

TRAVEL + LEISURE

DREAM TRIPS





WHERE TO FIND ME
nancy@travandleisure.com
@TLNancy on Twitter
@TLNancy on Instagram

October 2014

A dream trip is by definition an intimate, personal affair—it's your dream after all, your fantasy made real, your quest for the ultimate adventure or escape. Not surprisingly, we love to talk about the journeys we long to take (in part because the pleasure of travel begins with the anticipation and the planning) and we love to hear about the travel aspirations of others, too. For this year's "50 Dream Trips" (page 110), we took to the streets of New York to ask travelers to tell us of the trips they dream about; we also queried our followers on Twitter and Facebook, and added in a few editors' picks and recommendations from T+L's A-List travel advisors. The result is a flavorful mix, from Tuscany and Florence, as highlighted on our cover, to an Antarctic cruise, to Bora-Bora, the Maldives, Andalusia, India, China, and Burma.

We travel to see the world in new ways, to feel ourselves fully in the world, immersed in the experience of discovery. That sense of discovery can be found in Marcus Samuelsson's favorite emerging neighborhood, the Inner Richmond, in San Francisco, where restaurants specializing in authentic versions of Sichuan, Thai, and Burmese cuisine mix with such homegrown phenomena as an of-the-moment grocery/coffeehouse and an "epic" book and music shop ("My San Francisco," page 27). Discovery is also at the heart of Guy Trebay's exploration of Transylvania, a region steeped in old-world ways, with a rough-hewn, unpolished grandeur, which has become an Eastern European bolt-hole for none other than Charles, Prince of Wales ("Welcome to Transylvania," page 164). In Maui, a new generation of organic farmers, sustainable-living advocates, and old-fashioned hippies is reshaping the definition of luxury on the island ("Aloha, Maui!," page 154). A reverence for the handmade and the artisanal informs the design of the enormously ambitious renovation of the former Hôtel Majestic in Paris, newly opened as the Peninsula Paris ("Grand Debut," page 148). What is luxury, anyway? In this case, a mysterious alchemy of hedonism and understated, unshowy craftsmanship.

As for my own dream trip, it's coming this fall: a cruise of the Mekong on the new Aqua Expeditions riverboat that launched this year; a stay at Amanoi in Vietnam; and at Amansara while visiting Siem Reap. I will also be stopping off in Saigon and in Hong Kong—among my favorite cities anywhere. The truth is, once I accomplish this dream trip, I will already be dreaming about (and planning) the next one. —NANCY NOVOGROD

The T+L Code Travel + Leisure editors, writers, and photographers are the industry's most reliable sources. While on assignment, they travel incognito whenever possible and do not take press trips or accept free travel of any kind.

FINALLY, A TRAVEL REWARDS CARD THAT'S REALLY REWARDING.



With the Venture[®] card, what you earn is miles and

lots of them—without the endless restrictions of so many other travel rewards cards.



FLY ANY AIRLINE, ANYTIME. NO BLACKOUT DATES.

You can book and travel whenever you want: No blackout dates, no “book-by” dates. Stay at any hotel and fly any airline, anytime. Because you deserve a simple, straightforward travel rewards card.

EARN UNLIMITED DOUBLE MILES ON EVERY PURCHASE.

Whenever you use your Venture[®] card, you'll earn two miles per dollar spent on every purchase, every day. There are no limits on the miles you can earn. And no worries about an expiration date for your miles—there simply isn't any.

Stop playing travel rewards games and switch to the Venture[®] card. After all, they're your miles. Use them how you want.



Join the conversation #YesMiles

Credit approval required. Offered by Capital One Bank (USA), N.A. ©2014 Capital One

shorts-wearers lack a fundamental respect for the miracle of air travel. But that's just me. Maybe they think my carry-on's too big, or the queen-size pillow I brought from home too much.

Flying brings out our best and our worst. Nilou and I found our crucible seven miles above the Gulf of Tonkin, midway through a flight from Hong Kong to Hanoi. Out of the blue, the cabin lost pressure, oxygen masks dropped, and suddenly we were plunging toward the sea.

I don't wanna I don't wanna I don't wanna, I kept shouting through my mask at Nilou, who held me—or held me down—as I kicked and flailed in my seat. *I'm not ready I'm not ready I'm not ready*. My too-short life telescoped into 90 agonizing seconds, until all at once the plane leveled out and everything returned to normal. Normal, but for the scowls of my seatmates, who glared at me for the

remainder of the flight, as if I'd reacted inappropriately in the face of certain death: *Boy, THAT guy needs to pull his shit together*.

I'm still not sure what the correct reaction would've been. Yet I do recall how oddly stoic my fellow passengers were as we plummeted into oblivion. Nilou, too, was eerily calm. She even had the foresight to tuck my passport into my shirt pocket as we dove, to ensure I'd be properly identified. How sweet is that?

I, meanwhile, went on kicking and screaming in her face.

You think you know someone, but you don't. Not until you've flown on an airplane side by side. At some fateful point, the seatbelt sign will ding, the earth and all pretense will fall away, and you'll find yourself hurtling through the air with 237 strangers—none stranger than the person beside you.

Luckily, she's sticking with me anyway. Two seats over, of course. +

RECON

THE LATEST NEED-TO-KNOW OPENINGS

Hotels Vik Retreats, behind some of South America's most idyllic design properties, debuts two showstoppers this season: **Viña Vik**, a 22-room estate on 11,000 acres of vineyards near the Chilean Andes, and **Bahía Vik**, in Uruguayan hot spot José Ignacio, whose 11 bungalows are spread across 10 acres of dunes overlooking the Atlantic (vikretreats.com; both properties **\$\$\$\$\$**).

+ LVMH re-envisioned an iconic St. Bart's resort as the rechristened **Cheval Blanc Hôtel St.-Barth Isle de France** (chevalblanc.com; **\$\$\$\$**). What's new? The Caribbean's first Guerlain spa and a 69-foot yacht, which tours the island's secluded bays.

Restaurants Superstar gallerist Larry Gagosian has teamed up with renowned Japanese chef Masayoshi Takayama to open the 82-seat **Kappo Masa** (masanyc.com; **\$\$\$\$**) inside the newly redesigned Gagosian Gallery on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Culture At long last, the **Musée Picasso Paris** (museepicassoparis.fr) reopens in the Marais district after a five-year, \$69 million renovation. Among the additions are a 95-seat auditorium and 13 new exposition rooms, the better to hold one of the world's largest collections—5,000 pieces!—of works by the prolific artist. + When “Egon Schiele: Portraits” opens on October 9 at the **Neue Galerie New York** (neuegalerie.org; through January 19, 2015), it will be the first American museum exhibition solely devoted to portraiture by the Klimt protégé.

Cruises Aqua Expeditions

has been making waves in the Amazon with its panoramic cabin windows and ability to access remote parts of the river. Now the concept comes to Southeast Asia with **Aqua Mekong** (aquaexpeditions.com; four nights from \$7,000 per person, double, all-inclusive). Sailing through Cambodia and Vietnam, the 20-suite ship has a movie room (screening such themed classics as *Good Morning, Vietnam* and *The Quiet American*) and an outdoor plunge pool. **Wellness**

JW Marriott is rocking the spa experience for time-strapped guests. Services at the first Spa by JW, unveiled at the just-opened **JW Marriott Houston Downtown** (jwmarriott.com; **\$\$\$**), include 12- or 25-minute shoulder massages and mani-pedis in express-treatment pods outfitted with heated chairs and smartphone docks. Walk-ins are encouraged.