

# THE TRAVEL TATTLE

TRAVEL NEWS, TIPS, AND TIDBITS

Q3 2019



ALASKA • KENYA • AUSTRALIA • COSTA RICA • CABO • ANDALUCIA

**HUFFMAN TRAVEL**  
CHICAGO • DAYTON

“A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles.”

—Tim Cahill

**H**appy Summer Travel Friends,  
I hope this edition of the Huffman Travel *Tattler* finds you enjoying summer. Whether that comes in the form of family time near home, exotic travel experiences, or just enjoying a slower pace of life, the splendor of summer is something magical for all ages.

My summer of 2019 will forever be remembered as the summer of celebrations. Travel unites and there is no more memorable way to celebrate an important birthday, anniversary or milestone than experiencing a new (or favorite) destination with loved ones. One of our favorite types of travel to help our clients plan are celebration trips that involve their nearest and dearest. It's like curating a symphony where we strive to strike just the right balance of the “guest of honor's” favorite things: activities, hobbies, food, cocktails, etc., while maintaining a relaxed and fun vibe for all.

This summer I have been wildly fortunate to be a guest at four celebrations for dear friends in fabulous destinations: the South of France, the Amalfi Coast, the Caribbean, and Ecuador. Although rosé and great food seemed consistent across them all, each was unique and a true reflection of the host. I enjoyed the parties, dinners, and activities during each celebration, but what I loved most was celebrating not only with my dear friend, but also with the other guests, many of whom



became friends by the end of the trip.

As you can imagine, I am biased that travel gives more than it takes, and what I am sure of after this summer is that travel to mark important milestones is undeniably awesome! Thank you to my dear friends (you know who you are) for including me, my husband, and my children in your special celebrations, and for giving us the gift of memories that will last a lifetime!

#TraveltoLive

by *Shawna Huffman Owen*

President & CEO

[shawna@huffmantravel.com](mailto:shawna@huffmantravel.com)



PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO **THE TRAVEL TATTLER**



# ALASKA ADVENTURE



**M**y kids love animals and active adventure, so I thought Alaska was a good choice for our summer vacation. I did not regret that decision; in fact, I may have been the one who loved it most.

The easiest way to see Alaska is by boat, so we selected a small ship (UnCruise - 80 passengers) in order to have an up-close experience with unspoiled nature. The emphasis was truly on getting off the boat as often as possible, either on the water (kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, river rafting, looking for wildlife by skiff or taking a polar plunge) or on land (hiking or bushwhacking). We all loved this approach!

The highlights of the trip were the wildlife and glaciers. We saw about

“We saw about 20 humpback whales in all their glory...”



by  
**André  
Koester**



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



*continued from page 3*

20 humpback whales in all their glory, both feeding and breaching (leaping out of the water) right next to the boat. We also saw numerous orcas (killer whales), sea otters, sea lions, seals, bald eagles, and bears. We hadn't expected to see bears since we were on a boat, but we saw eight of them, and the highlight was seeing a mother with her two cubs. After about 30 bald eagle sightings, the kids stopped pointing them out. They were everywhere, majestic.

Our cruise ended in Juneau and the night we spent there was one of my favorites. Juneau's icefield is made up of 1,500 square miles of glaciers. We opted for a helicopter tour over the glaciers and landed on a few of them. My kids were fascinated with how deep the fissures in the ice were; we would drop a rock and not hear it hit the bottom for seconds. It seemed very other-worldly to be there with no one else around.

The time to visit Alaska is June to August. Even in the summer months, it can be chilly and sometimes rainy but I promise, the amazing scenery and wildlife viewing make it all worth it! 🌟



## IN LOVE IN AFRICA



**F**rom our outdoor soaking tub overlooking the dotted landscape of Laikipia, wine glasses in hand, we watched a parade of elephants slowly amble into the sunset. *Karibu*, or welcome to Kenya, where moments like these make you feel as if there's no place more romantic or secluded in the world. This is the Africa with which I fell head-over-heels in love — and the setting for the first, wild adventure of my married life.

My husband and I began our honeymoon at the famed Giraffe Manor in Nairobi, where we shared breakfast with endangered (and adorably ornery) Rothschild's giraffes. Afterward, we traveled north by bush plane into Laikipia County. Morning walks at Ol Lentille Conservancy were followed by hot stone massages, lunch beside the river, a dip in the infinity pool, impromptu visits to our Maasai guide's home, and sundowner cocktails atop a mountain. It seemed unlikely that anything could be more magical, but we

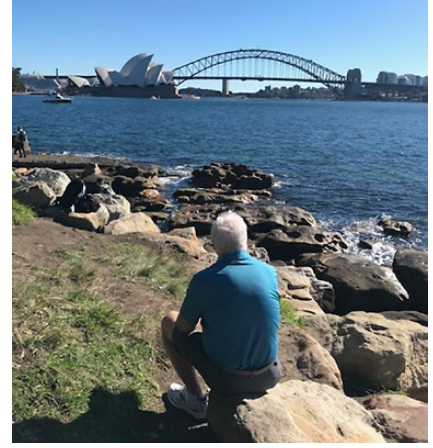
had yet to make our final stop: the Maasai Mara. The Mara is the quintessential safari destination, forming a contiguous ecosystem with its southern neighbor — the Serengeti. We hardly had time to enjoy our luxurious "tent" because we were too eager to be outside, taking in playful lion cubs by day and the Milky Way by night. After four days of game drives, we finally said a difficult goodbye to Africa with a visit to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (one of the pioneering conservation organizations for wildlife and habitat protection in East Africa) before boarding our plane home.

"So, why Kenya?" "Don't you like the beach?" These are the questions friends and family asked in the year leading up to our honeymoon. "Go and see for yourself," I now tell them. Once you've shared the experience of Africa — its people, its magnitude, its awe-inspiring beauty — with the people you love most, you'll never stop trying to return. 🌿

by  
**Lauren  
Kroger**



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



# REUNITING IN AUSTRALIA

## What was your reason for traveling to Australia — and when did you begin planning?

Traveling to Australia has always been a “bucket list” item of ours. Because of the time and distance involved, it seemed like we were always waiting for the “right time.” Well, it presented itself: When our youngest daughter (who was a sophomore at the Ohio State University) was chosen for a summer internship in Sydney, it was a sign! After she completed her eight-week internship, we joined her for an additional three-week family adventure

and vacation. We began planning the trip about nine months in advance to be sure to have access to the best experiences and accommodations.

## What were the highlights of your three-week trip?

Honestly, for us, the entire vacation was a highlight! We enjoyed each and every day, and wouldn't have made any adjustments or changes to our itinerary. Each of the unique and fabulous lodges we stayed at and private tours we arranged created an exceptional trip. We absolutely loved the One&Only

Wolgan Valley in the Blue Mountains outside of Sydney and Lizard Island, on the Great Barrier Reef.

## What's the destination everybody agrees on for your next family trip?

It's hard to choose! We have narrowed it down to Italy, Ireland or an African Safari but haven't reached agreement yet! All three destinations seem to offer great sights and sounds, in very diverse ways! I guess we'll just have to visit them all! 🌍

*by Denise Cronin*

**A loyal Huffman Travel client**



# 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...



### GABRIELLE

#### ● Atacama Desert

The idea of wandering in the driest place on earth resonates with my inner explorer. I'm curious to discover what plants and animals can adapt and survive in such an extreme environment. As a photographer, I'd love to capture the desert colors painted beneath the intense blue sky.

#### ● Easter Island

My adventurous spirit is constantly looking for remote and "off-the-beaten-path" destinations like Easter Island. I've always been captivated by the history of the Polynesians that settled this island, and the mystery surrounding the 600+ stone statues scattered along the landscape.

#### ● Seychelles

As a diver, I'm always longing for secluded and unspoiled reefs to discover. With 115 islands to explore, diving opportunities in the Seychelles are limitless. Witnessing giant Aldabra tortoises in their natural habitat and observing the picture-perfect view of the iconic granite boulders of La Digue Island keeps this destination on my bucket list.



### KRISTA

#### ● Colorado Rockies

I have great respect for nature, so Colorado's commitment to sustainable tourism and conservation makes it particularly appealing. Participating in one of my favorite activities, mountain biking, is a great way to see the natural beauty of the land and what Colorado has to offer, without leaving our footprint!

#### ● Ireland

Ireland is definitely on my bucket list! The beautiful scenery, luxurious accommodations, rich history, authentic food, and a plethora of activities make it a very attractive destination to visit year-round!

#### ● Costa Rica

I was recently able to take a short trip to Costa Rica, just enough to keep it high on my list of places to return to soon. The people are so friendly and truly embrace the "Pura Vida" way of life! Also, the activities to enjoy are endless. Some of my favorites were fishing, biking, zip lining, hiking, and taking in the breathtaking ocean views!



### LINDSAY

#### ● Quebec City

Did you know Quebec City was established in 1608 and is the only walled city north of Mexico? I've always been intrigued by the Quartier Petit-Champlain area, and picture myself strolling down the cobblestone streets, visiting cafés and boutiques in the Old Town. It's truly a Canadian treasure – UNESCO protected!

#### ● Backroads Tour

Combining two of my passions – cycling and travel, a trip with Backroads Active Travel ensures amazing service while exploring fabulous locations. A beautiful bike ride along Croatia's Dalmatian Coast followed by a swim in a hidden cove with a beach picnic? Yes, please!

#### ● St. Lucia

Waking up to the sight of two mountainous volcanoes from a suite in this beautiful Caribbean destination has always been a dream of mine. St. Lucia has something for everyone: adventure, beach, and fabulous luxury hotels.



**FAMILY FUN IN COSTA RICA, FOUR SEASONS' STYLE**

The Pacific coast of Costa Rica is one of our favorite year-round destinations. There is so much to do during the summer or winter and, with its perfect balance of adventure and relaxation, the newly renovated Four Seasons Resort at Papagayo Peninsula is the ideal retreat for families. While you are enjoying the spa or one of the resort's two stunning beaches, your kids can discover Costa Rica's natural wonders first hand. At Camp Jaguar, kids ages 12 to 16 participate in fun-filled explorations in search of adventure, self-discovery, and connection to the natural world. Younger children? The complimentary 'Kids For All Seasons' program is like no other!. After a day of discovering your "pura vida", gather the family back at your private Estate Home where all food and beverage, spa, golf, and more are included!

**PURE ROMANCE AT LAS VENTANAS AL PARAISO, A ROSEWOOD RESORT**

Once-in-a-lifetime experiences showcasing the best of Baja await you at Las Ventanas: From the moment you arrive, Mariachis serenade you as the host hands you a frozen Margarita. No better way to start your romantic getaway! After years of working with the resort's entire department dedicated to Romance, we know that no request is too large or too small, from creating private on-the-beach dining experiences for two, oceanfront marriage proposals or over-the-top anniversary celebrations. The glamorous and authentic décor around you is just an added bonus. This summer, we recommend you discover the hidden splendor of the Baja region, taking in the stunning views on horseback or aboard a one-of-a-kind luxury yacht.



**CONTEMPORARY ANDALUCIA AT FINCA CORTESIN**

An independent hotel, golf, and spa destination, Finca Cortesin is set in the rolling hills of southern Spain between Marbella and the fashionable community of Sotogrande.



What's striking about the property is the perfect fusion of traditional and contemporary: antique terracotta floors and old wooden doors have been salvaged from Spanish castles and restored to give Finca Cortesin its traditional Andalucian style, while the bright interiors remind you of a beach house. A short golf cart ride away are stunning private villas with up to six ensuite bedrooms, generous living rooms, modern kitchens, private gardens and pools overlooking the 18-hole golf course, the Sierra Bermeja Mountain range, and the sea. Our clients love to benefit from all the services of the main hotel with the privacy of their villa - to include al fresco private dinners by the pool.