



Idaho's Otherworldly  
**Craters of  
the Moon**

Warsaw

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Idaho's Otherworldly

# CRATERS OF THE MOON

By Debbie Stone



Contrasts and Unexpected Charms

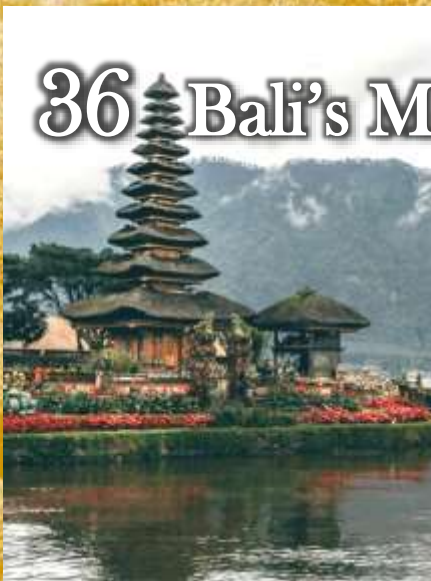
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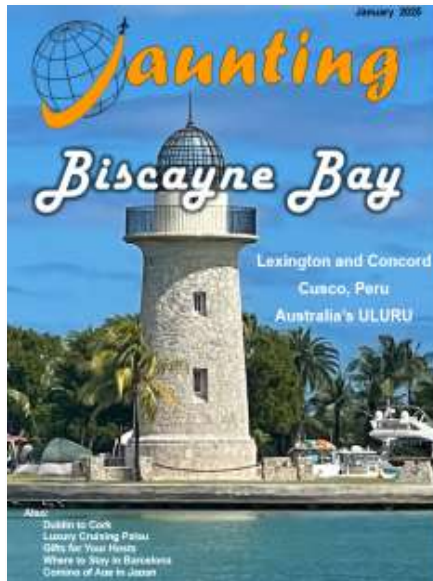
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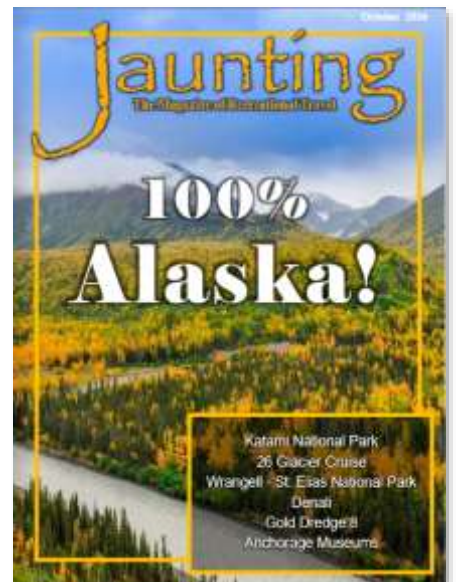
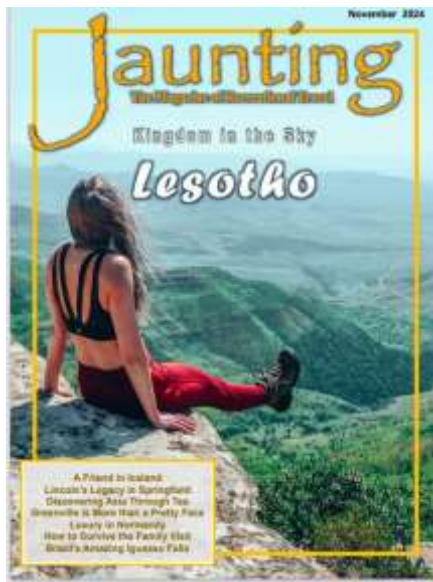
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## *Discover the World in February*

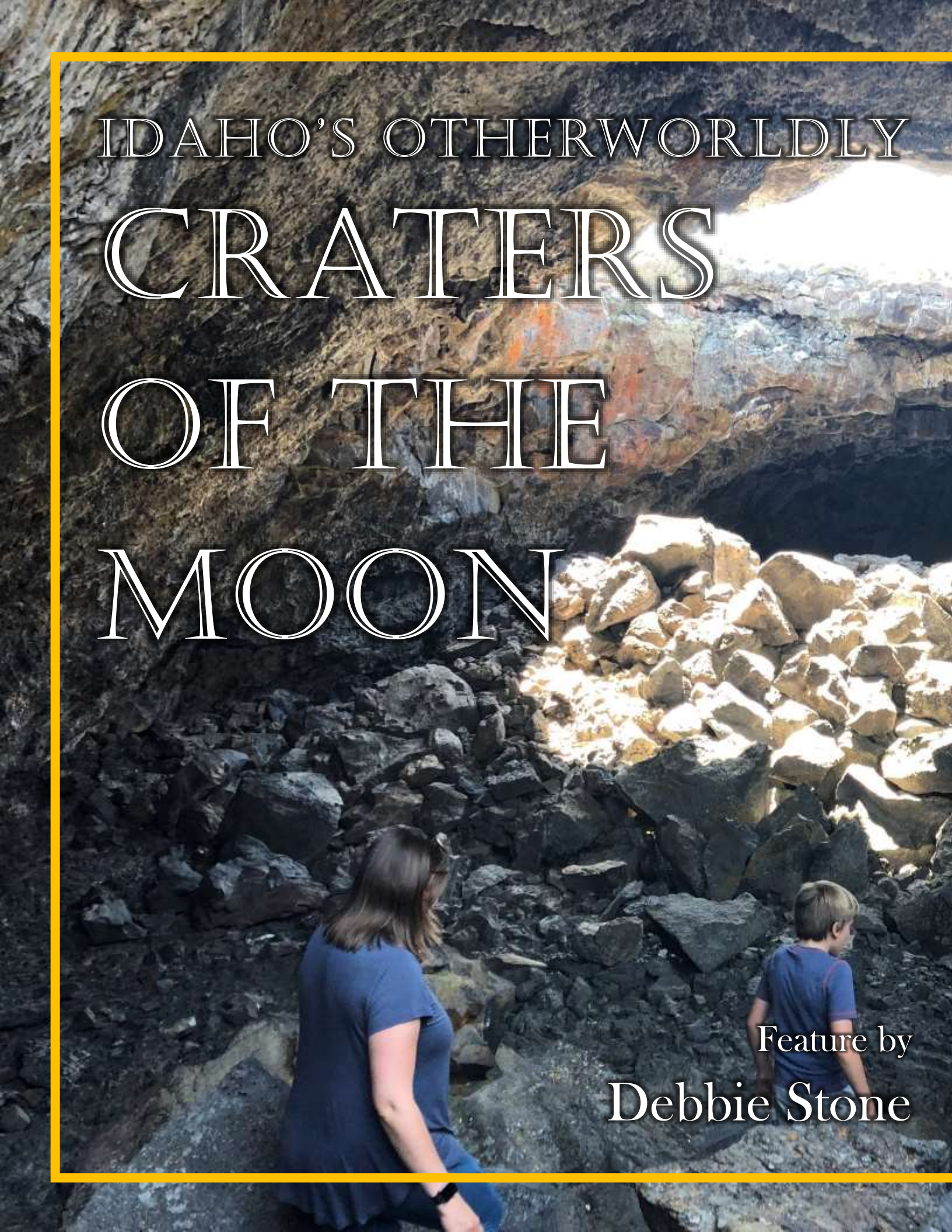
*As winter's chill lingers, February beckons us to seek warmer climates and new adventures. In this issue of Jaunting Magazine, we invite you to escape the cold and explore the vibrant destinations that promise sunshine and excitement, if only vicariously through our pages.*

*Join us as we uncover hidden gems, share insider tips, and celebrate the joy of discovering new places.*

*Whether you're dreaming of a tropical getaway or a cultural immersion, let Jaunting Magazine be your guide to unforgettable experiences this February.*

*Happy travels!*

*Paul Pence, Editor*



IDAHO'S OTHERWORLDLY  
CRATERS  
OF THE  
MOON

Feature by  
Debbie Stone



I'm in an otherworldly place that looks like somewhere the lunar lander would have been roaming around on a research mission. Pitch-black lava fragments are scattered amid a sea of cinders, mini volcanoes rise up from the barren terrain and dark and forbidding craters combine to create an eerie and starkly beautiful environment.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is a unique landscape that was shaped during a series of major eruptive periods between 15,000 and 2000 years ago. One of two national monuments in Idaho, it encompasses over 1,100 square miles, which is about the size of

Rhode Island. The monument alone preserves about 53,500 acres of volcanic formations and lava flows on the northern rim

of the Snake River Plain in southcentral Idaho.

## Lava Fields and Formations



There are three lava fields within the monument and preserve, offering an impressive array of basaltic lava, as well as tree molds, lava tubes, spatter cones and many other fascinating features. These fields are located along the Great Rift of Idaho and provide prime examples of open rift cracks in the world, including the deepest known on Earth at 800 feet.



## Loop Drive

At the visitor center near the monument's only entrance, you'll find

displays along with a short film about the geology of the area.

It's a good place to start before heading out on the seven-mile, self-guided Loop Drive. From this road, you'll have the opportunity to explore the environment, with access to trails that offer close up views of the volcanic formations. Stops are well-labeled with interpretive displays.

When you reach the North Crater Flow, take the short path to cross one of the most recent lava flows, which occurred about 2,200 years ago. There's a purplish tint to this lava due to tiny pieces of obsidian in it. You'll also note that some of the lava looks like thick roots. This is called "pahoe-hoe" lava, which means ropey in Hawaiian. There are also large crater



wall fragments that were violently torn away when the volcano's crater ruptured.



**“Inferno Cone Viewpoint sits atop the infamous Inferno Cone. It’s a massive heap of cinders with a distinct flat top. Scramble up the short, but steep trail for a rewarding 360-degree panorama of the entire monument.”**

Devils Orchard is an apt name for this group of cinder cone fragments that stands in a field of cinders like grim

reapers. They, too, broke off during an eruption. Take the paved loop trail through the formations and among the trees of the “orchard.” Signs along the way help make visitors aware of human impacts to the area.



The Inferno Cone Viewpoint sits atop the infamous 164-foot-tall Inferno Cone, putting you 6181 feet above sea level. It’s a massive heap of cinders with a distinct flat top. Scramble up the



short, but steep trail for a rewarding 360-degree panorama of the entire monument.

To the south are the Spatter Cones and a chunk of the Great Rift, while further away is Big Cinder Butte, one of the world's largest, completely basaltic cinder



cones. And beyond is a series of mountain ranges.

At the Big Craters and Spatter Cones stop, you'll learn how the latter are created from globules of liquid hot magma, which are ejected from the volcano and

then fall down around a small central vent. Landing on top of one another, they cool and adhere to nearby pieces to form the walls of what is akin to a miniature volcano.

Big Craters is exactly what you'd assume - a series of volcanic craters, the largest of which is North Crater. Descend into this bowl and be surrounded by an ocean of lava with a myriad of textures and patterns. Just know that what goes down must come back up!

If you want to get a taste of the wilderness area of the park, take the trail to the Tree Molds. These molds



are created when lava quickly moves through a forest, cooling and hardening on the outside of the trees, while burning them from the inside. A lava shell in the shape of the tree is all that remains after incineration. While some of the molds can reach several feet high, many are simply stumps or depressions in the ground, so you need to look closely to spot them.

## The Caves

The final stop on the Loop Drive is the Cave Area, another great highlight of the monument. It's an impressive collection of lava tubes that became empty once the volcanos ceased eruption.

You can hike into



four of the caves located at this site, as long as you have a permit, which is easily obtained at the visitor center. The process involves answering a few questions from a park ranger in regards to any past visits you may have made to caves. It's basically a screening process in order to prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome, a fatal condition affecting bats that are exposed to a specific fungus. Humans can potentially



spread the fungus between caves and other sites where bats roost.

**Make time to explore this exciting underground world.** Each of the cave entrances is well marked.

Dewdrop Cave is the smallest and serves as

a warm-up to the others.

Indian Cave is the largest and has several massive skylights caused by collapses in the ceiling. These provide ample natural light so you don't need a flashlight (unlike the other three). There's also a staircase at the entrance, providing easy



access. As the cave is well-lit, you can fully examine the shapes and colors in the lava walls. A lot of the rocks are covered in gold-colored lichen, making you believe you've discovered some long-lost treasure trove. Marvel at the giant basalt boulders littering the floor and realize

they once hung on the ceiling of the tube. If you want to exit the cave at the other end of the tunnel, you'll need to do a bit of scrambling and climbing, but this only enhances the Indiana Jones like experience!

For more spelunking adventure, check out

Boy Scout Cave, where the entrance is so small you have to crawl inside. But, once you enter, it opens up into a decent

size room. This cave is dark and cold, though, due to the fact that it retains ice year-round no matter what the temperature is outside. Water drips down from the ceiling and forms ice crystals, while clusters of ice sparkle on the ground and walls like rhinestones.



Beauty Cave has a wide, yet rocky opening, and is spacious inside. It, too, is cold and icy and the walls are covered in moss and lichen. You'll feel as if you've entered a primordial world.

## Flora and Fauna

Though the park may seem barren, its lava fields and sagebrush areas surprisingly teem with a diversity of flora and fauna. **There are actually**



375 species of plants known to grow in the monument. If you time your visit for late spring or early summer, you'll catch wildflower season, where the landscape is awash with color. Other vegetation can be found peeking out of little pockets, surviving as a result of physiological adaptations. In regards to wildlife, a number of insects, reptiles, birds and mammals call this place home.

## History

When it comes to the human angle of Craters of the Moon, it's interesting to note that some of the Apollo astronauts did part of their training here at the park, as they prepared for their moon missions. They spent time on the lava

## Did You know?

Lava tubes are natural conduits through which lava flows beneath the surface.

Cinder cones are steep-sided volcanoes formed of debris. One formed in Mexico, growing over 1300 feet in nine years.

Scientists measure movement of the earth along with seismic activity to picture what is happening underground.

fields learning basic volcanic geology, as they looked for and collected good rock specimens in this harsh and unfamiliar environment.

With regards to early inhabitants, the Northern Shoshone are known to have traveled through the area on their annual migration, leaving behind rock structures and strange stone circles in the lava fields. Later, those with gold on the brain, as well as an



promoter, made several journeys through the lava, eventually helping to bring national attention to its unusual formations.

In establishing Craters of the Moon National Monument back in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge said of the place, “This area contains many curious and unusual phenomena of great educational value and it has a weird and scenic landscape, peculiar to itself.”

Thankfully, he and many other supporters had the foresight to preserve and protect this hidden gem so that generations of visitors could experience it.

assortment of ranch hands and pioneers heading west, passed around the vicinity, avoiding the lava if possible. It wasn't until the early 1900s that federal geologists were sent out to explore the landscape. During this time, Robert Limbert, a taxidermist and Idaho



**For more information**

[www.nps.gov/crmo](http://www.nps.gov/crmo)



**Guided Full-Day Tour of  
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People and Places

# Lake Pukaki

## Canterbury, New Zealand



Lisha Riabinina

*At the edge of Lake Pukaki, with its mesmerizing turquoise waters reflecting the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps, the sheer beauty of this place is striking. But what truly captivates the heart are the vibrant yellow lupines that blanket the landscape in the spring. These flowers, with their tall, spiky clusters, create a stunning contrast against the serene blue of the lake and the rugged mountains beyond.*

*Despite the lupines being considered invasive, there is a deep affection for these resilient blooms. Every spring, the lupines create a blanket of yellow, transforming the landscape into a painter's dream.*

*Walking among the lupines, their sweet fragrance fills the air, and one is reminded of the delicate balance between nature's beauty and its fragility. The lupines, with their cheerful yellow hues, bring joy to countless visitors who come to witness this natural spectacle. They symbolize resilience and the ability to thrive in challenging conditions, much like the people who call this rugged land home.*

*The lupines have earned their place in the hearts of those who appreciate the beauty they bring. They remind us that even in the face of adversity, there is always room for growth and splendor. Surrounded by these golden blooms, it is easy to be filled with a sense of wonder and gratitude for the simple yet profound beauty that nature offers.*

A City of Contrasts  
And Unexpected Charms

# Warsaw



Feature by

Caroline Topperman

Adapted from her book

“Your Roots Cast a Shadow”



**Warsaw. A city that wears its history on its sleeve, a tapestry woven with threads of communist-era concrete, intricate pre-war facades, and futuristic glass and metal skyscrapers.**

---

This architectural juxtaposition, a sight rarely seen in North American cities, is a testament to Warsaw's resilience and its relentless pursuit of modernity.

When my husband and I moved to Poland, my family's homeland, we found ourselves nestled near Chopin University,

along the Royal Route, in an artistic quarter of the city. In the summer months, the air is alive with the sound of classical

music drifting from open windows, creating an enchanting urban symphony.

Come evening, we'd often find ourselves drawn to the vibrant atmosphere of Nowy Świat [New World], a historic street lined with charming cafes and restaurants. But Warsaw's artistic spirit extends far beyond the melodies emanating from the university.

The city boasts a thriving theatre and museum scene, with venues like the Museum of Cartoon Art and Caricature, the National Museum, and the Polish National Opera all within easy reach. It's a city that celebrates its cultural heritage, offering a diverse range of artistic experiences for every taste.





## City Center

While strolling through the city center, one can't help but be captivated by the pastel hues adorning the restored buildings, a stark contrast to the somber remnants of pollution and neglect

on the side streets. And though the city bears the scars of World War II, it exudes a surprising cleanliness, a refreshing change from many other European capitals.

Navigating Warsaw does, however, present its own unique set of

challenges. Roundabouts, seemingly a million of them, dominate the roads, creating a thrilling,

albeit slightly disorienting, driving experience. Billboards, both big and small, vie for attention,

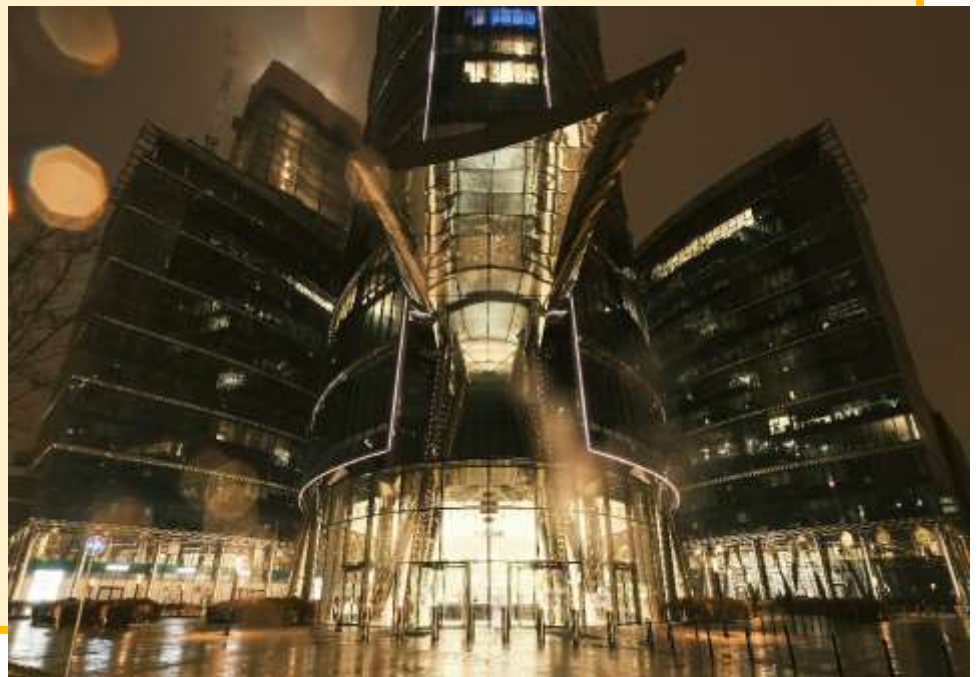


adding to the urban spectacle.

Thus, my initial impression of Warsaw was

one of contrasts.

The tension lingering in the air after a recent riot, the peeling green





police and military trucks painted a somewhat unsettling picture. However, stepping inside my newly renovated apartment, with its hardwood floors and high-end appliances, provided a sense of comfort and familiarity.

While my dream of a charming Parisian-style flat with a balcony overlooking a quaint street remained elusive after we moved, I found solace in the central location of my apartment. Warsaw's vibrant energy, with its bustling streets and endless possibilities, quickly captivated me.



paint in the hallways of my communist-era apartment building, and the ubiquitous presence of

## Exploring

Exploring the city, I stumbled upon Złote

Tarasy [Golden Terraces], a modern shopping mall pulsating with life. The sheer variety of shops and the electric atmosphere provided a welcome distraction from the initial culture shock. However, I soon learned that venturing off the beaten path, to places like Hala Mirowska, a historic market teeming with local vendors, offered a more authentic and budget-friendly experience.

Warsaw is a city of layers, where history and modernity coexist. The kotwica, a symbol of resistance and national pride, adorns walls throughout the city, a reminder of Poland's tumultuous past.

The Warsaw Uprising Museum, a poignant tribute to the heroes of the resistance against the Nazis, offers a glimpse

into the city's indomitable spirit.

Despite the lingering heaviness of history,

**"Warsaw, with its contrasts and contradictions, is a city that stays with you long after you've left its bustling streets."**



## Did You know?

Warsaw's Old Town was meticulously rebuilt after being almost entirely destroyed during WWII.

The Palace of Culture and Science, a "gift" from Stalin, is the tallest building in Poland.

Warsaw's symbol is a mermaid or siren, known as the "Warszawska Syrenka".

Warsaw exudes an undeniable charm. The city's vibrant café culture, exemplified by charming Parisian-style establishments like Vincent's, provides a welcome respite. The aroma of freshly baked croissants and the rich taste of cappuccinos offer a momentary escape from the challenges of adjusting to a new life.

## Everyday Adventures

Even the everyday act of grocery shopping becomes an adventure in Warsaw forcing us to step outside our comfort zone, embrace the unfamiliar, and to engage with a new culture in a tangible way. It is a reminder that even mundane tasks can be exciting and enriching in a new environment.

From the sweet tomato sauce to the boxed milk and unrefrigerated eggs, navigating the local market presents a unique set of challenges. However, with each encounter, I learned to embrace the unfamiliar and appreciate the nuances of Polish culture.

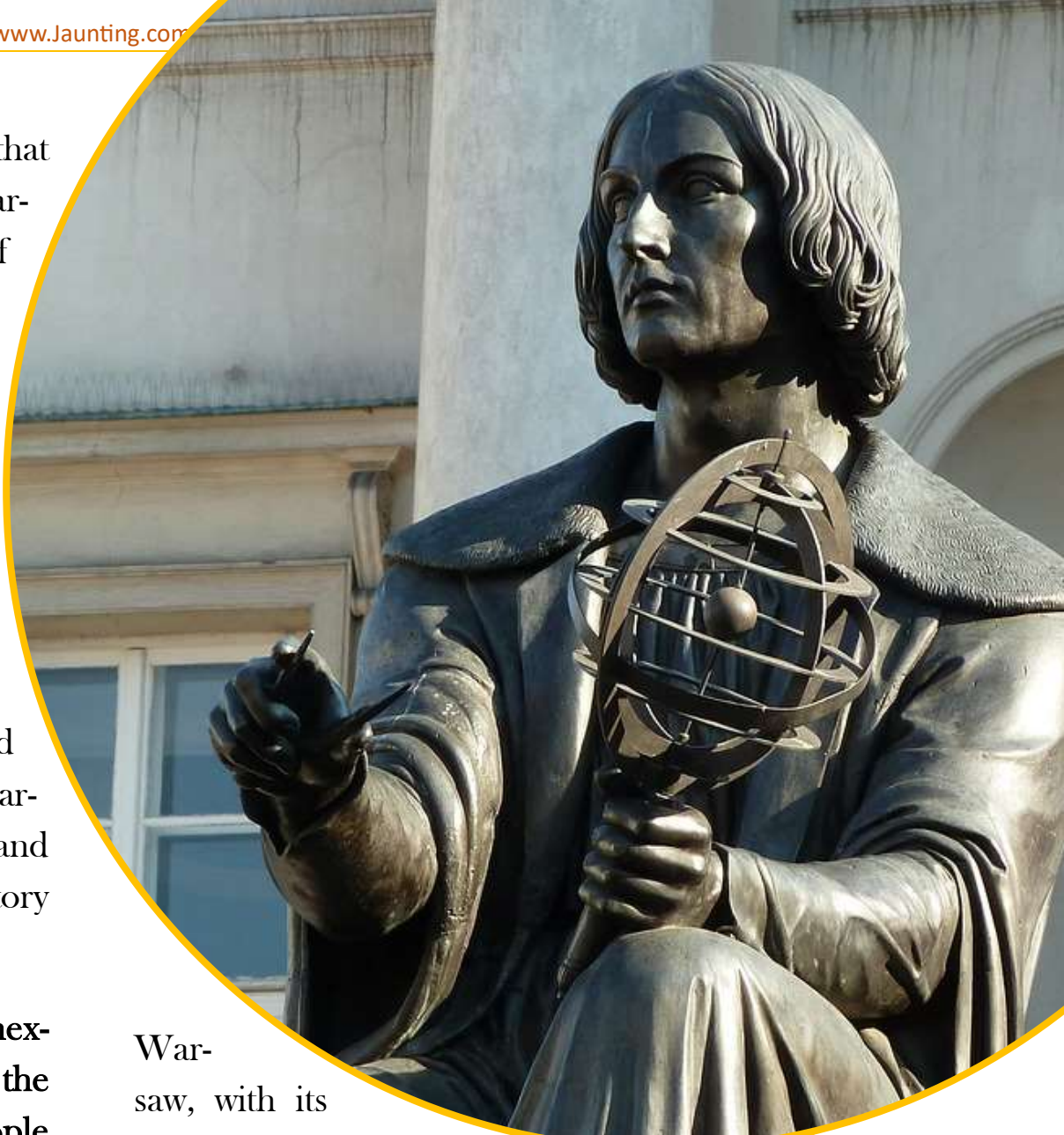
The flavorful sausages and fresh bread to the creamy milk and inexpensive cheese, Warsaw's culinary delights offer a comforting familiarity. Food, I discovered, is a

universal language that transcends cultural barriers. The simple act of sharing a meal fosters connection and creates a sense of belonging.

Despite the initial challenges and cultural differences from my previous life experiences, I found myself drawn to Warsaw's vibrant energy and its unique blend of history and modernity.

The city's unexpected charms and the warmth of its people made me feel welcome, even as I navigated the complexities of adapting to a new way of life.

Warsaw, with its contrasts and contradictions, is a city that stays with you long after you've left its bustling streets.



## For more information

[pkin.pl/en](http://pkin.pl/en)

[www.amazon.com/Your-Roots-Cast-Shadow-Belonging/dp/B0D4MDSJ5H](http://www.amazon.com/Your-Roots-Cast-Shadow-Belonging/dp/B0D4MDSJ5H)





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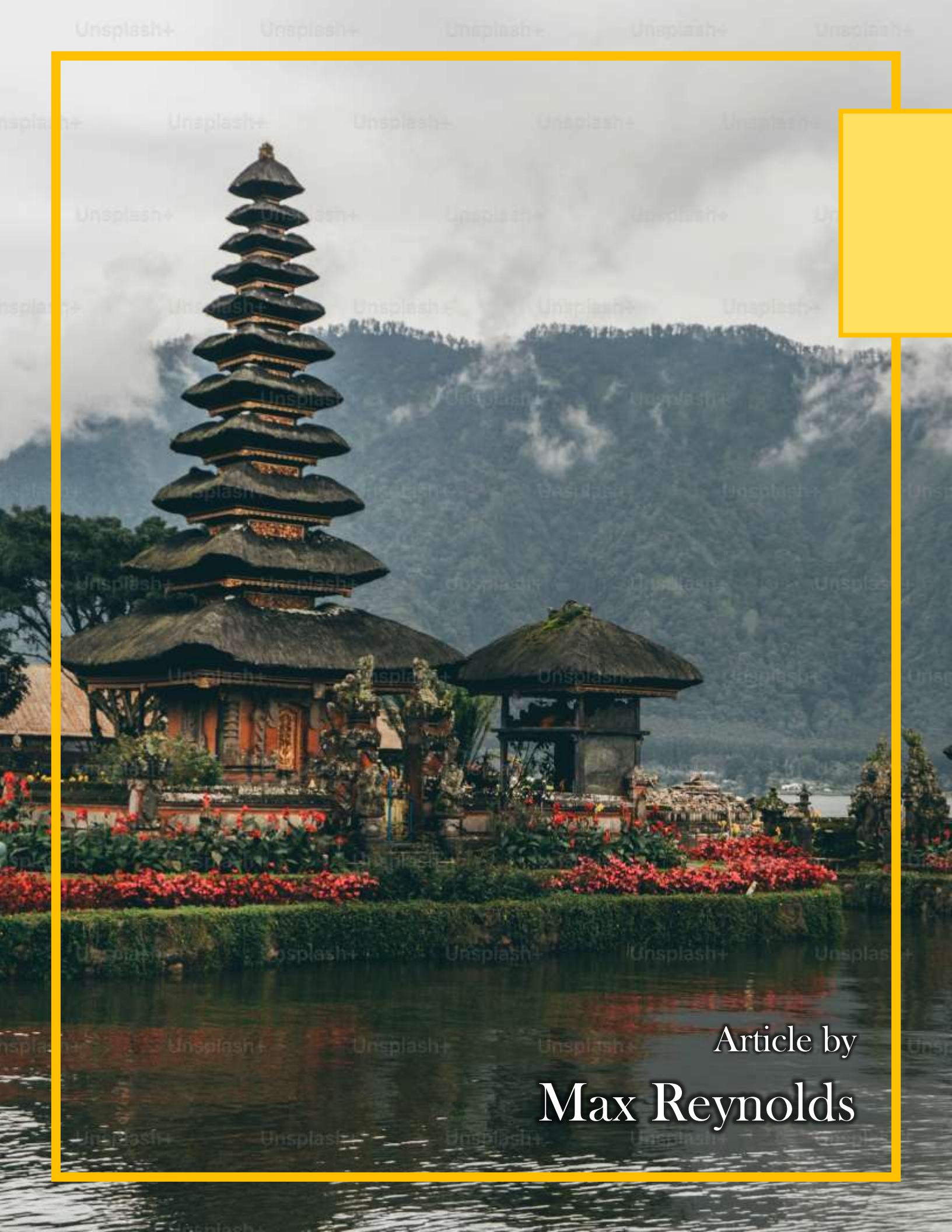
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**Fiesta!** Carnival Cancun features parades, music, dancing, and costumes.



Article by  
**Max Reynolds**

# Bali's Meru Towers

Meru towers, with their distinctive multi-tiered roofs, are a hallmark of Balinese temple architecture. These towers are not just architectural marvels but are deeply symbolic, representing Mount Mahameru, the sacred mountain in Hindu and Buddhist cosmology.

The number of tiers on a Meru tower is always an odd number, signifying the importance of the deity it is dedicated to. The roofs are traditionally made from the black fibers of the sugar palm tree, known as ijuk.

In Balinese culture, temples are not just places

of worship but are integral to the community's social and spiritual life. The Meru towers, with their towering presence, serve as a focal point during religious ceremonies and festivals. They are often adorned with offerings and decorations, reflecting the community's

devotion and reverence  
for the deities.

## Tanah Lot Temple

Tanah Lot Temple, or Pura Tanah Lot, is one of Bali's most iconic landmarks. Situated on a large offshore rock, it is a stunning example of Balinese sea temples. The name "Tanah Lot" translates to "Land in the Sea," reflecting its unique location.

The temple dates back to the 16th century and is attributed to the Hindu priest Dang Hyang Nirartha. According to legend, Nirartha was traveling along the south coast of Bali when he saw the rock island's beauty and decided to spend the night there. He felt it was a holy place to worship the Balinese sea gods and instructed local fishermen to build a shrine on the rock.





Tanah Lot is one of seven sea temples built along the Balinese coast, each within sight of the next, forming a chain to

protect the island from evil spirits. The main deity of the temple is Dewa Baruna or Bhatara Segara, the sea god.

At the base of the rocky island, **venomous sea snakes are believed to guard the temple from evil spirits and intruders.** These snakes are considered sacred and are one of the temple's unique attractions. There is a cave with a "holy snake" that visitors can see for a small

fee. This black and white ringed sea snake is highly venomous but not aggressive. Despite being surrounded by saltwater, there is a freshwater spring at the base of the rock. This spring is considered sacred and is used for purification rituals.

The temple is only



accessible on foot at low tide. During high tide, the rock appears to float on the sea, creating a dramatic and picturesque scene. Tanah Lot is famous for its stunning sunset views. The sight of the temple silhouetted against the setting sun is a must-see for visitors. The path to the temple is lined with Balinese market-format souvenir shops, and there are restaurants on the mainland clifftops offering views of the temple.

## More Meru Towers

Other notable examples of Meru towers include Pura Besakih, known as Bali's mother temple, which is the largest and holiest temple complex on the island. It features several



impressive Meru towers, including one with eleven tiers dedicated to the supreme god, Sang Hyang Widhi Wasa.

Pura Ulun Danu Bratan, located on the shores of Lake Bratan, is dedicated to the lake goddess, Dewi Danu. Its iconic Meru towers are often depicted in photographs and postcards of Bali.

Pura Taman Ayun, a royal temple in Mengwi, is renowned for its

beautiful garden and multi-tiered Meru towers. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a popular tourist destination.

## Ceremonies and Events

Balinese temples host numerous ceremonies and events throughout the year, many of which are tied to the island's unique calendar systems. Some notable ceremonies that occur in February and March include Saraswati Day, celebrated once every 210 days and dedicated to Dewi Saraswati, the Goddess of knowledge.

On this day, locals, especially school children, pray to the goddess and show appreciation for the gift of knowledge by making offerings to their books and reading at their homes or temples.

Bhatara Turun Kabeh is an important

### Did You know?

The entire country shuts down on the Balinese New Year “Nyepi” for 24 hours to create silence.

The main temple of Tanah Lot is not open to the public.

Bali has over 20,000 temples.

The stone temples are called “Pura”.



cultural event that takes place during the 10th lunar month in Bali, usually around March. During this period, every Balinese Hindu family must visit Pura Besakih, the island's largest and most important temple.

Galungan and Kuningan are festivities that mark the beginning of the Pawukon year and celebrate the creation of the universe and the victory of good (Dharma) over evil (Adharma).

Galungan is celebrated on a Wednesday, with preparations starting on the previous Monday. The celebrations last for ten days and end with Kuningan, which celebrates purification.

When visiting a Balinese temple, it is essential to observe proper decorum by dressing



modestly, wearing clothing that covers your shoulders and knees. Sarongs and sashes are often



provided at the temple entrance. Remove your shoes before entering the temple grounds. Maintain a respectful silence, especially during ceremonies. Avoid pointing at sacred objects or people, as it is considered disrespectful.

Meru towers are more than just

architectural features; they are the center of the cultural and spiritual heritage of Bali.

So, next time you find yourself in Bali, take the time to explore these magnificent temples and immerse yourself in Bali.



**For more information**

[balitourismboard.id/](http://balitourismboard.id/)



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A person with blonde hair, wearing a red shirt, is seen from behind, looking out from a wooden balcony of a treetop camp. The balcony has a black metal railing. In the background, a vast savanna landscape unfolds under a clear blue sky. A single acacia tree stands in the distance. In the middle ground, a hippopotamus is grazing in a grassy field. The foreground shows a wooden table with a white tablecloth, a glass of water, and a glass of beer. The entire scene is framed by a yellow border.

# Kenya's Treetop Safari Camp Mara Toto

Feature by  
Paul Pence



Imagine waking up to the symphony of nature—the gentle rustling of leaves, the distant call of a lion, and the soft chirping of birds as the first light of dawn filters through the treetops. Welcome to Mara Toto Tree Camp, a hidden gem nestled within the captivating Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya.

Here, adventure and luxury intertwine seamlessly as guests embark on an unforgettable journey through one of Africa's most renowned wildlife havens.

Unveiled in July 2024, Mara Toto Tree Camp is the newest addition to Great Plains' exclusive Réserve-Collection



tented suites. Overlooking the Ntiakitiak River within the 150,000-hectare Maasai Mara National Reserve and with private access to the 26,000-hectare Mara North Conservancy, the camp offers a secluded and stunning location that seamlessly blends comfort with adventure.

safari camps. Located within the forest canopy, this intimate camp accommodates up to eight adults in four luxurious

Designed by National Geographic explorer-filmmakers Dereck and Beverly Joubert, Mara Toto Tree Camp

reflects the romantic safari era with a modern twist. The treetop suites offer a bird's-eye view of the stunning landscape, creating an immersive and exclusive experience that feels like a movie set. Elevated walkways wind between tree trunks, providing endless opportunities to spot wildlife long after the day's safari drive is over.

extraordinary wildlife encounters. From your elevated suite, you might spot elephants majestically traversing the plains

## Immersive Wildlife Encounters

From the moment you step onto your suite's deck, the scents of the African bush greet you—crisp and earthy, mingling with the subtle aroma of wildflowers.

The Maasai Mara is synonymous with





or a pride of lions basking in the morning sun. The sight of giraffes gracefully nibbling on acacia leaves and the rhythmic sound of wildebeest hooves during the Great Migration create a sensory experience that's both exhilarating and humbling.

Twice-daily game drives in specially designed open-sided Land Cruisers offer thrilling opportunities to witness the Big Five—lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, and

rhino—as well as cheetahs, zebras, and countless other species.

**The sight of giraffes gracefully nibbling on acacia leaves and the rhythmic sound of wildebeest hooves during the Great Migration create a sensory tapestry that's both exhilarating and humbling.**

Photography enthusiasts will appreciate the 300-degree views and the professional Canon camera set provided in each



suite. The touch of the cool metal of binoculars and the click of the camera shutter will become familiar companions on your journey.

Guests of Mara Toto Tree Camp are also treated to the awe-inspiring spectacle of the Great Migration, where millions of wildebeest and zebras journey across the plains in search of greener pastures. This annual event, typically occurring in July and August, is a bucket-

list experience for any safari-goer. The sounds of thundering hooves and the sight of animals in motion are truly unforgettable.

Beyond the game drives, Mara Toto Tree Camp offers an array of activities to deepen your connection with this remarkable ecosystem.

Guided bush walks allow you to explore the flora and fauna up close, while hot air balloon safaris provide a breathtaking

aerial perspective of the landscape. As you float silently over the savannah at sunrise, the world below comes alive with the vibrant colors of dawn.

Guests can also visit nearby Maasai villages to learn about the rich cultural heritage and traditional way of life of the

Maasai people. For those seeking relaxation, the camp offers in-room spa treatments, allowing you to unwind while listening to the sounds of the bush—the gentle rustling of leaves and the distant calls of animals.

Sundowners by the outdoor fire area provide



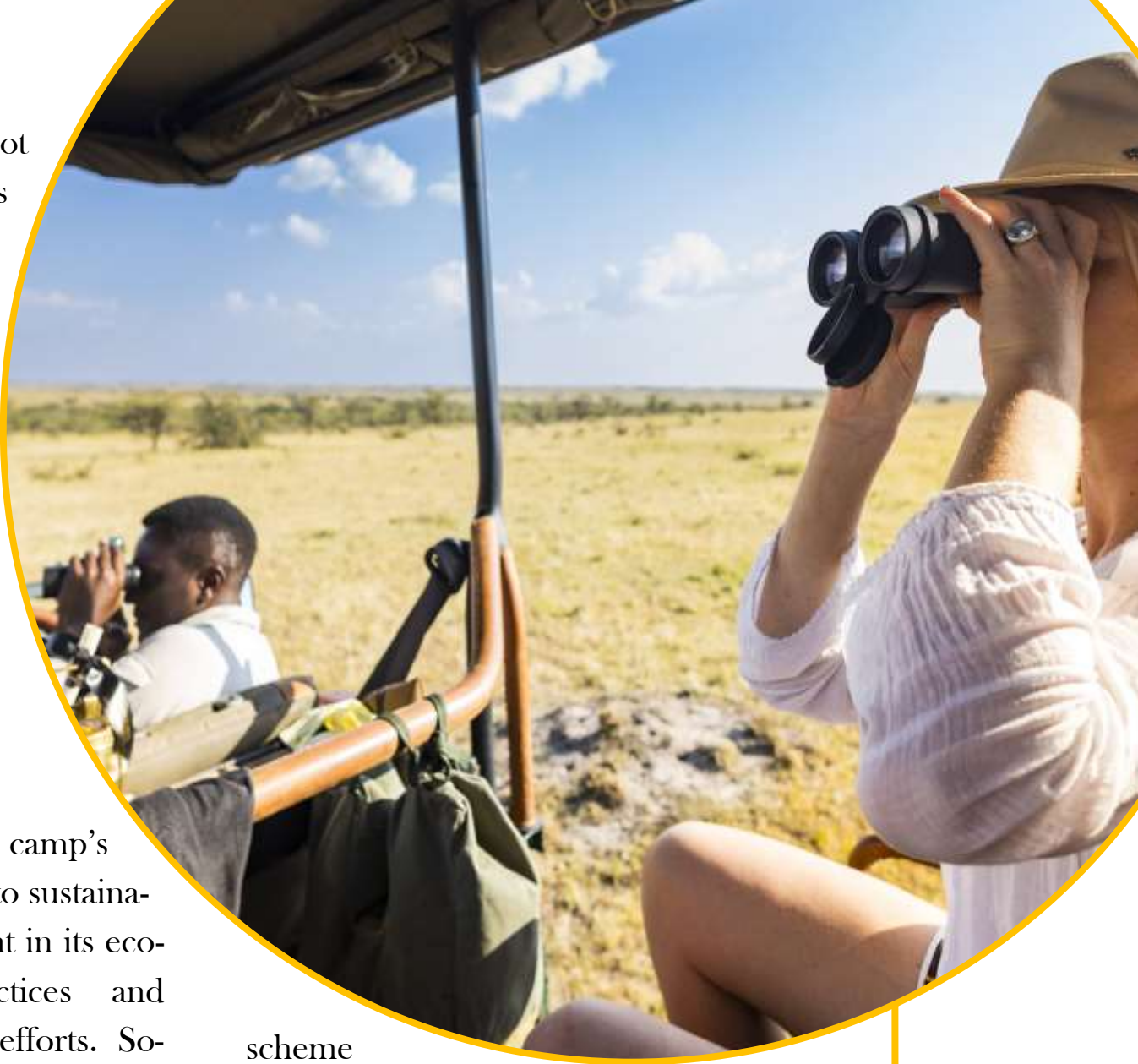
the perfect spot to swap stories from the day's adventures.

## Sustainable Luxury and Comfort

The camp's commitment to sustainability is evident in its eco-friendly practices and conservation efforts. Solar power, rainwater harvesting, and the use of recycled wood—including from old sailing dhows off the Kenyan coast—minimize the environmental footprint.

The stunning interior design, crafted by Dereck and Beverly Joubert themselves, features a soft

scheme of airy greys and touches of teal, with natural light wood reflecting the 'in the trees' theme. Local fabrics and unique details, such as woodpecker door-knobs and hanging weaver nest chairs, add to the camp's charm. The central lounge and dining room offer ample space to unwind and enjoy fine



dining following a day spent on the plains. Bathrooms are uniquely designed around ebony trees, providing a truly

one-of-a-kind guest experience.

Arranging a safari adventure to Mara Toto Tree Camp is a seamless process thanks to Great Plains Conservation. Reservations can be made directly through the Great Plains Conservation website or via reputable travel agents specializing in luxury safaris.

The nearest international airport is Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi. From Nairobi, guests typically take a short domestic flight to the Maasai Mara, followed by a scenic drive to the camp. Most packages include accommodation, meals, beverages, game drives, and guided activities. Additional experiences like hot air balloon safaris may be available at an extra cost. Ensure you have the



necessary travel documents, including a valid passport and any required visas. It's also advisable to consult your healthcare provider for information on vaccinations and health precautions.

Mara Toto Tree Camp offers a one-of-a-kind safari experience that combines the thrill of wildlife encounters with the serenity of elevated treetop living.

Whether you're a seasoned traveler or embarking on your first African safari, this luxurious camp promises an adventure filled with wonder, discovery, and unforgettable memories.

## Did You know?

Massai Mara is home to lions, leopards, elephants, buffalo, rhinos, and more.

The national park is named after the indigenous Masasai tribe.

There are over 450 bird species, including the African fish eagle.

The Mara River is the site of migratory crossings.



## For more information

[greatplainsconservation.com/safari/mara-toto-tree-camp/](http://greatplainsconservation.com/safari/mara-toto-tree-camp/)



# Where have you been?



**Ian Schneider** went to  
San Francisco's  
Golden Gate Bridge

**Cande Welsch** toured  
Baja California,  
Mexico

**Furkan Elveren**  
explored Laodicea An-  
cient City in Turkiye





**Spenser Sembrat** trekked across the Iceland Highlands

**Scott Evans** wandered the streets of New York City



**Sahil Pradhan** visited the Qutub Minar minaret in New Delhi

**Desti Nursinta** found serenity in the redwoods of Togakushi, Nagano, Japan

**Where Have You Been?**  
Send your pictures to [paul@pence.com](mailto:paul@pence.com)



# Best of the West

# Scottsdale



Feature by  
Debbie Stone



Scottsdale, AZ is a prime destination for visitors who flock to this desert oasis for sunshine and warm temps, particularly when much of the rest of the country is dealing with true winter conditions.

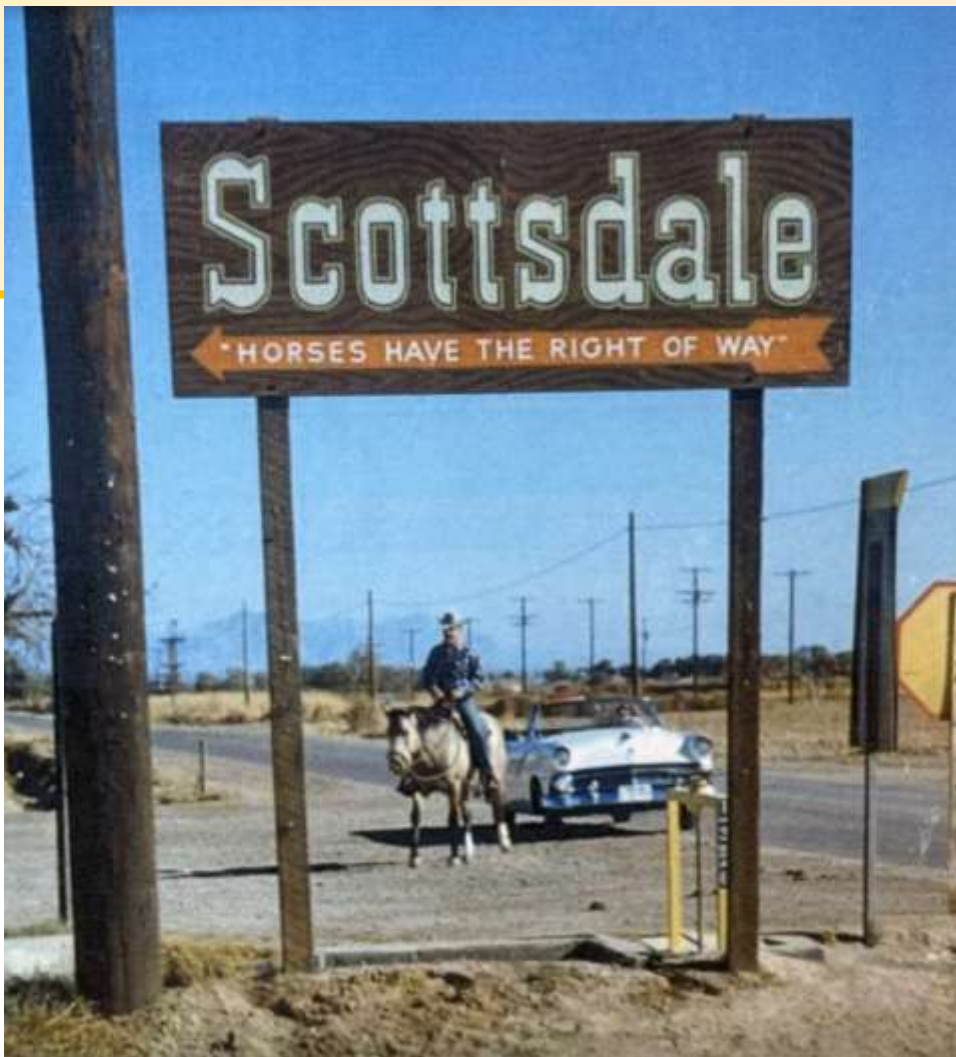
Though the weather is a definite allure, there's so much more to Scottsdale that beckons travelers. They come for its upscale charm, vibrant arts and culture scene, award-winning restaurants and hip watering holes, easy access to nature and plenty of golf courses and spa resorts.

## Old Town Scottsdale



Old Town Scottsdale is typically on most people's itineraries, especially those who are first timers. This area, often referred to as the "beating heart" of the city, is full of eclectic shops, plenty of dining and nightlife options, art galleries, museums and unique landmarks, all packed into just over one square mile. And every Saturday morning from October - June, you'll find the festive Old Town Farmers Market buzzing with energy, organic produce, locally made salsas, artisan baked goods, handmade gifts and more.

The story of Old Town Scottsdale, though, is probably one many visitors (and perhaps even





some locals) don't know.

To dive into the colorful history of this place and learn how Scottsdale evolved, opt to take a private tour with JoyRidesAZ. The company, which is owned and run by Kirk and Monica Nicodermus, has been in business since 2013. The

couple love Scottsdale so much, they created a luxury gold cart experience to show off the best of their hometown to visitors. And if you're a local, they promise you'll learn something new.

**JoyRidesAZ** specializes in boutique tours with a variety of themes,

such as Best of the West, Fiesta Margarita and Tacos, Wine Tasting, Brew and Spirits, Sip and Shop, Native American Culture and Art, Public Art and more. Or you can customize your tour to get a little taste of everything.

## Historical Landmarks

Being a neophyte when it came to Scottsdale's history, I opted to do JoyRidesAZ Best of the West Tour. Captain Kirk, as he is called, met my husband and me at the Canopy by Hilton Hotel in Old Town. We proceeded to head to the rooftop of this hotel for a picturesque overview of the area.

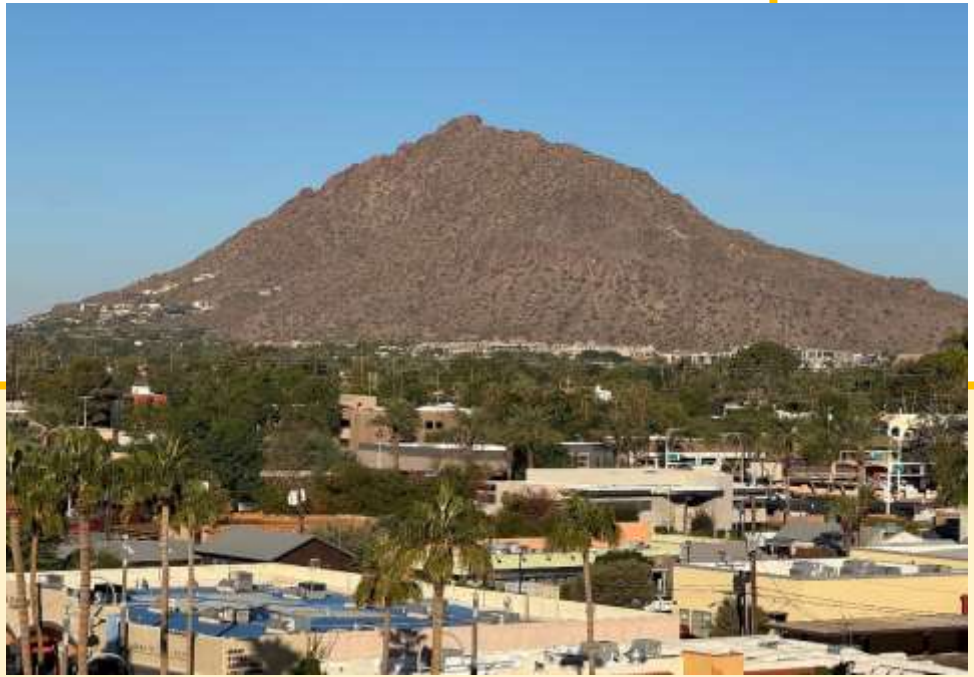
Captain Kirk pointed out the various mountains, including Camelback, McDowell and Papago. Of these, he said that Camelback is very



popular with hikers. He also told us that Scottsdale and its surrounding cities such as Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe, are part of the Salt River Valley. The sprawl of housing developments as far as the eye can see is a result of the constant growth in the region, due to its desirability.

Captain Kirk gave us some important dates to provide a perspective on Scottsdale's history: 1896 - the town was founded, 1912 - Arizona became the 48th state, after taking 49 years for this achievement, and 1951 - Scottsdale becomes a city, population 2,000. Compare that number to 250,000, today's stat.

We hopped on the spacious golf cart, with Captain Kirk at the wheel, and began driving around the colorful streets of Old



Town. As we did, he told us that people were originally drawn to Scottsdale for agricultural reasons, to farm, as it had a favorable



climate and an irrigated desert location, plus the scenery was easy on the eyes. Ten East Coast families were its first residents and they built adobe homes of sand, straw and dung, as that was the only local material available.

Old Town is where settlement and development in Scottsdale started. Initially, the town was called Orangedale due to the many orange groves, and then in the 1900s, it was changed to Scottsdale. Finally in the 1930s, the hyphen was dropped to become Scottsdale.

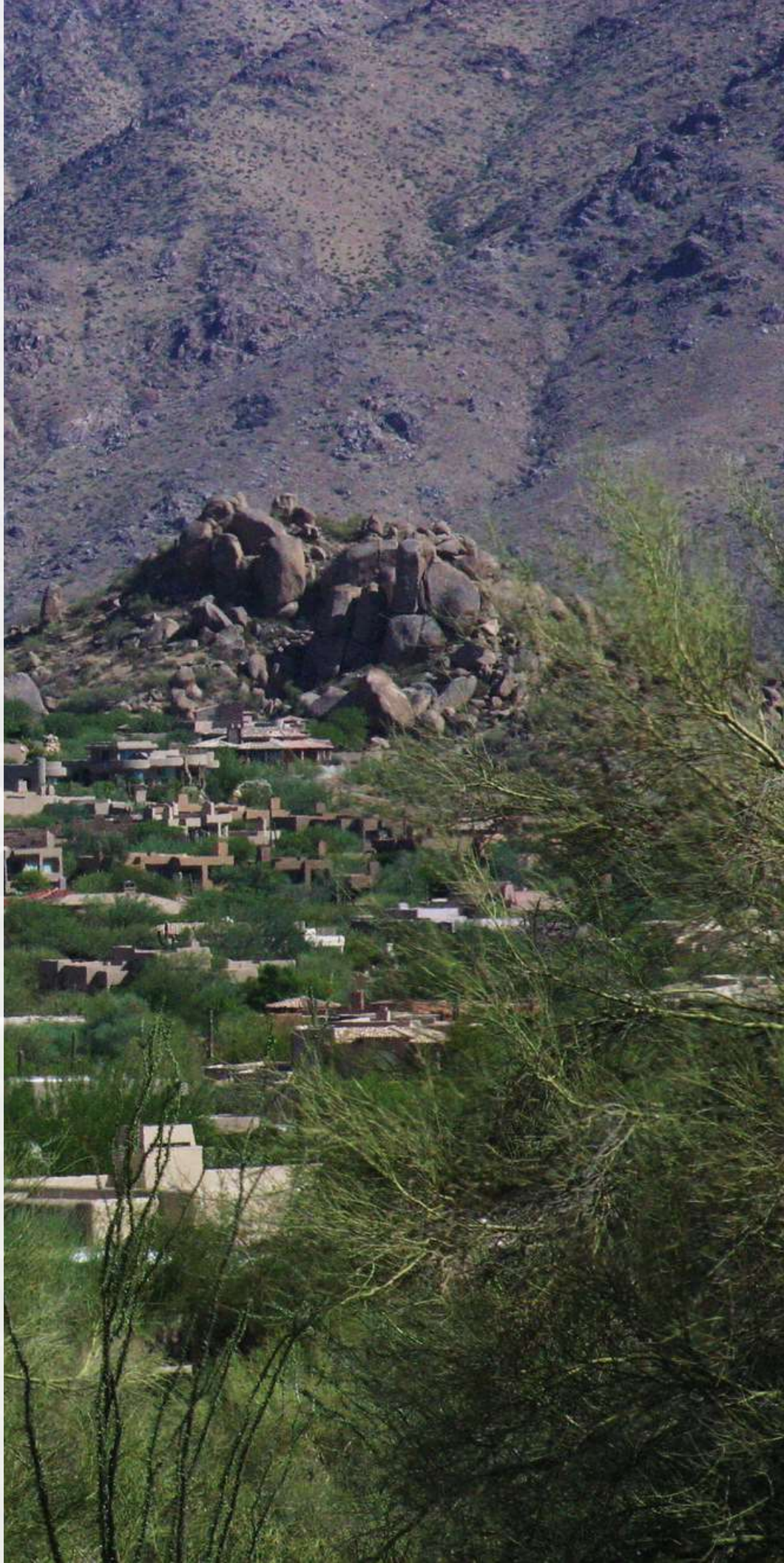
Winfield Scott, a Baptist minister and former U.S. Army chaplain is credited with being Scottsdale's founder, which is how the town got its name. He is also credited with promoting the area and encouraging its

growth.

Scott initially came to the area in 1888 for health reasons, but was inspired with its possibilities and put down a deposit on 640 acres (at \$2.50 an acre!) to begin farming. He was the first to plant olive trees, several that are still standing today.

Other health-conscious visitors were attracted to the region, too, and it eventually became a wellness mecca. In the 1920s and 30s, health camps and other resorts were built, where guests could convalesce and/or enjoy the outdoor activities afforded by the 300 plus sunny days a year.

It was the development of the town's ranching operations, however, that later inspired Scottsdale's famed moniker, "The West's Most



Western Town.” With this name came a Western design theme to capitalize on the Western image and lifestyle that

appealed to tourists at the time. The Chamber of Commerce encouraged local businesses to get in on this identity, enhancing the movie set-like impression and cowboy glamour of the Wild West.

It is a credit to their successful campaign that Scottsdale’s tourism industry continues to thrive today. Tourism is the city’s major industry and largest employer. And ten million plus people visit the city each year, populating the thousands of hotel and resort rooms.

Some of the notable sights along the tour included the Little Red Schoolhouse, the Prada del Sol Rodeo Museum, Old Adobe Mission, Cavalliere Blacksmith Shop and the Rusty Spur.

The schoolhouse,



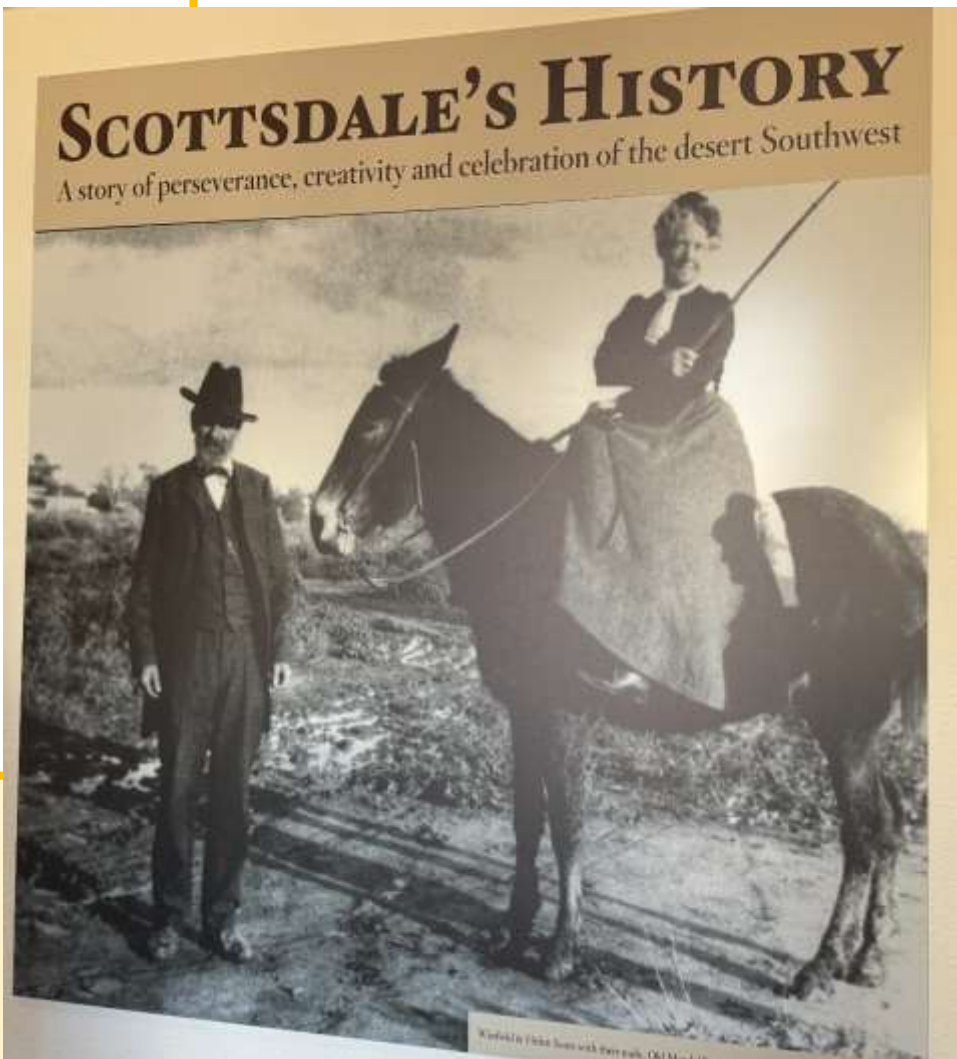
now the Scottsdale Historical Museum, opened in 1909 and was the Scottsdale Grammar School. It contained two large classrooms to accommodate the expanding enrollment of students. Though it was a school, it was also the hub of social life for the community and used for a church, polling place, and other civic purposes.

After it was no longer a school, it served as a police station, town hall and library. Then in 1968, the city decided to tear the building down, which is when the Scottsdale Historical Society formed to save the place. Flash forward to 1991 when the Society opened the Historical Museum.

Step inside for a flash from the past. There are displays of old photos, a classroom set up as it



would have been in 1910 and other exhibits depicting life in Scottsdale and the Southwest.



Outside the museum, Captain Kirk showed us the giant Indian Banyan Tree and a number of sculptures, including the “Winfield Scott Memorial,” by George-Ann Tognoni. It depicts Winfield with his wife Helen, who sits astride their mule Old Maud. Nearby is another of Tognoni’s bronzes, “The Yearlings,” featuring a trio of foals in running mode.

## The Scottsdale Life



Captain Kirk noted that Scottsdale has 150 plus public artworks and more than 800 portable works found in city-owned buildings, making it the city with the largest collection of outdoor art in the country.

The Rodeo Museum was another highlight of the tour. Inside, we met owner Dave Alford, a born and bred Scottsdale resident, who rode bulls for ten years. He opened the museum to offer people an insight into Scottsdale's rich rodeo history, which began in 1953. Though he will tell you that the real reason for the museum was that his wife wanted him to get his vast collection of memorabilia out of the house!

Alford's collection includes rodeo artifacts, original posters with artwork by the talented Western artist Kenneth M. Freeman, programs, saddles ridden by famed rodeo champs like Jake Barns, a 7 Time World Champion Team Roper, along with bull ropes and other memorabilia. And



of course, there's a rodeo bull you can sit on and have your pic taken!

Alford is a font of knowledge for everything rodeo in Scottsdale. His life-long involvement in rodeo and the local community has given him plenty of stories and local lore.

I liked the one about the cowboy featured in the Welcome to Historic Scottsdale sign. He was designed after "Harvey" Noriega, a ranch hand and local celebrity who once owned the museum building.

Dave also told us about the Parada del Sol Rodeo, which is an annual event held in March. This is a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) sanctioned rodeo, one of the oldest in the country.

In advance of the rodeo, the Scottsdale



Parada del Sol Historic Parade and Trail's End Festival rides into town, featuring floats, mounted horse-riders, horse-drawn





carriages, bands, wagons and stagecoaches representing many cultures from Mexican and Native American to Arabian and

Western. Following the parade, Old Town transforms into a large Western-style block party with food, entertainment and vendors selling an assortment of merch.

Across the street is the Cavalliere Blacksmith Shop. Captain Kirk told us that when looking at then and now photos, the place still looks a lot like it did when George Cavalliere opened it in 1909. It's now operated by his grandson George Cavalliere.

In the early 1900s, George Cavalliere was a blacksmith who worked on the Arizona Canal. When the project was completed, he was allowed to homestead land in Scottsdale and chose a site on Main Street. His business was well needed in the area, as many folks lived on nearby farms and the closest blacksmith back then was in Tempe.



Over the years, George moved away from making wagon wheels and harnesses, repairing farm equipment and shoeing

horses, to more ornamental work.

The shop was unfortunately not open when we stopped by, but Captain Kirk told us that inside it's jam packed from floor to ceiling with all sorts of old items. We peered through the windows and it looked like an antique store on steroids! He also mentioned that George doesn't keep set hours and it's hard to catch him in action.



Down the block is the Old Adobe Mission, an historic monument and one of only three remaining adobe structures in downtown Scottsdale. It was built by hand by the Mexicans who first settled in Scottsdale in the late 1910s. They came to work on the farms, put down roots and build a life in this area. Designed by Robert T. Evans, the

## Did You know?

Scottsdale enjoys 314 sunny days a year.

There are over 70 art galleries and museums.

Scottsdale hosts the Pheonix Open golf tournament.

Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home, Taliesin West, is located here.

Enjoy prickly pear ice cream, a local treat!

church, now lovingly restored, is an excellent example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and boasts beautiful stained-glass windows.

Another historic landmark is the Rusty Spur, Scottsdale's oldest cowboy saloon. It's housed in a former bank building, circa 1921, where the vault now contains beer and liquor instead of cash. Stop in for a libation at the legendary bar, hear live music, show off your moves on the dance floor and enjoy the Old West ambiance.

Captain Kirk dropped us off where we began the tour and reminded us to visit Western Spirit: Scottsdale



Museum of the West, located next to the hotel. The museum is one of the top western museums in the country, featuring an array of exhibits on art, culture and history. An ideal place to continue our deep dive into the "Best of the West!"



**For more information**

[www.JoyRidesAZ.com](http://www.JoyRidesAZ.com)



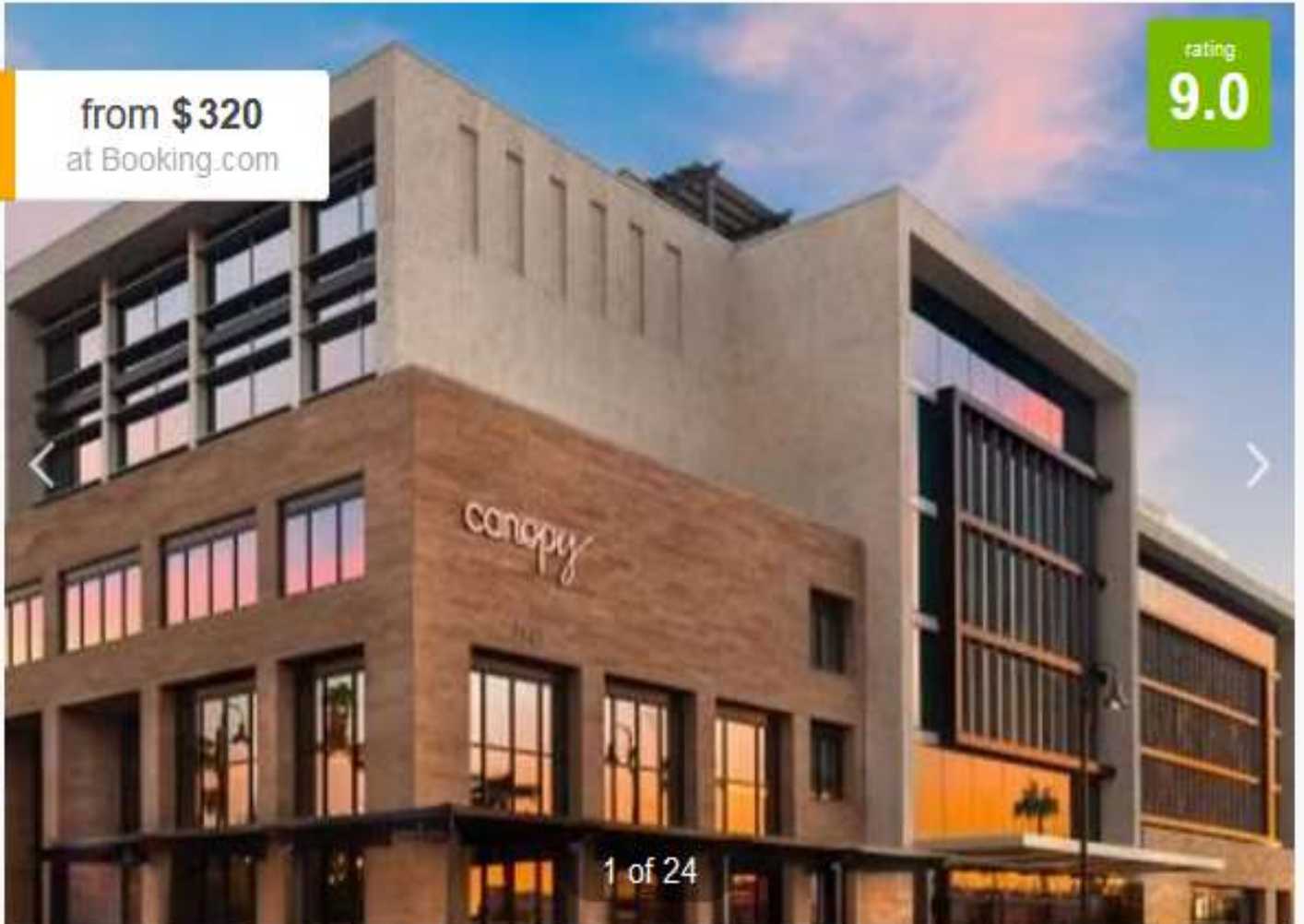
# Canopy By Hilton Scottsdale Old Town



7142 East 1st St

from \$320  
at Booking.com

rating  
**9.0**



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[SHOW ON A MAP](#)

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# February Festivals

*Harbin Ice Festival, China*

*Hogmanay, Scotland*

*Kaapse Klopse, South Africa*

*Duruthu Perahera, Sri Lanka*

*Dubai Shopping Festival, UAE*

*Ocaso Festival, Costa Rica*

*Voodoo Festival, Benin*

*Sundance Film Festival, USA*

*Up Helly Aa, Scotland*

*Auckland Anniversary Day, NZ*

*Thaipusam, Malaysia*

# Taking the Scenic Route From Rome to Verona



**Rome**, the eternal city, is a treasure trove of history and culture. Known for its ancient ruins, vibrant street life, and world-renowned cuisine, Rome offers a unique blend of timeless beauty and modern charm. From the grandeur of the Colosseum to the serene beauty of the Vatican Gardens, there's something for everyone. As you embark on your journey, take time to explore the city's iconic landmarks and hidden gems.

Embarking on a scenic route from Rome to Verona transforms your journey into an adventure, allowing you to savor the rich tapestry of Italy's landscapes and heritage. Instead of rushing along the highways, take the time to explore charming towns like Orvieto and historic sites such as the medieval city of Siena.



**Orvieto:** A charming hilltop town known for its stunning cathedral and underground caves. Orvieto offers a blend of rich history and modern charm, with its scenic views, lively piazzas, and delightful local cuisine.

**Siena:** Famous for its medieval cityscape and the historic Piazza del Campo, Siena is a city steeped in history. Its narrow streets, beautiful architecture, and vibrant cultural scene make it a must-visit destination.



**San Gimignano:** Renowned for its medieval towers and beautiful views, San Gimignano is a picturesque town that offers a glimpse into Italy's past. Its charming streets, local crafts, and delicious gelato make it a delightful stop.

**Florence:** The cradle of the Renaissance, Florence is home to iconic art and architecture. From the grandeur of the Duomo to the masterpieces in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence offers a unique blend of history, culture, and modern vibrancy.

**Make this your overnight stop.**



**Bologna:** Known for its culinary delights and historic university, Bologna is a city that tantalizes the senses. Its vibrant food scene, beautiful porticoes, and lively atmosphere make it a memorable stop on your journey.

**Make sure to stop here for food!**

**Modena:** Famous for its balsamic vinegar and the Ferrari Museum, Modena is a city that combines tradition and innovation. Its charming streets, historic sites, and delicious cuisine make it a delightful destination.



**Parma:** Renowned for its Parmesan cheese and beautiful architecture, Parma is a city that offers a blend of rich history and modern charm. Its scenic squares, lively markets, and gourmet restaurants make it a delightful stop.



**Mantua:** A UNESCO World Heritage site with stunning Renaissance architecture, Mantua is a city that exudes history and culture. Its beautiful palaces, charming streets, and vibrant cultural scene make it a must-visit destination.



**Verona**, the city of love, is renowned for its romantic charm and historical significance. Known for its well-preserved Roman architecture, vibrant piazzas, and the legendary tale of Romeo and Juliet, Verona offers a unique blend of ancient allure and modern vibrancy. From the grandeur of the Verona Arena to picturesque old town, there's something for everyone. As you embark on your journey, take time to explore the city's iconic landmarks and hidden gems.





# Discovering Hyogo's Sake

Hyogo Prefecture, nestled in the verdant embrace of western Japan, beckons you with its harmonious blend of tradition, natural beauty, and gastronomic excellence. This region, renowned as the birthplace of the revered Yamada Nishiki rice, the "king of sake rice," is the beating heart of Japan's sake culture.

If you yearn to uncover the secrets of sake production while indulging in the finest local cuisine, Hyogo offers an unparalleled voyage through its celebrated breweries and exquisite dining establishments.

Sake, often referred

to as Japan's national drink, is more than just a beverage—it's a cultural emblem. Brewed from rice, water, yeast, and koji mold, sake's meticulous production process transforms these humble ingredients into a drink of remarkable complexity

and depth. Each sip tells a story of the region's climate, water, and craftsmanship, making it a treasured component of

Japan's rich culinary tradition.

As you explore Hyogo's fertile lands, where over 50% of the nation's Yamada Nishiki rice is cultivated, you'll discover some of Japan's most esteemed sake breweries. Among these, Miyake Sake Brewery and Nishiyama Brewery stand out for their dedication to tradition, innovation, and quality.

Plan to visit Miyake Sake Brewery, founded in 1819, where you'll find yourself at a cornerstone of Hyogo's sake heritage.

This historic brewery is renowned for its impeccable craftsmanship and unwavering commitment to quality. Using the esteemed Yamada Nishiki rice and pristine water from the Manabe River, Miyake produces



sake that is celebrated for its purity and refined flavor. Embark on guided tours that reveal the time-honored methods behind sake production, sample Miyake's diverse sake portfolio, and explore exclusive products that capture the essence of Hyogo's rich sake culture.

Your journey wouldn't be complete without experiencing the culinary brilliance of Izumi, a Michelin-starred restaurant in Kasai. Specializing in kaiseki, the traditional Japanese multi-course meal, Izumi meticulously pairs each dish with Miyake Sake, creating a symphony of flavors that celebrate the region's seasonal bounty.

The serene dining atmosphere provides the perfect backdrop for a memorable gastronomic journey, making Izumi a



must-visit for sake connoisseurs and food lovers alike.



that blends centuries-old traditions with modern techniques. Established in 1849, Nishiyama uses pure mountain spring water and locally-grown rice to craft its distinguished sake.

Enjoy guided tours, participate in hands-on sake brewing workshops, and even stay overnight at the brewery for a truly unique exploration of sake production. The on-site fermentation-focused restaurant further enhances the experience, with each dish thoughtfully paired with a complementary sake from Nishiyama's collection.

While Hyogo's sake culture is a highlight, the prefecture offers a wealth of attractions for the curious traveler.

Explore the iconic Himeji Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site, or stroll through the cosmopolitan streets of Kobe. Discover the scenic coastlines, lush



If you're eager to delve deeper into the art of sake brewing, Nishiyama Brewery offers an immersive experience

mountains, and rejuvenating hot springs of Arima Onsen. For a blend of modern and traditional experiences, visit the culturally significant Awaji Island, which offers a captivating glimpse into Japan's heritage.

Hyogo Prefecture invites you to embark on a journey that delights all the senses. Immerse yourself in the rich sake culture, savor the finest culinary creations, and explore the breathtaking landscapes that make this region truly unique. ‘

Be prepared to be enchanted by the harmonious blend of tradition, natural beauty, and gastronomic excellence that defines Hyogo.

Kanpai!



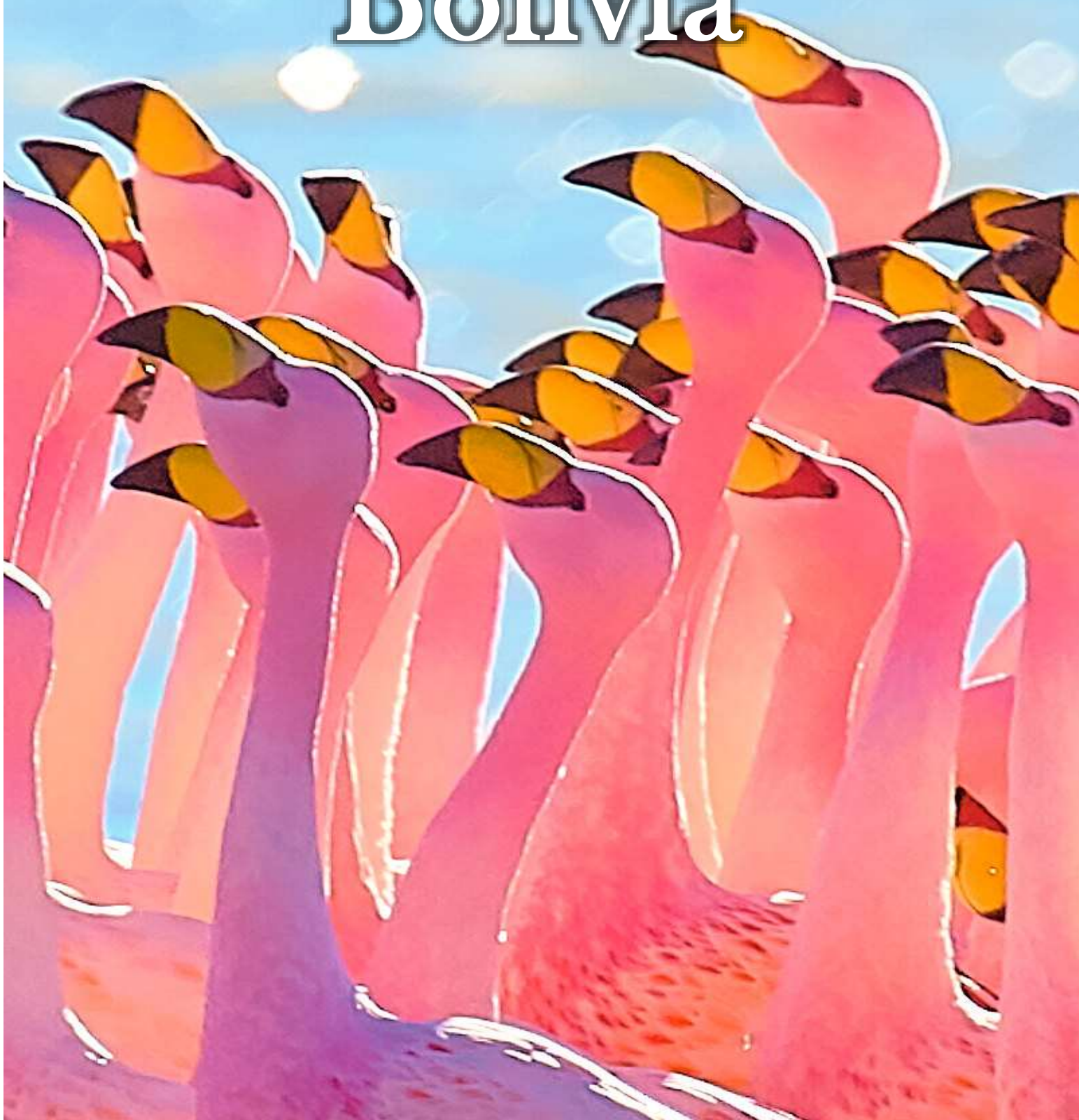
**For more information**


[www.hyogo-tourism.jp](http://www.hyogo-tourism.jp)



Pedro Szekely Photographs

# Bolivia





Bolivia is home to the world's largest salt flat, the Salar de Uyuni, which spans over 10,000 square kilometers,

The salt flats are a breeding ground for three species of flamingos: the Chilean, Andean, and James's flamingos.

In Bolivia, llamas are often adorned with colorful threads and ribbons, believed to ward off evil spirits.

Indigenous women in Bolivia, known as Cholitas, are recognized for their distinctive bowler hats and layered skirts.

Bolivia has the highest percentage of indigenous people in Latin America, with approximately 55% of its population with indigenous roots.

Bolivia is the only source of the unique gemstone ametrine, a combination of amethyst and citrine.

Bolivian cuisine includes dishes like salteñas (savory pastries), anticuchos (grilled meat skewers), and api (a traditional corn-based drink).

Bolivia is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including jaguars, pumas, and the spectacled bear, as well as numerous bird species.





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# What the Heck is Duty Free?

Traveling can be an exhilarating adventure, full of new experiences and discoveries. One such discovery for many travelers is the concept of duty-free shopping. If you've ever wandered through an airport and wondered what the fuss is about those gleaming stores with “duty free” plastered on them, you're in the right place. Let's unravel this mystery together.

Duty-free shops are retail outlets that are exempt from the payment of certain local or national taxes and duties. These shops are typically found in international zones, such as airports, cruise ports, or international

train stations, and they offer goods at a lower price compared to regular retail stores. The idea is that because you're traveling internationally, you can purchase items without the added burden of taxes that would usually be

applied in the country you're leaving.

There are several reasons why travelers

might want to indulge in duty-free shopping. The primary appeal is the potential to save money. Without the added taxes, products can be significantly cheaper. Duty-free shops often carry high-end products like perfumes, cosmetics, alcohol, and tobacco, making it a great opportunity to snag luxury items at a lower cost.

It's also a convenient way to pick up gifts or last-minute necessities while waiting for your flight.

Duty-free shops are typically located in international departure areas of airports, cruise ports, and border train stations. Almost every international airport has a duty-free section. Once you've passed through security, you'll often find a



plethora of shops offering everything from electronics to chocolate.

Many major cruise terminals have duty-free shops where you can buy items before boarding or when you dock at international destinations. Some land border crossings also have duty-free shops, especially in regions with high traffic between countries.

The range of products available in duty-free shops is vast, but some of the most popular items include high-end brands of perfumes and cosmetics, premium spirits, wines, and champagnes, cigarettes and cigars, gourmet chocolates and sweets, and sometimes gadgets and accessories.

While duty-free shopping sounds like a



dream, there are a few things to be mindful of.

Each country has its own rules about how



To ensure a smooth duty-free shopping experience, familiarize yourself with the customs regulations of both your departure and destination countries. Compare prices online before you travel to know if the duty-free deal is truly a good one, and always keep proof of purchase in case you need to declare your items at customs.

much you can bring back duty-free. Exceeding these limits can result in paying import duties.

Sometimes, the deals aren't as great as they seem, so always compare prices to ensure you're getting a real bargain.

In rare cases, counterfeit products can make their way into duty-free shops, so stick to reputable stores.

Duty-free shopping can be a delightful part of your journey if done right. So next time you're passing through an international zone, take a moment to explore and see what treasures you can find.

Happy shopping and safe travels!



# How to Order a Beer in Berlin



Find the Prater Garten, Berlin's oldest beer garden, in the heart of Prenzlauer Berg.

Claim a nice table under a chestnut tree.

Order a beer at the counter with “Ein Praterbier, Bitte” and pay.

Collect your beer and say “Danke”.

Enjoy at your table!

Leave a tip when you depart.

# Featured Travel Opportunities

Jaunting Magazine's Featured Travel Opportunities showcase the extraordinary journeys waiting to be discovered. Each experience highlights the essence of exploration—immersing travelers in breathtaking landscapes, vibrant cultures, and unforgettable activities. From thrilling glacier treks and wildlife encounters to cozy evenings under the Northern Lights or world-class dining in remote destinations, these curated adventures represent the spirit of discovery that defines Adventure Life.

Whether you dream of delving into ancient histories, indulging in outdoor thrills, or simply finding serenity in nature's most stunning corners, these trips are a glimpse into the adventures that await.



## Escape to Mizata by Antiresort in El Salvador

This Spring Break, step into a world of adventure and relaxation at Mizata by Antiresort, a luxury beachfront retreat in El Salvador. Far from crowded tourist spots, Mizata blends breathtaking natural beauty with world-class amenities for an unforgettable getaway. Hike to the summit of Santa Ana's Volcano, explore the serene Tamanique Waterfalls, or uncover El Salvador's cultural treasures like Mayan ruins and the Ruta de las Flores. Prefer the ocean? Learn to surf with expert instructors or enjoy unlimited horseback riding along volcanic beaches and mountain trails.

Or start your day with yoga in a serene beachfront shala, then indulge in a blissful 60-minute massage. Evenings are perfect for savoring beachfront dining, where fresh, local flavors shine.

Your soul-stirring journey begins here. Book now!

[antiresort.com](http://antiresort.com)



## Explore Montenegro with Peter Sommer Travels

In 2025, Peter Sommer Travels introduces its first gulet cruise in Montenegro, an eight-day journey through the Adriatic Coast, Lake Skadar, and the Bay of Kotor. Discover Montenegro's fascinating blend of ancient history, stunning landscapes, and vibrant culture aboard a traditional 14-guest gulet. Highlights include exploring Venetian old towns, Ottoman fortresses, and Roman mosaics, as well as enjoying exquisite local cuisine and wines and the village of Godinj. Visit [petersommer.com](https://petersommer.com) to learn more.



## Greenland: Adventure Awaits!

Embark on the journey of a lifetime with Adventure Life's new land-based tours in Greenland. In summer, explore the pristine beauty of Disko Bay, hike ancient trails, paddleboard in icy fjords, and savor world-class dining at a remote Michelin-star restaurant. Winter unveils the magic of the Arctic with awe-inspiring Northern Lights, thrilling snowmobile safaris, and authentic dog-sledding adventures. Cozy accommodations—from glass-walled cabins to igloos—provide the perfect base for your Arctic explorations.

[www.adventure-life.com/greenland](https://www.adventure-life.com/greenland).

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# Our 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.



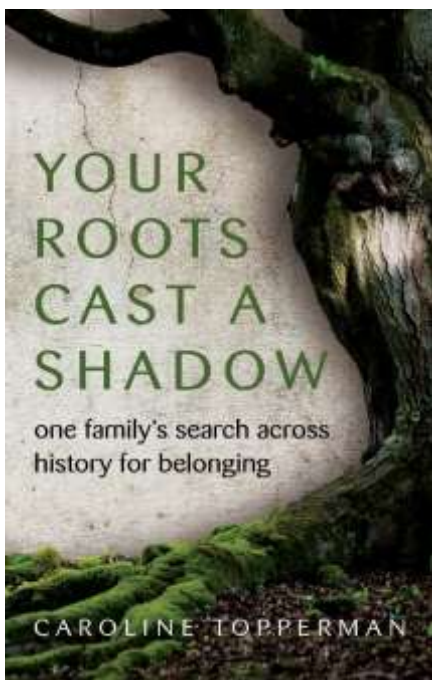


**Caroline Topperman** is the author of the new book, “Your Roots Cast a Shadow”, telling the story of her exploration of her ancestry in Eastern Europe.

Born in Sweden and raised in Canada, in 2013 Caroline Topperman returned to her ancestral roots in Poland to live, and to explore her love of traveling and experiencing different cultures. From sampling authentic Neapolitan Pizzas in Naples, to photographing a piano, frozen in a river in Užupis, an independent artist’s republic in Lithuania, to pitching Poutine as a great comfort food to a local French baker in Poland.

She speaks fluent English, Polish, and French. Caroline holds a BFA in screenwriting from York University (Toronto). Her book credits include *Tell Me What You See*: visual writing prompts for the wandering writer (One Idea Press) and a complementary guide to her blog, *FitWise*: straight talk about being fit & healthy.

Caroline has written a column for *Huffington Post Canada* and was the Beauty Editor for *British MODE*.



# Our Photographers

We are incredibly proud to showcase the stunning work of our talented photographers, including our dedicated readers, staff members, PR contributors, and stock photo sources. Their creativity and dedication bring our stories to life, capturing moments that resonate with our readers.

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