

THE TRAVEL TATTLE

TRAVEL NEWS, TIPS, AND TIDBITS

Q4 2019



TASMANIA • IRELAND • AFRICA • MAYAKOBA • SILVER MOON • CHILE

HUFFMAN TRAVEL
CHICAGO • DAYTON

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” –*Albert Einstein*

In a world where we are constantly peppered with external stimuli, I hear more of you asking for ways to go “off the grid,” or at least to go to a place where you can slow down. In this issue of the *Tattler*, we are highlighting destinations where the draw is nature and the beauty that comes from taking a step back and appreciating our surroundings. We often look to exotic countries to help fill our need to disconnect – places like Africa, Ireland, and Australia are among the many wonderful destinations to immerse yourself in nature and experience a completely different way of being. Let’s not forget about our own backyard, however: America has some of the world’s most beautiful and unspoiled landscapes.

In the past two months, I have spent time “out west” and taken in the best of nature without sacrificing any comfort. This summer, I was lucky enough to visit the new Lodge at Blue Sky upon opening, located just 25 minutes outside of Park City, UT. I loved how this sophisticated property feels a million miles away from everything, while it is really just a short drive away from Park City and Deer Valley. Speaking of a million miles away, Brush Creek Ranch, located outside of Saratoga Wyoming, epitomizes the “real ranch life.” Having the good fortune to visit many times before,

Brush Creek is one of those special places that embraces the



true spirit of the American West and brings out the pioneer in everyone.

As the air turns crisp and the leaves change colors, I encourage you to stop—no matter where you are this fall, and appreciate the natural beauty around you.



#TraveltoLive

by **Shawna Huffman Owen**

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TASMANIA Dreamin'



My wife and I visited Australia in late April of 2019 (think our October), with iconic stops like Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, Lizard Island (Great Barrier Reef), and Tasmania. The natural, unspoiled beauty of Tasmania is reminiscent of the South Island of New Zealand and so are the extremely friendly and unassuming locals.

The wines here are some of the best in Australia, too.

Our first stop was the capital of Tasmania, Hobart, home to the internationally acclaimed MONA (Museum of Old and New Art) which can be accessed by a short sail from the Hobart waterfront. Time your visit wisely so you can enjoy lunch or dinner at the incredible Faro Restaurant – reservation needed. We chose the MACQ01 Hotel for its central location in Hobart, within walking distance of many restaurants and bars. Not only is MACQ01 a perfect example of Tasmania's inventive architecture, but the hotel also offers great service, a



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wonderful restaurant, and very comfortable rooms.

Hobart is a two-and-a-half hour drive from the Saffire Freycinet lodge, located along the northeastern coastline. The main building at the lodge is also architecturally spectacular, with panoramic glass windows overlooking tree-covered hills and the sea. Among the most fascinating experiences at Saffire Freycinet, we'll treasure our memories of our private nature walk with Mick, a local Aboriginal naturalist deeply in love with his country, as well as our visit to a nearby oyster farm. At the farm, we donned full waders and walked to a table situated offshore to begin shucking oysters, an experience complimented by chilled champagne.

Even if your time "down under" is limited, don't overlook Tasmania. Our three days in Tasmania were by far our favorite part of this five-week Australian adventure. 🍷



by
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7 REASONS to FALL IN LOVE with Ireland

I have visited Ireland twice in the past three years and still can't wait to go back. I couldn't name only one reason for you to go, so I settled on seven!

1 The people

The Irish people are so warm and inviting. It's a privilege to be invited to discover their culture, music, and traditions.

2 The rich history

There are thousands of years of history to explore in Ireland. Seeing the Book of Kells on display at Trinity College is just the beginning.

3 The breathtaking countryside

The Cliffs of Moher, Clonmacnoise, Beara Peninsula, and Ring of Kerry are some of the most dramatic landscapes I have ever seen. And how about the vibrant and colorful town of Galway?!

4 Endless adventure

Ireland offers year-round endless adventure: fishing, horseback

riding, hiking, kayaking, falconry, and clay pigeon shooting are but a few of my favorite activities.

5 Unique lodging

Few countries this size offer such a vast array of accommodation, including grand hotels and resorts, castles, country estates cottages, and luxury trains.

6 Golf is everywhere!

If you are a golfer, Ireland is a must. There are hundreds of stunning courses on the island and many are considered the best in the world.

7 The Guinness Store House

Make sure to get tickets in advance for the Connoisseur Tour, which includes private tastings and a lesson on how to pour the perfect pint! 🍷



by Lisa Baker

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AFRICAN Adventure

What made you decide to plan your first trip to Africa with two other families?

We love traveling as a group and after several trips together, all our kids have become such good friends. Africa had been on our minds for several years. It is such a life-changing trip that we wanted to wait until our three children were at an age where they could fully enjoy and appreciate it. Many people had told us how incredible Africa is... We now understand! It is a magical place.

What did you enjoy most about traveling with other families?

There is so much to see, and so many moments where you find yourself asking: "Can you believe how cool this is?" You want to share your experience with as many people as possible! Every day for two weeks, each one of us would shake our heads in awe of Africa. Traveling with other families makes it even more fun.

What was the unanimous highlight of the trip?

That is a very hard question to answer. Every day had a highlight and was special in its own way. Huffman Travel and Micato Safaris did an amazing job creating an unforgettable itinerary, filled with adventures. Some of our favorites included ballooning over the Maasai Mara to see the wildebeest migration, fantastic game drives, and visiting a Maasai village. The beauty of Africa isn't just about the amazing animals and incredible scenery encountered every day, it is the people you meet everywhere. They are the warmest, friendliest, most welcoming group of people we've met in our travels. The African people will leave a stamp on your heart. 🌍

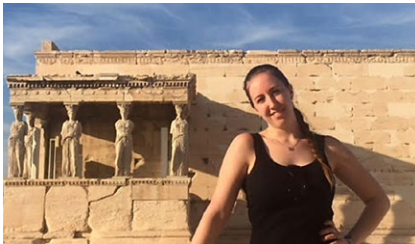
by Dulany Anning
Mom of three, and a loyal Huffman Travel client

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...



CHANTAL

● Russia

Russia is the largest country in the world and as a history buff, I cannot wait to discover its fascinating history. I would love to immerse myself in the palaces and other iconic monuments where emperors, dictators, and politicians shape the country that exists today.

● Morocco

Morocco is where my grandmother learned to make couscous, a dish that became a staple at family Christmas celebrations. Discovering the region of this flavorful and nostalgic (for me at least!) spiced dish, as well as the souks and Berber villages up in the High Atlas, would be an extraordinary trip!

● Philippines

Experience secluded island life in the Philippines. It's easy to imagine myself riding in a jeepney in Manila, trekking in the Chocolate Hills, then enjoying the white sand beaches of El Nido... Filipinos are known as the most hospitable, generous, and kind-hearted people; I should know – I married one!



DIANE

● Spain

Travel is not merely seeing places and creating experiences; it can also be a spiritual journey. I have always wanted to embark on a soul-searching path where each day's pilgrimage leads you to a deeper meaning and self-fulfillment. This is what I hope to accomplish someday on the Camino Way to Santiago de Compostela.

● Thailand

Thailand has something for everyone. The diversity of its geography plays out in the mountainous jungle region of the north, to the pristine beaches of the south.

● Croatia

Since the Balkan war, Croatia has been on my radar. There are so many islands to explore along the Adriatic's peaceful coastline. I am equally excited about the natural beauty in the National Parks and historic cities. Croatia offers a long list of places to actively explore and see by land and by sea!



SHAWNA

● Rwanda

Africa is a place you don't just visit once. Each time you visit you experience something completely different than the time before. Trekking the gorilla families in Rwanda is top of my bucket list – especially now that Luke Bailees, owner of Singita, has opened his property!

● Vietnam

In my former life, I worked for Nike on a project in Saigon and fell in love with Vietnam. I can't wait to show my kids and won't do it without spending a few nights on the Aqua Mekong, the best way to immerse yourself in the local heritage and traditions.

● France

I have always dreamed of renting a chateau with friends in Bordeaux. Not only does this region of France offer some of the most revered vineyards in the world, it is located near the famous Lascaux Caves (Dordogne), and the beaches of Biarritz. I may have to stay a month!

ROSEWOOD MAYAKOBA... REIMAGINED

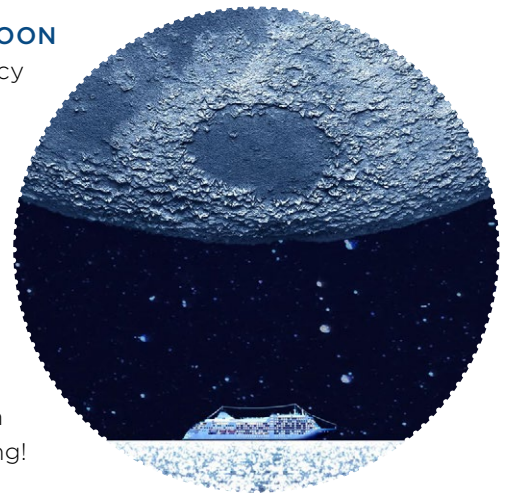
We are so excited that Rosewood Mayakoba's \$20M renovation and resort enhancement is nearing completion this fall! All suites have now been refreshed and upgraded with custom furniture made by Mexican artisans using only local materials. The expanded beachfront four-bedroom Presidential Suite now boasts a dreamy 20-meter infinity-



edge pool parallel to the shoreline... Eight new Wellness Suites located on the island at Sense spa create an oasis for wellness through a series of initiatives focused on health, fitness, joy, and mindfulness. Finally, the new Zapote bar, inspired by the colonial haciendas of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, becomes the epicenter of the Mayakoba lifestyle where guests come to relax, socialize, and enjoy contemporary cocktails with Mayan ingredients. Relax in the cozy indoor/outdoor living space, feel surrounded by the jungle, and indulge in Mediterranean-inspired dishes showcasing the fusion between Southern European culinary influences and local ingredients. What's not to love?

SILVERSEA REACHES FOR THE MOON

Silver Moon, Silversea's newest ship, will maintain the small-ship intimacy and spacious all-suite accommodation which are the hallmarks of the Silversea experience. Silver Moon will also feature the all-new Sea And Land Taste (S.A.L.T.) program - an immersive culinary concept that will enable guests to develop an appreciation for regional ingredients and culinary customs, before venturing ashore under the guidance of experts to experience food and drink cultures first-hand. After unlocking various destinations in the Mediterranean, Central America, and the Caribbean for guests - Barbados, Antigua, and Puerto Rico, among others - Silver Moon will complete an incredible circumnavigation of South America on the Grand South America 2021, visiting 37 destinations in 20 countries between January 7 and March 17, 2021. Get ready - a new moon is coming!



CHILEAN INDULGENCE WITH VIK PROPERTIES

Puro Vik represents the newest addition in a small set of internationally-renowned boutique hotels. We love the uncompromising, contemporary architecture at Puro Vik, set in the hills of Chile's Millahue Valley. With only 7 suites on 11,000 acres, it is the epitome of both privacy and luxury. Picture yourself in a suite with three walls entirely made of glass, overlooking the Andes Mountains while enjoying the finest Chilean wine. Puro Vik guests can enjoy all the facilities of Vik Chile, the main area of the estate - which we already knew and loved - and relax by the magnificent infinity pool and join activities ranging from yoga and mountain biking to horseback

riding and cooking classes. Second only to the vibrant landscapes, the art collection displayed throughout the property is one of the most elaborate we've seen in recent hotel openings.