

# THE TRAVEL TATTLE

TRAVEL NEWS, TIPS, AND TIDBITS

Q4 2018



*Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park, The Bahamas*

SPAIN • BOLIVIA • CRUISING • ANTARCTICA • NEW YORK CITY • BORDEAUX RIVERS

**HUFFMAN TRAVEL**  
CHICAGO • DAYTON

## “Fill your life with experiences, not things. Have stories to tell, not stuff to show.”

—Unknown

Many of you ask, “Where can I go with my family where everyone will have a good time, regardless of age?” Multigenerational travel is booming. Whether it’s grandparents taking their grandchildren on a special birthday trip, parents celebrating their anniversary with their grown adult children, or a family and friends group with kids from infants to teens, I have never seen so much enthusiasm for “multigen” as I have recently.

People call us asking for life experiences and I think the most salient factor of creating lasting memories is doing this with people you love - sharing.

One of our recent trips was to a place that was neither far away nor overly exotic. After multiple failed attempts at coordinating schedules with friends so we could explore Southeast Asia (on my kids’ bucket list and still is!), we decided to stick closer to home and explore a part of the Bahamas which was unfamiliar to us: the Exumas. What started as a Plan B ended up being one of our most memorable trips to date.

We chartered a gorgeous yacht (with our dear friends the Koesters) and the crew introduced us to remote islands surrounded by crystal clear waters: swimming with rays,



jet skiing to secret beaches, and feeling genuinely connected to our surroundings quickly drew our kids - and us too - away from our phones and tablets. There was so much to experience together, for everyone: children, teenagers, and grownups!

In the end, it’s hard to tell who enjoyed the waterslide the most. What’s certain is that during this trip, we all felt a reenergized connection to our family and friends, one we will keep on nurturing.



#TraveltoLive

by *Shawna Huffman Owen*

President & CEO, Huffman Travel  
shawna@huffmantravel.com

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# 3 REASONS I FELL IN LOVE WITH SPAIN



Quite often, clients come to us for assistance in building a broader trip around a special event. This was the case for my family this summer, heading to Spain for a friend's wedding in Costa Brava. After a magical few days celebrating love and life, we headed on to explore the riches of Spain and discovered three absolute gems.

## Dali Museum

Whilst we are all familiar with Salvador Dali's melting clocks and contorted figures, a visit to his hometown of Figueres promises to surprise you with other works by the surrealist Spanish artist, including his breathtaking collection of fantastical jewels.



“San Sebastian is a perfect destination for foodies, families, and surfers alike.”

by  
Monique  
Owen



Luxury Travel Advisor  
monique@huffmantravel.com

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*Tip: Think about Figueres as a day trip from Barcelona. An easy 90 minute ride, well paired with Girona.*

#### **Food in San Sebastian**

The crown jewel of the Basque country and home to more Michelin-star restaurants than any other destination in the world, San Sebastian is a perfect destination for foodies, families, and surfers alike. Don't be afraid to take a surfing lesson: Two wonderful instructors from Pukas Surf Shop gave us one of the highlights of our trip. If your itinerary permits, be sure to include a visit to the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao or Biarritz, France, just 40 minutes across the border. Fashionistas will also enjoy a pilgrimage to Getaria and the Balenciaga Museum.

*Tip: Foodies and travelers flock from all around the globe to dine*

*here so it pays to plan ahead. Adventurous foodies will be eager to experience innovative Mugaritz. Look to Akelarre for a more classical interpretation of haute Basque cuisine.*

#### **Belmond La Residencia, Mallorca**

As an unapologetic hotel junkie, Belmond La Residencia has always been on my bucket list. There is a little secret sauce, a wonderful sense of place and hospitality that sets this one apart. Nestled between the Tramuntana mountains and the Mediterranean Sea in the artists haven and village of Deia, this property embodies the elegant and sophisticated side of Mallorca, the largest Balearic island.

*Tip: Don't miss a chance to hike with the resident donkeys Luna and Pancho.* 🐾



## BOLIVIA: SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS



by  
**Geoffrey  
Ravoire**



Luxury Travel Advisor  
[geoffrey@huffmantravel.com](mailto:geoffrey@huffmantravel.com)

I knew little about Bolivia before boarding my flight, but the names, places, and people had always inspired fantasies in my head about this landlocked country up high in the Andes. Bolivia will take your breath away - literally!

Main point of entry, La Paz cumulates world records - highest capital (at 11,800 ft), highest airport, highest golf club, etc. - and offers unique perspectives. El Alto where the working class lives and San Miguel where the wealthy have built gorgeous homes are separated by over 2,500 vertical feet of downtown area with brick homes, colorful colonial streets, and glass towers.

Next stop: Uyuni and the salt flats, a fairy tale décor that changes with the seasons from the driest desert to the most

immaculate watery formations. Hike the cactus-covered island of Incahuasi, spot gracious pink flamingos, and give glamping a try staying in your own deluxe airstream parked in the middle of the highest and largest salt flats in the world.

Way up west, the majestic Lake Titicaca offers pristine waters with the snow-covered Andes in the backdrop. Admire the beautiful basilica in Copacabana, and board a local fishing boat to enjoy lunch on Isla Del Sol, a remote island where time has no meaning and where endemic flowers grow among Inca ruins. For sure one of my most memorable meals.

Now that you're at Lake Titicaca, you can either make your way back to La Paz to fly home, or cross the border to magnificent Peru. 🌐



## Client Column

# ALL ABOARD!

So many places to go, so many places to see, but the thought of moving from one destination to another, checking in and out of hotels, packing and unpacking, going to airports, train stations, or renting cars can be overwhelming! A cruise eliminates these hassles and takes you places. True, it won't provide you an in-depth study of the ports of call, but it is a wonderful overview of those spots, and an opportunity to decide if you want to return for a longer stay.

I do recommend spending a few nights before or after the cruise in the area around the arrival or departure of the ship. For example, on our cruise out of Istanbul, we stayed three days in Istanbul before boarding the ship. On a Mediterranean cruise, we enjoyed time in Rome at the end of the cruise.

Most ships have scheduled sightseeing for passengers, or, it has been my experience to schedule my own daily adventures, either planning a driving trip with a driver (who gets the most out of your limited time in port) or a walking tour with a local guide – thank you Huffman Travel! Once, we even chartered a private boat for our family while in port in Capri, so that we could get a little closer to the water and snorkel. The other option on your cruise vacation is to spend your day on the ship. There are numerous activities on board: spa treatments, socializing with other passengers, relaxing, reading, or just watching the beautiful scenery around you.

A cruise may not be for everyone and is certainly not the only way to see the world, but it can take you to places not necessarily on the beaten path, while still seeing major cities, all in a very comfortable manner. With many sizes of ships and a variety of accommodations, there is something for everyone and you should try it once! You may find yourself looking for the next itinerary as soon as you return home. 🌐

by  
**Marty  
Higgins**



**World Traveler and  
Grandmother of seven**

### CRUISES I RECOMMEND:

- The **Mediterranean**, which usually includes ports in France, Spain, Italy, and the islands around.
- **Istanbul** and the **Greek Islands**
- The **Croatian Coast** and down to **Montenegro**
- The **North East** from Boston to Quebec, such a special French city!

# Our Advisors

## WHAT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?



Get to know the Huffman Travel Advisors a bit better by learning what places they want to visit most...



### ANDY

#### ● Japan

Japan has always been fascinating to me. Not only do I love Sushi and Sake, the many temples are inviting as is the art of Samurai. A visit to an Onsen Spa is in order as well.

#### ● Australia

Australia calls me! From the great barrier reef to going on "walkabout," count me in! A visit to a Koala sanctuary is extremely high on my list, as I love animals.

#### ● Egypt

I have always been drawn to the pyramids in Egypt. I even have vivid dreams of visiting them and drinking water from an unknown source in a desert rock, so I need to get there and find that place!



### ANN

#### ● SeaDream Yacht Club

The sailing on my bucket list begins in Venice, where I would stay a couple nights to explore the city before heading to the beautiful blue waters of the Adriatic Sea. On this voyage, I would have time for plenty of adventure in both Croatia and Montenegro.

#### ● Eden Rock - St. Barths

Located on verdant St Barths, it is often ranked one of the top 10 luxury resorts in the world and is an ideal destination to rest and relax. After last year's hurricane season, the hotel saw the opportunity to reinvent and perfect what was already a unique property.

#### ● China

This one has just crept up on my bucket list as an opportunity to explore the history and culture of this fascinating country. As a first time visitor, I look forward to all that China has to offer from Shanghai to Beijing's iconic sites to smaller cities in between.



### TONY

#### ● Poland

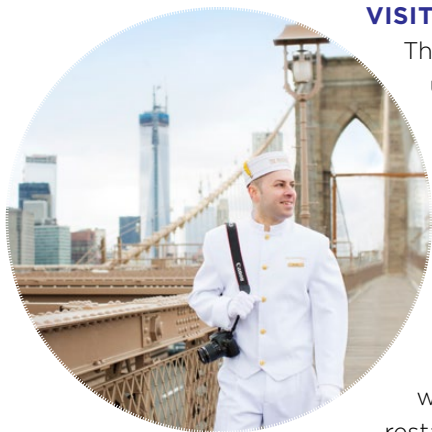
I have always been fascinated by Poland's history, so much of which has been tragic. I would love to visit Krakow, Warsaw, and Gdansk, the latter of which I have heard is so beautiful and the home of the workers union movement. Maybe even a short hop over to Ukraine, and the area which was part of Poland before the USSR.

#### ● Zanzibar

Being a lover of African safaris, I would like very much to visit Zanzibar for some R & R after our next East Africa safari. I hear the people and beaches are beautiful.

#### ● Belmond Grand Hibernian

Ever since a young boy, in the 40s and 50s, I have loved train travel. Combining the new luxury Belmond train with a return to beautiful and fun Ireland seems like a trip not to be missed. We might even have to sample a bit of Irish Whiskey along the way!



### VISIT BROOKLYN, PENINSULA-STYLE

The Peninsula Academy offers guests a collection of bespoke programs that provide unique access to historical, cultural, and local lifestyle experiences. A favorite experience amongst our team is The Peninsula New York's *Pizzeria Lunch and Brooklyn Bridge Walking Tour*, taking you to Brooklyn - the new creative and culinary frontier... Hop in the Peninsula MINI Cooper and head to Brooklyn where your personal tour guide awaits to lead a cultural stroll in trendy DUMBO. Following the tour, enjoy front-of-the-line access to a traditional pizzeria for lunch before walking back from Brooklyn to Manhattan across the spectacular Brooklyn Bridge - with expansive views of the city skyline. What we love is that your MINI Cooper is already waiting for you on the Manhattan side. Located within walking distance of Central Park, Bergdorf Goodman, and endless excellent restaurants, The Peninsula New York really has a pulse on the city.

### SAY BONJOUR TO NEWLY TRANSFORMED S.S. BON VOYAGE

Uniworld River Cruises announced the 2019 launch of its newest Super Ship, the S.S. *Bon Voyage*, a completely reimagined ship to cruise on France's Dordogne and Garonne Rivers, in the Bordeaux wine region. Exploring the wine regions by river is brilliant! The pace is just right and when returning to the S.S. *Bon Voyage* guests will enjoy new luxury suites with marble bathrooms, an increased staff to guest ratio, and two new onboard dining venues. There is no better place to relax than on the newly redesigned top deck boasting a new outdoor swimming pool and outdoor lounge area. On top of reinventing the ship, Uniworld sets to wow guests by weaving throughout the itinerary new dining excursions offshore, where guests can dine out at local restaurants and take in the beautiful surroundings of the Bordeaux region.



### ANTARCTICA LUXURY CRUISING WITH SILVERSEA

There's no place like Antarctica. Admire the staggering abundance of wildlife and experience the earth's last great wilderness frontier. Cruise across seas of glass, passing giant icebergs, and encounter elephant seals or penguins, unafraid of your presence. Here are our two favorite expedition ships, recently repositioned to Antarctica by Silversea, now offering improved levels of comfort and style. We particularly love Silver Explorer and her fleet of 12 Zodiac ribs allowing you to visit even the most off-the-beaten path locations. Also of interest, Silver Cloud who just completed an extensive refurbishment to become the most spacious and comfortable ice-class vessel in expedition cruising. Her team of 22 passionate and dedicated expedition experts are always at hand to ensure your voyage is exceptional!

