

# Indagare®

The next generation of travel wisdom®

Yearbook/Dreambook



n 2011, we began compiling our annual list of Indagare Adored properties. These hotels are treasured by our staff and members alike for consistently providing their visitors with truly spectacular stays, whether in the South African bush or Paris's eighth arrondissement. This year we are adding fifteen more.

### South Africa: Royal Malewane

Adored For: a luxurious, beautifully designed safari lodge in South Africa

This uber-stylish, privately owned bush camp comes with lavish décor courtesy of owner and design maven Liz Biden. Located in

Thornybush, a private 11,500-acre game reserve on the southwest edge of Kruger National Park, Royal Malewane has eight suites, a private six-bedroom villa, spa and fitness center. The lodge offers game drives in open-top Land Rovers and because off-roading is allowed, safari-goers can have up-close-and-personal encounters with animals. Read Indagare's review.

### Marrakech: La Mamounia

**Adored For:** being the lavish and classic Marrakech grande dame

This legendary property has long offered the best of both worlds in Marrakech (proximity to the medina and a park-like setting). More recently, French designer Jacques Garcia recreated it as a couture palace. Every detail has been considered, from specially composed music for the public areas to an exclusive perfume of dates, roses and sandalwood scenting the air. La Mamounia is a setting where over-the-top effects feel right at home. Read Indagare's review.

### **Udaipur: Oberoi Udaivilas**

Adored For: bringing to life the splendor and romance of India

Arriving at night to this palace hotel is unforgettable. The boat transfer traverses the black water of Lake Pichola with only the twinkling lights of neighboring palaces as guides. Domed pavilions and walkways sit amidst verdant gardens, sprawling courtyards, rippling fountains and reflecting pools. Interiors, embellished with marble, hammered gold, hand-painted frescoes and intricate mosaics, create a majestic ambiance. Rooms are spacious and offer views of lush gardens, courtyards and pools. www.oberoihotels.com

### **Bhutan: Gangtey Lodge**

Adored for: offering an intimate, cosseting retreat in rural Bhutan

A 12-room farmhouse-style hotel with sweeping valley views, Gangtey Goenpa Lodge is the latest luxury hotel to open in Bhutan. The romantic property overlooking the vast Phobjikha Valley is located near the 17th-century Gangtey Monastery, the country's largest school of Buddhism. All rooms boast fireplaces, earthy accents and local fabrics, creating a space that feels comfortable and uniquely Bhutanese. The heart of the property is the lounge, where guests can sit by the fire and watch the Gangtey Valley's most famous residents, the blacknecked cranes, circle the valley below. Read Indagare's review.

### **Chiang Mai: Howie's Home Stay**

Adored for: providing the opportunity to play house in the Thai countryside

Longtime expatriate Howard Feldman and his Thai wife, Jerri, hired Bill Bensley to build their dream house. Composed of seven pavilions with



Throughout this issue we will feature some of the incredible itinerary highlights we have been able to organize for members this year. **Indagare Access** ranges from behind the scenes tours and VIP tickets to the world's biggest events to one-off experiences (see page 49). Contact our Bookings Team for help with making your next journey unforgettable: 212-988-2611.



**Indagare Plus** Members who book through Indagare receive preferential rates and/or special amenities at the properties with the Indagare Plus symbol.

### Anguilla: Cap Juluca

Adored for: delivering barefoot luxury on a mile-long strip of stunning beach

Cap Juluca has a devoted following amongst well-heeled travelers due in no small part to the fact that it feels truly of the island. Set on 179 acres on Anguilla's western tip, the hotel blends luxury (Frette linens and flat-screen TVs) with authentically Anguillan style (wooden plantation shutters and tiled floors). Though there are 65 rooms and suites and six pool villas divided amongst 18 Moorish-styled buildings, the property's layout provides a sense of privacy, thanks to lush vegetation. Best of all, rooms have views of Maundays Bay, direct beach access and patios or terraces. Read Indagare's review.

### **Venice: Belmond Hotel Cipriani**

Adored for: giving Venice a resort-like getaway, five minutes from San Marco

With lavishly appointed interiors, a spa offering La Prairie treatments, lush gardens and an









### INDAGARE ACCESS

One of the most incredible trips we worked on this year included a dig for dinosaur bones in the Gobi Desert. Olympic-size swimming pool, the Cipriani is the closest Venice gets to a resort. It's also one of the city's most family-friendly options, with a Smile Club providing supervised playtime for children. The one-of-a-kind suites are highly sought after, most notably the two-room Dogeressa, with four Gothic-style windows that perfectly frame perspectives of St. Mark's Cathedral. The sumptuous Palladio Suite faces the lagoon and features a private heated plunge pool overlooking the water. Read Indagare's review.









### **London: The Berkeley**

Adored for: its family-friendly service and elegance in an updated classic London hotel

The Berkeley has an old-fashioned comme il faut service, and the 214 rooms, while recently refurbished, remain conservative and comfortable. As a third generation of regulars now stays at the property with children in tow, rooms can be outfitted with everything from high chairs and bottle warmers to Game Boys and child-size terry robes and slippers. An-

other appeal for families is the fantastic rooftop pool.  $\it Read\ Indagare$  's  $\it review$ .

### Mexico: Hacienda de San Antonio

Adored for: bringing glamour and flair to a stylish Mexican country estate

A former coffee plantation in the shadow of a brooding volcano, Hacienda San Antonio was rescued from neglect by billionaire Sir James Goldsmith in the 1970s. More recently, his daughter Alix Marcaccini added her stylish flair and transformed the massive pink ranch house into a hotel. The 25 bedrooms are each designed differently, with wrought iron beds and beautiful Mexican antiques and paintings. The 5,600-acre ranch offers horseback riding, biking, hikes, visits to the organic farm and coffee tasting at the hacienda's working coffee factory. Read Indagare's review.

### Nicaragua: Mukul

Adored for: pioneering an ultra-luxurious, community-focused resort project

A stunning, remote property on Nicaragua's Pacific coast, Mukul offers indulgence for its guests while being low-impact on the environment and providing long-term benefits for the community. The property's 37 rooms sitting along a white-sand beach and the hillside merge Nicaraguan décor with modern amenities. There is an excellent 18-hole golf course, beach club and beautiful spa. Mukul is tropical and sexy but distinctly Nicaraguan. Read Indagare's review.





### Mexico: Imanta

Adored for: an intimate jungle hideaway

At the end of an unassuming dirt road, the 11-room Imanta is a private retreat beloved by couples. Imanta's owner is an alumna of Aman resorts in Bali, Phuket and Jackson Hole, and the minimalist aesthetic is clearly visible. The casa and suites, the smallest of which measures 2,500 square feet, occupy individual bungalows on top of dramatic cliffs. Hightech amenities, including iPod docking stations and plasma televisions, are on offer along with deep soaking tubs. Catch of the Day restaurant is set on the beach, and Observatorio is a rooftop bar with views across the jungle and the sea. Excellent spa treatments can be arranged in-room or on the beach. Read Indagare's review.

### Chile: Awasi Atacama

Adored for: offering indulgence and expert guides in a dramatic desert setting

The exclusive Relais & Châteaux property, with just eight rooms, sits on the edge of the small town of San Pedro de Atacama on a quiet, residential street. The bustle of town drops away as guests enter a lovely sitting area with a fire pit. Awasi feels like a private home and features a pool, dining room and common lounge. The property is meant to emulate a traditional pueblo town with adobe walls and winding pathways. Excursions are private, guides are excellent and the property is ideal for families with older children or couples who are looking for a luxurious getaway and a tailored, private experience. Read Indagare's review.







### Chile: Tierra Patagonia

Adored for: its spectacular views and activities in Patagonia

Twenty-five minutes from Torres del Paine National Park, Tierra Patagonia offers luxuriously appointed rooms, a full service spa and delicious cuisine. There are stunning views of the Massif from every window of the property. Set on the shore of Lake Sarmiento, the environmentally sensitive building is composed of organic curves that mimic the surrounding landscapes. Days at Tierra Patagonia can include full-day or half-day excursions and time in the spa, which boasts a heated lap pool and outdoor Jacuzzi with panoramic views. Evenings are best spent curled up with a glass of wine, sharing stories around the fire. Read Indagare's review.



### INDAGARE ACCESS

We can secure VIP tickets to such events as Wimbledon, the Chelsea Flower Show and the Golf Masters at Augusta, as well as the World Cup and the Olympics.

### New Zealand: Huka Lodge

Adored for: mixing serious comfort with impeccable service.

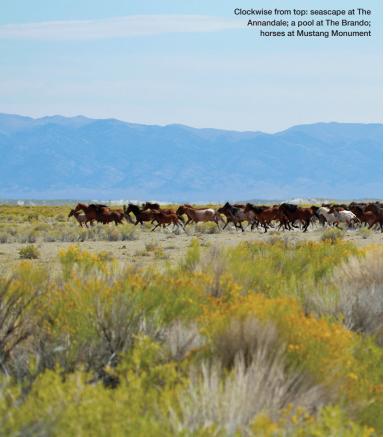
Set in a pine forest on the banks of Taupo's Waikato River, Huka's lush grounds are replete with clipped boxwood, ferns and willow trees. Inside, the bold, dark colors evoke a British men's club: navy tartan rugs, forest green leather couches, blazing fires. This is where Queen Elizabeth stays when she comes to New Zealand, and you can see why. The formal service is impeccable and cuisine is equally lavish. A string of cottages holds the 25 guest rooms, which have a lighter palette and glass doors that open onto a private terrace, with the lawn sloping down to the river. Read Indagare's review.

### **Jackson Hole: Amangani**

Adored For: A minimalist-chic hideaway with stunning views of Jackson Hole.

Many were skeptical when Aman chose an isolated perch ten minutes outside Jackson as the site of its first North American property. But a stay at Amangani reveals why the company was drawn here. Guests are greeted with a thirty-foot-long wall of windows overlooking the valley. This is also the view from all 40 suites. Everything has been streamlined to emphasize comfort, casualness and calm, in accord with the resort's name: Aman is Sanskrit for "peace," and gani is "home" in Shoshone. Read Indagare's review.











CREDIT THE ANNANDALE; THE BRANDO; MUSTANG MONUMENT, JO DANEHY

iven my love for travel experiences with a personal perspective, it is not surprising that many of the destinations that I am most excited about for the year ahead are those that are being launched by individuals who know and love a region and want to invite guests to explore in a profoundly intimate way. Here are some new spots that are at the top of my list for 2015.

### Sri Lanka

Finally, emerging after years of civil strife, Sri Lanka has become an "it" destination for travelers seeking the next great place. The ideal itinerary mixes time at the tea plantations, in the cultural triangle, in the national parks for leopard spotting and then ending at the beach. Though not right on the beach, Tri, a former cinnamon plantation turned wellness resort that is being launched by Rob Drummond is only two kilometers from the sea and has a private beach club. You will be able to decompress after sightseeing and adventure and take part in their yoga and wellness program.

### New Zealand

Most of the "super lodges" in New Zealand are owned by foreigners but a Kiwi who made his fortune in the States has now bought up a prime coastal stretch of the South Island. At his 4,000-acre **Annandale** farm, Mark Palmer is offering an authentic farm experience with private lodges, ranging from an historic homestead to a contemporary glass cabin where

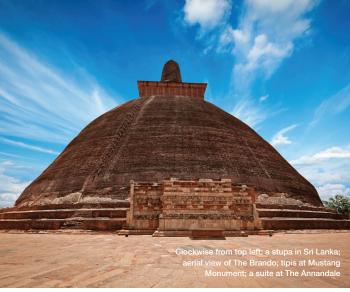
honeymooners arrive by helicopter and have a peninsula to themselves. The option that appeals most to me is called Scrubby Bay, a three-bedroom farmhouse-style villa that perfectly suits Palmer's motto: "Stay where the world can't find you."

### Spain

Trasierra, the hacienda turned hotel in the hills of Andalucia, is one of those special properties like Dar Ahlam in Morocco or Hacienda San Antonio in Mexico that has a cult following among the super well traveled yet remains a bit of a secret. Thanks to its English owner, Charlotte Scott, the property maintains a warm, houseparty atmosphere where guests feel like they are visiting friends of the stylish hostess. And this spring, the Scott family is opening a sister property called Trasierra by the Sea on the coast in Marbella. With only six rooms, the hotel can be taken over by families who want a charming retreat of their own.

### American West

How can you not fall in love with a place that has a number one cowboy named Clay, luxury teepees and a mission to protect wild mustangs? Mustang Monument is a new ecoresort founded by Madeleine Pickens, ex-wife of corporate raider T. Boone, where guests stay in cozily furnished teepees or safari cottages and spend their days learning about western traditions like roping and wagon rides. It may seem a bit hokey, but as a horse









### INDAGARE ACCESS

We organized a privatetemple dinner at AngkorWat, which meant that the clients had the temples all to themselves for the evening. There was live music and dance performances over the course of a Khmerdinner and cocktails



lover and sucker for the romance of the American West, I cannot wait to make a visit. Open only from late June to September every year.

### Argentina

Thanks to the vision and commitment of Kristine and Doug Tompkins (she was CEO of Patagonia and he was the founder of The North Face) to saving spectacular, pristine places, hundreds of thousands of acres in Chile have been protected as parks. Now on their 174,000-acre estancia, they have established Patagonia Park and built **The Lodge at Valle Chacabuco** to allow visitors access to the varied landscapes and wildlife. The lodge's architects were inspired by the historic

ones in Yosemite and Yellowstone but added an Argentine estancia twist.

### South Pacific

Marlon Brando's island in the South Pacific, simply named **The Brando**, has 35 luxury villas for guests, and for the beach connoisseurs in our membership—and we have quite a few—the private island resort and its reefs ranks up there with Cheval Blanc in the Maldives, Laucala in Fiji and North Island in the Seychelles. The entire island is an eco preserve, and guests are invited on field trips with scientists. One of Brando's granddaughters works at the marine research center, so the family is truly carrying on his legacy as he wished by safeguarding this paradise.

# 157

... Number of international visits the Indagare team took in 2014.

80

%... of members polled say that they will travel more or the same amount in 2015.

# More than half

 $\dots$  of Indagare members chose to "invest" in their journeys by booking once-in-a-lifetime experiences, like a hot air balloon ride or behind-the-scenes access.

5

... number of Indagare travel specialists who visited Cuba this year.

**60** 

%... of members say a room upgrade is the best perk while traveling.

15

%... of members polled say that the American West is at the top of their wish list to visit in 2015.

6

... African countries were scouted by Indagare travel staff this year: Botswana, Morocco, South Africa, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe. **75** 

%... of members polled say Indagare's recommendations are as important to them as the advice of a well-traveled friend.



... different countries were visited this year by Indagare founder Melissa Biggs Bradley.

**57** 

... different countries were visited by Indagare staffers in 2014.

5

x... Indagare members find Indagare advice five times more aligned with their tastes and travel goals as *Departures*, nearly 20 times closer than *Andrew Harper*, and almost double that of *TripAdvisor*.

## Three times

... Frequent travelers find a detailed itinerary and customized list of restaurant and shopping recommendations three times more useful than using guide books while traveling.

17

%... of travelers polled say that Italy is where they're dying to go in 2015. 40

%... of members polled say that making sure their itinerary is properly planned and having unique experiences during their trips are the most important factors of their journeys.



# Seven Days in Iceland

A week-long journey covers the charms of Reykjavík and Iceland's wild countryside. Contributor **Mara Hoberman** reports on the dream destination.

celand is a 40,000-square-mile island located about midway between North America and Europe. First-time visitors will focus on exploring Reykjavík, as well as the Golden Circle, a route that encompasses the most visited attractions. The more extreme activities are found in the country's interior, most of which is accessible via four-wheel drive or helicopter.

### DAY 1: Reykjavík

The city's downtown is compact and easily navigated on foot. A good place to start is the permanent exhibition at the National Museum, which provides an introduction to Icelandic history. You can't miss Reykjavik's tallest landmark, the Hallgrímskirkja church. Toast your first afternoon in the city with a cocktail at one of the city's chic bars before tucking into fresh seafood at a restaurant near the old port.

# **DAY 2**: Reykjavik, Thrihnukagigur volcano, Blue Lagoon

The next morning drive to Thrihnukagigur volcano (about 30 minutes), which has been dormant for 4,000 years and has recently been made accessible to adventurous thrill seekers. With a guide, you will descend 400 feet from the mouth of the volcano on a specially designed elevator platform. In the afternoon head to the famous Blue Lagoon where you can relax and rejuvenate in the warm, turquoise blue geothermal baths. Dinner will be at a cozy restaurant back in Reykjavik, followed by cocktails at cool 101 Hotel.

# **DAY 3**: Reykjavik, Hot Springs hike or horseback riding

This morning choose between a hot springs hike in the hills of Hveragerdi and Reykjadalur that will bring you through beautiful landscapes dotted with waterfalls to reach a secluded hot spring or a horseback riding tour across a lava field on the unique small horses indigenous to Iceland.

### **DAY 4:** Golden Circle

The driving circuit along Iceland's southwest coast is known as the Golden Circle and covers the "best of" list of Icelandic attractions. Your guided tour will include an easy hike through Thingvellir National Park (the site where Vikings established the first Parliament) where you can walk from the North American to the Euroasian tectonic plate; a visit to Gullfoss waterfall (one of the largest falls in Europe); and a stop off in the valley of Haukadalur, where you can see active geysers (Geysir and Strokkur).

### **DAY 5**: Southwest

Take a spectacular drive further southwest, where you will stop to see beautiful waterfalls and hike on the Solheimajokull or Myrdalsjokull glacier. Your guide will bring all of the equipment you need to scamper up the icy mass where you will encounter bright blue ice caves, deep ravines of melted ice, and expansive views over the massive glacier. On the way back, stop off at the charming Skogár Folk Museum where you will discover over 8,000 Icelandic artifacts. A series of restored so-called "turf farmhouses" behind the museum provide a first-hand look at how Icelandic farmers lived in the 1800s.



Travel even further west to Skaftafell National Park, a unique place that was formed by interactions of fire and ice (volcanic eruptions right next to glaciers and the sea). After a gourmet picnic lunch, you will continue on to the Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon, where you will board a small zodiac boat and travel along one of Iceland's most stunning natural wonders. On the water you will pass by large and small icebergs that have broken off from the glacier and float down the lagoon, eventually traveling out to sea.

### DAY 7: Ingolfshofdi & Reykjavik

Head to Cape Ingolfshofdi for a very special birding tour. Part of a protected nature preserve, Cape Ingolfshofdi is a beautiful isolated headland on the country's southwest coast that is home to thousands of sea birds (including puffins and great skuas) who come here to nest. After the tour, you will head back to Reykjavík for one last evening in the city.



### INSIDE SCOOP

Ideal Length of Stay: 5-10 days

Customizable
For: Couples,
Families,
Groups

Itinerary Highlights: Reykjavik, volcanos, Blue Lagoon, Golden Circle, Skaftafell

Behind the Scenes Access:

Connect with an expert local guide who will lead you from the bottom of a dormant volcano to the top of an icy glacier- and everywhere in between.



# INDAGARE INSIDER TRIPS

Indagare Insider Trips are carefully scouted journeys that include exclusive access and exciting immersion. In 2015, visits to vibrant destinations offer members a rich and rewarding way to explore the world. For more information or to sign up for a trip, email insidertrips@indagare.com.



### **URUGUAY SPA TRIP February 6-11**

Situated on 4,000 acres in José Ignacio, Estancia Vik is a Spanish colonial ranch with exquisite interiors crafted by local Uruguayan artists. While we are based here, our group will focus on wellness with daily yoga and exercise and healthy meals as we explore the region. From \$6,300



### **CARTAGENA February 27 – March 2**

Escape the winter with a long weekend in Cartagena, a colonial city on Colombia's north coast. Based at Casa San Agustin, travelers will explore the Old Town (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), go salsa dancing and spend a day cruising around the tranquil Rosario Islands. From \$3,400



### **BRAZIL ARTE April 9-15**

Indagare's six-day trip begins at São Paulo's SpArte, South America's largest art fair, mingling with gallery owners, artists and curators. Cultural exploration continues at the stunning Inhotim, an open-air museum/botanical garden set on 5,000 acres, and ends in Rio de Janeiro. From \$8,000

### insider trips



### **RANCH AT LIVE OAK April 19-25**

Nestled in the Santa Monica Mountains, the Ranch at Live Oak Malibu offers a challenging seven-day program. The non-optional itinerary combines a dietary regimen with a fitness program, including 4-5 hours of hiking, weights, yoga sessions and massage therapy. From \$6,500



### **HAVANA BIENNALE May 22-26**

The 12th edition of the Havana Biennial is the perfect time to visit Cuba. More than one hundred artists come to Havana, adding creative energy to the nostalgic beauty of the city. Our trip will combine our favorite scouted spots with insider access to the Cuban art scene. From \$6,700



### **ICELAND June 13-17**

Iceland is a bucket-list destination for the intrepid traveler, and Indagare's quick five-day trip is designed for nature lovers. It kicks off in Reykjavik, then continues into the countryside for hiking, caving, snowmobiling, glacier-walking, and the iconic Blue Lagoon. From \$4,900



### **AMERICAN SOUTHWEST June 14-19**

A western adventure is a great way to start summer. Led by Indagare's favorite expedition guides, the program includes touring Bryce Canyon, kayaking in Lake Powell and camping in luxury (two nights). Spend extra days at the gorgeous Amangiri. (Kids must be at least six.) From \$8,800



### **JAPAN October 20-27**

Designed as a first-time visit to this fascinating country, the seven-night itinerary covers the highlights of Tokyo and Kyoto, focusing on contrasts between ultramodern and traditional Japan. An optional add-on is two nights on the art island of Naoshima. From \$9,950



### **CUBA November 4-8**

Spend a long weekend in another era – in Havana. Our insider access delivers the city's cultural jewels, visits to artists' studios, Hemingway's home and haunts, long strolls through Old Havana with expert guides and intimate dinners with intriguing locals. From \$6,700



### **BHUTAN November 7-14**

Venture into the remote valleys of this Himalayan Kingdom, led by a Buddhist guide. The seven-night itinerary includes walks through extraordinary scenery, visits to hilltop monasteries and 17th-century dzongs, and meetings with monks and meditation masters. From \$10,500



### MYANMAR February 3-12 (2016)

Our itinerary begins in bustling Yangon, followed by four nights aboard the Road to Mandalay. Highlights of the trip will include ballooning over the breathtaking, temple-strewn fields of Bagan, touring Mandalay, and finishing at the picturesque Inle Lake. From \$9,500

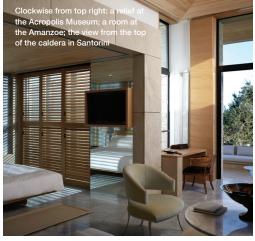


omprising nine distinct geographic regions, including the Peloponnese peninsula and the Aegean and Ionian Islands, and boasting the Mediterranean's longest stretch of coast line, Greece can be overwhelming when it comes to planning an itinerary. There are spots whose fame precedes them, like Mykonos and Santorini, which conjure images of Jackie Onassis, megavachts and couture bikinis. But there are also lesser-known sites whose names may be dropped at dinner parties by travel editors or low-key celebrities seeking bragging rights to the discovery of an obscure-sounding island—"It's totally authentic and unspoiled." And there's the cultural heritage and ancient history to be explored at a long list of sites—the Parthenon, Delphi, Rhodes, Olympia, to name a few — associated with the origins of Western civilization.

In short, like its gods, Greece is larger than life to the modern-day traveler, and when mapping out a trip, it's crucial to balance exploration with down time, the mainland with the islands, history with the present day. Here are some of the most common questions members contemplating a trip there ask the Indagare Travel Team. For help with your next Greek journey, contact our Bookings Team.







### When is the best time to go?

Many people think of Greece as a summer destination, but unless swimming is a top priority, it's actually best to visit during the shoulder seasons: in mid to late May, mid to late September or early October, By traveling during these periods, you avoid the huge crowds encountered during the peak season, especially on the more famous islands, like Mykonos and Santorini.

# How much time should I spend in Athens?

Two days in Athens, where international flights land, is plenty to see the major sites, have a few great meals and

get your bearings. Athens is a contemporary city that combines present and past in a unique way. The major sites in the old city (the Acropolis) include the Parthenon, the Hephaisteion Temple, Hadrian's Library, the Roman Agora and the new Acropolis Museum, which is housed in a state-of-the-art building designed by Swiss-born architect Bernard Tschumi. Indagare can arrange a private guide, the best way to see the Acropolis. One afternoon should be reserved for shopping in such neighborhoods as Kolonaki. There are also a multitude of local markets, or agoras, which present a great local scene.

# Are Mykonos and Santorini overrated?

These two are definitely the most touristed Greek islands. It's not fair, however, to call them overrated, since they are popular for good reason, including their exceptional beauty. Mykonos is famous for its white-sand beaches, Cycladic architecture and the windmills dotting the countryside. From Mykonos, it's an easy day trip to Delos, one of Greece's most important mythological and archaeological sites, where legend has it that twin gods Apollo and Artemis were born.

Santorini is also renowned for its striking natural beauty, the product of a volcanic eruption during the 16th century B.C. The island's dark volcanic beaches, majestic rocks and cliff-side white houses make it ideal for couples. Both islands are best visited off-season when the crowds have died down;

### indagare travels

### Greek Basics

Ideal Length of Stay: Seven to 14 days

When to Go: Most destinations in Greece are less crowded and the temperature more agreeable outside the high tourist season of July and August. Warm weather extends from May to October, which are both excellent months to travel to Greece. The coldest and least reliably sunny months are between December and March, when the mountains in the north are covered by snow. Visiting the islands out of season means greatly reduced ferry and plane services, as well as some closed hotels.

Getting There: Direct flights exist to many Greek destinations from all major European airports. A direct flight from New York to Athens takes approximately ten hours.

Getting Around: Olympic Airlines, Aegean Airlines and Sky Express operate scheduled domestic flights to a wide network of island and mainland destinations. It is also possible to charter private planes, helicopters and boats. From major hubs in Europe, airlines like BA, Ryan Air and Easy-Jet operate daily flights into Athens and various islands.

Visa Requirements: Your passport must be valid for at least three months beyond your planned date of departure from the Schengen area. One blank passport page is required for an entry stamp in Greece.

avoid the months of July and August if possible.

# What islands would you suggest for a private cruise?

A private cruise through the Cyclades is an incredible, varied adventure. Following are some of the islands worth visiting.

Paros, the second largest island of the Cyclades complex, reached the apogee of its glory during the Classic period, thanks to its world-famous marble. It has maintained its appeal as a long-time cultural hub and still attracts global artists for contemporary exhibitions and cultural events. Just off the coast of Paros, Antiparos is a tiny island that has largely escaped mass tourism. The green-and-blue water, pristine beaches and stalagmite caves here are exquisite.

Naxos is another little-known island worth visiting. Larger than Antiparos, it boasts an incredibly varied landscape of rocky mountains dotted by whitewashed villages and long beaches. The miniscule Koufonisia islands have plenty to offer in terms of beauty and delicious food. Ios has a reputation as a party island, but attracts families and couples, in addition to revelers, with its gorgeous beaches and traditional Aegean hilltop town.

### Is it worth visiting the Peloponnese Peninsula, even if it means backtracking through Athens?

In a word, yes, thanks to one spectacular resort and the many lesser-known islands that are easy to explore from there. From Athens, it's a two-and-a-half-hour drive to the luxurious Aman property Amanzo'e. Located in the scenic town of Porto Heli, on the east coast of the Peloponnese, the resort sits across from the idyllic island of Spetses. (Private helicopters or yachts



INDAGARE ACCESS For one of our style-minded members, we planned a couture Paris weekend that culminated with VIP tickets to the Dior fashion show. Before the show, we organized a visit to the studio so that the member could be dressed by the designer.







can also be arranged to take guests directly to the property.) The unspoiled bay surrounded by olive groves and lavender bushes is the site of legends and ancient cultures: archeologists have found that it was inhabited as long as 50,000 years ago.

The resort is ideally situated for a variety of day-trips. The island of Spetses was an important shipbuilding and maritime trading center in the 18th century and retains much of the old-world elegance from that period. Cars are banned from the town, and both islanders and visitors navigate in horse-drawn carriages. In recent

years, it has gained a cosmopolitan feel and become a hub for stylish travelers from Greece and all over the world. Another nearby gem is Nafplio, a seaport town on the peninsula full of spectacular monuments and sights ranging in date from ancient to medieval. Mycenae, often called the "golden city" of ancient Greece, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is not to be missed. The city was the epicenter of the Greek Bronze Age civilization to which it gave its name. The site, covering the area from the port up into the hills, boasts an impressive clock tower and beautiful old mansions. Nemea,

an ancient site in the northeastern Peloponnese, is part of a region noted for its wine-making by Homer, who called it Ampeloessa, "full of vines." Today Nemea is the most important red wine appellation of southern—and arguably all of—Greece.

# What is the best island for families?

When it comes to traveling with children, especially young ones, each of the Greek islands has pros and cons, but a good one-stop option is Crete. The largest island in the Aegean (and thus easily reached via Athens), it boasts a range of resorts that offer large grounds and a comprehensive list of amenities. It also has amazing sandy beaches, mountainous terrain and expansive fields of olive trees.



### INDAGARE ACCESS

For a foodie client, we organizeda private sushi making class with a Michelinstarred chef in Tokyo. The client was allowed behind the sushi counter for the hands-on class, which was followed by a special privatelunch.

While there, visit Knossos, the capital of the Minoan civilization and an archaeological site that really appeals to the kids' imagination, thanks to its association with the Minotaur; Diktaion Andron, the cave in which Zeus was born; and Icarus and Daedalus.

# What special access can Indagare can help with in Greece?

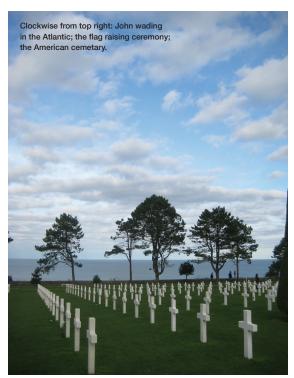
Indagare's Travel Team can help with the obvious—private yacht charters, expert guides, helicopter transfers—as well as with more unique, off-the-beaten path experiences. In Athens, for example, members can tour the Acropolis with an archeologist who can put the iconic monument into historical and mythological context. Or they can partake in a very special dining experience: the re-creation of an ancient Greek meal served on antique tableware on loan from a local museum or be part of a Greek myth reenactment.

The team can also help with private access to ancient sites, expeditions to uncharted islands, guided scuba-diving expeditions to spectacular underwater lava formations and reefs teeming with marine life and private visits to the country's top vineyards.

"Happy is the man, I thought, who, before dying, has the good fortune to sail the Aegean Sea."

- Nikos Kazantzakis





# Raising the Flag

Last summer, Indagare's bookings team pulled together a very special experience for a member visiting Normandy. **John Monsky** shares details on his once-in-alifetime trip to France.

passionate historian, Indagare member John Monsky collects interesting antique flags and banners of all kinds. (He even owns returned pieces of the flag Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldren set on the moon in 1969.) Monsky, too, is an explorer himself, and during a trip to southern France last summer, he added on a detour to Normandy and its famous D-Day beaches. On the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans landing there, Monsky and his family toured the somber but beautiful region. Be-







fore John left his New York City apartment, he had packed in his carry-on bag a recent addition to his flag collection. He writes, "It's a flag from one of the landing craft, just like you see in *Saving Private Ryan*, that reached the beaches in the very early hours of D-Day."

John asked if Indagare could get him access to the American Cemetery in Normandy. In honor of the 30 men who landed here via the LCM-7 (landing craft, mechanized, number 7), he wanted to raise their flag over the austere cemetery. Due to Indagare's excellent relationship with the local authorities in Colleville-sur-Mer-and John's own persuasive personality—the head of the cemetery agreed to open the grounds early for the Monsky family to come in and see the flag raised. There, among the 10,000 crosses and Stars of David that mark graves dotting those green grounds, the flag of LCM-7 flew for a brief moment. Says John: "It was a special moment, remembering some brave young men who gave their all for our country."

# CREDIT LAURA BLAIR; UNIQUE PROPERTIES AND EVENTS; CHATEAU BOUFFEMONT

# Home Away From Home

Indagare's travel staff does more than scout out the best hotels—we also have access to some of the most exclusive villas worldwide. From a private island in the Tyrrhenian Sea to a regal French château, here are some of this summer's best rental homes.





### Château Bouffemont

 $Out skirts\ of\ Paris$ 

Travel back in time at this 19th-century château, just a thirty-five-minute drive from the French capital, which exhibits a bewilderingly beautiful display of Parisian grandeur and excess.

Bedrooms: Ten (sleeps 27 people)

Services: Chef, butler, chauffeur

Highlights: Horseback riding, bird watching, cooking classes, chocolate workshops, painting classes

Nearby: Paris International Golf Club, National Renaissance Museum and the Auvers-sur-Oise, once home

to artists Van Gogh and Cézanne

### Villa Gesomino

Capri

Located within an Eden of olive trees and shaded pergolas fifteen minutes by car from Capri town, this secluded estate seamlessly blends modern furnishings with Venetian architecture and boasts postcard-worthy views of Capri's iconic Faraglioni rocks.

Bedrooms: Five (sleeps 10 people)
Services: Butler, gardener, optional chef, optional skipper

Highlights: Murano-glass-tiled pool with countercurrent system, gazebo, panoramic views

Nearby: Capri town





### Villa Indigo

Costa Rica

This five-acre estate on the Papagayo Peninsula comes with a luxe spa as well as family-friendly perks like a playroom and movie theater. It is great for multigenerational groups.

Bedrooms: Eight (sleeps 26 people)

Services: Chef, butler, adventure specialist, nature guide

Highlights: Yoga pavilion, surfing, paddle boarding, fishing, rock climb-

**Nearby:** Natural attractions such as the Monteverde Cloud Forest, Arenal Volcano and hot springs

ing, whale watching

### Private Island

Amalfi Coast

Once the property of celebrated Russian dancer Rudolf Nureyev, this rocky oasis in the Tyrrhenian Sea is home to a private complex comprising several villas and a chapel for weddings.

**Bedrooms:** Six (sleeps 13 people)

**Services:** Staff of seven, including a cook and skipper

**Highlights:** Two pools, helipad, private harbor and a twenty-seven-foot boat for excursions to Capri and mainland Amalfi

**Nearby:** The charming towns of Positano, Sorrento, Capri and Amalfi













# Berlin's Inside Track

Berlin has a history of taking its scene underground and building beautiful spaces behind scarred façades. Indagare contributor **Gisela Williams** asked some of the city's coolest locals to divulge a few favorites.

### Claus Sendlinger

Founder of Design Hotels

Neighborhood: City West

The visionary behind Design Hotels seems to have the ability to see into the future—and lately, his eye has been focused on the former West. Three of the brand's latest projects are set in the area around Charlottenberg.

### How has City West changed?

The changes taking shape in City West are not just from an economic perspective but from a cultural revival one as well. This is mirrored in our portfolio with three new hotels: 25Hours Bikini Berlin, Das Stue and Hotel Zoo. Hotel Zoo is housed in a 19th-century building on Kurfürstendamm that amazingly remained untouched during the World War II bombings. Its 100-year history as a hotel is remarkable, and its rebirth is a symbol of the area's renewal.

### **Neighborhood Favorites**

**Coffee:** Grosz (193 Kurfürstendamm), named after the artist George Grosz, is a coffee house, restaurant and bar with a 1920s flair and seasonal menu.

Gallery: A couple of years ago, the photography gallery C/O Berlin (22–24 Hardenbergstrasse) was forced out of Postfuhramt, the post office building in Mitte. It's now found a permanent home in Amerika Haus, which was designed in



1956. It is great to have such a high-caliber institution reopen, and it's fascinating in such a different setting—an architectural icon of City West.

### Frederik Frede & Timmi Seifert

Founders of Freunde von Freunden

Neighborhood: Mitte

Freunden von Freunden (www.freundevonfreunden.com), which translates as "friends of friends," is Germany's (perhaps Europe's) favorite design-focused site. The blog goes inside the homes of urban visionaries and asks about ambitions, obsessions and style. About two years ago the three founders took the concept global, and in October they published their second design book, Friends of Friends, which highlights tastemakers in 23 cities.

### How has Mitte changed?

The area around Hackescher Markt has changed with rising rents and big brands moving in. For lunch and shopping, we head to Auguststrasse, Torstrasse and Mulackstrasse, which are still home to a lot of small shops.

### Neighborhood Favorites

**Shops**: Upscale vintage store **Das Neue Schwarz** (*38 Mulackstrasse*), quirky fashion atelier **Butterfly Soul**-

fire (11 Mulackstrasse), menswear boutique SOTO (Torstrasse 72) and übercool bookstore Pro-QM (48–50 Almstadtstrasse).









Lunch: The team's favorite is Der Laden (4 Rückerstrasse), a cozy place that serves a variety of home-cooked German dishes. Another favorite is the Chipperfield Kantine (11 Joachimstrasse), which is tucked within an office complex and has a daily changing menu. Mamecha (33 Mulackstrasse) is a Japanese restaurant that serves the most original bento box in Berlin. Mogg & Melzer (11-13 Augustrasse), makes the best pastrami sandwich.

**Cocktails: Buck & Breck** (177 Brunnenstrasse) is a speakeasy-style bar owned by really talented mixologists.

### Kavita Meelu

Founder of Burgers & Hiphop Street Food Market at Markthalle Neun

Neighborhood: Kreuzberg

Berlin's obsession with highly crafted street food can be greatly credited to Kavita Meelu, an expat from London



with a background in advertising and a passion for cuisines. She helped launch **Street Food Thursdays**, now one of the city's most popular events, which takes place weekly at **Markthalle Neun**, a revived historic market in Kreuzberg. The hall is now constantly packed with cool locals and visitors noshing on kimchee burgers and barbecued pork-belly sandwiches.

### What is it about Kreuzberg?

The biggest draw for me is its internationalism, which felt so familiar after moving from London. It is an area that exposes the creative freedoms that Berlin is so known for, and, of course, food is pushed to its boundaries. I've been here for six years, and the most significant change has been the development of the food scene. Kreuzberg is now the heart of the city's culinary experiments, and entrepreneurs with wacky or novel ideas are trying it out in this part of town.

### **Neighborhood Favorites:**

Lunch: Big Stuff BBQ (42/43 Mark-thalle Neun, Eisenbahnstrasse) makes the best smoked barbecue. Cocolo Ramen (3 Gipsstrasse) serves a hearty Tonkotsu ramen with a side of gyoza—don't forget to order a side of pork belly. The Bird (95 Kottbusser Damm) serves the best burgers.

Dinner: Street Food Thursday is a night market that I founded in the Markthalle Neun with about thirty vendors. During the day, the *Michelintrained* team at **Kantine 9** (43 Pücklerstrasse) serves German home-style dishes using a base of products from their garden. Every couple of weeks they host a multicourse dinner in the empty Markthalle, a historic building that is normally filled with thousands.

Cocktails: Würgerengel (122 Dresdenerstrasse) offers classic cocktailswith unstuffy sophistication. Schwarze Traube (24 Wrangelstrasse) has crazy drinks. Prince Charles (85F Prinzenstrasse) is a club in an old public swimming hall and is where I often throw Burgers & Hiphop events.

### Malin Elmlid

Founder of Bread Exchange

Neighborhood: Prenzlauerberg

Swedish expat Malin Elmlid was living in Berlin in 2010 when she started the Bread Exchange (thebreadexchange.com), which began with her quest to bake the perfect loaf of bread. For the next four years, Malin traveled





### INDAGARE ACCESS

One of the most romantic meals we organized for a client this year was a private dinner at the foot of Michelangelo's David in Florence's Galleria dell' Accademia.

the world from Egypt to California, trading loaves of her artisanal sourdough for experiences and meals. This fall she published the beautiful book *Bread Exchange*, containing a mashup of images, recipes and personal stories

### Why Prenzlauerberg?

Prenzlauerberg offers a great mix: you have the more developed, buzzy areas and the hipster neighborhood, and then some very normal streets with a mix of chain stores, Asian shops and basic cafés. The neighborhood had its hip era in the late 1990s but is now very real. There are a lot of professionals and families who live here now, and it feels like a small village.

### **Neighborhood Favorites**

Late Breakfast: Of course, I am really picky about bread. I feel that if a restaurant can't get the bread right, then it doesn't have the right eye for details. My favorite spots are Engelberg (21 Oderbergerstrasse), for the delicious weisswurst, the best in Berlin, and the cheese platter; and Papa e Ciccia (18 Schwedtstrasse), for its cozy atmosphere and organic Sicilian dishes.

Dinner: It's been around forever, but Sasaya (50 Lychenerstrasse) is still my favorite Japanese restaurant in Berlin. Omoni (14 Kopenhagenerstrasse) is a more recent find. It has a very warm, laid-back atmosphere and serves a mix of Korean and Japanese dishes.

Read more about these insiders and Indagare's Berlin Destination Report.

BELMOND HOTEL SPLENDIDO, PORTOFINO THERE ARE THOSE WHO TRAVEL BUT NEVER REALLY ARRIVE. THOSE WHO VISIT A PLACE BUT NEVER KNOW THE PEOPLE. TRAVEL IS SO MUCH MORE WHEN YOU GET CLOSER TO LIFE AND HOW IT IS BEST LIVED HERE WHEREVER HERE MAY BE. IT'S TIME FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT. TRAVEL THAT IS INDIVIDUAL, INSPIRED, AND IMAGINATIVE. WHERE WILL YOU GO?



### staff finds

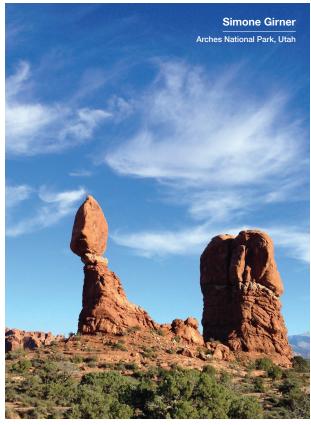
# Indagare Staff Travels

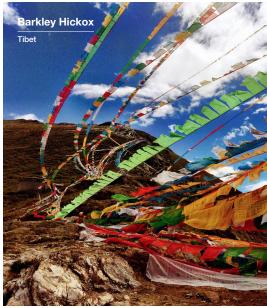
As Indagare's staff of thirty-eight traveled the world last year, some particularly special experiences and moments stood out. Here they capture scenes in photographs and words.











"This is the year I fell in love with a road trip through Provence. It's a fantastic way to get off the tourist track and stumble upon local finds. With a little extra research, each drive can be an experience."

~Allison Reiber

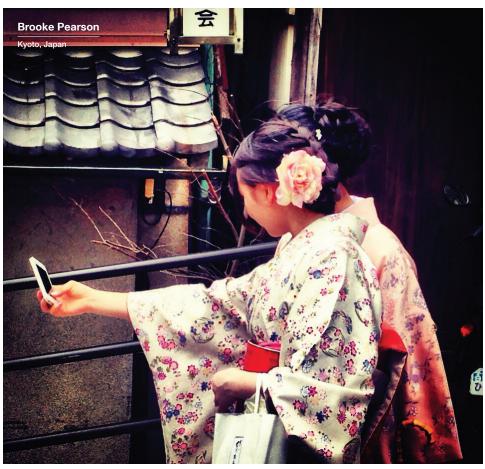
### staff finds

"As a sushi lover, I went crazy for Montreal's Park restaurant.

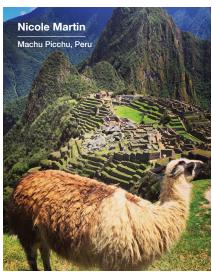
The chef was the first to bring Kaimin tai to Canada—this acupuncture method induces fish into a coma-like state while they are being transported. The results are extraordinary; fish arrive in nearly the same condition they were upon being caught."

\*Emma Pierce\*



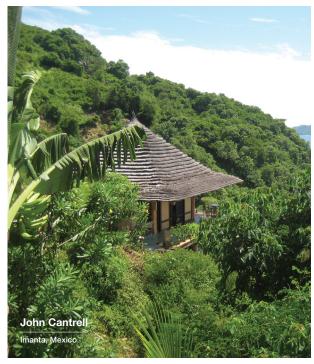








### staff finds









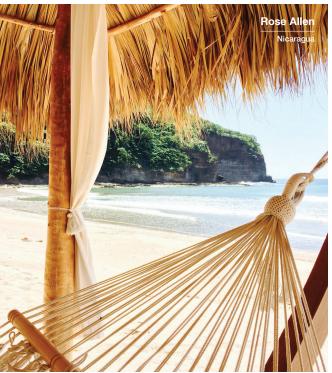






During a Jamaica trip, I attended one of Jakes Hotel's monthly farm-to-table dinners. Sitting at a long, candlelit table under the stars, I sampled fresh fixings harvested from the fields around me—an unforget-table experience." -Marley Lynch









# indagare travels







# Fourteen Days in Chile

From the cultural richness of Santiago to the wilds of the Atacama Desert and the striking landscapes of Patagonia, Chile lures travelers with its regions' unique attractions.

he key to planning a winning Chilean adventure is to select lodges best suited to your group's needs and preferences—and then sequence them wisely to mitigate the impact of traveling between the country's far-flung natural wonders. Most Chile itineraries involve a fair share of logistics, but Indagare can craft a balanced journey, insuring a great mix of the country's northern deserts and southern glaciers.

#### Santiago & Valparaíso

Days One and Two

Given the extensive travel required to reach Chile's magnificent deserts and glaciers, visitors often choose to overnight in the capital before journeying to Patagonia or the Atacama Desert. A half-day city tour will provide an overview of Santiago's most interesting sights and neighborhoods, including Pablo Neruda's beloved home, La

Chascona, in bohemian Bellavista. Afterward, stroll through barrio Lastarria, where you might check to see what's on at the Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral. Or spend the day exploring Valparaíso ("Valpo") and Viña del Mar, a vibrant seaport whose hills are clad in rainbow-colored Victorian mansions, funiculars and collegiate cafés. On the way back to Santiago, stop for a tasting of Pinots and Syrahs at one of our favorite wineries in the Casablanca Valley.

#### Atacama Desert

Days Three to Six

Chile's northern desert is an otherworldly landscape of salt flats, flamered ridges, geyser fields, snow-capped volcanoes and flamingo-dappled lagoons. The majestic Andes, with snow-capped peaks and volcanoes, anchors one edge of the horizon and a red lunar-like desert bleeds in every other direction. It's one of the highest and driest deserts on earth, making it ideal for stargazing. Take time to acclimate yourself to the altitude before tackling the most strenuous hikes. Those who prefer a gentler pace can take in the salt flats or sand dunes on foot, mountain bike or horseback or head to hidden hot springs for a restorative soak.

#### Chilean Patagonia

Days Seven to Twelve

If you have time, you can break up the four-and-a-half-hour drive from Pun-

ta Arenas Airport to Torres del Paine with a couple of nights in Puerto Natales, roughly halfway in between. The pioneer town's location on the shores of the Last Hope Sound makes it ideal for trout and salmon fishing, sailing past sea lion colonies and kayaking through scenic fjords.

Recreational outdoorsmen and experienced mountaineers alike will appreciate the rich variety of hiking excursions on offer in and around Torres del Paine National Park. Gallop along turquoise lakes, stopping to sip maté with the gauchos, observe a glacier at close range or explore the steppe with an expert naturalist. On your last full day, try the challenging eight-hour trek to the base of the fingerlike *torres* (towers), ideally with a well-deserved soothing massage to follow.

## Colchagua Valley

Days Thirteen and Fourteen

There's no better reward at the end of a journey filled with long flights and adrenaline-fueled treks than a visit to Chile's wine country. Thanks to the long-awaited opening of Viña VIK, the Colchagua Valley, long prized for its full-bodied Carmenère, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, has now become an irresistible finale to just about any Chilean adventure. Indulge in wine-inspired spa treatments, organic produce from the garden and plenty of pool time before heading home.

Chile will be one of the featured destinations of the Black Book magazine in 2015.



# INSIDE SCOOP

Ideal Length of Stay: Nine to fourteen days

# Couples fami

Couples, families, groups

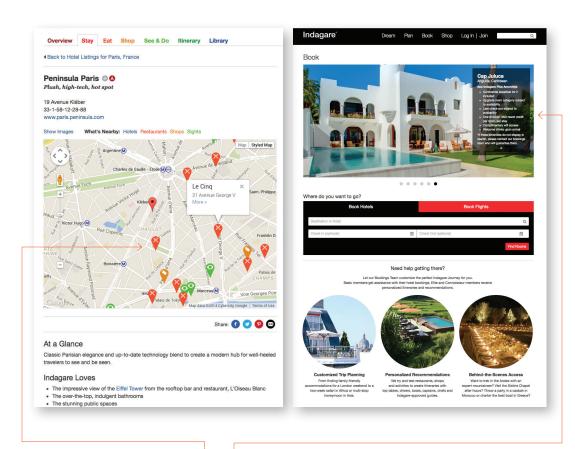
Hinerary
Highlights:
Santiago and
Valparaíso;
Atacama
Desert; Puerto
Natales and
Torres del
Paine National
Park; Colchagua Valley

#### Possible Add-Ons:

Coastal Patagonia; El Calafate (Argentine Patagonia); Easter Island

# Our New Look: Indagare Online

Indagare has introduced a whole new look and feel on its website. Here are three brand-new functions that help travelers map out their itineraries.



## Map Out Your Itinerary

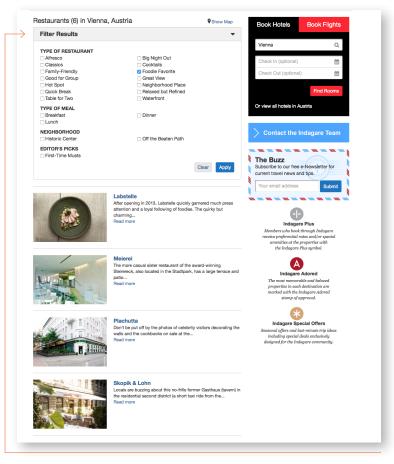
Thanks to our new Search Nearby functionality, you can easily locate your hotel and find out what restaurants, shops and activities Indagare recommends nearby.

#### **Book the Best Rates Online**

With access to hotel benefit programs, including Indagare Plus, Four Seasons Preferred and Amex Platinum & Centurion, members booking through Indagare's bookings engine get preferred rates and amenities, like room upgrades, complimentary breakfast and spa credits.



Use the new Indagare site to book hotels and flights on any mobile device. Revisit **indagare.com** and experience the next generation of travel wisdom.



#### Filter by Interest & Neighborhood

Each of Indagare's in-depth Destination Guides now comes with a set of filters that allow readers to narrow down the recommendations, including neighborhoods, as well as First Time Musts, Local Treasures in the Shop section, and Foodie Favorites in the Eat section.

# Vienna's Top Tables Filter: Foodie Favorite

**Labstelle:** A charming newcomer that opened in 2013.

**Meierei:** A classic lunch spot with a lovely patio.

**Plachutta:** The city's best place for trying local delicacy Tafelspitz.

**Skopik & Lohn:** A local favorite with daily menus.

**Steirereck:** Vienna's best upscale restaurant.

**Vestibül:** Set in a gorgeous salon of the Burgtheater.

# Bangkok Musts Filter: First Time Musts

**Chinatown:** Fascinating labyrinth of markets, food stalls and vendors.

**Grand Palace:** Sprawling complex with a long royal history.

**River Tour:** Slender longboats can get into the more narrow waterways.

**Wat Pho:** Home to the stunning, 150-foot-long Reclining Buddha.

Jim Thompson House: Gorgeous example of typical Thai architecture.

# Siem Reap Shopping Filter: Local Treasures

**Amansara:** An elegant shop for Cambodian finds.

**Bloom:** Satchels and bags fashioned from recycled Khmer rice sacks.

Eric Raisina: The country's top couturier.

Louise Loubatieres: Gorgeous home décor and accessories.

Made in Cambodia: Al fresco market.

**Neary Khmer Beauty:** Excellent tailor who sells top silks and cottons.

TO KNOW
MOSTBOOKED
HOTELS
2014

Laucala Fiji

Parrot Cay Turks & Caicos

Ritz-Carlton Dorado Puerto Rico

Cap Juluca Anguilla

The Ranch at Rock Creek Montana

Four Seasons Costa Rica Costa Rica

> Amanzo'e Greece

> > Viceroy Anguilla

Four Seasons Buenos Aires Argentina

Four Seasons Istanbul Bosphorus Turkey

> Hotel Le Bristol Paris

Hotel de Russie Rome

Amanyara
Turks & Caicos

The Berkeley London

Four Seasons George V Paris



ndagare was founded on the principle that travel is not just about where you go but also about how your experiences during your trip shape you—and how conscientious journeys can bring about real and lasting change in destinations. This past holiday season, we made donations in our members' honor to three charities with which we have had personal experience and which have inspired us with their commitment to the people and places where they're based.

## Supporting Kids in Peru

Travelers have long cherished Peru for its incredible sights and culture. Visitors, however, may not realize that it suffers from an enormous disparity between rich and poor that is made worse by very low government spending on health care and education.

While a student at New York University, Indagare's Marley Lynch took a semester off to volunteer for several months with Supporting Kids in Peru

(SKIP). The nonprofit seeks to help educate the children living in El Porvenir and Alto Trujillo, shantytowns located outside the northern coastal city of Trujillo. With SKIP, Marley worked as a middle-school English teacher and led yoga workshops for young mothers. "I witnessed donated dollars going directly to pay for children's school fees, uniforms and textbooks," says Marley who joined the Indagare team in 2014. Whether it's microfinance loans and counseling sessions or business and handicraft workshops for families, SKIP does vital work that gives children, their families, their communities and the country of Peru the opportunity for a better future. Learn more about SKIP.

#### Maloto

With nearly a generation lost to HIV/AIDS, Malawi, a landlocked country in southeastern Africa, faces significant challenges. Burdened by extreme poverty and an ailing educational sys-

tem, it has a staggering 1.2 million orphans, and only two-thirds of children who graduate from primary school can continue their education (secondary schools lack the resources).

Maloto, a nonprofit launched in 2007, works with local partners to develop and support nutrition, education and entrepreneurship programs with the goal of feeding, educating and empowering women and children. "Maloto recognizes the importance of a country's youth in creating a brighter future," says Indagare's Gina Paoloni, who became involved with the organization in 2008, when she met its inspiring founder, Anna Msowoya Keys. A Malawi native, Msowoya Keys convinced Gina that the only way to understand the mission, challenges and successes of Maloto was to visit the projects. This deeply moving trip led Gina to sign on as the organization's (volunteer) Development Director. Although she has since moved on professionally, joining the Indagare team in 2014, she continues to contribute to



Maloto and visits Malawi frequently to provide on-the-ground support. Learn more about Maloto.

#### Waves for Water

Founded by pro surfer Jon Rose, Waves for Water helps provide clean drinking water to communities worldwide. When Typhoon Haiyan demolished entire towns in the Philippines in 2013, Waves for Water was one of the first organizations to respond, helping victims access safe water by distributing portable filtration systems to community centers, camps and families. It was a mission dear to the heart of Indagare's Janine Yu, a native of the country's Cebu province. "My hometown and surrounding villages suffered some of the most severe destruction caused by Haiyan," she says. "Water is a basic necessity, and this is a situation where we can truly meet the most basic of human needs through our generosity."

Now, Waves for Water has moved into the second phase of its program, seeking to create longer-term solutions, such as rain-water-harvesting systems for schools and medical clinics and restoring dead wells. Learn more about Waves for Water.















# Why We **Travel**

Indagare founder
Melissa Biggs
Bradley visited
some fourteen
countries in
2014. Here she
explains why
being on the road
remains a source
of incredible
inspiration to her.







hy do we travel? Sometimes it is to escape to a beautiful place and to forget our every day routine. Sometimes it is to recharge, to shake off our weariness and to find new inspiration. Sometimes it is to be challenged, to learn that we are capable of something that we did not know before. Often it is to broaden our perspective and understanding of the world, to meet new kinds of people and learn new approaches to living. For many, being pulled out of their routine and thrust into an unfamiliar place returns them to a purer state of being. No longer protected by the roles of lawyer, mother, board member, or other comfortable identities, the traveler becomes a child of sorts who does not have his or her bearings and must learn everything from scratch. They are seeing with new eyes and need to rely on others for guidance.

The thread that runs through all of these, I think, is that we want to be more awake to the wonders of the world and to living. We want to feel a bit more deeply, to reach a bit higher and in those moments that are distinctly not part of our every day lives, we *are* more aware—and days are etched more deeply into our memories. Whether we are alone or with loved ones, it is those days in unfamiliar places that stand out in crisp relief.

I am clearly addicted to this feeling. It has been my passion since I was a teenager to roam new streets and see new landscapes and my thirst for making discoveries—and for sharing my finds—has not waned with time.

In fact, last year was one of my busiest travel years with time on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. I was able to share familiar highlights like Angkor Wat and Petra with my children and also to explore countries that were new to me such as Botswana and Bhutan with members.

The thing that struck me the most-whether I was in Cambodia, California, Brazil, London or Israelwas how crowds are threatening the spirit of travel. Every year more people are getting on planes and flocking to landmarks and monuments in numbers that are unprecedented and only growing. One of the reasons that we traveled as a family to Cambodia was because my 15-year-old daughter had read that there was talk of cordoning off Angkor Wat to preserve it from the 2 million tourists that now visit every year. For the first time that I remember this summer, people who didn't plan their trips properly to Peru arrived at Machu Picchu and were turned away because of limited entry.

Magic travel moments do not happen if you are traipsing around in a crowd of tourists; they happen when you get off the beaten path and have intimate, personal interactions. In Cambodia, for instance, we rode bicycles out to a remote temple where we and our guide were the only people in its crumbling chambers and we visited the Conservation d'Angkor, the private treasury where the most valuable Angkor objects are kept. Our guide allowed us to hold 9th-century perfume flasks and we were able to



#### INDAGARE ACCESS

As the grand finale to a multi-generational trip to Europe, we were able  $to\ secure$ behind the scenes access to Versailles's royal private apartments and areas of the Petit Trianon generally closed to the public, as well as a private demonstration of dressage at the château's famous stable of horses.

## essay







contemplate the rows of stunning, ancient statues in silence. All of this just served to remind me how essential it is now to be a strategic traveler. Most of the best travel moments are surprises, chance encounters or happy accidents but you have to set up your trip to allow the space for those things to happen so that you can explore not just a place but also who you are. You can do that by planning to be in the right places at the right times and in the right ways.

In many ways that philosophy is what drives our individual trips as well as our Insider Trips. We scout these adventures in advance and create itineraries with the room for magic moments — and the access for people to appreciate the transformative power of travel. Because despite the conflicts that exist today and the crowds that we have to navigate around, we believe that there's still a lot of beauty in the world and that true understanding comes from person-to-person contact.

On every trip I am blown away by the people that I get to meet—both fellow travelers and locals be they experts, like the Tibetan healer in Bhutan who was the 17<sup>th</sup> generation in his family to study medicine, or expats, like the women who recently took our insider group on a food tour







in the souk in Fes. We have been able to connect people with shaman in Peru, monks in Laos, royalty in India, curators in France, graffiti artists in Brazil, journalists in Cuba and volunteer opportunities in Asia, Africa and South America. Our members have been brought to tears by the beauty of paintings, the majesty of mountains and the serenity of spending true quality time with those they love. We try to facilitate their openness to the magic moments—what meaning they find in them is personal.

It is also those days when we are traveling and are open that often set in motion a change. Sometimes we know it immediately, with an aha moment. Like the woman in the middle of a cooking class in Florence who decides to open a cooking school when she returns to California or the student traveling with his family who determines to get a job abroad upon graduation. But often it is a seed that may be planted or a shift in the way we start to think that grows slowly but moves us permanently.

Over the years, I have had people tell me about trips that set in motion everything from proposals and job changes to divorces and charity projects. Travel opens us up — and when we are open, we can be transformed.



# Mexico's Dynamic Duo

A coastal oasis and a sumptuous mountain estate, Mexico's sister properties Cuixmala and Hacienda de San Antonio prove that some experiences are perfect compliments.

recent Cuixmala visitor compared arriving at the private landing strip to landing on Fantasy Island. It's an apt metaphor for the parcel of pristine Pacific coast just south of Costa Careyes. The 25,000-acre ranch was the former estate and labor of love of the late British billionaire Sir James Goldsmith, who established it as a private reserve, even importing zebras from Africa. Initially built for his family's exclusive use, the exquisite property was fashioned with the help of 2,000 workers-including engineers, botanists, wildlife experts-and the famous French architect and designer Robert Couturier.

The revered Cuixmala has a lesserknown but equally unique sister property: Hacienda de San Antonio. The

former coffee plantation, which sits in the shadow of a brooding volcano near the town of Colima, was another of Goldsmith's passion projects. When he acquired it, the property was in an extreme state of neglect. He swiftly restored it, spending many years commuting between this grand seat in the mountains and his beachfront palace. Upon Goldsmith's death, his children obtained both properties, transforming these personal homes into stylish resorts with rooms and villas for rent. Guests wishing to split their time between the two resorts can either charter a small plane or drive the three hours back and forth.

Here is a look at why these two special properties are so beloved by the Indagare community.

#### Cuixmala

Mexican Pacific Coast

Of Cuixmala's four villas and nine casitas, the most stunning by far is La Loma, an improbable structure built to resemble a Moorish castle. A sight to behold, it features an elevated boho-chic design scheme, with wildly colorful prints and patterns set against stark, whitewashed walls that come together in a harmonious blend of whimsy and precision. Individual hotel rooms are located in the casitas (a cluster of cottages set back in the jungle), but guests will soon be able to rent single rooms in the villas.

It's worth remembering that Cuixmala was not built to be a hotel. There is no lobby area in which to check in or main restaurant or bar at which to congregate, and there is no main pool, as every villa has its own. And although the villas' wide-open cliff-top verandas afford magnificent views, they're not very suitable for young kids. You cannot swim at the property's beach, because the surf is too rough, so guests must travel to one of the resort's three beaches nearby for a dip in the Pacific.

These shortcomings, however, seem minor, given the magic of the place. The activities offered include horse-back riding, whale watching, fishing, hiking, mountain biking and kayaking through the preserve. There are also tennis courts, soccer fields and a nearby polo field, as well as spa treatments and yoga classes.

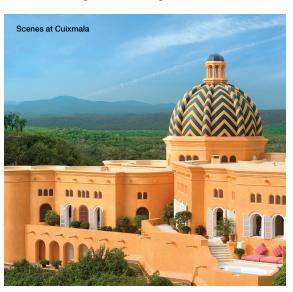
#### Who Should Stay

Couples and families with older children who love truly unique hotels and are laid back about the hotel's current lack of luxury amenities (new management is working to remedy this).

#### **Getting There**

Guests fly into Puerto Vallarta or Manzanillo airport. The drive is shorter from Manzanillo—ninety minutes versus two hours from Puerto Vallarta—but the flights are less frequent.













In the early 1990s, Goldsmith and his family, under the auspices of the Cuixmala Ecological Foundation, worked with the National Autonomous University of Mexico to establish the Chamela-Cuixmala Biosphere Reserve, a nature zone that covers more than 250 square miles. The reserve encompasses dry tropical forest, orchards, alluvial plains, rivers and beaches and is home to incredible biodiversity. The reserve harbors seventy-two species of mammals, including endangered jaguars, leopards and ocelots, as well as endangered turtles, crocodiles and iguanas. In fact, over the past few decades, conservation efforts have achieved great success in raising the number of nesting turtles, from only twenty in 1986 to many thousands in 2007. Given these results and the rarity of its dry forest eco-system, it's not surprising that the World Wildlife Fund considers the reserve one of the 200 most important eco-regions in the world. But despite the efforts of the Goldsmith family and environmentalists to safeguard this extraordinary ecological preserve, new development projects threaten its pristine environment.



#### Hacienda de San Antonio

Colima, Mexico

A grand estate with an organic farm, working coffee plantation and rooms and hallways filled with gorgeous art and antiques, Hacienda de San Antonio makes it easy to imagine what life must have been like for old Mexican hacienda barons.

The mammoth pink ranch house is built around a courtyard garden, with the public areas—a cozy library, a grand main salon, a dining room and a chapel—on the main floor. Two-story wings on each side of the main structure contain the twentyfive suites, which have views of either the imposing volcano or the gardens, where the pool and tennis courts are set. Every suite is designed differently, but all have wrought-iron four-poster beds and feature fabulous fabrics and beautifully crafted Mexican pottery, paintings and antiques. Since each is unique, it is worth asking to peek into other rooms. The bathrooms have hand-painted Mexican tiles around the soaking tubs, and all the fixtures, from the doorknobs to the faucet handles, clearly convey the love and care







put into the upkeep of this magnificent property.

The rooms do not have air-conditioning, and there is no need for it—guests can either open the French windows for a cool mountain breeze or fall asleep to the hum of a fan. In the cooler months, the staff will light the wood-burning fireplace in your room before you go to bed.

The property encompasses a 5,600-acre ranch, so activities include horse-back riding, biking, hikes, visits to the organic farm where many of the ingredients used in meals are grown, coffee tasting at the hacienda's working coffee factory, tennis and lounging by the pool. Special events can be ar-

ranged on the grounds, such as a romantic candlelit dinner on a boat or a lakeside barbecue lunch with views of the volcano.

#### Who Should Stay

Couples and families and everyone who loves unique hotels. This property has a cult following among the well-traveled for a reason.

#### **Getting There**

The closest international airport is Guadalajara, 3.5 hours away by car, partly along mountain roads. Most visitors fly into Manzanillo and make the 2-hour drive. Private charters arrive at Colima, 45 minutes from the property.



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One member asked that a professional photographer accompany his group on safari in A fricato provide photography tutorials for the family as well as professionalimagesand video documenting the trip.



# Best of Ireland

With its capital experiencing a cultural renaissance and its countryside offering endless opportunities for adventure, Ireland is topping many travelers' must-visit lists. Indagare's **Alex Erdman** and contributor **Chadner Navarro** reveal the storied destination's greatest hits.



## DUBLIN

Stunning Georgian architecture, a world-class literary heritage and that matchless Irish charm have made this capital a popular travel destination for years. These days, you can add to the list of attractions buzzy cafés, glamorous hotels and innovative cuisine.

#### Stay

#### The Marker Hotel

Dublin's first truly modern property, The Marker's checkerboard exterior provides a hint of the visual feast inside. Inside, subtle gray textiles and white headboards mix with the occasional bursts of neon. Brasserie is an excellent restaurant and the rooftop lounge is a popular spot. Read Indagare's review of the hotel.

#### The Merrion Hotel

Housed in four restored Georgian town houses, the Merrion maintains its property's 18th-century roots; the interior décor is traditional, but amenities are modern. The spa is one of the country's best. *Read Indagare's review of the hotel*.

#### Fat

Dublin boasts a low-key, refined dining scene, featuring excellent seafood.

#### Forest Avenue

One of Dublin's most sought-after spots, Forest Avenue turns out inventive and bold flavors. A tasting menu favorite is a celeriac- and-smoked-oxtongue combo paired with watercress. 8 Sussex Terrace; 353-1-667-8337



#### Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud

This two-*Michelin*-star restaurant has been wildly popular since opening in 1981. *Merrion Hotel*; 353-1-676-4192

#### The Cliff Townhouse

The dining room of this chic boutique hotel is a local favorite and the bar is a great spot for oysters and aperitifs. 22 St Stephen's Green; 353-1-638-3939

#### Winding Stair

This homey café above a bookstore has a simple menu of satisfying homegrown recipes. 40 Lower Ormond Quay; 353-1-872-7320

#### Shop

The cobblestoned city has a number of cute boutiques offering local products.

#### Avoca Handweavers

Avoca's specializes in Irish products, like hand-woven blankets and rugs. 11–13 Suffolk Street; 353-1-677-4215

#### Industry

This art gallery-style shop stocks global home goods. 41 A/B Drury Street; 353-1-613-9111

#### Louise Kennedy

The flagship atelier for the designer's gowns and bridal creations is tucked into a Georgian town house. 56 Merrion Square South; 353-1-662-0056

#### Makers & Brothers

This appointment-only boutique focuses on design-driven products. *The Shed, Abbey Court; 353-1-663-8080* 

Most of what visitors flock to is located to the south of the River Liffey, which divides Dublin. Contact Indagare to arrange a guided tour.

#### **Dublin Castle**

Covering eleven acres, the castle complex encompasses museums, gardens, government buildings and state apartments. *Dame Street*; 353-1-645-8800

#### **Guinness Storehouse**

Guinness's 1902 fermentation plant is



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Tickets we have and can arrange for clients include: Oscar parties, the Cannes Film Festival, Art Basel and movie and TV set visits.

now an exhibition hall. The seventh-floor bar offers 360-degree views. *St. James's Gate*; 353-1-408-4800

#### Saint Patrick's Cathedral

Founded in 1190, Saint Patrick's still hosts a daily sung service, the only one still practiced in Ireland.

#### **Trinity College, Book of Kells**

The oldest university in Ireland houses the Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript from AD 800. *College Green*; 353-1-896-1000

















## **BEYOND DUBLIN**

The best way to see Ireland's countryside is by car. We've rounded up the can't-miss spots in five regions.

#### County Galway

The west coast County Galway is full of Celtic culture. To the northwest, the Connemara Peninsula is home to lakes and mountains, including Lough Corrib and Twelve Bens.

**Highlights:** The Connemara Peninsula, for outdoor activities, and the Aran Islands, for culture and history.

Who Should Go: Outdoor enthusiasts and travelers looking for a coastal experience, challenging hiking and excellent fly-fishing.

#### Where to Stay:

Ballynahinch Castle Hotel

Set a few miles inland from the Conne-

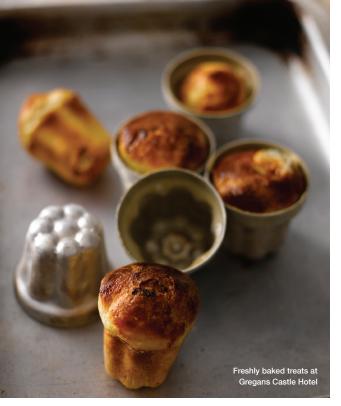
mara coast, this intimate, 40-room property boasts an excellent staff. Rooms are decorated in a sporting style that reflects the warm tones of the Connemara countryside. Activities include fly-fishing, shooting, cycling, nature walks and sea excursions. *Recess, Connemara*; 353-095-31006

#### County Clare

Best known for the iconic Cliffs of Moher, County Clare is south of Galway and boasts beautiful coastline. The area is also home to some of the best golf courses in all of Ireland.

**Highlights:** Burren National Park, with its moonlike landscape, features miles of limestone ridges and is perfect for a day of hiking.

Who Should Go: Families and couples enjoy the region's hiking, quaint seaside villages and fabulous food.



#### **Stay:** Gregans Castle Hotel

The family-owned and -operated Gregans is filled with furniture hand-picked during travels around the world. Rooms vary, with some having garden terraces and others views over the park and out to sea. The property boasts one of Ireland's best restaurants. *Corkscrew Hill, Ballyvaughan;* 353-657-077-005

**Indagare Tip:** Instead of departing for the Aran Islands from Galway, take a ferry from Ballyvaughan.

#### County Kerry:

Kerry, located in the southwest of the country, is one of Ireland's most mountainous regions. Kenmare's divine Park Hotel Kenmare is close to the peninsulas, Killarney National Park and various islands.

**Highlights:** The Dingle Peninsula for

excellent hiking, Skellig Michael, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with an 8th-century monastery and Kenmare town, which has excellent restaurants.

Who Should Go: The county is suited to those looking for outdoor adventure and fabulous culinary offerings.

#### Where to Stay: Park Hotel Kenmare

This quintessential Irish manor contains 46 charming rooms and a destination spa. Décor reflects the fusing of timeless elegance with modern luxuries. Guests enjoy golf, tennis, croquet, hiking and horseback riding. There are also boat cruises to Kenmare Bay plus deep-sea diving and fishing. *Shelbourne Street*; 353-646-641-200

**Indagare Tip:** The 111-mile Ring of Kerry attracts lots of visitors, but the Dingle Peninsula, with roads too small for tourist buses, is emptier.

#### County Cork

The hundreds of tiny inlets, coves and beaches of southwest Ireland attract visitors looking to sail, surf, dive or whale watch. The region has one of the country's strongest food cultures, with Cork boasting the world-renowned Ballymaloe House and Cooking School and outstanding restaurants like Les Gourmandises.

**Highlights:** Cork City's English Market, in operation since 1786, is a gourmet destination for local products. The Beara Peninsula, another alternative to the Ring of Kerry, is known for

its castles, gardens and scenic views. The town of Midleton is home to the Jameson Whiskey Distillery.

Who Should Go: Those looking for an authentic Irish country experience will love Ballymaloe and the surrounding area. Travelers who seek an urban environment will enjoy Cork City.

#### Where to Stay: Ballymaloe House

In 1964, Myrtle Allen started a revolution in the Irish culinary world when she opened the restaurant at Ballymaloe House. Her home soon became a hotel to accommodate guests who came to experience her food and life on the farm. Rooms are cozy, with floral fabrics and wallpaper and comfortable beds. Students at the cooking school bake bread, collect eggs, have wine tastings and attend yoga classes. *Midleton*; 353-214-652-531.

#### East Coast

The east coast of Ireland offers beautiful country properties and quaint coastal towns. Stop here to round out a trip before heading to Dublin.

#### Where to Stay: Cliff House Hotel

Opened in the 1930s as a beach resort for the country's elite families, the Cliff House Hotel structure was gutted and fully renovated in 2008. All 39 rooms command breathtaking views of Ardmore Bay and are decorated in traditional Donegal tweeds, but in bright colors. The property sits within walking distance of four beaches and a coastal walking trail.

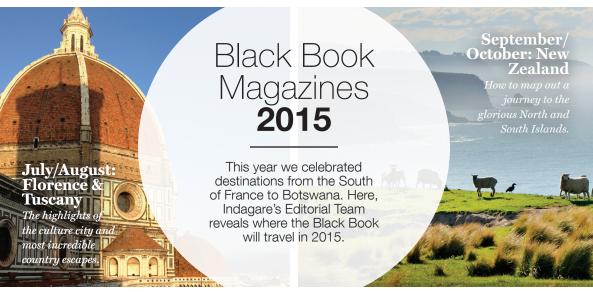


# Top Country Manor: Ballyfin

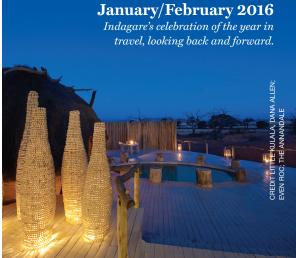
A tucked-away property that combines contemporary luxury with the transformative richness of the countryside, Ballyfin is a neoclassical country house that evokes visions of elegant balls, sophisticated dinners and old-school hunts. Interiors feature gilded ceilings, imperial columns, domed skylights, silk-covered walls and dramatic artwork. Despite this grandeur, Ballyfin projects incredible intimacy, with just 15, spacious guest rooms, outfitted in the classic style of the rest of the house, in a medley of textures and patterns. Activities include everything from archery and golf to spa treatments, but most guests prefer simply to stroll around the grounds. Read Indagare's review of the hotel.











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#### SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil, Iguassu Falls, Belmond Hotel das Cataratas
Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Belmond Copacabana Palace
Peru, Cusco, Belmond Hotel Monasterio
Peru, Cusco, Belmond Palacio Nazarenas
Peru, Lima, Belmond Miraflores Park
Peru, Machu Picchu, Belmond Hiram Bingham train
Peru, Machu Picchu, Belmond Sanctuary Lodge
Peru, Sacred Valley, Belmond Hotel Rio Sagrado

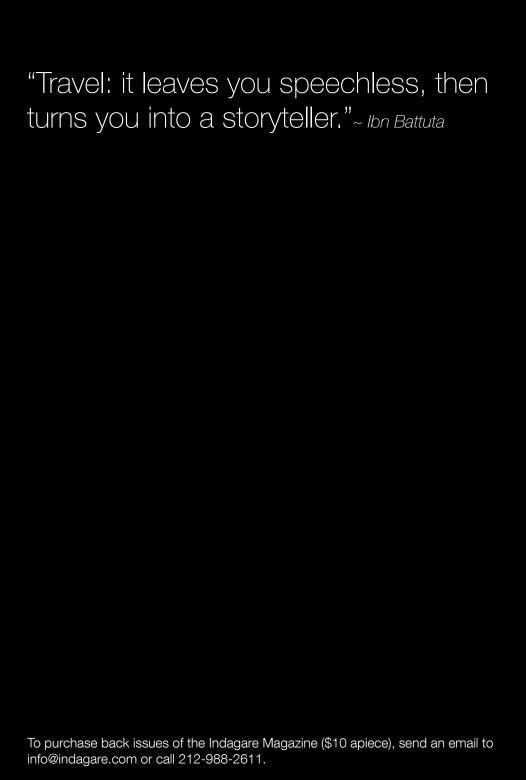
#### AFRICA

Botswana, Chobe National Park, Belmond Savute Elephant Lodge
Botswana, Moremi Reserve, Belmond Khwai River Lodge
Botswana, Okavango Delta, Belmond Eagle Island Lodge
South Africa, Cape Town, Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel

#### ASIA

Cambodia, Siem Reap, Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor Indonesia, Bali, Belmond Jimbaran Puri Laos, Luang Prabang, Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao Myanmar, Belmond Orcaella river cruises Myanmar, Belmond Road to Mandalay river cruises Myanmar, Yangon, Belmond Governor's Residence Thailand, Koh Samui, Belmond Napasai Southeast Asia departures, Eastern & Oriental Express train





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