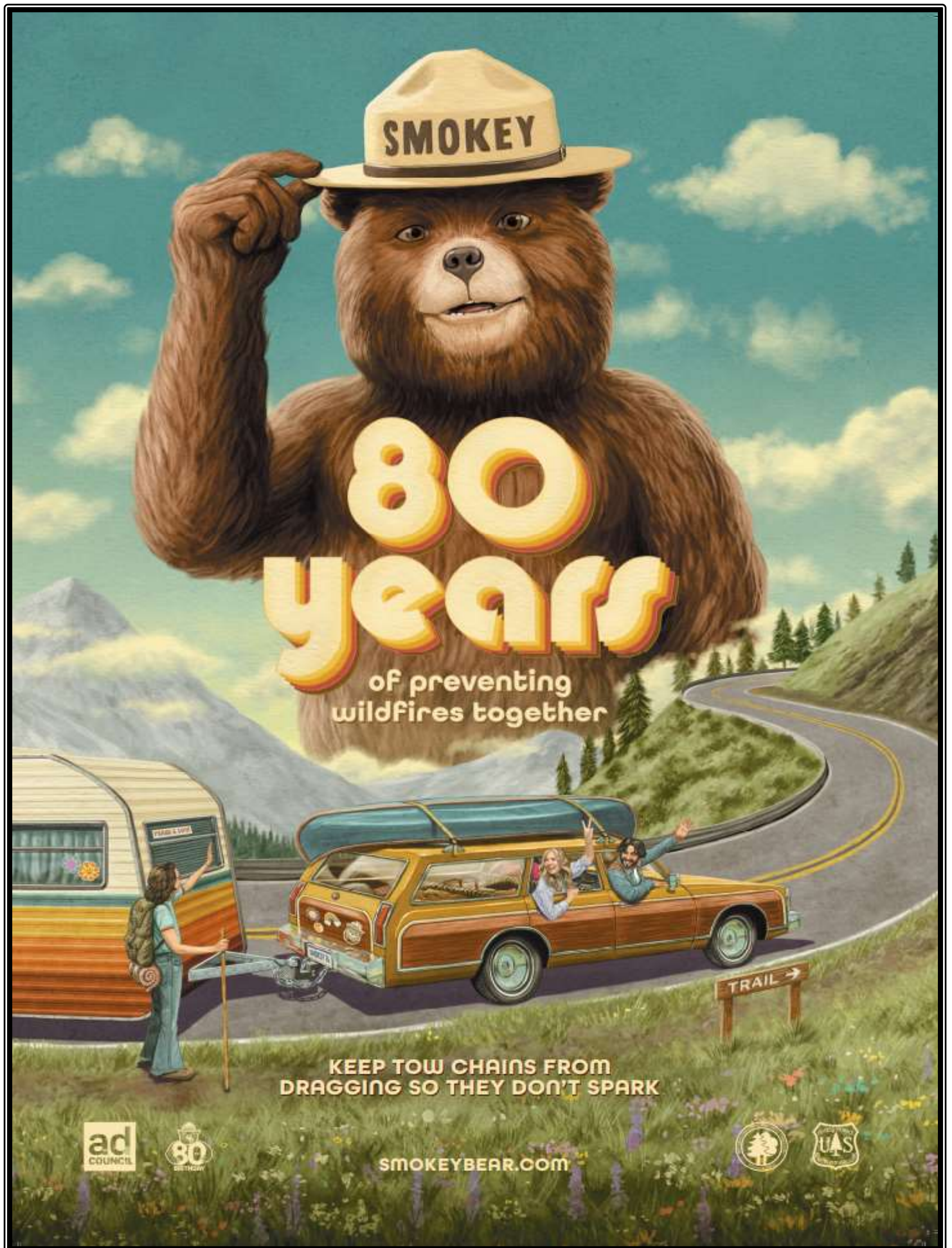
its diverse landscapes and wildlife.

Embrace the extraordinary and make every moment count in this adventurer's paradise.

For more information:

- Livingstone's Adventure
www.livingstonesadventure.com
- Victoria Falls Canoeing Company
www.vicfallscanoeing.com
- Visit Victoria Falls
www.visit-victoria-falls.com
- Safari Par Excellence (SafPar)
www.safpar.com
- Victoria Falls Guide
www.book.victoriafalls-guide.net
- Abseil Zambia www.abseilzambia.com

adventure, Zambia offers a wealth of exhilarating experiences. Whether standing at the edge of Victoria Falls in Devil's Pool, soaring above the Zambezi River on a microlight flight, or navigating its rapids on a whitewater rafting expedition, each adventure promises thrills and breathtaking views. Step beyond the ordinary, explore Zambia's rugged beauty, and immerse yourself in the heart-pounding excitement of



Gear for Your Jaunt

Cool stuff that we found that might make your next trip easier or more interesting.



Arca Gear

Hydro Carrier Water Bottle Carrier

The ultimate solution for keeping your essentials organized while on the go. It features an insulated bottle sleeve to keep your drink cool, a front flex pocket for small items, and a water-resistant phone pocket, all designed for convenience and comfort.

\$29

arcagear.com

Pocket Tripod

Super Innovative Phone Tripod!

Innovative phone stand for taking photos and watching videos hands-free.

\$35

pocket-tripod.com



Sheec Socks

Compression Socks for Travel!

Performance socks offering all-day compression and ergonomic shape.

\$15

sheecsocks.com



Buddha Board Enso

NEW Mindfulness Travel Device!

Newly released travel-friendly mindfulness tool that uses water to create art.

\$24.95

buddhaboard.com



Rest in Your Layover with Airport Pods





Pod hotels and facilities in airports are revolutionizing the way travelers experience layovers and long waits. These compact, private spaces offer a unique blend of comfort and efficiency, making them an attractive option for those looking to recharge without leaving the airport.

Pod hotels, also known as capsule hotels, provide small, individual sleeping spaces designed for short stays. These pods are equipped with essential amenities like a bed, power outlets, and sometimes even a small workspace. Airport pod facilities are similar but are typically designed for

shorter, more transient use, offering a place to rest between flights.

NapCabs is a

prominent provider of sleeping pods in several major airports in Germany, including Munich International Airport, Frankfurt International Airport, and Berlin Brandenburg Airport.

In the United States, several airports have embraced the pod concept, offering travelers a convenient place to rest. At John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) in New York, GoSleep pods are available in Jet-Blue's Terminal 5. These innovative modules include a long leather mattress topped with a lockable, breathable screen, ensuring a secluded and restful environment.

The pods are equipped with essential amenities such as a pillow, blanket, reading light, and power outlets. The rental cost varies,



with an option to use the pod for free for the first 20 minutes, followed by a fee ranging from \$10 to \$15 per hour.

Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) offers Minute Suites, providing private suites equipped with a daybed sofa, pillows, fresh blankets, and a workstation. These suites are designed to offer a quiet and comfortable space for travelers to relax, work, or sleep. The cost typically starts at \$42 for the first hour, with additional time available at a reduced rate.

At Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), travelers can also find Minute Suites. These suites are located in Concourse B and offer similar amenities to those at Philadelphia International



Airport. They provide a peaceful environment for travelers to rest during long layovers or delays.

The cost of using

pod facilities varies depending on the location and the amenities provided. Generally, prices range from \$15 to \$50 per hour, making them an affordable option for travelers looking for a short rest. These pods are designed to offer maximum comfort and privacy, with features like soundproofing and adjustable lighting to ensure a restful experience.

Booking a pod can be done in several ways.

Many pod facilities allow you to book in advance through their official websites or third-party booking platforms like Booking.com. You can also book a pod directly at the airport, with kiosks or customer service desks near the pod facility. Nap-Cabs, for instance, offers both online and on-site booking options, making it easy for travelers to secure a pod when they need it.

The pods are cleaned immediately after each use, ensuring a hygienic environment for the next guest.

Using pod facilities offers several advantages. Located within the airport, they eliminate the need to leave the terminal, saving time and hassle. Unlike traditional



airport seating areas, pods provide a private space to rest and recharge. Compared to nearby hotels, pod facilities can be a more budget-friendly option for short stays.

NapCabs, Minute Suites, and GoSleep each offer distinct features catering to different traveler needs. NapCabs, found in German airports, provide a quiet space with a bed, desk, and internet access, focusing on comfort and privacy. Minute Suites, available in several U.S. airports, offer private suites with a daybed sofa, workstation, and fresh linens, ideal for travelers needing a more spacious and comfortable environment.

GoSleep pods, available at JFK, feature a reclining seat that converts to a bed, with a lockable screen for privacy,



making them a budget-friendly option for solo travelers seeking a quick rest.

While each of these options provides unique benefits, generally there will only be one pod operator at any particular airport.

While these pods offer many conveniences, there are some limitations. Most pods do not have private bathrooms or showers, which means



All photos courtesy of
NapCabs

travelers will need to use the airport's public facilities for these needs. Additionally, the space within the pods is quite limited, making it challenging to store large luggage or move around freely. Pods are designed for short-term use, so they may not be suitable for extended stays or for travelers who require more space and amenities.

Despite these limitations, pod facilities provide a valuable service for travelers looking to rest

and recharge during their journey.

So, the next time you find yourself with a long layover, consider seeking out one of these pod facilities. They offer a perfect blend of privacy and comfort, allowing you to catch up on some much-needed sleep and recharge before your next flight. Don't let the hustle and bustle of the airport wear you down—find a pod and enjoy a peaceful rest.

For more information

- NapCabs:
www.napcabs.com/
- Minute Suites:
minutesuites.com/
- GoSleep:
gosleep.fi/



 **Expedia**

**Did you wait until the last
minute to plan your trip?**
These deals are for you.

[See what's ahead](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Paul Pence not only writes many of the articles in the pages of this magazine, he is also the publisher and editor of all of the magazines in the Amygis Publishing's family of travel magazines.

He loves exploring, traveling the back roads, experiencing the world, and finding what is unique and memorable about the places he visits.

And he loves writing – poetry, short stories, essays, non-fiction, news, and, of course, travel writing.

For over 25 years, he has shared his explorations with readers in a wide variety of outlets, from groundbreaking forays into the first stirrings of the dot-com boom to travel guides, local newspapers, and television, including *Runner's World*, *Travel Lady*, *Providence Journal*, *Westerly Sun*, and *Northstar Travel Media*.

He currently publishes and writes for Amygis Publishing's magazines *Jaunting*, *Northeast Traveler*, and *Rhode Island Roads* while doing freelance writing for other publications.

Debbie Stone is an established travel writer and columnist, who crosses the globe in search of unique destinations and experiences to share with her readers and listeners.

She's an avid explorer who welcomes new opportunities to increase awareness and enthusiasm for places, culture, food, history, nature, outdoor adventure, wellness and more.

Her travels have taken her to all fifty states and nearly 100 countries, spanning all seven continents.

Her stories reach over three million readers and listeners, and appear in numerous print and digital publications, including **Luxe Beat Magazine**, **Big Blend Radio & TV Magazine**, **Edmonds Beacon**, **Northwest Prime Time**, **Woodinville Weekly**, **Parks & Travel Magazine**, **Santa Fe Fine Lifestyles Magazine**, **Outdoors Northwest**, **Southwest Stories Magazine**, **Go World Travel** and **Travelworld International Magazine**, among others. She can also be heard sharing her adventures on **Big Blend Radio**





Tad Negrete is a seasoned globetrotter with a passion for music, art, travel, and culture.

Hailing from the small border town of San Luis, AZ, Tad's upbringing was infused with a love for exploration and a deep appreciation for different cultures, thanks to his family's influence. From a young age, Tad's life was enriched by experiences in Mexico City, where his uncle and cousin owned and operated some of the city's most renowned restaurants.

Having had the privilege to travel all around the world, Tad has amassed a wealth of experiences and knowledge from some of the most prestigious resorts globally. His extensive travels have not only broadened his cultural horizons but have also shaped his understanding of luxury and hospitality. With a diverse background that spans music, travel, fashion, real estate, and corporate sales, Tad Negrete is a multifaceted individual whose experiences and passions have shaped him into a dynamic and creative force in the industry.

www.instagram.com/tad_tres/



**1-Hour cruise of Ellis Island
and the Statue of Liberty
Museum of Modern Art
Smartphone Audio App of NYC**

**Skip the lines at the
Empire State Building!**





Online at
www.Jaunting.com