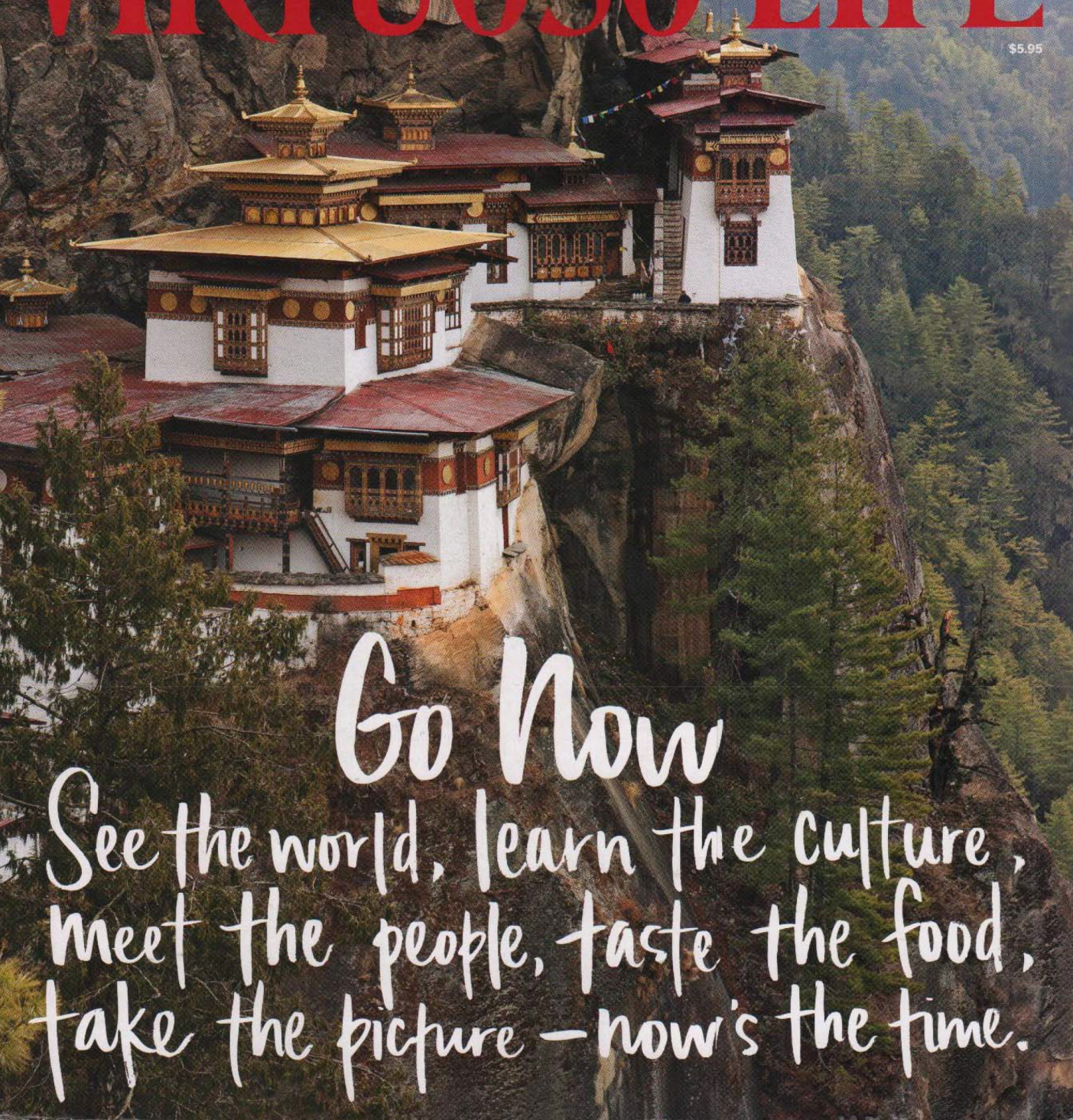


THE TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO INSPIRED PURSUITS

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2014

VIRTUOSO LIFE

\$5.95



Go Now

See the world, learn the culture,
meet the people, taste the food,
take the picture — now's the time.

Great Outdoors



THE DETAILS: Schladming was the site of the 2013 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships. During five days on skis, **soak up tips from trip escort and Level III instructor Leo Demelbauer** as you schuss down the resort's four interconnected mountains. When you need a break, stop at one of Schladming's 45 on-mountain huts for a glühwein. The trip kicks off with a three-day visit to the former Habsburg capital of Vienna. **Departure:** March 8 from Boston; from \$3,485.

MUSHING THROUGH CANADA

With nearly 45 years of experience, Knightly Tours specializes in Alaska, western Canada, and the Canadian Rockies and has the connections to customize most itineraries.

THE TRIP: Canadian Rockies in the winter

THE DETAILS: This is a Whitman's Sampler of the Great White North: As you travel by train and motorcoach for eight days through the Rockies to Vancouver, disembark to dog-mush and lodge near Banff National Park, drink cocoa before postcard views of Victoria Glacier at The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, and take a snowshoe tour in Jasper National Park. **Departures:** Sundays and Thursdays through April 16 from Calgary; from \$2,500.

CARBON-NEUTRAL NORTH

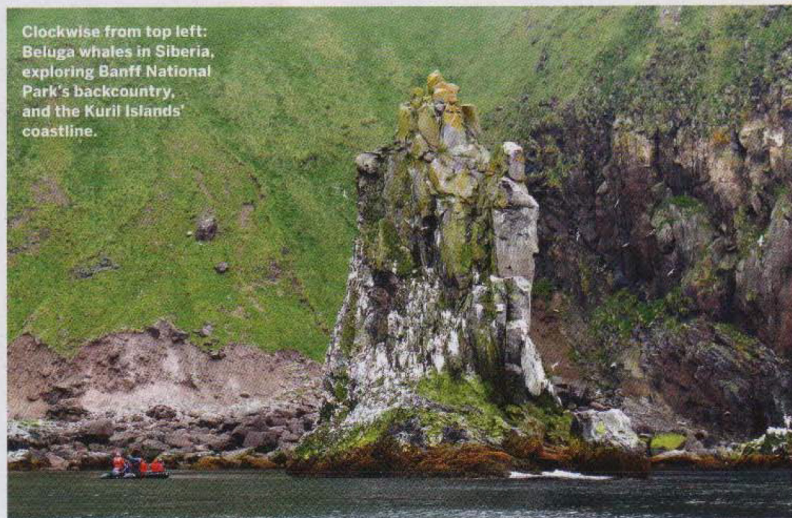
Natural Habitat Adventures, a **carbon-neutral** ecotourism and adventure travel company, offers a portfolio of trips around the globe, from Greenland to the Galápagos.

THE TRIP: Siberia and the Sea of Okhotsk

THE DETAILS: This new 19-day cruise on the all-suite, 100-passenger *Caledonian Sky* arcs through the Sea of Okhotsk from Siberia's



Clockwise from top left: Beluga whales in Siberia, exploring Banff National Park's backcountry, and the Kuril Islands' coastline.



Kamchatka Peninsula to the Kuril Islands and on to Hokkaido, Japan. **Watch for beluga whales**, thousands of seals, and the huge Steller's sea eagle, then head ashore for walks with naturalists. Keep an eye out for the "auklet haze" – flocks of whiskered auklets that darken the sky as dusk falls. **Departure:** July 25; from \$14,970.

FIVE-STAR MEKONG

Peru-based Aqua Expeditions was the first adventure travel company to introduce five-star cruises on the Amazon River in Peru.

Now the company brings its elevated cruising to Southeast Asia.

THE TRIP: Cruising the Mekong River

THE DETAILS: Launching later this year, the *Aqua Mekong* is a 205-foot custom "floating boutique hotel" that will house a spa, screening room, outdoor pool, and 20 suites, each with floor-to-ceiling windows framing river views of the Vietnamese and Cambodian countryside. The seven-night cruises (three- and four-night trips are also available) start at Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City and head north into Cambodia – or vice

(CANADA) RYAN CREARY/ALL CANADA PHOTOS/CORBIS
(WHALES) ANDREY NEKRASOV/AGE FOTOSTOCK

ALASKA YOUR WAY!



Let **VIRTUOSO** and
KNIGHTLY TOURS guide you!

ALASKA! The destination is too grand not to explore on your own terms. Your **VIRTUOSO** travel specialist and **KNIGHTLY TOURS** know there is no "one" way to explore Alaska, just your way! That is why we offer over 60 ideas on how to vacation in the great land.

If you have your own ideas of your vacation, **KNIGHTLY TOURS** and your **VIRTUOSO** travel specialist with customize your vacation so you get the most value for your vacation time and money.

Whether you are visiting for the first time or planning to visit again our dynamic team will ensure you see it all. From cruising the Inside Passage to travelling north of the Arctic Circle, from Nome to the Wrangell St. Elias National Park there are as many options for your vacation as you have ideas.

VIRTUOSO and **KNIGHTLY TOURS** have been customizing great vacations to Alaska and the Canada Rockies for over 40 years. Put this experience to work for you crafting the best vacation for your time and money.

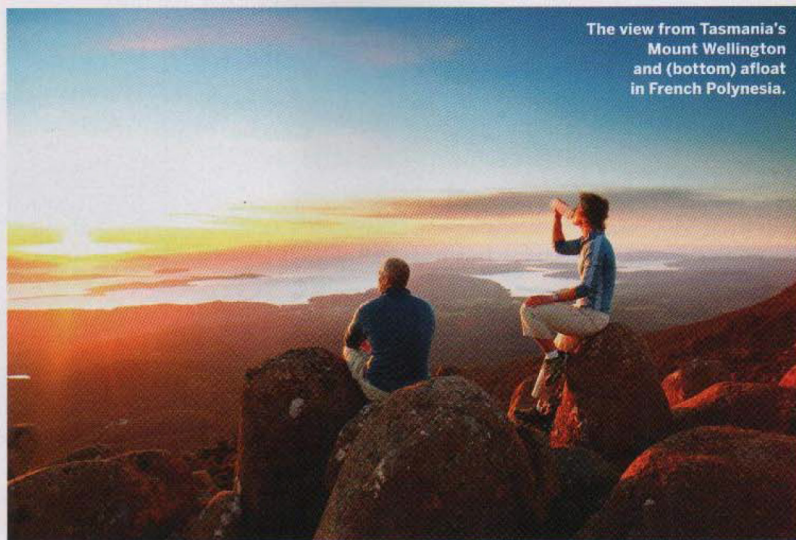
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Virtuoso Travel Specialist
today and start building
you dream vacation!



Celebrating 45 Years of Creating
Custom Vacations

KNIGHTLY
TOURS

Great Outdoors



The view from Tasmania's
Mount Wellington
and (bottom) afloat
in French Polynesia.



versa – with daily river and shore excursions and an option to add an extension to Angkor Wat. Departures: Seven-night sailings begin September 9; from \$7,000.

ON THE ISTHMUS

Heading south? Ladatco Tours has the on-the-ground knowledge to help you and your advisor plan the perfect trip. The company tailors itineraries for Central and South America, the Falkland Islands, and Antarctica to your needs and interests.

THE TRIP: Panama Explorer

THE DETAILS: To get a feel for the different

faces of "the crossroads of America," start this ten-day trip in Panama City's Casco Viejo, a UNESCO World Heritage site. After touring the Panama Canal, head for Bocas del Toro, where thatched-hut accommodations sit on stilts above the Caribbean. Departures: Any day through 2014; from \$5,600.

AUSTRALIA'S WILD ISLAND

Cofounded more than 25 years ago by Aussie Ian Swain, and with a staff that includes many native Aussies and New Zealanders, Swain Tours is particularly well known for its Oceania expertise.