

THE RIGHT  
DIRECTION

*Nicole  
Burgey*

COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR – TRANSAT

EUROPE FOR  
NATURE LOVERS,  
FOODIES AND  
BOOMERS

DISCOVER

NORTHERN SCOTLAND,  
SWITZERLAND, BORDEAUX



SPECIAL FEATURE

**EUROPE TRAVEL GUIDE 2019:**  
NEW EXPERIENCES IN THE OLD CONTINENT



# MADE FOR MUSIC

## HARD ROCK HOTEL LOS CABOS

Welcome to the all-inclusive Hard Rock Hotel Los Cabos – the epic new addition to Mexico’s hottest vacation destination, complete with 5 pools, 8 restaurants, a bowling alley and more. From tours and dining to the spa and salon, everything is included with our Limitless All-Inclusive program.

#madeformusic  
OPENING 2019  
HRHLOSCABOS.COM

*Limitless*

ALL-INCLUSIVE\*

\*25% SERVICE FEE APPLIES



LOS CABOS

AN ALL-INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

# Letter from the publisher



## The unexpected cost of doing business

Last month, something unexpected happened: one of the most well-known publications in the travel industry, *Tourisme Plus*, ceased its operations. Although the closure was mainly recognized in Quebec, *Tourisme Plus* was well-regarded across Canada. It was a real surprise to learn that the company was no more after almost 40 years in business.

Today, it is with great pride that I announce my recent acquisition of all *Tourisme Plus* assets as well as its web and print subsidiaries.

This is the first milestone in the implementation of PAX Global Media's (PGM) annual business development plan. It's no secret that I have always had great ambitions for my company; this strategic acquisition solidifies the status of *PAX*'s products across Canada, and paves the way for many additional expansions.

I will keep you informed of new developments as they are implemented.

I firmly believe that all things happen for a reason; that destiny awaits us at every detour, whether it's to bring good or bad news. And while *PAX* is looking forward to many productive developments, it is unequivocal that hiring Serge Abel-Normandin, *Tourisme Plus*' former Editor-in-Chief, will be at the top of my list of positives for this year.

For those who need a bit of a background story, Serge and I have known each other for many years

(I won't give away our ages by revealing just how long). I've always been openly vocal about wanting to see him join the ranks at *PAX*. But, true to his reputation, Serge remained loyal to *Tourisme Plus*. Fast-forward to today, and he's now a member of our team, which is something I couldn't be prouder of.

Never a dull moment in this industry, right?

Moreover, you'll also notice that this month, our entire issue is dedicated to Europe. This is the first time we've ever offered a special edition, and we hope that you'll enjoy the final result.

From France to Scotland; Italy to Romania; Portugal to even the Faroe Islands, our incredibly talented editorial team has thought of it all when it comes to exploring the best of the Old Continent. We also catch up with *Transat*'s Nicole Bursey to learn more about her illustrious career in travel (fun fact: she originally wanted to be a gameshow host or a journalist!)

You will also find our highly-anticipated supplier guide on Europe, as well as an in-depth analysis of what Canadians get up to when travelling there.

While we wait for the beautiful days of April to arrive, happy reading!

*Agnès Chissov*

President & CEO,  
PAX Global Media Inc.

# Contents

March 2019, No 49

## Business

- 3 **Publisher's Note**
- 6 **Business Meeting**  
Nicole Bursey, Commercial Director for Transat
- 22 **Special Feature**  
Europe Travel Guide 2019: new experiences  
in the Old Continent



## Paxorama

- 34 **See it now**  
Faroe Islands, Romania, Split,  
Centre-Val de Loire
- 48 **Stay Here Instead**  
Club Med Cefalù, three hotels in Venice
- 54 **Experience**  
Northern Scotland, Switzerland, Bordeaux



## PAX's Best Travel Tips

### 12 Fit the profile

Europe for nature lovers, foodies and boomers

### 20 Take Note

How not to look like a tourist in Europe

### 42 Testing the waters

Exploring Europe's offbeat ocean cruise concepts



#### President & CEO

Uguette Chiasson

#### Senior Vice-President

Karine Lefebvre

#### Vice-President

Nancy Benetton-Sampath

#### IT Director and Internet Project Manager

Juan Carlos Lora

#### National Editor-in-Chief

Marie-Eve Vallières

#### Multiplatform Content Manager

Karine Rochdi

#### Managing Editor - English Canada

Michael Pihach

#### Associate Editor

Blake Wolfe

#### Associate Digital Editor

Christine Hogg

#### Journalists

Serge Abel-Normandin, Christina Newberry, Antoine Stab

#### Graphic Design

Alexandre Foisy

#### Circulation Coordinator

Nathalie Manouvrier

#### ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

Nancy Benetton-Sampath, 416 581-1001, ext. 304, 647 389-2438  
nancy@paxglobalmedia.com

#### CIRCULATION INQUIRIES

paxmagazine@paxglobalmedia.com  
Canada, 10 issues (one year): \$49.50 (plus tax)

#### OFFICES

##### Toronto

2 Carlton Street, Suite 602  
Toronto, ON, M5B 1J3  
416 581-1001

##### Montreal

782 rue Principale  
Laval, QC, H7X 1E6  
450 689-5060

##### Vancouver

PO Box 18464 West  
Georgia RPO  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 0B3  
416 581-1001

**Printer:** Imprimerie Héon-Nadeau Ltée

#### Distribution:

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 42658017

#### Legal deposit:

Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec & National Library of Canada

**Legal deposit number:** ISSN 2367-9921



PAX magazine is published by



**Corporate website:** paxglobalmedia.com

Travel industry news: [news.PAXeditions.com](http://news.PAXeditions.com), [newsWest.PAXeditions.com](http://newsWest.PAXeditions.com), [nouvelles.PAXeditions.com](http://nouvelles.PAXeditions.com)

**All rights reserved: PAX Global Media Inc.**

No part of this magazine may be printed or otherwise duplicated without permission from the publisher, Uguette Chiasson (uguette@paxglobalmedia.com).

The opinions, endorsements and all content in this magazine are not necessarily representative of those of the publishers, editor, journalists and other contributors, and these parties shall not be responsible for any reliance thereon.

BUSINESS MEETING

Nicole Bursey

The

*right*

direction





## Transat's Commercial Director Nicole Bursey on returning to her roots, the growth of Europe and that time she wanted to host a game show

By Blake Wolfe | Photos by Geoff Fitzgerald

**T**here was a time when Nicole Bursey was headed down one of two very different career paths.

"I went to school for communications studies – I got my BA from University of Windsor – and I wanted to be a gameshow host or a journalist," Bursey recalls. "Looking back, it's not what I planned – I didn't even know there was a travel industry back then!"

These days, Bursey is best known from coast to coast in her role as Transat's commercial director, a position she has held since 2011 and one that has defined her return to Transat after a number of years in the cruise sector.

### Getting starting

So what was it that originally led Bursey to an illustrious travel career?

With the desire to get into journalism winning over dreams of becoming the next Bob Barker, Bursey turned her sights toward a master's in journalism. It was during that time that Bursey would first enter the world of travel.

"During that break, I knew a gentleman who owned Galt Travel, a small travel agency in Cambridge and he suggested working there to become a travel journalist. It was the plan to do it for a few months and I went to Greece on a FAM which was my first trip out of North

America; a little while later, I went on a FAM to South America. That was 1991 and here I am!

"To fly all the way to Greece, it was the first time I ever went to see old historic things. It was hard not to fall in love!"

Now a travel agent, Bursey would eventually join Transat – taking on a series of increasingly senior roles within the company – following a snap decision at one of the company's trade events.

"Transat was having a product launch in Kitchener, Ontario," Bursey recalls, "and they announced at the show that they were looking for a sales rep in southwestern Ontario. I decided to take a run at it and I think having a background in communications studies helped; I love doing presentations and it's a big part of a sales role. I got hired and did the job for a little less than two years before being moved to Halifax to be sales manager."

### Returning home

In 2001, Bursey would embark upon a new chapter in her travel career, heading to the cruise sector where she would work for eight years as a sales manager, representing brands such as Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Expedia CruiseShipCenters.

Transat, however, was never far from her thoughts, Bursey tells PAX. →

# “ In Canada, we’re still human and a boss can be a very intelligent, driven, successful businessperson, but they can still care about you ”

“I love Transat,” she says. “I felt it was important to go and get some different skills, but it was always my intention to return.”

Among the key lessons Bursey took from her time in the cruise business was both the importance of branding for travel companies, as well as an appreciation for how the various parts of the industry work in tandem – the very definition of a tour operator.

“When I went there, I think it made me realize that the travel industry was a giant, sophisticated machine and it was different being part of such a large operation,” she says.

“Something else I realized was the importance of the brand – I worked for huge cruise lines and they’re very innovative; it’s hard to stay on top when you’re innovative, because someone else will come and copy what you’ve come up with. It was really inspiring in a way.”

Returning to Transat after eight years away also highlighted the different ways in which technology and analytics were being applied in the tour op sphere, Bursey says.

“The technology and availability of stats on everything has changed, but the people haven’t,” she says. “Coming back to Transat after eight years, we’re now very analytical

and we have great statistics and reports whereas in the 90s, we did things more by feeling. We have so much more data now and you know what other people are doing.”

## Empowering employees

For Bursey, the most important part of leadership was learned from a previous supervisor who instilled confidence by encouraging decision-making.

“Empowering people is the most important thing, for several reasons,” she says. “I find that some people are not confident decision-makers and they need to know that management stands behind them.

“As a young manager, I had a very good boss who encouraged me to make a decision and if it wasn’t the best one, we’d have a conversation after. It really built a lot of confidence up from when I was a young manager. I want my people to feel the same way. You can make a decision – it’s not surgery and no one’s dying on the operating table. It’s also important to treat people like people. I have a great team and we work hard but we can have some laughs as well.”

Part of that empowerment includes giving employees the opportunity to set their own path within the enterprise, she explains.

“What are you interested in? Is there a project you want to take on?’ It’s not like ‘here’s your job description and you can only do this.’ Just encouraging people to challenge themselves.

“We had a salesperson who was fabulous but I could tell that she could do more. I encouraged her to go for a role that offered new challenges and offered her the ability to be more independent and have a bit more empowerment. It wasn’t something she would have necessarily gone for without that encouragement.”

## European evolution

As both Bursey and Transat have grown, so has the company’s offerings, particularly its European product. →



# Discover Business on our new 787 Dreamliner at low fares.



Earn commission when you book Business on these non-stop domestic flights.

Flight	Route	Frequency	Departure	Start dates
WS 0655	Toronto - Calgary	Daily	9:00 a.m.	February 20, 2019
WS 0670	Calgary - Toronto	Daily	1:30 p.m.	February 20, 2019
WS 0662	Calgary - Toronto	Daily	10:00 a.m.	April 8, 2019
WS 0669	Toronto - Calgary	Daily	7:00 p.m.	April 8, 2019

**WESTJET** 

Schedule subject to change. Commission rates vary based on your corporate or Business Travel Program agreement. Commission is only paid to Canadian and U.S. agencies that are registered with IATA/ARC/TIDS, excluding online travel agencies. Standard commission rules apply, please see [www.westjettravelagents.com](http://www.westjettravelagents.com) for more information.

What began as an offering focused on “classical Europe,” as described by Bursey, has since branched out to destinations across the continent, driven in equal parts by customer demand and advancements in aviation technology.

“It’s being driven by customers and the new aircraft available; you can go a lot further than you could before. The population of Canada is much more diverse now too – if you have a neighbour that’s Croatian, for example, you learn about his culture and all of a sudden, you want to go and see where he’s come from.”

“ I find that some people are not confident decision-makers and they need to know that management stands behind them. ”

Canadians are also branching out beyond the traditional coach tour or city-stay packages, Bursey says, with long-stays, multi-group and niche travel (such as cycling) among the current ways in which Transat is catering to evolving travel tastes.

“It’s not a cookie-cutter approach to things; years ago, you did a coach tour or picked a hotel and stayed there, maybe a two-city holiday. Now people want different experiences. I think people are more open-minded – the millennials certainly are – and want to experience things, instead of just going to one spot.”

Another change in the industry, Bursey notes, is the impact of the 24-hour news cycle and the potential for misinformation to spread, a challenge compacted by the omnipresence of social media and mobile devices.

Bursey’s first encounter with the issue was while working with Royal Caribbean during the 2003 SARS outbreak in Toronto, which was subject to misinformation years before the term “fake news” entered the common vernacular.

“I was sitting at my home office desk and CNN was announcing that Canadians were not allowed on their ships anymore. It really hit me and made me think about what else on the news is overblown or wrong.

“It made me learn to question things a little bit more. It affects things: if people see hundreds of pictures of St. Martin after a hurricane, it’s hard to get those images out people’s heads. We find that if there’s an incident in Europe, bookings drop for a little while, but Canadians overall have a good judgment of reality. It doesn’t destroy a destination’s appeal, even if people take a few weeks to figure things out.”

### ○ Canada

Eleven years into her return to Transat, Bursey notes that there’s a number of subtle yet important differences between Canadian companies and businesses based elsewhere.

In addition to a sense of patriotism, Bursey says that the vibe itself is another factor which makes working for a Canadian business important to her.

“In Canada, we’re still human and a boss can be a very intelligent, driven, successful businessperson, but they can still care about you,” she explains. “Maybe it’s a Transat thing but the hierarchy in Canada doesn’t seem to be so rigid. If I see our CEO in the hallway, I’ll say ‘hi Jean-Marc!’ I like that and I think people are more open to hearing ideas from all levels,

not just directors or VPs that get to share information.

“We’re influenced so heavily by what happens south of the border and you get in this mindset that the U.S. is where it’s at. When there’s a Canadian success story, it’s pretty cool. To be a company that started with three friends that wanted to make travel affordable is pretty amazing!” ●

*Special thanks to Bisha Hotel Toronto for hosting this month’s cover photo shoot. [bishahoteltoronto.com](http://bishahoteltoronto.com).*





---

## Giving back

---

For those in the travel industry, exploring the world can bring the joy of discovery and hard realities to light in equal measure, prompting many individuals and businesses to give back.

Burseley says it was a trip to South America early in her career that opened her eyes to how some residents were living, fuelling a desire to help make the world a better place.

“When you go to a country, you can see how beautiful it is but you also realize how good we have it at home,” she says. “It breaks my heart to see that just because a child is born in a country with drought or disease or war, that their life is so drastically different.”

As a result, Bursey has volunteered her time counting donations of coins collected at Halloween by UNICEF, while in her work with Transat, she is also a champion of the company’s initiatives, such as its work with charities including Children’s Wish and SOS Children’s Villages, along with the annual Flights in Search of Santa for sick children each Christmas.

“I think people often wonder ‘what can I do?’ and the truth is, anyone can make a difference.

“We’re in a tizzy when our internet goes down for an hour – most people can’t even imagine what it would be like to have no opportunity and no hope.... Life is different around the world and I think people should travel just for that reason alone.”

# What's *your* type?

Europe for  
nature lovers,  
foodies and  
boomers

By Blake Wolfe



The world of travel is not one-size-fits-all, with each destination drawing specific types of travellers for many different reasons.

*PAX* looks at three traveller profiles, what they enjoy and where to find them in Europe.



# Our best offer of the year is out now!

Book your 2020 Europe river cruise at 2019 prices,  
plus you get incredible savings.

OFFER ENDS MAY 2019

ORDER  
YOUR 2020  
PREVIEW  
BROCHURE  
TODAY



Save up to **\$3,000**  
per couple  
on all European River Cruises



Award-winning deluxe river cruises

Contact us at 855 444 0161 or call your travel professional to book  
Visit [emeraldwaterways.ca](http://emeraldwaterways.ca) to learn more

\*Terms and Conditions: Offers are valid for new Emerald Waterways 2020 bookings only and are non-transferable. Offer applies to Europe river cruises including France and Portugal. Save \$1,500 per person on 15+ day cruises or Save \$1,000 per person on 8-14 day cruises. Prices for 2020 Europe river cruises are based on 2019 prices. Offers valid from December 1, 2018 - May 14, 2019 only or until sold out. Pricing listed in Canadian dollars, based on double occupancy and based on lowest cabin category available. Availability is limited and subject to change. Port charges and taxes are included in the price. Offer does not apply to Asia, Croatia, Russia, or Egypt. Offer may be changed, cancelled or withdrawn at any time without notice. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required within 48hrs of booking with full non-refundable payment required by 90 days prior to departure date. This offer is not combinable with any other offer except travel show voucher. For full terms and conditions visit [emeraldwaterways.ca](http://emeraldwaterways.ca). Emerald Waterways, Suite 1025, 401 West Georgia St., Vancouver, BC, V6B 5A1. ©EMERALD WATERWAYS | ALL RIGHTS RESERVED | BC CONSUMER PROTECTION #40178. ECAMAD45

# The nature lover



## AT A GLANCE

In search of a natural experience in each of the destinations they travel to, the nature lover is looking for an escape in the truest sense of the word. From wilderness preserves to campgrounds to wildlife encounters, this traveller is happiest outside of the major urban centres. And while Wi-Fi hasn't come to the woods (yet), Instagram-worthy photo opportunities are a big draw, too.



### Likes

- Unspoiled vistas
- Wildlife
- Fresh air



### Must-pack items

- A camera
- Spare power bank
- Comfortable clothing suited to the season

## IDEAL HABITAT

Spanning more than 200,000 kilometres and eight countries, the Alps are Europe's year-round playground.

A ski destination in countries such as France, Switzerland and Austria, summertime in the Alps has its own joys; when the hills turn from white to green, hiking and biking – and for the brave, paragliding – become the dominant activities in the region.

Wildlife spotters won't be disappointed either as many Alpine creatures become more active in the summer, from the tiny marmot to the chamois antelope climbing the rocky hillsides.

And, whether the subject is animals or landscapes, the Alps are a photographer's dream come true: with so much natural beauty on hand, it's virtually impossible to take a bad photo here!

While perhaps known best for beach getaways and ski escapes, Club Med also offers summer programs at several of its Alpine properties – five in France and one in Italy – providing outdoorsy travellers with the perfect base for exploring the mountains in the warmer months.



Club Med offers a summer program at several of its Alpine resorts.

Geared toward active families, the company's summer Alpine programs offer visitors a wide range of outdoor activities to enjoy, varying from resort to resort. →



# Travel Brands Cruises

We give you Access to the world.™

by Encore Cruises

## Did you know...



### Limited Time Offers

You can always find links to the current Limited Time Offers on [OneSourcecruises.com](http://OneSourcecruises.com). Here you will find links to fare charts, voyage listings and all the terms and conditions to include combinability restrictions.

### Group GAP Points

When blocking group space - you only need to book one cabin to still receive the group GAP point amenities. These GAPS points are also combinable with any other promotions.

### Military Benefit

This is a program with Onboard Spending Money for Active Duty personnel as well as Veterans. Note: The guest does not always have to be a retiree. He / she does need

at least 2 years of service under certain circumstances and must provide you with details.

### Onboard Future Cruise Sales

Before your clients set sail, encourage them to book their next cruise while onboard and take advantage of one of the richest future cruise programs at sea! Your clients will enjoy a variety of incentives including a reduced deposit and onboard credits of up to \$300 (USD) per stateroom to enjoy during their future cruise. Best of all, your agency will receive full commission and you receive notification of bookings or deposits.

### Captain's Circle Benefits

Put Princess' loyalty program to work for you! The Princess Captain's Circle program offers an array of incredible rewards - and

at each new level; your clients will qualify for increased benefits. The more they sail with Princess, the more they will keep coming back to you. And best yet, you will be able to offer your clients an extra savings of up to \$200 with Princess Captain's Circle Launch Savings!

### Refer-A-Friend

Princess is encouraging their loyal past guests to take advantage of the "Refer-A-Friend" program and you can use it to help grow your business too! Studies show that people are five times more likely to make a purchase when referred by a friend, and if your loyal clients refer Princess, there's a good chance they'll refer you as well.



1. Rate code: ENCORE OBC 50. Valid on select 2019-2020 sailings. Bookings must be made at least 120 days prior to departure. Onboard Credit is in US dollars, per stateroom, based on double occupancy, has no cash value, is not redeemable for cash, not transferable and will expire if not used by 10:00 pm on the last evening of the cruise. Not combinable with any other cruise line offer/promotion. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn without notice at any time. Other restrictions may apply. All references to Princess Cruises are: ©2019 Princess Cruises, Ltd. All rights reserved. Ships' Registry, Bermuda. For full terms and conditions, see [www.travelbrandsagent.com](http://www.travelbrandsagent.com) or contact us. © 2019 Encore Cruises is a wholly-owned division of 2515589 Ontario Ltd. B.C. Reg. # 3597. Ont. Reg. # 50012702. Quebec permit holder # 703 343. 5450 Explorer Drive, Suite 300, Mississauga, ON L4W 5N1



Changes after departure, please contact us 24/7  
1 (800) 727-8687 (North America) (416) 850-0978 (Collect)  
[travel@travelbrands.com](mailto:travel@travelbrands.com)

Find us on Facebook  
Your TravelBrands BDM



[TravelBrandsAccess.com](http://TravelBrandsAccess.com)  
1-844-5-TBRAND  
827263



# The foodie



## AT A GLANCE

Exploring the world's cuisines one dish at a time, the foodie is a traveller with taste, seeking out the best and most unique culinary offerings in every destination they explore. Whether it's fine dining or street food, craft beer or a notable vintage, foodies explore the world through the senses, eating and drinking their way through a new city or country; after all, to know a culture is to know its food. Bon appetit!



### Likes

- Natural wine pairings
- Gourmet discoveries



### Must-pack items

- An appetite
- Stretchy pants

## IDEAL HABITAT

With Europe being a veritable feast for foodies, it can be hard to pick just one country for these travellers.

Located at the westernmost edge of the Iberian Peninsula, Portugal combines several flavours in a single destination, where world-renowned seafood fresh from the Atlantic and Mediterranean mingles with spicy *piri-piri* chicken, complemented by wines and cheeses from numerous regions across the country. And, when the main course is done, the dessert menu is not to be missed – especially Portuguese custard tarts!

From the sunny south to the temperate north, foodies can find plenty of tastes to discover here, all served up warmly in local restaurants and markets.

For 2019, Air Canada Vacations has cooked up a special surprise: partnering with the Montreal-based Groupe Ferreira (which owns four Portuguese restaurants in the city), the tour operator has launched two self-guided culinary itineraries – the 10-day Flavors of Portugal and the 12-day Taste of Northern Portugal



Portugal – a foodie's dream come true.

– where travellers can get their fill of the country's finest flavours at their own pace.

While the tours are independent, each itinerary includes dining tips from the Ferreira family's web series *Portugal Gourmand*, guaranteeing travellers get the most out of their adventures. →

# EUROPE. THE EARLIER, THE BETTER.

BOOK 6  
MONTHS  
EARLY



**SAVE**  
**\$1,000**  
PER COUPLE

BOOK 4  
MONTHS  
EARLY<sup>1</sup>



**SAVE**  
**\$500**  
PER COUPLE

BOOK 3  
MONTHS  
EARLY<sup>2</sup>



**SAVE**  
**\$300**  
PER COUPLE



CALL 1 877 752-7710 | AIRCANADAVACATIONS.COM/AGENTS

Only valid on new bookings of select packages purchased between November 5, 2018 and December 31, 2019 for departures between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. Minimum 5-night stay required. Applicable to flight-inclusive packages only. Valid for any flight class cabin. ■ <sup>1</sup>Book between 179 and 120 days prior to departure and save \$500 per couple. <sup>2</sup>Book between 119 and 90 days prior to departure and save \$300 per couple. Offer can be withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability at time of booking. Not applicable to group bookings. Offers expire at 11:59 p.m. ET on the date indicated. Flights operated by Air Canada or Air Canada Rouge. For applicable terms and conditions, visit [www.aircanadavacations.com](http://www.aircanadavacations.com). Holder of Quebec permit #702566. TICO registration # R50013536/W50013537. BC registration #32229. ■ \*Aeroplan and the Aeroplan logo are registered trademarks of Aeroplan Inc. \*Air Canada Vacations is a registered trademark of Air Canada, used under license by Touram Limited Partnership, 1440 Ste Catherine St West, Suite 600, Montreal, QC, H3G 1R8. 5925 Airport Road, Suite 700, Mississauga, ON, L4V 1W1.



ME-6356



**AIR CANADA VACATIONS**

Making your  
dreams travel™

# The boomer



## AT A GLANCE

Born between 1946 and 1965, boomers may have a few more years of travelling experience than their millennial counterparts, and they're still exploring the world – and now have the time and financial means to do just that! Whether enjoying culture and cuisine in a new city or travelling Europe via relaxing river cruise, boomer travellers are spending their golden years crossing off bucket list destinations and experiences.



### Likes

- Walkable cities
- Fine cuisine
- History



### Must-pack items

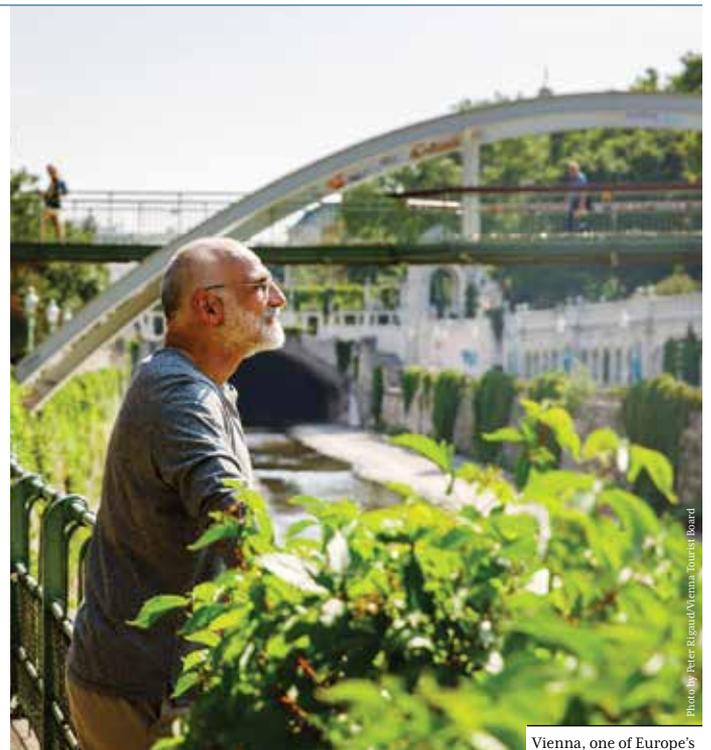
- Comfortable shoes
- An iPad... to take photos with!

## IDEAL HABITAT

Two of Austria's largest cities – Vienna and Salzburg – are consistently ranked amongst Europe's most walkable. Easily traversed on foot, both destinations offer plenty of history, too – from the numerous palaces of Vienna to the musical past of Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart and the setting of *The Sound of Music*.

Walkability and cuisine are blended in the Danish capital of Copenhagen. Ranked among the world's most walkable cities, Copenhagen is also Scandinavia's rising star for Michelin-starred restaurants, boasting a total of 19 Stars including one three-Star eatery, Geranium.

It may be a cliché at this point, but with numerous cruise lines operating on each of Europe's major waterways, there's no shortage of river cruise options available to boomer travellers. Offering fine dining, activities both on-board and on-shore, plus excursions that speak to interests such as culture, history and cuisine, a river cruise vessel can serve as the perfect home base for a European vacation. ●



Vienna, one of Europe's most walkable cities.



Book Now  
to Get Our  
**LUCKIEST**  
AIRFARE OFFER  
OF THE YEAR!



**C·I·E TOURS**  
International



Enjoy phenomenal airfares when you book a 7-day or longer guided vacation in IRELAND.  
**AVAILABLE FROM 5 CANADIAN GATEWAYS!**

**C\$699\***

from Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver

**NO BLACK OUT DATES • TAXES INCLUDED • BOOK BY MARCH 31, 2019**

Choose from 27 Ireland packages, including these popular options:

**TASTE OF IRELAND**

7 days, from C\$1,675 land only

A fast-paced jaunt that is great for first-timers. See the highlights of Ireland including the Ring of Kerry, Blarney Castle, Dublin and the Cliffs of Moher – and enjoy a medieval-style feast in a castle.

**IRISH MYTHS & LEGENDS**

8 days, from C\$2,770 land only –  
*Children Save C\$255*

Visit a traditional farm and watch sheepdogs at their work, don your Viking hat for a tour of Dublin by land and sea, cook a traditional Irish meal with a local chef – fun for all ages!

**IRISH HERITAGE & DROMOLAND CASTLE**

8 days, from C\$3,225 land only

See all the classic sights and luxuriate in a stay at the 5-star Dromoland Castle. Visit the Cliffs of Moher, Ring of Kerry, Blarney Castle, Waterford Crystal, Dublin and more!

**JEWELS OF IRELAND**

14 or 15 days, from C\$4,320 land only

Reach all four corners of Ireland: highlights include the rugged scenery of West Cork, a cruise on Ireland's only fjord, Donegal's Slieve League Cliffs, the 5,000-year-old tombs of the Boyne Valley, and much more.

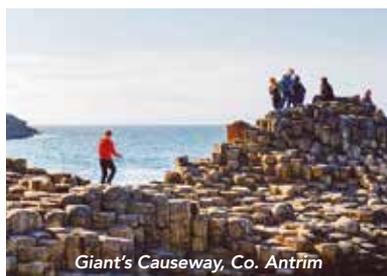
This offer is available by phone only. Call **800-243-8687** to book.

We are open 7 days a week to assist you: Monday-Friday 9am-8pm ET, and Saturday-Sunday 10am-3pm ET.

Visit [www.cietours.com/march-air](http://www.cietours.com/march-air) to see all tour options and complete details.



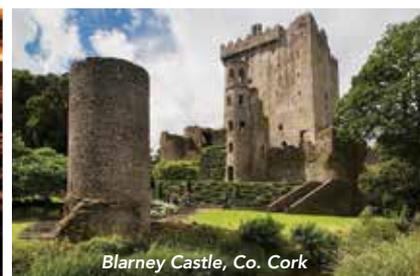
Ballycastle, Co. Antrim



Giant's Causeway, Co. Antrim



Traditional Pub Music Session



Blarney Castle, Co. Cork

\* C\$699 Ireland round-trip airfare sale to Dublin or Shannon includes all taxes/fees; valid for travel from Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver for bookings made between 3/4/19-3/31/19 in conjunction with any CIE Tours guided vacations within Ireland only that are 7 days or longer departing 4/1/19-12/31/19. No blackout dates. Use code: MARCHAIR19C. Must call 800-243-8687 – offer cannot be booked online. Full payment for air is due time at of booking plus C\$500 per person non-refundable tour deposit. Airfares are non-refundable, may not be available on all desired travel dates and are subject to airline-imposed change/cancellation penalties starting from C\$300 per passenger, plus any fare differentials at re-ticketing. Baggage fees may apply; see [www.iflybags.com](http://www.iflybags.com) for details. Not combinable with any other CIE Tours offers or discounts or group travel, Private Driver or self-drive itineraries. Offer may be withdrawn at any time and is subject to availability; other conditions may apply. Land prices are per person, based on double occupancy for 2019 departures and vary by departure date.

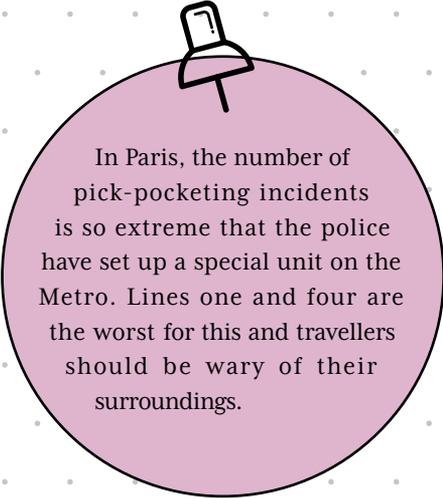
# HOW TO NOT LOOK LIKE

# a tourist in Europe

By Marie-Eve Vallières

**Imagining the stereotype is easy: the average North American tourist treading on European soil for the first time, blinding white sneakers and a not-so-secret-looking fanny pack in which to stash their passport and Euros.**

**Too busy gazing up at the Arc de Triomphe or at the Colosseum, many tourists don't care much about what they might look like to others. But, for your clients who are interested in assimilating into the local landscape and culture, here are a few tips to share with them before they leave for the Old Continent.**



In Paris, the number of pick-pocketing incidents is so extreme that the police have set up a special unit on the Metro. Lines one and four are the worst for this and travellers should be wary of their surroundings.



In Italy, many restaurants force tourists to pay an extra charge for any meals enjoyed on an outdoor terrace. Instead, why not take a sandwich to go, and enjoy it in one of the many parks, or on the edge of a centuries-old fountain?



Before dipping into Iceland's famous hot springs, you must take a shower. Yes, naked! Modesty is not welcomed in Iceland.

In France, travellers with a sweet tooth should inquire about a phenomenon known as *café gourmand* ('greedy coffee'): it's a small tray filled with different sweets for the day – three desserts for the price of one!



In Italy, only tourists drink cappuccinos past 10 a.m. After this hour, it's better to stick to espressos, unless you want the baristas knowing you're not from around there. And have a good laugh at your expense!

Public toilets in Europe cost money, so it's always good to keep some change readily available in your pockets.

Over in Granada in the south of Spain, you also get something to eat every time you order something to drink. Tapas are served free of charge with each order; plates vary depending on market finds and the chef's specialties.

In Western European countries, tap water is perfectly safe to drink. Best to ask for it specifically, otherwise you'll be charged a pretty penny (or actually, several euros!) for bottled water.





*New*

# EXPERIENCES IN THE OLD CONTINENT

By Blake Wolfe



“By all accounts, 2018 has been quite positive; we’ve seen growth of six per cent in Canadian arrivals over the last year.”

-Dana Welch, chair of the European Tourism Commission’s (ETC) Canada Operations Group

#### Canadians: where and why are they travelling?

With close to 20 million Canadians claiming European heritage in the 2016 Census (French and British ancestries being the most common, at 13.6 per cent and 32.5 per cent respectively), many travellers from Canada are exploring their roots on their European adventures, Welch explains.

“As we celebrate the [European] Year of Cultural Heritage, we’ve seen a lot of growth from Canada and we anticipate Europe will continue to be a popular destination for many reasons, including ancestry and history.”

However, there’s other factors at play in Canadians’ Europe travel decisions, Welch explains.

In addition to increased airlift, the ETC notes a desire amongst travellers to explore unfamiliar destinations →

**F**rom the fjords of Scandinavia to the sunny shores of the Mediterranean, Europe continues to enchant and entice visitors from around the globe.

Representing more than 50 per cent of international tourist arrivals – more than 671 million travellers in 2017 alone – “Europe continues to be a tourism powerhouse,” says Dana Welch, chair

of the European Tourism Commission’s (ETC) Canada Operations Group, adding that Canadian arrivals have kept pace with their global counterparts.

“By all accounts, 2018 has been quite positive; we’ve seen growth of six per cent in Canadian arrivals over the last year,” Welch tells *PAX*, adding that Europe represents approximately 15 per cent of Canadian outbound travel.

beyond international cities such as London and Paris; as a result, countries such as Slovenia and Latvia have seen a large boost in Canadian arrivals over the last year.

“I think there’s an urge to get off the beaten path and try something new,” Welch says, noting that Latvia, with an increase of 259 per cent as of Q3 2018, has been the third-fastest growing destination for Canadians over the last year.

Already, travel agents have noticed this trend amongst their clients, particularly those who already pride themselves in being Europhiles; an unquenchable thirst for experiential and transformative travel that goes well beyond traditional,

run-of-the-mill itineraries. Not to be outdone, tour operators are continuously adapting their offerings to this demanding, curious clientele by creating highly segmented niche products in some of Europe’s lesser known destinations.

Other strong destinations include Croatia (+63.7 per cent), Turkey (+39.5 per cent), and Montenegro (+33 per cent), three Mediterranean nations which, along with Cyprus (which saw an increase of 38 per cent as of Q3 2018), appear to have benefited from an increase in cruise arrivals in the region, the ETC says, adding that these destinations have been increasingly “directing efforts towards the pursuit of cruise visitors.”

“I think there’s an urge to get off the beaten path and try something new.”

-Dana Welch, chair of the European Tourism Commission’s [ETC] Canada Operations Group

Conversely, a five per cent drop in arrivals to Iceland indicates that the country’s tourism hot streak in recent years is cooling. ●

## CANADIAN TRAVELLERS IN EUROPE IN NUMBERS



CANADA IS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> LARGEST OVERSEAS SOURCE MARKET FOR EUROPE AFTER THE U.S. AND CHINA.



14.4%

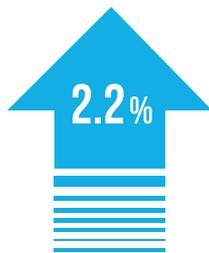
EUROPE’S SHARE OF TOTAL CANADIAN OUTBOUND TRAVEL IN 2018

6.2  
MILLION



CANADIAN TOURIST ARRIVALS IN EUROPE IN 2018

AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH THROUGH TO 2023



CANADIAN TRAVELLERS' PERCEPTION OF EUROPE...  
HISTORY AND HERITAGE



Source - European Travel Commission

*You had me at Hyatt...*



 **HYATT ZIVA™**  
ALL INCLUSIVE RESORT *Los Cabos*



OCEANFRONT GRAND MASTER SUITE



DOZO RESTAURANT

AN ALL-INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE *by* HYATT

**NOW SAVE UP TO 60% + KIDS STAY FREE – BOOK BY APRIL 30, 2019**

CONTACT YOUR PREFERRED TOUR OPERATOR | 800.720.0051 | RESORTSBYHYATT.COM

ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORTS IN CANCUN | CAP CANA (COMING NOVEMBER 2019) | LOS CABOS | MONTEGO BAY | PUERTO VALLARTA

Savings up to 60% off the published rate. Rates may vary by date. Offer valid for new bookings made by April 30, 2019 for travel now through December 20, 2019. Kids stay free for travel based on a minimum 3 night stay. 1 free child per 1 adult paid, limited up to 2 children per room. Children aged 12 and under. Kids stay free offer valid for travel April 29 through December 23, 2019. Blackout dates July 5 through August 11, 2019. Other blackout dates may apply. Offer might be changed or withdrawn at any time. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Other restrictions may apply. Hyatt Zilara™ and Hyatt Ziva™ trademarks and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation or its affiliates. ©2019 Hyatt Corporation. ©2019 Playa Hotels & Resorts is the owner and exclusive operator of Hyatt Zilara™ and Hyatt Ziva™ resorts in Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Mexico. All rights reserved. PLA01470119

# Europe 101: entry requirements and getting around



## PASSPORT POWER

In 2018, Canada's passport officially became the fourth most powerful in the world – tied with Belgium, Ireland and Switzerland – allowing entry to 164 countries, including visa-free access to nearly all of Europe, with only Russia and Turkey requiring Canadians to also carry a visa.

While a Turkish visa can be obtained on arrival or through the country's e-visa program, travellers heading to Russia are required to apply for a tourist visa ahead of time, which must be submitted electronically via the Embassy of the Russian Federation's website at [canada.mid.ru](http://canada.mid.ru).

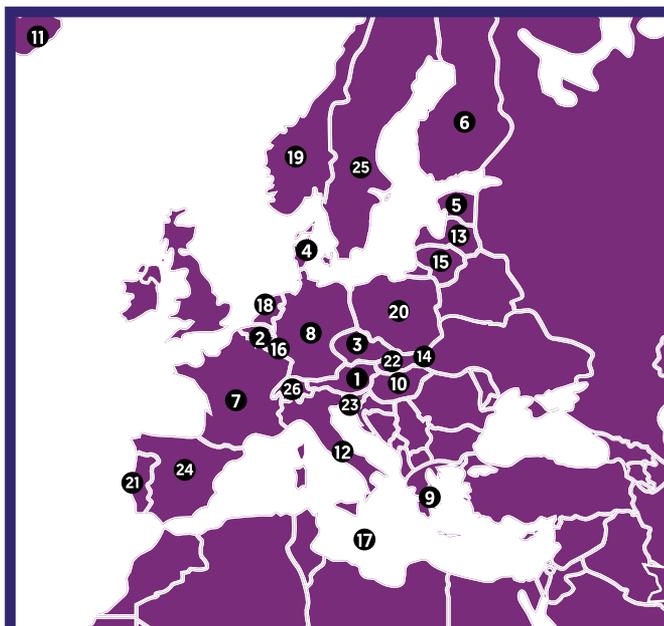
## THE SCHENGEN AREA

Within Europe, 26 countries (22 from within the European Union, four from without) have agreed to create common entry and exit requirements in order to remove the need for internal borders, allowing foreign visitors to travel freely between participating countries (although some exceptions may apply).

Using a Canadian passport, a visitor can travel visa-free within the Schengen Area for tourism or business stays of to 90 days in any 180-day period; Canadians leaving the Schengen Area and returning within the same 180-day period will see their previous stay counted against the 90-day allowance.

### Requirements for Canadians visiting Schengen countries include:

- A Canadian passport, valid for at least three months beyond the intended date of departure from the Schengen Area; travellers must ensure that they get their passport stamped upon arrival to the area.
- A justifiable reason for travel.
- Proof of sufficient financial resources.
- Compliance with any other entry requirements for each country that a traveller will visit or transit through.



## THE SCHENGEN AREA

The Schengen Area consists of the following nations:

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Austria        | 14. Liechtenstein |
| 2. Belgium        | 15. Lithuania     |
| 3. Czech Republic | 16. Luxembourg    |
| 4. Denmark        | 17. Malta         |
| 5. Estonia        | 18. Netherlands   |
| 6. Finland        | 19. Norway        |
| 7. France         | 20. Poland        |
| 8. Germany        | 21. Portugal      |
| 9. Greece         | 22. Slovakia      |
| 10. Hungary       | 23. Slovenia      |
| 11. Iceland       | 24. Spain         |
| 12. Italy         | 25. Sweden        |
| 13. Latvia        | 26. Switzerland   |



# Discover Europe with Condor!



Fly to Frankfurt and beyond  
from 5 gateways all over Canada.

Born to fly.



# 2019 *Europe* TRAVEL GUIDE

PAX's 2019 Europe Travel Guide features a comprehensive list of European destinations offered by Canadian tour operators. Use it to help your clients plan their next European adventure!

	Albania	Andorra	Austria	Belarus	Belgium	Bosnia-Herzégovina	Bulgaria	Corsica	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	England	Estonia	Finland	France	Georgia	Germany	Greece	Greenland	
<b>50° North</b>												📍		📍	📍						📍
<b>Abercrombie &amp; Kent USA, LLC</b>			📍						📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	📍	
<b>Active Journeys</b>			📍		📍				📍		📍	📍				📍			📍	📍	
<b>Adventures Abroad</b>	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍		📍		📍	📍		📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	
<b>Air Canada Vacations</b>			📍						📍		📍		📍			📍			📍	📍	
<b>Alitours International Inc</b>																					
<b>Arts &amp; Leisure Tours</b>			📍								📍		📍			📍			📍	📍	
<b>AtourZ</b>			📍				📍						📍			📍			📍		
<b>Australian Pacific Touring</b>			📍		📍	📍	📍		📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	📍	
<b>Bestway Tours &amp; Safaris</b>	📍		📍			📍	📍		📍	📍	📍			📍			📍		📍	📍	
<b>Boreal Tours</b>																					📍
<b>Busabout</b>	📍		📍		📍	📍	📍		📍		📍	📍	📍	📍		📍			📍	📍	
<b>Canandes</b>			📍			📍		📍					📍	📍		📍			📍	📍	
<b>Celebritours</b>						📍			📍				📍			📍				📍	
<b>Central Holidays</b>									📍							📍			📍	📍	
<b>Chopin Express Tours</b>									📍												
<b>CIE Tours International</b>			📍			📍			📍		📍		📍	📍					📍		
<b>CIT Tours</b>			📍						📍		📍		📍			📍			📍	📍	
<b>Club Aventures voyages</b>																					
<b>Collette</b>			📍		📍				📍		📍	📍	📍		📍	📍			📍	📍	
<b>Contiki Holidays</b>	📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍		📍		📍	📍	📍		📍	📍			📍	📍	
<b>Cosmos</b>			📍		📍	📍	📍				📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	📍	
<b>Cox &amp; Kings</b>	📍		📍		📍		📍		📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍		📍	📍	📍
<b>Dan Tours</b>																					📍
<b>DeNure Tours</b>			📍								📍	📍	📍			📍			📍		
<b>DH Tours, London &amp; UK Specialists</b>			📍						📍				📍			📍					
<b>Echo Tours &amp; Travel</b>	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍		📍	📍	📍
<b>EF Educational Tours</b>			📍		📍				📍		📍	📍	📍			📍			📍	📍	
<b>Ekilib</b>			📍						📍			📍				📍			📍	📍	
<b>Embassy Tours Ltd</b>			📍													📍			📍		
<b>Exodus Travel</b>	📍		📍			📍	📍		📍	📍	📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍		📍	📍	📍
<b>G Adventures</b>	📍		📍		📍	📍	📍		📍		📍		📍			📍			📍	📍	📍



# 2019 *Europe* TRAVEL GUIDE

	Albania	Andorra	Austria	Belarus	Belgium	Bosnia-Herzégovine	Bulgaria	Corsica	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	England	Estonia	Finland	France	Georgia	Germany	Greece	Greenland
Gateways International			✓		✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Gendron Tours																✓				
Globus			✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
GLP Worldwide	✓		✓		✓				✓		✓					✓		✓	✓	
GM Tours							✓		✓		✓								✓	
GoGo Worldwide Vacations			✓		✓				✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	
Goway Travel		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Great Explorations			✓		✓				✓		✓					✓		✓		
Gryphon Golf & Ski Tours													✓			✓				
Groupe Voyages Québec			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Incursion Voyages			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Indus Travel	✓		✓						✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Insight Vacations	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Intrepid Travel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
JM Vacations																				
Just You			✓						✓		✓					✓		✓		
Le Groupe VIP							✓		✓							✓			✓	
Les Aventures Eoliennes																				
Luxury Gold			✓						✓		✓		✓			✓				
Magik Tours			✓						✓		✓					✓			✓	
Mandi Tours International			✓																	
Monograms			✓								✓		✓			✓		✓		
MyEscapades.com																			✓	
Nexus Holidays			✓													✓		✓		
Objectif Monde			✓						✓		✓					✓			✓	
Off the Map Adventures Ltd																			✓	
Omega Tours																				
Omnitour									✓		✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	
On the Go Tours			✓			✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Pacific Holidays Innovative Tours												✓		✓	✓				✓	
Peregrine Adventures			✓			✓			✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Premium Tours									✓				✓							
Quel Beau Voyage																✓			✓	



2019 *Europe*  
TRAVEL GUIDE

	Albania	Andorra	Austria	Belarus	Belgium	Bosnia-Herzégovina	Bulgaria	Corsica	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	England	Estonia	Finland	France	Georgia	Germany	Greece	Greenland
Quest Nature Tours			📍						📍				📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍
Randonnee Tours			📍		📍				📍		📍					📍				
Royal Irish Tours													📍							
Royal Scenic			📍		📍						📍	📍	📍			📍			📍	
Simpatico Tours			📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	📍
Sita Tours Canada			📍	📍					📍			📍	📍	📍	📍				📍	📍
Skyway Tours			📍			📍	📍		📍		📍					📍			📍	📍
Spiritours						📍			📍		📍					📍			📍	📍
Sportvac Voyages			📍		📍								📍			📍				
Sultana Tours									📍							📍				📍
Tai Pan Tours			📍		📍		📍		📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	📍
Tauck			📍		📍				📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	
The Vacation Station	📍		📍		📍				📍		📍	📍	📍			📍			📍	📍
Topdeck Travel	📍	📍	📍		📍	📍	📍		📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	📍
Tourcan Vacations																				📍
Tours Chanteclerc	📍		📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	📍
Tours Cure Vac																				
Tour East Holidays																				
Tours of Exploration																📍				📍
Trafalgar			📍	📍	📍		📍		📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	📍
Transat					📍	📍			📍		📍		📍			📍				📍
Travcoa	📍		📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	📍
TravelBrands			📍		📍		📍		📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	📍
Trip Connoisseurs			📍				📍		📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍		📍	📍
Tucan Travel	📍		📍		📍	📍	📍		📍		📍		📍	📍		📍	📍		📍	
Vacances Expertours			📍			📍			📍		📍		📍			📍				📍
Vacances Préférence			📍			📍			📍											📍
Vacances Summa			📍			📍			📍		📍								📍	📍
Victours			📍													📍			📍	
Voyages Traditours			📍	📍	📍		📍	📍	📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍			📍	📍
World Expeditions			📍		📍		📍		📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍	📍		📍	📍
World Heritage Tours	📍		📍			📍	📍		📍		📍			📍			📍	📍		
Worldwide Ecotours																				



SEE IT NOW

# THE FAROE ISLANDS

*A Nordic paradise*

By Antoine Stab



Faroe Islands cliffs

**W**hile Iceland has captured the attention of tourists far and wide, there's another island destination that's stealing hearts, and it comes without the crowds: the Faroe Islands.

A quick look at the map and it's easy to understand why one might think that this tiny archipelago is in the middle of nowhere. But that's entirely false. In the centre of a triangle formed by Iceland, Norway and Scotland, the Faroe Islands are a diamond in the rough just waiting to be explored.

The Faroe Islands might seem like just another island lost in the North Atlantic, but its unspoiled beauty puts it in a league of its own.

## Where sea and mountains collide

Formed by 18 volcanic rocky islands that seem to run side by side, the Faroe Islands have remained wild and almost intact.

It's as though the sea intentionally wanted to keep an eye on the mountains; no matter where you are in the Faroe Islands, you're no more than five kilometres from the ocean. The omnipresent cliffs, seemingly serve as protective enclosures to prevent water from entering. Overtime, however, the sea has managed to shred the

coastline, creating a jagged stretch that spans more than 1,100 kilometres.

Behind these stone walls, the wind takes over from the sea; sweeping across a barren land, unmarked by trees or agriculture. Hikers and nature lovers will be unable to resist these mountain landscapes, lakes and green valleys.

This Nordic beauty is robust, but seemingly easy to tame, so long as travellers pay attention to the unpredictable, climate. All connected by sea or land, the Faroe Islands are easy to navigate on foot, thanks to three bridges and two underwater transit tunnels.

The roadways are very well-maintained and public transit is free.

## The island of sheep

On the Faroe Islands, there are more sheep than humans. There are roughly 80,000 sheep scattered across the islands (compared to 50,000 actual inhabitants). It's no wonder the Danish chose the destination's name, as the country's literal translation means "the island of sheep."

Since the ninth century, when the Vikings arrived to these lands, sheep have roamed freely, wandering wherever they please. The local authorities capitalized on their

behaviour in 2017, by attaching 360-degree cameras to the sheep. Forget Google Street View; in the Faroe Islands, it's all about Google Sheep View!

Four-legged friends aside, the Faroe Islands are also home to hundreds of unique bird species. Some flock down every summer to breed, taking advantage of the steep cliffs that are perfect for nest-building. Others stop to rest before continuing their annual migration.

Perhaps the cutest feathered friend is the puffin, a species that accounts for a whopping 500,000 birds on the island. Locals and visitors alike love these small, plump birds and their colourful beaks. ●

## GETTING THERE

Several airlines serve the islands. From Iceland (Reykjavik), Denmark (Copenhagen), Scotland (Edinburgh) and Norway (Bergen) flights are available from Atlantic Airways and SAS.

Vagar Airport is located roughly 50 kilometres from the capital, Torshavn, on Streymoy Island. Buses commute daily and hourly, at the cost of 100 Faroese crowns (about \$20).

# TAKE THE COBBLESTONES LESS TRAVELLED



Book by  
April 30 &

**Save 5%**

ON SELECT 2019 GLOBUS  
UNDISCOVERED BRITAIN VACATIONS\*

The beauty of the less-travelled areas of Britain is what your clients will find more of—more wide open views, more discoveries and ancient lore, all with more included features and unique overnight stays—plus plenty of free time to explore the cobblestone streets like a local.



**HIDDEN TREASURES OF  
SOUTHERN ENGLAND**

6 days | roundtrip from London  
Was: \$2,089 | Now: **\$1,984**<sup>†</sup> CAD  
Based on May 28 & August 20, 2019



**BRITAIN  
UNCOVERED**

12 days | roundtrip from London  
Was: \$3,569 | Now: **\$3,390**<sup>†</sup> CAD  
Based on May 25, 2019



**BONNIE  
SCOTLAND**

7 days | Glasgow to Edinburgh  
Was: \$2,469 | Now: **\$2,345**<sup>†</sup> CAD  
Based on September 26, 2019



**SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS  
& ISLANDS**

14 days | roundtrip from Glasgow  
Was: \$5,009 | Now: **\$4,758**<sup>†</sup> CAD  
Based on September 28, 2019

\*For full terms & conditions and more information, please visit: <https://agents.globusfamily.ca/undiscovered-britain/>.

WWW.AGENTLINGO.CA | RESERVATIONS: 800.268.1639  
INSIDE SALES: 888.268.1928 | CANADIANGROUPS@GLOBUSFAMILY.CA

<sup>†</sup>Featured prices are per person, land only, based on double occupancy, departure dates as indicated (the lowest price available to book), include all applicable taxes a reflect the Globus 5% discount offer. Flights and travel insurance are additional. 3280 Bloor St. W, Centre Tower, 4th Fl., Suite 400, Toronto, ON M8X 2X3, TICO#1893755/50015835

SEE IT NOW



Photo by Stefan Jacek/Unsplash

Old Town is the heart of modern-day Bucharest

WHERE PAST MEETS PRESENT:

# *the rise of* **ROMANIA**

By Blake Wolfe

**A** true four-season destination, Romania has something to offer every traveller, from skiing the Carpathian Mountains to Black Sea beach escapes, seasoned with equal parts history and mystery.

Tourism to this Eastern European gem is on the rise, with Romania welcoming 15.7 million total visitors in 2018, up from 12 million visitors in 2017; of these stats, international arrivals accounted for 2.2 million and 2.75 million respectively.

Ready to book a Roman-ian holiday? Read on!

## **A storied past**

From the Roman era through the Middle Ages to its recent Communist past, Romania has many tales to tell.

Past meets present in Bucharest, where travellers can enjoy a modern urban experience amidst one of Europe's historic city centres. Dubbed Old Town, central Bucharest is the main hub for shopping, dining and nightlife, while also featuring a number of significant buildings and monuments, including the Royal Court and the Stavropoleos Church.

The city also houses the Dimitrie Gusti Village Museum, an open-air museum showcasing 272 historically-accurate homes from across Romania, dating back to the 17th century.

Along with Peles Castle, Bran Castle, a.k.a. Dracula's Castle, is perhaps the most notorious of Romania's many medieval fortresses, earning the nickname through its ongoing (although often historically disputed) association with Transylvanian ruler Vlad the Impaler, perhaps best known as the inspiration for Bram Stoker's titular vampire character.

However, visitors should trade their garlic and wooden stakes for cameras when experiencing this unique structure, carved into a rocky cliff overlooking the town of Brasov.

## **From mud volcanoes to beach vacations**

Approximately 100 km northeast of Bucharest, the county of Buzau is the site of one of Romania's otherworldly landscapes – the Berca mud volcanoes. The result of natural gas eruptions far below the surface, the almost-barren region – now a protected environmental site – is dotted with muddy craters, resembling miniature volcanoes. A small admission fee is charged to enter the area.

And while Romania is not typically associated with beach vacations, it's possible to enjoy sand and surf at several resorts along the coast of the Black Sea, many of which are concentrated between the delta of the Danube River and the Bulgarian border.

## **When to go**

Similar to parts of Canada, temperatures in Romania can fluctuate from frigid winters to sweltering summers, so travellers are reminded to check the weather before packing.

Peak travel season typically occurs in the summer months between June and August, with the low season running between November and March. While many of the country's historic castles and museums are only open on weekends during the quiet months, as an added bonus for fall travellers, Romania's fall colours are in full display by mid-October, much like many regions across Canada. ●

## **HOW TO GET THERE**

Canadians have a great new option to reach Romania, with the 2018 launch of Air Canada's seasonal Montreal-Bucharest service.

The flight, which is the only direct service to Bucharest operated by a North American airline, operates twice-weekly from June until late September.

Service from Canada to Bucharest is also available aboard British Airways, Lufthansa and Austrian Airlines.

# MAGIC ISN'T IMAGINARY

IT'S JUST VERY  
WELL PLANNED



Evora, Portugal: Insight Travel Director Sara Tuppen Veloso surprises guests with local queijada pastries, developed by nuns in the region.

Related journey:  
Country Roads of Portugal

## *Premium Escorted Journeys*

Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, Iceland, Spain, Morocco, Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Croatia, Baltic States, Russia & Eastern Mediterranean.

For more information call 1.800.387.8490

INSIGHTVACATIONS.COM  
#INSIGHTMOMENTS

## SEE IT NOW

# SPLIT

## *Croatian sensation*

By Blake Wolfe

**W**hile Dubrovnik is often the first destination that comes to mind when considering an Adriatic escape, the city of Split has also grown in popularity, drawing increasing numbers of visitors further north along the Dalmatian coastline.

With the Split region recording 19.7 million overnight stays by international travellers between January and October 2018, the city is a hotspot for tourists – so if you have clients interested in seeing it, there's no time like the present!

### Must-see sights

Founded in antiquity, Split is perhaps best known as the home of Roman emperor Diocletian, whose palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979, draws thousands of visitors every year, eager to explore the colonnades and courtyards of a retirement home built for an emperor – one of the few who lived to see the end of his term!

While time-travelling may not be an option (yet), visitors to the palace can experience the next best thing during the annual Days of Diocletian summer festival, when the city returns to the Roman era with food, festivities and costumed reenactors welcoming guests and eager to pose for that coveted Instagram shot. Guests can also take part in a VR experience at the palace, which recreates the structure as it appeared in Roman times.



Photo by Tourist Board of Split

The city of Split, as seen from the waters of the Adriatic

For beachgoers, Split's Bačvice Beach is among the most famous in Croatia, offering a sandy escape on the Adriatic shores, just outside of the city centre.

### Island escape

Split also serves as the gateway to several islands, just a short ferry ride away from the mainland.

Known for its party atmosphere in recent years, the island of Hvar is a popular summer destination for yachters on the Adriatic, which welcomed three five-star resorts in 2018.

A lively spot for nightlife, Hvar's hard-partying reputation drew international attention with the creation of a series of local bylaws in 2017, including the requirement for men to wear shirts while in town and for visitors to refrain from sleeping, eating or drinking in public, infractions that carry fines of 500 euros and 700 euros respectively.

For travellers seeking an Adriatic island experience on the quieter side, other options are available.

Brac Island, the largest of the central Dalmatian islands,

boasts several stunning beaches, including Lovrečina Bay and Zlatni Rat, while from Hvar, ferries are available to the nearby Pakleni Islands, which offer secluded beaches and coves.

### When to go

With its Mediterranean climate and geography, it should come as no surprise that summer is the peak travel season for Split (and much of Croatia). For travellers that want to avoid the crowds, however, the weather remains warm well into September and October, allowing visitors to still enjoy the beach.

November to March is Split's shoulder season and while the Adriatic Sea may be too cold for swimming, both the crowds and hotel rates can plunge as low as the water temperature, making it a great time to visit. ●

## HOW TO GET THERE

Split can be accessed from Canada in several ways.

Air Canada and Lufthansa offer flights from Toronto and Vancouver respectively, both stopping in Munich where flights to Split Airport are available from Lufthansa, Eurowings and Croatia Airlines.

In the summer, Air Transat offers weekly direct service from Toronto to SPU.



# 26 destinations in Europe



## DIRECT FLIGHTS

Fly hassle-free  
and arrive sooner

## OPTION PLUS

Treat yourself  
with Option Plus

## CLUB CLASS

Exclusive cabin  
with spacious seats

## GOURMET MEALS

Savour every moment  
with our Chef's Menu

Visit [airtransat.com](http://airtransat.com) for great deals.



2018 World's Best Leisure Airline

# The eternal **RENAISSANCE** *of the Centre-Val de Loire*



Photo by Gillard and Vincent - CRT Centre-Val de Loire

Château du Clos Lucé

**T**he years between 1519 and 2019 span five centuries; distant in time, but not in space.

In France, it's possible to travel in time back to the days of the Renaissance, thanks to the launch of a large-scale initiative to highlight key events and personalities related to this time period.

PAX spoke with François Bonneau, president of the Centre-Val de Loire, to learn more about the region's connection to the Renaissance era in France.

"The Renaissance was an extraordinary period which produced some of the most beautiful, creative minds and enlightened intellectuals of the arts and sciences," Bonneau said. "Many prestigious buildings also emerged during this time which

we can still see today, including the castles of Chambord, Azay-le-Rideau, Valençay, Chenonceau, Blois, Amboise and Clos Lucé."

### An exceptional program

Visitors can choose from more than 700 activities to get better acquainted with some of France's most-loved Renaissance attractions, including exhibitions, heritage trails, scientific symposiums and artistic creations, not to mention the countless events throughout the year, like banquets or high-tech shows.

All programming is detailed at [vivadavinci2019.fr](http://vivadavinci2019.fr).

"The Centre-Val de Loire has catalyzed all of this creative energy to become the French cradle of arts, architecture

and science by welcoming the new lifestyle that was the Renaissance."

### Three defining moments of the Renaissance in 1519

- The death of Leonardo da Vinci at the Chateau du Clos Lucé in Amboise
- The birth of Catherine de Médicis in Florence
- The beginning of the construction of the Chateau de Chambord

"Celebrating 500 years of Renaissance(S) in Centre-Val de Loire will be an opportunity to discover or rediscover the region," Bonneau said. "Don't hesitate to get away from the banks of the Loire to meet some of the other endearing sites in the region."

### Spotlight on da Vinci

With its commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death in May, the town of Amboise is expected to steal the spotlight that month, a time when all facets of the Renaissance will be on full display.

"A splendid travelling show combining cutting-edge technologies and performing arts will occur in eight regional sites: Orleans, Blois, Tours, Amboise, Chartres, Chambord, Bourges and Chateauroux, from early August to mid-September," Bonneau concluded. ●



Palais Jacques Cœur à Bourges

Photo by C. Luzzi - CRT Centre-Val de Loire

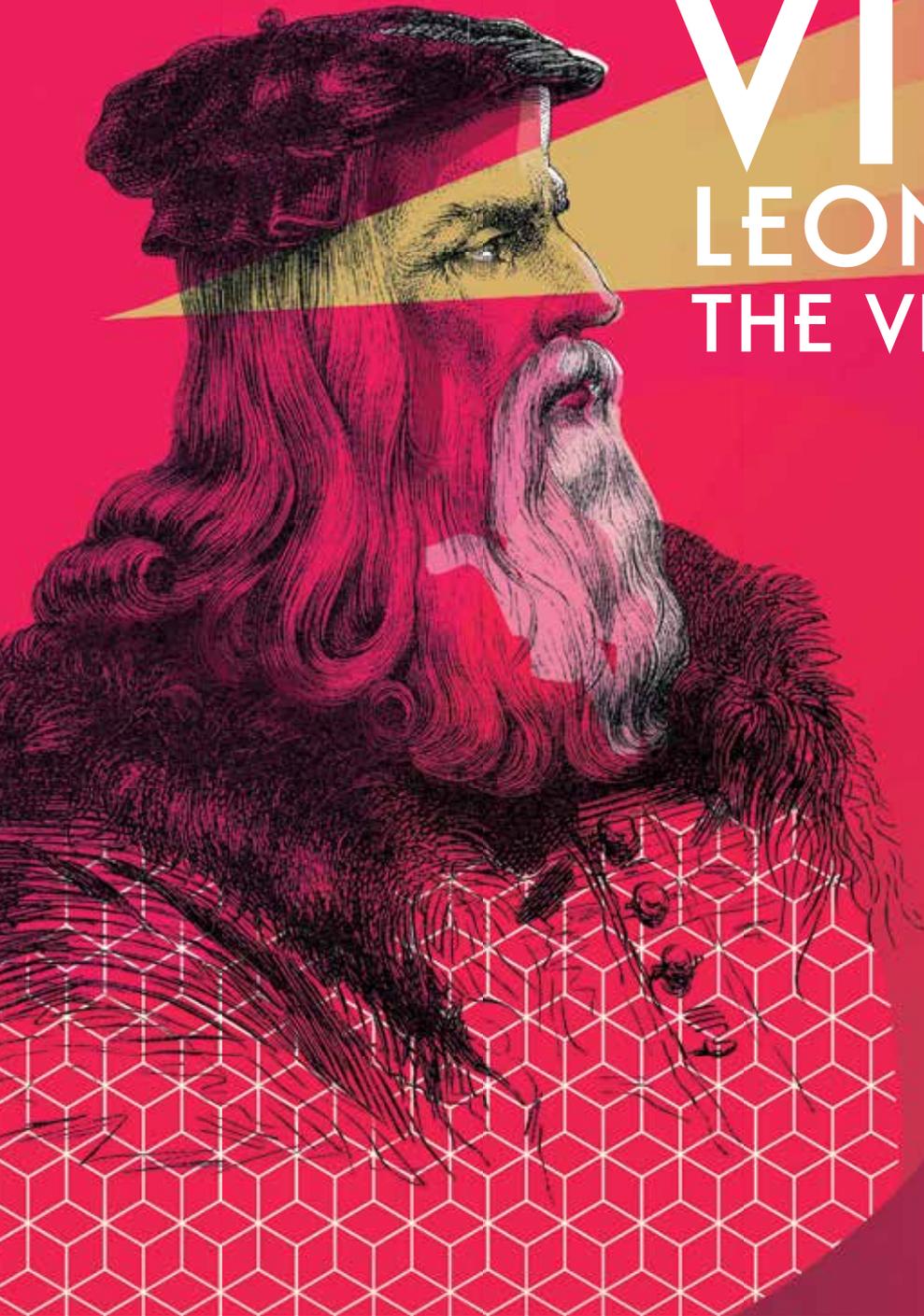
THE LOIRE VALLEY PRESENTS 500 EVENTS  
SHOWS • CONCERTS • EXHIBITIONS • SYMPOSIUMS

1519 – 2019

# VIVA!

## LEONARDO

### THE VISIONARY ■



ART OF LIVING  
& GASTRONOMY

SCIENCE  
& INNOVATION

HERITAGE  
& HISTORY

ARTS & CULTURE

— VIVA —  
**Leonardo  
Da Vinci!**

— 2019 —  
500 YEARS OF  
RENAISSANCE  
IN CENTRE-VAL DE LOIRE  
— FRANCE —

Information and programme: [www.vivadavinci2019.fr](http://www.vivadavinci2019.fr)   

enedis  
L'ÉLECTRICITÉ EN RESEAU

bleu  
3 centre  
val de loire

récho  
républicain

la république  
discente

le berry  
républicain

la Nouvelle  
République  
Vendée

REGION  
TOSCANA

France.fr

LOIRE VALLEY  
CULTURE

LOUVRE

  
Centre-Val de Loire



# EXPLORING EUROPE'S FUN & OFFBEAT OCEAN CRUISES

By Blake Wolfe

**While Europe has long been associated with river cruising, an increasing number of unique ocean cruise itineraries have set sail in recent years.**

**Here's a look at some of the latest and most unique European ocean cruise offerings currently available, with a little something for all travel interests.**



Viking Sea & Viking Star meet at sea



Bergen, Norway

## Viking's Bergen to Montreal transatlantic sailing

Since launching in 2015, Viking Ocean Cruises has set out to conquer the seas of Europe and beyond.

Fittingly dubbed “In The Wake of Vikings,” this 15-day sailing by Viking Ocean Cruises – from Bergen, Norway to Montreal, with multiple stops in between – takes guests back in time to the explorations of Leif Erikson, the Viking explorer who landed in Newfoundland 500 years before Christopher Columbus.

Taking place on board both *Viking Star* and *Viking Sea*, the voyage calls in the Shetland Islands, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland, notably at L'Anse aux Meadows, the site of the first Viking landing in North America.

### Ship details:

*Viking Star* & *Viking Sea*:

**Year of construction:** 2015 (*Viking Star*) & 2016 (*Viking Sea*)

**Passengers:** 930

**Length:** 745 feet

**Beam:** 94.5 feet

### Pre- & post-cruise options:

**Pre:** Bergen; Iceland & the Golden Circle; Oslo & Bergen Rail; Oslo & Scenic Train.

**Post:** Montreal.

### Next sailings:

Sept. 12, 2019 (sold out); Aug. 27, 2020.



Stockholm, Sweden



The Aegean Odyssey

## Voyages to Antiquity's Baltic Sea cruise

While time travel is still a ways off, the historically-rich cruise offerings from Voyages to Antiquity (VTA) are a close second.

Sailing a wide range of destinations (in Europe, these include itineraries in the Mediterranean, Adriatic, Aegean, North and Baltic Seas) with a focus on the region's rich history, VTA describes itself as a cruise line “designed for travellers who want to understand more about the history, culture and natural wonders of the ancient world.”

New in 2019 is “Grand Baltic, St Petersburg & Norwegian Fjords,” a 31-day “Grand Voyage” sailing from Copenhagen to St. Petersburg and then west to London, marking VTA's first foray into the Baltic Sea. Along the way, cruisers will call in ports such as Stockholm, Helsinki and Tallinn. →

### Ship details:

*Aegean Odyssey*

**Passengers:** 350

**Ship tonnage:** 11,563

**Length:** 461 feet

**Beam:** 67 feet

**Cruising speed:** 18 knots

### Next sailings:

July 2, 2019



The Hebridean Princess

## Hebridean Island Cruises' culinary cruises

Offering “genuinely all-inclusive cruises,” Hebridean Island Cruises features both ocean and river itineraries in Europe.

Operating aboard the Hebridean Princess – specially designed to handle the rough waters of the region – the line’s ocean cruises take guests through the many islands of the Hebrides (located off Scotland’s northwestern coast), along with the Shetlands and Orkneys to the north and the isles of the Firth of Clyde.

Among the theme cruises offered by Hebridean are a pair of culinary itineraries: on the seven-night Gastronomic Scotland, guests can sample the finest beef, seafood and cheese found in the Inner Hebrides, while the eight-night Westering Home and Whisky Galore explores the historic distilleries of the Hebrides and the Orkneys, joined by whisky expert Charles MacLean as a guest speaker.



Whisky tastings are part of the experience on many Hebridean itineraries.

### Ship details:

*Hebridean Princess*

**Year of construction:** 1989

**Passengers:** 50

**Gross tonnage:** 2,112

**Length:** 72 metres

**Beam:** 14 metres

**Average speed:** 12 knots (14 miles per hour)

### Next sailings:

*Gastronomic Scotland:* April 2-9, 2019;  
Sept. 24-Oct.1, 2019

*Westering Home and Whisky Galore:*  
Aug. 5-13, 2019



Close-up of MS Spitsbergen, Bugerbukta – Svalbard



Polar bear at Kapp Lee – Svalbard

## Hurtigruten's Circumnavigating Svalbard - In the Realm of the Polar Bear

Operating a total of 11 vessels in destinations ranging from the Arctic to the Caribbean to Antarctica, Hurtigruten is informally sometimes referred to as the “Norwegian Coastal Express” due to its presence along the country’s western shores.

Heading further north into the Arctic, travellers can discover the remote Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, one of the world’s northernmost populated areas and a great location for spotting Arctic wildlife.

While many of Hurtigruten’s itineraries include Svalbard, four itineraries focus exclusively on this unique destination, with the 10-day Circumnavigating Svalbard - In the Realm of the Polar Bear offering the best chance to see the elusive rulers of the Arctic in their natural habitat. ●

### Ship details:

*MS Fram*

**Year of construction:** 2007 (to be refurbished in 2020)

**Passenger capacity:** 318

**Gross tonnage:** 11,647

**Length:** 114 metres

**Beam:** 20.2 metres

**Speed:** 13 knots

*MS Spitsbergen*

**Year of construction:** 2009 (refurbished in 2016)

**Passengers:** 335 in Norway, 243 in international sailings

**Gross tonnage:** 7,344

**Length:** 100.54 metres

**Beam:** 18 metres

**Speed:** 14.5 knots

### Next sailings:

Departs June 3, 11 & 19, 2019 (*MS Fram*)  
or July 11, 2019 (*MS Spitsbergen*).

# MORE SHIPS. MORE EUROPE. MORE EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES.

*Six ships cruising from seven departure ports in 2019.*

Your clients can explore an incredible variety of cultures on the fleet named Europe's Leading Cruise Line 11 years running by World Travel Awards. More ships, including one of our newest, Norwegian Getaway, as well as our most awarded ship, Norwegian Epic, are coming to more of Europe. From the majesty of the Scandinavian fjords to the streets of Amsterdam, a European vacation like no other awaits. Whether they're cruising from Barcelona or Venice, they can see the sights on their schedule with no set dining times. Book a cruise in Europe so unforgettable they'll remember to make a return trip.



Norwegian Getaway, Sweden



©2019 NCL Corporation Ltd. Ships' Registry: BAHAMAS and USA 38944 01/19

EUROPE'S LEADING  
CRUISE LINE  
(11 YEARS IN A ROW)  
World Travel Awards



**PARTNERS-FIRST**

[NORWEGIANCENTRAL.COM](http://NORWEGIANCENTRAL.COM)

LEARN PROMOTE BOOK CONNECT

Greece



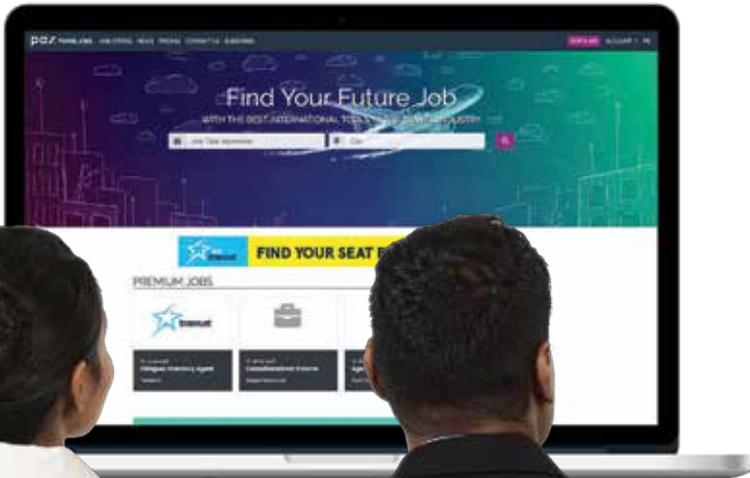
Norway



Russia



# CANADA'S LARGEST JOB PLATFORM IN THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY



## EMPLOYERS

### FIND THE PERFECT CANDIDATE

- Create an account and view available positions
- Automatically send job offers to candidates
- Place job offers in relevant job categories
- Enhance job listings to appear at the top of searches
- Receive a free monthly newsletter from **PAX Travel Jobs**

## CANDIDATES

### FIND THE JOB OF YOUR DREAMS

- Apply for jobs directly within the platform
- Receive automatic alerts when new jobs are available
- Receive a free monthly newsletter from **PAX Travel Jobs**

**PAXTRAVELJOBS.COM**

# Summer Is Better Shared



WITH UP TO 48% OFF  
SUMMER GROUP TRAVEL

Book before April 30th, and not only will your group get unlimited tours, spa treatments, and golf included for a 25% service fee, but also up to 48% off their stay.

Travel Window: June 1, 2019 - Sept. 30, 2019

20° N 87° W

UNICO

*Riviera Maya*

#MYUNICOEXPERIENCE | UNICOHOTELRIVIERAMAYA.COM

STAY HERE INSTEAD

## CLUB MED CEFALÙ

# Italian luxury in the heart of Sicily

By Christine Hogg | Photos courtesy of Club Med

June in Sicily is marked by long, hazy days under the Mediterranean sun, balanced by the chilly bite of the Tyrrhenian Sea.

In 2018, the month also heralded the return of Club Med Cefalù, which reopened last June after a decade-long closure. Nestled along the jagged cliffs of the Sicilian coast, the property made its debut in 1957 and since then, has undergone a series of upgrades and changes; now, the

striking seaside bungalows are a far cry from the site's original straw huts.

### The only 5-Trident resort in Europe

Part of the Club Med Exclusive Collection, Club Med Cefalù is the company's only 5-Trident resort in Europe and the brand's sole venture into Italy, providing a summer retreat for active couples and multigenerational travellers in a charming medieval town of fewer than 14,000 residents.



The Villettas, made from wood, are among the beautiful accommodations at Club Med Cefalù.



Club Med Cefalù was designed to blend in with the natural beauty of the Sicilian coast.

“Since the site is of outstanding natural beauty and in a great location near one of Sicily’s more beautiful historic towns, Club Med decided to upgrade the whole site to offer a brand-new amazing experience to its clients,” said Carlyne Doyon, senior vice-president for Canada & Mexico, Club Med.

#### A tribute to Sicilian life

The careful colour coordination is hard to miss at Club Med Cefalù. From the main restaurant, La Rocca, guests can gaze out

**“Club Med decided to upgrade the whole site to offer a brand-new amazing experience to its clients.”**

- Carlyne Doyon, senior vice-president for Canada & Mexico, Club Med

over the sea at the resort’s namesake town, where a 12th-century cathedral and its two towers stare back.

The architects at King Roselli kept the natural beauty of Sicily intact when refurbishing the property, with special attention given to the resort’s 332 rooms, of which only 12 are suites. Elements of the rugged landscape have been left largely intact, including wild cacti and flowers that spring up from the rocks and adorn the resort’s pathways. →



Enjoy an aperitif and a glass of prosecco by the main pool during sunset.



Beautifully-appointed rooms include free Wi-Fi and comfortable amenities.

“The layouts of the rooms were based on the concept of trying to make them emerge from the ground in the very same way that the dry-stone walls do, in common with the natural rocks emerging from the site, giving very strong characteristic to the Sicilian culture that is Cefalù,” said Jerry King, part of the duo at King Roselli.

Sicilian cuisine has a home at the resort’s three restaurants, where guests can dine on limoncello gelato, creamy burrata, fresh tomatoes and olive oils, and of course, unlimited pizza and pasta.

On their private terraces, guests can wake up to a fresh cup of Lavazza espresso from the comfort of a sun lounger, both of which come standard in every room.

### An Italian afternoon

Club Med Cefalù has two pools; the Zen Natural pool, near the westernmost point

of the resort, and a heated main pool, located in the heart of the resort close to the main amenities.

As the sun sets, the main pool is the place to be, sipping a Negroni from the Azzurro bar after returning from a day of kayaking or electric surfing, both free in the summer months.

And, should the charm of Cefalù be felt across the water, guests can reach the town by foot in just thirty minutes, following the old city walls that hug the shore – just be sure to return by nightfall, when Club Med’s world-class entertainment comes out to play. ●



## LUXURY GOLD

BRINGING BACK THE GOLDEN ERA OF TRAVEL

# ELEGANCE Elevated

Ashford Castle, Ireland: Set upon a 350-acre estate, this luxurious, boutique hotel offers individually designed rooms, culinary excellence and exciting activities.

Related journey: Ultimate Ireland

**R**elax in luxury at the finest properties with impeccable service and surroundings, where you can unwind and soak up the exceptional comfort.

For more information,  
please call 1.844.888.0219

# Venice

## THREE HOTELS

### TO STAY IN BEFORE YOUR CRUISE

By Karine Rochdi

Venice is home to the most important cruise port in the eastern Mediterranean, welcoming more than one million annual travellers who set out to discover new lands from La Serenissima. To the great pleasure of passengers, ships dock directly in the historical city centre, making this port of departure a great opportunity for a pre-cruise stay.

These three hotels, located near the point of embarkation, will allow you to enjoy the best of Venice.



#### NH Collection Palazzo Barocchi

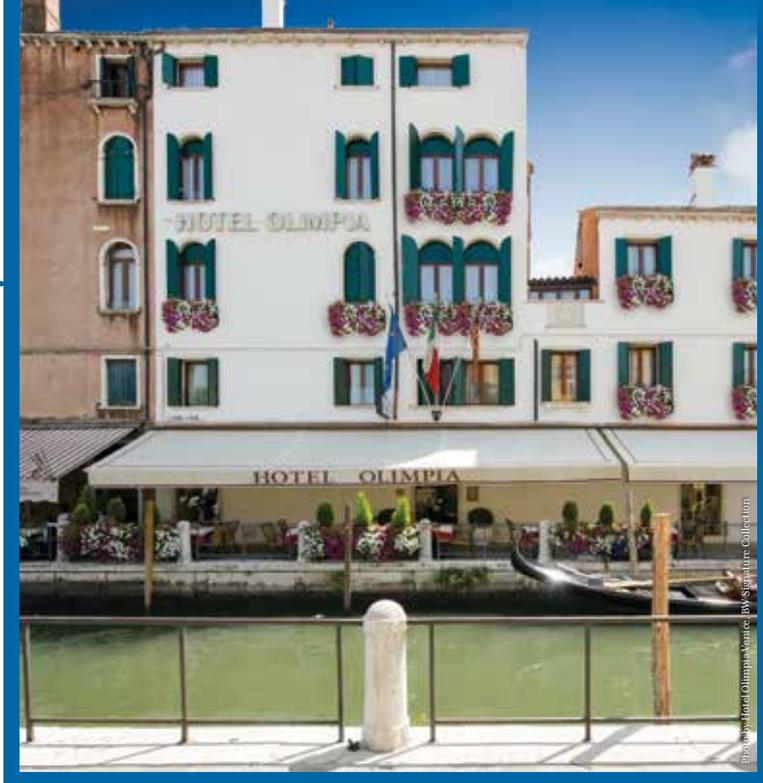
It's not every day that one can sleep in an old theatre where none other than Vivaldi began his career! Built in 1890, the NH Collection Venezia Palazzo Barocchi is an historic building that once housed the Teatro Sant'Angelo, renowned for its performances of Vivaldi and Goldoni operas.

Ideally located at the edge of the Grand Canal in San Angelo, a 10-minute walk from St. Mark's Square, this four-star hotel overlooks the Rialto Bridge and the Grand Canal. The NH Collection Venezia Palazzo Barocchi has 59 rooms. Some of its premium rooms and junior suites have terraces overlooking the Grand Canal.

## Hotel Olimpia Venice, Best Western Signature Collection

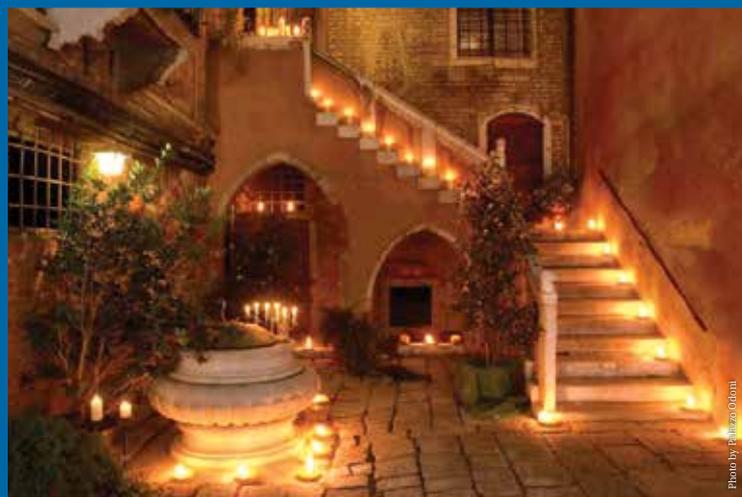
Centrally located in the Piazzale Roma, the Hotel Olimpia Venice, BW Signature Collection is just a few minutes' walk from the Grand Canal. It takes just three minutes to get to the People Mover, the monorail that leads to and from the harbour.

The 35 rooms are decorated in Venetian style from the early 18th century. Some of them have views of the hotel's canal. The three-star establishment offers an intimate setting with views overlooking the canal for its visitors, who will appreciate its pleasant garden, and lunches on the outdoor terrace or in the breakfast room.



## Palazzo Odoni

Those who love history and antiques will fall in love with the Palazzo Odoni. Located in the Santa Croce district, right in the heart of Old Venice, this guest house is just a few steps from the Frari Church, Scuola Grande di San Rocco, and a 20-minute walk from St. Mark's Square. The hotel, housed in a building which dates back to the 15th century, offers eight rooms ranging from double to family. This small hotel has kept its family spirit over the years, owned by the same family for five generations. ●



### THE PEOPLE MOVER GETS YOU THERE

These three hotels are not far from the People Mover, a monorail that connects the Piazzale Roma to the Maritime Station of Venice (Marittima) and vice versa in less than two minutes.

The service operates in a loop between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. with trains every seven minutes. It serves three stops: the Tronchetto car park, the cruise terminal and Piazzale Roma, making it very convenient for cruise travellers for whom every minute counts!

**Info:** [actv.avmspa.it/en/content/people-mover-0](http://actv.avmspa.it/en/content/people-mover-0)

# ONBOARD IN Bordeaux

**PAX experiences a week of wine-themed river cruising in France**

By Christina Newberry



Photo by Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

## “Watch out for the werewolf!”

**I**t wasn't something I expected to hear on a winery tour, but a spooky creature or two would not be out of place in the seven kilometres of cool, dark limestone quarries that snake below Château Villemaurine in Saint-Émilion.

“We only lose 20 per cent of our visitors per year!” joked Audrey, the chateau's enthusiastic young tour leader, as she guided us by flashlight into a cavernous and echoing black room.



One could easily get lost among the rows of resting wine barrels, but no one disappeared. We all made it to the stunning vineyard-view tasting room, where Audrey poured samples of the chateau's 2011 Grand Cru Classé.

## Hidden treasures

It was a subterranean kind of day. We started at a hauntingly beautiful underground cathedral built in the 12th century for pilgrims to the relics of Saint-Émilion, for whom this charming village is named.

We were halfway through Uniworld's weeklong Brilliant Bordeaux cruise along the Dordogne and Garonne rivers in France, and by now had come to expect all the details to be taken care of. When the huge wooden cathedral doors were locked, we weren't surprised



Photo by David Remazelles Gironde Tourisme

to learn that our guide carried a big ring of ancient iron keys. We had the soaring nave all to ourselves as sun streamed through a wooden archway above the altar, and the votive candles flickered as we walked by.

### **A diamond in the rough**

We visited wineries almost every day of the cruise, tasting sweet white wines at a 300-year-old estate in Sauternes and biodynamic reds next to a stunning pool in Médoc. But my favourite was a claret sipped in a simple yurt in the yard of a ruined château near Libourne.

Château Boutinet's owners, Nathalie and Jérôme Escuredo-Depoizier, met at wine school. He was a winemaker and she was a tour guide brushing up on her wine knowledge. They fell in love, married, and decided to make wine. Seven years ago, they

bought the 18th-century estate, where the château had been left derelict since the 1970s. The ceilings were caving in and the tiles had all been stolen, but there were 10 acres of vineyards.

"The first step was to clean," Nathalie said. "The second step was to dream."

The couple now lives with the youngest of their four children in a restored part of the château and produces 8,000 bottles of claret and merlot per year.

### **Many ways to have a good time**

I sailed on one of the Uniworld River Royale's last voyages before she underwent a major overhaul to relaunch next month as the S.S. Bon Voyage, Uniworld's sixth Super Ship. →

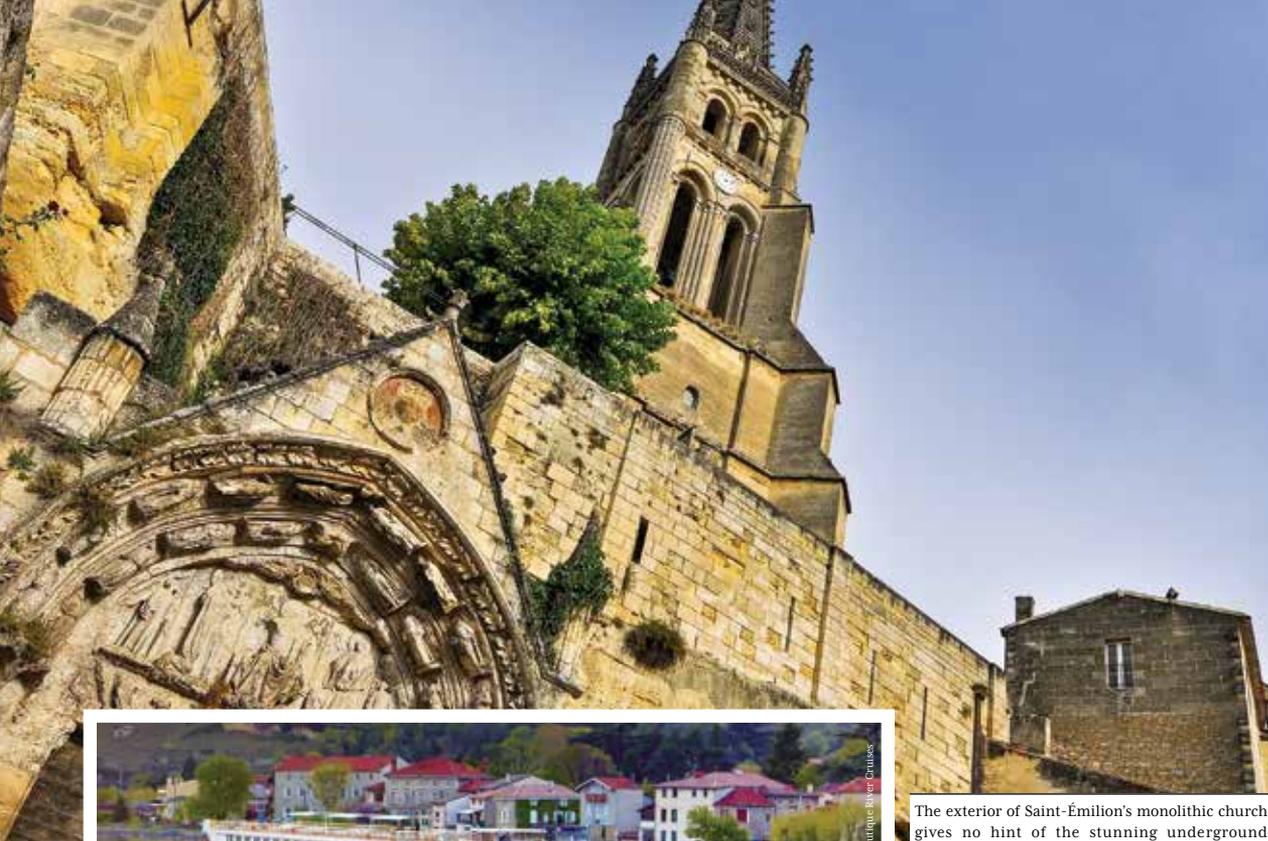


Photo by Heurako

The exterior of Saint-Émilion's monolithic church gives no hint of the stunning underground nave below.



Photo by Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

The new S.S. Bon Voyage ship's exterior will be modelled after the S.S. Beatrice, the most recent Super Ship launched in 2018.

## **We visited wineries almost every day of the cruise, tasting sweet white wines at a 300-year-old estate in Sauternes and biodynamic reds next to a stunning pool in Médoc.**

With a capacity of just 128 guests (124 after the relaunch), it was easy fitting in. I was one of the younger passengers, but by no means the only one in my forties.

I quickly befriended two American couples. During the final night of the cruise, over dinner, they asked what moments I would remember most. I told them about the early morning yoga class on the ship's sundeck, looking up at the pink sky as the Libourne church bells rang and a flock of starlings flew overhead. I described the afternoon in Cadillac when I had Église Saint-Martin all to myself, feeling the mysterious power of that sacred space in the cool silence.

They told me about their blind premium wine tasting with Nedko, the onboard sommelier, where they learned to identify flavours like tobacco and blackberry. We'd miss the amusing quotes Nedko used to end his nightly descriptions of the wines. (My favourite: "If your wine doesn't seem to be breathing, give it mouth-to-mouth.")

After dinner, we retired to the red-velveted Gascogne Lounge, where the ship's resident pianist, Natalya, belted out danceable tunes. I put down my glass of local pinot gris to throw my arms in the air for YMCA. We sang along loudly to Sweet Caroline. When we finished dancing, I tucked myself into my cozy Savoir of England bed one last time, my feet tired but my heart full. ●

*Our journalist sailed on the Brilliant Bordeaux cruise as a guest of Uniworld.*



Switzerland.



**NATURE** WANTS  
**YOU BACK.**

Engelberg, Lake Lucerne Region © Bruno Augsburger

Find your inspiration at [MySwitzerland.com/summer](https://www.myswitzerland.com/summer) and share your most beautiful experiences [#INLOVEWITHSWITZERLAND](https://www.instagram.com/INLOVEWITHSWITZERLAND)

# Interlaken

## 4 ICONIC ALPINE EXPERIENCES

Text and photos by Marie-Eve Vallières

**S**traddling the emerald and turquoise lakes of Thun and Brienz, in the heart of the Bernese Oberland, the small town of Interlaken is often referred to as the epicentre of active tourism in Switzerland.

Home to half a dozen snow-capped Alpine peaks and countless multi-use trails, Interlaken is heaven on Earth for energetic travellers of all levels, whether they choose to embark on a dizzying ascent or take up a soft adventure, like e-biking.

### Ride an e-bike

Frank, our dynamic guide and owner of Flying Wheels, is an energetic German import that would motivate even the laziest of riders thanks to his easy-to-use electric bikes.

Unlike North American outskirts, Interlaken's backyard is not lined with shopping centres or massive warehouses; much the opposite. The Bernese suburbs consists of bucolic paths leading to the



Atop Harder Kulm



Cheers to Swiss wine!



Swiss Alps, sprinkled with old-fashioned wooden chalets and dairy farms. Within just a few minutes from picking up their e-bike, visitors find themselves surrounded by nature with a capital N, listening to the sound of cowbells, breathing the fresh mountain air. A genuine Swiss postcard!

The e-bike allows cyclists, whether they're amateurs or pros, to adjust the pace of the engine according to their capacity. This means you could actually bike down these beautiful paths without sweating a single drop!

### Conquer Mount Schilthorn

It's impossible not to be amazed by the Swiss engineering here. After an unbelievably picturesque ascent on three different cable-cars, we reached the top of Mount Schilthorn where an impressive circular panorama of the Alps was on full display.

From the Piz Gloria terrace, you can see another 200 alpine peaks. On clear days, visitors can see as far as the Mont Blanc Massif in France and the Black Forest in Germany.

Adrenaline-hungry travellers may want to plan a brief stop at Birg Station where Thrill Walk, a 200-metre-long,

transparent glass walkway hangs from a steep, rocky cliff.

### Go for a hike in Lauterbrunnen

Crossing the Swiss forests and massifs, the relatively flat trail covers a distance of five kilometres, which, upon completion, connects Mürren to Lauterbrunnen (whose name means "Valley of Thunderous Waterfalls;" an extraordinarily fitting nickname, since the rocky mountainsides are dotted with hundreds of cascades). Here, travellers can find the freshest, most pure Alpine air.

From these heights, hikers can gaze at the glacial valleys covered with daffodils but also the mythical Jungfrau mountain, in addition to several of Switzerland's most iconic peaks, including Mönch, Eiger, and Schwarzmönch.

On the way back, why not stop at the very Swiss-looking Hotel Steinbock, whose leafy terrace makes for an enchanting setting for a glass of (Swiss!) wine or two.

### Reach new heights at Interlaken

An array of on-site providers offer paragliding or hang-gliding excursions in the region.

Departing from Harder Kulm after a funicular ascent (a 64 per cent incline!) to the summit (1,322 meters above sea level), it is then possible to put on the equipment and then throw yourself into the void over Lake Thune before reaching the mainland in the centre of Interlaken.

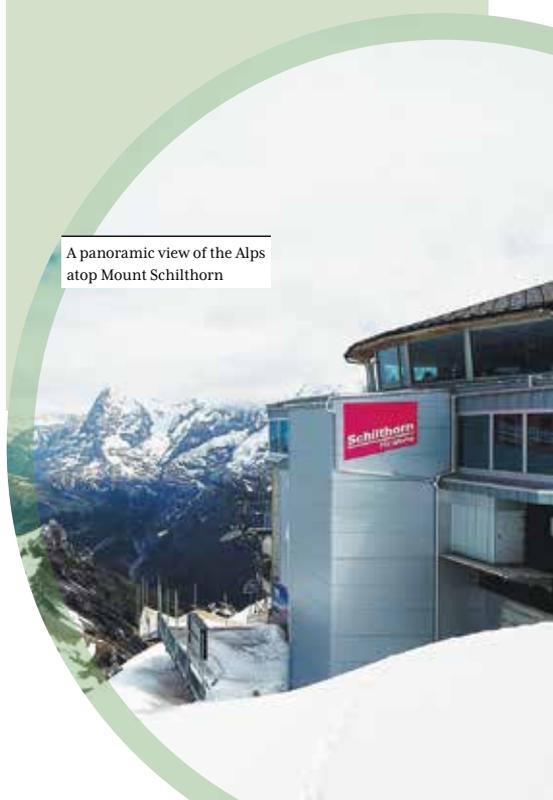
Post-flight, travellers will appreciate the proximity to Restaurant Laterne, whose famous cheese and champagne fondue (!) is available year-round. ●

## A FEW TIPS

**Getting there:** SWISS International Airlines flies from Canada to Zürich several times weekly; Interlaken is only a two-hour, highly-scenic train ride from the airport.

**Moving around:** Switzerland is home to the world's densest public transit systems; unsurprisingly, it's also one of the most punctual and efficient. The Swiss Travel Pass allows travellers to explore Switzerland by train, cable car, boat, and funicular over three, four, eight or 15 days, in addition to offering discounted entry to more than 500 museums across the country. The pass is sold by Rail Europe and is commissionable for agents.

**Sleeping:** Hotel Carlton-Europe, a beautiful hotel with spacious rooms and large windows that open onto the scenic Alps. The centrally-located hotel is just a short stroll from local excursion providers, Swiss boutiques and Alpine restaurants that Interlaken is so famous for.





Journey to the far ends of

# Scotland

Advice for road-tripping through  
Great Britain's North Coast 500

Text by Marie-Eve Vallières  
Photos by Xavier Proulx

Out of time, out of place: with its barren landscapes, Northern Scotland crystallizes the sensation that you just may have reached the end of the world, where relentless surf and wind would make even the most stoic Queen's Guards shudder.

Hauntingly beautiful, wild and rugged, this was Scotland like I had never seen before.

### A different side of Scotland

My fifth trip to Scotland was a drastic change in scenery; the rugged and humbling version that few are lucky enough to see.

I'd already ticked off most of Scotland's tourist bucket list with sights like dramatic Glen Coe, the Hebrides, the Isle of Skye, Loch Lomond, and the underrated cities. This time around, I was compelled to →

Cape Stoer

TRAFALGAR

# LOCAL EXPERIENCES YOU WON'T FIND ANYWHERE ELSE

Nothing connects you to the soul of a place like being invited into the home of a local. We offer these exclusive interactions across the world – giving guests a rare opportunity to see a destination through a local's lens.

**THIS IS BE MY GUEST.**



TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [TRAFALGAR.COM/AGENTS](http://TRAFALGAR.COM/AGENTS) OR CALL 1 800-387-2680

*The GOOD Life*



Sinclair Gornigoe Castle

It didn't exactly take long – no more than a couple of minutes – for me to utterly, completely fall in love with Bonnie Scotland all over again, chatting with the endearing characters and proud ambassadors that are privileged enough to call the variegated topography of Caithness their own slice of paradise.

The Caithness portion of the journey was the most memorable, not only on a photographic scale, but also a human one as well.

- **Whaligoe Steps:** 330 improbable steps carved into the cliffside by the wives of the fishermen who used them to hoist the fish to the village back in the 18th century.
- **Orkney Islands:** Accessible by ferry from Duncansby, this archipelago contains a fascinating cultural heritage dating back to the Neolithic era.

venture off the beaten path and surrender to the raw charm of the now famed 500-mile stretch of road that circles the foggy Highland capital, Inverness, colloquially known as the North Coast 500.

And while this Scottish adventure was dreamy in all aspects, what truly troubled the sleep of this inexperienced urbanite driver was the prospect of being on the “other side of the road.”

It should be said that Scotland's landscapes, as astonishing as they may be, are crisscrossed by narrow single-track roads frequented by large and aimless hordes of sheep.

Fret not; no ruminants were harmed in the making of this feature.

### Inverness to Dunnet

As soon as I arrived in Inverness, I got on the A9 heading far north. My first stop was in the county of Caithness,

whose steep shoreline gradually transforms into rolling dunes sculpted by the biting gusts of the North Sea.



- **Duncansby Head:** The most northwestern point of the island of Great Britain has two stone pinnacles emerging from the sea, which can be admired from a pleasant hiking trail. Up ahead lies Norway, and to the north, the Arctic.
- **Dunnet Bay Distillers:** A gin factory skillfully led by the lovely pair of Martin & Claire. Tasting sessions on site. All infused herbs are endemic to Caithness.
- **Castle Sinclair Girnigoe:** The ruins of this cliff-side fortress are open to the public free of charge.

### **Dunnet To Ullapool**

I hastily navigated the miles separating me from the opposite side of the country as nightfall settled in on this balmy July day. At such high latitude – as far North as Oslo at this point – the sun ignited the valley surrounding the coastal

---

# Be Prepared

**Going to Scotland:** Air Transat flies to Glasgow from Toronto.

.....

**Sleeping and Eating:** North Coast 500 is getting increasingly popular; it is advisable to book accommodation and meals well in advance.

.....

**Completing the journey:** Allow between eight and 15 days.

**Driving:** Scotland has a road network with narrow surfaces that are more or less passable and vertiginous inclinations; reserving a car with automatic transmission is wise. Note that Scottish roads are toll-free.

.....

**Online resources:**  
[NorthCoast500.com](http://NorthCoast500.com), [VisitBritain.com](http://VisitBritain.com)  
 and [WalkHighlands.com](http://WalkHighlands.com).



Duncansby Head

village of Tongue, with its ruddy rays. It was an invigorating spectacle, in the silence of the twilight, that warmed my soul, not unlike how the amber, free-flowing whisky warms the heart of many travellers at the local pub.

The North Coast 500 evokes desolate, lunar landscapes and truly feels like you've reached the end of the world. →



North Coast 500



The village of Shieldaig

The Sutherland is punctuated by turquoise seas, breathtaking hikes and anachronistic byres on the way to the fishing villages of Lochinver and Ullapool. At the mercy of its primitive flora and its stony combe, devoid of any cellular network, the region emulates neighbouring Iceland and Lapland.

- **Balnakeil Beach:** Is this Scotland or the Caribbean? Only the temperature of the water betrays the location because the azure and crystalline sea is otherwise undistinguishable.
- **Mackay's Rooms:** A tastefully rustic inn in the heart of the village of Durness that serves up a remarkable breakfast.



Loch Eriboll

- **Stoer Peninsula:** Offers one of the most beautiful coastal hikes in the country. Opposite, the Hebrides Islands.
- **Ardvreck Castle:** Ruins of a 16th century castle that once belonged to the ruthless MacLeod clan.

### Ullapool to Inverness

Etching towards the end of the road trip, I find myself at a simultaneously figurative and literal roundabout; the first exit promptly takes me back to Inverness, while the second one, more adventurous, delves into the Wester Ross. I impulsively embrace the scenic route and embark without haste on the picturesque path winding around the famed Applecross Peninsula.

At the westernmost bend of this meandering, unnamed road rose the steep peaks of Raasay and Skye Isles, glittering in the midday sun across the restless inlet. A fleeting sentiment of plenitude before the thrilling ascent – and descent! – of Bealach na Bà, a 626-metre high panoramic route whose numerous hairpin bends and 20 per cent gradients led to but a few nervous bouts of laughter... and a subtle fragrance of burnt rubber!

- **Shieldaig Coastal:** An ultra-local restaurant adjoining a luxury hotel with lovely views of the surrounding mountains.
- **Glen Affric:** Intermediate but iconic hike on the outskirts of Balmore.
- **Applecross Inn:** A tiny coastal pub welcoming weary travellers whose nerves have been put to the test in Bealach na Bà.
- **Seafood Shack:** Ullapool's legendary fish and chips counter serves the catch of the day at the picturesque harbour's edge.
- **Kinlochewe Hotel:** Flavourful regional cuisine; the whiskey bar is particularly well stocked.
- **Gairloch and Badachro:** Attractive coastal villages where you can rest for a pint ...or two! ●

---

## 6 MUST-SEE'S

**Lighthouse:** Tarbat Ness

.....

**Hiking:** The Suilven Trail in Lochinver

.....

**Beach:** Achmelvich Bay

.....

**Restaurant:** Mustard Seed in Inverness

.....

**Unusual accommodation:** Old School Byre in Stoer

.....

**Castle:** Dunrobin Castle

---



# EUROCAR TT

EMBRACE THE FREE SPIRIT

## YOUR CAR RENTAL SPECIALIST FOR EUROPE

### SHORT-TERM

- Competitive rates
- Different assurance plan available
- Dedicated service
- **Destinations:** France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Croatia, Martinique & Guadeloupe



Eurocar TT is a proud Europcar Partner



## CITROËN CAR LEASING

BRAND NEW CAR RENTAL FROM 21 TO 175 DAYS

### LONG-TERM



- Brand new car
- GPS in all vehicles
- Unlimited mileage
- All inclusive insurance plan with no deductible
- Low cost international one way drop off fees
- No hidden fees, no fees at destination
- 24h/24 and 7days/7 assistance
- More than 40 countries covered
- No young and additionnal driver fees
- Dedicated service & booking in Montreal

## 2019 CITROËN EARLY BIRD

NEED A CAR FOR YOUR NEXT TRIP IN EUROPE ?  
CHOOSE CITROËN CAR LEASING

SAVE UP TO

**\$150**

ON ALL OUR VEHICLES

OR

**50%**

ON PICK UP AND DROP OFF FEES OUTSIDE FRANCE

TRAVEL AGENT GETS 12% COMMISSION

AND A \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE

Non-cumulative offer for all new bookings made before March 31st 2019 with a pick up in 2019 - subject to availability at the time of the reservation. Minimum stay is 21 days. Eurocar TT holds an OPC permit from Quebec.



EUROCAR TT – CITROËN & DS AUTOMOBILES  
**+1 (888) 285-8384 . [www.eurocartt.com](http://www.eurocartt.com)**  
 4017 rue Saint-Denis, Montréal (Québec) Canada H2W 2M4  
 Tél. +1 (514) 274-4449 | Fax. +1 (514) 274-1344



# The ABC's of renting a car in Europe

**W**ith so many offerings in the European market, it can sometimes be difficult to navigate between short-term leasing, rentals, insurance, and even distance management. In short, it's a complex equation and clients often find themselves confused and overwhelmed by it all.

Erwan Even, managing director of Eurocar TT, shares some tips to better understand the needs of your customers and to better understand the differences between each option.



**"Travel counsellors are at the heart of our development in Canada. They account for 65 per cent of our short-term leases and 90 per cent of our rentals."**

## Short-term leasing: when and how?

"For people travelling 21 days or more in Europe, this is a particularly suitable option," Even says. "It's a turnkey service, with no surprises and no hidden costs at destination."

Through Eurocar TT's affiliation to the Citroën brand, short-term leasing includes:

- New car (guaranteed model)
- Integrated GPS on 100 per cent of the range

- Unlimited mileage
- Possibility to travel from 21 to 175 days
- Reverse camera on 90 per cent of models
- Personalized reception at airports
- Multi-risk insurance without deductible in more than 40 countries

## Regular rentals: are they worth it?

"They're more suitable for trips with a pick-up and drop-off point within the same country," Even says. "It should be noted, though, that these vehicles are not quite as equipped as our short-term leasing range, at least not in the entry-level categories."

He adds that a wide variety of products are available thanks to a privileged partnership with Europcar.

## What sets Eurocar TT apart?

While overseas car rentals can sometimes be a headache for advisors and



## AGENT BENEFITS

- Basic commission rate: 12 per cent on all products
- Easy-to-follow rewards program: \$25 gift certificates for each short-term lease (no form to fill out, rewards sent automatically when the customer takes possession of the vehicle)
- Eurocar TT agent on the road available for training or for presentations on request
- Dedicated website to consult and book any of Eurocar TT's products (with videos for each vehicle)

customers alike, Eurocar TT prioritizes the flow of information first and foremost.

"We pride ourselves in being completely transparent with our customers, by detailing all inclusions and exclusions. This not only allows for the customer to feel confident, it also helps the travel advisor to avoid having to deal with post-trip claims or complaints". ●

## AVERAGE DURATIONS



RENTALS

**12** days



SHORT TERM  
LEASING

**34** days



**PALACE**  
RESORTS®



## Getting the royal treatment at Palace Resorts

Families will have the coolest vacation ever at the six magnificent Palace Resorts in Mexico and now in Jamaica. Plus, kids and teens stay, eat and play for free.

- › Complimentary WiFi
- › Elegant accommodations
- › Fine dining
- › 24-hour room service
- › Kids' club

**KIDS & TEENS** (2-17 YEARS OLD)  
**STAY & EAT FREE**  
**+ UP TO \$2500 RESORT CREDIT\***

\*Conditions apply; please inquire.

We make flying fun with the Air Transat Kids Club.



**Fun for all ages**



AN ELEVATED WAY TO FLY

## INTRODUCING AIR CANADA SIGNATURE SERVICE

---

Air Canada Signature Service sets a higher standard of premium travel by elevating the end-to-end experience from check-in to landing. Available now on all international and select North American mainline flights operated by our 767, 777, 787 and A330 aircraft.

LEARN MORE

[aircanada.com/SignatureService](https://aircanada.com/SignatureService)

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 