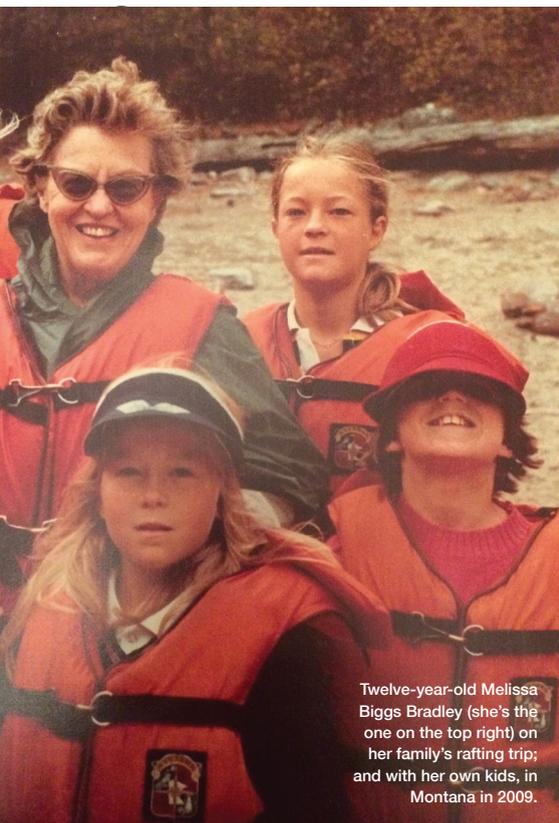




**Indagare<sup>®</sup>**

The next generation of travel wisdom<sup>®</sup>

Best of the American West



Twelve-year-old Melissa Biggs Bradley (she's the one on the top right) on her family's rafting trip; and with her own kids, in Montana in 2009.



Wyoming and national parks in Montana, Arizona and Colorado, but the trips that stand out are the ones with family. Last year my sisters and I celebrated one of our major birthdays in Sedona at Mii Amo. A few years ago, I brought my own children to Montana and Wyoming. We white-water rafted, tried to fly-fish and toured Yellowstone, where we saw buffalo and Old Faithful. We sat around the campfire, just as I did for the first time at their age, and roasted marshmallows while marveling at the night sky.

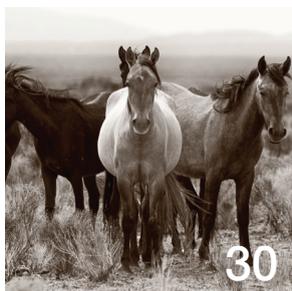
I remember my daughter commenting one night how strange it was that the stars and moon were such a big part of our evenings in the West. "I mean, we are underneath the same sky every night," she said, "but here we pay attention to it." Yes, I thought, because far from the city lights and distractions, we can see it all so much more clearly. I think that same vast isolation allows us to focus in the purest possible way on our family and our deepest wishes. That is a large part of the beauty for me of the American West. It is also a place that crystalizes things for me. As one of my favorite authors, Wallace Stegner, wrote, "Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed. . . . We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in."

*Melissa Biggs Bradley*

This year when we polled our members on where they most wanted to travel in 2015, the American West topped the list. Although the term can encompass everything from coastal California up to British Columbia, for this issue we have focused on the American West of national parks and cowboy mythology.

I took my first family trip out west at the age of twelve (photo above), when my grandmother brought her three sons and their broods to Idaho for a rafting trip down the Salmon River. We flew to a remote part of the park and hiked for two days to the river. It was the first time I had slept in a tent, ate meals cooked over a campfire or understood the awe that true wilderness can inspire. We didn't cross paths with anyone else for days, and my cousins and I forged ties and shared memories that bind us still.

Since then I have visited dude ranches in



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American West

## The World of Indagare



### About Indagare

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Clockwise from top left: Iceland's Northern Lights and sunset; alfresco dining in Budapest; a beach club in José Ignacio; graffiti-laden doors in Budapest

# Next Stop: Iceland, Budapest, José Ignacio

Love the glamorous scene of St. Barth's but want something more off the beaten track for your next beach escape? The **Indagare Team** recaps great destinations due to become the next classics.

**T**here's nothing like setting out to explore a place that's new to you, and possibly uncovering your next favorite spot. Here, Indagare offers up-and-coming alternatives to three classic destinations, offering the same fundamental experiences—be it adventure, city living or beach time—but less touristed.

**Just Back From:** *Patagonia*

**Next Stop:** *Iceland*

**Destination Requirements:** *Extreme adventure; jaw-dropping landscapes*

Chilean and Argentine Patagonia—with their lunar landscapes, myriad opportunities for hiking and dozens of glaciers—are must-visits for adventure travelers. Those who have already conquered the challenging terrain should consider Iceland as their new frontier. Only a five-hour flight from the U.S., the island nation offers an even wider range of activities, including rappelling into a dormant volcano, scuba diving between tectonic plates and relaxing in natural geothermic baths.

**Indagare Tip:** Contact the Indagare Bookings Team to organize a stay at a mobile tented camp to see the Northern Lights.

**Just Back From:** *Berlin*

**Next Stop:** *Budapest*

**Destination Requirements:** *Edgy contemporary-art scene; an underground bar culture and layers of history*

Both Berlin and Budapest contain enough historical attractions to fill an entire visit with touring, but the two cities are also linked by a youthful, fun-loving vibe. Berlin is already a

major European destination, but Budapest is often passed over. Those who love the German capital for its art scene will find a similar buzz in the Hungarian city, which, although smaller and rougher around the edges, is experiencing a cultural awakening. A new art-minded concept hotel that doubles as a gallery, trendy ruin bars and the gentrifying Jewish Quarter make Budapest one of Europe's most dynamic destinations for a long weekend.

**Indagare Tip:** Embark on a tour of Communist history before settling in at a ruin bar for drinks.

**Just Back From:** *St. Barth's*

**Next Stop:** *José Ignacio*

**Destination Requirements:** *Sun, sand, shopping; late beachfront lunches that stretch into early evening*

St. Barth's has long attracted yachters, a who's who of the New York social scene, sophisticated families looking for a chic beach escape and groups of friends renting villas. The posh Caribbean island is just as much fun on a repeat visit as on the first, but the Uruguayan beach town of José Ignacio provides all the crucial ingredients for a fun-filled holiday while giving visitors a sense that they've arrived before the masses. A destination of choice for the Argentinian elite, the laid-back spot boasts a bevy of design-minded hotels, activities like polo and surfing and a buzzy scene, with dinners—which start no earlier than 10 p.m.—often turning into early mornings gallivanting with friends.

**Indagare Tip:** Gather a group of ten or more for lunch at La Caracola, a happening restaurant that can only be reached by boat (and only accepts large parties).

# Q&A with Kim Yeshi

**Emma Pierce** interviews one of the Indagare Souk vendors, Kim Yeshi, the Franco-American founder of Tibet-based accessories brand Norlha.



**A**lthough she has lived all over the world—including Paris, New York and India—Kim Yeshi feels a profound connection to Tibet, a region she began studying in her early adulthood. Yeshi became a Buddhist at age 17, obtained her masters in Buddhism and moved to India in 1979 with her Tibetan husband. In 2005, convinced that yak wool could be used in luxury products, Yeshi sent two of her children to Tibet to collect material for testing. Her hunch proved accurate: the wool was plush and warm. Two years later, she opened the Norlha workshop in Zorge Ritoma, a village in north-

western Tibet. The sustainable brand employs nomads and villagers, creating jobs and developing the local economy. Norlha debuted in Paris in 2008 and has supplied major fashion houses like Balmain.

Yeshi's daughter Dechen lives full time in Zorge Ritoma, where the yak population outnumbers the inhabitants almost ten to one, and Yeshi herself visits often. A Chinese visa is all travelers need to visit the village, since it falls outside central Tibet, which is governed by China and very difficult to access. Norlha's products are now available through the Indagare souk, and Yeshi recently opened

Norden Camp, a boutique tented hotel in rural Tibet. The minimalist but luxe accommodations offer the ideal base from which to explore the wilderness and such experiences as visiting a monk's house. Indagare sits down with Kim to discuss Tibet, yak wool and her team of artisans.

## What made you study Buddhism and Tibet?

I guess you could call it karma. I was very young when I became a Buddhist, and Tibetan Buddhism was particularly attractive. Meeting Buddhists, and then my husband, who is from central Tibet, enhanced this attraction for me. When



Clockwise from top left: a Tibetan landscape; a local family; villagers horseback riding; a tent at Norden Camp; the interior of two tents

we married, foreigners were prohibited from visiting Tibet, so we moved to a Tibetan community in India in 1979. I traveled to Tibet for the first time in 2006 and now hold a Chinese visa that allows me to travel back and forth.

### How does Norlha support the local community?

It's not easy to move into a close-knit community, but my daughter had established a life there, and importantly, we came with the purpose of building a workshop. The locals were thankful for the employment opportunity.

I believe wholeheartedly in sustainability. Our employees

now have a steady income that gets recycled back into the community and, in turn, gives others opportunities. We foster a healthy work environment by providing our workers with two meals a day, and we try to incorporate as many nutritious elements as possible.

### What is the demographic of Norlha's employees?

All the factory workers were previously herders. Some were forced to stop herding because they did not have enough animals or had too few family members to look after them. We employ a mix of men and women, some as young as 17 (for girls) and 19 (for boys),

the ages at which locals usually marry. Most come to us with no skills, and some don't even know how to read or write.

### How has Norlha grown since it was founded?

We started with 30 workers and now have about 120. They are all experts at their craft, so we have been able to expand our product line. We also recently launched a photography section. Recently, a friend came from Hong Kong and set us up with the right lights and taught us how to use photography equipment properly.

To read more and to shop for Norlha goods, go to [www.indagare.com](http://www.indagare.com)

# Classic Provence

Twenty-five years after Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence* was published, the bucolic region remains beloved. Indagare's **Allison Reiber** lays out a first-time visit itinerary.

When the American traveler considers the South of France, Provence is often eclipsed by its glitzy neighbor, the Côte d'Azur. Provence could be the grand but creaky old house next door to shiny new constructions. Continuing the metaphor, Provence may not have a perfectly manicured lawn or garage full of the hottest sports cars, but it cautiously modernizes as needed. All who pass turn and marvel at this beautiful piece of the past and hope that it remains standing forever.

Provence is wonderfully suited to a wide range of travelers: foodies, wine enthusiasts, cyclists, hikers, bon vivants, history buffs, art lovers and romantics. It's best seen by car, and some of your most rewarding hours may be spent on the country roads, winding through orchards, lavender fields and towns so tiny you find yourself wondering where the locals buy their groceries. Then you stumble on one of the bountiful morning *marchés*, purveyors of not mere groceries but of artisanal pâtés, local produce and freshly dug truffles.

In crafting a weeklong itinerary through Provence, you'll soon find that the permutations are endless. The region is sprawling and varied, from the dramatic Var, to the bucolic Luberon, to the cities layered in history from the medieval times through the days of Van Gogh and Cézanne. Whether as a couple or with the kids in tow, you can have a taste of three iconic experiences: town, country and a bit of adventure, while leaving plenty of time for long lunches spent admiring the beautiful countryside.

## Avignon & Environs

Whether or not you're beginning your trip with a few days in Paris, a simple way to dive into Provence is to ride two-and-a-half hours by train from Paris to Avignon, and pick up a

rental car at the station. Your first stop will be inside Avignon's city ramparts, at **La Mirande** ([www.la-mirande.fr](http://www.la-mirande.fr)), a former family palace that has been beautifully repurposed as a hotel set against the Palais des Papes, where the popes resided during the 14th century. While at La Mirande, be sure to take advantage of the excellent cooking classes (including ones tailored to children) given in its cozy kitchen. Avignon is a charming and walkable town and is an ideal launching pad for day trips to the nearby villages that make Provence so special. Keep an eye on the market calendar, and plan your trips accordingly—the concierge can advise—as those are the best times to see a village come to life.

One convenient destination is Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the star wine region of the Southern Rhone Valley. Although you can certainly plot an enjoyable day on your own (stopping at any *cave* marked with a *dégustation* sign), an insider guide can open doors typically closed to the public while a second guide takes the kids on a tour of the ruins, which are both historically significant and excellent for climbing.

If in the area on a Thursday or a Sunday, drive to L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue for its world-renowned antiques market, whose offerings range from proper antiques to French bric-a-brac.

The beautiful St.-Rémy-de-Provence is also well worth the trip. The birthplace of Nostradamus and, much later, an inspiration for Van Gogh, St.-Rémy now bustles with cafés, shops and some great bistros. The fascinating nearby archaeological site of Glanum, dating to 6 B.C., showcases a Roman town center, including baths and a forum. The cultural hub of Arles, slightly shabby but thoroughly endearing, offers ancient ruins as well as the brand-new Fondation Vincent Van Gogh, which pays homage to the artist's time in this city.



Clockwise from top left: a room at Domaine de la Baume; market treats; the shaded terrace at Mas de Peint and its exterior; a La Mirande chef at work; breakfast at Mas de Peint



Clockwise: Avignon; Fondation Vincent Van Gogh; a suite and the kitchen at Mas de Peint



## Arles & Environs

From Avignon, the paths for couples and families diverge. Those traveling with kids will want to visit the wonderful family-owned French dude ranch **Le Mas de Peint** ([www.masdepeint.com](http://www.masdepeint.com)), a perfect base for exploring the Camargue, a magical region where white horses and inky black bulls dot the marshy landscape. Kids and their parents will enjoy jeep rides through countryside that's part Outer Banks, part *Wuthering Heights*, to see flamingos and salt flats. Le Mas de Peint is warm and welcoming, offering a swimming pool and some extraordinary food.

Couples will travel eastward to Gordes, a small "perched" village of only 2,000 inhabitants. Driving up and down narrow winding roads through beautiful pastures that in June and July are smothered with lavender, you come

to a hilltop from which the view of your destination, **La Bastide de Gordes** ([www.bastide-de-gordes.com](http://www.bastide-de-gordes.com)), built on the ramparts of the old medieval town, is breathtaking. Because Gordes has been named among the most beautiful villages of France, you will most likely hear some English interspersed with French at the morning market. Rest assured, that doesn't make the market any less charming or the countryside less spectacular. Given the Bastide's central location, you can park the car while you explore the village on foot. Or you can just enjoy the hotel's beautiful terrace, lounge by the pool or relax at the spa.

## The Var Region

A good final stop for both couples and families is the beautiful Var region. As you drive north,



Clockwise: a room at La Bastide de Moustiers; the terrace at Mas de Peint; a chocolate tart at La Bastide de Moustiers



the landscape becomes mountainous and wild. A highlight is the spectacular national park, the Gorges du Verdon, known as the Grand Canyon of France. Here you can choose to be as energetic as you like, taking part in such activities as white-water rafting, kayaking and rock climbing, or visiting the famous towns of Tourrettes, Fayence and Callian, or tasting wines in Bandol.

Families will want to check in to **La Bastide de Moustiers** ([www.bastide-moustiers.com](http://www.bastide-moustiers.com)), a simple but sophisticated and very charming property practically inside the national park. A Maison Alain Ducasse, the food is fantastic and an important part of the experience. The terrace affords views of the valley that are stunning, and children are invited to interact with the chefs and the staff as they pick vegetables and herbs for meals each day. The grounds provide ample

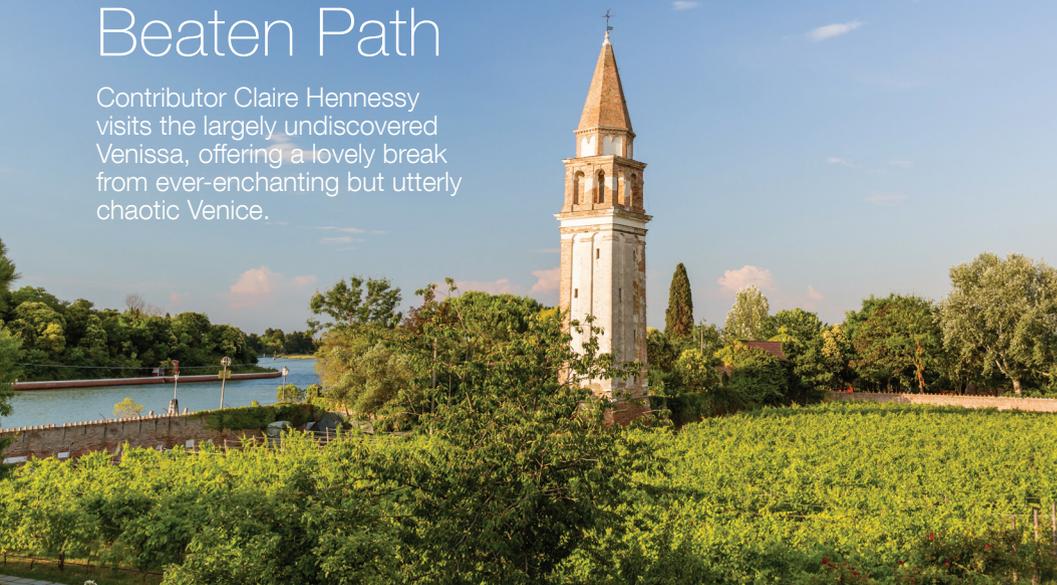
space for kids to run through, and the pool is guaranteed to be a hit after excursions.

Couples will wend their way to **Domaine de la Baume** ([www.domaine-delabaume.com](http://www.domaine-delabaume.com)), a dreamy former private estate with 13 tastefully designed rooms, located 45 minutes by car from La Bastide de Moustiers (those not staying should be sure to stop there for lunch). The Domaine is the perfect place to live your French country-home fantasy for a few days, taking rambling walks or horseback riding through the countryside, picnicking on the grounds or snuggling up with a book in one of several cozy and impeccably decorated living rooms. You'll be perfectly content to stay put for a few days.

For more recommendations, visit [www.indagare.com](http://www.indagare.com). Members can contact us for help with trip planning.

# Venice: Off the Beaten Path

Contributor Claire Hennessy visits the largely undiscovered Venissa, offering a lovely break from ever-enchanting but utterly chaotic Venice.



Native Venice” is the term for the small islands in the Venetian Lagoon. Mazzorbo, one of these magical isles, is home to the Venissa estate, a property consisting of a hotel, winery, gardens and two restaurants.

You are charmed by Venissa even before you step through its unassuming doors, greeted by the hotel’s pink façade, green shutters and white flowers tumbling out of planters.

The six guest rooms are airy and decorated with beautiful simplicity: wooden floors and furniture in natural tones, with a touch of color. A love of the lagoon is evident everywhere in such details as the bright-hued room keys, each in the shape of a different island.

Although the water offers an abundance for travelers to see and experience, finding a reason to leave Venissa can be difficult. The estate offers both

a *Michelin*-starred restaurant as well as the more casual Osteria Contemporanea. The fine-dining restaurant adheres to the farm-to-table philosophy, not as a nod to international trends but thanks to the lagoon’s immense bounty. Among the ingredients diners can savor are amazing, unique shellfish (during a boat excursion you can watch the local fisherman pick up crabs, decide in seconds which will molt



Clockwise from top left: the hotel and vineyard; an artichoke dish; harvesting grapes; the dining room; appetizers including grilled octopus; a guest room

into soft shells and quickly throw back the rest), rare algae that is fresh, crispy and palate cleansing and a huge variety of fresh produce from the garden located directly next to the restaurant. It is not uncommon to see a chef run from the kitchen into the garden during dinner service to gather more of an ingredient.

Then there is the wine. Venissa is known above all for the white wine it produces

from the Dorona varietal, a native to the Venetian Lagoon known since the 15th century but largely forgotten until about 15 years ago, when Gianluca Bisol, Venissa's owner, discovered some abandoned vines and used them to establish a vineyard. Acclaimed by critics, Dorona is produced in very small quantities and sold in limited-edition Murano-glass bottles. Each has a number etched into the glass by hand and a label made of gold leaf.

Just across the wooden footbridge from Mazzorbo lies the Technicolor island of Burano, known for lacemaking and its rows of vibrantly hued houses. Also a stone's throw away is the fascinating island of Torcello, whose population has dwindled since the 10th century from between 10,000 and 30,000 to an official count of 9 today. Torcello is home to the cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, which contains the earliest mosaics in Venice, predating those of St. Mark's.

Visitors who prefer to stay on the water can opt for an incredible culinary voyage on a *bragozzo*, a traditional flat-bottom wooden sailboat, with extremely talented chef and *bragozzo* owner Mauro Stoppa. His boat, the Eolo, dates to 1946 and has been restored to

its original beauty, complete with huge, colorful sails. Once aboard, you can peer down to the lower deck and admire the beautiful dining table, set with elegant white linens and gorgeous flowers, while Stoppa prepares a multicourse gourmet meal in the teeny kitchen just behind the table.

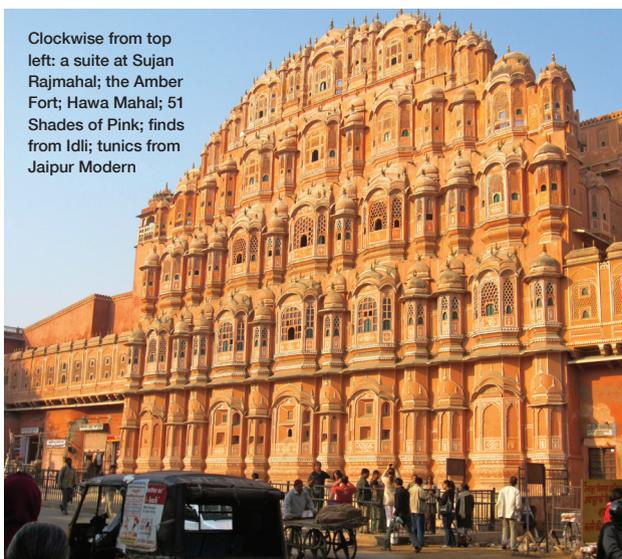
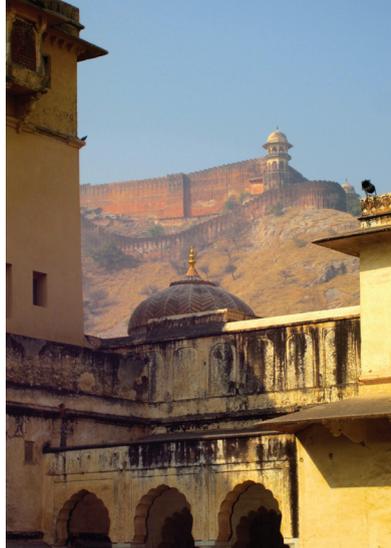
The lagoon continues to evolve. In the works for 2016 on Burano is an *albergo diffuso*—a decentralized hotel (an increasingly popular concept in Italy), whose reception desk and breakfast area are in the main structure but the majority of whose rooms are located in converted houses. In the final planning phases at Venissa are cooking classes with grandmothers from around the lagoon who will teach participants to make traditional Native Venice recipes. Contact Indagare's bookings team for assistance planning a visit. [venissa.it](http://venissa.it)

### Getting there from Venice:

Take the number 12 vaporetto line from Fondamente Nove toward Burano and get off at Mazzorbo. You can also take a water taxi.

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*To read Indagare's full destination report on Venice and beyond, including staff-scouted recommendations on where to stay, eat, shop and explore, visit [www.indagare.com](http://www.indagare.com) and contact us to book a trip.*



Clockwise from top left: a suite at Sujan Rajmahal; the Amber Fort; Hawa Mahal; 51 Shades of Pink; finds from Idli; and tunics from Jaipur Modern



# Melissa's Finds: Jaipur

The so-called Pink City is ground zero for crafts and commerce in Rajasthan, offering visitors an immersion in the dazzling riches of traditional India. Indagare's founder **Melissa Biggs Bradley** uncovers the city's latest, wave-making openings.

**A**s Rajasthan's shopping capital and home to many expat designers and craftsmen, Jaipur is constantly offering new spins on Indian treasures. Some of my favorite recent discoveries include a small palace hotel with a modern twist, chic dining rooms, cool concept stores and a special textile dealer.

## Where to Stay

Many travelers to Rajasthan allocate the most time on their itinerary to Jaipur so that they can explore the riches of the region at their leisure. A regal new hotel provides another reason to extend a stay in the bewitching city.

### Suján Rajmahal Palace

Among the Pink City's most exciting reincarnations is that of the Suján Rajmahal, a royal guesthouse that is now a gorgeous boutique hotel with lovely restaurants. Princess Diya Kumari of Jaipur tasked well-known designer Adil Ahmad with giving the historic bones of the 18th-century mansion a modern hipness. Taking inspiration from the City Palace, he created dozens of original wallpapers and dedicated each of the 14 suites to a past guest, like Lord Mountbatten, Queen Elizabeth II and Jackie Kennedy. The result is a flamboyant and fashionable property that is run more like a grand country house than a hotel. Nonresidents can come for drinks in the Polo Bar or a meal in one of the three dining rooms: 51 Shades of Pink, the Collonade and the Orient Occident. *Read Indagare's review.*

## Where to Eat

Indian cuisine in Jaipur can be exceptional, with complex spices and subtle flavors. Rather than ordering Continental dishes, it's best to request

Indian vegetarian specialties, especially the fine Rajasthani pastries and desserts, many of which are topped with a flourish of gold or silver leaf.

### 51 Shades of Pink

The most delicious-looking dining room to open in India this year bears the cheeky name 51 Shades of Pink, where custom hot-pink wallpaper plays with familiar Moghul archways. Massive crystal chandeliers and long beveled mirrors up the glamour quotient, while dining chairs with Arabesque lines add to the harem feel. The restaurant serves a creative Continental menu, but the setting is the draw. *Jorawer Singh Gate, Amer Road; 91-141-263-04077*

### The Collonade

Occupying what was originally the verandah of the Rajmahal Palace, the Collonade dining room features polo-themed wallpaper as well reproductions of vintage Osler chandeliers, original pink marble floors and views over the palace gardens. *Jorawer Singh Gate, Amer Road; 91-141-263-04077*

### The Orient Occident

The most formal of the restaurants at the new Suján Rajmahal, the Orient Occident serves exquisite Indian cuisine in a dining room that evokes the majesty of the Raj royals. Its high coffered ceilings have deep red panels that accentuate the rich colors of the wallpaper, with red Moghul flowers. *Jorawer Singh Gate, Amer Road; 91-141-263-04077*

### Samode Haveli

The heritage hotel Samode Haveli, long a favorite of European visitors, has moved its main restaurant into a new wing overlooking

the gardens. The main dining room features crystal chandeliers, marble floors, heavy wooden furniture and ancestral treasures, including Raj portraits. *Gangapole; 91-141-263-2407*

### **The Kitchen at Jaipur Modern**

This modern, airy café, located in the annex to the lovely new boutique Jaipur Modern, serves salads and Italian dishes, including pizza, as well as cold-pressed juices. The chef works with organic farmers to source fresh, sustainably grown ingredients. *51 Sardar Patel Marg, Dhuleshwar Garden, C Scheme; 91-141-411-2000*

### **Where to Shop**

Jaipur is a world-class destination for precious gems and beautifully crafted items. Every trip reveals new sources for pashmina shawls, antique silver tribal jewelry, sandals and modern takes on traditional handicrafts—proof of what a thriving artisanal culture exists here.

### **Jaipur Modern**

Opened in 2014, Jaipur Modern is the labor of love of Yash Agarwal and Maximiliano Modesti, who champion “modern Indian craftsmanship,” a melding of Italian sensibility with Indian artisanal items. The owners work with producers in India to create products with a Western twist. The linens and pillows, for instance, have an abstract design and contemporary color palette, and the blouses and dresses are cut in an avant-garde style. *51 Sardar Patel Marg, Dhuleshwar Garden, C Scheme; 91-141-411-2000*

### **Teatro Dhora**

For shoppers who want to browse a range of high-end Indian crafts but prefer the atmosphere of Barney’s to an Indian market, Teatro Dhora is the place to go. The boutique mixes Indian and expat designer goods with vintage



items. There are hand-blocked tunics, embroidered shawls and the owners’ signature jewelry line, which includes brass and silver collections, as well as vintage furniture and Indian artwork. *9 Yashwant Place, Ajmer Road; 91-141-402-7979*

### **Tokree**

Sanyukta Singh opened Tokree to sell the accessories and fashion that she designs and has local cooperatives manufacture. Look for hand-blocked tunics, quilted jackets and palazzo pants with lovely edging, knit shawls with metallic threadwork, one-of-a-kind jewelry and antiques from around Rajasthan. *Alsisar Haveli, Sansar Chandra Road; 91-977-220-1320*

### **Idli**

Eccentric French designer Thierry Journo, who has lived and worked in Jaipur for years, opened this boutique in the Narain Niwas Palace. Inspired by the vibrant Rajasthan palette and his Parisian couture background, Journo sells Western designs that have a distinct Indian exoticism, like silk caftans, cotton dresses, ikat



Left to right: details at Sujan Rajmahal; a tea break at the Cloud Palace; Tokree's owner, Sanyukta Singh; courtyard dining at Samode Haveli

pashminas and tie-dyed pillows. *Kanota Bagh, Narain Singh Road; 91-141-257-0400*

### Aashka

The pet project of the Princess Bhargavi Kumari Mewar of Udaipur, the boutique Aashka sells fashion, jewelry and housewares. The airy shop is decorated with antique mirrors and furniture that has been whitewashed to create a more contemporary look. Especially tempting are the lovely printed shawls, shift dresses, linens and leather sandals. Equestrians can find everything from cocktail napkins with horseshoe motifs and polo shirts to saddles. *Kanota Bagh, Narain Singh Road; 91-141-256-9854*

### Princess Diya Kumari Foundation

Princess Diya Kumari started her foundation in 2013 to give underprivileged women employment. Today more than 65 women create crafts at the Royal Family's Badal Mahal, or Cloud Palace and a cooperative near Ranthambore. Their simple fabric products, sold from a small stall near the giant silver urns in the City Palace, range from children's frocks and notebooks to cloth bags and fabric animals. It is possible to visit their workshop by appointment.

Read Indagare's destination report on Jaipur and other areas of Rajasthan on [www.indagare.com](http://www.indagare.com) and contact our bookings team for assistance planning a trip to India: [bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com); 212-988-2611.

## Special Access Shopping

Indagare can arrange a visit with an antiques dealer who is known across India for his private collection of museum quality antique textiles, some of which are for sale. Academics and museum curators seek him out, and a visit to this showroom is akin to a crash course in textiles. Among the interesting facts one will learn: paisley designs actually come from the Moghul mango style of weaving—the teardrop shape was a mango—and the design was dubbed paisley only after French manufacturer Jacquard started producing the patterns in the Scottish town of Paisley in the early 1800s. Highlights from the dealer's collection include 400-year-old Ikat pieces and antique gold brocades, including one made on wool for the nizams of Golconda. The emir of Qatar spent millions here amassing his collection, and one could while away hours ogling masterpieces.

far-flung

# Surfing in Samoa

Samoa is one of those places whose very name evokes an exotic, end-of-the-earth Eden. Indagare contributor **Ann Abel** reports.



Clockwise from top: an island scenic; sunset surf; a room at Aganoa; the pristine beach

Samoa draws many of its intrepid visitors from New Zealand, of which it was a colony until 1962, and Australia, the South Pacific being to Kiwis and Aussies what the Caribbean is to New Yorkers. Aside from its distinctive Pacific Islander culture, the nation is known for its exceptional, uncrowded waves. These have been a major pull for the surf set, which is also attracted to Samoa's exoticism.

Far-flung locations, adventure, roughing it and exploration have long been hallmarks of the sport, and surfers flock here as they once did to Waikiki and Bali. A broader swath of international visitors have recently succumbed to the country's laid-back appeal, and there are a few new luxury resorts. **Here are seven things to know while planning your trip there.**

#### 1. There's more than pretty beaches.

The point breaks are exceptional, the water is gin clear and bathwater warm, and the beaches might as well be made of powdered sugar. But there's a lot to explore on land, including the cascading Afu Afu waterfall and the Alofaaga Blow Holes, where waves propel water—and sometimes coconuts—through gaps in the volcanic rock and hundreds of feet into the air.

#### 2. The culture is fascinating and unique.

Although now predominately Christian, people still follow *fa'a Samoa*, the traditional Samoan way, performing ceremonies, deferring to village chiefs, often living communally and celebrating rituals with lively, unusual dances.

#### 3. The lay of the land is important.

Samoa consists of two main islands and eight smaller ones. Upolu is the most densely populated, most touristed and home to the international airport as well as two new Sheraton hotels. Savai'i, one of the largest islands in

Polynesia but home to just 42,000 people, is more pristine, remote and hard to get to. Think of the difference between developed Tahiti and more serene Bora Bora. A 45-minute ferry ride from Upolu, Savai'i is worth the extra effort.

#### 4. Aganoa Lodge is a game changer.

Keith and Lanuola Martin bought a traditional, simple resort on Savai'i in 2003 and created the Aganoa Beach Retreat. A decade later, the Martins brought the property up to luxury-traveler standards and reopened it in early 2015. The eight beach *fales* housing the accommodations have open sides and outdoor showers, and have been given a Robinson Crusoe-chic look, with canopied wooden beds. The lack of AC is not a problem, as breezes and fans keep guests cool at night, and during the day—well, the water, with its extraordinary surf breaks, is steps away. The lodge also stocks kayaks and snorkeling gear.

#### 5. You should know how to surf.

Unless you're a fairly accomplished surfer, you probably aren't ready for the marquee breaks at Aganoa or elsewhere on the islands. Not only are they big, but the breaks are over rocks down below, so you must know how to fall correctly. Aganoa has solid instructors and another spot that's friendlier for surfing novices, but the owners strongly suggest you get a few lessons under your belt before you come.

#### 7. Getting there is not that hard

Fiji Airways operates flights from Honolulu that take less than six hours. There are also flights from Sydney (five hours) and Auckland (three and a half hours). The best time to go is the dry season, which runs April through October.

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Members can contact Indagare to help planning a trip to Samoa by emailing [bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com).



Clockwise from top left: Lido beach; marble quarries; the Augustus pool; a family at the beach; the pool at the Principe; a suite at the Augustus



# Forte dei Marmi

The former fortress town is uniquely positioned between a dramatic mountain range of white marble and the glistening Tyrrhenian Sea. Indagare's **Sasha Feldman** reports on the best of the summer resort.

**N**oble families from Tuscany and northern Italy, made wealthy by the maritime trade, started coming to Forte dei Marmi for their summer holidays in the 19th century. They have since been followed by fashionable world travelers.

## STAY

### Augustus Hotel & Resort

Of the town's many fine properties, the old-school, family-friendly Augustus feels most like a resort.

The sprawling property comprises three buildings—the main hotel, La Nave and Augustus Lido—and seven private villas, set two streets back from the beach (no hotels in Forte de Marmi are actually on the beach). The lush oasis also includes a hedge-enclosed pool, another family-friendly pool nearer the beach, an interior dining courtyard, a newly redone gym and a spa.

The accommodations vary widely in style, ranging from rooms outfitted with brown leather and orange furniture to nautical-themed suites. *Read Indagare's review.*



### Principe

Located one block from the sea and two from town, the Principe offers modern luxury, making it a top choice for globetrotters from Europe, Russia and the Middle East. There is a lovely pool and poolside bar, a beautiful Egoista Spa and an excellent fitness room. The hotel's 29 spacious rooms all have glass-enclosed marble bathrooms and parquet flooring. Although none have sea views, most accommodations overlook the grounds and neighboring villas or face the white-capped Apuan Alps. One block from the hotel is the Dalmazia Beach Club. Tables at the club's buzzy restaurant are set on an open-air veranda resting directly on the sand. The hotel also has its own luxury yacht available for charter. *Read Indagare's hotel review.*

### Villa Grey

This contemporary 19-room villa-style property, formerly a private home, offers a boutique-hotel experience with stylish accommodations in a contemporary design dominat-

ed by gray hues. Villa Grey is located on the main road that runs parallel to the shoreline, so it's close to the shore but also to traffic. Rooms, many of which have private balconies, either face the back garden, with views of the Apuan Alps in the distance, or overlook a wide stretch of beach. The hotel lacks many of the amenities offered by a five-star hotel, such as a pool or gym, and the front-desk manager doubles as concierge, but the staff is helpful and professional. *Read Indagare's review.*

## EAT

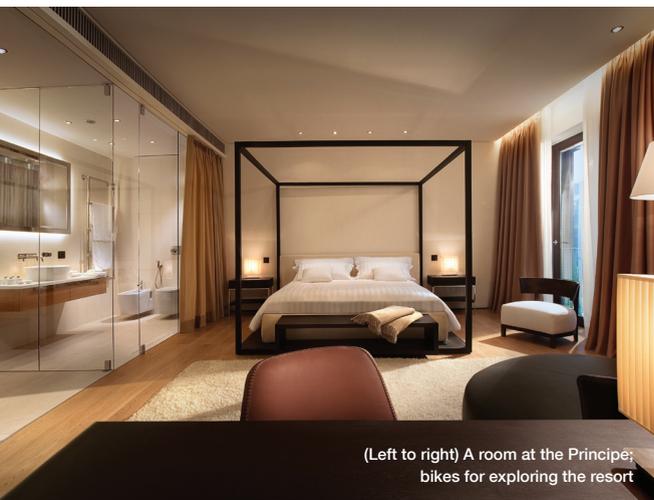
Seafood is at the heart of Forte dei Marmi's cuisine. For its size, the town has an exciting number of great restaurants, none of which are stuffy, making the dining scene fun.

### Bagno Dalmazia Beach Restaurant

The Principe's beach club boasts one of the buzziest, most elegant restaurants in town. The menu features local Italian specialties with an emphasis on fresh seafood. *18 Via Arenile; 39-0584-809-96*



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(Left to right) A room at the Principe; bikes for exploring the resort



### L'Orsa Maggiore

This chic restaurant resembles a well-designed beach bungalow, with wood-plank floors, canvas chairs and pops of blue throughout the covered and alfresco areas. *29 Viale Achille Franceschi; 39-0584-822-19*

### Bistrot

This family-run, *Michelin*-starred restaurant is one of the most popular in Forte dei Marmi, serving excellent Versilian dishes from two wood-fired ovens. *14 Via della Repubblica; 39-0584-888-79*

### Trattoria Tre Stelle

Located on one of the pedestrian-only streets in town, this famed spot offers a variety of Tuscan dishes. *6 Via Montauti Giovanni; 39-0584-802-20*

### SEE & DO

Forte dei Marmi is the perfect launching point for day trips throughout the region. Break

up afternoons at the beach with a variety of cultural, historic and culinary adventures.

### Day Trips: Pietrasanta

Known as the City of the Artists, this Tuscan town is home to artists, sculpture studios and monuments, plus art galleries and museums. Indagare's Bookings Team can provide introductions to specialized guides and assist with itinerary planning. *Drive time: 15 minutes*

### Day Trip: Lucca

The ancient town of Lucca, founded by the Etruscans, is famous for its fully intact Renaissance-era city walls, which are now pedestrian promenades. It also contains many medieval and ancient sights, including the ruins of the amphitheater where Julius Caesar, Pompey and Crassus affirmed their political alliance. *Drive time: 30 minutes.*

### Day Trip: Pisa

The touristy but significant Pisa is most famous for its Leaning Tower but is also home to many other churches and examples of Roman and Renaissance architecture. *Drive time: 30 minutes.*

### Carrara Marble Quarries

Located in the Apuan Alps, this town used to house the workers at the marble quarries. Some of ancient Rome's most significant buildings and sculptures (such as the Pantheon and Michelangelo's *David*) were made from its marble. *Drive time: 30 minutes.*

### Cinque Terre & Portofino

An excursion by private motor launch is the best way to see the Cinque Terre, a rugged portion of coastline comprising five villages known for their colorful homes built into the cliff side, as well as the port town of Portofino.



## Spain's Coastal Spa

Sexy design meets restorative healing at Sha Wellness Clinic, a retreat where medical treatments are as common as spa services, writes Indagare's **Emma Pierce**.

**Y**ou've heard it before: illness strikes, and where modern medicine fails, a revamped diet and shift towards whole-body wellness succeed. The story behind Sha Wellness Clinic is no different. Alfredo Bataller Parietti struggled with digestive issues for decades, and when he was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2000, he turned to natural remedies in lieu of the drug treatments. Astonished by his recovery after switching to a macrobiotic diet, Parietti began to dream of sharing the program with others through a spa-hotel-medical facility. Today Sha is a mainstay of the natural health movement, while also offering a stylish and gourmet guest experience. Located on a hillside overlooking the Costa Blanca coastline, Sha welcomes guests with a sleek, Miami design and the promise of pampering. But besides the state-of-the-art spa, Sha's most distinctive attribute is its macrobiotic diet plan, which is based on

the belief that you can fight illness by avoiding "high-impact" foods—like potatoes, red meat and dairy—which stress the body, and instead emphasizing "low-impact" ones. Guests have a nutrition evaluation upon arrival and while calories are restricted, the cuisine rivals that of a *Michelin*-starred restaurant. Sha's programs vary in intensity, ranging from ones suitable for first-timers to sessions for seasoned vets. The rejuvenation programs offer a tasting menu of treatments, while other, longer stays are individually tailored, with medical and nutrition consultations and a personalized health plan. **Indagare Tip:** Request an English-speaking technician ahead of time.

**When:** May-June and early fall (September-October) when it's sunny but not too hot.

**How:** Most major European cities have flights to Spain's Alicante or Valencia, which are, respectively, 45 or 90 minutes by car from Sha.



Clockwise from top: the Mondrian's rooftop bar; Hubbard & Bell; brunch at Blixen



## London Loosens Up

Industrial-chic hotels, food markets hawking pork buns and BBQ, eclectic concept stores—following a trend that feels Brooklyn-esque, London is having a serious hipster moment. Indagare contributor **Anna Hart** investigates.

**R**einvention is the theme in London this spring, with previously ignored neighborhoods attracting new interest and hotels and restaurants taking over onetime office spaces. Lighthearted food trends encourage self-indulgence, as does London's latest concept store, which, when not operating as a fashion emporium, hosts innovative pop-ups.

### Where to Stay

#### Mondrian London

Backed by Ian Schrager, the Mondrian London opened in late 2014 as a sleek city hotel in Hackney, on the South Bank. The king of British

industrial design, Tom Dixon, is responsible for the décor, from the dramatic showstopper of a lobby to the spacious, light-filled spa and spacious gym. All 359 rooms (the best of which boast river views) are sumptuous and stylish, decorated in plush gray with flashes of neon.

There is also Dandelyan, the award-winning cocktail bar and the gleaming restaurant, Sea Containers, boasting a wood-fired grill. *Read Indagare's review.*

#### Hoxton Holborn

It might be just a short stroll from Covent Garden, but Hoxton has a decidedly East London

flair and is already a hit with London's creative community. The lobby features low lighting and plush sofas and each of the 174 rooms is simple yet stylish.

There are excellent dining options, overseen by Soho Hotel Group: Hubbard & Bell, a diner-style brasserie, the trendy Chicken Shop, downstairs, and Grind, popular for its Origin coffee. *Read Indagare's review.*

## Where to Eat

### Blixen

This European-style brasserie, located in the regenerated Spitalfields area, has grand interiors, with leather banquettes and terrazzo tiling accented by gleaming brass fittings and an elegant bar. Its informal menu proffers everything from a Croque Madame to kale salad. *65A Brushfield Street; 44-20-7101-0093*

### Street Feast London

Londoners have fallen hard and fast for market halls, and Street Feast runs several of the best. Each of its four venues (the one in Dalston is the most established) is casual and chaotic while remaining fun. Don't miss Bleecker St. Burger, the food stall of the moment, and perennial favorite Smokstak ribs. Arrive before 7 P.M. or be prepared to wait. *Hartwell Street, Dalston*

### Duck and Waffle

Housed on the top floor of a commercial skyscraper in the financial district, Britain's highest restaurant is a favorite with the city's foodies as much for the extraordinary 360-degree skyline views as for its cuisine. The pan-European menu emphasizes sustainable ingredients, but regulars know to not miss the (less-than-healthy) house dish: a decadent duck confit topped with a fried duck egg and mustard maple syrup. *110 Bishopsgate; 44-20-3640-7310*

### Kitty Fisher's

Located in Shepherd Market, Kitty Fisher's is a youthful addition to Mayfair's dining scene, which can be a touch formal. Chef Tomos Parry is renowned for crafting a simple menu that incorporates only the freshest ingredients. Dishes like monkfish with blood oranges and monk's beard have impressed both food critics and locals. Note: the reservation line is open from 10 to 11 A.M. and 4 to 5 P.M., Tuesday through Friday. *10 Shepherd Market; 44-20-3302-1661*

## Where to Shop

### Celestine Eleven

This concept store is a darling of London's most revered fashion editors. Run by former stylist Tena Strok, Celestine Eleven is part carefully curated fashion boutique, part holistic therapy center and part venue: the basement hosts pop-ups like yoga classes, supper clubs and book groups. *4 Holywell Lane; 44-20-7729-2987*

### House of Hackney

Fashion mavens cross oceans to stock up on finds here, as this store in Shoreditch is well worth a pilgrimage. House of Hackney's iconic print collections are youthful and fun (the quirky Hackney Empire and Dalston Rose prints are modern-day classics), and almost everything is made in Great Britain. *131-132 Shoreditch High Street; 44-20-7739-3901*

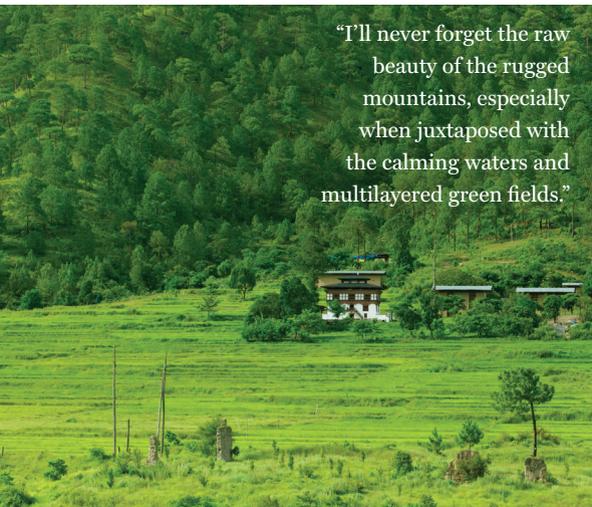
### Slow Food Market

Open only on Sundays, the **Rosewood London's** Slow Food Market (located in the hotel's serene inner courtyard) hosts more than 30 food stalls purveying regional, in-season produce that has been responsibly harvested. It has rapidly won over local foodies as well as visitors. Head here for a gloriously gluttonous afternoon. *252 High Holborn; 44-20-7781-8888*

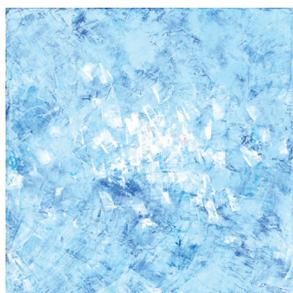
artist spotlight

## Bhutan's Natural Splendor

Artist and Indagare member Susan Swartz recently traveled to the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan on an Insider Trip. Here is her *Bhutan Series*, a five-piece collection inspired by the nation's vibrant native colors and otherworldly landscape.



"I'll never forget the raw beauty of the rugged mountains, especially when juxtaposed with the calming waters and multilayered green fields."



*Prayers Afloat*



*September*

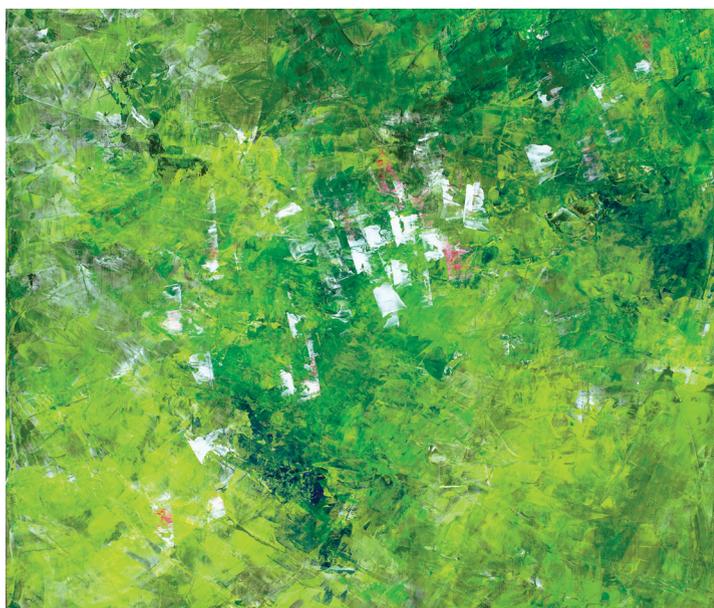


*Fields and Prayer Flags*

“This series of paintings depict nature and the Bhutanese landscape. We traveled all over the country and witnessed abundant unique topography. The paintings are inspired by the areas we visited, and each shows the colors of the different regions.”



*Joy*



*Prayers Over Rice Fields*

“*Bhutan September* was inspired by the trees in the nation’s capital, Thimphu; *Prayers Over Rice Fields* and *Rice Fields and Prayer Flags* by the tiered rice terraces of the Punakha Valley; *Prayers Afloat* by the iconic Tiger’s Nest, in Paro. The last painting in the series, *Joy*, reflects the overall spirituality and culture of Bhutan.”

To learn more about this artist and series, visit [www.susanswartz.com](http://www.susanswartz.com)

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*Famous gunfighter and lawman Wild Bill Hickock was shot dead in 1876 while playing poker in Deadwood. He died holding a pair of aces and a pair of eights, all black, which has ever since been called a "dead man's hand."*

Hiking Devil's Garden in  
Arches National Park

# American West

The first big push came in the 1840s, when the promise of gold lured fortune-seekers and opportunists. These days, we recommend coming for the adventure of exploring magnificent landscapes. The **Indagare Travel** team reports.

**T**he essence of the West is the stuff of romantic American lore—cowboys, pioneer women and homesteading. The remoteness, rough conditions and relative independence from Eastern legal structures resulted in generations of strong, resilient people who blazed trails and formulated a philosophy all their own. Add to all that the influence of—and, in some rare instances, partnerships with—the Native Americans of the region, and you have a wholly unique—and incredibly special—culture. The Wild West, a term that conjures up images of pistol-toting outlaws and freewheeling saloons, is such an integral part of the American story that even schoolchildren can recite tales of such iconic figures as Buffalo Bill and Annie Oakley.

In this issue, we present Indagare's favorite spots to experience the West in the summer, from towns at the bottom of box canyons (page 40) or at the top of majestic mountains (page 42), to a resort in an abandoned mining town (page 56) and ranches that teach guests how to

rope, fly-fish, white-water raft and pan for sapphires (page 36). In the American Southwest, our favorite method of exploration is by car and foot, and we have rounded up the best road trips and hikes through Arizona and Utah.

Whether traveling as family, a couple or a group of friends, a successful trip to this area of the United States enables visitors to absorb the region's rich history as well as the breathtaking beauty of the mountains, plains, open sky, desert and red-rock formations. Although the area is filled with hokey dude ranches, mock Western towns and faux "cowboy experiences," it also offers truly special properties whose priority is providing an authentic understanding of the region's culture.

Gazing at the region's wide-open vistas, learning the history of settlers and Native Americans and participating in activities like barrel racing, hunting, story telling and campfire sing-alongs are likely to instill both a deeper understanding and love of country as well as an enhanced appreciation of America's people.

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A cabin at Dunton Hot Springs (left);  
Double Arch at Arches National Park

## LAY OF THE LAND

From Big Sky Montana and the stunning national parks of Utah to the vertiginous peaks of Colorado and the red-rock mesas of Arizona, the American West holds some of the globe's most spectacular landscapes, sought out by outdoorsy travelers from around the world.

### Montana

Montana is the fourth-largest state in the U.S. but one of the least populous, with fewer than 1 million residents. The vast open spaces inspire wonder at the relatively untouched nature, and much of Montana still looks as it did when Lewis and Clark came through. The so-called Big Sky country is a perfect destination for families eager to experience the great outdoors from a base at one of the state's acclaimed ranches. Some travelers plan road trips to such national parks as Yellowstone and Glacier, while others spend their days fly- and trout fishing.

### Colorado

Along with Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, Colorado is one of the states that come together in the Four Corners region. It is known as a winter destination (especially for East Coast travelers), thanks to such excellent ski resorts as Aspen, Vail and Telluride, but summertime visits are equally rewarding (and less of a scene). For something entirely different, make your way (and it's a long way) to Dunton Hot Springs, a restored ghost town with natural hot springs and an incredibly authentic sense of place.

### Utah

Utah has five of the country's most famous national parks, including Arches, Bryce and Zion. It is also another one of the country's largest states, so driving distances are significant. Moab, the city nearest Arches and Canyonlands, is close to the Colorado state line. The glorious landscapes offer enough activities to fill weeks



*In 1874, Joseph Glidden received a patent for his invention of barbed wire, an inexpensive, durable and effective fencing material, which opened the plains to more efficient agriculture and ranching.*



of exploration, but a trip here can also be easily combined with visits to the Grand Canyon, Lake Powell and Arizona's red rock area.

### Arizona

Used by many as a gateway to the Grand Canyon, Phoenix boasts some of the country's most acclaimed spa and golf resorts, as well as a burgeoning culinary scene. The great outdoors are ever-present, even in the cityscapes, thanks to the presence of looming mountains, like Camelback, and a gorgeous climate year-round. Sedona is most famous for red rock canyons. The area's natural beauty definitely deserves more attention than a quick drive-through en route to the Grand Canyon, which lies another two hours north.

### Wyoming

Wyoming is an outdoorsman's paradise, thanks to its vast, sweeping landscapes, low population

density and many national parks like Yellowstone and Grand Teton, to name just two. The parks have been protected for so long that they can support a diverse array of wildlife. Grizzly bears, wolves and wolverines can be seen here, along with the usual suspects: bison, elk and moose. Jackson Hole is a star attraction, but the slow pace of life in the rest of the state offers an entirely different experience.



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## Aspen's Haute Scene

A favorite destination for sultans, senators, ski bums and movie stars, Aspen attracts well-heeled visitors year-round.



Clockwise from top left: the restaurants at the Jerome and Little Nell; a suite at the Little Nell; prep for the Food & Wine Classic; Element 47's bar; the St. Regis courtyard



A dizzying number of outdoor recreation options can be found in and around Aspen in summer, including thousands of miles of wilderness, 14,000-foot mountains and white-water rivers and streams.

## STAY

### Little Nell

Aspen's most pampering resort is set at the mountain base and within walking distance of downtown. With 92 guest rooms spread over four floors, it has the feel of a boutique hotel but all the amenities of a large one. Contemporary décor in soothing hues of gray and beige create an overall chic effect. *Read our review.*

### Little Nell Residences

The spacious one- to four-bedroom Little Nell Residences offer service on par with that of their sister hotel across the plaza, although their style resembles cattle ranchers' dream homes. Guests can use the fitness center, rooftop pool, hot tub and barbecue area. *Read our review.*

### St. Regis Aspen

Located at the base of Aspen Mountain, the 179-room St. Regis is decorated in a Western alpine style. All suites come with butler service and the 15,000-square-foot Remède Spa has a complimentary oxygen room for high-altitude acclimating. Some two- and three-bedroom residences are rentable. *Read our review.*

### Hotel Jerome

Built during an 1890s silver boom, the Jerome today boasts masculine-chic accommodations featuring leather bedframes and historic prints but also marble bathrooms and plasma TVs. There is a spa, fitness center, kids' playroom and fleet of SUVs chauffeured by cowboy-hatted staff. *Read our review.*

## EAT

Many of Aspen's eateries rank with those in the world's capitals. Menus tend to be healthy, but the truffle fries at Ajax should not be missed.

### Ajax Tavern

This perennial favorite serves meals on a patio at the base of Aspen Mountain, where guests regularly linger from lunch until dinner. 675 East Durant Ave.; 970-920-4600

### Element 47

Locals looking for an urban vibe flock to this sleek, modern restaurant that features a sophisticated menu. A hopping afternoon bar crowd comes for the local beers and deviled eggs. 675 East Durant Ave.; 970-920-6330

### Matsuhisa

Nobu Matsuhisa brought his notable sushi and Japanese cuisine to this patio on Main Street, ideal for people watching. 303 East Main St.; 970-544-6628

### The Wild Fig

This tiny eatery has a pretty covered space and Mediterranean/American food options like hummus, fresh seafood and pasta. 315 E. Hyman Ave.; 970-925-5160

## SHOP

**Anna Trezbinski** stocks her flagship boutique (414 East Cooper Ave.; 970-925-2848) with tribal-inspired goods crafted by Kenyans.

**Gorsuch** (611 East Durant Ave.; 970-920-9388) sells Austrian jackets as well as haute fashion.

**Nuages** (601 East Cooper Ave.; 970-925-6569) stocks sophisticated but wearable women's fashion, and **Distractions** (465 East Hopkins Ave.; 970-544-9946) offers Rag & Bone jeans alongside skull-shaped, glittered evening bags.



Cowboy songs like *Old Dan Tucker* and *Red River Valley* were often sung to help keep cattle calm to reduce the chance of a stampede.



## Indagare Matchmaker: Dude Ranches

They all offer stunning landscapes and promise great adventure, but each of these six dude ranches is better suited to a different type of traveler.

**T**he undeniably romantic allure of the American West explains the multitude of guest ranches offering luxe accommodations combined with old-time adventure. Whether you're traveling as a couple, a family or a group of friends, the following properties offer options suitable for any occasion.

### Ranch at Rock Creek, Montana

Located on 6,600 acres, this lavish, all-inclusive property offers a gorgeous interpretation of a Wild West adventure, with an excellent dining

program and very stylish accommodations.

**Best for:** Those who love exploring from a plush Western setting. The ranch is also a fabulous place to take over as a larger group.

**Room to Book:** Sweetgrass, a two-bedroom canvas cabin with a wood-burning stove.

**Keep in Mind:** There are a variety of accommodations tailored to specific needs and interests. Contact Indagare for more information.

**Favorite Activities:** Clay shooting, fishing, paintball, bowling and foosball at the Saloon. *Read Indagare's review.*



Left to right: a tent at Paw's Up; cabins at Brush Creek; the bar at Brush Creek; a guest room at the Ranch at Rock Creek



The 10-gallon hat was originally created for Buffalo Bill Cody when he wanted a grand hat for his Wild West Show.



### Triple Creek Ranch, Montana

Set among the towering Douglas firs of Montana's Bitterroot Valley, the Triple Creek Ranch is an adults-only Relais & Châteaux property with 24 cozy, well-appointed cabins.

**Best for:** Active adults who want to experience the West through adventures, gourmet cuisine and a comfortable cabin in the woods.

**Room to Book:** Chipmunk for couples; Osprey, a restored fishing cabin on a river bank, for those who want to fish from sunrise to sunset.

**Keep in Mind:** Guests must be 16 or older  
**Favorite Activities:** Helping with a cattle drive, hiking the Lewis and Clark trail and sapphire panning. *Read Indagare's review.*

### +

### Resort at Paws Up, Montana

The ranch that pioneered the concept of glamping (luxury tented camps) may have suffered a decline in service, but the exquisite

setting continues to draw a loyal following.

**Best for:** Low-key families who love activities.

**Room to Book:** A two- to four-bedroom home.

**Keep in Mind:** The service isn't up to the old standards, and the activities are very expensive.

**Favorite Activities:** Clay shooting, whitewater rafting and hayrides. *Read Indagare's review.*

### Lone Mountain Guest Ranch, Montana

Located seven miles from the lifts at Big Sky ski resort and 20 miles from Yellowstone, this historic ranch offers one-week packages.

**Best for:** Travelers who want an affordable way to explore Montana, staying at a dude ranch.

**Room to Book:** The Ridgetop Lodge, a six-bedroom cottage set away from the heart of the ranch that is perfect for larger groups.

**Keep in Mind:** The atmosphere is truly old school, with meals served family-style, which some will love and others will not.

## destination: dude ranches



The origin of the cowboy boot comes from other boot styles, including the Wellington boot and the Hessian boot. Texas cowboys were known to get a lone star inlaid in the front of their boots.

**Favorite Activities:** Whitewater rafting and zip-lining. *Read Indagare's review.*

### The Lodge & Spa at Brush Creek Ranch, Wyoming

Set on 30,000 acres in the middle of Wyoming's unspoiled Platte River Valley, this designer-chic guest ranch celebrates Western heritage and adventure with elegance.

**Best for:** Discriminating travelers who are ready to fall in love with the West.

**Room to Book:** Magee Homestead, located five miles from the main ranch, which comes with a dedicated staff, or the 700-square-foot yurt, which can be accessed on horseback and includes dinners cooked over open fires.

**Keep in Mind:** The lodge is open only from May through October and is a trek to get to:

guests fly into the Denver airport and then drive four hours to the property.

**Favorite Activities:** Horseback riding, bison hunting, fly-fishing and rock climbing. *Read Indagare's review.*

### Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, Montana

Montana's 10,000-acre Mountain Sky Guest Ranch offers impeccable service, charming log cabins and fabulous activities.

**Best for:** Active travelers and families who seek adventure in breathtaking surroundings.

**Room to Book:** Pony, a cabin from the 1930s, and Big Horn, a newer cabin ideal for families. Note: this icon sells out up to a year in advance.

**Keep in Mind:** There are no TVs or cell service.

**Favorite Activities:** Golf, horseback riding, hiking and fly-fishing. *Read Indagare's review.*



## Spotlight: American Prairie Kestrel Camp

Open since 2013, **American Prairie Reserve** is working to establish the largest wildlife conservation area in the United States. The reserve, located in Montana, currently protects 300,000 acres of land, and American Prairie is working to expand the area to 3 million acres. In addition to the bison, prairie dogs and abundant wildlife that inhabit the area, the reserve also boasts luxe accommodations. Kestrel Camp is comprised of five yurts, which provide a stunningly isolated home base for travelers looking to explore the wide-open plains. Excursions including mountain biking, bird walks and photography tutorials are fun for all ages, but the true beauty of American Prairie is its utter seclusion. Open in the spring, summer and fall, the resort provides safari-style adventure in a stunning setting. [www.americanprairie.org](http://www.americanprairie.org)



## Kicking Back at the Ranch

Indagare member Carroll Pierce recently returned from the Ranch at Rock Creek in Montana with her husband and another couple.

We parked our car when we arrived at the Ranch at Rock Creek, and from then on we went everywhere on either bike or foot, allowing us to be totally immersed in the beauty.

During our September stay, the skies were clear and days were warm. At night we bundled up a bit and dined alfresco.

I'd shipped my triathlon bike ahead so I could ride while there. When we arrived, the ranch mechanic had already built it and put it in my room! I hadn't asked him to do this, nor would I even have thought it possible, as the bike is rather complicated, but I appreciated his gesture greatly. He even drove me off property and gave me a highlighted bike route map.

We stayed in the main lodge before moving to a two-bedroom tent, Sweet Grass. We enjoyed both accommodations, but the tents are a very special option. The Japanese soaking tub on our porch was the perfect salve for sore muscles after activity-filled days. We lit a fire each after-

noon and ate appetizers to sound of the river.

Between the four of us, we participated in nearly every activity offered: riding, bowling, archery, fly-fishing, riflery, mountain biking, the ropes course, swimming, hiking and playing horseshoes. We enjoyed massages and facials, which were relaxing but not outstanding. We were exhausted most nights, but we did rally for a few frames of bowling, a movie and the rodeo.

Our favorite hike was Top of the World. We requested a picnic lunch, which was ready for us when we reached the top. The food is amazing at the ranch, and we enjoyed eating our meals out on the flagstone terrace. The lunches—kale salad and cherry-laced cornbread one day, roasted sweet potato sandwiches the next—were outstanding. Our favorite dinners were the grill and Dutch oven nights, the private dinner at Bikini Beach and even room-service. Their chocolate-chip cookies are the best I've ever had. We loved our time at the ranch and cannot wait to go back. *Read Indagare's review.*



## Telluride Tips

Offering a slower pace than other glitzy resort destinations, Telluride sits amidst some of the most incredible mountains in the world.

In the early 1890s, Telluride, Colorado had more millionaires per capita than New York City. The first local mineral claim was made there in 1875, and from then until 1978, billions of dollars of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc were extracted. The town's name is said to come from tellurium, a rare silver-white metalloid, but a more popular explanation is that it's a contraction of the warning called to miners making the trek to the town, which was known for bars and houses of ill repute: "To hell you ride."

### Lay of the Land

A tiny town in a big setting, Telluride is just 12 blocks long and eight wide, and is encircled by the soaring San Juan Mountains, which rise to more than 14,000 feet. The nearest stoplight is 45 miles away, and you won't see a single chain restaurant in Telluride. Worlds apart from its

better-known state mates Aspen and Vail, it attracts those looking for a Western experience without glamorous excess.

Telluride presents visitors with a choice between the historic mining town on one side of the mountain and the newer development of Mountain Village on the other (which is ski-in, ski-out in winter). The two differ in atmosphere and convenience: the former has Victorian charm and character, while the latter caters to families. To get from one side of the mountain to the other, there is a bus service and a gondola.

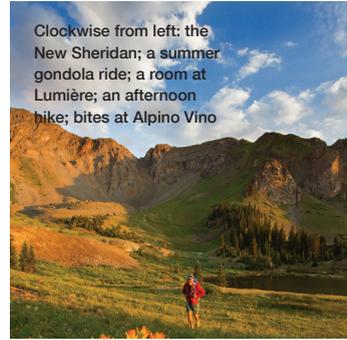
### Where to Stay

#### Hotel Madeline

For families and groups needing the convenience of a central Mountain Village location and resort amenities, Hotel Madeline delivers. *Read Indagare's review.*



*In 1852, Henry Wells and William Fargo established an office in San Francisco to serve gold rush prospectors. They were so trustworthy and reliable that miners would swear, "By God and Wells Fargo."*



Clockwise from left: the New Sheridan; a summer gondola ride; a room at Lumière; an afternoon hike; bites at Alpino Vino

### Lumière

Thoughtful details and top-notch service make this smart, sophisticated slope-side retreat a favorite with discerning travelers eager to maximize outdoor time. *Read Indagare's review.*

### The Peaks Resort

The Peaks is a sprawling resort with a staggering array of facilities and amenities, from tennis courts and swimming pools to a laser center, oxygen room and on-site helicopter operations. *Read Indagare's review.*

### The New Sheridan

American history buffs and anyone eager to soak up Telluride's small-town spirit will love staying on Main Street in this storied Gold Rush-era hotel, whose saloon once played host to frontier settlers and bandits. *Read Indagare's review.*

### Hotel Columbia

This intimate hotel is located within walking distance of all the best restaurants, shopping

and nightlife, and the gondola to Mountain Village is a stone's throw from the lobby door. *Read Indagare's review.*

### Element 52

Located on the outskirts of town and just a short walk from the gondola, this collection of high-end residences is ideal for families looking for a semi-independent rental experience. [element52.aubergeresorts.com](http://element52.aubergeresorts.com)

## Cheat Sheet

**Splurge...** on the decadent, off-the-menu grilled cheese at slope-side wine bar **Alpino Vino**.

*Upper See Forever, Gold Hill; 970-728-7474*

**Eat...** dinner at cozy local standby **La Marmotte**.

*150 West San Juan Ave.; 970-728-6232*

**Drink...** at Telluride's oldest watering hole, the

Historic Bar at the **New Sheridan Hotel**.

*231 West Colorado Ave.; 970-728-4351*

**Visit...** **Allred's**, perched on the mountain at the top gondola stop, for hearty dinners and cocktails.

*565 Mountain Village Blvd.; 970-728-7474*

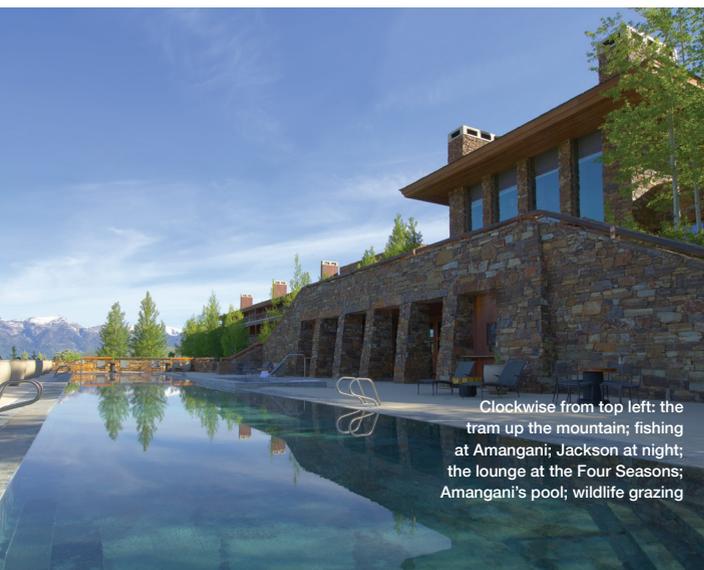
**Experience...** **bluegrass music** and **film premieres** at two of Telluride's most popular summer festivals. [www.visittelluride.com](http://www.visittelluride.com)

**Explore...** the abandoned town of **Tomboy**, which once flourished at an altitude of 11,500 feet.

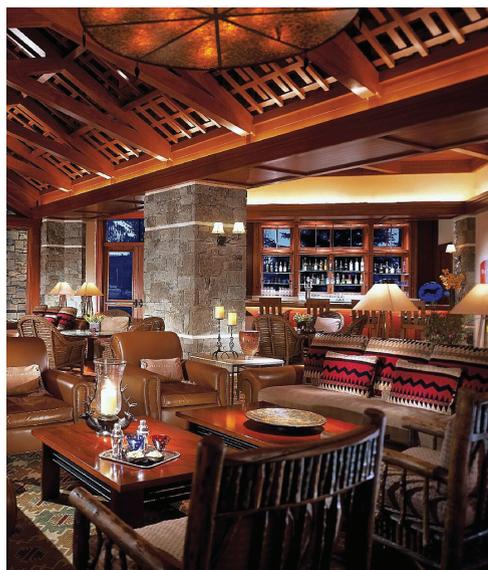


# Jackson Hole

The laid-back Wyoming town is surrounded by some of America's most stunning terrain, which draws nature enthusiasts.



Clockwise from top left: the tram up the mountain; fishing at Amangani; Jackson at night; the lounge at the Four Seasons; Amangani's pool; wildlife grazing



The 50-mile-long valley known as Jackson Hole lies between two stunning mountain ranges: the Tetons to the west and the Gros Ventres to the east. Part of Teton County, which also contains Grand Teton National Park and a large part of Yellowstone National Park, Jackson Hole comprises the town of Jackson (about a 25-minute drive from the airport) and the villages of Moose and Wilson.

### Where to Stay



#### Four Seasons Jackson Hole

**Vibe:** Ski-in/ski-out, family-friendly, full-service  
Situating at the base of the Grand Tetons, Four Seasons Jackson Hole is all about unabashed pampering, from poolside attendance doling out cool towels to complimentary nightly s'mores. With 124 guest rooms and 60 privately owned two- to five-bedroom residences, the Four Seasons is one of Jackson Hole's biggest resorts. But thanks to stone-clad fireplaces, the lounge's couches arranged in small groups and in a warm palette of chocolate browns and deep reds, the hotel feels surprisingly cozy.

Outfitted with fireplaces, huge bathrooms, overstuffed furniture and light-wood detailing, the large guest rooms are calm refuges. The property offers a combination of location, service and amenities (including a wonderful spa) unmatched in Jackson Hole. *Read our review.*



#### Amangani

**Vibe:** Quiet, sophisticated, outside town  
Guests arriving at the Ed Tuttle-designed Amangani, which blends almost seamlessly into its surroundings, are greeted with a 30-foot-long wall of windows providing stunning vistas overlooking the valley. This is also the view from all 40 suites. The interiors are sleek and under-

stated, decorated mostly with natural materials.

On first glance, the rooms, all of which have open floor plans with bed and sitting rooms, large baths and walk-in closets, appear almost spare. But as at all Amans, there are small cossetting touches that make all the difference: comfy chairs are draped with soft blankets; the room's thermostat is located behind the bed pillows, so you can crank up the heat before getting up on chilly mornings. Everything has been streamlined to emphasize calm, in accord with the resort's name—*Aman* is Sanskrit for "peace," and *gani* is "home" in Shoshone.

The Amangani is the perfect place for quiet downtime, with its spa, large outdoor pool, library and breathtaking natural splendor. *Read our review.*

#### Rent a House

Travelers looking for a private but cossetting home away from home will find an abundance of houses in the area suited for different needs. With properties geared towards families, couples and friends traveling together, Jackson Hole's homes are some of the most lusted-after accommodations, and even compete with the finest hotels in town. Indagare can arrange for rentals with or without services including full concierge, maid and private chef services, as well as more budget-friendly options.

#### Where to Eat

For the most part, the best restaurants in the area are located in Jackson, a charming town ideal for post-dinner strolls.

#### Snake River Grill

There's a reason that Snake River Grill has been the uncontested fine-dining choice in Jackson since it opened in 1995: in food and ambiance,



*The gunfight at the O.K. Corral, which actually took place in a vacant lot behind the O.K. Corral, lasted for 30 seconds with about 30 shots being fired. The Earp brothers (Wyatt, Morgan and Virgil) and their friend Doc Holliday came out on the winning (and surviving) side, but all were charged with murder. They were found not guilty.*

the Snake River Grill strikes an enviable balance between rustic warmth and elegance. The menu features trusted American classics, but everything is prepared with a pinch of innovation and inspiration that makes it memorable. *84 East Broadway; 307-733-0557*

### **Nora's Fish Creek**

Breakfast at the family-run Nora's, in the tiny village of Wilson (drive too fast and you'll miss it), is rustic Jackson Hole at its finest. Regulars dig into huge servings of pancakes, eggs with extra-crispy bacon, thick oatmeal with melted brown sugar and, according to some local foodies, the best huevos rancheros in the region. On weekends it's packed, so plan accordingly. *5600 West Wyoming; 307-733-8288*

### **Il Villaggio Osteria**

Casual, fun and serving delicious food meant to be shared, Osteria is a favorite lunch and dinner spot. The menu has numerous small plates *per la tavola* ("for the table"), such as pancetta-wrapped butternut squash and Kobe-beef sliders. Entrées include heaping helpings of homemade pasta, pizza baked in an oven located in the dining room and large salads. *3335 West Village Drive, Teton Village; 307-739-4100*

### **Bin 22**

Part wine store part tapas restaurant, Bin 22 is perfect for a midday snack or full-on dinner. The cuisine is a mix of Spanish and Italian and the small dishes are meant to be shared. In addition to wine, craft beers and regional spirits are served. *200 West Broadway; 307-739-9463*

### **Café Genevieve**

Café Genevieve is housed in a historic building from the turn of the 20th century located just off the town square. The space is authentic and



homey, and the fare is typical American comfort food. Breakfast—like biscuits with Cajun gravy—is the most popular meal, but the café is also a great choice for a lunch break while shopping in town. *135 E Broadway; 307 732-1910*

### **What to Do**

A nearly year-round destination—with invigorating skiing in the winters and wildlife watching and other adventures in the summer—Jackson Hole is part of Wyoming's national park system. Only 3 percent of the land is in private hands; the rest is public, where elk, moose and buffalo roam at the feet of majestic mountains.

### **Yellowstone National Park**

Many visitors make the one-and-a-half-hour drive north from Jackson to Yellowstone. Established in 1872 as America's first national park, it is a popular family destination in the summer, so traffic can be heavy and sights crowded. For those who want to extend their visit, we recommend making reservations at one of the lodges in the park well in advance. *307-344-7381*



Horseback riding at Amangani (left); a vista including the Tetons

### Grand Teton National Park

When John D. Rockefeller Jr. visited this area in the 1920s, he was so taken by its natural beauty that he started buying up land. After creating a large ranch for his family on part of it, he donated the remaining tens of thousands of acres to the park service to incorporate into what became a federal park encompassing some 310,000 acres. Outdoor enthusiasts come to hike the 200 or so miles of trails and to scale the 13,770-foot-high Grand Teton. Part of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, the park supports around 300 species of birds, 61 types of mammals (including bears, mountain lions, coyotes, bison, moose, pronghorn and elk), plus more than two dozen species of fish. Beyond hiking and climbing, park pursuits can include fly-fishing, wildlife viewing, kayaking and canoeing. *307-739-3300*

### Grand Teton Music Festival & Wine Auction

Launched in the 1960s, this concert series presents international orchestras, soloists and chamber ensembles in performances held in

the Walk Festival Hall, at the base of the Grand Tetons. Don't miss the popular open-air Fourth of July concert, which takes place on Alpine Field. The Jackson Hole Wine Auction is the largest fundraiser for the festival, and is a big event in the wine world, drawing chefs, vintners and oenophiles to Wyoming. *www.gtmf.org*

### National Museum of Wildlife Art

This 51,000-square-foot museum contains one of the country's best wildlife-art collections as well as interactive exhibits that kids love, traveling shows, lectures and educational programs. Constructed mostly out of red Arizona sandstone, the building has many green features, like timber salvaged from Yellowstone forest fires and the on-site capture and treatment of storm water. *2820 Rungius Road; 800-313-9553*

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To read more recommendations on where to stay, eat, shop and explore in Jackson and its surroundings, visit our destination report on [www.indagare.com](http://www.indagare.com). Indagare members interested in planning a trip can contact our bookings team by email ([bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com)) or phone (212-988-2611) for assistance arranging an itinerary and booking the perfect hotel or house.

# Looking for Adventure: **Road Tripping**

The best way to explore the expanses of the American Southwest is by car. But how do you pull together an itinerary for this vast region? Indagare's **Simone Girner** maps out three routes connecting favorite sights like Moab and the Grand Canyon.



A great road trip is an American rite of passage — and that is doubly true for one that traverses the Southwest in all its grandeur. Whether you're channeling the bikers of *Easy Rider* or Thelma and Louise in their Thunderbird, driving in this part of the world evokes a sense of freedom. And drive you will. Because the distances are vast. Planning a road trip in this region is like assembling the pieces of a huge puzzle, and how you put it together depends on your expectations. How much driving do you want to do? Are you interested only in hiking, or does your dream itinerary also include rafting, biking and horseback riding? Can you stay in lodges that are less than five-star? Do you want lengthy, challenging hikes or gentler walks with great views?

Journeys incorporating the right constellation of sights — from spiritual Zion and otherworldly Bryce to the red rocks of Sedona and the seemingly endless Grand Canyon — can truly become trips of a lifetime. Here are three options for great road trips. Many more can be customized by Indagare's Bookings Team.

### Road Trip 1: Moab, Utah, to Grand Canyon, Arizona

#### Days 1–4 (three nights): Moab

You arrive in Moab in the afternoon or early evening. Check in to **Sorrel River Ranch**, and

get your bearings. Take a short introductory hike on the property, like the Sorrel Ridge Trail. Have dinner at Sorrel's River Grill.

Wake up early and drive into town to pick up sandwiches at the Love Muffin Café (139 N. Main St.; 435-259-6833), a great local spot, before continuing on to Arches National Park. Choose one of the many hikes on offer: Windows is an easy, leisurely trek to two stunning Arches; Devils' Garden and Delicate Arch are longer and more challenging. Or ask Sorrel River to arrange for a guide to accompany you to the Fiery Furnace. Have lunch along the way. In the afternoon take another hike or ride a bike, or return to the ranch for a spa treatment or to spend time relaxing riverside.

The next day, you can do a longer hike outside the park, like Hidden Valley, which starts south of Moab. Or you can take a half-day rafting trip down the Colorado River, including a lunch break on a beach with stunning views (contact Indagare's Bookings Team for an introduction to Moab's best rafting company). Sorrel can also organize a guide for Canyonlands or a mountain-bike experience.

In the late afternoon, go back to Arches and choose a good place to watch the sunset. A lot of people stop at the Lower Delicate Arch viewpoint, but you can escape the crowds by driving to Balanced Rock and walking up to Willow Flats, which is a great vantage point from which

## Moab: Where to Stay

**Sorrel River Ranch**, located right on the Colorado River, is the place to stay when visiting Arches. A 30-minute drive from Moab, through stunning red-rock landscapes, it has 55 rooms and suites, all with kitchenettes, housed in clusters of wooden cabins that line the river (though not all of them have river views). The heart of the property is the main lodge, which was the original owner's personal home in the 1990s. The large wooden deck outside is like that of a safari lodge, with lots of comfortable couches and rocking chairs from which to view the river and the mountains beyond. The lovely staff is happy to help arrange day activities in the nearby parks and wilderness. Guided tours to Arches and Canyonlands are options, as are excursions to nearby Fisher Towers and the incredible mountain-bike trails of Moab. *Read Indagare's review.*

to view this stunning section of the park. After seeing the sun set, return to Sorrel for a meal overlooking the Colorado River.

**Days 4–6 (two nights): Bryce Canyon or Zion**

Wake up early for a four-hour drive to Bryce Canyon or a five-hour one to Zion National Park. If you are not in a rush, take Route 24, which winds through Capitol Reef National Park, where you can have a picnic lunch, then head south on scenic Highway 12, through the dramatic terrain of the Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument.

**Bryce:** Arrive at Bryce in the afternoon, check in to **Bryce Canyon Lodge**, and walk up to the Amphitheater to watch the sun set. Have dinner at the Lodge’s restaurant—it’s first come, first serve, so hurry back to put your name on the list. Early birds should not miss sunrise, either at Sunrise Point, an elevation overlooking the canyon, or by walking the Navajo Trail and watching the hoodoos turn yellow and orange. Choose one of the longer hikes, like Fairyland Loop or Peek-a-Boo Loop, and set out to explore the glorious Bryce Canyon.

**Zion:** Zion offers more hiking options than Bryce, especially easy and moderate ones (see Road Trip 2). The bragging-rights hike is the aptly named Angel’s Landing, a challenging 5.4-mile trek that culminates in a long, narrow ridge with spectacular views (children and those suffering from vertigo should not attempt it). Less scary, though climbing even higher, is Observation Point, an eight-mile hike with expansive views.

Your nonhiking options at Zion are similar to those at Bryce, with the big exception that Springdale, a cute little town, lies just outside



Zion’s border, and you can have dinner there; Oscar’s Café and Bit & Spur are good choices.

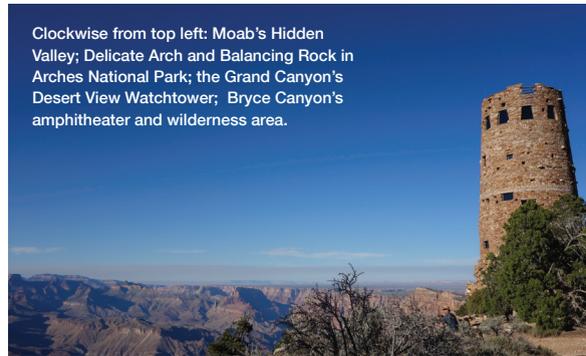
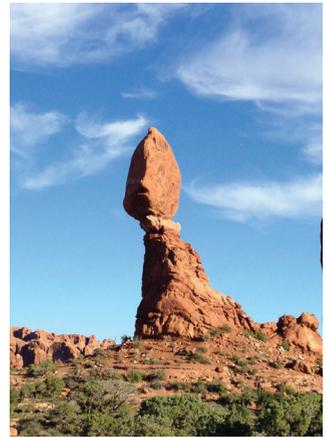
**Days 6–7 (one night): Grand Canyon**

Drive to the Grand Canyon’s eastern Desert View Entrance (about four hours from Bryce). For lunch you can either stop at the Amangiri (with a reservation) to relax at the poolside restaurant, or pick up provisions in Page, Arizona, and picnic at Horseshoe Bend, overlooking a turn in the Colorado River.

After lunch, continue on the scenic 25-minute drive along the canyon rim from Desert View Point. Check in to **El Tovar Hotel**, and take a short walk to get your bearings. Have dinner in El Tovar’s historic dining room. The



*Legendary frontierswoman, scout and sharpshooter Calamity Jane reportedly earned her nickname by rescuing her superior, Captain Egan, from an ambush in Goose Creek, Wyoming. Another story claims she acquired it as a result of her warnings to men that to offend her was to “court calamity.”*



Clockwise from top left: Moab's Hidden Valley; Delicate Arch and Balancing Rock in Arches National Park; the Grand Canyon's Desert View Watchtower; Bryce Canyon's amphitheater and wilderness area.

next day, you can hike into the Grand Canyon along the Bright Angel or South Kaibab trail. Be aware that walking up takes about twice as long as going down, so, for instance, if you descend an hour, plan on spending two ascending again. And it is a bad idea to try to hike down to the bottom and back up in a single day. More leisurely and less strenuous is a walk along the thirteen-mile rim. Don't miss such lofty lookouts as Mather, Pima Point and the Abyss.

After a late lunch (Arizona Room has the best salads, sandwiches and burgers), drive two hours to Sedona and check in to **Enchantment Resort** or **Mii Amo**.

#### **Days 7–9: Sedona (two nights)**

After your active hiking week, you may just want to enjoy the pool at **Enchantment** or book a series of spa treatments at its sister property, the acclaimed **Mii Amo**, across the way; both

hotels are located in a canyon that feels a world away from the busy town of Sedona (see Road Trip 3). But if you're up for more hiking, a great trail is Bear Mountain, a short drive from either property. Later, ask Enchantment to pack you a wine and cheese picnic and take the 20-to-30-minute hike up Doe Mountain to a high, flat plateau with exquisite sunset views.

#### **Day 9: Phoenix**

Drive for two hours to Phoenix, where you can visit Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West, learn about Native American history at the Heard Museum or tour the wonderful Desert Botanic Garden (see Road Trip 3). Phoenix has terrific restaurants, so you can have an early dinner at one of Indagare's favorites before wrapping up your southwestern road trip and heading home.

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For more tips, contact our bookings team: 212-988-2611



## Road Trip 2: Las Vegas to Amangiri

### Day 1: Las Vegas

Depending on how you feel about Sin City, you can rent a car at the airport and start the road trip right away or check into one of our recommended Vegas hotels, then set off the following day to Zion, about a two-and-a-half-hour drive.

### Days 2–3: Zion

Zion is one of the most visited national parks,

so planning your itinerary around the crowds is crucial. If you can, avoid the busy months of June and July, visiting in the spring or fall instead. Hikes like the vertiginous Angels Landing and slot-canyon Narrows will be less busy then. Several of the Zion hikes are challenging, but all reward with vistas that are humbling in their grandeur and beauty (a favorite for impressive expanses is Observation Point). Those who plan ahead and are lucky enough to get a coveted cabin at the **Zion Lodge** ([www.zionlodge.com](http://www.zionlodge.com))

## Las Vegas Cheat Sheet

**Sleep...**in a more serene hotel, i.e. one that doesn't have a casino, like the Mandarin Oriental or the Four Seasons

**See...**a Cirque du Soleil show, like "O" at the Bellagio or "Love" at the Mirage.

**Splurge...**on dinner at Joël Robuchon or Bouchon

**Eat...**French bistro fare at Mon Ami Gabi at The Paris

**Play...**the Strip's only golf course, at the Wynn, designed by Tom Fazio

**Shop...**in the dazzling Forum Shops mall, one of the country's best collection of high-end stores



can wave the day-trippers good-bye at dusk and enjoy the starlit skies.

### Days 3-5: Amangiri

The drive from Zion to Amangiri, in the southwestern corner of Utah, takes about one hour and forty minutes. Once you pass Kanab, the route turns storybook scenic all the way to the resort. **Amangiri** ([amanresorts.com](http://amanresorts.com)) resembles the ultimate James Bond hideaway, composed of squat buildings the color of the surrounding canyons—walk five minutes in any direction, and the resort disappears entirely.

Guests can relax in the 5,000-square-foot spa, which comprises a water pavilion with hydrotherapy rooms, a *watsu* pool offering water shiatsu and two outdoor treatment terraces. In the afternoon, the light on the pool, one of the region's most spectacular, is magical, and many guests stretch out their hiking legs here. Most who stay more than a night or two will want to explore off-property as well. You can partake in



### Otherworldly Utah

*Two easy daytrips from Amangiri are **Buckskin Gulch** and **White Pockets** (above). Buckskin Gulch is best reached via the Wire Pass Trailhead, about 20 minutes by car from the resort. The hike from here is incredibly scenic (and less well known than some others), winding through fire-red slot canyons. Indagare can also arrange for a guide to take members canyoneering, but this is recommended only for travelers not afraid of heights. White Pockets, a two-hour drive from the Aman, is a photographer's dream. The unique geological formation (dating back to the Jurassic period, 200 million years ago) is composed of thin layers of white and red sandstone that have been twisted into polygonal shapes. The hike through this lunar landscape is a relatively easy and perfect for families.*

everything from guided hikes in the national parks to water sports on Lake Powell. Other exciting excursions are hot-air balloon rides and helicopter tours across the Grand Canyon. In short, active types will not want for choices. The drive back to Las Vegas takes four hours. Travelers can also book a local flight out of Page, about a 30-minute drive from the resort.



### Road Trip 3: Phoenix to Grand Canyon

#### Days 1–3: Phoenix

Centered on the city of Phoenix, where flights arrive at Sky International Airport, the Phoenix area is a suburban sprawl that is home to more than two-thirds of Arizona's population. Even downtown Phoenix feels like a charming suburb, as does Scottsdale, one of the area's most exclusive cities. Most of the best resorts and restaurants are located between Phoenix and Scottsdale along Camelback Road, the main east-west thoroughfare. The top zip code here is Paradise Valley, or PV, home to such hotels as the Sanctuary on Camelback and the Hermosa Inn. Old Scottsdale, which the *New York Times* has called the "desert version of Miami's South Beach," is pretty touristy, although it contains some good restaurants and the lovely Museum of Contemporary Art.

One must-see for first-time visitors is the Desert Botanic Garden, a short drive from the airport. You can follow several paths through the garden, each focusing on a different aspect, like local wildflowers, desert discovery and the people and plants of the Sonoran Desert. Another interesting stop is the Heard Museum, whose 11 exhibition spaces and outdoor sculpture garden display what is perhaps the most acclaimed collections of Native American art in the country. Fans of the architect Frank Lloyd Wright should take the 30-minute drive to



*Pat Garrett was a sheriff, barman and customs agent who became famous for killing Billy the Kid. Some stories suggest that Garrett and Billy the Kid were once friends and that he actually didn't kill him, but helped him escape.*

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Taliesin West, the home and architecture school he built in the desert in the late 1930s.

#### Days 3–5: Sedona

Two hours by car north of the desert plains of Phoenix, Sedona is most famous for red-rock canyons, closely followed by its large concentration of tarot-card-wielding psychics. The area's natural beauty definitely deserves more attention than a quick drive-through en route to the Grand Canyon, which lies another hour north. The last stretch of Route 179 is the most scenic, framed by crimson cliffs and ethereal valleys.

Check in to **Enchantment Resort** or **Mii Amo**, its sister spa property across the road. Enchantment offers a huge variety of facilities—tennis courts, a putting green and nearby golf course—and activities both on- and off-property: croquet, painting and tennis clinics, as well as mountain-bike rides, nature walks and hikes through Sedona's raw landscape. For the younger set, there's a kids club as well as wellness programs aimed at those under 16, like in-room massages, facials and make-up lessons, plus sessions with many of the wellness experts.

#### Days 5–6: Grand Canyon

From Sedona, take the two-hour drive to the South Rim to experience this stunning spectacle (see page 54 for how best to tour the Grand Canyon). Check in to **El Tovar** hotel. Unless you're planning on hiking to the bottom of the canyon, one night here is plenty, giving you time to take a few light hikes and hit the main observation points along the rim.

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For more tips on how best to plan a southwestern road trip, visit [www.indagare.com](http://www.indagare.com) and contact our team.



## Mii Amo Calling

**Melissa Biggs Bradley** describes her favorite spa in the west.

I confess — I am a Mii Amo addict. Since my first visit eight years ago to the spa and wellness refuge near Sedona, I have made a trip a year. I have come alone, with my daughter, with my sisters and, in recent years, with some incredible groups of Indagare members. Each time, I am blown away by what I discover—about the place, the people with whom I go and, of course, myself.

For centuries, locals have attributed special healing powers to the energy in Boynton Canyon, where Mii Amo is located, and its beauty certainly infuses those lucky enough to spend time there with a sense of awe. Healers interested in energy and alternative remedies have flocked to Sedona, and Mii Amo has a tremendous team of gifted psychics, astrologers, hypnotists and masseuses. So if you want to mix yoga and Pilates with hikes and healing and beauty sessions, you can. Each program is tailored to you and to what you hope to accomplish.

Some guests come for rest or to detox, while others, searching for paths to a healthy lifestyle, attend nutrition lectures and cooking demonstrations. Still others seek renewal through Reiki and meditation sessions. Over the years, friends and Indagare members looking for comfort after the death of a loved one, rest after a long divorce, strength before a battle with cancer, courage before a major career change or a break after an exhausting period have all found a visit here to be life changing. It is not the most luxurious spa I have been to—the rooms are a bit spare. Nor is it the most rigorous—the Ranch at Live Oak delivers more tangible weight-loss results. But, without question, it is consistently the most transformative. I, for one, cannot imagine starting a year without the kind of restorative care that I receive at Mii Amo.

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Indagare's annual Insider Trip to Mii Amo is scheduled for January 2016. Contact [insidertrips@indagare.com](mailto:insidertrips@indagare.com) for details, rates and to sign up for the trip.

# Grand Canyon: What to Know

A site of mind-blowing dimensions — 277 miles long, up to 18 miles wide and over a mile deep — the Grand Canyon inspires superlatives and is rightly on many travelers' must-see lists. Because it is one of the most-visited tourist attractions in the U.S., trips here have to be mapped out carefully to assure a good experience. Here are six things to know about visiting the Grand Canyon's South Rim.

## Drive in via Desert View Road.

Most travelers arrive via the South Entrance, but if you can, come through the Desert View Point, from which a scenic twenty-minute drive brings you to Grand Canyon Village. Past Grand Canyon Village, a shuttle system takes visitors along the edge of the canyon.

## Timing is everything.

Heat and crowds make the Grand Canyon all but unbearable during July and, especially,

August, so try to arrive in the spring or fall. You will never be alone at the South Rim, but crowds will be decidedly less in those seasons. Once there, try to hike against the flow. Everyone rushes to Desert View for sundown, for example, but pretty much anywhere along the huge expanse of the canyon affords exquisite sunset viewing.

## High-end accommodations are not available.

Grand Canyon Village resembles a cross between an airport and a college campus, with clusters of lodges, restaurants, cafés and gift shops. The historic **El Tovar**, built in 1905, has a prized rim position and is the most upmarket of the hotels. It has just seventy-eight rooms, which are booked way in advance. If you can score a room here, take it. None of the other lodgings come close in terms of ambiance, and El Tovar's restaurant is the best in the village.



## Special Access

**Indagare's Bookings Team** has long planned complex itineraries for its members to the American Southwest, including the Grand Canyon. We have the ability to get specialists and guides, as well as access to remote areas that are totally off the beaten tourist path. For a memorable itinerary, contact our team: [bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com)

### Day hikers will be bored after one day.

Day hikers have two options at the Grand Canyon. They can walk along the rim, which is spectacular, with breathtaking drop offs and lots of photo opportunities, and long (13 miles) but not particularly taxing, as the trail is mostly paved. Or they can take one of the trails that snakes down into the canyon, like Bright Angel or South Kaibab, both of which are exhilarating but only whet your appetite to go farther. Countless signs warn against trying to climb to the bottom of the canyon and back out in a single day. The descent takes about three hours and the return ascent more than six.

### Plan overnight hikes in advance.

The floor of the Grand Canyon is considered some of the most exciting hiking terrain of the Southwest. To stay in the historic Phantom Lodge at the bottom of the canyon, you have to book up to one year in advance.

### Have a sense of humor — you're at the Grand Canyon.

Fair warning: the mushy food in some of the cafeteria-style restaurants will remind you of your college days, you will be given a beeper that starts bouncing around when your table is ready (even at breakfast), and the abundant gift shops will play a grating soundtrack of Native American flute music. But keep a sense of humor about the parts that feel like Disneyland, or ignore them, because once it's just you and the canyon, you will experience great awe and humility. Visit such prime viewing spots as Mather Point and South Kaibab Trailhead to marvel at the magnificent multihued layers of rock in the canyon face. Ultimately, there's no right or wrong way to do the Grand Canyon. Some people treat it as a drive-by photo op, some spend a night and walk around the rim, others look into the great abyss and see the challenge to return.

destination: **american west**

## Is It Right for Me?

The **Indagare Travel** team of experts map out how to choose among four distinct American West experiences, each unique in character, vibe and sensibility.



### Dunton Hot Springs *Dolores, Colorado*

**In three words:** restored ghost town  
**Getting There:** Fly to Durango or Telluride, then drive two hours (from Durango) or about one-and-a-half hours (from Telluride). To avoid having to make a connection, fly into Montrose, and drive four hours to Dunton.  
**Who Should Go:** Couples looking for a romantic cabin adventure and families who want access to activities from a comfortable home base.  
**Good to Know:** For an even more remote glamping experience, check out the sister property, Dunton River Camp at Cresto Ranch, which consists of eight prospector-style luxury tents.  
**Highlights:** Soaking in the nonsulfur hot springs; the owners' art collection, pieces of which decorate each of the accommodations.  
**Souvenir:** New friends made at the communal meals and health benefits from the hot springs water, which are said to improve circulation.



### Mustang Monument *Wells, Nevada*

**In three words:** cozy, mission-centered resort  
**Getting There:** Fly to Salt Lake City and drive two-and-a-half hours to Mustang Monument. The smaller Elko Regional Airport (EKO) is about a 50-minute drive away.  
**Who Should Go:** Horse lovers who want to have an equine-centric experience while supporting the protection of wild horses in the American West.  
**Good to Know:** Mustang Monument has a short season: the property is open only from late June to September.  
**Highlights:** Learning about the property's commitment to protecting wild mustangs, developing roping skills. Plus, wagon rides with the resident cowboy, Clay.  
**Souvenir:** A desire (and possibly know-how) to construct your very own luxury, furnished teepee in the backyard back home.



## Scarp Ridge Lodge

*Crested Butte, Colorado*

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**In three words:** Ultimate luxury adventure

**Getting There:** Fly to Denver then take a 10-minute flight to Gunnison/Crested Butte Airport (GUC). The property is an easy 40-minute drive from the airport.

**Who Should Go:** Those without a budget who want a truly unique, all-around experience that highlights the best activities of the region and exquisite cuisine. The seven-room property has a seven-bed bunk room ideal for families traveling with a gaggle of kids.

**Good to Know:** Crested Butte is at a high elevation, so build in a day extra to acclimate.

**Highlights:** The personal chef at the ready (pork empanadas with pomegranate guacamole, please) and the mountain biking that is made one-of-a-kind thanks to the outstanding guides.

**Souvenir:** Pictures from heli-fishing for salmon (they'll even ship the fish home for you).



## Airstream 2 Go

*Wherever you'd like to go*

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**In three words:** Chic, retro, mobile

**Getting There:** You can pick up your Airstream 2 Go in Las Vegas and drive it as the whim takes you or along a pre-determined itinerary.

**Who Should Go:** Adventurous types who are interested in hitting the road to see the American West without being bogged down by checking in and out of hotels.

**Good to Know:** Before setting off on their road trip, drivers are given lessons on hauling Airstream trailers behind the GMC Yukon Denali tow vehicles provided.

**Highlights:** The trailers allow pets, so the *whole* family can be included. They also provide a gas grill and BBQ equipment, plus a fully stocked kitchen for picnics and cookouts on the go.

**Souvenir:** Memories of having the freedom to determine your own agenda as you go and sleeping each night in new surroundings.

## Happy Trails To You...

From *Blazing Saddles* to *True Grit*, Hollywood has often looked to the Old West for inspiration. The spirit of adventure, the majesty of nature, the promise of a new beginning, the fear of an early demise—all are themes that movies and TV love to explore, and that audiences find enthralling. Whether it's a singing cowboy, a renegade lawman or a woman (or two) on the run, the West never fails to excite on film.

Time hasn't diminished the irresistible lure of the Wild West. In fact, visitors to the area still seem to be seduced by its rugged spirit. But, if you need a good place to start your own adventure, take a tip from some of Hollywood's visionaries and set your sights on these movie sites:



### *Shane*, 1953

This story of a range war and its mysterious, gun-slinging hero was partially filmed in **Grand Teton National Park** and in **Jackson Hole**, Wyoming.



### *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, 1969

This film about Butch Cassidy and his “Wild Bunch” was partially filmed in **Zion National Park**, among other locations in Utah plus Colorado and New Mexico.



### *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, 1976

Scenes from Clint Eastwood's gritty tale of revenge were filmed in **Lake Powell** and Old Tucson, Arizona.



### *Dances with Wolves*, 1990

Kevin Costner's epic western was filmed in the secluded **Black Hills** of South Dakota.



### *Legends of the Fall*, 1995

This tale follows the lives of three brothers (including Brad Pitt in one of his earliest roles) and their father living in a remote area in **Montana**.



### *Thelma and Louise*, 1991

This ultimate road-trip drama used locations around California, Colorado and Utah, most notably **Dead Horse Point** in Canyonlands for the iconic final scene.

### *Into the Wild*, 2007

This true story, documented by Jon Krakauer, is based on a young man's travels across North America, including some time in the **Grand Canyon**.

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This grand show is eternal. . . . Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn, as the round earth rolls.” ~*John Muir, 1938*

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