

THE TRAVEL TATTLE

TRAVEL NEWS, TIPS, AND TIDBITS

Q1 2020



NORWAY • PERU • FRANCE • VANCOUVER ISLAND • ST. BARTHS • CHILE

HUFFMAN TRAVEL
CHICAGO • DAYTON

Happy New Year from your Huffman Travel team!

Dear friends and travelers,
As we kick off 2020, I enjoy watching the many ways companies and people are embracing the “see clearly” metaphor of 2020. For those of us with wanderlust, I interpret “seeing clearly” as devoting time to creating your own personal travel plan. We all have a bucket list, and for many of us our lists grow and grow as we are inspired by the media all around us. My challenge to you for 2020 is to put your bucket list in focus. The way to do this is to create a roadmap to put your travel dreams into action — and “see clearly” where you should go next. That’s an exercise I enjoy practicing with my family, just like most of our team with their respective families. Need help? Just call us!

I hope you’ll enjoy our first issue of the *Tattler* in 2020 as much as we enjoyed creating it. The pages that follow are full of inspiring stories and photos of remote and inspiring destinations that our advisors and clients have recently explored.

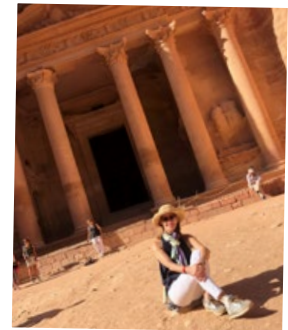
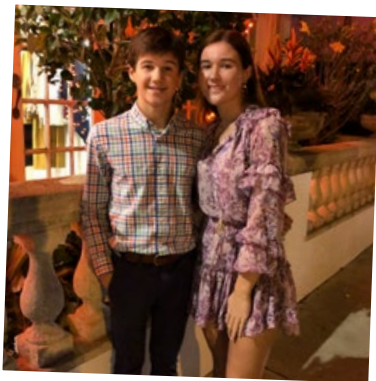
Here’s to a healthy and happy 2020 and to “seeing your travel dreams clearly.”

#TraveltoLive

by **Shawna Huffman Owen**

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SAILING THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS



by
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Ravoire**

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During my last transpacific flight, I watched *Where'd you go, Bernadette*, a new dramedy taking a West Coast family on one of the most sought-after trips: Antarctica. Although the movie takes some creative liberties that make a travel advisor cringe, it shows how inspiring and life-changing the polar regions are. Antarctica is still on my list, but last summer I was fortunate enough to travel to its northerly sibling: the Arctic Circle.

After visiting the North Cape — the northernmost point of continental Europe — our expedition ship sailed a full day to our next stop, Bjornoya. Puffins and guillemots gliding on our ship's thermals welcomed us to the largest bird colony of the North Atlantic. They emerged from the clouds and the Arctic Ocean as if on cue from a Hollywood director. Our gear on, we got on our RIB and were mesmerized by the thousands



of birds both on the water and perched atop the towering cliffs. Bjornoya was just the first stop of a magical trip where every moment felt surreal and awe-inspiring.

After another night at sea, we spent a few days in the Svalbard archipelago, tendering to shore, kayaking among icebergs, getting



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up close with giant glaciers, and whale watching. Ny Alesund remains my favorite landing: the northernmost settlement in the world is now an international research center. Fascinating to me were the NASA satellites and the launching site used in 1926 by Amundsen, Ellsworth, and Nobile for the first-ever transpolar flight. The untouched beauty of this fjord and its inhabitants — be they scientists or seals — made it even more unique.

Back on the mainland, we decided to explore remote fjords and stayed at Åmot for its tranquility, absolute beauty, and incomparable sense of place. An old farm transformed into a small country

hotel, Åmot sits in a pristine valley tucked away between fjords and glaciers. There, we experienced the most genuine service and extreme feeling of privacy — we even had our own 200-ft. waterfall for a private pool! Åmot is a place where guests — be they royals, movie stars, or travelers like you and me — come to disconnect and surprise themselves walking down the road in the evening to cool off in the nearby river. Champagne and canapés in hand, of course.

So if watching Kate Blanchett kayaking among icebergs sparks a desire in you to visit the polar regions, please go. You'll return reenergized and with an incredible new respect for our planet. 🌍



3 THINGS WE WISH YOU KNEW ABOUT PERU



Together, Shawna, Andre, and Monique escorted a small-group wellness journey to Peru last Spring. Here are their insights:



Shawna: Trains and boats are a formidable way to discover the country. I personally love the iconic Hiram Bingham train, which transports travelers to Machu Picchu. Think 1920s-style carriages, white table cloths, and a bar car complete with a local band for an unforgettable ride. Another favorite, the Belmond Andean Explorer, is South America's first luxury sleeper train and my preferred way to travel from Cusco to Lake Titicaca and onto the Colca Canyon — a hikers paradise! Interested in discovering the world's largest rainforest? Amazon riverboats are the way to go. We can't say enough about the luxurious small-ships by Aqua Expedition and their amazing naturalists. shawna@huffmantravel.com



Andre: Machu Picchu is a highlight, but there is much more

to see and do in Peru! You could spend a week exploring the Incan treasures and ruins of the Sacred Valley. The charming city of Cuzco is full of colorful markets, local boutiques, and great hotels. Beyond Incan history, Peru has a gorgeous section of the Amazon rainforest and one of the highest and oldest lakes in the world, Lake Titicaca. The capital and gateway to the country, Lima, has become a foodie destination both for its street food and its Michelin-starred restaurants and deserves a stopover on either end of your trip. andre@huffmantravel.com



Monique: Peru is a wonderful destination for the whole family! The hiking can be tailored to different levels, and what's not to love about quirky llamas? I just had a client with children ages 12 and 10 return from a special Thanksgiving trek and these awesome kiddos nailed the same hike as my group of adults last year! monique@huffmantravel.com



CELEBRATION À LA FRANÇAISE

How did you decide on France for your 30th anniversary?

I wanted the destination to be special, memorable, and somewhere we had never visited. France was an easy choice: Paris is an exciting city to visit and Normandy was on our bucket list. My goal was to plan a memorable 30th anniversary surprise trip for my wife, and my expectations were met!

What was the highlight of our trip?

The days spent in the Normandy region were among our favorites. We stayed at the beautiful, historic Chateau la Chenevière and enjoyed the services of a private guide recommended by Tony Huffman and his team. We visited paratrooper landing zones for the 101st and 82nd airborne division. The village of Sainte-Mère-Église made famous in the movie *The Longest Day* was fascinating. Every location we visited left you with an emotional lump in your throat. Our Normandy experience culminated with a visit to the American cemetery. We witnessed the end of the day tradition of lowering the flag and taps: simply stunning.

What difference did your private guides make, especially in Normandy?

There are so many sites to see in Normandy and only so much time to tour. Having a knowledgeable private guide was invaluable! We were able to experience so many sites efficiently and to visit locations that would not have been accessible to large groups. Her extensive knowledge of the region, its history, and the people was key to understand the beginning of the war and the preparation of D-Day. As we toured, she gave insight and backstories of the courage and sacrifices made on the beaches of Omaha, Utah, and Pointe du Hoc. Our schedule remained completely flexible and we enjoyed meals at quaint cafés throughout the region. Everything was tailored for us and we enjoyed every minute of it! 🍷



by Beth &
David Crowl
Loyal Huffman Travel clients

Recommendations

20 TRAVEL IDEAS FOR 2020

Egypt

From the Pyramids to the temples of Luxor and the reefs of the Red Sea, there's so much to experience!

Guatemala

Experience Mayan heritage, volcanoes, hot springs, and much more in this trendy destination.

Rwanda

Known for its population of mountain gorillas, Rwanda is also celebrated for its chimpanzees and the colorful capital of Kigali.

Kyrgyzstan

Natural beauty and craggy mountain peaks, this high-altitude country is home to the world's second-largest alpine lake.

Lake District, Chile

Enjoy sailing, kayaking, and hiking from this remote part of the Andes in Northern Patagonia.

Tasmania

Pristine beaches, soaring forests, and decadent architecture: Tasmania has never been so hot.

Maine

Celebrated for its exploding food scene and a dramatic, lighthouse-strewn coastline.

Wales Way, UK

Discover centuries-old trading routes and landmarks as well as breathtaking landscapes in one of the UK's most underrated destinations.

Uruguay

Hip beach clubs, delectable wineries, and activities for all before enjoying a true gaucho grill experience.

Aman New York

Towering over Billionaire's Row on 5th Ave, Aman New York offers the serenity of an urban resort.

Arctic Bath, Sweden

Just south of the Arctic Circle, the Arctic Bath is a floating retreat with a major focus on health and wellness.

Rascal Voyages

Discover remote islands of Indonesia from the comfort of this traditional, all-inclusive luxury yacht.

Capella Bangkok, Thailand

A contemporary urban resort on the bustling river, in the heart of the Thai capital.

Kisawa Sanctuary, Mozambique

Weaving cultural celebration with environmental conservation, Kisawa sits on a 750 acre stretch of forest, beach, and sand dunes.

Cheval Blanc Paris, France

An Art Deco jewel boasting floor to ceiling windows for sweeping views of the Seine River, Notre Dame, and the Eiffel Tower.

Le Grand Controle Versailles, France

A true gem inside the palace of Versailles, featuring only 14 rooms and apartments, and a signature Alain Ducasse restaurant.

Villa Igiea, Sicily

A historical palazzo in the heart of Sicily's largest city, Palermo. So Rocco Forte!

Rosewood Little Dix Bay, BVI

Iconic resort nestled between a half-mile pristine, white sand beach and a protected tropical forest.

Six Senses Shaharut, Israel

A new concept by Six Senses, perched on a dramatic cliff with panoramic views of the Israeli Negev desert.

Ethiopia

Untouched forest, mysterious historical sites, and delicious foods are some of the attributes of Ethiopia.

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...



ANGIE

● Tiger Safari, India

Big Cats are my favorite animals, and seeing tigers in their natural habitat would be a magical experience. India has always been on my bucket list and is home to a beautiful population of endangered tigers, so I am destined to visit soon.

● Churchill, Manitoba

Polar Bears have always fascinated me, and I would like to learn from the locals about the work being done to protect wildlife in this challenging time. The breathtaking scenery of the Manitoba province would make this experience even more special!

● Sydney

I had the opportunity to visit Australia a couple of years ago and fell in love with Sydney. New Year's Eve being one of my favorite holidays, I can imagine no better way to celebrate than by sipping champagne in full view of the Harbour Bridge fireworks! How fun to be among the first in the world to ring in the New Year!

MONIQUE

● Indigenous Australia

I have a real desire to explore more of my native homeland, Australia. I am currently working on an itinerary to visit a working cattle station and an immersive "outback" stay with an indigenous family. No visit is complete without swimming with the whale sharks at Ningaloo Reef.

● Indonesia

At the top of my list is the award-winning Nihi resort on Sumba Island, home to the world's only private surf break and amazing rugged luxury. I would pair Nihi with a cruise on the newly-launched Aqua Blu to Komodo National Park to witness some of the most spectacular coastal terrain on earth and the native Komodo Dragon lizard.

● Maldives

I take my "beach game" seriously and have had the good fortune to visit the world's greatest beaches. I can't wait to explore the endless blue of the Indian Ocean and amazing resorts in the Maldives. Top of my current hotel bucket list are the wondrously spacious overwater villas with water slides at Soneva Jani.

TIFFANY

● Portugal

Portugal in the spring is a trip I'd like to take with my family. We would walk around the historic city of Lisbon to see all of the beautiful azulejos tiled buildings. Then make our way to the Algarve coast for a few days on the beach and on a boat to see the dramatic coastline.

● Sweden

I would love to visit Sweden in the summer with my mom and daughter to recreate trips my mom took with her mother and sisters to see where our family is from. I'd like to explore Stockholm from the iconic Grand Hotel for a few days.

● New Zealand

New Zealand with a group of couples seems like a lot of fun since there is so much to see and do for everyone. We'd start with the North Island area from Auckland to Wellington, including Hawkes Bay for wine tasting and the gorgeous Lake Taupo. Moving to the South Island, Ahuriri Valley, the Marlborough area, and Queenstown are high on my list. It might end up being two trips to New Zealand I need!

AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD, IN THE HEART OF THE WILD

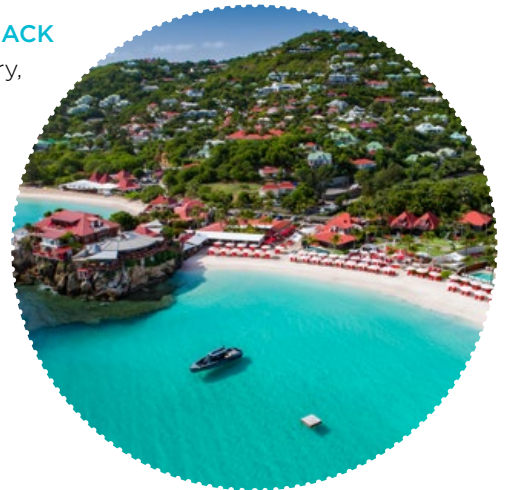
Clayoquot Wilderness Resort is a Relais & Châteaux, all-inclusive eco-safari resort located on the wild west coast of Vancouver Island, Canada. Reopening on May 21 for its 20th anniversary season and accessible only by seaplane,



helicopter or boat, the resort offers guests a truly remote and refined retreat amidst one of the last remaining ancient temperate rainforests in the world – a UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserve. Fashioned after turn-of-the-century great camps, the resort features richly-appointed canvas prospector-style tents with ensuite bathrooms and private outdoor showers. Guests enjoy artfully prepared coastal gourmet cuisine, restorative spa and wellness experiences as well as an impressive menu of marine and land-based adventures including whale and bear watching, horseback riding, hiking, kayaking, yoga, and heli-adventures. Truly an escape to the heart of the wild, in the lap of luxury!

THE ROCK IS BACK

Eden Rock - St Barths is a luxurious retreat built on a rocky promontory, surrounded by white sandy beaches and turquoise sea. After a two-year renovation, this Oetker Collection property has reentered the luxury travel scene with a new, upscale edge. (As the first company to visit the property during its reopening this year, we know!) Exquisite gastronomy by world-famous Master Chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten can be sampled at Sand Bar on the water's edge, or at the brand-new Rémy Bar where guests mingle amongst gorgeous decor. During our recent visit, we also loved the new Eden Spa at the top of the infamous Rock, where a blissful wellness journey awaits. Who's ready for genuine French art-de-vivre in the heart of the Caribbean?



ALL-INCLUSIVE LUXURY IN CHILE WITH TIERRA HOTELS

Tierra Hotels are masters at holding nature in the highest regard, embracing their responsibility to protect the surrounding landscapes through sustainable practices. They create a deep connection with nature in all that they do. Whether it's the frosted peaks and deep lakes of Patagonia; the infinite starry skies and energy of Atacama; or the dazzling blue waters and lush, rolling hills of Chiloé, Tierra Adventure and Spa Hotels give you the freedom to enjoy your vacation, your way. We love their all-inclusive programs where accommodation, dining, bar, excursions, and transfers are included. Because there are no surprises, our clients can focus on reenergizing and relaxation. There are family rooms, activities

tailored for kids, and romantic packages for that special trip for two. If you're seeking something more exclusive, we recommend adding private excursions with your own guide and vehicle to further elevate your experience.